

Old Geelong Football Club

General Supporter, Pivot Club and Past-Player Notes

2012 Edition No. 1 - Feb

This is a mish-mash and a hotchpotch of items having some relation to the above categories. Whether there is much of a theme is another matter.

In the relatively short time since the previous edition of the notes (in comparison with my usual time-frames, it seems just like yesterday), there have been a number of developments around the place.



1) Pivot Club Lunches

With the Como Pavilion now back in the hands of its “rightful owners” (I exaggerate), the Pivot Club Lunches will return to Como this year. With the newly installed lift (*perhaps they heard about my knee and my back and my neck – Ed.*) taking up some of the upstairs space of old, we are not quite sure what the maximum possible numbers will be for these lunches. But we are fairly certain that you will need to get in quickly for the first one, which will be held on Saturday 19th May (Round 5), as the Guest Speaker will be **Frank Costa**, famed and former President of the **Geelong Football Club** from 1998 to 2010, both inclusive. (*Go Cats!*)

(Any truth in the rumour that **Herd’s Meats** will take over the meat side of the event, as usual, and the **Costa Group** the fruit and vegetable side?)

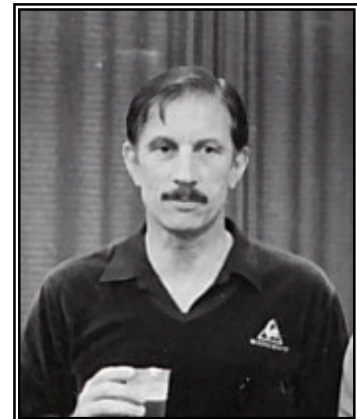
It is understood that more detailed information about the event, and booking procedures, and eligibility to attend, will appear on the Club website in a few weeks. The Committee is hoping to get Pivot Membership Renewal forms out shortly for the 2012 season.

2) On the subject of the Club Website

The President has undertaken a great deal of work on the site over recent months to make it easier to navigate (the new top row of the Social section photo-banner is particularly impressive, and should surely be good for a few recruits), and to ensure that where appropriate it contains information which is up-to-date. (Cricket Club please note.) We believe that the site is now looking really good, but if any readers have any thoughts or suggestions, or things they would like to see added, please get in touch with **Jim Legoe**.

One of the items in the directory entitled “**The Club**” is “**100 Game Players**”, and a longer-term project is to get up a photo of every one of the 80 players who have reached that mark for the Club over the years. Even if some of the photos of the people in question were taken a few years later, we think we have pictures of just about all of them. This will be done very gradually over coming months.

(**John Stephen**, right, photographed in 1983, was the first player to reach 100 games for the Club, in 1962.)



3) Returning to the subject of Pivot Club Lunches: **Then and Now**

You certainly wouldn't have had anything such as a Pivot Club Lunch at Como as it was back in **1988**. This photo was taken on the then-extensive upstairs balcony after the Reserves' Premiership win of that year (with their triumphant coach, one **Russell Parkinson**, finally having been prevailed upon to say a few words).



Below: 2011 (Thankfully by the time the building teams were ready to move in downstairs last year, it appears that Russell had finished his speech.)



(The Pivot Club was started by then-President **Michael Fraser** in 1980: for a number of years a Pivot Club Dinner was held annually, often across the road at the Tennis Club.)

4) Senior Assistant Coach

Last December the Committee announced the appointment of **Marcus Hastings** as our Senior Assistant Coach for 2012. Marcus will join the OGS in a playing and therefore unpaid capacity, having played at Old Scotch (A Section) and Jerilderie (Picola & District Football League) most recently.

“Being a teacher, Marcus has strong communication skills and is eager to learn the trade of coaching under the tutorship of **Frank Dunell** at the OGS.”

5) Pre-Season Training

Training – on hold from just before Christmas through January – resumed on 1 February.

(It is interesting looking through the year histories on the Club website - we are currently working on Seasons 1959, 1960 and 1961 – that training in those early years never started before mid-March.)

We advise newcomers to the Club that parking in the area is not without its dangers. These photos were taken last year, admittedly after the season had just started, by Club 18 player **Ben Cochrane** who returned to his car parked by Como Park North. To there find the following:



Still on the subject of training, whilst it is hoped that many players did plenty in the way of keeping fit over the break, we can report that a few of the lads took things very seriously, at least for a few days, here photographed after having completed a multi-day high-altitude trek into Machu Picchu in South America. Those featured are **Gus Macdonald, Jimmy Peterson, Jack McPherson** and **Nick O’Hare**. *(Well, we are assuming they did the trek; mind you, they could have taken the train to Aguas Calientes and then the bus that goes up the other side! - Ed.)*



6) **Thursday evening meals** have been on offer at Como for players over the past few years. (Or at the Rising Sun last year.) To encourage students, especially Under 19 players, within the Club, it has been announced that the Club hopes to provide such meals to these players at a significant discount this year.

7) **Matters arising from Previous Edition (2011 Edition 4, December)**

a) We mentioned that **James Cole** became engaged to **Ana Jens** last September, and we mused as follows:



“There was a **John Jens** who played for the Club back in the 1970s - furthest right in photo left, 1974: we wonder if there’s any relation?”

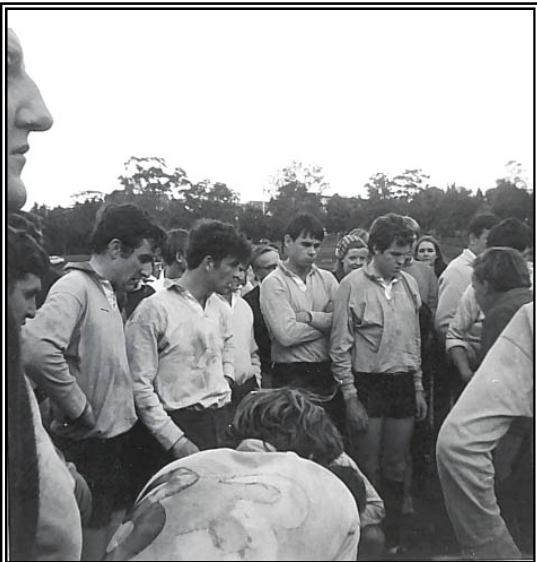
We’ve heard back from **James Cole** as follows, “You were right about **John Jens**, he *is* Ana’s Uncle who now lives in Perth; she emailed him and **he was very excited about the mention!**” (*As indeed you would be - Ed.*)

b) But **Mark Leslie** was **incensed** by the fact that we wrote on the section relating to his then-pending, subsequently-effected, marriage:

“As reported in some notes of last year, and in a highly romantic move, Mark apparently proposed to **Georgie Bain** while a spectator on the hill at Como Park **during a Firsts’ game** one Saturday afternoon back in 2010.”

He advises that the real truth of the matter was that it was **during a Club 18 game**. “Don’t like that they said it was during a Firsts game. It was Big A’s (**Mark Avery**’s) 200th game, in the White Knights.”

c) And we have heard from **Rod Brown**, originally from Queensland, now of Sorrento. who played 143 games 1967-1976. He was Reserves Best & Fairest in 1973, Captain of the Reserves the following year, and that’s him in the middle in the photo left, some time in 1968, and at the Eltham Barbeque in 1972.



Rod wrote: "Enjoyed your latest Notes of Old Players. I am just wondering whether "Old" is an appropriate word! We are really just "Older" or "Mature – aged".

"I think that I recently congratulated the Club on appointing an ex-Queensland great as the coach. If not, I do so now. Was I the first and last Queenslander to be involved in the OGS until Frank Dunell's appointment?"

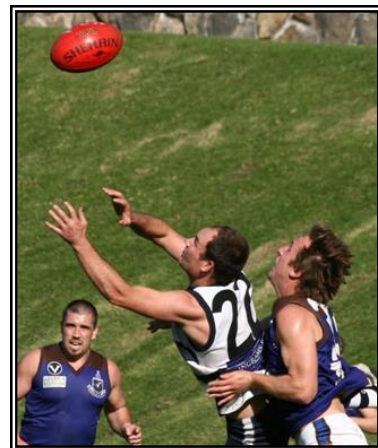


*We actually think that **Ted Gray**, seen coaching the Reserves in 1971 (85 games 1962-68, Committeeman 1966-68, Reserves Team Manager 1969, and Vice-President 1970-71) might well have come from Queensland, thereby beating you by a long way, Rod.*

Rod continues, "Recently I have played club golf with **John McConchie** (17 games 1966-67) at Rosebud Country Club. You should remember John, I think. He later umpired and had a career in teaching and used to do a lot of sailing out of McCrae.

"Sorry I missed the opening of the improved pavilion – it sounds impressive. I will have to drop in, in 2012." *(Well it's not the Taj Mahal, but it is certainly a vast improvement on what went before. - Ed.)*

Rod has also pointed out that he played schoolboy football in Queensland in the 1960s with a bloke called **Jim Pearson**, who went on to coach the OGS Reserves in 2000 and 2001. That's Jim coaching in photo right in 2001. (We also recognise **Nik Kemp** in the middle. And is that a young **Timothy Bayles** in the very left of picture? Trespassing into an area which is becoming increasingly sensitive for the Editor as well, we insert a couple of pictures from 2011, which might indicate a certain change of hairstyle in the ensuing decade.)



d) **We are not alone.** After a few of the comments in the last edition of these notes about the number of people connected with the Club who do, and those who do not, pay subscriptions, we received the following from someone who is the member of another organisation. Whose Annual Report included a note as follows: “Financial membership stands at approximately 220 although we have a number of additional past members who maintain an interest (300+) who do not pay their fees. **This is a chronic problem.**”
(Couldn't have put it better myself. – Ed.)

e) There has been contact from another past player of considerable note, **Gary Hudson**, who played 63 games from 1960 to 1968, and was a member of the 1966 Firsts Premiership team. (That's him, right of centre, at the very back.)



His email address arrived, scrawled on a crumpled piece of paper, via an intermediary, last December. And after a couple of months in its deciphering (the Egyptologists were very helpful), we were finally able to contact him. His response was,

“Hi Peter,

Great to hear from you after too many years! Yes, we have made the sea change to Deans Marsh which is on the north side of the Otways on the Deans Marsh to Lorne Road. I retired from manufacturing and in particular from making aircraft such as the F18s and Blackhawks etc. to making food-farming. Manufacturing is a lost cause and has been so for many years in the eyes of polities. ...

My knee is also stuffed and I think the time is drawing near when a knee replacement is required. They are painful when stuffed.

Great news that you are documenting the historical/hysterical moments of the OGGFC/OGFC, it makes interesting reading and thanks for the link.”

If ever you are this way, please drop in. We are 1.45 kilometres from Deans Marsh, on the Lorne side, and on the left (east side) of the road. An Aussie flag almost always flies in the front garden. Cherries are in-season from now (*mid-December*) until mid January, by the way.”

*(Unfortunately we missed the cherries this time round. - Ed. Maybe next growing season instead. Indeed, with a lot of our members usually in the Surf Coast/Lorne area around that time of the year, perhaps we can negotiate a special **OGFC Members' Discount** – such as, “**Buy 100 Punnets & Get One Free**”.)*

On the subject of the Surf Coast/Lorne areas, we can report that a number of past or present players participated in a some of the **Great Tests of Endurance, Courage and Character** on offer down that way in late December or January:

In no particular order:

Lorne Pier to Pub. Past Player **Bryan Grills** 20 mins 47 sec 197th - Senior Male category. *(We have no idea as to how many there were in that grouping, but we believe it to have been over 200.)*

Point Lonsdale/Ocean – Rip to River Run Immediate Past Player **Jon Malpas** (finished a very creditable 26th.)

Anglesea - Ramp to Rock Swim. Past Player/Past President, **John Manton** and his son **Eddie** both completed this gruelling 1.2-kilometre event in late December. We have not been advised which of them finished first. (Regardless, with that level of fitness, surely John could make a comeback, at least in the Club 18, for one or two games in 2012, to bring up his 100th.)

And we received the following from Past Player **Charles “Chuck” Atkins** who advised, “Managed to do the **Mountain to Surf Lorne** run with **James Hope-Johnstone** and **Tim Hope-Johnstone**. Also completed in the **Pier to Pub** the following day and had squeezed in the **Point Lonsdale** and **Sorrento Swims** – it was a busy summer on the circuit, Pete.”

(For details of his Cottesloe Beach to Rottnest Island 19.7-kilometre swim, see Past Player Notes of April 2010 - Edition 12 - on the OGFC Website.)

Of course there may have been others who competed in these races as well – if you did and want a much-coveted mention in these notes, please supply details for the next edition.

J H-J, T H-J and C “C” A under a brooding sky at Lorne



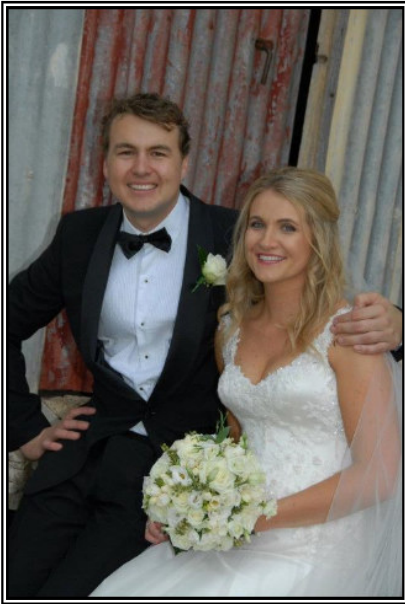
8) More Engagements, Marriages, Congratulations:

* Former 100-game player, Firsts Best & Fairest 2002, and member of the 2005 Firsts Premiership team **Matt Goldsworthy** became engaged to **Georgie Lyons** (Tom’s sister) between Christmas and New Year.

(Tom Lyons is still a current player and on present projections is expected to have a chance of maybe, possibly, playing his 100th game in Season 2026. – Ed.)



* One-season-wonder-of-2008 (but what a year it was) **Josh Young** and **Flavia Byers** were engaged just prior to Christmas.



* And **Lachie Herbert** married **George Macneil** just before Christmas.

(Lachlan Herbert and Tom Lyons are expected to play their 100th game on the same day.)

9) We are currently researching **Season 1959** as part of the attempts to document the Club's history on a year-by-year basis (see Club website and go to "The Club" and then "Year by Year History" for previous years already published). 1959 was the year that the Club played at a ground in Burnley "near Bullen's Circus", and there is very little material which we have to draw on. If any of our readers (note optimistic use of the plural) can contact us with any recollections of the season, the ground, etc., we would be very pleased and grateful.

10) It is interesting how often we get requests for an **aerial shot of Como Park**. Despite it being so much better than *Google Earth*, we rather think that this photo taken from a hot-air balloon, way back in 1987, might have outgrown current accuracy: we are going to try to arrange something more up-to-date in a couple of months' time, when the goal posts are up and the ground is marked.



If anyone has any information to submit for the next edition (or demands for corrections and/or threats of legal action - thank you, **Les**), please email **Peter Lemon** at peter@peregrineadventures.com

Photos this edition. 1966 not known, Machu Picchu supplied by **Nick O'Hare** (author unknown), some via **James Legoe** who extracted most of them from Facebook, one supplied by **Charles Atkins** (author unknown), the rest, **Peter Lemon**.

