

## FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT – MARK AVERY

Season 2008 can be considered a tremendous success with the Club gaining promotion into C Section for the 2009 season. Much work was put into getting the side into the Grand Final, with the efforts of Senior Coach **Adrian Farrer** a shining example that commitment and passion together achieve significant things. On behalf of the Club, I would like to formally thank Adrian for all of his work over his two year appointment, and wish him well both in his professional and family life as he takes a well earned rest from the rigours of balancing all of his life commitments.

The Reserves side again made the grand final (sixth consecutive year) and provided many senior players throughout the course of the year which is a testament to both the quality and depth of the playing list as well as the consistent coaching style of **Mark Leslie** which made the transition from Reserve grade football to senior football easy.

The re-introduction of the Under 19 team was perhaps the best story of the year. Recognising that the "unders" are the lifeblood to any club, **Hugh Lockie** and **Alex Southey** worked tirelessly to provide a well structured, well organised support network for the team, and without their considerable self-sacrifice, there is no way the team would have taken the field in season 2008. The fact the season ended in a 7-11 record was slightly disappointing, given the talent the team possessed, but the season highlighted where we need to prepare for next year and how we can improve on this very good first up season.

The Club 18 under the guidance of **Henry Edgar** were competitive in nearly every match this year, and were unfortunate to lose several close games which would have provided a platform for them to challenge for a finals berth. As it was, the interest fell away a little when the finals dream became unachievable. For the fifth consecutive year, the Club is indebted to Henry for his tenacity and goodwill in taking this challenge on. Perhaps the greatest benefactors of his work were the Reserves which constantly drew talent from this side when the need arose and held the team in very good stead.

The past 12 months have seen many unique challenges present themselves, none more so than the loss of **James Head** at the start of the year in tragic circumstances. The way the Club responded and genuinely mourned the loss conveys a deep understanding of the balance between the importance of sport and the significance of all the other factors which impact on one's life. The Club should be proud of the way it values relationships and is conscientious in assisting people when it can. I hope this continues and is the hallmark of its existence.

While there are countless people to thank, including all of the committee members of 2008 and previous, I would like to formally acknowledge two people who have made my time as President as easy as it can be and enjoyable.

Firstly, **Simon O'Brien** has been a fantastic and constant support in terms of assisting me and the entire Club in keeping the machine moving. He constantly puts the Club ahead of himself and no-one deserved the success of promotion as much as him.

Secondly, I would like to thank **Michael Gretton-Watson** who was always an unbelievable source of advice and knowledge. He knew exactly when to get involved and when to let the players work things out. It has been a hard time for Michael in the past 18 months and I hope in some small way the OGs have been a support to him and will continue to give him satisfaction as we slowly but surely realise our potential.



## TO THE INCOMING PRESIDENT – JIMMY LEGOE

First and foremost, on behalf of everyone with a connection to the Old Geelong Football Club I would like to thank **Mark Avery** for the tremendous amount of work he has done for our Club over the years, and in particular his past three as President. There is no doubt in my mind that this Club would not be in the same position it currently finds itself if it weren't for Aves' dedication and commitment to the blue and white hoops. Whilst his decision to step down is a huge loss, he will be staying on the Committee in a joint Vice-Presidential role with **Mark Vickers-Willis**. I thoroughly look forward to working very closely with these two legends of the Ogger and will no doubt call upon them for assistance throughout my tenure as President. Further to the above, I am excited to be taking over the reigns from Aves in a time of such excitement at the Club. There is so much going on behind the scenes at present, that I genuinely feel that the Old Geelong Football Club is on the verge of something special. The truth is that the wheel is turning for our Club and we are set up as a far more sustainable entity than we were in the depths of 2001. This season's promotion to C Section is a result of many years of work from many people, too many to thank individually. Some of the opportunities that now present to a club that is healthy and striving for growth in the correct fashion are:



- Recruitment and retention of ex GGS and GC students who are playing elsewhere, and those leaving school directly. **Alex Southey** is doing a fantastic job in liaising with the schools and now that we are in C Section, we will have more opportunity to sell our Club as a sporting entity with a terrific social network that cares for its members – both past and present.
- Similar exciting developments are happening on the netball front, with more OGs teams joining the competition annually. In addition to this, there is some work being done to create an Inter-Club Competition amongst other VAFA Clubs – we are seeking interest from these Clubs at present.
- Creation of a VAFA netball competition to more formally generate a sustainable and recognisable Netball Club which will enhance the experience of all OGs netballers and their supporters (this is underway as we speak as a result of Old Geelong leading the way).
- A significant fundraising and community development event to coincide with the OGs 50<sup>th</sup> season at Como Park. Once the date has been finalised a note will go out to all in the OGs community as a "save this date" – it will be an event not to be missed!
- Development of a new website which more fully services the needs of the membership and allows better communication to our players and supporters – this is anticipated to be up and running early in the new year (don't forget to regularly check [www.oldgeelong.com.au](http://www.oldgeelong.com.au) during the 2009 season).
- To commence the redevelopment of the Como Pavilion to see our facilities become one of the best in the VAFA. We are getting enormous assistance from the Stonnington Council with this and we are anticipating that works will start on this toward the end of the season.

On a more holistic front though, the interest in the Club from past players, family, friends and long time supporters continues to grow. Como Park now has a home Club with a vision and the ability and drive to fulfil that vision. Put simply, if we are to continue to achieve, change, improve and gain respect as an organisation which excels at everything it does, we need more people to share the workload. Much will change in 2009, but the commitment of those involved in the Club will not, and neither should the passion and enthusiasm that gripped the "Oggers" in 2008.

**With everything looking positive and upward trending at OG's in 2009, we need even more financial support from our members (existing and prospective) to ensure we keep developing the Club and climbing the sections. The Club is seeking early payment of memberships for 2009. Costs for the new season are already being incurred so it is vital that we have some increased subscription money from years gone by.**

Included in this newsletter pack is a subscription form, please give generously and play your part in helping OGs continue upwards.

## NEW COACH

The Old Geelong Football Club is pleased to announce the appointment of **Nick Mitchell** as Senior Coach for the 2009 Season in C Section. Nick played most of his football at St Bernard's Football Club, where he was a Premiership Captain as well as a Best and Fairest winner. Nick also enjoyed League experience with Fitzroy and played many games in the VFL. He was also a multiple VAFA representative player.

The Club Committee was most impressed the clear strategies that Nick identified as the centre piece to his overall coaching philosophy. The fact that he has played at the highest level of football and has been mentored by some truly fantastic coaches has no doubt imparted much knowledge to Nick, which the Committee hopes will be transferred through to its playing group. Nick's passion, enthusiasm and detailed understanding of the unique drivers at VAFA level were seen as major benefits in his application.

Nick and the Club are currently working toward finalising the remaining coaching positions and are open to exploring a new and dynamic structure which will further assist the Club to deliver on its lofty ambitions. All at Old Geelong look forward to welcoming Nick to the OGs and wish him well in his coaching career.



## PIVOT CLUB SUMMARY

The Pivot Club had another wonderful year thanks to the amazing support of the greater Old Geelong community. The first lunch in May catered for more than 60 guests with the Mayor of the "City of Dreams" (aka Geelong) and former OG Premiership player, **Bruce "Boofa" Harwood** treating us to some underbelly stories. This included a rare "behind the scenes" look at the Melbourne underworld from his days as a detective with the CIB. Later in the year (August) we smashed all Como and Pivot Lunch records with a massive 140 people turning up to celebrate the 1988 Reserves premiership reunion. A big thanks to **Clive Landale** who managed to bring along all but three players from the actual team that played in the winning side. The huge crowd was treated to another one of **Russell "Barrel" Parkinson's** fantastic speeches as he reflected on the good ol' days at the Oggery.

This year also saw a newly branded Pivot Club membership structure, including Gold, Silver and Bronze members, which was very well received by the supporters. We give special thanks to those who supported the Club by signing up as a member during 2008 and we look forward to your continued support in 2009. We would also like to make special mention to the two main product sponsors of the Pivot Lunches - **Frank Herd** and **Hamish McGowan**. With quality steaks and red wine kindly being donated by these respective gents, the Pivot Club diners were again treated to a magic meal that was well accompanied by the work of **Ruth Vickers-Willis** and her girls at *Occasional Foods*. We look forward to seeing you all there again next year at Como for the first Pivot Lunch in 2009 as we push the lads along in their journey through C Grade. Thanks again.



## SCHOOLS SUMMARY

2008 was a fantastic year for strengthening Old Geelong's relationship with its two feeder schools. It was great to see many Year 11's and 12's train with the Club in the pre-season and school holidays, resulting in some playing matches with the OGs when they did not have school football commitments. **Sandy Nevile** (GGS year 11) deserves special mention, as after just one game for the Club in the Under 19's, he was selected in the senior side the following week.

The Club is currently enjoying an improved profile at both GGS and GC generally. **Mark Vickers-Willis** presented the Old Geelong Football Club perpetual trophy to Geelong College 1st XVIII during the year after they defeated Geelong Grammar in their APS game. **Mark Avery** and other former players also held post-season information nights at both schools, handing out OGs training singlets to all Year 12 footballers.

Further, it is anticipated that the Club will receive greater exposure in the schools' publications ("Light Blue" and "Ad Astra") going forward. The recent leavers from both schools have made a great contribution to the Club this year (in particular to the resurrected Under 19 side), and we look forward to welcoming more young leavers in 2009.



## 2008 ON-FIELD WRAP-UP

Looking at the Clubs win/loss ratio table below, it stands testament to what has been achieved over a long process, probably since one of the Clubs' lowest ebbs, the season of 2002, where it won only one senior game in the whole season:

OG's Team	Wins	Losses	Position	Comment
Seniors	14	7	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Whilst disappointing to have fallen at the final hurdle, C Section promotion is a just reward
Reserves	16	4	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sixth consecutive Grand Final appearance that highlights the depth of the OGFC
Club 18	5	10	6 <sup>th</sup>	Unlucky to lose many games by small margins. Provided a great feed of players to the Reserves
Under 19	7	11	7 <sup>th</sup>	Side was resurrected after nearly a decade of non-existence. Will only strengthen in years to come



### 2008 Grand Final Scores:

<b>SENIORS</b>			
Old Geelong	17.21	(123)	Lost to
Bulleen Templestowe	21.9	(135)	
<b>OGs Best:</b>	M.Vasey, E.Bayles, N.Casboul, C.Branigan, H.Legoe, T.Lyons		
<b>OGs Goalkickers:</b>	C.Branigan (5), S.Long (3), J.Young (3), E.Bayles (2), W.Leaf, M.Goldsworthy, M.Vasey, J.Bell		

Old Geelong	6.7	(43)	Lost to
North Old Boys	11.15	(81)	
<b>OGs Best:</b>	T.Fyshe, M.Thomas, J.Hope-Johnstone, L.Herbert, T.Slattery, N.Sanders		
<b>OGs Goalkickers:</b>	C.Mollard, T.Bayles, M.Leslie, R.Ramsden, M.Thomas, R.Evans		

### RESERVES



### 2008 Award Winners:

**Seniors Best & Fairest**  
**Seniors R/U Best & Fairest**  
**Leading Goal Kicker (Seniors)**

Tom Lyons  
 Nick Casboul  
 Mathew Goldsworthy

**Reserves Best & Fairest**  
**Reserves R/U Best & Fairest**

Sam Lucas  
 Mathew Thomas

**Under 19 Best & Fairest**  
**Under 19 R/U Best & Fairest**  
**Under 19 R/U Best & Fairest**

Zach O'Connor  
 Stacey Kent  
 Dec Barlow

**Club XVIII Best & Fairest**  
**Club XVIII R/U Best & Fairest**

Tom Foster  
 Anthony Foster

**James Head Award - Best 1st Year Player**  
 Will Leaf

**Peter Lemon Award – 2008 Best Clubman (Joint)**  
 Hamish McInnes  
 Mark Avery

**Old Geelong Football Club - Life Member**  
 Graeme Goldsworthy (for outstanding service)

**100 Game Players & Life Membership**  
David Taylor Bryan Grills

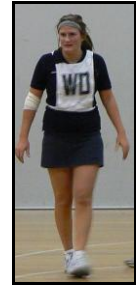
Charles Fairbairn  
Ed Bayles

Nick Bayne  
Matthew Goldsworthy

## NETBALL



**Annie Legoe** took over as President of the Netball Club in 2008 and did a fantastic job of trying to further integrate the girls into our Club. The Oggettes had a very successful year with three teams (out of the five we field) making it to the finals during both seasons. OGs Blue went through the Autumn season undefeated and subsequently took out the premiership, whilst in the Winter season they won the title again with OGs Navy emulating their success.



Exciting news - there is now going to be a Netball board up in the Clubrooms with all the footy boards. This board is going to show the President and Best Clubwoman for each year. Award winners from 2008 were as follows:

**OGS Navy Best & Fairest:**  
**OGS Blue Best & Fairest:**  
**OGS Orange Best & Fairest:**  
**OGS Aces Best & Fairest:**  
**OGS Red (1st season team):**  
Manifold  
**OGS Red (2nd season team):**

Missy Myer  
Alex Griffiths  
Amelia Gilmore  
Katrina MacLeod  
Em Manifold & Jo  
Polly Edwards

### NETBALL CLUBWOMAN OF THE YEAR

**2006:** Emily Nam  
**2007:** Millie Skelley  
**2008:** Emma Veall

2009 promises to be another great year for the netballers and we are always seeking new players that are keen to get involved. Anyone that fits this category can contact our netball President (Annie Legoe) on 0438 809 689 or via email at [annielegs85@hotmail.com](mailto:annielegs85@hotmail.com). The season will kick off in early March.

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we are in the process of trying to create a netball league with various VAFA Clubs participating. While there is no doubt a fantastic platform is in place for this concept to truly take off, there are further initiatives which will be undertaken prior to next season to make it even more successful on and off court. We look forward to keeping you posted on the progress of this.

## SPONSORS

In the words of reserves coach **Mark Leslie**, "it would be remiss" of me not to mention the off-field support we have had from our sponsors this year. There is no way the Club would be where they are without them and we look forward to more mutual support from the following in years to come:

### BENNISON MACKINNON



#### INGRAMS ACCOUNTING SERVICES



#### MONEY RESOURCES GROUP



#### TAP PRODUCTIONS



#### THE SWAN HOTEL – RICHMOND



#### CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S



#### ANGUS THE BULL WINES



#### BRINER SIGNS

#### GORELL GROUP



#### URBAN MAINTENANCE SYSTEMS



#### REX



#### SUITE DEALS

#### SYSTEMS



#### EMMA & TOM'S JUICES



#### GALFRAME BUILDING



## **CONFIRM CONTACT DETAILS**

Over the past month we have really been working on updating our database. Many contact details appear to have been out of date, so if you haven't sent an email to [James.Legoe@ubs.com](mailto:James.Legoe@ubs.com) with your current email address, postal address and phone number, please do so ASAP.

**Once again thanks to Pete Lemon for providing the photo's contained within this edition of the OGF&NC Newsletter. He still takes the occasional photo around the Club when not taking wildlife photos in Africa for *Peregrine Adventures!***