

30 Old Geelong Football Club: marking 50 Years 1954-2004

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A slight delay in the production schedule due to Easter.

LAST SATURDAY WEEK

Our final practice match was held against Bulleen Templestowe, one of the two teams to be relegated at the end of last year from the grade above and whom we will be playing in earnest in a few weeks time. It was great to have a practice match at Como for the first time in over a decade. As a result of some last-minute re-arrangements the day before, we finished up playing ten quarters, the first two generally against Bulleen's U19s, the next four generally against their Reserves, and the last four generally against their Firsts. In games "one" and "two" we probably finished a couple of goals ahead, whilst in the main game things probably finished about even.



THIS WEEK

The season starts. The **Firsts** and **Reserves** will be playing Swinburn University at their ground, which is St. James Park, corner Burwood Road and Barton Street, Hawthorn (Melways Map 45, Ref A10). The Reserves commence at 11.40am and the Seniors at 2pm. The times that players need to be at the ground will be advised to them on Thursday evening.

Please note that our opponents, Swinburn, were the winners of the D3 Section Premiership last year and that they will be **unfurling their Premiership flag** after the end of the Reserves Game, and they have asked for our assistance for a few minutes:

"Following the Reserves game we will be asking both senior and reserves teams to line up on the ground facing the flag, as well as the umpires for the day. There will be about two or three minutes of a quick speech from our president, a club identity will unfurl the flag and raise it on the flagpole, then the game can commence."

In addition, they have advised: "Following the senior game, we will be having a function at the rooms and of course as usual, all umpires as well as opposition players and supporters are warmly invited to stay and join us for a drink. We always supply some drinks for the best player from the opposition sides and this day will be no exception."

(Staying back: This is perhaps a good time to remind players from last year, and advise new players, that it is the "done thing" in Amateur Football for players to stay around for a while at the opposition's rooms after the main game. For years, Old Geelong has had a poor reputation in this regard, although last year was somewhat improved. Whilst we do have our function on at *The Arcadia* a little later in the evening, please do the right thing and stay around for a while.)

Firsts and Reserves Players are required to wear **white VFA shorts** (available for purchase on Thursday), and dark blue Carlton socks (which you must obtain yourself). Whilst the co-operation was pretty good during the practice matches (with far fewer than the usual number of psychedelic combinations in comparison with previous years), once the season starts, this is no longer *requested* – it is *mandatory*. Apart from any other considerations relating to presenting a professional appearance, the Club will be fined for any incorrect uniforms.

The Club 18 will be at Como against St. Leo's, also beginning at 11.40am. Players should wear **dark blue VFA shorts** (also obtainable on Thursday) and dark blue socks.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK

24 April marks 50 years to the day from the date of the Club's first-ever match, back in 1954. This will be a fairly long day and will involve some quite significant departures from the usual routine for a home-game Saturday. Whilst there will be more details next week, please take note that the timetable will probably be as follows:

- * The Reserves will start their game 40 minutes early, at 11.00am.
- * There will be an officially sanctioned APS practice match between the GGS & GC First XVIII teams as a curtain raiser to the senior game. This practice match is to commence at 1pm.
- * The Senior game against Williamstown is to commence no later than 3pm.
- * There will be a lunch for parents, teachers and supporters from the two schools in our clubrooms prior to the senior VAFA match.
- * There is to be a Little League game at half time of one of the other games.

AROUND THE CLUB

Assistant Coach

Report in the Printed Newsletter posted out last week that **Russell Parkinson** is the Club's Assistant coach this year was well wide of the mark. Indeed, whilst Barrel has given great service to the Club in many capacities, on and off over the years, he has not actually been seen at all, to-date, this year. Instead we are pleased to announce the recent appointment of **Matt Edmonds** to that position. Matt has been assisting **Michael Lockman** with training almost from Day 1 at the start of February. He was Locky's Runner for much of last season, and before that played 57 games for the Club in the seniors from 1994 to 98.

Club 18 Coach

We were hoping to have some more details about our Club 18 Coach, **Henry "Moose" Edgar**, and perhaps a profile, but, in a development perhaps unique in the annals of the Old Geelong Football Club, our emails have not been answered. (*Murphy's Law: the info just arrived – Ed. Will put in next week.*)

Audible obscenities, and a few other rules: a note from the Editor.

During the course of a fairly long day running/waddling the boundary last Saturday week, I heard a significant number of audible obscenities (and presumably missed a number of inaudible ones) wafting gently from the field and over the line. (I don't think *many* of the audible ones were directed at me: indeed, Lezza - **Mark Leslie** - was *fairly* polite when I, rightly or wrongly, cut short his intended 150 metres dash around the outer wing and driving goal from the pocket.)

To any players new into the Club, please be aware that the VAFA has a rule against audible obscenities in the general run of play, which can result in players being "yellow carded" and sent off for 15 minutes, and (in the event of a repeat) sent off and reported. And there are a few other rules which should be perhaps be mentioned:

- *Teams are not permitted to have any non-players (runners, water-persons etc) in the **centre square** during a centre-square bounce.
- *Only four players are allowed inside the centre square for a centre bounce; a player **standing on the line** (as many of ours are inclined to do) is deemed to be inside the square and therefore infringing if there are already four players from his team inside.
- *Teams are not permitted to have any non-players inside the **45-metre arc** when a player is kicking off after a behind has been scored.
- *There is a **anti-melee rule** in Amateur Football, the breach of which can result in Clubs being fined heavily.
- * Players wishing to wear **bike shorts** may only wear skin-coloured ones purchased through the VAFA's property division.

Runner for the Reserves

On the subjects of Runners (and of Audible Obscenities, following the lack of any replies), Reserves Coach **Ben Dunn** has had no response to his pleas in the last two editions of Webnotes for a Runner for the Reserves. (*We have tried to explain to Ben that requests for help in any capacity put into these notes, or any other Club publication, are merely inserted to fill in space, and that there is never the slightest likelihood*

that any of our members would actually reply or respond.) Ben is desperate to secure someone who can do the job for him on a regular basis, so if there are any non-players around who are keen to keep fit, run considerable distances, remain unflappable, and keep their head when all around are losing theirs, *please* let us know.

Merchandise

Polo shirts: A range of **polo shirts** has been produced to mark the Club's 50 years. They are in a fetching white or navy blue, with this year's 50-year emblem emblazoned upon them. They will be available to the playing group at a discounted price of probably \$20, and all players are encouraged to purchase one next Thursday night at the official Jumper Presentation Night. The shirts will also be available to our wider community by contacting **Simon O'Brien** on email *Simon.O'Brien@team.telstra.com* or on 0439 916202, or there will be ample opportunity to pick one up at the canteen during home games, and at the 50-Year dinner. For non-players, prices will be around the \$40 mark. It is a great way to show your allegiance to the Oggery!

Fine Wines: Most of you should have received a Printed Club Newsletter in the mail last week, with more fall-out supplements than a Sunday newspaper. (If you did not, please contact the Editor, because it will mean our database is deficient.) One of those supplements is a note about the Club's special **Wine Offer** to mark the its 50th Anniversary, which has been put together for us by current member **Alister Timms**. Alister studied Oenology at Adelaide University and is now Chief Winemaker at the Kilgour Estate on the Bellarine Peninsula. (**Chief Winemaker!**? He was a bit evasive when we asked how many other Winemakers there are on the estate, but we can only presume there are dozens.) And he is also the Assistant Winemaker at Shadowfax Winery near Werribee. Selected have been a very fine 2001 Chardonnay, and a wonderful 2001 Cabernet Malbec Merlot, and these are available as individual bottles, half cases, or cases (full or mixed), with delivery provided within the metropolitan area for an additional fee of just \$5. Full details of the wines, costs, order form and payment options were sent with the Printed Newsletter, are available at Como, and can be downloaded from the Club's Website. As indicated on the order form, it would be greatly appreciated if all orders could be received no later than Monday 26 April. (*Editor's note: for those of you who remember the Club's 40th Anniversary wine, which within six months of delivery could be used equally as a paint-stripper or, in dire circumstances, a substitute for AVGAS 80, we can assure you that these wines now on offer are a totally different kettle of fish. (Even allowing for the mixed metaphor.)*)

Amendment to fixtures

Yes, already, after you all got the lovely Fixture Card designed and printed by one of the Club's sponsors, **TAP Productions**. For the Club 18, the Bye shown for 6 June is no longer and has just been replaced with a match against University Blues at Como.

Players' phone numbers and email addresses:

We need to ensure details are correct. Many of you from last year have changed one or both without advising us. In addition, a number of new players have written their details in a language and writing that would drive an Egyptian hieroglyphic-ologist to open a tenth-floor window and simply jump out. **Please check the lists on the board at Como and advise of any changes that may be required.**

Parents on the Club's Mailing List

(or, perhaps there *is* a little bit of intelligent life out there): Last week we listed the fairly small number of players whose parents are on our database/ mailing list, and invited other players to put theirs forward. (At the same time suggesting that asking for any response from Club members is a bit like SETI, the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence: a lot of effort in the going out, and not very much of anything coming back.) Response from players was a casual Minus 273° Celsius (Absolute Zero), although it was nice to be contacted direct by **Michael Teague** asking that he and **Julie Teague** should be added to the database. (Welcome!) To any other parents reading this, do feel free to leave your son out of the loop and to contact us direct!

SOCIAL

The Jumper Presentation/Purchase of Shorts/Paying of Subs/Taking of Photos/Announcement of Captains Night is on upstairs this Thursday night after training. As part of the arrangements, Davo and **Lo An** will put on another of their great feeds for a very reasonable price.

It's fairly low-key, but the **Season Launch** party will take place this Saturday evening at *The Arcadia*, corner Toorak and Punt roads, with the following applying. **AREA:** Guests will meet in the public bar and the area is to be roped off and reserved for them. **BEVERAGE:** Bar Service as per normal. **FOOD:** Platters of complimentary hot finger food to be served 7pm and 8pm. **ENTERTAINMENT:** Juke box to provide background music 5pm – 10pm; 2 Games Live AFL football on the BIG SCREEN 7:30pm – 10:30pm; Live Band 10:30pm till 3am; Live DJ Anthony supporting the band till 3am.

GIVING SOMETHING BACK

Over the past few years the Club has been able to do a bit for the municipality in which it operates, by donating used footballs to primary schools in the area, and supplying considerable quantities of unclaimed clothing, jackets, shoes, boots, bags, hats, caps, umbrellas, towels, and the occasional kitchen sink, to **St. Vincent de Paul**. (No relation of **Tom, Will** or **Jim de Paul**.) However, the overall effort from Club members, apart from losing and leaving these considerable quantities of clothing and gear on a regular basis, has been little to write home about. We have also managed about four or five pints a year squeezed out for the VAFA's annual **Red Cross Blood Challenge** (most of them donated by the Club Secretary), and that's been about the sum total of it all.

Undaunted, we now invite members – and it certainly doesn't have to be just players – to get involved with *Vision Australia's Stride for Sight Fun Run and Walk* to be conducted on **Sunday 30 May** in conjunction with Malvern Harriers and Glenferrie Rotary. It will be starting and finishing at Vision Australia's offices (Glenferrie Road, Kooyong, opposite the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club), and will be a five or ten-kilometre run or walk, with entry fees as follows: Early bird (before 6 May)/ Normal

Adult	\$15	\$20
Child	\$10	\$15
Family#	\$35	\$40
Group*	\$40	\$55

Starting times are about 9am (we realise that this may not be an optimum performance hour or day of the week for some of you) and the price includes breakfast afterwards. **Mark Avery** (0408 127037 or mark.avery@macquarie.com) and a couple of the Social Committee have agreed to run with this (excuse the pun), and we really do encourage Club Members and friends thereof to get involved.

Kicking on: On the subject of helping, although it is not exactly within the boundaries of the City of Stonnington, we've had this note in from one of our past players, **Mark Robson** who these days lives in Bangkok: *"I get the feeling that my footy days are well and truly behind me - although still manage to get out every Saturday for a training run up here with the Thailand Tigers; our next game is out at Kanchanaburi, against Malaysia - playing on the 24th April, as part of the Anzac Day stuff out there. Before the game we are conducting an Ozkick clinic with a huge group of local kids - introducing them to some Aussie Culture:- should be a lot of fun."* (We've asked Robbo to provide some shots of the clinic in due course for these notes.) Back in the early 1990s the OGFC was involved with running an Auskick program rather more locally: like a number of other things around the Club it seems to have passed into history.

Marking 50 Years – an occasional feature.

Photographed right: After breaking through the massive banner - it must have been quite some effort - D Section Grade Best and Fairest **Tony Poolman** leads Club Captain **John Lewisohn** and the rest of his team (all totally obscured or still in the room) onto the ground for the 1966 Grand Final. (Photo unknown)



And next page, **Cam MacMillan** became the first-ever player to reach 200 games for the Club, on 18 July 1970: he did so "in front of the biggest crowd ever down at Como" (*most if not all of whom were*

presumably standing behind the camera - Ed) against St.Kevins on a specially arranged Past Players and Supporters Day. The monthly Newsletter described it as “undoubtedly one of the greatest days in the history of the Club.” (*We note that MacMillan booted five in the Firsts the week before – there must have been a lot of organisers praying during that match that he didn’t roll an ankle.*) The day started well with the Reserves booting 9 goals to nothing in the third term to knock off the top side, and in the main game we struggled to an inaccurate win, 917 to 86, with MacMillan kicking four and **Don Bradshaw** (current player **Jamie Bell**’s uncle-in-law, or something like that, it’s all very confusing) being named as Best.



18/7/70: Pre-match warm-up: Rob Manser, David Hudson, Bill Tunbridge, Iain Ross, Richard Weibye, Cam MacMillan, Rob McGregor, Lachie Leishman, Don Bradshaw, “Horrie” Legoe and Peter Holland (plus two players obscured).

FROM HERE AND THERE

Nice note in from one of last year’s trainers, **Annie Dobson**. “Unfortunately I am not working at OGS this year as I am working full-time doing Physio at the Austin Hospital. It is a great place to work! How are the boys going? I am going to come down and watch a couple of games and will be checking on the website for all the social occasions. Will see you down at Como hopefully in the not too distant future.”

Apparently **Henry Legoe** had some trouble at the Crown complex on the weekend: after having a bit of fruitful flutter on the tables he thought it best that he head home. The boy from the country had great trouble in finding an exit amongst other of Crown’s great facilities. (*Given the amount of weight he has appeared to put on after his extended stay in the States over the summer we rather think he would have trouble getting through an exit anyway. – Ed.*)

Pathetic Really. After the list of players eligible for the **Team of the Half Century** went out with the Printed Newsletter last week, we had an abusive phone call from past player **Greig Carter** who was furious that he had not been on the list. After we finally convinced him that he had only played 27 games, rather than the 97 which he claimed, he was still not happy. Reckoned *his* 27 games were of much greater value than the hundred-plus efforts of many others.

Garbled report in that **Charles Fairbairn** is apparently embarking on a new career as a fireman and leaving his engineering studies. We wish him all the best.

Most of the folding and sorting and enveloping and insertion of inserts for the Printed Newsletter which went out shortly before Easter was done by **Michael Gretton-Watson**, but it wasn’t all plain sailing. He did the first 170 last Tuesday afternoon, out of about 500, and then took his own copy home to read with a glass of port after dinner. And it was then he realized on reading his newsletter that he’d forgotten to put in one of the enclosures in all 170 of the envelopes that he had already done. It has been suggested that, on the strength of that, he then consumed the rest of the bottle, before returning to work the next morning and having to re-open 170 envelopes and start all over again.

Player or Official Profile: no response from about five emails sent out to various players in the past couple of weeks (SETI and all that again), so it seems we’ll have to make good our threat of the past couple of weeks and fall back on Plan Z:

Player or Official Profile: Peter Lemon

Also known as: (to my face) Lemon. (Occasionally, if I am really lucky, Lemmo, Lemondo. And on one occasion recently, Slicer.) (Behind my back: depends how much I am pissing off the Committee at any given moment in time.)

Age: Even older than **Dale Fraser**. (See Weekly Webnotes dated 17 July 2003 - and there is significant debate as to the honesty of *his* contribution.)

Went to: Glamorgan, GGS, Melb Uni (studied law; hopefully GGS's careers guidance is better these days than then.)

Occupation: Have worked with adventure-travel company *Peregrine Adventures* since 1984; brochure preparation work and supporting information work, administration and clerical, photographic, private clients.

Lives in: Malvern, and **originally from** Malvern

Married/attached/available/desperate: Beyond hope (would require someone with very bad eyesight)

Career with OGS: Trainer for first couple of years. Also played 19 games over a few seasons, all in the Reserves (we did not have a Club 18 then). During that time took up boundary umpiring (following a Club vote and emergency meeting), which I have done with much enjoyment but decreasing speed over many years. (Think I am now close to 500 games but do not have written records to support this. Best days were when one could do two games on a Saturday with ease.) President in 1978 and 1979. Vice-President a couple of other seasons. Secretary eight seasons. Member of Committee many more. Registrations Secretary many years, on and off. Database Controller many years, off and on. Swept out rooms, unaided, 13,731 times. Wrote weekly C Section column for *Amateur Footballer* magazine for a number of seasons. Have written the Club Newsletter on and off for many years. (Very flattered to know that some people who played in the 1970s still have copies of the Newsletters I wrote at the time. **Phil Marendaz** (opposite, left, 66 games 1969-73) is one – he is a close friend of the **Betts Family** and apparently dredged out some of those Newsletters to show them not so long ago.

Awards at OGS (if any): *Best Clubman* - three occasions; *Life Member* of the Club - 197something; *VFA Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Service to Amateur Football* - 1987; *Australian Sporting Medal* - November, 2000, “in recognition for your services to Australian Footballwithin the Australian Honours System the medal has been created to recognize the contribution of both current and former sports participants and for those who have provided support services to sport.” (*The citation didn't specify, but one can only assume it was the last-mentioned category rather than either of the first two.* – Ed. Mind you, on second thoughts, that goal I kicked at Como was pretty ruddy good.)



Phil Marendaz at a one of the wilder OGS' parties of the time: suggestions that the police arrived five minutes later are unfounded.

Preferred playing position: Centreline – on the days I played it was usually because we did not have any wingers and were trying to avoid a forfeit.

Perceived football strengths: superb drop-kicks of massive distance (no kidding). (Before the groin went.)

Perceived football weaknesses: Webmaster **Roly Imhoff** has advised that the Club would have to pay an extra \$130 to double the size of the website, so until and unless this happens there is simply no room to answer this question.

Best players seen at OGS: There have been many extraordinarily talented players (offset by some bloody awful ones); a few of the best would include in no particular order: **Richard Whalley, John Manton, Terry Brown, Chris Mitchell, Mark Neeld, Matt Wilson, Bruce Spiden, Cullen Gunn, Dan Ritchie, Anthony Darcy, Stuart Higgins, Richard Weibye** (*I have doubtless missed a few, possibly many – applicants for the Supplementary List can email this publication on peter@peregrineadventures.com.*)

Highlight of Career:

*Watching the Reserves and Firsts both win Premierships on the same day in 1990 (and, as a non-player, being chaired aloft after the Firsts' win, and again at the celebrations later that evening). (Photos: *Jane, Anna or Kate Manton* (who doubtless apologise for the camera strap), as they then were.)



*Kicking three goals for the Reserves (over separate seasons. The one from near the tool-shed at Como almost took out a game of doubles at Royal South Yarra).

*Seeing some players who join the Club with little apparent ability or confidence slowly progress to become important members of the First 18.



Favourites:

Food: I am to Kit-Kats what heroin is to the Golden Triangle;

Music: Operetta; light classical; 1960s rock; Rod Stewart; Dire Straights; Mental as Anything. (At least one of these - and frequently two - remind me just a little bit of the Football Club);

Place: Zibalianja in northern Botswana;

Film: The Gods Must Be Crazy 1, Mad Max 2, Terminator II; Rocky Horror Show;

Fantasy: to live long enough to see the OGS in A section (I tried to arrange a couple of re-incarnations when last in Nepal, just in case), and the Cats win a flag (ditto);

Restaurant/pub etc: Gurkha's Cottage, Glenferrie Road, Malvern

League Club followed: Geelong (a difficult double when combined with the Old Geelong Football Club – rather like a lifetime of fire-walking on hot coals, and sleeping on a bed of nails)

Other major interests/hobbies: General photography. Wildlife photography, especially in Africa. The latter has been an overriding passion for many years. (I don't do many things well, but on occasions am a bloody good photographer.) Bushwalking and liking. Civil aviation history, especially that from between the two world wars, vintage and veteran aircraft (except when I throw up in them).

Achievements: climbing Kalar Patar (5545 metres) on three occasions in Nepal, Gokyo Ri (5360m) on two occasions, and The Tooth (4930m) above the holy lakes at Kopra. Crossing the Sahara desert from south to north (though not on foot). A significant number of other hiking and rafting expeditions.

If I could have any job in the world it would be: David Attenborough's.

As a child I really wanted to be (when I grew up): Taller and better looking. Spouse "one out of two ain't bad".

The thing I like most about myself is: If I say I am going to do something I can nearly always be depended and relied on to do it (perhaps and far too often to the point of absurdity).

What makes me cringe/angry is:

- People who have great ability in a particular field and don't use it;
- People who say that they are going to help around the Club in a certain capacity, large or small, and who don't;

- Able-bodied people who stand two-abreast on the hideously slow and narrow escalators at Museum Station preventing anyone else from getting past: that makes me FURIOUS.
- The memory of **Greig Carter's** throw-in when he was boundary umpiring one day at Como – who says “cheats never prosper” after we got that resultant goal?

Future plans – say for next three years: produce a book featuring some of my best wildlife photos (it would have been finished by now if it hadn't have been for the amount of time spent on the OGFC – instead I am now on Page 2); produce a book - it could be a slim volume - of my better writings, articles, poetry; spend plenty of time in Botswana and Namibia. Struggle to 500 boundary games this coming season. (The boundary-umpiring career nearly came to a sudden halt last year whilst in northern Bots: the following photos were *not* taken by me in August, but it *was* - and still is - my left foot):



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General Comment about how you see the Club:

Its strong points: At the moment Club has a (comparatively) strong, stable and committed administration for the first time in a few years, and a playing membership which has the capacity to go forward, especially if we can attract a few recruits of high standard this season;

Needs to improve/change: I still believe that no Club has an extended future without an Under 19s side (the input of a number of U19s players last year - who thought they would be playing under19s, but who thankfully stayed when they could not - has been a major reason why the Club has lifted); needs more officials and helpers, although there was big improvement last year; needs to understand it can't stop working, even for a minute during the off-season (Christmas Day, and Boxing Day until lunchtime, excepted.)