

THE 1996 DFNC CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

(Reference: 2022/14)

INTRODUCTION- THE FIRST 100 YEARS

Although the exact year of the 'official' formation of the Dromana Football Club is problematic, it was decided by the club (after serious discussion regarding the early history of the township and DFC) that 1996 would be designated and celebrated as the Centenary of the Dromana Football Club. Consequently, in late 1995, a Centenary Committee was formed; and the five members were: Colin Matthews, Harry Boerkamp, John McCormick, Graham Stelling and Eric Oakes.



The Centenary Committee: Harry Boerkamp, John McCormick, Colin Matthews Graham Stelling Eric Oakes. The committee worked tirelessly to make 1996 a year to remember.

The Centenary Committee planned a series of celebratory functions and activities for 1996 including: A special DFC Dinner, Centenary 'Blockbuster' game against traditional rivals Rosebud FC , newspaper promotions, publications, mementos and souvenirs (e.g. the 1996 Centenary port wine) to mark the achievements of the club in the first century of football at Dromana.



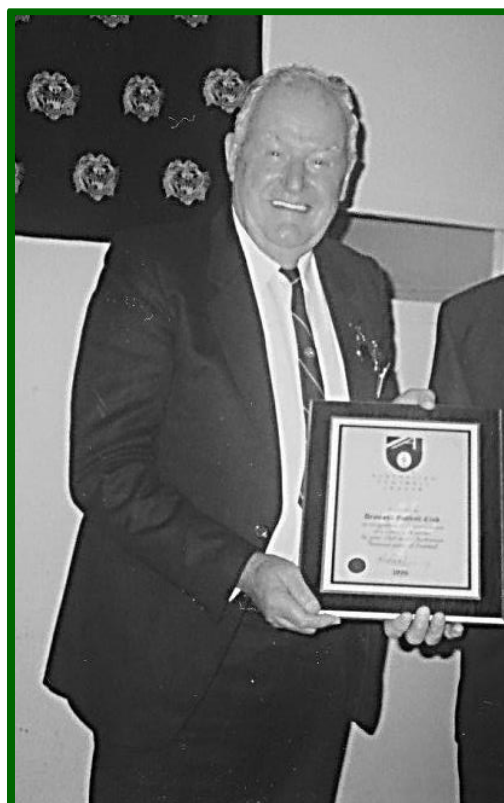
The above letter to Eric Oakes was received from the VCFL President, Arnold Clarke, congratulating the club on 'staying the distance' for 100 years...

One of the highlights of the 1996 season was the Centenary Dinner which was held at 'The Atrium' in April that year (following the Round:1 victory over Rosebud in the Centenary Blockbuster at Pier Street)

The photographs (below) were forwarded to the History Committee by Theresa Stelling who is a Life Member of the DFNC.



The members who contributed so much to the success of the Centenary celebrations in 1996: Colin Matthews, Lorraine Mathews, Harry Boerkamp, Jackie Ross, Theresa Stelling, Graham Stelling, Shirley McCormick, John McCormick, Alice Oakes and Eric Oakes.



Legendary DFNC figure, Eric Oakes, with the official AFL Centenary Certificate, which was presented to the club on that evening in April 1996. Articles about the lasting contribution that Eric Oakes made to DFNC can also be found on this website.



Former DFNC Coach and the 1978 Best & Fairest winner Lindsay Edgerton and his wife Laura pictured at the Centenary Dinner. Lindsay was selected in the 'Team of the Decade.' A tribute to Lindsay's contribution to football can be found on this website.



Two loyal and dedicated volunteers and Life Members of DFNC Dick Chesher and Betty Plunket. A story about Betty's involvement with the Dromana football and cricket clubs can be found on this website.



Long-serving DFNC Office Bearers & Life Members Pam and Les Rowler. The Rowler family is still actively involved in supporting and raising funds for the benefit of the club.



Master of Ceremonies that evening was Life Member, Graham Stelling. Graham was awarded Life Membership in 1989; and his wife, Theresa, was granted Life Membership in 2014. Their daughter, Erin, was also awarded Life Membership of the DJFNC in 2017. The trophy that is presented to the winner of the Sorrento Dromana clash is named in honour of Graham and his long-time friend Geoff Morgan.



Former champion rover and DFNC Life Member Bob Moorehead. Bob played 245 senior games; and was selected in the 'Team of The Post War Era' 1945-2015. Bob played in the 1950 premiership team; and was equal first in the 1954 Best & Fairest award. Bob also played representative football and was a dynamic member of the local community.



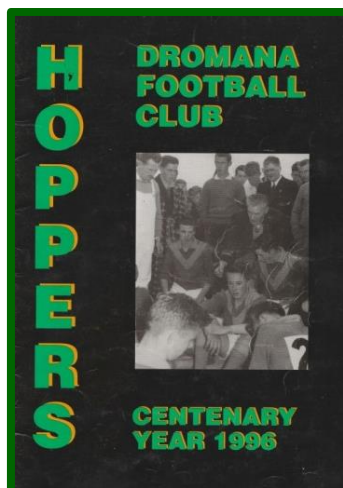
Part of the huge crowd that attended the Centenary Dinner. In the above photo, former ruckman Bob Bird, who played 45 Senior XVIII games with DFNC; and Life member and former defender Geoff Bligh can be seen. Geoff played 90 Senior XVIII games with DFNC and was named in the Team of the Decade 1976-1985. Geoff was awarded Life Membership in 2002.



Former player and avid supporter Bob O'Leary. Bob attends home matches and has enjoyed witnessing the progress and rise of the Tigers in the last two decades.



In this photo, Marc Corn (back to camera) can be seen. Marc was a talented and prominent footballer on the Mornington Peninsula and played 52 senior games with DFNC. He was selected on the half back flank in the 'Team of the Decade' 1986-1995. Former Rye and Dromana rover Dick Cornish can be seen on the right hand side of the photo (white shirt and tie). Dick played 57 games with Dromana between 1990 and 1997. The young man with the goatee beard is Jason Clarke who played 68 senior games and won the club's Best & Fairest award in 1991 and 1996. Jason was selected in the 'Team of the Decade' (1996-2005). Jason is the Father of former player Shaun Clarke who tied with Christian Ongarello in the club's Best & Fairest award in 2017.



The 'Centenary Year 1996' publication. Copies of the book are available and can be obtained by contacting the club. The book provides an informative background to the lasting contribution of the Oakes, McLear, Beavis, Matthews, Osborne and other families in building and maintaining the Dromana Football Club. It is a story of which to be proud.

HISTORICAL NOTE - BEYOND 1996

The following extract was provided for the History Page by Graham Stelling. It is part of a comprehensive article which deals with the formation of the Board of Management; and the decision to adopt new colours and mascot (i.e. Tigers)...

“1996 had been our Centenary year and at the end of the year we lost seventeen senior players due to retirements and transfers. We were unable to recruit players or a senior coach with Guy Kellett stepping in at the last minute to fill the breach. A lot of our reserves players from 1996 had to step up to fill senior spots in 1997.

Around this time there was talk of the club amalgamating with Red Hill, mainly with the league pushing it, but this was never seriously considered as it was felt it was not of benefit to our members or players. After discussion, It was decided the club needed to be revitalized and action to amending the DFC Constitution to change from a committee to a Board of Management to run the club was takenGraham Stelling became President of the new Board; and then began the task of recruiting local business people onto the Board

It was also decided that the club needed to be re-energized; and after years being known as the Hoppers, the club returned to its roots and once again became the Tigers as we had been at the formation of our club.(Richmond FC was one of the club patrons in the early 1900s)and the rest is history” Source: DFNC Archives.

THANK YOU TO THERESA STELLING

A special note of appreciation is given to Theresa Stelling for forwarding the above photos of the 1996 Centenary celebrations for posting on the DFNC History website page. The importance of photographs, in adding to the club's history, is again underscored by the above images. Thank you Theresa.

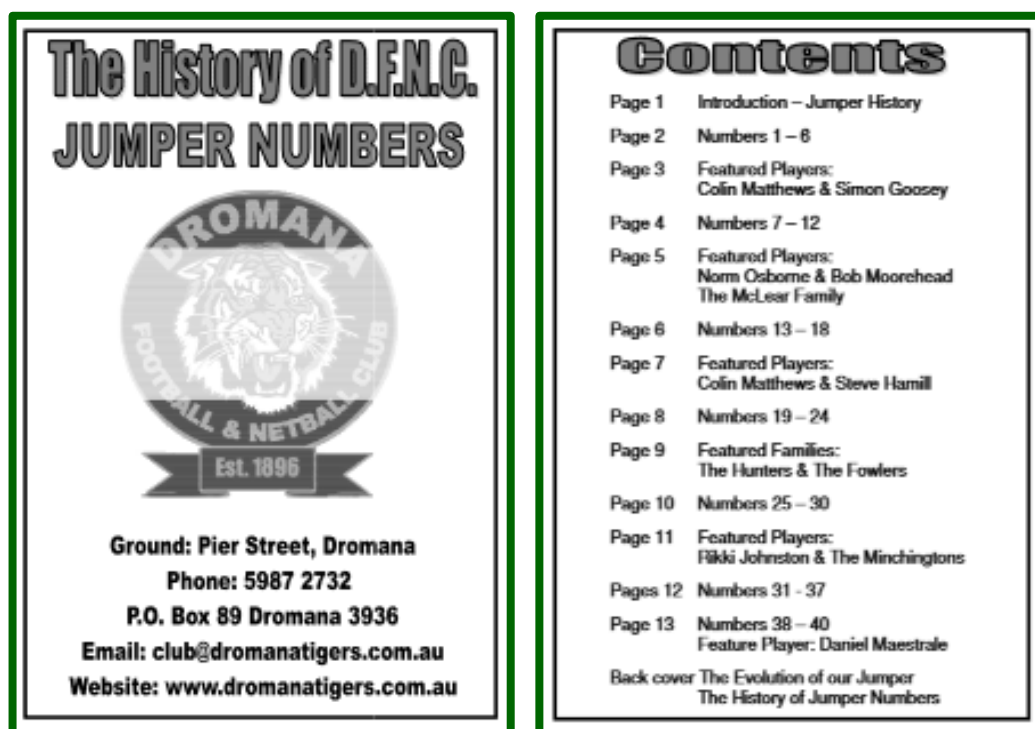


Theresa Stelling was awarded Life Membership of DFNC in 2014 and was named the DFNC Club Person of the Year in 2019. Theresa is the current DFNC Canteen Manager.

DFNC JUMPER NUMBERS BOOKLET

Those people who would like to read about the history of the club's jumper numbers (i.e. of hundreds of past and current players) can obtain a booklet related to the topic from Vikki Holt. The booklet not only lists players' jumper numbers but also highlights some local identities and families who have contributed to the development of the club since its inception in 1996.

See Vicki (who designed the booklet for DFNC) at the club apparel and merchandise stall on match day.



REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: Theresa Stelling -Centenary memorabilia -DFNC Records-MPNFL website-
personal files and notes.

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Written and prepared for DFNC by: Roger Spaul-June 2022

DFNC website administrator: Graham Stelling. DFNC Registrar and Board Member.

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