

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## DROMANA DEFEAT LANGWARRIN

### 1985

#### Reference 2023/4



### 1985 DROMANA DEFEAT LANGWARRIN

1985 was a challenging year for Dromana and wins were few and far between. Brian Cairns was the playing-coach that season; and with the lack of tall key players he based the game plan about 'running the lines', creative handball and rapid transition from defence to attack.

For the first four rounds things were 'all at sea' but a surprise win against Langwarrin 'kicked-started' the club that year. Details of the Round 5 are sketchy; and, is often the case when teams are struggling, few comments could be found in the local papers. However, it is known that Dromana took the fight right up to Langwarrin that day and both teams went 'hammer and tong' for four quarters.

Paul Murphy played one of his finest games for Dromana and Bruce Sawyer was courageous and uncompromising in defence. In the dying seconds of the last term, the ball sailed forward and Mick James took a strong, desperate mark within kicking distance of goal. Mick, best known as a defender at Dromana, had the game literally in his hands and he calmly went back, lined up and.....kicked truly. The supporters were jubilant and 'looked to the clock.'

The siren blared and Dromana had 'broken the ice' and claimed its first victory of 1985. The winning margin was just two points but it meant 'the world' to Brian Cairns and the boys that day.

The final scores were:

**Dromana 12.16.88 defeated Langwarrin 13.8.86**

**Goals:** Paul Murphy 4, Trevor Woodford 2, Andrew Crouch 2, Gary Evans 2, Tony Williams and Mick James

**Best:** John Whitwam, Paul Murphy, Bruce Sawyer, Andrew Crouch and Michael Ritchie.

That win over Langwarrin proved to be a morale booster for the club as Brian's game plan 'clicked into place' and DFC won five matches in the second half of that very tough season. It is true that 'hard times can make a club stronger.'

In 1985, Glenn Kendall won the first of his four club Best & Fairest awards at the age of eighteen. His others were in 1986, 1988 and 1989.



**Brian Cairns, who began his career with the Dromana Under: 12's, went on to coach Dromana Senior XVIII in 1985. He won the club's Best and Fairest Trophy in 1987. In all, he played 165 senior games with DFC and was awarded Life Membership in 1989. Brian was selected on the half forward flank in the DFNC 'Team of the Era' 1945-2015.**

The following season (i.e.1986) Brian Cronin was appointed coach but within weeks, for reasons best known by the DFC Committee, he was replaced by a robust ruckman named Paul Cooper. Paul's appointment as Senior XVIII Coach has an absorbing background story that has become blurred with the passing of the years.

Paul Cooper first played with DFC as teenager and had been a member of the 1971 DFC premiership team. He was stout-hearted leader and coached in a voluntary capacity-a fact that should never be forgotten in that chapter of the club's history. Paul's loyalty and generosity of spirit in 1986 was a most noble act of selfless endeavour to prevent the club from foundering; and he deserves everlasting credit for 'stepping up to the plate' when the club faced implosion.

## **FOOTNOTES REGARDING TREVOR WOODFORD**

1. As can be seen above, Trevor Woodford kicked two vital goals in that thrilling and important victory over Langwarrin in 1985.
2. Trevor Woodford arrived at Dromana FC from Rye with his good friend John Kennedy in 1984\*. Their decision(s) to leave such a strong club (as Rye was in those days) could not have been easy but Trevor and John settled into their 'new' club in fine style and impacted in positive ways. Both were well-accepted and respected players and they gave 'their best' in every outing for Dromana. In all, Trevor played 25 Senior XVIII games with DFNC. \*Note : Gary Evans was Senior XVIII Coach in 1984
3. In his first season with Dromana, Trevor won the club's goal kicking trophy (now known as the John Coleman Trophy) with 55 goals. At times, Trevor had to battle exceptionally hard; and it is fair to say that his crafty leading into space was not always rewarded because of the constant physical pressure exerted upon the Dromana midfielders (which often resulted in wayward foot passing).

4. Trevor's 55 goal haul in 1984, at an average of approximately three\*\* goals per game, was impressive as many conversions were from set shots in the tight pockets of the 'home ground'. It is no secret, that 'life is not always easy' for full forwards when 'corridor space' is so scarce on the small Dromana oval. \*\*Note: The Senior XVIII played 19 games in 1984.
5. Trevor is a Life Member of Rye FC (as is John Kennedy); and he has held various responsibilities at Rye (including that of Assistant Coach). A highlight of Trevor's career was in 1982 when he won the League Goal-kicking trophy in the Reserve XVIII Competition.
6. Trevor still takes a keen interest in the fortunes of Dromana FNC; and has never forgotten his team-mates and the friends he made during his short but happy stint at Pier Street.



**Former DFNC spearhead, Trevor Woodford, who was recruited from Rye FC, won the John Coleman Trophy in 1984 with 55 goals at an average of 2.89 goals per game.**

## **IN MEMORY OF REG BEAVIS - 1908-2003**



### **INTRODUCTION**

It is twenty years since the club was shaken and saddened by the passing of DFNC volunteer and friend to all Reg Beavis. Reg is another unsung hero; and the following article is published for the benefit of members of the club who may not have known Reg Beavis. He was a person worth knowing and his quiet manner belied his inexorable drive to serve the club.

In short, Reg was a trusted volunteer and kind gentleman who gave everything to ensure that DFNC would survive some tough and testing times.

## A LIFE OF SERVICE

Reginald Andrew Beavis (born: 1908) was born in Melbourne, grew up in Doncaster; and later (perhaps the mid 1930's) moved to a small country town called Yeo (near Colac).



This is a photograph of the Doncaster Football Club which won the premiership in 1931. Reg Beavis is in the middle row-possibly on the left of the player holding the football. Source: Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society.

World War Two Service	
Veteran Details	
Name	BEAVIS, REGINALD ANDREW
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	VX61015
Date of Birth	15 Aug 1908
Place of Birth	MELBOURNE, VIC
Date of Enlistment	04 Aug 1941
Locality on Enlistment	YEODENE, VIC
Place of Enlistment	ROYAL PARK, VIC

**Part of Reg Beavis' World War: II Service Record. Reg signed on in August 1941.**

On the 4th of August 1941, Reg took an important journey to the Royal Park Army Recruiting Depot and enlisted in the Australian Army. During his years of military service, Reg (Service No: VX61015) was a Driver for the 148th Australian General Transport Company.

He was discharged from the Army on December 4th 1945; and, not too long after that date, he arrived in Dromana. He must have found the bayside town to his utmost liking as he not only stayed but gave the community all he could. The permanent population of Dromana in that era was about 700 residents; and Reg (and his partiality for hard work) was a welcome addition to DFC. Reg did not hesitate to become involved in the life of the town particularly the football club. Reg's first official duty for DFC was as the team's goal umpire.



Reg then became a trainer, served for some time as a committee member and was also the club's property steward in later years.

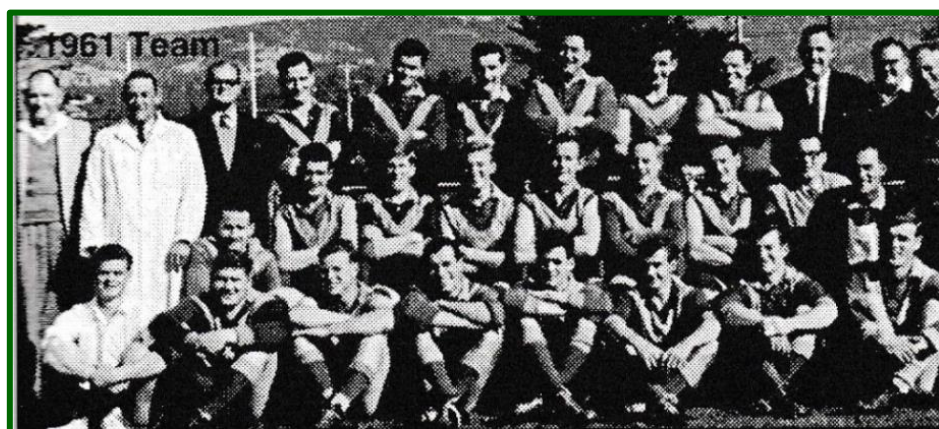
In his time with the Dromana Football Club, Reg actively and willingly helped bring about many changes at the Pier Street Oval including the erection of the boundary fence, the upgrading of club facilities, repairing and resurfacing of the oval and the construction of a fence along Pier Street.

One of Reg's most lasting memories, during all his years at Dromana, was the historic victory over Somerville, at the Frankston Oval, in the 1950 'B Grade' Grand Final. In 1990, Reg was granted Life Membership of the DFNC; and it was a fitting reward for his invaluable contribution to the club. Reg was also a Life Member of the Dromana Cricket Club and the Fire Brigade. Some of the readers of this page may also remember Reg as the crossing supervisor at the Dromana State School during the 1980's.

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION	
WIN FOR DROMANA	
RYE	
J. Cain 0, McDonald 8, Armstrong 1, B. Cain 2, Myers 0, Allison 1, Hall 3, M. Cain, n.o., 25, Campbell 2, Rowley 2, T. Cain 5; Sundries 4; Total 53.	
Bowling:—Beavis 3/11, Myers 3/6, Guy 0/9, Humphreys 2/22, Griffiths 1/1.	
DROMANA	
Rogers 24, Greer 17, Morrissey 21, Hosking 4, Myers 3, Beavis, n.o., 1, Moorhead 0; Sundries 4; Total 6 wickets for 74.	
Bowling:—J. Cain 1/28, B. Cain 3/20, M. McDonald 0/21, Myers 1/0.	



This recently discovered cutting shows that Reg Beavis captured 3/11 against Rye in February 1946. Other local family names that readers will recognise in the cricket team include: Osborne, Moorehead, Myers, Greer, Griffiths and Humphreys. The photograph on the right is of Ron Hipwell who was Reg's team-mate and a fellow DFNC Life Member. Ron's story is worth telling as he was another volunteer who also gave his time and energy freely and selflessly. Source: 'Standard' February 21<sup>st</sup> 1946 Page 8.



**Back:** R.Beavis, W.Guy, E.Buchanan, D.Murphy, C.Buchanan, B.Taylor, C.McLear, I.Matthews, D.Grogan, E.Oakes, S.Walker, G.Flowers.  
**MdI:** T.Reilly, M.Kennedy, J.Cornish, R.Grogan, G.Proudfoot, R.Brindley, B.Griffith, J.Ross, R.Bailey  
**Front:** I..Mitchiner, B.Brindley, A.Matthews, J.Andrews

The 1961 DFNC Senior XVIII. Reg Beavis can be seen in the back row on the extreme left. Reg is standing next to the legendary Wally Guy who was the goal umpire that season.

## **NORM OSBORNE REMEMBERS REG BEAVIS**

Perhaps Norm Osborne, a former player, coach and committee member, says it best about his good friend Reg Beavis...

*"I was extremely sorry to hear of the passing of Reg Beavis. I knew him very well...a great chap. I worked with him in my early married life, played a lot of cricket together and was also with him in the Fire Brigade. He was a great stalwart of the club. He started as the Gatekeeper on the entrance gate on the side near the old Marna Guest House...He did that for many years; he was also Timekeeper, Goal Umpire and, at the time, when I finished playing he was Head Trainer. He put in a lot of time and was always around to lend a hand." Source: Norm Osborne in a letter to Gary Ferguson in July 2003.*



A photograph of Reg Beavis with the Green and Golds teams at Dromana Cricket Club in 1954. Reg Beavis can be seen in the front row (centre). DFNC Life Members Ron Hipwell and Reg Bailey are also in the front row. Ron was presented with DFNC Life Membership in 1968 and Reg Bailey received his in 1971. All three men have passed on but, hopefully, will be never be forgotten for their resolve in making Dromana FNC an integral part of the community. Source: 'The Weekly Times' September 29<sup>th</sup> 1954 Page: 20.

## **WANTED – A PHOTOGRAPH OF JACK DUNCAN**

As many readers would be aware, Jack Duncan was the finest DFC centre half forward in the decade following World War: 2. His impressive career includes:

- 153 games with Dromana FC (1949-58).
- A member of the 1950 premiership team.
- Taking out the club's Best and Fairest award in 1952.
- Winning selection in two DFNC 'Teams of the Decade' which again underlined his longevity and skill as a key forward?

Jack Duncan was a champion, in the true sense of the word, in local football; and it is disappointing that there are no photos of Jack and virtually no information about his background and other achievements.

One family notice in 'The Age', which was published in March 1950, provides an tenuous connection with a certain 'Alex Duncan' (possibly, the celebrated defender of Carlton FC) but, of course, positive proof is required in such matters.

**NOTE:** Alex Duncan played 141 games for Carlton FC and four games for Victoria; and much will be explained about his contested marking prowess in an article called 'Duncan's Match' which can be found at:

<https://www.carltonfc.com.au/news/106989/duncans-match>

If Jack is actually a relation to the Blues' legendary Alex Duncan then it may go a long way in explaining Jack's exceptional flair for football...and what a story that would be for our members to enjoy. If any reader can assist by providing a contact with the family of Jack Duncan please contact Roger. Thank you for your help.



## REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: National Library of Australia –DFNC records-personal files

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