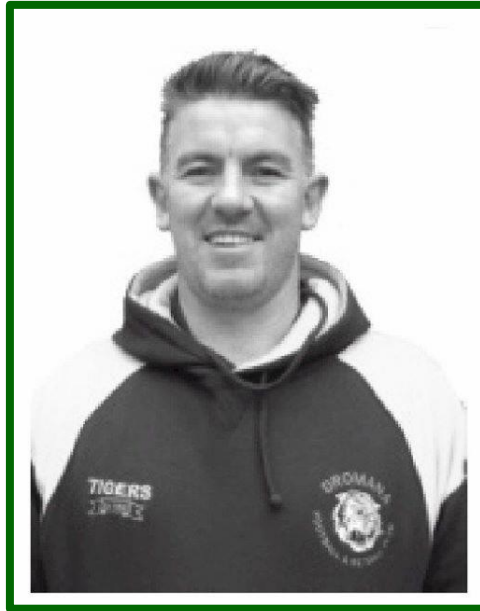


# **MATTHEW PRICE TAKES THE REINS AT PIER STREET**

**Reference: 2020/6**



**Matt Price- Coach of Dromana in 2020.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

It was no secret that 2019 would be Rikki Johnston's last season with the Tigers. With historic back to back premierships in two MPNFL divisions, Rikki set a new benchmark in coaching in local football, and his were 'very big shoes (in this case, football boots) to fill.

The club set about the task of finding a replacement coach early in the piece; and, after a lengthy and thorough process, the club announced ( in July) that Matt Price had been appointed Senior Coach for the 2020 season. Matt is no stranger to Dromana as he had debuted with the club in 2017 after a long and successful career in the Eastern Football League. His performance in the 2018 Grand Final was pivotal in the club claiming the MPNFL Division: 2 premiership.

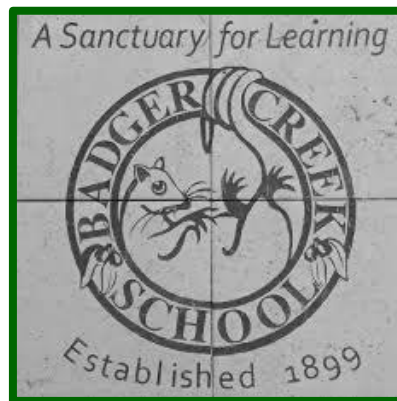
The following profile of Matt Price's football achievements was published in the club's newsletter ' Tiger Talk' in 2018; and, additionally, a summary of Matt's stellar career at Coldstream FC is also re-printed below for the interest and enjoyment of readers of the website

## PLAYER PROFILE OF MATT PRICE AS PUBLISHED IN THE 'TIGER TALK' IN 2018

Sometimes in mining and football a 'lucky strike' transpires; and when Matt Price arrived at Pier Street in 2017, supporters immediately recognised that the club had unearthed a 'nugget of substantial worth.'

From his first game with Dromana FC, it was apparent the Matt Price was a player of inordinate ability and his ball control and disposal skills left little to be desired.

Matt Price was born in the Lilydale Hospital in 1982; and spent his early school years at Badger Creek Primary School (Healesville).



He commenced playing junior football with the Healesville Under: 9's; and his junior career also included several seasons with the Coldstream and Ringwood junior clubs. Matt was a 'stand out' youngster; and he won three best and fairest awards in under-age football.

With such a solid foundation in junior football, it was little wonder that he broke into senior ranks at the age of just 17 years of age. Matt recalled...

***"My first game of senior football was for Coldstream against Upper Ferntree Gully; and I will never forget that, although we were the underdogs, we overcame the odds and toppled the league leaders that day."***

In his senior debut, Matt kicked a goal that day. It was a promising start to what would become long and fruitful career with Coldstream FC. Matt gave 'his all' in representing the club for the next fourteen seasons; and the club's Honour Board reflects his drive, commitment and flair.

In a stellar career with the Cougars (as Coldstream FC is known), Matt won a swag of awards including six Eastern League Best and Fairest trophies (2001-03-05-08-09-10) and six Coldstream club Best and Fairest awards. He skippered the club from 2003 until 2011; and was an important member of the Coldstream premiership team in 2001.

## Coldstream Football Club Life Members

\* Deceased

D. Goodwin\*  
L. Skate  
M. Supple\*  
L. Taylor  
J. Campbell\*  
E. Read\*  
K. Cooper\*  
S. George\*  
J. Madden  
E. Rowe\*  
E. Cooper\*  
R. Underwood\*  
D. Peel  
G. Rayner  
M. Rowe  
A. Guillerme  
J. Steele  
W. Taylor

S. Glassborow  
N. Miller  
K. O'Meara  
L. Gilbee\*  
A. Walsh  
G. Robertson  
R.C. Tarr  
C. Schelfhout  
P. Payne  
A. Wheeler  
K. Meyer  
P. Harris  
I. Wheeler\*  
S. Fritsch  
B. Reece  
K. Reece  
D. Jecott  
J. Jecott

S. Tarr  
M. Harvey  
K. Mutton  
M. Beavie  
D. Steele  
G. Gilbert  
J. Walters  
M. Kollosche  
M. Price  
P. Murphy  
J. Pignataro  
M. Boler  
R. Williams  
H. Long



### Matt Price Life Member at Coldstream FC ( See right hand column of honours board )

On that day, Coldstream defeated Ferntree Gully by 49 points. It was indeed a year to remember for Matt; and while he was successful in winning a long list of awards and silver-ware, Matt believes that the premiership in 2001 was a treasured highlight in a star-studded career.



**Matt at Coldstream Cougars**

Matt coached Coldstream for two seasons ( 2012-13). Matt is not only a Life Member of Coldstream FC but in 2005 he was bestowed the rare honour of being named as a 'Legend' of the Eastern Football League. Matt was only the fifth player in that League to be honoured with the status of 'League Legend.'



**A star at Coldstream Cougars**

Matt also enjoyed great success at interleague level. He represented the EFL in three championship series; and had the honour of winning the medal for the Best Player in 2000 inter-league clash.

Matt played with the Basin FC ( 2014-15 ) before arriving at Dromana FC in 2017.

Matt is a particularly humble and unassuming person but was very proud when he broke into VFL ranks...

*“ 2002 was a season that meant a lot to me as I was fortunate enough to be selected for Box Hill. BHFC was coached by former North Melbourne footballer Donald McDonald; and I remember that an emerging midfielder named Sam Mitchell was the club champion. I won the Box Hill Reserves Best and Fairest award that season.”*

EFL Legends*						
<b>Ian Clark</b>	1970 (3)	1972 (2)	1974 (3)			
<b>Gary Galvin</b>	1980 (1)	1981 (2)	1982 (1)			
<b>Russell Stratton</b>	1988 (4)	1990 (3)	1993 (4)	1996 (3)		
<b>Gavin McNay</b>	1989 (4)	1991 (3)	1994 (3)			
<b>Matt Price</b>	2001 (4)	2003 (3)	2005 (3)	2008 (3)	2009 (3)	2010 (3)
<b>Nick Cox</b>	2000 (1)	2004 (3)	2006 (2)			
<b>Ian Atkinson</b>	1998 (3)	2006 (4)	2007 (4)			
<b>Bernie Dinneen</b>	2005 (1)	2006 (1)	2010 (2)			
<b>Dean Grice</b>	2007 (3)	2008 (3)	2011 (3)	2013 (3)		

\* Any player in the EFL senior ranks (not reserves) who has achieved three league best and fairest wins in his career, is award EFL Legend status (division in brackets).

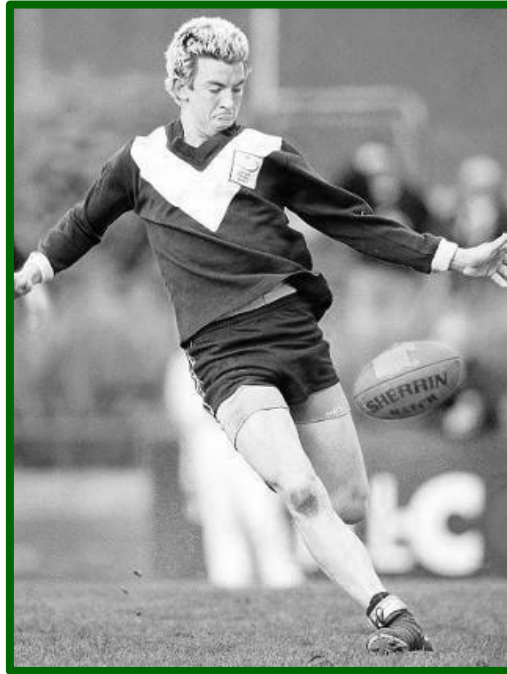
**The Eastern Football League Legends Honour Board.**

In nearly 20 years of senior football , Matt has meet an abundance of memorable footballers ....

*“The best player I ever played with was Luke Hodge when he was starting out on his incredible AFL journey. David*

*Wirrapunda was another dazzling footballer I met in my younger days ...David was freakish in the things he could produce on a football field."*

Since his debut, in senior football for Coldstream as a teenager, Matt has played in excess of 300 games and has been an ornament to the game of football and a champion of suburban/country in the truest sense of the word.



**Matt Price action with the Coldstream Cougars in 2010.**

Dromana supporters will be interested to know that Matt rates current Tiger full forward Ben Holmes (ex-East Doncaster) as one of the best suburban footballers that Matt has ever seen.



**Ben Holmes – One of the great suburban footballers.**

Matt Price and Ben Holmes have been significant factors in the resurgence of Dromana this season; and their experience and knowledge have been of vast assistance to Rikki Johnston in taking his young team forward.

Football has played a huge part in Matt's life and his advice to young players is...

***“ Enjoy and appreciate every win because football goes in cycles and hard times will challenge all players and clubs at some time down the track. While football is only a game (and is not a life and death situation) you can only ‘get out’ of football from what you put in. Success revolves around commitment and honesty”***

Matt's life motto says a lot about his character and balance in life ...

***“Spend time wherever and whenever you can with your family and enjoy those special moments together.”***

Matt and his wife, Natalie, have three children: Tayla ( 9 years), Ellie ( 6 years ) and their son Cooper who is three years of age. Matt was the founding member of a swimming pool construction business and his website: <http://swimpoolco.com.au/> will give readers some insight into the creative work that his company undertakes.

Everyone at DFNC wishes Matt, Natalie and their children well in the future; and the club is indebted that Matt chose to offer his undoubted talents to assist in lifting the Tigers into finals calculations.



As mentioned earlier in this article, Matt Price was indeed a 'lucky strike'; and his team mates and all supporters would concur that he is worth his 'weight in gold' to the Tigers.



## POSTSCRIPT- WRITTEN IN 2020

As is well known in local football circles, Matt played an important role in the 2018 Division: 2-premiership victory over Red Hill at Frankston Park. Not only was his on-field performance impressive but his address to the players, at the half-time break that day, was a significant factor in the team's intense third term which forced the opposition 'back on its heels.'

Those who heard his 'words of wisdom' at the 'big break' were not only impressed with the calm delivery of Matt's instructions but also his astute command of the situation. It was the voice of experience at a vital moment in the contest...

*“ A lot of straight talking took place in the Dromana rooms at half time; and Rikki Johnston stressed the need for each player to remain focussed, believe in each other and not to waver from the game plan. Veteran, Matt Price, also spoke quietly to the team about the fundamentals of football and, above all, to 'keep the faith'....Rikki and Matt's words 'hit home' and the Tigers responded immediately after the long break with greater force and conviction.” Source: DFNC Website.*



**Matt was listed in the best players in the 2018 Grand Final.**

Matt was one of the experienced players who 'turned things around' that day for Dromana; and his second half endeavour will be remembered for many years to come...

*“Matt Price continued to work his way into the game and his composure in heavy traffic was a highlight of the third term. Matt's ability to slice a pass through a 'wall of players' is*

*uncanny; and, in that crucial quarter, his years of experience at 'top level' regional football came to the forefront."*



Matt was listed in Dromana's best players that day; and, in a tight and tense tussle he kicked a vital goal for the Tigers. It was to be Matt's last game with DFNC and he announced his retirement following that game.

So after just 22 senior games with the Tigers, Matt had achieved something that hundreds of 'earlier DFNC players' had not- a premiership. Matt went out on a very high –note and 'hung up his boots.'



**The 2018 DFNC Premiershhip team .  
Matt Price can be seen in the front row on the right hand side.**



## AN ARTICLE As PUBLISHED IN THE COLDSTREAM FC NEWSLETTER IN 2008.



The following article, regarding Matthew's years at Coldstream FC, was published on the Cougars' website in 2008...

*It's family affair at Halley Supple Reserve with brothers, Matt and Daniel Price among the best players most weeks. Matt, in particular, has racked up a raft of honours over the years that would be the envy of most footballers. Now 27, he came to Coldstream in 1996 and, a year later, played in the Under 16 premiership team. Then followed two seasons in the Under 18s, with a grand final appearance in 1999. But, he has really taken it to a new level in senior ranks. In 2000, Matt won the first of his three senior club best & fairest awards and, the following year, played on a wing in the Cougars' Fourth Division premiership team. He won the competition best & fairest, was named Under 21 Player of the Year and was best afield for the EFL combined team. In 2002, Matt transferred to VFL club, Box Hill, where he played two senior games and won the Reserve Grade best & fairest.*

*It was back to Coldstream as captain in 2003, and he again represented the EFL and won the Third Division competition best & fairest. He repeated that feat in 2005 and, last year was named on a half-back flank in the EFL Team of the Year. Matt is poised to bring up 150 games in round seven.*

*Daniel started in the Under 14s and played in the 2000 Under 16s premiership. The 23-year-old half-back flanker was named Most Improved for the Cougars last season and has played 73 games. A pool plumber, he works for Matt at Poolscape Projects and lives in Ringwood. Matt lives in Wonga Park and is engaged to Coldstream's gorgeous social convenor, Natalie Wyatt. The Price brothers' father, Steven, played VFA for*

*Kilsyth and has worked the bench for three successive Cougars coaches.*

*And, the boys' biggest fan is grandfather, Harry, who played Under 19 football for South Melbourne.*



Daniel and Matthew Price at Coldstream FC in 2008.

**NOTE:** Football, at all levels, was suspended in 2020 due to the outbreak of the coronavirus. Sports, of all descriptions across the globe, came to a sudden halt as people bunkered down to wait for the COVID-19 pandemic to be controlled or at least contained. At the time of writing (May 2020), the chance of any resumption of suburban or country football is remote and Matt Price's coaching debut at Pier Street is 'on hold.' The celebrated English writer, Geoffrey Chaucer once said: 'Patience is a conquering virtue'; and there is much wisdom in those words in such demanding times.

## **REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:**

Sources: Interview—'Tiger Talk' - Coldstream FC -Personal files.

Article reference: Matt Price (Ref: 2020/6 )

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