

'FROM THE ARCHIVES' DROMANA DEFEAT CARRUM DOWNS 2004

Reference: FTA: 2021/8



DROMANA DEFEAT CARRUM DOWNS ROUND 10: 2004



'As tough as teak' Steve Paris-DFNC Coach in 2004.

In 2004, former star Mornington utility player, Steve Paris, was the club coach and Lew Hindle was assistant coach. While the team's on-field performances had improved, wins were still 'few and far between'; and the game at Carrum Downs was a signpost on the way forward for the club.



Lew Hindle – Former Pearcedale midfielder

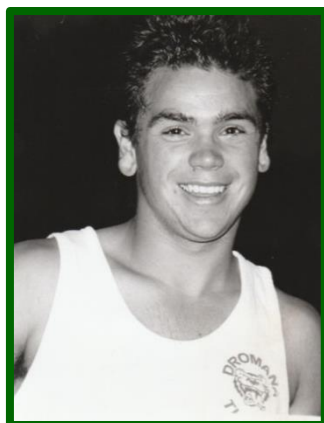
was the DFNC Assistant Coach in 2004.

As the results (below) show, the 100 point victory was a highpoint in that 'luckless and barren' era for Dromana FC.

The nominated captain in 2004 was Craig Corfield (ex- Mornington midfielder), however, Craig was unable to play in that match because of a serious knee injury; and, consequently, young Michael Hunter and Brad 'Snowy' Allen were the team leaders for the game. It was interesting that three sets of brothers (Paris, Johnston and Minchington) took the field for Dromana on that day.



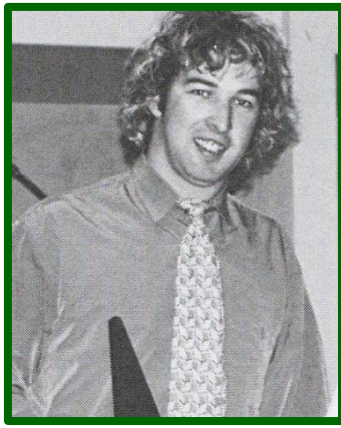
Mitchell Cook- A brave and skilled player who made his Senior XVIII debut for DFNC in 2004.



Dale Minchington- A young champion at Pier Street. Dale played 70 Senior XVIII MPNFL games and was Runner-up in the Club's Best and fairest trophy in 2002

In its best effort 'during the drought', Dromana dominated the latter stages of the match and recorded a substantial win. For a club that was 'down on its collective knees' (and often publicly ridiculed and mocked) the win was just 'what the doctor ordered' during that reformation phase. The selected team was:

B:	Luke Donnelly	Andrew Neville	Adam Garry
HB:	Doug Haskett	Andrew Burnham	Michael Hunter
C:	Paul Minchington	Adam Hunter	Tim Johnston
HF:	Rikki Johnston	Chad Wilde	Dale Minchington
F:	Snowy Allen	Brad Paris	Mitchell Cook
Rucks:	Rod Hayne	Steve Paris	Matt Martin
I/C:	Shaun Fletcher	James Fisher	Brett Dunn



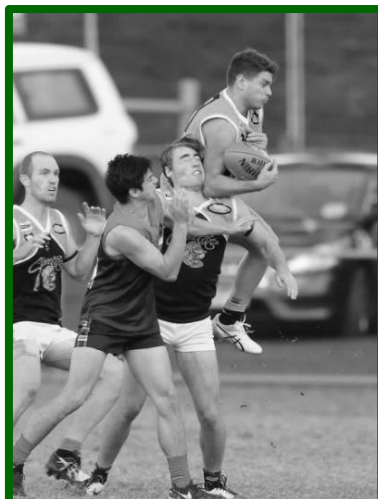
Andrew Burnham was selected at centre half back that day at Wedge Road.



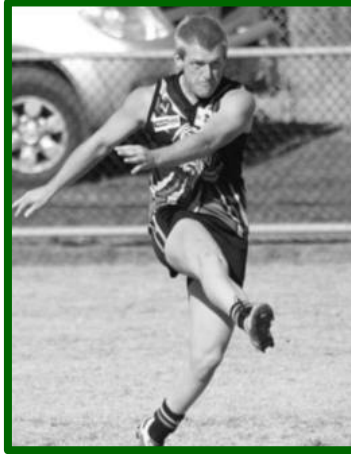
**Adam Garry- A talented local footballer who was plagued by injury.
In the decade 1999-2009, Adam played just 46 senior XVIII games for DFNC.**

The conditions for football were appalling and the Carrum Downs oval was a quagmire; and, at one stage, and electrical storm threatened to halt the match. The small crowd and the officials, from both clubs, had several cold and uncomfortable hours watching a game where errors, due to the slippery conditions, abounded and the heavy ball made attractive football impossible.

Those Dromana supporters who travelled to Wedge Road that day will never forget the dreadful weather and the state of the visitors' changing rooms during the deluge.



Paul Minchington- A best on the ground performance at Wedge Road.



A popular, loyal and committed clubman – Brad 'Snowy' Allen

The first quarter was a virtual arm wrestle and neither team registered a goal. Thankfully, the Tigers 'broke the shackles' and slammed on eight goals in the second quarter and 'nailed' the game. Paul Minchington was a 'mudlark' and he gave an imposing display in the heavy conditions (see footnotes below).



Adam Hunter in full flight...Three goals at Carrum Downs.

In the second half, despite the heavy ball, Dromana kicked 7 goals 3 behinds and kept Carrum goal-less. In such a one-sided affair, a memorable highlight of the game was Rikki Johnson's long bomb torpedo goal from the centre. Rikki won the club's goal kicking award that season with 36 goals.

Rikki who played his first game with DFNC that season would, in the fullness of time, become one of the club's finest players and one of the most successful coaches in DFNC history.

The final siren was welcomed by all; and the players were happy to 'call it a day.' Unfortunately, the showers were cold and, consequently, most players headed straight home for a hot shower and the chance to 'thaw out' before attending the mid-year ball in the evening.

While the result of the game gained little attention and publicity in wider football circles, the supporters at Pier Street were hopeful that the club had 'found a compass' and a path through the football wilderness.

In summary, after some desperate years, things looked brighter for the club; and there was a 'flicker of light in the tunnel' in 2004.

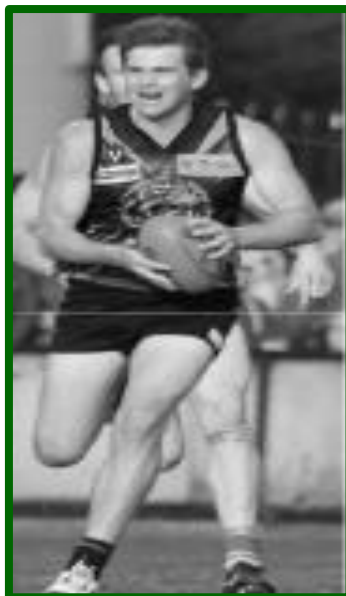
FINAL SCORES:

DROMANA 15.17 (107) DEFEATED CARRUM DOWNS 0.1 (1)

Goal kickers for Dromana:

Paul Minchington 4, Adam Hunter 3, Rick Johnston 2, Allen, Wilde, Burnham, Paris and Dunn 1 each.

Best players for Dromana: Paul Minchington, Paris, Martin, Adam Hunter, Dunn, Tim Johnston.



Rikki Johnston-An emerging young star in 2004.

FOUR-IN-A-ROW

When the expression ‘four-in-a-row’ is uttered , conversant football fans immediately think about the amazing accomplishment achieved by Jock McHale and the ‘Collingwood Machine’ (as it was then known) in winning four consecutive VFL premiership flags (1927-28-29-30) . It is a record that still stands today and will be hard to equal let alone better.

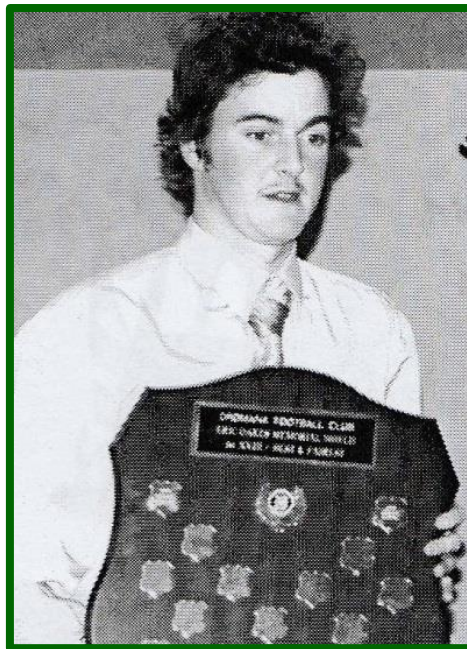
**FOUR IN
A ROW**

However, back at Dromana in the 2000’s, the axiom ‘four-in-a-row’ took on a different connotation when young Michael Hunter won four successive Best and Fairest awards. In 2002, he won the Third XVIII award; and then claimed the next three annual trophies (2003/04 and 2005) in the Senior XVIII count.

Like so many other Australian Rules footballers, Michael’s stellar (and burgeoning) career was cruelly cut short by serious knee injuries.

Since such records were commenced at DFNC, only two players have won four **Senior XVIII** Best & Fairest awards: Glenn Kendall (1985/86/88 and 1989) and Rikki Johnston (2007/09/10 and 2011).

Four players: Ray Fyson (1967/70 and 1981), Adam Hunter (2006/08 and 2012), Dave Jordan (1994/99 and 2000) and Michael Hunter (as described above) have taken out the honour on three occasions.



'Four-in-a-row'

**Michael Hunter won the Club's Best and Fairest award in 2003, 2004 and 2005.
He also took out the Under: 18 award in 2002.**

YOUNG PLAYERS TO DEBUT IN 2004

As targeted recruitment strengthened the playing list in that period, the dedicated work of developing local youth also began to pay dividends. While the club widened its search for experienced and hardened players, the most productive and positive commitment, undertaken by the club, was to encourage local youngsters to 'join, play and stay' at Pier Street.

It is not a 'top secret' that junior development is the keystone to renewal ...

" All country clubs know that cheque book recruiting is dangerous and this approach must be replaced with something more lasting and tangible....Home grown products are said to be the best to sustain the life and spirit of any nation; and Dromana Juniors are our best bet to avoid bankruptcy, relegation or even extinction"
Source: DFNC publication-1996.

In 2004, the following young players made their Senior XVIII debut with Dromana. Some became loyal and long serving members of the club...

Rikki and Tim Johnston, Glen and Shane Boyington, Andrew Burnham, Mitchell Cook, Luke Donnelly, Matt Martin, James Fisher, George Papalas, Brandon Mulcair, Nick Willmott, Mitchell Cook, Mark Crawshaw (Jnr), Dwayne Day,

Troy Docherty, Shaun Fletcher, Rod Payne, Mark Holmes Chad Wilde, Dan Newport, Will Sanghui and Travis Sheean,

PAUL MINCHINGTON –A LOCAL BRIGHT STAR

Paul Minchington, who was Dromana's best player that day at Wedge Road, played his first Senior XVIII game in 2002, went on to play 154 Senior XVIII games with DFNC. Younger readers may not be aware that, in 2010, Paul transferred to Port Douglas FC; and was selected as a member of the Queensland squad which participated in the Australian Country Carnival in Canberra that season. He has also enjoyed a distinguished career with YCW in the MPNFL.

Paul is one of five talented brothers who played football at Pier Street. In total, the Minchington boys amassed a total of 244 Senior XVIII games (and hundreds of Reserves, Thirds and Junior Grade games) for DFNC. Paul's younger brother, Darren, played AFL football with St Kilda and later with Hawthorn; and in 2021 he has signed with De La Salle in the VAFA.

CLUB HISTORY - CAN YOU HELP?

The above article was originally written for the club's newsletter and has been redrafted/ rewritten and filed on the Dromana Football Club's website for future reference. DFNC is working determinedly to 'fill the gaps' in the club's history and photographs, press cuttings, team sheets and other memorabilia are most welcome. There may be readers who have match reports/ cuttings from their years at Pier Street. Please feel welcome to forward and have such posted on the website for posterity.

One of the best ways to thank the hundreds of players, officials and volunteers, who have built DFNC, is to ensure that they are acknowledged by recording their contribution for future generations to read and appreciate. Thank you. Roger for DFNC-March 2021.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: Personal files and DFNC records.

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Researched and written for DFNC by: Roger Spaul-March 2021

DFNC website administrator: Graham Stelling. DFNC Secretary-Board Member.

Email contacts: historian@dromanatigers.com.au. or admin@dromanatigers.com.au

