

# **50 YEARS AGO -1970 DROMANA v SOMERVILLE**

Ref: 2020/11



## **ON THE MARCH TO GREATER THINGS**

Following John Kelton's three year stint as coach, former VAFA star Greg James was appointed as Dromana's coach in 1970. It was year of consolidation and, while the club missed the finals, the improvement shown, during the season, gave genuine hope of better things to come.

Several strong performances against the top tier teams gave an indication that the club was 'on the march'; and the loyal band of supporters, officials and players had cause for cautious optimism.

Lifting any club takes dedication, discipline and, above all, a collective positive mindset; and in 1970, things 'clicked' and the groundwork for later success was laid.



**Former VAFA star Greg James  
coached Dromana in 1970.**

Names listed with the seniors in 1970 included: \*Dave Williams, \*Ray Fyson, Darryl Grogan, \*Col Matthews, Rob Work, Paul Cooper, Ian Haddon, Owen and Brian Griffiths, Graham Gourlay, Rod Kerr, Glenn Osborne, Garry Lechte, Ray Brindley, Ken Myers, Andrew Emerson, Allan Sullivan, Rod Rose, Royden Webb, Paul Marriott and Glenn Fyson.

**\*Note:** Articles regarding DFNC Life Members Ray Fyson, Dave Williams and Colin Matthews can be found on this website.



## **A BRIEF MATCH REPORT FROM 1970.**

Unfortunately, comprehensive match reports of season 1970 were hard to find in the club's records or local newspapers; and, unfortunately for some unexplained reason, the club's history for that year has more holes than Swiss cheese.

However, it is known that the season started with two disappointing defeats (one being against arch rivals, Rosebud) and, consequently, the Somerville clash, in Round: 3, was crucial in getting the club on the winners' board.

The 'Hoppers forward line was supreme that day and the team claimed a convincing victory by 44 points. The results/scoreline show that Dromana 18.12 (120) defeated Somerville 9.22 (76) but, apart from the goal kickers and best players, little else was recorded about the win.

**Goal kickers for Dromana:** Ray Brindley 4 Ray Fyson 3 James 3 Gourlay Glenn Fyson Work and Bird.

**Best Players for Dromana:** Gourlay, Marriott, Fyson Williams, Lechte and Work.

## **FOOTNOTES ON THE 1970 SEASON**

1. The Senior XVIII was competitive throughout the year and finished in fifth position on the ladder. Rosebud FC won the Nepean League flag by defeating Pearcedale. Readers may be interested to know that it was only

Rosebud's second premiership flag since the club's formation in 1929. In 1933, Rosebud 'broke the ice' and claimed the PDFA pennant.

2. The Reserves, led by Ron Choate, made the final series in 1970 which again underlined the improved depth of the club. \*\*A photo of Ron and his team is posted below and the names of any pictured players would be welcomed.
3. The club would also appreciate any further formation on Ron Choate. Ron coached the Reserves XVIII for three seasons (1968-69-70); and it seems he played a pivotal role in developing and preparing young players for Senior Grade football.
4. Club records were sparse for that season but MPNFL records indicate that the following players represented the club in more than 12 Senior XVIII games for DFNC that season ...
  - Colin Matthews, Ray Fyson and Phillip Marriott (18 games).
  - David Gourlay (17 games).
  - Dave Williams ( 16 games ).
  - Robert Work ( 14 games )
  - Ray Brindley, Glenn Fyson and Greg James played 13 senior games.
5. Other players who represented the club in Senior XVIII games that season were: Royden Webb (6), Allan Sullivan (11), Rod Rose (9), Glenn Osborne (9), Ken Myers (11), Gary Lechte (5), Rod Kerr (11), Ian Haddon (3), Daryl Grogan (10), Owen Griffiths (5), Brian Griffiths ( 5), Graham Gourlay (5), Andrew Emmerson (4), Peter Dempsey (6), Paul Cooper (11), Malcolm Constable (3), J. Bird (3), J. Evans (4) and a youngster with the family name 'Voight' played two senior games.
6. In 1970, Ray Fyson won the Senior Best and Fairest while Brian Griffiths won the Reserves award.
7. Greg James claimed the club goal-kicking trophy with 30 goals. He also won the award in 1971(68 goals); and again topped the list in 1972 when he booted 88 goals. **Note:** Greg's 88 goals stood as a club record until Simon Goosey kicked 98 goals in 2006.
8. The local paper also reported that club stalwart, George Osborne, was presented with a VCFL Medallion for 50 years service.
9. George Osborne's story is remarkable. After arriving from Newcastle, by horse and cart with his family in 1919, George wasted little time in becoming involved in the football club; and, as the archives illustrate, he was instrumental in building the Dromana Football club and shaping the future of football on the Mornington Peninsula.
10. A little known fact is that the club won a minor premiership in 1970 when Dromana Under 12's defeated Crib Point. Not a great deal is known about the match but it is recorded that Jim Hunter starred for Dromana on that day.

11. A highlight in the season was when John Hellesey and the DFC Social Committee raised \$1500 which was a 'pretty tidy sum' for any football club in those days.

## THANKS TO GREG JAMES

Football can be akin to chemistry in that if you bring certain elements together, hopefully the 'right mix' gives you the desired results. It appears that 1970 was the catalyst to the future success of the club; and although Greg James stepped down after only one season; he had laid a solid foundation for that decade.



**Jack Booker guided Dromana to the flag in 1971.**

In what has become part of the folklore at Dromana, Jack Booker took the helm in 1971 and steered the club to its fourth premiership (which is another story). Jack, who had won the Todd Medal in 1944, when playing with Yarraville, was a strong coach who placed great emphasis on individual and collective discipline....

***" He was a hard taskmaster but always fair in his dealings with his players and managed to get the best out of them" DFNC files.***





## RAGS TO RICHES TALE

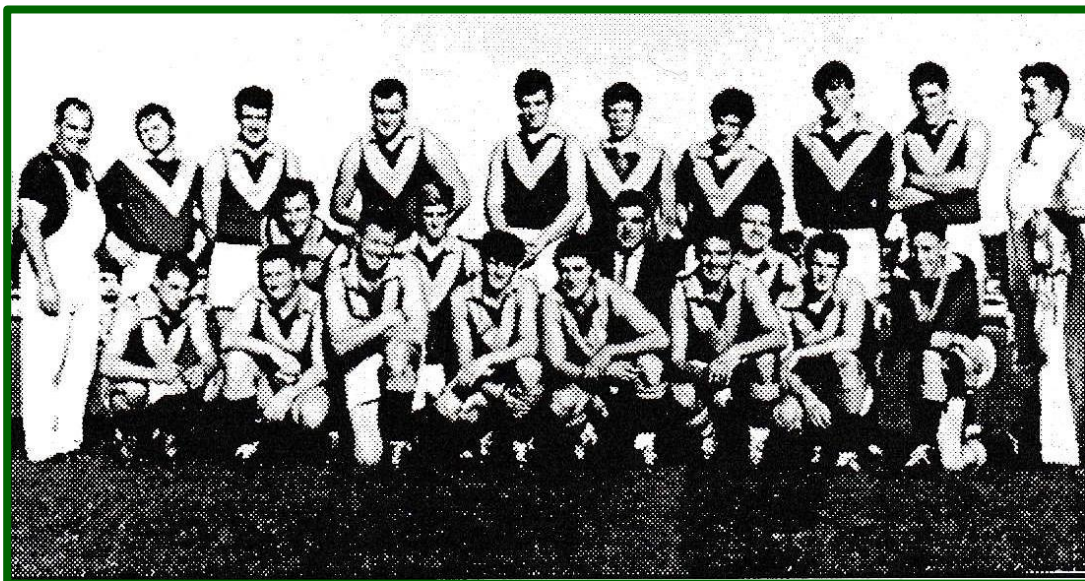
The last fifty years at Pier Street have been a 'roller coaster ride' and history shows that the club has experienced the high and lows of football. With the resounding success of the club in the last decade, some people find it hard to believe that, at one stage, the club tottered on the 'edge of extinction.'

DFNC's climb to the top of MPNFL football it is quite a tale in local sport. It is a classical 'rags to riches' story; and the club owes much to those 'who went before' to set the scene. Therefore, it is hoped that the contributions of local families and players can be recorded for posterity.

Any readers who may have memorabilia, league extracts and press cuttings regarding the 1970 season are encouraged to forward them to the club for posting on this website. Thank you.

## CAN YOU HELP?

As mentioned above, Ron Choate led the Dromana Reserves into the 1970 Nepean FL finals. The photo below is the only existing one of the team; and, unfortunately, there are no players' names listed. Hopefully, there may be readers who can assist in identifying some of the team members. Thank you for any help that can be offered in that regard.



## REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: Newspaper files at Rosebud Public Library-Personal files-MPNFL records.

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