

Old Geelong Football Club Year: 1958

B Section. Finished 5th

President: **Don Bennett**

Secretary: **Bill Irvine** (Assistant **Mike Pointer**)

Treasurer: **Bruce Rowe**

Vice-Presidents: **Evan Macgregor, Bill. Morrison**

Committee: **A.H. Nugget Stephens, Blair Catanach, Marshall Baillieu, Hubert Black, M. McLeod, R.H. Seymour** (There were nine nominations and a vote was required.)

Captain Firsts: **Noel Rundle**

Coach Firsts: **Noel Rundle**

Delegate to VAFA: **Mike Pointer**

Mr. **Bill Mollard** announced his retirement early in the year, which was confirmed at the Annual Meeting on 24 February. There was then a credit balance in the bank of 78 pounds.

“There has been a major change in the governing body this year, as Bill Mollard who has given such magnificent drive and leadership as president over the past four years could not continue. The club owes a great deal of its success in its early years to his untiring energy, and we thank him most sincerely for a splendid job. His place has been taken by another enthusiast, and one the prime movers of the club’s foundation – **Don Bennett** – and we wish him well in the post.”

* The ground was yet again the smaller St. Kevin’s No.2 oval. “Mr. Black suggested that Bill Mollard approach Brother Stallard with a view to our extending the club rooms in exchange for security of tenure or alternatively that at our home games we can use the whole of upstairs.”

However, part way through the season the Club apparently received a letter from the VAFA advising that it was considered that the ground was too small for the upper echelons of the competition, and that the Club would need to find a larger oval in 1959.

* The Property Steward was **Blair Catanach** (furthest left, 1974), whose responsibilities included, and we quote verbatim, “oranges, gum, sherry, groundsheet, sweaters, shorts, sox, trunks, stops, boots.”



* New member **Alby Carnegie** commenced a career as boundary umpire for the team (he went on to run over 200 games).

* Half way through the season “it looked as if the club would make the finals, but an unfortunate run of injuries reduced our power. **Noel Rundle** (wrist), **Bob Joyce** (knee), **Bill Black** (knee) **David Lee** (ankle), **Richard Smallwood** (ankle and thigh), and **Bill Morrison** and **Evan Macgregor** (senility) were major causes of our decline.”

* “The 1958 season is now concluded, and for the first time since 1954, the club will not be participating in the final series. While this is disappointing, we have done very well to hold our

place in “B” Grade, and had we won our last game against Commonwealth Bank we would have finished the home and home games in fourth place.”

“One rather disappointing fact this year was that **Bill Black** was the only regular player who came to us straight from the School.”

Trophies presented at the end of the season.

Supporter **Nicholas Turnbull** had provided a cheque for 150 pounds to provide for a **Perpetual Trophy** for Best and Fairest, to be known as the **Turnbull Trophy**.

In early 1958 the Club received a large cheque (indeed very large in the context of the times; one hundred and fifty pounds) from Mr. Nicholas Turnbull to enable the purchase of a perpetual trophy for the Best & Fairest, plus a donation to the club. This was duly done, and a large impressive pewter mug purchased and presented each year to the Best & Fairest player, to be held by him for the next 12 months (in addition to another smaller trophy for him to keep). Each year the perpetual trophy was engraved with the name of the Best & Fairest player - listings were back-dated to 1954 - and this continued right through until the middle of the 1990s, when the trophy apparently disappeared during or after a Presentation night or afternoon, never to be seen again. At about the same time the then Committee, perhaps unaware of the previous history of the trophy, suddenly stopped using the name Turnbull Trophy for Best & Fairest (along with a number of other named trophies) and just started referring to it as the Best & Fairest trophy.

(By our calculations the sum of 150 pounds in 1958 equates to almost \$4000 in 2011. - Ed)

Turnbull Trophy Best and Fairest: **John Laird**

(photo right of John Laird at Como approx 1972)

EH Montgomery Trophy – Runner Up to Best and Fairest:

John Steven (first time this trophy awarded)

DC Moore Trophy for Best First Year Player: **Bill Black**

D.M. Bennett Trophy for Most Consistent: **John Bennett**



In finishing 5th in B Section the Club reached its high water mark, a level which has never been equalled in its entire subsequent history.

*As always, any additional material or information for these notes would be appreciated. Especially as we had far less to work from for this year than for the previous few. Thanks are extended to **Baz Seymour** who has supplied us with some copies of the Amateur Footballer magazine from 1957, and to **John Rowe** (five games in 1954 according to the Club records) who has supplied us with an invitation from the Club to attend a Past Players' Day which was sent to him in 1970.*