

1988 30 YEARS AGO THREE WINS AT BONBEACH (Ref: 2018/17)

In 1988, **Dromana FC** was affiliated in the **Second Division** of the MPNFL. The other clubs in that division were: Langwarrin, Frankston, Pearcedale/ Baxter, Red Hill, Carrum, Sorrento, Tyabb, Bonbeach, Rosebud , Karingal and YCW.

The **DFC Executive Officers** that season were:

President	Les Rowler
Secretary	Jacki Ross
Treasurer	Bill Wakefield
Registrar	Jacki Ross
Delegate	Jacki Ross

Barry Evans was the senior coach, **Mick Berwick** led the Reserves and **Gary Ferguson**, who was vice-captain of the Reserves team, was the coach of the Third XVIII in 1988.



Barry Evans - Coach of Dromana in 1988

Mick James was the captain while **Brian Cairns** was the vice-captain. Brian and Mick both started their football careers as teenagers at DFC and had shared the highs and lows of football at Dromana during their long careers with the

club. Both players were selected in the **DFNC's 'Team of the Post War Era-1946-2015.'**

The club's senior playing list and guernsey numbers that season were:

1. Grant Hitchener 2. Brian Cairns 3. Andrew Rowler 4. John Whitwam 5. Fred Cook 6. Alan Coutts 7. Mick James 8. Tony Williams 9. David Rose 10. Jeff Hilton 11. Colin Pentland 12. Scott Hitchiner 13. Steve Kerr 14. Phil Reeves 15. Garry Fowler 16. Mick Berwick 17. Paul Bailey 18. Ben Harvey 19. Marty Fowler 20. Gary Ferguson 21. Adrian Burns 22. Brent Burns 23. Steven Tobin 24. Graham Kirk 25. Brian Moiler 26. Paul Stevens 27. John Williamson 28. Grant Turnbull 29. Chris Ashton 30. Paul Basile 31. Gary Zammit 32. Glen Huggan 33. Shane Matlock 34. Paul Marshall 35. Les Rusden 36. Bryan Williams 38. Tony Woods 39. Glenn Kendall 40. Mick Rendall 41. Rohan Lees 42. Marco Saraceni 43. Corey Bricker 44. Geoff Bligh 45. Russell Heggen 46. Peter Daniel 49. Gary Ormesher 52, Darrell Fowler 53. Dean Harris 55. Vis In 56. Darren Harmer 81. Craig Smith. Other listed players during that season were: **Keith Secker** and **Neil Watson**.

The Under: 17 playing list in 1998 was:

Jason Greer, Jeff Hilton, Trevor Rendall, Adrian Burns, Rodney Rodda, Steve Tobin, Scott Edwards, Danny Rae, Michael Carter, Tim Lumley, Scott Hazendonk, Rod Carr, Dale Murphy, John Biggalar, Doug Law, Noel Corley, Noel Ashton, Craig Burns, Jason Clarke, Troy Hicks, Matt Olney and Tom Taranto.

The team mascots were: **Andrew Berwick** and **Kane Ferguson**; and the Under: 17 team Manager was **Paul Greer**.

While eligible to play in the Under: 17 competition in 1988, both Adrian Burns and Jeff Hilton made their debuts in Senior Grade football that season. Adrian played thirteen senior games and Jeff played eleven in 1988.

Note: Although junior development was perceived as strong and viable at that time, Under: 17 football on the Southern Peninsula was actually in a parlous state, as Sorrento, Pearcedale and Red Hill were unable to field teams in the Under: 17 competition.

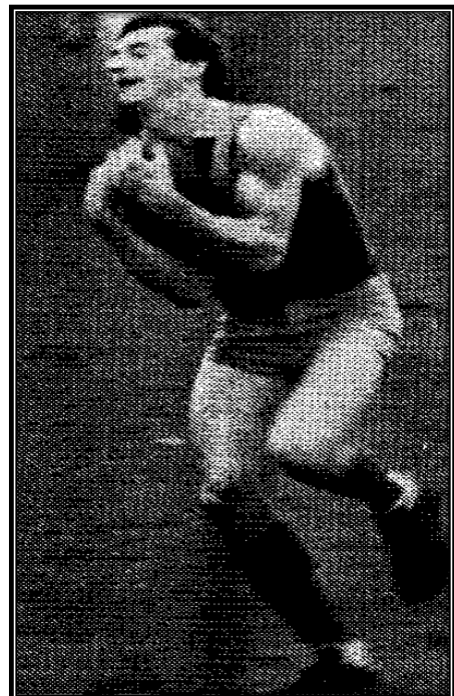


The Burns Brothers: Craig (left) & Adrian

The lack of players in the MPNFL Third Grade Competition (in some clubs) still continues to create headaches for league administrators. Furthermore, the problem is not merely confined to football on the Mornington Peninsula but seems to be widespread across all Victorian football leagues. While women's football surges, the number of boys playing football, appears to have decreased in some regions. Often the lack of numbers can be cyclic; but it is generally accepted that many boys 'walk away' from playing football in their late teens for a variety of reasons.



Barry Evans and Jeff Hilton



Mick Rendall

A DAY FOR GREAT CELEBRATION - THREE WINS AT BONBEACH-

One of the most satisfying days for any football club is when the teams in **each** grade of the competition secure victory on the same day. In some smaller clubs, such occasions can be infrequent and are greeted with euphoria. Wins in each grade, in a round of football, serve as a collective reward which builds spirit and unity throughout the whole club.

The away fixture at **Bonbeach** in 1988 was a cause for celebration at Pier Street as the Seniors, Reserves and Thirds were triumphant that day.

As mentioned above, **Barry Evans** was the Senior XVIII coach that year; and the new season had started with a 'bang' by way of a five goal victory over Frankston. Despite the promising start to the season, by Round:7 , the Grasshoppers were sitting well outside the Four with just three wins. The top four clubs at that stage of the season were: YCW, Karingal, Rosebud and Carrum.

The Round:7 clash at the **Bonbeach Sports Reserve** was a significant match in the context of the 1988 season; and the majority of tipsters backed the home side. Of the six local so-called experts only one held any hope of a Dromana victory.

The DFNC team that day included some very well-known and skillful players: **Glenn Kendall** (St Kilda & Sandringham), **Jeff Hilton** (St Kilda & Melbourne), **Adrian Burns** (Essendon & St Kilda) and the former champion full forward from Port Melbourne, **Fred Cook** (also ex- Footscray, Yarraville, Moorabbin).

The match preview, as carried in the 'MPNFL Record' (Page 5 May 28th 1988), stated...

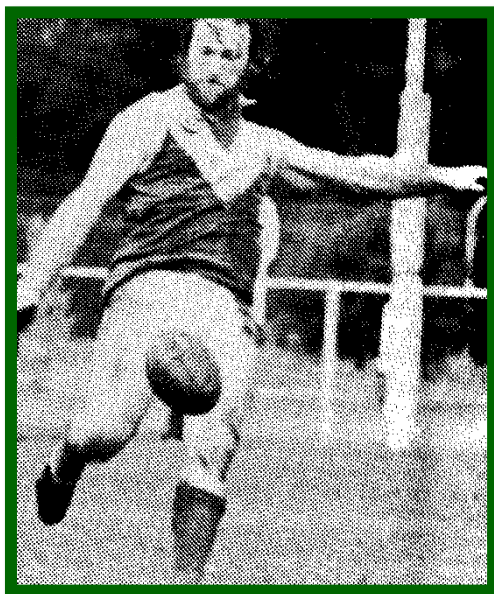
***" Bonbeach and Dromana promises to be another close contest ,
although the Hoppers are yet to win away from home ...Both
clubs have talented youngsters in their line-ups and will turn on a
fast moving game.'***

Unfortunately, very few details regarding the game have survived the passage of time but one thing is certain i.e. Dromana overcame the disadvantage of playing away to record a commanding 37point victory.

The quarter by quarter scores were not available by the full time siren scores were:

Dromana : 13.12 (90) defeated Bonbeach 7.11 (53)

- **Goal kickers for Dromana** (as published were): Fred Cook 4 Glenn Kendall 3 Brent Burns 3 Jeff Hilton and Mick James.
- **Best players for Dromana:** Glenn Kendall Garry Fowler Allan Coutts Marty Fowler Grant Turnbull and Brian Cairns.



Garry Fowler.

A comprehensive story about Garry Fowler can be found on this website History Page -Ref: 2018/3

THE RESERVES WIN IN FINE STYLE

The Dromana Reserves, coached by **Mick Berwick**, also secured a resounding win over Bonbeach that day. Dromana triumphed by 39 points and the final scores were:

Dromana: 14.8.92 defeated Bonbeach 8.5.53

Goal kickers for Dromana (as published): Gary Ferguson 6 & Mick Berwick 3.

Best players for Dromana : Graham Kirk, Colin Pentland, Corey Bricker, Gary Ferguson , Darrell Fowler and Gary Zammit.



Gary Ferguson



Mick Berwick

THIRDS COMPLETE THE HAT TRICK

The DFC Under:17's completed the hat trick of victories that day when they defeated the 'Beaches by a margin of 26 points. **Dromana 12.17. (89) defeated Bonbeach 10.3(63)**. Unfortunately, it seems that no match details were lodged with the MPNFL following that match.

Note: It was not uncommon for some clubs to fail to complete the required paper work in those days; and, in time, such oversights led to the introduction of fines for clubs failing to forward results. In recent times, the computerization of team list and results has improved this aspect of football administration.

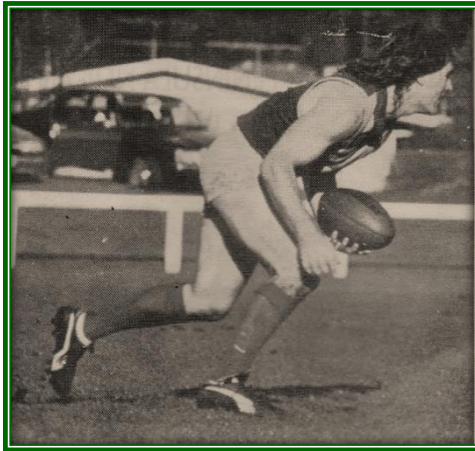
In 1988, the **Under: 17 team** was coached by **Gary Ferguson**. Gary had played a major role in the development of young players at Dromana in that era; and not only had he coached the **Reserves in 1981-83-87** but he had taken on the role of the **Under: 17 coach** in 1988 and, again, in 1989.

That season the Under: 17 team performed creditably and reached the Final Four but was defeated in the **First Semi-Final** against YCW at Mornington.

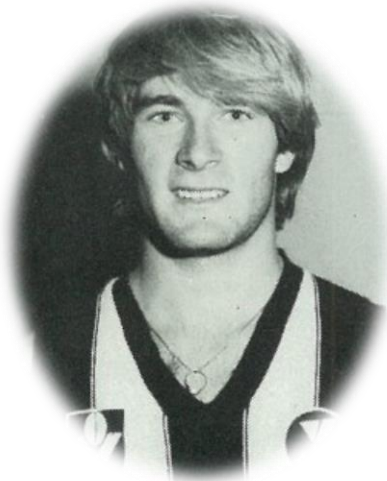
FOOTNOTES:

1. The win against **Bonbeach** increased Dromana's percentage from **85.8% to 92.5%** ; and the Grasshoppers sat at **7th position of the Second Division Ladder**
2. **Barry Evans** had a son, also named **Barry**, who played eleven games with Dromana in 1987. Barry who had played two games with **Collingwood** in 1981 was a highly skilled and courageous footballer for Dromana. DFC was sorely disappointed that Barry failed to return in 1988 as his strength and fearless

attack on the ball would have added another dimension to the Hoppers' midfield. For 'obvious reasons' Barry was known as '**Barry Junior**' at DFC.



Barry Evans Junior playing with Dromana.



Barry Evans Junior at Collingwood in 1981

3. In '**The Independent Player of the Year Award**' voting for the above match was: Dromana's tireless rover, **Marty Fowler**, received three votes while **Glenn Kendall polled** two votes for his strong performance and three vital goals.
4. Two teenagers who played for Dromana in 1988, **Jeff Hilton** and **Adrian Burns**, were destined to play AFL football. Adrian made his debut for the **Essendon in 1990**; and Jeff went to **St Kilda in 1991**.
5. One of the highlights of the 1988 was the win of **Gary Zammit** in the **MPNFL Second Division Best and Fairest Medal**. Gary produced his best football under the leadership of **Mick Berwick** that season; and his ability to ruck, without resting, for four quarters impressed supporters and umpires. Gary was the first Dromana player to ever win the **Howard Armstrong Medal**.

6. In the **George Osborne Medal** in **1988** , **Marty Fowler** polled 10 votes while **Garry Fowler** and **Allan Coutts** each collected 6 votes.
7. In the **Bill Bosse Medal** for the Best & Fairest in the Third XVIII competition, **Danny Rea** polled 16 votes to finish in third place that year.
8. The Reserves were a dominant combination in 1988 and took all before them that season. Under the astute leadership of **Mick Berwick** and **Gary Ferguson**, the team played in **MPNFL Second Division Grand Final** against **Karingal** at **Mornington**. On that day, the Bulls (Karingal) 17.13. (115) defeated Dromana 11.12. (78). By the end of that season **Mick Berwick** (39 goals) and **Gary Ferguson** (53) had kicked a combined total of 92 goals; and both veterans had been key factors in the 'Hoppers fifteen home and away victories that year.

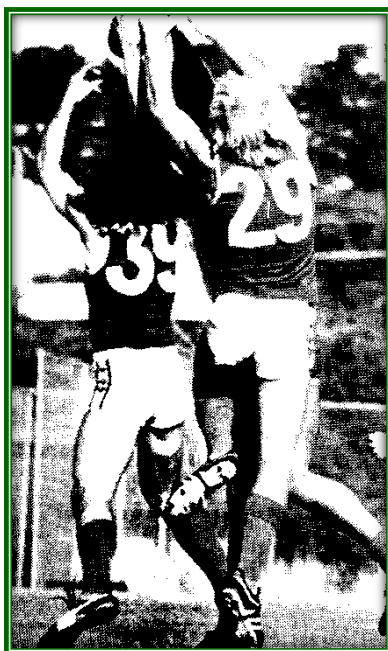


Glenn Kendall



Brian Cairns

9. In 1988, **Glenn Kendall** won the club's **Best and Fairest** award. It was the third of four trophies which Glenn would win at Dromana FC. Glenn also polled consistently well in the league voting throughout his lengthy career at DFNC (1985- 2001) .



Chris Ashton 29 and Glenn Kendall (39) in action against Karingal in 1988. Glenn Kendall played 139 games for Dromana between 1985-2001. He won four club Best & Fairest awards and was recruited to St Kilda. Glenn was the senior coach of DFNC in 1994-95. Chris Ashton was a loyal and determined ruckman who played 44 senior games with the club from 1986 to 1995.

10. **Grant Hitchener** 'took out' the **Reserves Best and Fairest** award that season. Grant played 98 senior MPNFL games with DFNC; and later won the **Howard Armstrong Medal in 1993.**



Grant Hitchener



John Williamson

11. Although the club failed to win a premiership in any of the three grades, Dromana was presented with the '**Best Administered Club**' award at the MPNFL's Annual Presentation night in 1988.
12. In 1988, **Rod Whitwam** was bestowed with **Life Membership**. Rod was a reliable and industrious member of the club; and was the father of one of Dromana's best midfielders of that era, **John Whitwam.**



John Whitwam

13. In 1988 the **MPNFL** defeated **West Gippsland FL** in VCFL interleague clash. The final score line was: **MPNFL 17.17 (119)** defeated **WGFL 6.18. (48)**.
14. **Gary Ferguson** was a selector for the **MPNFL Under: 17** combined team that year. **Doug Gibbon**, a well-known identity from Edi-Asp FC in that era, was the coach of the team. Dromana's two representatives in that team were: **Steve Tobin** and **Danny Rae**.
15. **Rosebud Football Club** won the **Second Division Premiership** in 1988. Rosebud defeated **YCW** to 'take home' the silver.
16. 1988 was to be the last year that **Barry Evans** coached the Grasshoppers. After two seasons, Barry stepped down and **John Joyce** was appointed to the position for the 1989 season.



John Joyce- DFC Coach in 1989.

17. **Fred Cook's 4 goals** at Bonbeach that day took his season tally to 30 goals and gave him a 10 goal leeway in the **MPNFL Leading Goal-kicking** table after Round: 7. Fred had commenced the season in blazing style with seven goals against **Frankston** in Round: 1; and then followed that up with a 'bag of six' in the Round:3 clash against **Pearcedale**.



Source: Regal Greats of the Game.

Fred Cook- The VFA legend, who kicked 1238 goals for Port Melbourne and played with Dromana in 1988.

18. **Fred Cook** finished third on the MPNFL goal kicking list that season and won the club's goal kicking award in 1988 with **56 goals in 18 games**. The following chart shows Fred Cook's goal kicking returns since his first game of senior football with **Footscray FC** in 1967.

YEAR	CLUB	GAMES	GOALS
1967-69	Footscray -AFL	33	2
1969-70	Yarraville -VFA Div: 2	29	54
1971-84	Port Melbourne -VFA Div:1	258	1238
1985	Moorabbin VFA -Div:2	18	72
1987	Crib Point -MPNFL	18	14
1988	Dromana -MPNFL	18	56
1989	Frankston -MPNFL	8	5
1996	Tyabb- MPNFL	1	2

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION (TO BE UPDATED)

Sources: MPNFL archives – DFNC publications-personal files-Boyles Football Photos.

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