

# ROHAN BLEEKER

## 100 SENIOR XVIII GAMES MILESTONE

Reference: 2023/18



This article is to place on record Rohan Bleeker's fine chievement on reaching his 100 Senior XVIII games milestone at Dromana FNC.

Rohan, who has played such an important role as a defender at Pier Street, has an interesting background in football; and as can be seen from the tabulated summary below, Rohan has been a 'journey man' in football and his impressive career includes time with Frankston YCW, Frankston (VFL), Lang Lang (Ellinbank & District League) and as the coach of Carrum- Paterson Lakes in the Southern FNC in 2021-2022.



**Rohan Bleeker in action for Lang Lang against Poowong in 2017.**

Rohan is one of a sizeable group of Dromana players of players who played in the back-to-back premierships at DFNC. His role in the historic victory in 2018 against Red Hill at Frankston Park is documented in the club records....

*“...credit must be given to the Tiger defence for holding the line under ‘heavy bombardment.’ Rikki Johnstone, Dan Geurts, Billy Quigley, Dean Waugh, Rohan Bleeker, Ryan Smythe and Zac Muschialli ‘stood their ground’ despite the multiple entries in that last desperate quarter*



One of Rohan’s finest games for DFNC was in the 2019 Grand Final against Sorrento. On that day, Dromana created MPNFL history by winning a premiership in its first season of Division:1 . In a close affair, Dromana claimed the flag by seven points. Rohan was named among the best player s that day as shown below. (Note: Rohan is fourth from the left in the back row above.).

Dromana: 1.2 4.3 7.3 8.4 (52)

Sorrento: 1.1 4.2 4.6 6.9 (45)

- Goal kickers for Dromana: Ben Holmes 3 Sam Fowler 2 Rick Johnston Jay Hutchinson Ethan Johnstone.
- Best players for Dromana: Billy Geurts Jay Hutchinson Daniel Marchesani Terry Wheeler Sam Fowler Rohan Bleeker.



Rohan Bleeker can be seen in the above photograph from Grand Final day in 2019. Rohan gave a sterling performance in defence on that historic victory. Players from the right are: Reece Wilde, Dean Waugh, Rikki Johnston, Jake Hiep, Ryan Smythe, Rohan Bleeker, Jay Hutchinson, Sam Geurts, Dane Leyden-Kozikas, Andrew Howison and Zac Muschialli.



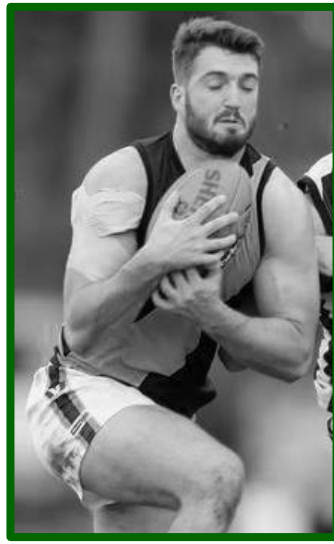
**2023 and back at Pier Street. This photograph shows Rohan in his return match with DFNC after his stint as playing coach at Carrum-Patterson Lakes FC. From the left: DFNC Football Manager, Andrew McCulloch is holding the magnetic board, club skipper, Billy Quigley, Ben Toovey, Sam Fowler, Rohan Bleeker and another stalwart of the club , Zac Muschialli shown in the huddle in the match against Red Hill in Round :1 2023.**

As shown in the table below, Rohan coached the DFNC Third XVIII in 2019; and that was another fruitful season for him as he was not only a member of the premiership team but was the recipient of the Senior XVIII coach's award that season.

## **ROHAN BLEEKER'S PLAYING HISTORY AT DFNC**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>CLUB</b>	<b>GAMES</b>	<b>GOALS</b>	<b>COMMENTS &amp; HONOURS</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>DROMANA</b>	<b>9**</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>AS AT ROUND: 14 2023</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>PATTERSON LAKES</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>CAPTAIN &amp; COACH</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>PATTERSON LAKES</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>CAPTAIN &amp; COACH</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>NO MPNFL FOOTBALL</b>			
<b>2019</b>	<b>DROMANA</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>SENIOR XVIII COACH'S AWARD PREMIERSHIP PLAYER THIRD XVIII COACH</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>DROMANA</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>PREMIERSHIP PLAYER</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>LANG LANG FC</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>2016</b>	<b>DROMANA</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>2015</b>	<b>DROMANA</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>2014</b>	<b>DROMANA</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>IN THE PERIOD 2008-2013, ROHAN PLAYED WITH:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DANDENONG STINGRAYS ( TAC CUP ), FRANKSTON YCW &amp; FRANKSTON (VFL)</b></li> </ul>				

**Note:** While Rohan has been seen mainly as a backman at Dromana it is interesting to note that during his two year coaching stint at Carrum-Patterson Lakes FC, while playing as a key forward, he booted 84 goals in 30 games (i.e. average 2.8 goals per game). Another highlight during his two years as Senior XVIII Coach at CPLFC was that Rohan tied with Alex Wilson in the Southern FL Division 4 Best & Fairest award in 2021.



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ROHAN BLEEKER**

In closing this tribute to Rohan Bleeker, the DFNC Board of Management and all members would like to express their appreciation to Rohan for his service to the club and for reaching an important milestone in his imposing football career. Congratulations Rohan.



### **VALE**

### **NORM LANSDOWN**

**1944-2023**



Members of DFNC were saddened to hear the news that local sporting identity, Norm Lansdowne, had passed away after illness on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Norm was well known across the Mornington Peninsula as a keen and knowledgeable sports devotee and, above all, an affable and respected MPNFL representative.

During his years as a Director of the MPNFL, Norm gave considerable time and support to local clubs; and his advice on various VCFL/AFL Vic Country/ MPNFL issues was always appreciated.

Many readers will recall that Norm had an active involvement with DFNC when his son, Scott, played with the club in 1995 and 1996. Scott played 25 Senior XVIII games and won the club's Best & Fairest award in 1995; and his creative handball and unselfish style of play were features of his game.

Among his many sporting honours, Norm was granted Life Membership of the Rye Cricket Club for his service as a:

- (i) Player/team captain.
- (ii) Stewardship as an office bearer.
- (iii) His enduring enthusiasm in promoting the game of cricket in the local community.

Norm Lansdown will always be remembered at Pier Street and DFNC expresses its deepest condolences to Pam and family at this time of sorrow.



## **REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:**

**Sources:** DFNC Records -DFNC Handbook-Personal notes/files- Carrum Patterson Lakes FC archives- Rye Cricket Club website-MPNFL Records-Lang Lang FC website.

**Article reference:** Season 1973 & Tribute to Norm Lansdown. Reference: 2023/18.

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