

# DROMANA FOOTBALL-NETBALL CLUB HISTORY



## 'DOWN MEMORY LANE'

### 1999 THE DFNC TEAM TO PLAY DINGLEY

*With Compliments From*

**PS Print Scene PL** Lithographic Printers  
 Phone: 9786 0786, 9782 5782  
 Facsimile: 9786 6700

**FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING NEEDS**

DROMANA **V** DINGLEY

TEAM Seniors

Played at Dingley Meet at "Sawter Oval" Dingley  
 Date 22/05/99 Time Meet at 1:00 p.m.

Brett King

Jason Sullivan Backs Brett Dunn

Mick Stocomb Glen Bennetti Ben Boyd  
 Half Backs

Tarret Leah Dave Jordan Matt Breen  
 Centres

Mark Hill Dan Nicolle Craig Compton  
 Half Forwards

Shannon Secker Forwards Dale Minchington

Rob Thoday David La Bozzetta

Andrew Neville Roel Ormesher

Rover Dustin Douglas

2nd Ruck \_\_\_\_\_

Rover \_\_\_\_\_

Interchange  
 (1) Brook Green  
 (2) Glin Geisker  
 (3) Roel Ormesher  
 (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergencies \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES ON THE ABOVE TEAM

1. One of most informative pieces of memorabilia in a club's history can be old team sheets from bygone eras. The above team sheet is a perfect example as it carries the names of players and their selected starting positions on the field.
2. The above Nepean FL match was played at Dingley in Round: 6 of the 1999 season. Little was known about the Dingley Football Club; and it was a novel experience for the DFNC players and officials to travel to the Soutar Oval. The club members were made to feel very welcome by Dingley's dedicated President, Kevin Patterson. Kevin was a dynamo in local football in that era; and he served as President of the Dingley Football Club from 1997-2001.
3. Dromana's coach that season was Steve Scaglarini and the Dingoes were lead by Craig Meade.
4. At Round: 6 that season, Dingley sat in sixth place on the Nepean FL ladder with three wins; while Dromana was stuck on the second bottom rung of the ladder with just one win. ( The Tigers had defeated Carrum Downs by 34 points on the previous Saturday).
5. The importance of junior development at Dromana was again emphasized as the Dromana team had a handful of talented youngsters ( Mark Hill, Shannon Secker, Dale Minchington, Dan Nicolle, Craig Compton and Jarret Leah) who had progressed through the club's junior football ranks
6. Jarrett Leah, who had won the Under 18 MPNFL Medal in 1997, was a player of immense courage but sadly retired from the game after just 32 senior games. While the youngsters, in that era, played with great spirit and nerve, the weekly 'bash and crash' of open-age football took a heavy toll on some younger bodies. Many 'fledgling footballers' hung up their boots within a few years.
7. Dale Minchington, who is rated as one of the best footballers to ever 'pull on a boot' at Dromana, was another boy who paid the heavy price of injury. Often, Dale would play in two games each Saturday; and his fearless style of combat was an undoubted factor in his early retirement.  
  
Dale, played only 70 games before chronic injury 'put paid to ' to his promising footballing career. Unfortunately, very few football followers appreciate the toll that football takes on young bodies. Injury, constant bruising and soreness are major reasons why youngsters leave the game ahead of 'their time.'
8. Dan Nicolle was also a young footballer who gave 'his all' to Dromana, Dan played significant part in the reformation of the Third XVIII and was a former captain of the Thirds. There are those at the club who can still remember Dan playing in three games on one Saturday at Crib Point. From 10.00 am until 4.45pm, Dan was in his football boots and giving his best to lift the Tigers. It was one of the bravest efforts seen that season.
9. Injury is the worst part of any footballer's career; and another player of immense potential who was 'cruelled' by injury was Adam Garry. Adam sustained another serious leg injury in 1998; and there is little

doubt that the injury hampered Adam's advancement in senior football. Although Adam suffered several set backs in his career, he went on to amass 46 Senior XVIII games between 1997 and 2009. Adam also won the Reserves Best & Fairest award in 2005.

10. The stars of Dromana FC in 1999 were:- David Labbozzetta ( ex YCW), David Jordan, Dustin Douglas, Matt Breen ( ex-Rosebud) and Glenn Bennetti.
11. Glenn Bennetti was one of the most under-rated players in MPNFL football. He was a quiet achiever who rarely lowered his colours in any contest. He was a most humble and unassuming footballer but his teammates knew his value in a crisis or a stoush. Glenn was the son of former Carlton defender John Bennetti. John played 88 games with Carlton from 1958-65; and he also represented Victoria against South Australia .  
Glenn played 16 games for Dromana ( 1999-2001) but , in that time, he was one the hardest and most respected players at Pier Street.
12. David Jordan was the veteran of the side that day. He had played his first game with DFNC in 1989 after crossing from Rye. David was club captain for seven seasons, won three Best & Fairest awards and, in all, played 164 senior games. He was also selected in the DFNC Team of Post War Era ( 1946- 2015)
13. Other dedicated players listed in the above line-up included Andrew Neville, Mick Slocombe, Brett Dunn, Brett King, Colin Geisler and one of club's true characters and stalwarts, Noel Ormesher. The club should never forget this group of players for their service, reliability and deeds despite the club's trials and tribulations.
14. In 1999, Robert Thoday was an emerging ruckman and his development in local football was most noticeable. Robert and his brother, Andrew, arrived at Pier Street in 1998; Andrew was a steady utility player but Robert turned out to be a 'surprise packet.'  
In the next two seasons, Robert 'burst on the scene' as a ruckman of some distinction. He was raw (inexperienced) but courageous and big-hearted. Robert would literally ruck all day; and he rarely took a 'spell off the ball.' Unfortunately, for Dromana FC, Robert only played 17 senior games before moving on...Another promising recruit lost ahead of time!! That was quite common at Pier Street in those difficult days of rebuilding.

## **A BRIGHT START BUT ANOTHER FADE OUT**

The playing surface at Souter Oval was firm; and despite the overcast conditions, Dromana started in bright fashion and gave some heart to the small ( miniscule ) number of loyal Dromana supporters who had made the trek to Dingley that day.

The Tigers pounced early with David Labbozzetta causing headaches for the Dingley defence. Dan Nicolle impacted and young Dale Minchington and Mark Hill came under notice as the Tigers hit the front. Perhaps a turn-up was on the cards?

However, Dingley hit back aggressively in the second term; and by half time led by 22 points. As was often the case, in those tough and desperate seasons,

the applied pressure of the opposition , across four quarters, was significant and, once again, Dromana 'lost its way' in the second half .

The last half of the game was an 'uphill struggle'; and the Tiger defence, which stood tall with dogged determination earlier in the game, simply 'caved in' under the weight of numbers. Dromana's disappointing third term was deflating; and any hope of the Tigers grabbing a surprise victory that day vanished in that crucial term. Dingley booted 7goals to Dromana's nil in that term.

In the 'wash up' of the game , the Tigers had succumbed by 71 points, but the performances of the DFC's young brigade were heartening . Mark Hill was very impressive that day and polled two votes in the NFL's Print Scene ' Player of the Year Award.

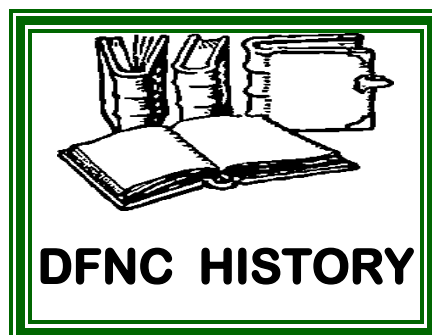
## FINAL DETAILS:

Dingley : 4.7 11.9 18.16 23.10 ( 157 )  
Dromana: 5.4 8.5 8.5 13.9 (86)

**Goal kickers for Dromana** : Labbozetta 4 Nicole 3 Jordan 3 Hill Breen Minchington and Geisler

**Best player for Dromana;** Brett Dunn Brett King Matt Breen David Jordan Jarrett Leah and Mark Hill.

## CAN YOU HELP TO BUILD THE DFNC ARCHIVES?



Over the past few years, the History Committee of the DFNC has been trying to place on record as much as possible about the people, games and events of the club since it inception more than 100 years ago.

It is hoped to gather club memorabilia such as photographs, programs, publications, membership tickets, press cuttings, awards and team sheets to place on permanent record on the club's website. Hopefully, in this way, our club's rich history can be preserved and be enjoyed by future generations.

One of the best ways for any club to show its appreciation, to those members who 'paved the way' in earlier days, is to record their contribution to strengthening and maintaining the club. Your assistance in building the club's archives is valued. Thank you. Roger Spaul for DFNC-2020