

**‘A LONG WAIT IS OVER
&
A HEAVY WEIGHT IS LIFTED’
10 YEARS AGO -THE 2013 PREMIERSHIP
Reference: 2023/11**



‘Premiership football is about skillful, dedicated players and teams whose success is planned... and organized by effective coaching.’ David Parkin in 1984.

INTRODUCTION- A LONG & HARD CLIMB TO THE TOP

After a patient and at times exasperating wait, the premiership drought at Dromana FC finally broke when the club claimed victory over Sorrento at Frankston Park in the 2013 Nepean Division Grand Final

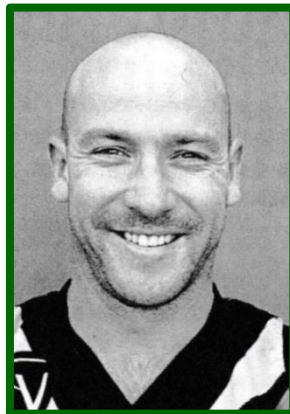
From early 2011 there was a sense that a premiership was ‘just around the corner’ at Pier Street because of:- (i) The influx of talented and experienced recruits that had ‘shored up’ the playing list and (ii) The thorough preparation and planning by the leadership group.



Gavin Artico was the coach of Dromana Football Club (2011-2013). Gavin had an impressive resume in football having played at Frankston Dolphins, Frankston YCW, Highett and with Langwarrin FC. As a coach, Gavin's history included stints with Highett (1998), Langwarrin (2005-2009); and he was also an assistant coach with the Frankston Dolphins, in the VFA, in 2010. Gavin became the first coach of Dromana FC to lead his team to Senior Grade premiership since Jack Booker did so in 1971.

A WINDFALL OF RECRUITS AT DFNC IN 2011-13

In the period 2011-13, Gavin Artico had 'combed the countryside' encouraging experienced players to sign on with the Tigers. The impressive list of recruits, who arrived at Pier Street, included: Beau McMurray (Mt Eliza), Jed Savage (Mt Eliza), Christian Ongarello (Frankston VFL), Steven Gaertner (St Kilda), Liam Hogan (WA and Sale), Terry Wheeler(Sale), Jay Neratzoglou (Mt Eliza), Anthony Bruhn (Chelsea), Dan Waddell (Frankston YCW), Adam Lourey (Mt Eliza), Matt Neratzoglou (Mt Eliza) , Michael Falconer (Cheltenham), Daniel Gormley (Mt Eliza) and Stuart Cleeve (Sandringham VFL). It is fair to say that such extensive recruiting had seldom been seen at DFNC.



Sometimes in recruiting things fall into place; and Liam Hogan was a 'top-shelf' recruit from Sale FC in the LVFL. Liam was a most experienced and knowledgeable footballer; and Dromana supporters were impressed when Liam 'hit his straps' in the midfield.

Despite the evident pool of talent, stagers in 'home straight' in 2012 had delayed a DFNC Grand Final victory until September 7th 2013. At all levels of football, premierships are extremely hard to win as Rodney Eade* and a long list of former Dromana footballers can testify.

***Note:** For younger readers, Rodney coached at AFL level from 1996 until 2017 (a total of 358 games) and never claimed a flag. Rod's only AFL Grand Final, as a coach was in 1996; and, on that day, Sydney was beaten by North Melbourne to the tune of 44 points.

There are many locals who can vouch for the fact that it had a 'bumpy journey' since the club won its previous flag in 1971; and there are numerous articles, on this website, which offer some insight into the 'storms' that the club had weathered along the way.

However in September 2013, Gavin Artico and his highly focussed team overcame the 'heavy weight of history' and prevailed against Sorrento in one of the most commanding exhibitions ever witnessed in MPNFL history.

THE ROAD TO THE PREMIERSHIP IN 2013

In 2013, there were sixteen rounds of football; and as can be seen from the following results, Dromana won 15 games and lost only one (i.e. Round: 2 against Sorrento). Readers will be interested to study the scores (after sixteen rounds of the competition) which are included in this article. The scores not only indicate the potency of the Tigers' forward line in 2013 but also underline how the pursuit of the premiership was built upon a stable and tough 'back six.' As the legendary Vince Lombardi once said... *"Go back through football and you will see that that team with the best defence wins."*

The following match results highlight the strong performances (e.g. high scores and sizeable winning margins) of the team during that season. Hopefully, the 'facts and figures' will revive some vivid memories of one of the finest chapters in the history of DFNC.

DFNC SENIOR XVIII RESULTS SUMMARY-2013

ROUND :1	V HASTINGS : HOME
SCORES	DROMANA 23. 19 (157) defeated HASTINGS 13.12 (90)
GOALKICKERS	Hutchinson 3 Slocombe 2 Banks 3 Joyce 2 Wood 2 Bruhn 2 Dennis 2 Geurts 2 Johnston Gormley Hogan Minchington
BEST PLAYERS	Ongarello Neratzaglou O' Neill Hunter Johnston Slocombe

ROUND :2	V SORRENTO : AWAY
SCORES	SORRENTO 13.16 (94) defeated DROMANA 12.9 (81)
GOALKICKERS	Waddell 5 Minchington 2 Geurts Bruhn Hutchinson Banks Cleeve
BEST PLAYERS	Ongarello Waddell Hutchinson Minchington Falconer Slocombe

ROUND : 3	V PEARCEDALE: HOME
SCORES	DROMANA 21.12 (146) defeated PEARCEDALE 4.8(32)
GOALKICKERS	Bruhn 5 Minchington 4 Waddell 4 Banks 2 Gormley 2 Clarke Fowler Hunter Lourey
BEST PLAYERS	Geurts Waddell Clarke Bruhn Neratzaglou
ROUND : 4	V RED HILL: AWAY

SCORES	DROMANA 23.21 (159) defeated RED HILL 5.4 (34)
GOALKICKERS	Lourey 6 Bruhn 5 Waddell 3 Minchington 2 Fowler Clarke Hutchinson Slocombe Banks Wheeler Wood
BEST PLAYERS	Wood O'Neill Minchington Bruhn Lourey Slocombe



Ryan Slocombe was a humble footballer and a strong team leader. His nerve and composure were so important in tough and tight situations; and a major reason for the success of the club in that era.

ROUND : 5	V TYABB: HOME
SCORES	DROMANA 29.20 (194) defeated TYABB 1.3(9)
GOALKICKERS	Bruhn 7 Banks 6 Lourey 6 Wheeler 2 Neratzaglou 2 Minchington Hogan Hutchinson Neratzaglou Geurts Wood
BEST PLAYERS	Bruhn Gormely Banks Lourey Hogan Wood

ROUND : 6	V ROSEBUD : AWAY
SCORES	DROMANA 18.12 (120) defeated ROSEBUD 13.9 (87)
GOALKICKERS	Banks 4 Waddell 3 Bruhn 3 Gormley 3 Slocombe 2 Neratzaglou Minchington
BEST PLAYERS	Gormley Neratzaglou Wheeler Bruhn Slocombe Clarke

ROUND : 7	V RYE : HOME
SCORES	DROMANA 19.10 (124) defeated RYE 9.8 (62)
GOALKICKERS	Bruhn 4 Slocombe 3 Banks 3 Gormley 2 Minchington Hutchinson Johnston Dennis Neratzaglou Waddell Wheeler
BEST PLAYERS	Hunter Waddell Johnston B Gormley Geurts Neratzaglou



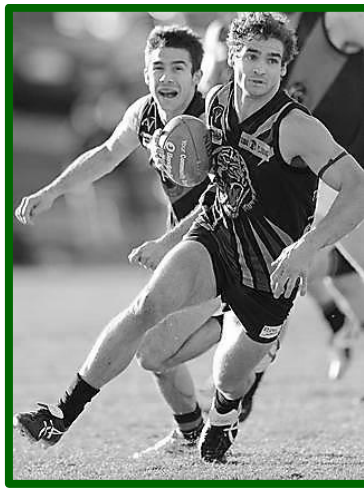
Jarrad Wood gave a stunning exhibition on the wide open spaces at Red Hill in Round: 4 in 2013. Jarrad, who was one of the youngest members of the team, was an unselfish team-man and played his role to perfection in 2013. His ability to run hard 'both ways' and willingness to sacrifice his own game for the aims of the team were admirable.

ROUND : 8	V DEVON MEADOWS: AWAY
SCORES	DROMANA 21.12 (138) defeated DEVON 1.4 (10)
GOALKICKERS	Minchington 4 Gormley 4 Coyle 2 Bruhn 2 Wheeler 2 Waddell 2 Neratzaglou O'Neill Clarke Falconer Cleeve
BEST PLAYERS	Coyle Slocombe Minchington Geurts Johnston Hunter

ROUND : 9	V FRANKSTON BOMBERS : HOME
SCORES	DROMANA 20.16. (136) defeated FRANKSTON 10.12 (72)
GOALKICKERS	Bruhn 5 Wheeler 3 Cleeve 2 Coyle 2 Hunter 2 Clarke Gormley Minchington Hogan Waddell Slocombe
BEST PLAYERS	Wheeler Bruhn Ongarello Hunter Falconer Coyle

ROUND : 10	V SOMERVILLE : AWAY
SCORES	DROMANA 20.22 (142) defeated SOMERVILLE 7.9(51)
GOALKICKERS	Gormley 3 Waddell 3 Wheeler 3 Neratzaglou 2 Minchington 2 Cleeve 2 Banks Bruhn Hogan Slocombe Hunter
BEST PLAYERS	Cleeve Waddell Geurts Hunter Hogan

ROUND : 11	V CRIB POINT : HOME
SCORES	DROMANA 16.19 (115) defeated CRIB POINT 8.7 (55)
GOALKICKERS	Banks 4 Bruhn 4 Waddell 2 Minchington Cleeve Gormley Coyle Clarke Hunter Neratzaglou
BEST PLAYERS	Banks Geurts Dennis Hunter Falconer



Christian Ongarello was a champion on and off the field; and it is acknowledged, by all football followers across the Peninsula, that he was one of the finest defenders to ever don a Dromana guernsey. During his time with Dromana, Christian played with immense courage; and his performance, in defence in the 2013 Grand Final, was superlative and underlined his value to Dromana that season.

ROUND : 12	V RYE : AWAY
SCORES	DROMANA 12.11(83) defeated RYE 12.7(79)
GOALKICKERS	Neratzaglou 3 Bruhn 2 Waddell 2 Hunter 2 Slocombe Gormley Wheeler
BEST PLAYERS	Ongarello Neratzaglou Slocombe Wheeler Falconer Hogan

ROUND : 13	V RED HILL: HOME
SCORES	DROMANA 26.20 (176) defeated RED HILL 2.5 (17)
GOALKICKERS	Waddell 5 Bruhn 5 Wheeler 3 Lee 3 Neratzaglou 3 Minchington Dennis Hunter Cleeve Hunter
BEST PLAYERS	Cleeve Waddell Dennis Bruhn Hunter Neratzaglou

ROUND : 14	V TYABB: AWAY
SCORES	DROMANA 27.18 (180) defeated TYABB 6.6.(42)
GOALKICKERS	Waddell 5 Johnston 5 Neratzaglou 2 Bruhn 2 Wheeler 2 Ongarello 2 Cleeve 2 Gormley 2 Geurts Dennis Hunter Coyle Minchington Clarke Lee Wood
BEST PLAYERS	Ongarello Clarke Waddell Wheeler Minchington Dennis

ROUND : 15	V ROSEBUD : HOME
SCORES	DROMANA 19.18 (132) defeated ROSEBUD 5.3 (33)
GOALKICKERS	Waddell 4 Gormley 4 Clarke 2 Bruhn 2 Cleeve 2 McMurray 2 Johnston Banks Minchington

BEST PLAYERS	Hunter Minchington Waddell Gormley Wheeler Johnston
---------------------	---

ROUND : 16	V HASTINGS : AWAY
SCORES	DROMANA 21.20 (146) defeated HASTINGS 13.12(90)
GOALKICKERS	Neratzaglou 3 Minchington 3 Banks 3 Bruhn 2 Gormley 2 Waddell2 Slocombe Hutchinson Wheeler Cleeve Hunter Johnston
BEST PLAYERS	Hunter Wheeler O'Neill Slocombe Gormley

THE LADDER AFTER THE 2013 HOME & AWAY SERIES

As can be seen below, Dromana won fifteen games and lost one match (i.e. against Sorrento in Round: 2) in 2013. DFNC finished the season with a massive percentage of 260.09% which indicated that it had firepower in attack and an effective and well-drilled defence. Sorrento had been undefeated in 2013; while at the other end of the table Devon Meadows had won just two games. The percentages of Sorrento and Dromana told a tale of dominance over the lower clubs; and, as time would prove, they were clearly the best two teams in the Nepean Division in 2013.

	TEAM	P	W	L	D	B	FF	For	Agst	%	PTS
1	SORRENTO	16	16	0	0	0	0	2218	910	243.74	64
2	DROMANA	16	15	1	0	0	0	2229	857	260.09	60
3	FRANKSTON BOMBERS	16	12	4	0	0	0	1559	1200	129.92	48
4	PEARCEDALE	16	10	5	1	0	0	1520	1403	108.34	42
5	ROSEBUD	16	10	6	0	0	0	1478	1271	116.29	40
6	CRIB POINT	16	7	9	0	0	0	1331	1637	81.31	28
7	HASTINGS	16	6	10	0	0	0	1520	1597	95.18	24
8	SOMERVILLE	16	6	10	0	0	0	1358	1658	81.91	24
9	RYE	16	5	10	1	0	0	1333	1363	97.80	22
10	RED HILL	16	3	13	0	0	0	988	1899	52.03	12
11	TYABB	16	3	13	0	0	0	1043	2163	48.22	12
12	DEVON MEADOWS	16	2	14	0	0	0	1071	1690	63.37	8

	QUALIFYING FINAL : OLYMPIC PARK
SCORES	DROMANA 20.14 (134) defeated FRANKSTON 8.9(57)
GOALKICKERS	Minchington 4 Banks 3 Neratzaglou 2 Hunter 2 McMurray 2 O'Neill Bruhn Cleeve Wheeler Waddell Johnston Gormley
BEST PLAYERS	Hunter Banks Neratzaglou Minchington Cleeve Hogan

2ND SEMI FINAL : RYE	
SCORES	DROMANA 12.10 (82 defeated SORRENTO 11.15(81)
GOALKICKERS	Waddell 4 Minchington 2 Clarke Bruhn Geurts Banks Cleeve Neratzaglou
BEST PLAYERS	Slocombe Falconer Hunter Wheeler Geurts

MPNFL GRAND FINAL : SEPTEMBER 7th 2013 DROMANA V SORRENTO -FRANKSTON PARK

The Dromana players who took the field for the Grand Final were:

Anthony Bruhn, Beau McMurray, Daniel Waddell, Toby Banks, Terry Wheeler, Paul Minchington, Stuart Cleeve, Dan Gormley, Michael Falconer, Christian Ongarello, Ryan Slocombe (vc), Sam Guerts, Daniel Guerts, Shaun Clarke, Braeden Dennis, Luke O'Neill, Rikki Johnston (captain), Jay Neratzoglou, Adam Hunter, Michael Hunter, Liam Hogan and Jarrad Wood.

BACKS	M. HUNTER J. NERATZAGLOU C. ONGARELLO
HBACKS	D. GEURTS R. JOHNSTON (C) A. HUNTER
CENTRE	T. WHEELER L. HOGAN J. WOOD
HF'WRDS	D. GORMLEY D. WADDELL B. DENNIS
F'WARDS	T. BANKS A. BRUHN S. CLEEVE
RUCKS	L. O' NEILL R. SLOCOMBE (VC) P. MINCHINGTON
I/C:	S. CLARKE M. FALCONER S. GEURTS B. MCMURRAY

A SOLID AND SAFE DEFENCE - THE KEY TO SUCCESS

The history of Australian rules shows that time and time again, uncompromising defence is the key to winning premierships; and throughout 2013, the DFNC defence of Adam and Michel Hunter, Rikki Johnston, the Geurts brothers, Christian Ongarello was arguably the best in the competition.

Mathematically, it can be shown that after 16 games in 2013, that opposing teams had averaged just 54 points per game; and in six games, the Dromana defenders had kept the opposition to less than six goals.

On Grand Final day, the Dromana backline again 'held firm' and restricted the Sorrento's highly regarded attack to just two goals after half time. It is fair to say, that the manner in which the defenders blanketed and negated Sorrento's key forwards was nothing short of 'text book stuff.'



Young Sam Geurts played like a seasoned veteran when he took his place in the DFNC line up in the 2013 Grand Final. He was a 'rookie' of the highest order; and in time, would unleash his potential and become one of the finest players in community football in Victoria. The Geurts' family story is a remarkable piece of DFNC history.

It was a decisive victory; and credit must be given to Gavin Artico and his leadership group for the manner in which they laid the foundation and prepared the players (i.e. over several seasons) to ultimately 'win through' and claim the flag in 2013.

AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE MATCH

Dromana's victory in the Grand Final was headline news in all local media; and the 'Herald Sun' newspaper devoted an entire page to the game. The following report, by journalist Simon McEvoy, appeared in that newspaper on the 8th September 2013.

DAZZLING DROMANA WINS FIRST FLAG SINCE 1971

**Simon McEvoy, Mornington Peninsula Leader
September 8, 2013 'Herald Sun'**

WAVES of joy swept over Frankston Park on Saturday after Dromana's 42-year premiership drought came to a spectacular end.

"Well, I've seen one at last," an old man declared as he stood on the outskirts of a pulsating throng of Tigers players and supporters.

Dromana, having trounced Sorrento by 79 points in the Nepean League Grand Final, finally had a flag to fly after decades of struggle, disappointment and near-misses.

There was raw emotion as players and supporters embraced. Tears gave way to a mighty celebration. Dromana's coach Gavin Artico wasn't born when Dromana won its last flag in 1971 and he savoured the special moment.

"The best thing was to be able to put the board down with five or so minutes to go and watch the boys come on and off the ground and enjoy watching the supporters and then hold out for the siren...when it went there were just so many happy faces around. It was brilliant."



One of the Dromana's steadfast back men in the Grand Final, Adam Hunter, is pictured being tackled by Sorrento's Trevor Mattison. Dromana's Terry Wheeler, who would in time, captain the club to another mighty victory, can be seen on the left of the image.

The Grand Final was tight and tough early, but it turned into a Dromana cakewalk after half-time. The Tigers took a 12-point lead into the third quarter and went berserk, firing off 7.1 to Sorrento's 0.1 to open up a 54-point lead by three quarter time. Fans were already congratulating Dromana players at the last huddle, and Artico noticed. *"Hang on, we're not celebrating yet,"* he barked...

Sorrento, with its champion, Troy Schwarze, off the ground nursing a back injury, was 'cooked' and Dromana showed no mercy, pouring on another six goals in the last term. The lead touched 80 points after Beau McMurray's dashing goal.

Dromana fans clearly outnumbered Sorrento's and they spent much of the last hour in song. *"Oh, we're from Tigerland ..."*. In front of the grandstand, former Dromana player Jason Clarke, wearing an old Grasshoppers jumper, burst into song. His son, Shaun Clarke, 21, was out on the ground.

Sorrento has been 'King of Nepean League' for years, but its reign was over. Dromana was labelled the best suburban football team in the state during the season and it played like it on the most important day of the season. On Election Day, peninsula footy had a new leader.

Nerves were evident at the start of the game. Sorrento forward Leigh Pohlke hit the post with the first shot of the game; and moments later Dromana's Stuart Cleeve did the same. Sorrento's Tyrren Head drilled the opening goal of the game but in a sign of things to come.

Dromana forward Anthony Bruhn burst to life with two early goals. Bruhn went on to finish with five goals in a telling display.



Anthony Bruhn gave a brilliant exhibition at full forward in the 2013 MPNFL Grand Final. He kicked five goals and was named as the best player in the local newspaper report of the game. In his time at Dromana, Anthony played 55 games and kicked 167 goals at an average of 3.03 goals per game. He won the goal kicking award in 2013 (58 goals) and again in 2014 with 67 goals. In 2017, Anthony played a major role in YCW's premiership win over Bonbeach by booting four goals. Anthony also played 10 games with Footscray Bulldogs in the VFL in 2017-18.

Late in the first term, Dromana's Luke O'Neill was knocked unconscious... and was stretchered off and an ambulance took him to Frankston hospital. After the game, Artico went to the hospital to check on him. *"He's had scans ... looks like there's nothing broken,"* he said.

Dromana dasher Toby Banks was awarded the AFL Vic Country Medal for best on ground, and the Tigers had winners all over. McMurray, Ryan Slocombe, Terry Wheeler, Christian Ongarello and tattooed ruckman Michael Falconer were superb. In the wild celebrations straight after, long-time Tigers player Michael Hunter was in tears. It wasn't long ago that Dromana was a basket case. In the 1990s, the senior side was getting walloped by 50 and 60 goals every week, and the club almost folded.

"We had the league come to us one year and ask us to guarantee that we'll be competitive the next year," Dromana stalwart Colin Matthews revealed. *"They were looking to kick us out. I threatened to take them to court over it. The community needed its footy club and at that stage the (current stars) such as Adam Hunter and Paul Minchington were starting to run around in the Under 11s"*

Sorrento didn't get its fourth straight flag and its coach Nick Claringbold conceded Dromana was a deserving winner



A notable moment in the history of DFNC. Rikki Johnston and Gavin Article are shown accepting the 2013 Nepean FL premiership cup. It had been a long and demanding journey for the club and the unswerving loyalty of the 'true believers' had been vindicated.

2013 GRAND FINAL MATCH DETAILS

Dromana: 4.3 7.5 14.6 20.8 (128)

Sorrento: 3.2 5.5 5.6 7.7 (49)

Goal kickers for Dromana: A. Bruhn 5 D. Waddell 3 T. Banks 3 B. McMurray 3 P. Minchington 2 T. Wheeler 2 S. Cleeve D. Gormley

Best players for Dromana: A. Bruhn B. McMurray R. Slocombe T. Wheeler C. Ongarello M. Falconer

Goal kickers for Sorrento: B. Schwarze 2 L. Pohlke D. Phillips K. Stringer-Morris D. Grant T. Head

Best players for Sorrento: B. McCormack C. Bagot D. Phillips R. Jeffery N. Warner S. Cameron



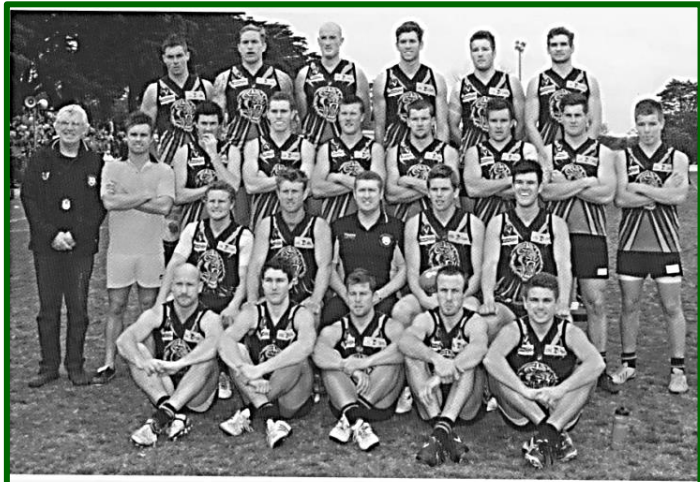
Toby Banks won the AFL Vic Country Medal for his creative forward play and three vital goals for Dromana that day. Toby, who played 133 Senior XVIII games with DFNC, was selected in the club's Team of the Decade (2006-2015).



After 42 years Dromana finally ‘broke through, to win a Senior XVIII flag. The decade 2010-2020 was the club’s Golden Decade; and DFNC rewrote MPNFL history by claiming back-to-back premierships in 2018 (Division: 2) and the Division:1 pennant in 2019. It was the first time in local football that any team had won a premiership in the same season that it had gained divisional promotion. Such a notable achievement received wide publicity; and it is predicted that such a monumental feat will not be matched for a long time.



Dromana’s skipper Rikki Johnston is chaired from the ground holding the 2013 Premiership Cup. After 42 years, the ‘drought’ broke; and the club had shown the importance of unity, leadership and discipline in ‘winning through.’



Back Row: Daniel Waddell, Michael Falconer, Luke O'Neill, Stuart Cleeve, Daniel Geurts, Christian Dngarello
 3rd Row: Brian Lee (Team Manager), Paul McLean-Wilson (Runner), Michael Hunter, Anthony Bruhn, Shaun Clarke, Jarrad Wood, Ryan Slocombe, Beau McMurray, Sam Geurts
 2nd Row: Toby Banks, Adam Hunter(VC), Gavin Artico (Coach), Rikki Johnston ©, Jay Neratzoglou
 Front Row: Liam Hogan, Terry Wheeler, Braeden Dennis, Daniel Gormley, Paul Minchinton

THE RESERVES TAKE OUT THE 2013 FLAG

On the same day, the DFNC Reserves XVIII won the premiership in definitive fashion by downing Sorrento by 54 points. It was a fitting conclusion to the season as the Reserves had been united and dedicated in their efforts throughout the season. The team had won 12 of its 16 Home and Away series games and sat third on the MPNFL Ladder with a whopping percentage of 238.70%.

While the Tigers were defeated by Red Hill in the Qualifying Final they hit back forcefully in the Semi-Final against Frankston and triumphed by 36 points. In that game, Beau McMurray and Ryan Hawkins booted 4 goals apiece and Jed Savage chipped in with 3 goals. In the 'return bout' (i.e. the Preliminary Final) against Red Hill, Beau led the way again with a 'best on ground' performance and a three goal haul. The Tigers won by 25 points that day; and claimed the right to 'face off' against Sorrento on the following Saturday at Frankston Park.

Coaching at reserves level is often a difficult balancing act; and Ashley Chapman, who had been appointed Reserves coach in 2011, was rewarded for his endeavours as the team hit peak form in the second week of the finals series.

Dromana looked 'every inch' a 'threatening outfit' with a sprinkling of experienced veterans (e.g. Brad Allen, Dan Lee, Billy Peagram, Damon Lawrence, Brad Allen, Aaron Coyle, Dwayne Day, Mark Oliver and Daniel Maestrale) and a handful of emerging players such as Dylan Norton, Ryan Worn, Tom Wright, Jack Quigley, Jay Hutchinson, Jack Powell and youngster Adyn Musgrave who had won the Third XVIII Best and Fairest award in 2012.



The jubilant DFNC Reserves XVIII which won the premiership in 2013. A six goal first term set the scene for a convincing 54 point victory; and provided a good start to the day for the club. As can be seen in the photographs, winning a flag with friends means so much to footballers and that is the intrinsic beauty of being part of a team sport.

The players who represented DFNC Reserves in the Grand Final were: Ryan Hawkins, Adyn Musgrave, Billy Peagram, Jarryd Hunter, Dan Lee, Jed Savage, Mark Oliver, Damon Lawrence, Aaron Coyle, Kieren Voelkl, Seamus Thomson, Daniel Maestrone, Brad Allen, Jack Quigley, Ryan Worn, Tom Wright, Jack Powell, Valbon Beca, Dylan Norton, Sam Banks, Dwayne Day and Jay Hutchinson.



As the field umpire (left) raises his hand to signal the end of the game, Damon Lawrence and Jarryd Hunter celebrate the moment of victory with unbridled joy. Both Damon and Jarryd were part of strong DFNC midfield that overpowered Sorrento; and provided drive and continual opportunities for the forward line across four quarters of that Grand Final.

MPNFL RESERVE GRAND FINAL DETAILS

Dromana: 6.2. 8.3 8.9. 11.11 (77)

Sorrento: 1.1 3.1 3.3 3.5 (23)

Goal kickers For Dromana: R. Hawkins 3 B. Peagram 2 A. Musgrave 2 J. Hunter M. Oliver D. Lee and J. Savage

Best players for Dromana: A. Musgrave S. Thomson K. Voelkl A. Coyle D. Lawrence and J. Hunter



The AFL Vic Country Medal, for the best player afield, was awarded to Dromana's big hearted and popular ruckman Seamus Thomson (as seen above after the presentation of the award).

NEPEAN LEAGUE TEAM OF THE YEAR 2013

When the MPNFL announced its 2013 Team of the Year, five DFNC players (Christian Ongarello, Jay Neratzoglou, Rikki Johnston, Anthony Bruhn and Paul Minchington) were included in the powerful line-up.

DFNC supporters were justly proud when the team was published during Grand Final week. The team selected was as shown below. Readers will notice that Ben Holmes from Rye was selected at centre-half forward. Ben would later carve out a handsome reputation for himself at Dromana FNC. Ben is currently the Third XVIII Coach at DFNC.

B: Christian Ongarello (Dromana) Jay Neratzoglou (Dromana) Taylor Stratton (Hastings)
HB: Darren Booth (Rye) Rikki Johnson (Dromana) Greg Bentley (Rosebud)
C: James Hallahan (Sorrento) Leigh Treeby (Sorrento) Colin McVeigh (Hastings)
HF: Leigh Pohlke (Sorrento) Ben Holmes (Rye) Anthony Bruhn (Dromana)
FF: Tony Mirabella (Hastings) Pat Heijden (Pearcedale) Chris Fortnam (Pearcedale)
Foll: Rhett Sutton (Rye) Matthew Payne (Rosebud) Paul Minchington (Dromana)
Interchange: Pat Cadd (Pearcedale), Ryan Lonie (Bombers), Rowan Hogenbirk (Somerville) and Cayden Beetham (Sorrento).
Coach: Nick Claringbold (Sorrento).

FOOTNOTES REGARDING JAY NERATZOGLOU



1. Jay Neratzoglou was named captain of the DFC at the commencement of the 2014 season. It came as no surprise to supporters because in his previous two seasons with DFC, Jay has been a standout defender and his positive style of leadership had certainly made a huge impact around the club.
2. Ricky Johnston, Christian Ongarello, the Guertz brothers, the Hunters and Jay formed a brilliant defence that stood firm in 2013 and, of course, in the Grand Final victory.
3. Jay was born at the Mordialloc-Cheltenham Hospital in 1986; and attended schools at Lilydale, Derinya, Kingsley-Park, Peninsula Grammar and Wheelers Hill SC.

4. Jay became interested in football at a young age; and his first junior club was the Frankston Dolphins. He also played under-age football with the Waverly Panthers. In all, he played in excess of 100 games of junior football.
5. It is not hard to imagine that Jay attracted a lot of interest when he was a junior player, and at just 16 years of age he made his senior debut in MPNFL football with Mount Eliza FC.
6. Jay played at Mount Eliza for seven seasons. In that period he was also a member of the Oakleigh Chargers in the TAC State-wide competition. In 2005 he played at Port Melbourne FC, in the VFL, under the tutelage of former Essendon and Sydney rover Peter Filandia and Saade Ghazi.
7. Jay experienced some memorable highlights in football including a couple of prestigious awards at Mt Eliza; and he was named in the MPNFL Team of the Year in 2008.
8. Jay was cleared to Dromana in 2012. In his first season at Dromana he was named 'Player of the Finals.' In 2013, he was selected in the MPNFL Team of the Year at full back; and was also selected in the 2014 Nepean FL Interleague team.
9. Jay played 58 Senior XVIII Grade games for Dromana before seeking a clearance to the Caulfield Grammarians FC (VAFA) in 2015. Not only did he impress the Grammarians faithful with his distinctive brand of defensive play but he also caught the eye of the VAFA selectors and was chosen in the 2015 combined Victorian Amateur team.
10. In 2016, he returned to Mt Eliza when he played his 100th game for the Mounties. In recent years, Jay has been a member of the Mt Eliza coaching and match-day panel.
11. In 2013, Jay's brother Matt played 14 games (22 goals) with DFNC and his Father, Con, also played a key role part in the match-day leadership group.

DFNC SENIOR XVIII LIST IN 2013-GAMES & GOALS

PLAYER NAME	GAMES	GOALS
A. BRUHN	19	58
D. GORMLEY	19	28
D. WADDELL	19	50
J. NERATZOGLOU	19	2
M. HUNTER	19	4
S. GEURTS	19	2
T. WHEELER	19	24
A. HUNTER	18	9
D. GEURTS	18	4

L. HOGAN	18	4
P. MINCHINGTON	18	34
R. JOHNSTON	18	7
S. CLARKE	18	9
R. SLOCOMBE	17	13
A. ONGARELLO	16	2
B. DENNIS	15	5
L. O'NEILL	15	2
M. FALCONER	15	1
T. BANKS	15	36
M. NERATZOGLOU	14	22
J. WOOD	13	5
J. HUTCHINSON	13	8
S. CLEEVE	12	15
A. COYLE	8	6
A. LOUREY	5	13
D. LEE	5	4
C. MCMURRAY	4	7
J. FOWLER	2	2
J. QUIGLEY	2	0
R. WORN	2	0
S. JOYCE	2	3
D. MUSGRAVE	1	0
D. LAWRENCE	1	0

CAN YOU HELP?

Photos of players, supporters, images of the crowd at 2013 Grand Final are most welcome and would further add to the history of that memorable day of football at DFNC. Thank you for any assistance with this matter. Roger-May. 2023.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: Personal files, MPNFL archives, match notes- NLA- 'Herald Sun' newspaper.

Article reference: 2023/11: 'The 2013 Grand Final'

Prepared and written for DFNC by: Roger Spull-May 2023.

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

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