

A LETTER & PHOTOGRAPHS ABOUT JACK BROWN

Ref: 2020/22



Jack Brown DFNC 1946-47

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the DFNC History committee has received numerous letters and articles of memorabilia to assist in piecing together the history of the club in earlier times. Every item (e.g. letters, medallions, flags, season tickets etc.) that has been received has added a little information; and has proven useful in 'writing another chapter' in the story of football at Pier Street.

Last week, a letter and a set of photographs were forwarded to the club by Simon Brown. Simon is the son of former DFC player, Jack Brown, who played for Dromana in 1946 and 1947 before crossing to Rosebud FC in 1949.

Simon's letter is enlightening as it refers to those seasons when Wally Guy and Bert Aust were the club's coaches. Furthermore, the photographs, that Simon has supplied, are from Jack's private collection; and are indeed invaluable in re-visiting the club's post-war history. Jack's photos again underscore the truth that 'a picture is worth a thousand words.'

TITLE: 'JACK BROWN - FROM DROMANA TO ROSEBUD WITH A BROKEN NOSE.'

WRITTEN FOR DFNC BY

SIMON BROWN- AUGUST 2020

Hello everyone at Dromana,

Dad spoke many times and with great fondness of his playing days with the Dromana Football Club. One story relates to his move from Dromana to the old rival Rosebud.

Jack played in the 1946 and 47 seasons for Dromana. He most frequently played on the wing or up forward but lamented the poor condition of the home ground. I notice that Colin McClear once described the Dromana Ground as "a cow paddock along both wings" and Jack mentioned that there was more than one occasion where the ball could be seen floating in puddles on the ground. It didn't make for skillful running football, especially at a time when drop kicks and stab passes were the order of the day.

On Saturday the 24th of May 1947 the Dromana boys played away to Rosebud and Jack couldn't help but notice the difference in the condition of the ground. The Frankston Standard Newspaper of Thursday May 29th praised the surface stating: "The playing area was in lovely condition, the curator having had the grass cut during the week."

Later the article observed: "Rosebud were dumbfounded at Dromana's pace and skill. It was Dromana's first game on a ground with any real surface, and did they appreciate same, playing hard and fast." It continued: "Dromana's best man could not be selected, for the side played as a machine." It was a game Dromana went on to win, with Jack contributing 2 goals to the effort.

On the 17th of January earlier that same year Jack had begun work for the National Bank and took up residence on the 2nd floor of the Rosebud branch. It was a combination of these circumstances, living and working in Rosebud and a desire to play on a good surface that moved Jack to consider what many would have viewed as the unthinkable - transferring to Rosebud.

As with other leagues, the fiercest footballing rivalries are often between neighbouring towns and Jack often said: "When Dromana played Rosebud even the dogs would come out to watch the game."

Never one to shy away from a tough decision, Jack was resolved to make the move. It was a decision that resulted in him having to stand out of football for a year, with Jack failing to get a clearance and missing the 1948 season.

In 1949 Jack returned to playing football, this time for Rosebud as their vice-captain. The first game they played against Dromana that season his old teammates didn't leave him in doubt of how they felt.

Not long after the opening bounce, Dad and Dromana's centre-half back and vice-captain big Alan Hosking collided heavily ; and , as a consequence, Dad hit the ground unconscious completely out cold, much to the shock of his parents Percy(a former Dromana selector) and Avis who were in attendance at the game.

After a few moments of lying motionless on the ground, Jack must have stirred back into consciousness with a broken nose for his trouble. His younger brother Allan noticing some movement exclaimed: "Well, he's not dead!"

Jack often recounted the game but always with great humour and a laugh, never with any bitterness. The game was played hard and you needed to be tough. I guess he knew it was coming and viewed it as a reflection of the fierce rivalry between two proud clubs.

- Written by Simon Brown, son of Jack Brown. 21-08-2020

THE PHOTOGRAPHS FORWARDED BY SIMON

NOTE: On the following pages, are four DFC team photographs that Simon has forwarded for the club's collection.

- Jack Brown has been featured in three of the photos (shown by the highlighted ellipse).
- The names of the players, pictured in the 1946 team, have been added via the use of earlier club files (and trusted to be correct).
- In recent weeks, DFNC has received correspondence from Owen Griffiths and Simon; and it is hoped that that their letters may encourage other people to forward anecdotes, press cuttings and photographs of former players for posting on the website.



1946

A search, by way of the National Library of Australia, confirmed that this photo was originally published in the 'Frankston Standard' on July 11th 1946 . An article, regarding, Vincent Roulent (in the back row) that was published in 2019 on this website is also based upon this photograph. Although validation is required, it is thought that the players in the above photograph are:

- **Back row :** V. Roulent K. Keating B. Allen V. Humphrey B. Friend
- **Centre row:** W. Gourlay J. Brown W. Guy N. Osborne W. Evans
- **Front row:** B. Aust R. Clydesdale F. Singleton K. Clydesdale I. Christie D. Christie R. Moorhead V. Hazeldine.

BRIEF NOTES ABOUT THE 1946 PLAYERS:

1. Wally Guy, who played with North Melbourne 1934, in was the coach in 1946. Wally was about 36 years of age when this photograph was taken.
2. The documented games history for some of the above players are: Bob Moorehead (251 games), Bert Aust (238 games), Wally Guy (182), Norm Osborne (181 games), Alan Hosking (137 games), Kevin Clydesdale (94 games) and Vern Humphrey played 89 games for DFC.
3. An article about Vin Roulent and his famous brother, Tom, can be found at: <http://www.dromanatigers.com.au/2019/history/roulent.pdf>
4. An article regarding the 1946 season can be found at: <http://www.dromanatigers.com.au/2020/history/dfnc1946.pdf>

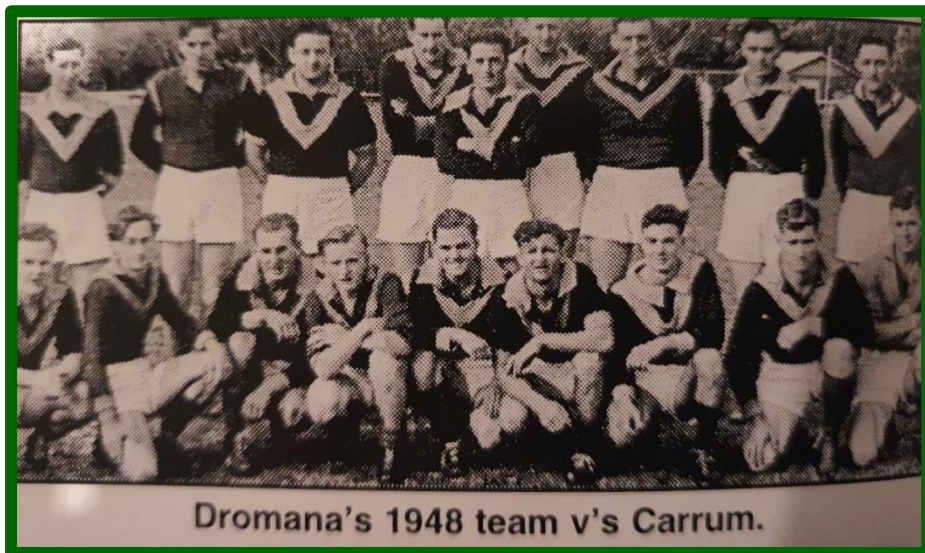


The 1947 team and club officials.

Note: If readers can recognize players in these photograph please contact the club. Thank you.



Another team photograph from 1947 (perhaps taken at a club training session).



The team that played at Carrum in 1948.

Note: Simon also forwarded two photographs of Jack Brown as a member of Rosebud FC teams in 1949. Those photographs have been forwarded to Rosebud for its club's history files.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The DFNC would like to express its gratitude to Simon Brown for forwarding the above letter and the photographs regarding Jack's two seasons at Pier Street. 'Thank you' Simon for your thoughtful contribution to the club's history.

AN EMAIL FROM FORMER PLAYER ALLAN SULLIVAN.

The club has also received an email a former player, Allan Sullivan (now living in Warrnambool), regarding the DFC teams of the 1970's. Allan also forwarded a copy of the 1971 Grand Final team sheet (i.e. showing the selected positions of all players that day). Allan played at full forward; and, in that historic victory, kicked vital two goals. Some readers may be unaware that Allan kicked seven goals in the Second Semi-Final against Pearcedale that year. The team sheet will be included in our history files. Thank you Allan.



THE SAD PASSING OF RON HUNTER SENIOR.

At the time of preparing this article, members were notified, by Graham Stelling, of the sad news regarding the passing of Ron Hunter (Senior).

Ron was a dedicated Life Member of DFNC; and a friendly person who gave freely of his time and energy in assisting the club wherever and whenever possible.

A tribute to Ron Hunter Senior will be prepared and posted on this DFNC History Page next week.

This is the message, which Graham posted on the DFNC website, on behalf of all members and supporters...

VALE

The club mourns the passing of Life Member and Club stalwart Ron Hunter Snr.
We send heartfelt condolences to Dossie, Ron, James, Greg, Graham and their extended families



RON HUNTER 1928-2020

DFNC LIFE MEMBER

R.I.P

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: DFNC Records – Letter and photographs from Simon Brown

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