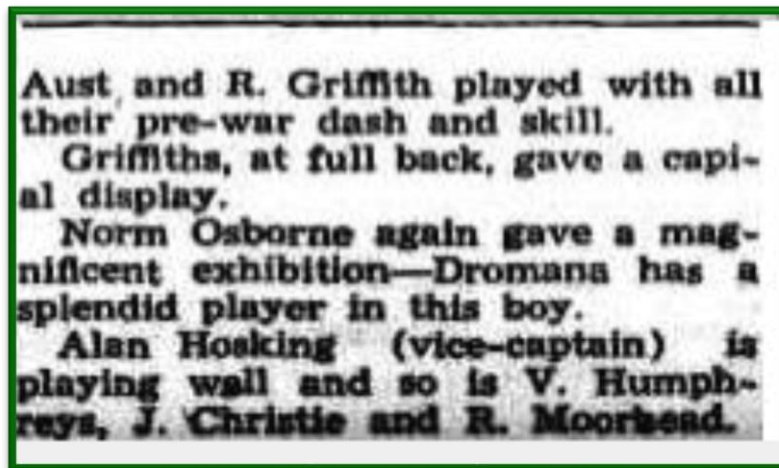


**A LETTER FROM A FORMER
CLUB CHAMPION
NORM OSBORNE
(Ref: 2018/18)**



Norm Osborne

In the period following World War:II , **Norm Osborne** was one of the club's finest footballers and a highly respected person in sporting circles. While Norm's father, George had gained status as a first-class administrator, Norm forged a reputation throughout the Mornington Peninsula as a key defender for the Dromana Football Club. Norm played his first senior game with Dromana FC in 1940; and following service in the RAAF during World War: 2, he returned to Dromana and played until 1958. In all, he amassed 181 senior games; and available reports indicate that he was an indomitable and fearless footballer.



Source: Frankston Standard May 23rd 1946

Norm was a key member of the 1950 premiership team; and he later coached the club in two stints (1953 and 56).

Norm was awarded **Life Membership** of the DFNC in 1963; and was selected in two '**Teams of the Decade**' (1946-55 and also in the 1956-65 line-up).

In 2003, Norm Osborne wrote the following letter to his friend **Gary Ferguson** and outlined some of his memories of the club in earlier times.

In his letter, Norm mentioned **Reg Beavis**, ground improvements and former DFC personalities such as his father (**George Osborne**), **Bob Moorhead**, **William 'Scotty' Gourlay** , **Wally Guy**, **Peter Gleeson** and the **Griffith** family.

As can be read in his closing paragraphs to Gary , Norm refers to the club's decision to change its club colours; and he wrote that **Bill Dyson** proposed the idea of adopting green and gold for the club's 'new-look' guernsey.

THE LETTER FROM NORM OSBORNE TO GARY FERGUSON IN 2003

*10/128 Cotlew St.
Ashmore. Qsld. 4214
3rd July '03.*

Dear Gary,

Thank you and your crew for the Tiger Talk I received yesterday. ...very much appreciated. A lot of names since my day... I can only relate to very few.

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 the Fire Brigade.

He was great stalwart of the club. He a started as 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.

Reading in the reports re: the work to be done on the ground etc...as Bob Moorhead said, the original fence was done in the early 50's after we won the 1950 premiership.

We went to Rosebud (including the Cricket Club) to the ground opposite the Hotel for two seasons . We trained at which was Boag's paddock (at the top side of the freeway...then called Palmerston Ave-top end of Kangerong Avenue).

The main driving force behind the fence was the following (all by voluntary labour)...my Dad George Osborne. Harry Coy (father of Ken who did coach Dromana) and Jimmy Hudson...both these men came down weekends from Melbourne to their weekend homes and put in a lot of financial support (with their friends) into the club.

The first post that was put into position was done by a friend of our family named Bill Furlong... another supporter from Melbourne.

After the underground pipes were laid and the trucks started carting onto the playing area, the man who looked after this was 'Scotty' Gourlay's father and David who I think now lives in Rosebud. The Shire Engineer at this time was George Brown.

The chap Aust whose name was mentioned... I did not know but I had met his father.

You spoke about the photo in the Hotel-that would have been the 1931 premiership team (I was mascot). The team was captained by Peter Gleeson a friend of Wally (Onk not Honk) Guy. Peter married a cousin of mine Vera Griffith...Bert's sister, she lived on Carrig Street...her father was the local farrier (Albert Griffith). I had this photo... I could name all the players....my daughter, now living at Mt Martha has it.

With my Dad being in contact with football on the Peninsula for so many years, as I go along.... it all comes back although the memory is failing fast.

Gary, some of these things may help with news of the club. When the original colours of BLACK and YELLOW were changed ...GREEN and GOLD were suggested by Bill Dyson (who worked on the council and lived at the Aringa Guest House... on the top side of the Bowling Green)as you would know the design has changed many times since.

Please excuse my scribble ... hope you can understand.

Regards to all.

Norm Osborne.

FOOTNOTES

1. Thanks to Gary Ferguson for providing the club with a copy of Norm Osborne's letter for the DFNC website.
2. Other references to Norm Osborne are to be found on this website.
3. A photograph of 'young' Norm Osborne can be seen in the 1931 Premiership team (see below). On that day, Norm was the club mascot. His Father, a stalwart and long serving administrator of the club, is shown in the photograph.
4. Over the years, Norm Osborne often penned letters to the club. In 2011, Norm wrote a letter to **Vicki Holt**, the Editor of '**Tiger Talk**' newsletter, complimenting her on the publication; and how much he enjoying reading all the latest news from DFC.
5. While living in the area, Norm was an active member of the Dromana CFA.
6. Following his retirement as a player, Norm served the football club in various capacities as a volunteer official. He was a loyal clubman and never hesitated to 'pitch' in to assist wherever required.

7. Norman James Osborne died in March 2014. Two moving tributes, to Norm, from his family and the **Williamson** family were published in metropolitan newspapers following his death. The DFC obituary, regarding Norm, as carried in the 'Herald Sun' on 22/3/2014, read as follows ...

"OSBORNE. Norman. The Board, Players and Members of the Dromana Football and Netball Club mourn the passing of Norm, ex-player, coach, committeeman and Life Member. Sincere condolences to the family." Source: 'Herald-Sun.'

8. When Sorrento played Dromana in the Easter Saturday 'Blockbuster' on April 19th 2014, both teams lined-up prior to the start of the game to pay their collective respects to Norm Osborne. It was a sad moment in the life of the DFNC; and black arm bands were worn by all players and officials to mark the passing of one of the club's finest footballers.

"Before this match, the Dromana team lined up for the tribute to the late club legend Norm Osborne." Source: AFL Victoria –written by Paul Daffey.

A BRIEF NOTE ABOUT GEORGE OSBORNE



George Osborne

As is well known by local residents, Norm Osborne's father, **George**, was a dynamic member of the community and a tireless and selfless worker for

the football club. Over the years, many words have been written about how George's dedication and indefatigable spirit were major factors in the taking the club forward. The following extract, regarding George Osborne, was recently unearthed in research; and it is an excellent summary of George's status to DFC and local football....

“ FIGURING IN FOOTBALL...A, quiet but very earnest worker in football circles is ~George Osborne, of Dromana. For many years George has been a driving force in the Dromana club to which he has stuck loyally in times for both good and bad. He was elected a life member of the Peninsula District Football Association and still enjoys that distinction in the new Mornington Peninsula League. He sometimes represents his club as a delegate.” Source: ‘Frankston & Somerville Standard’ June 28th 1935 Page: 6

FATHER & SON

The photograph below is of the 1931 Premiership team. It was the first flag in the club's history and the Osborne family were part of that memorable day.

George Osborne is standing at the extreme left of the back row; while his son **Norm**, the mascot, sits at the front of the group holding the Victory Shield.

It is true that a picture can be worth a thousand words; and this photograph is a permanent reminder of the lasting contribution of the Osborne family to football in the town and on the Mornington Peninsula.



REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: DFNC Records –Tiger Talk- DFNC Handbook-Personal files- Gary Ferguson's records- AFL Country website- National Library of Australia-local newspapers.

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