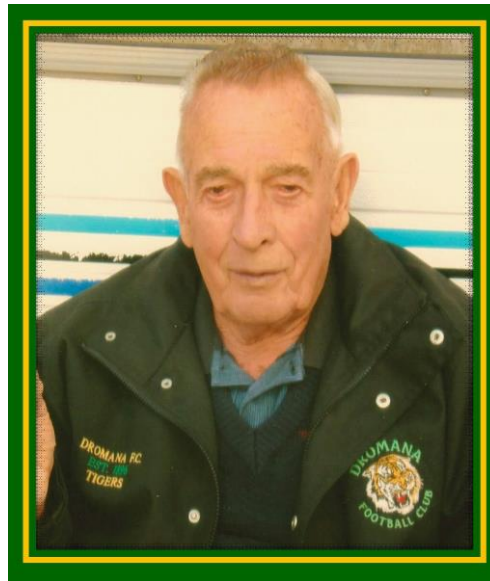


RON HUNTER SENIOR



FOOTBALL IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

Ron Hunter was born in January 1928 and spent his younger years in the small Mallee township of **Wychitella** on a wheat farm with his 10 siblings. Wychitella is 17km north of **Wedderburn** and in 1921 had a population of just 218 people. It believed that Wychitella is an aboriginal word meaning a: 'swamp rush (i.e. reed).'

Football History Note 1: **Wychitella** was the birth place of **Clarence Melville Hindson**(born: 1907) who played 90 games with St Kilda (1930-36). Clarrie also captained **St Kilda**and later starred with **South Bendigo FC**. According to the World War: II Nominal Roll, Clarrie (Service No: V211909) served as a Signaller in the **Australian Army**from 1942 until 1947 (Clarrie was placed on Reserve in 1945).

Arthur Hando, who played with **South Melbourne** (1922-24) was also born at **Wychitella**. One text stated that it was a miracle that Arthur was able to play football, after returning from active service with the 5th Battalion during **World War: I**, as he had been shot in both knees during battle at Gallipoli. Private Arthur Hando (Service No: 1555) was one of the original ANZAC's and appears to be a robust and 'larger-than-life' character...

“...(Arthur) received gunshot wounds to both knees. He would re-join his unit after a month in hospital. Later Arthur would receive another injury rendering him blind in the left eye and he would have to be invalided home. A talented footballer, he went on to play 46 games for South Melbourne...” Source: ‘The Charlton Community Newsletter’ June 2015.

According to the available statistics, Arthur Hando was **30 years** and **362 days** of age when he made his debut for **South Melbourne** against **Carlton** in Round: 5 in 1922 at the **Lake Oval**.

It seems as though **Clarrie Hinson** and **Arthur Hando of Wychitella** were part of a 'tough breed of men.' Furthermore, research from the country newspapers, of that period, also suggests that the '**Hunters of Wychitella**' were of a similar mould.

Football History Note 2: It is known that Wychitella FC was once affiliated in the **Gladstone Football Association**. Other teams in that minor league included **Buckrabanyule, Borung** and **Mysia** (near Boort). It is recorded that Wychitella won a premiership in **1913**.

Ron's first job was excavating water channels across the **Mallee**. In later years, he was involved in earthmoving; and worked on constructing dams, roads etc. for private companies such as the renowned **Theiss Brothers** and other road building and infrastructure contractors.

Ron then commenced working for the **Country Roads Board** (CRB); and his work took him far and wide to such country towns as **Traralgon, Erica, Mansfield, Trawool** (near Seymour), **Broadford** and **Alexandra**.

Whilst working in the Mansfield area, Ron met a young girl from Bonnie **Doon, Dorothy Lockhart**; and in 1955 they married.

Fifteen years later, the Hunter family moved to **Dromana** when Ron was engaged to supervise the construction of the first section of freeway from Dromana to Jetty Road, Rosebud.

It is at this juncture in Ron's life that his long association with **DFNC** began. Ron loved sport, particularly football, and he became an active volunteer at DFNC. Ron was always a 'willing and able' worker behind the scenes. Each training night and match day, Ron 'rolled up his sleeves' and undertook those vital, but often unseen, tasks such as line marking, sweeping rooms, cleaning the showers and collecting match day litter.

Ron lives directly across the road from the Dromana oval and, consequently, he has always been the first 'port of call' for those people requiring assistance at the club. He has also been the 'unofficial security guard' and has kept an ever-watchful eye on the ground and facilities during the week.

Ron's four sons - **Ron (Junior), Jim, Greg** and **Graeme** all played football for Dromana at some stage; and his five grandsons **Adam, Michael, Matthew, Jarryd** and **Aaron** wore the club's colours at times and in the various grades of the **Nepean Football League**.

Michael and **Adam** played in the historic **2013 Senior Grade Premiership** team and both were selected in the club's '**Team of the Post War Era**' (1946-2015). **Jim Hunter** played 65 senior games for DFNC in the period 1973-80 and gained a

reputation as a fearless competitor in local football. **Ron Junior** has been honoured with '**DFNC Club Person of the Year**' on two occasions.

Note: Matthew Hunter was a talented footballer and like his father (Jim), he played with boundless spirit. Sadly, Matt passed away in **May 2004**; and following his death, the Senior Football Club named the '**Third XVIII 'Most Determined**' award in honour of Matthew. Past winners of the trophy include: **Jack Powell, Adyn Musgrave, Jason Buchanan, Jordon McCulley, Dean Waugh, James McIlpatrick** and **Danny Vance**.

In 1982, Ron Hunter (Senior) was granted **Life Membership** for his enduring service to the club; and in 2002 he also received an **AFL Certificate of Appreciation** for 25 years of **voluntary service** to Australian Football.

As club records indicate, **five** members of the Hunter family are **Life Members** of the Dromana Football Club: **Ron (Senior-1982), Ron Hunter (Junior-1992), Christine Hunter (2004), Michael Hunter (2017)**; and, in 2016, **Adam** played his 175th game for the club, in the clash against **Rye** in Round: 16, which qualified him for **Life Membership of DFNC**.

Readers will be interested to know that Ron Hunter (Senior) is the brother-in-law of former **Richmond** rover **Robert Lockhart** who played 13 games (7 goals) with RFC in 1961-63. The highlight of Robert's career at **Punt Road** was his brilliant performance in Richmond's **1962 Night Premiership** victory. Robert Lockhart was recruited to Richmond from **Mansfield** (after initial discussions with the legendary **Jack 'Captain Blood' Dyer** at the **Maindample Hotel**). Robert later played with country clubs **Thornton** and **Bonnie Doon**; and following a stellar career in country football, Robert retired to a farmlet near **Yea**. Robert passed away in 2010.

Ron recently celebrated his **90th birthday**; and it was a day of great festivity for his family and many friends from Dromana and beyond. Although Ron is a most humble and unassuming man he was the 'centre of attention' that day.

Ron has been an avid supporter of the club for nearly 50 years; and, in that time, has witnessed many changes on and off the field at Pier Street. He has long been an integral part of the band of faithful volunteers who has taken the club 'onwards and upwards' to better things.

In closing this article, the club is appreciative of Ron's faithful service and the role that he and his family have played in building and consolidating the club since 1970.

RESEARCH AND REFERENCE INFORMATION.

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