

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008

A MEMORABLE SEASON FOR THE TIGERS

(Ref: 2018/22)

2008 was the most successful season for DFC since 1971. It was a year of great promise and under the astute leadership of **Steve Hamill**, the Tigers emerged as genuine contenders for the premiership. The **Senior** and **Reserve** teams played in the **MPNFL** finals series that season.

Hopes were high that the 'premiership drought' may have been broken for the Senior XVIII that year; and, although the Tigers threatened, the team stumbled at the very last hurdle in September.

While the Steve Hamill and his team mates were understandably disappointed (some players visibly distraught) at the outcome, not all was lost as the Reserves, coached by **Brian Collery**, won the flag in an unforgettable victory at the **Frankston Oval** that day.

Some of the highlights and memories from 2008 included:-

- Executive Office Bearers in 2008 were: **Danny Mongan (President)**, **Allen Minchington (Finance Director)**, **Mark Crawshaw (Football Manager)** and **Graham Stelling (Administrative Director)**.

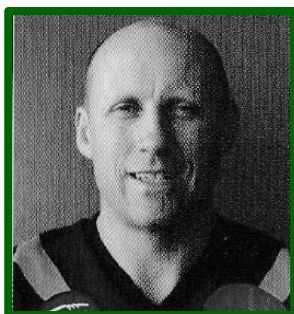


Mark Crawshaw

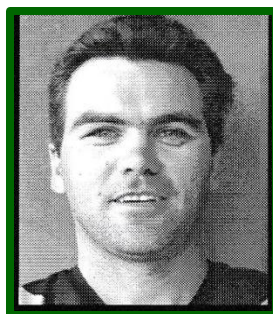


Graham Stelling

- The coaching panel that season was: **Steve Hammill**, **Brian Collery** and **Brad Allen**.



Steve Hamill



Brian Collery



Brad Allen

- The team captains were: Seniors: **Rikki Johnston**, **Adam Hunter** (vice-captain) and **Michael Hunter** (deputy VC); Reserves: **Daniel Maestrale** (captain), **Tom Wright** (vice-captain) and **Dale Parkins** (deputy vice-captain).



Rikki Johnston

Michael Hunter

Daniel Maestrale

- The **Under: 18** leadership group for 2008 was listed as: **Jay Hutchinson** (captain), **Ray Saunders**, **Luke Minchington** and **Kai Williams**. Jay Hutchinson is still playing with DFNC and in 2018 played his 100th Senior XVIII game against Tyabb.
- The **Senior Medical Officer** was **Karen Boyington** and the other medical staff and trainers included: **Val Knight**, **Gary Ferguson**, **Judi Betts** and **Reg Brooks**.



Sharon Boyington- 2008 Senior Medical Officer



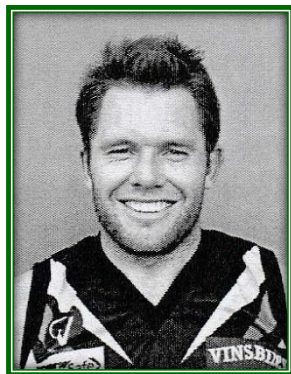
Reg Brooks

- **DFC Sponsorships** hit an all-time high in 2008 with more **21 Major Sponsors** and some **60 other local business** 'coming on board' to support the 'new-look' club. With the increased success of the club; and the hard work of the Board, local businesses were much more willing to become involved with DFNC than in previous seasons. The level of sponsorship is a barometer to how football clubs are faring; and in 2008 it is fair to say, that things were 'humming' at Dromana.

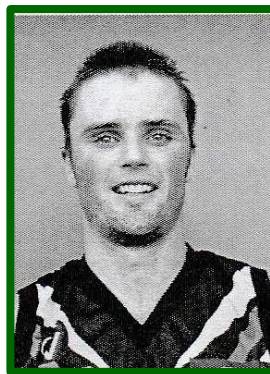
- During the pre-season, the club entered a relay team in the **2008 Rye Gift** and won the event in fine style. The team members were: **Braeden Dennis, Adam Hunter, Tom Wright, Mitchell Cook** and **Dale Parkins**. The coach of the 'relay combo' was the Senior XVIII runner, **Bruce Mesley**.



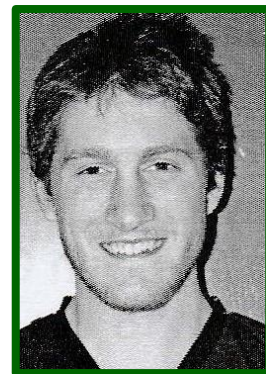
- There was an influx of new players including; **Dom Pinneri** (Mirboo North), **Stuart Keel** (Mirboo North), **Dan Lee** (East Ringwood), **Jae Williams** (Mt Pleasant), **Massi Lufti** (Seaford), **Braeden Dennis** (Rye) and **Steve Downes** (Rye). Returning players included: **Tim Johnson** , **Travis Sheean**, **Brett Dunn** and **Nick Willmott** and **Ashley Van Hattam**



Daniel Lee



Tim Johnston



Nick Willmott

- The guest speaker at **Annual Jumper Luncheon** presentation, at the RSL, was the noted and popular **Australian Olympian Tim Forsyth**.



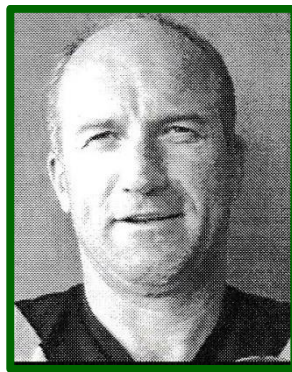
Tim Forsyth

- The Under :18 playing list included : **Jay Hutchinson, Zac Klan, Tom Blake, Kierran Voelkl, Kai Williams, Dean Ritchie, Jay Milward, Matt Beardmore, Luke Minchington, Ray Saunders, Jarrod Wood, Cade Williams, Aaron Hunter, Shaun Clarke, Tom Carter, Harry Wilson** and **Valbon Beca**.



Jay Hutchinson

- In **Round: 1** in 2008, **Dromana** 23.12 (150) defeated Crib Point 13.10 (88). It was a positive start to the new season and just what the 'doctor ordered.' A new recruit, **Ashley Van Hattam**, starred in the ruck and **Simon Goosey** 'put on a clinic' at full forward with 10 goals. **Tim Johnston** played well and **Travis Sheean** was prominent across four quarters.



Simon Goosey

- On the back of his double figure haul in Round: 1, **Simon Goosey** booted eleven goals the following week as the Tigers thrashed **Pearcedale** by 89 points. In his three years at Pier Street, Simon was a draw-card and attracted a lot of townspeople through the gate to watch him in action.
- Former AFL player **Dean Rice** was the guest of honour at the **Sponsor's Luncheon**.



Dean Rice

- On **ANZAC Day** the **DFC Past Players' Luncheon** was well attended; and some of the guests included a good sprinkling of former players such as: **Bob Moorehead, Brian Smith, Bob Castles, Bill Martin, Peter Oakes, Phil Marriott, Roger Thorpe, Allan Sullivan, John Herbert** and **Ian Fraser**.



Bob Moorehead



Bob Castles

- The **Annual Mid-season Ball** was held at the Rosebud Italian Club; and it was magnificent occasion in terms of attendance and merriment. Key organizers of the occasion (**Vicki Holt and Gary Boyington**) were heartily congratulated by the Board of Management for one of the best social events in 'recent years'.
- **Dromana** won the '**Bluey Holmes Shield**' in Round: 10. **Dromana** 18.7 (115) defeated **Red Hill** 14.6 (80). **Troy Docherty, Braeden Dennis, Dom Pinneri** and **Jared Terry** starred for the Tigers that day.



Jared Terry



Braeden Dennis

- In the Round: 12 local **derby** against arch-rivals Rosebud, **Dromana** 16.11 (107) defeated **Rosebud** 7.14 (56). **Simon Goosey** kicked six goals, **Paul Minchington** booted three and **Steve Hamill** chipped in with two goals in a strong team performance.
- Dromana had an important victory in **Round 13**. On that day, **Dromana** 13.18 (96) defeated Rye 11.11(77). Rye could find no answers to the brilliant form of **Paul Minchington** and **Tim Johnston**.
- **Tim Johnston** is the brother of **Rikki Johnston**; and he was an adept player in his time with the club. Tim often played as a forward or wingman; and his courageous attack on the ball and his accurate kicking were features of his play. Tim played 44 games with DFNC between 2004 and 2008.
- In 2008, Dromana won six games in succession (i.e. from Round: 12-Round: 17). Rounds: 11 and 18 were byes; so, in fact, Dromana went for eight weeks without suffering a defeat.



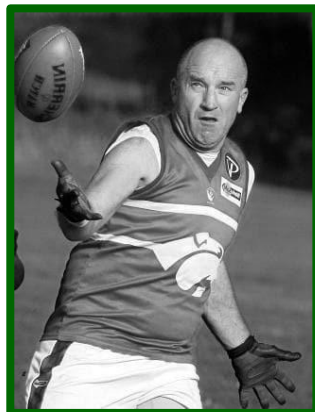
Paul Minchington

- In Round: 16, Dromana kicked 16 goals after half time to demolish **Tyabb** by 79 points in a one sided affair. On that day, Dromana had **73 entries into the forward 50 metre**. The team's average of forward entries in 2008 was 51.9 throughout 2008; thus underlining the domination of the Tiger midfielders against the Yabbies.
- During the 2008 season, Dromana **averaged 57 effective handballs per game**.
- **Adam Hunter** was selected in the **MPNFL Interleague** squad that season. He was also selected in the **VCFL team** to play in the **National Championships at Shepparton**.



Adam Hunter

- **Simon Goosey** was named in the **MPNFL Team of the Century**. During the season, **Simon Goosey** booted his **200th goal** for Dromana.



Simon Goosey

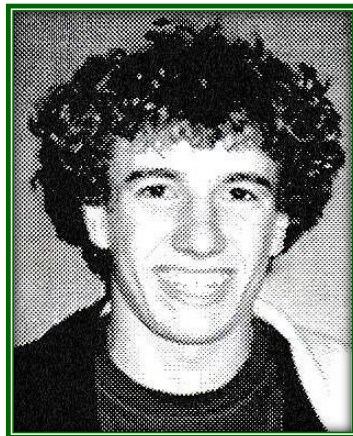
- **Brad Allen** and **Michael Gillis** played their **100th** senior games with DFC in 2008.
- **Simon Goosey** won the **NFL** goal kicking award in the Seniors XVIII with 79 goals; and **Jesse Allbrecht** took out the award in the **Reserves** competition with 48 goals. **Jay Milward** kicked 33 goals in the **Under: 18's** that season.

- Other senior players amongst the goals in 2008 were: **Mick Gillis** (23), **Troy Docherty** (21), **Tim Johnston** (18) and **Paul Minchington** and **Adam Hunter** both kicked 16 goals.
- The oldest players on the DFC list were: **Steve Hamill** (41), **Simon Goosey** (40), **Dan Lee** (33), **Seamus Thompson** (32) , **Steven Downes** (31) and **Aaron Pasquill** (30) .



Aaron Pasquill

- The only teenager on the Senior list for the finals that season was **Andrew Burns** who was 18 years of age.
- **Adam Hunter** and **Simon Goosey** were selected in the **NFL Team of the Year**.
- **Jarryd Hunter** won the **Howard Armstrong Medal** for the Best & Fairest Player in the Reserve Grade in 2008. Jarryd is the brother of Adam Hunter and was standout player in junior ranks. Jarryd played 39 Senior XVIII games and always impressed with his ability to 'find the ball' and his 'courage in the contest.'



Jarryd Hunter

- At the end of the home and away series, Dromana seniors sat in third position on the **NFL Ladder** with 14 wins (2 byes included) and a percentage of 137.74%. The Reserves went through the 2008 season undefeated.



- Both the Seniors and Reserves teams played in finals that season and a report of these games entitled: '**The Road to the Finals**' will be posted on the website in the near future.
- **The major award winners at DFNC in 2008 were:**

AWARD	SENIOR	RESERVES	UNDER: 18
Best & Fairest	Adam Hunter	Jarryd Hunter	Jay Hutchinson
Runner-Up B&F	Tim Johnston	Travis Sheean	Luke Minchington
Most Consistent	Steve Downes	Jesse Albrecht	Jarred Wood
Goal-Kicking	Simon Goosey	Jesse Albrecht	Jay Milward
Coach's awards	Michael Gillis	Dale Parkins	Dean Ritchie
Players' player	Rikki Johnston	Tom Wright	Luke Minchington
Most Determined	Braeden Dennis	Tom Hofert	Kieran Voelkl
Encouragement Award	Andrew Burns	Dan Jennings	Kai Williams
Best Player in MPNFL Finals	Paul Minchington	Ryan Pitcher	N/A

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: MPNFL archives – 'Tiger Talk' - DFNC publications- personal files-'MPNFL Record' and various websites.

Article reference: 2008: Season Highlights (Ref: 2018/22)

Researched and written for DFNC by: Roger Spaul- July 2018.

DFNC website administrator: Graham Stelling. DFNC Secretary-Board Member.

Email contacts: historian@dromanatigers.com.au. or admin@dromanatigers.com.au