

'FROM THE ARCHIVES' DROMANA DEFEAT MT ELIZA 1995

Reference: FTA: 2021/5

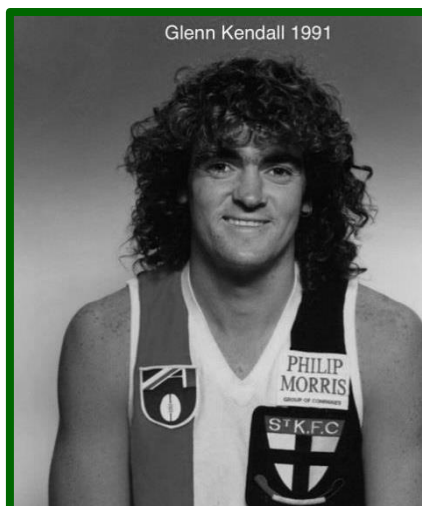


DROMANA DEFEAT MT ELIZA -1995

In 1995 Dromana was in serious contention to play finals football with several impressive performances early in that season.

The team was loaded with experienced and skilled players and the forward line was probably the most potent in the competition; and a six goal victory against Somerville, in Round 4, was an indication of the team's potential.

Glenn Kendall was the captain and coach that year and Dave Jordan was vice-captain (see footnotes below).



Glenn Kendall 1991

Glenn Kendall
139 games-1985-2001
Senior Coach 1994-95
Best & Fairest player award-1985-86-88-89
DFNC Team of the Era 1946-2015



David Jordan

164 games -1991-2002

Best & Fairest player awards -1994-99-2000

DFNC Team of the Era 1946-2015

The match against Mt Eliza was touted as 'compulsory viewing'; and a large crowd flocked to Pier Street that day. The official team sheet for the game is irretrievable but the line-up that day probably looked something like this...

Backs	D. Rea	D. Ritchie	S. Kerr
HBacks	P. Johnston	D. Quigley	M. Slocombe
Centre	J. Mellere	G. Kendall	C. Landrigan
HFwds	G. Fowler	P. Watson	J. Clarke
Fwds	D. Cornish	P. Fenby	M. Corn
Ruck	S. Lansdowne	D. Jordan	J. Hardwick
I/C	J. Lanyon T. Rendall		

As reported at the time, the match was a thrilling and high standard contest from the very first bounce. Mt Eliza went 'head to head' with Dromana and neither side 'gave ground' in an enthralling battle. At half time, the Redlegs held a one point lead.

The third term was a titanic struggle and nothing separated the teams at the three quarter time break. With the scores all 'tied up', the last quarter was a stirring arm-wrestle.

It was low scoring affair; and in a game where the both defences dominated, Dromana's champion centre half forward Phil Watson was probably the difference. His strong overhead marking and four goals were instrumental in Dromana 'bringing home the bacon.' Dromana won the last stanza and claimed victory by eleven points. Among Dromana best players that day was a youngster, Casey Landrigan, who played like a 'hardened veteran' and won great praise for his fearless attack on the ball and composure 'under fire.'

THE QUARTER BY QUARTER SCORES WERE:

Dromana: 1. 1 4.4 5.7 7. 9 (51)

Mt Eliza 2.4 4.5 5.7 5.10 (40)

GOALS FOR DROMANA:

Watson 4 Lansdowne Jordan Fowler

BEST PLAYERS FOR DROMANA:

Watson Slocombe Landrigan Kendall Jordan.



Phil Watson -1990-96
Best and Fairest award-1992
DFNC Team of the Era -1946-2015

FOOTNOTES ON 1995 SEASON

- The 1995 list of players at DFNC (and their jumper numbers) was as follows:

1. Peter Fenby 2. Jason Hardwick. 3 Andrew Rowler 4. Steven Kerr 5. Dick Cornish 6. Phil Watson 7. Scott Landsdowne 8. Bob Bird 9. David Jordan 10. Jason Clarke 11. Glenn Kendall 12. David Ritchie 13. Peter Johnston 14. Danny Rea 15. Garry Fowler 16. John Mellere 17. Tim Lanyon 18. Guy Kellett 19. Marty Fowler

20. Glen Clarke 21. Michael Slocombe 22. Brendan Trigg 23. Matt Breen 24. Damon Quigley 25. Colin Geisler 26. Darrell Fowler 27. Marc Corn 28. Grant Turnbull 29. Chris Ashton 30. Justin Emerson 31. Phillip Reeves 32. Jack Bateman 35. Geoff Bligh 36. Bryan Williams 37. John Walker 38. Darren Harmer 39. Chris Trigg

40. Mark Drobis 41. Mick Broadhurst 42. Trevor Rendall 43. Simon Morrice 44. Noel Corley 45. Gregg Bateman 46. Graham Potts 47. Dean Harris 48. Craig Compton 49. Noel Ormesher 51. Mick Neville 52. Matt Woods 53. Matthew Pfabe 54. Trevor Ormesher 55. Anthony Matthews 56. Aldo Corvi 57. Justin Fitzgerald 60. Noel Ashton.

- In 1995, Dromana won nine games but failed, 'by a whisker', to reach the finals, In a season that had promised a 'rich bounty'; and, with such an abundance of talented players, it is understandable why Glenn and his team mates were so frustrated when the 'curtain came down on that season.'

Long-time supporters would concur, that the above combination was one of the most talented groups to take the field at Pier Street in that era; and as Glenn said later "We had our best year since 1984..."

Although it is impossible to substantiate, it is still believed, by many local supporters, that had Dromana reached the 1995 finals it would have 'upset the apple cart.'

- As stated, Glenn Kendall was the Senior XVIII coach; and, as the DFC honour boards indicate, Glen was a brilliant junior and senior footballer. He was one of the best-ever teenage footballers in the club's long history; and it came as no surprise that Glen was signed by St Kilda in 1990 (Pre-season Draft: Selection Number :37).
Glenn later had stints at Sandringham (VFA) and Seaford FC (MPNFL). He played 139 games, won four club Senior XVIII Best and Fairest awards with Dromana FC and was selected in the 'Team of the Era' (1946-2015) on the half back flank.
- Jack Bateman, a popular and lion-hearted ruckman from Mornington FC, was the Reserves Grade coach in 1995; and he gained selection in the 'Team of the Decade' (1986-1995).
- Those who played with Dromana, in that era, would agree that Peter Fenby and Phil Watson formed the best forward combination in the league in 1995. Peter was an exhilarating high mark; and he and Phil created 'nightmares' for all opposition defenders. Both were physically tough and hard hitting forwards; and there would be little argument, that they were two of the most belligerent and potent forwards that opposition defenders had ever encountered. At their 'explosive best', Peter and Phil were unstoppable and, above all, electrifying players to watch.
- Unfortunately, Phil's Watson's games history at DFNC is contentious because, although he was presented with a memento (glassware) for his 100th game with Dromana in 1996, the existing club records indicate that he is listed as having played 99 games.
It is a classic example of the importance of keeping accurate and 'up-to-date' club records. Hopefully, with computerized data sheets, as currently maintained by Graham Stelling, similar administrative errors can be avoided in the future. A story about Phil's brilliant career at Pier Street can be found on this website.
- In 1995, ruckman Scott Landsdowne won the club's Best and Fairest award. Scott was the most creative exponent of handball in local football; and he was 'well ahead of his time' with the use of 'quick hands'. Scott was an unselfish footballer who never faltered to 'give off' to a team mate in a better position. Scott played only 25 games with DFC but made a huge impact. His father (Norm) was a long-serving and popular Director on the MPNFL Board until 2016.

- Guy Kellett provided sterling service to DFC as a player and a coach in that era of the club's history. As has been documented, when the club found itself without a Senior XVIII Coach at the start of the 1997 season, Guy stepped into the breach and gave 'his all' in trying to lift the team's performances.

Most would agree that Guy was one of the 'unsung heroes' of DFC for his Herculean efforts in keeping the club together during that stormy period of the club's history.

All members were deeply shocked when Guy passed away in February 2009 (at the age of 46 years) after a brave battle with cancer. A large congregation of officials, supporters and team mates assembled for his funeral on that day. During the service, Guy's daughter, (Jade) delivered a heart-rending tribute to her father; and his son (Nick) presented a video of Guy's journey through life and football. It was a poignant occasion and a sad day for the town and the club.

- A ruckman who developed in 'leaps and bounds' during that period was Chris Ashton. Chris commenced his football career at Pier Street in the Reserves and, within two or three seasons, took his football to a new level to become a dogged and consistent performer in the Senior XVIII.
- Graham Potts was a prominent player in the Reserves team in those years. Graham was admired by all his team mates for his 'never-say-die' attitude and the backing he gave the club during the 're-building' phase of the club.
- In 1995, there were five sets of brothers listed with the club: Brendan & Chris Trigg, Marty & Darrell Fowler, Noel & Trevor Ormesher, Jason & Glen Clarke and the Bateman brothers (Jack & Gregg).
- Jason Clarke was another emerging youngster who set the 'world on fire' with his 'ramrod style' of football. As a half back flanker, Jason was a 'human cannonball' and his attack on the ball was 'unswerving' and 'without hesitancy' to say the least. Early in the 1995 season, Jason was inexorable; and after eight rounds led the 'The Mail' newspaper 'Player of the Year' award with 14 votes.
Jason Clarke played 68 games (in two stints) with DFC and won the 1991 Best and Fairest award; he was also chosen in the Team of the Decade (1996- 2005).
Jason's son, Shaun, is a current team leader of DFNC and is a hard-hitting and direct player (like his father). Shaun tied with Christian Ongarello in Club's Best and Fairest in 2017 and was a member of the 2013 premiership team. He was also selected in the 'Team of the Decade' (2006-2015).
- In 1995, Matt Breen, another talented young recruit from Rosebud FC, played his first senior game for DFC; and, in time, accumulated 57 senior games. Matt was Senior XVIII captain of the club at one stage;

and was included in the of 'Team of the Decade' for the period 1986-2005.

- After 50 senior games, Michael Slocombe, a primary school teacher, transferred from the area in 1995 and, consequently, could no longer continue playing with the club. Michael, a resolute half back flanker, was named in the 'Team of the Decade' (1986-1995). He will also be remembered for his ingenious wit and his ability to make people laugh.
- Marc Corn, one of the youngest players on the above list, went on to carve out an imposing career with DFC, Mornington and Frankston (VFA). Marc was a 'spring-heel-Jack' and was renowned for his long kicking and also for taking spectacular 'hangers' by using the backs of opposition players as step-ladders in aerial contests. Marc was selected in the 'Team of the Decade' (1986-95).
- David Jordan (shown above) was a courageous and loyal footballer who won three DFC Best and Fairest awards (1994-1999-2000). In a twelve year career at DFC, David played 164 senior games and captained the club for seven seasons. He was a tireless midfielder who polled consistently well in the George Osborne Medal. In 1999, David was named in the 'Nepean All-Star Team-of-the Year' and, as is well-known, he played a central role in rebuilding the club during its most difficult days. Following a devastating knee injury, in the match at Red Hill in 2002, David stepped down from playing football.
- Anthony Matthews played more than 100 games with DFNC Reserves and was cleared to Rosebud FC in 2004. Since then, Anthony has won a reputation as an outstanding administrator/secretary in MPNFL football. He has the unique honour of being a Life Member of both the DFNC and RFNC Clubs. Anthony's brother (Michael) also played with Dromana for several seasons. Anthony and Michael are the sons of former DFNC Life Member, Colin Matthews, whose sad passing in late December (2016) was prominently featured in the first edition of the 2017 'Tiger Talk.'
- Mark 'Marty' Fowler, started his football with Rosebud juniors and then played with Sorrento (1984-86). Marty trained at VFL level as a teenager and was a star rover in MPNFL football. He was cleared to DFC in 1987 and he went onto play 76 senior games; and later became a mainstay of our Reserves as a player, assistant coach and selector. In 2001, a special tribute 'roast' was held to celebrate his 200th club game; and he was awarded Life Membership in 2003.
Marty was selected in the DFC's 'Team of the Decade' (1986-1995). Marty's brother, Darrell, (Number: 26) was also a talented and tenacious footballer who played with Dromana in that era also.
Marty Fowler's boys (Jack and Sam) have also starred at junior and senior level football with DFC. Sam's match winning effort in the dying

minutes of the 2019 MPNFL Division: 1 Grand Final victory, over Sorrento, will never be forgotten.

- Steve Kerr played his first senior game with DFC in 1987 and during the next twelve seasons amassed 93 senior games. He was selected in the 'Team of the Decade' (1986-95). Steve's father, John, played with Dromana; and his uncle, Rod Kerr, played 103 games with Dromana between 1966 and 1973. Rod was a member of the 1971 premiership team and was also selected in the 'Team of the Decade' (1966-75). Steve's younger cousin, Darren Kerr, was a gifted sportsman who played a handful of games for DFC in 1994. Darren's father, Ian (ex- Hawthorn), was a hard-hitting and 'straight-through' defender for the Grasshoppers in the late 70's. John Kerr was granted a Life Membership of DFNC in 1980.
- Peter Fenby, Jason Hardwick, Peter Johnston and John Mellere crossed from Rosebud to play with DFC in 1995 and it was an inflow of endowed and spirited footballers. Peter Johnston was an effective utility player and he became a most dedicated and well-regarded team leader. John Mellere was a speedy winger who 'broke the lines' with hard running and was a magnificent kick who rarely missed targets up-field.
- Jason Hardwick was a clever rover with an uncanny ability to be at the 'drop of the ball' and his goal-sense was second-to-none in local football. Jason was one of a quartet of skillful rovers at the club in 1995, the others being: Phil Reeves, Dick Cornish (ex-Rye) and Marty Fowler. After departing from DFC, Jason became a successful coach in the MPNFL and suburban football (e.g. VAFA) Jason's son, Blake, is a key defender at Hawthorn FC; and, at the time of writing (March 2021) had played 82 AFL games. Blake was Runner-up in the prestigious Peter Crimmins Medal in 2018.
- Geoff Bligh was a 'no frills' and resolute back man who had the capacity to shut down taller forwards with his close checking and strong body work. Geoff was awarded Life Membership in 2002; and he was selected in the 'Team of the Decade' (1976-85). Geoff, Jason Clarke, Grant Turnbull, Trevor Rendall, Peter Johnston, Michael Slocombe, Danny Rea and John Walker were part of a tight and tough backline throughout 1995. Geoff is a dedicated enthusiast of the club; and is always 'ready and willing' to lend a hand in assisting with building projects and maintenance matters if and when required. Geoff is a current member of the DFNC Board of Management.
- Damon Quigley was recruited to Dromana from Melton (Riddell FL) in 1995. He was highly skilled utility player who, despite battling niggling injury played several sterling games in defence for Dromana.

As a youngster, Damon played in the National Teal Cup championships; and later played with North Footscray, Williamstown (VFA) and Melton. Damon played just 33 games with Dromana being cleared to Red Hill. He returned to Dromana and took charge of the Under 18 team in 2010.

- Damon's sons, Jack and Billy are well known in local football circles. Jack played 154 club (Seniors-Reserves-Third Grades total) games with the Tigers while Billy will bring his 100th Senior Grade game milestone in 2021. He shared the Senior XVIII Best and Fairest award in 2016. Local followers are bewildered as to why AFL scouts have not shown greater interest in Billy as he has emerged as a genuine star in Division: 1 and is a focussed and committed team leader at Pier Street. Billy is also an endowed cricketer in the MPCA competition and is the current captain of the Rosebud Cricket Club First XI. In his career at Rosebud CC, Billy has compiled more than 4880 runs and captured 276 wickets.
- Noel Ormesher was a most popular personality and a 'tower of strength' in the Reserves in that era. He won the DFNC Reserves XVIII Best and Fairest on three occasions (1995-2002- 2003); and was also awarded the MPNFL Reserves Best & Fairest Medal in 2002.
- Gary 'Chooka' Fowler (pictured below) was a 'silky-skilled' on-baller with splendid foot and hand skills. Gary had a lengthy career in football and was a member of the DFNC Reserves team at the age of 44. He won the Reserves XVIII Best and Fairest award in 2000. Being part of a team meant 'the world' to Gary and he loved playing football at Pier Street. Regrettably, Gary Fowler passed away in 2011; and a Memorial Service was held in his honour at the Dromana Oval. On that day, his two young sons (Brett and Dylan) travelled from Tasmania to attend the special gathering of footballers, friends and family. In 2014, Gary was awarded a posthumous Life Membership for his on-field endeavours in more than 175 games with the club.



- In 1995 the Executive Members were; Les Rowler (President), Pam White (Secretary) and Pam Rowler (Treasurer). All three are Life members of DFNC. As previously posted on this website, Andrew Rowler won the DFNC Best and Fairest award in 1998. The Rowler family (shown

below) is still actively involved at DFNC and assist in raising finances, via a weekly raffle, to support the on-going commitments of the club.



- Although not a listed player in 1995, one personality who should never be forgotten, for her substantial contribution to the club is Pam White. Pam was a hard working club official for more than a decade; and she was awarded Life Membership for her detailed administrative work and commitment to 'saving the club' in its most perilous hours. Few people were ever aware of the exceedingly long hours that Pam gave to the club in managing the gamut of committee matters. Pam passed away suddenly in the summer of 1998 and will always be remembered as a volunteer with boundless energy and kind ways.
- In 1995, the DFC Under: 18 team list included: Luke Gallimore, Jason McCartin, Dan Hyndman, Craig Bear, George Diakonidis, Sean Henderson, Matt Monk, James Kelly, Craig Baker, Stuart Ford, Darren Curry and Brian Bird. A handful of boys on that list e.g. Dan Nicolle, Casey Landrigan (see above), Martin Hodgkins and Kevin Burns graduated to play MPNFL Senior XVIII football in later years. Despite suffering numerous sizeable defeats in 1995, the fighting spirit displayed, by that group of boys, is still a source of immense pride.

CLUB HISTORY - CAN YOU HELP?

The above footnotes on the players of 1995, underline the importance of maintaining the records of players and officials in football clubs. Every person mentioned, in the above article, played a significant role in taking the club forward and each deserves recognition and appreciation.

One of the best ways to thank the hundreds of players, officials and volunteers, who have built DFNC, is to ensure that they are remembered by future generations by recording their contribution. Consequently, DFNC is working determinedly to 'fill the gaps' in the club's history and **photographs, press cuttings, team sheets and other memorabilia are always welcome.

****WANTED:** If possible, photographs of DFNC players and teams in the period years 1950-1980 would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for any assistance you can offer. Roger-March 2021.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: DFNC records -NLA - Personal files & DFNC publications.

Article reference: Dromana v Mt Eliza 1995 (Ref: FTA 2021/5),

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

