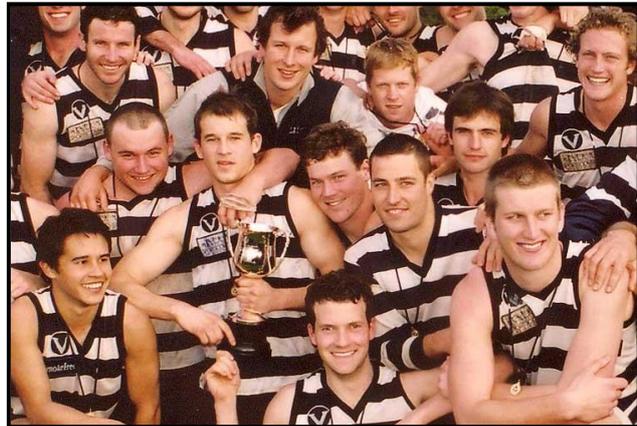


# The Old Geelong Football Club



## Printed Newsletter - April 2006

Welcome to Football Season 2006. This will be the first of three printed Newsletters to be produced and circulated to members during the course of the year. Whilst the **Club's website, [oldgeelong.com.au](http://oldgeelong.com.au)** enjoys a healthy following, with its regular updates on a weekly basis during the season, we are aware that there are some of our members (especially our senior and most revered members, Garth) who prefer to receive a *printed* Newsletter from time to time. On the other hand, the cost of printing and postage is a major consideration, so it's not a luxury we can allow all that often.

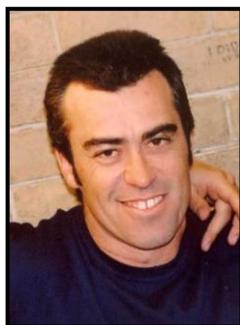


### President's Report: from **Mark Avery**

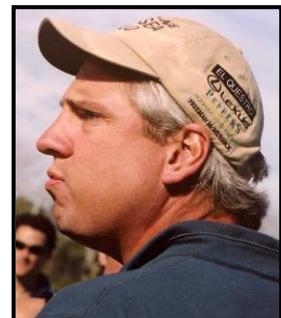
"The pre-season has come upon us very quickly after a bumper year in 2005. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Past President **Hamish Browning** who did a sterling job in steering the Club to its first senior premiership since 1990.

2006 has already seen some changes and achievements. As part of a major new initiative the Club is expanding into the field of Netball. We already have three official netball sides in the Prahran Netball Competition, with the promise of more to come later in the year. Additionally, in March, the Club had around 20 volunteers assisting with fence repair and replacement and fund raising in the Willaura Region, after the large-scale fires which swept through on Australia Day earlier in the year.

The challenge in 2006 is ahead of us and it is two-fold: firstly we need to ensure that we build again on our performance on the field from last year, secondly we need to continue to build our member base and ensure that they are kept informed with what we are doing around the Club.



As a club we are very lucky to have been able to reappoint all three of our coaches from last year. In **Michael Lockman** (left, starting his fourth season with the Club), **Michael Verge** (right, in determined mode) and **Henry Edgar**, we have all the necessary coaching skills to continue to improve and aim toward the finals in 2006. Perhaps the most important thing about these re-appointments is that it represents some consistency for the Club, something that has delivered us considerable success in the past few seasons. We are also lucky to have **Daniel Salter** taking an increased coaching role with the Club, assisting Michael Lockman both on match day and at training. Daniel has done a fantastic job throughout the pre-season already.



Our member numbers have been increasing over the past three years, and we hope this continues. **Graeme Goldsworthy** has again put up his hand to help promote the major member functions in 2006. The first of these will be a **Pivot Club lunch and flag unfurling** at Como in Round 4 (13<sup>th</sup> May). The Pivot Club will again be run by **Tom Seymour**, with **Sandy Hunter** and **John Manton** assisting where possible. The second event will be the Club's **Corporate Golf Day** which will be held at Barwon Heads on

Friday 4 August: last year's was a resounding success, and we hope to make this year's even bigger and better.

I would urge all past, present and potential members to become financial members of the Club, as we are on the way to achieving many great things, and your help greatly assists in this process. I look forward to seeing you at Old Geelong games this year, where hopefully the success can continue both on and off the field!"

*Mark Avery* (photographed right).



### From the **Assistant Senior Coach, Dan Salter:**

"Training has been up and running for eight weeks and numbers have been increasing every session. It has been fantastic to see some new faces down at the Club this year, which should go a long way to matching the loss of **Charles Fairbairn, Nick Betts** and **Matt Goldsworthy** who are all off overseas. There seems to be a slight Premiership hangover, however, with a few of the boys taking their time to get down to training, but perhaps this is not unusual for the OGS in any year. As long as we can commit to the same level of enthusiasm and determination as last year, Locky is of the belief the Club should have another successful year on the field. Two practice matches will have been completed by the time this Newsletter has been posted out, and some detail will be available on the Club's website."

### Using the Web

We would like to remind all members that the **Club's Website** is updated on a regular basis. We really do suggest and recommend that you use it as much as possible. Details of upcoming events, and reports of matches and events each week are far more current than much of the information we can include in occasional Printed Newsletters. (Memo to **Garth Manton** and **John Joyce**: we understand that the eagerly awaited publication *The Old Geelong Football Club Website for Dummies* will be available in all good bookshops shortly.)

### 2005

Did you miss the full reports of last year's double premierships day? The relevant Weekly WebNotes can be accessed on the Website, by going to the home page, then scrolling down the far right-hand column, to Weekly Notes. You should then hit the section entitled *Click here to view past editions of the Weekly Webnotes* and select the grand final edition.

### 2006

Enclosed is a copy of the Club's fixtures and social events for the season, along with contact details for senior officials and those of our major sponsors. Please remember that occasionally fixtures or ground locations change at short notice: any alterations will be noted on the website.

### Netball Teams

This year, a new initiative has been undertaken to establish teams with a direct connection with the OGFC. Initially raised and initiated last year by committeeman **Steve Hope-Johnstone** (whose daughter **Ginnie** is already a player), the venture is now being co-ordinated in Melbourne by **Jo Manifold** (jo\_manifold@hotmail.com or 0417554442) and the equivalent of the kick-off (*possibly the throw-up?* - Ed.) took place late March, just as this Newsletter was being completed. We now, initially, have three teams playing in A1, A2 and B1 divisions of the Prahran Netball League. A1 and A2 are playing on Tuesday nights, and B2 will be playing on Wednesday nights, all at the Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre, Prahran (at the corner of A'Beckett and Molesworth Streets, Prahran).



A netball uniform – thanks to the assistance of **Graeme Goldsworthy**, though not necessarily on the design side, has been created specially, and it is looking great - navy polo and navy skirt. Results of games played will be posted on the Club website, and progress reports will become part of the Weekly WebNotes. It is expected that an additional three or four sides will be entered in the second stage competition, which starts mid-year, taking our playing numbers up to at least 70. Potential players for this second stage are invited to contact Jo. The assistance of all those who have helped in setting up this venture is greatly appreciated.

In due course it is likely that a proposal will be put to a Special Meeting of the Club to change its name to the **Old Geelong Football and Netball Club**, with both sections operating in their respective fields as the Old Geelong Football Club and the Old Geelong Netball Club.



*Ginnie Hope-Johnstone (James' and Tim's sister), Sam Wilson, Annie Legoe (Jim & Henry's sister) Tori Cavanagh, Alex Peterson, Lizzie Alder, and Phoebe Connell just before their first game*

### **Unfurling of Premiership Flags from 2005**

The first **Pivot Club Lunch** of the year will take place at Como on **Saturday 13 May**, and during the day the two Premiership Flags from last season will be unfurled. The lunch will also include the auction of four framed Old Geelong jumpers, two of each team, signed by all members of the Firsts and Reserves premiership teams respectively from 2005. Regrettably, at this stage details of costs and a possible guest speaker for the lunch have still not been finalised: as soon as they are available they will be posted prominently on the Club's website. In the meantime enquires and expressions of interest in attending can be directed to any of the following:

**Lachie Stevens** on 0419 350721; **Graeme Goldsworthy** on 0411 147337; or **Sandy Hunter** on 0418 324851.

### **Premiership Team Reunions**

2006 marks **50 years** since the Club's first Premiership win (D Section, which is where we are now), and **40** since the double Premierships of 1966 (D and D Reserve, which is where we are now). It is hoped to organise a reunion of those sides to coincide with the Pivot Club Lunch to be held at Como Park on **Saturday 15 July**. Precise details of the event are not yet available, but we do hope that readers who played in those teams will set the day aside now - you can expect to hear from the Club in the next month or so in this regard.

### **Club Corporate Golf Day - Friday 4 August**

Last year an extremely successful corporate golf day was held at the Barwon Heads Golf Club. It was a highly enjoyable occasion for the many who took part, and an important fundraiser for the Club. Another such event has been lined up for this year as we seek to build on the exceptional success of last year's program. Teams of four can be entered through **Graeme Goldsworthy** or **Sandy Hunter**, and in addition to the main event there will be a number of terrific incentives, prizes and auction items available, along with a light lunch and evening meal. Further details will appear in due course on the Club website, but initial enquiries can be directed to Graeme on 0411 147337 or Sandy on 0418 324851.

## Premiership Team Photos

Team photos of last year's Firsts and Reserves premiership teams are now available. Unframed (A3 size, mounted on cardboard backing, with printed details: names and finals scores): cost is \$18. In addition, frames are available at \$50. Postage and delivery on application. Orders and enquiries should be directed to **Simon O'Brien** on 0407 180538 or by email to [Simon.O'Brien@team.telstra.com](mailto:Simon.O'Brien@team.telstra.com). And there are also still a number of DVDs available of last year's Grand Final matches well.

## Bushfire Relief Weekend

On the weekend of 17-19 March, about 20 players and members of the Old Geelong Football Club travelled to the Willaura region to donate their time and muscle in aid of repairing some of the damage caused by the Grampians Bush Fires in January this year. In addition to the contribution of 16 labour volunteers for 1½ days, which removed over ten kilometres of ruined fence lines and partially built over four kilometres of new fencing, about \$2,500 cash was raised for the "Grampians Region Bush Fire Appeal".



We would like to thank the following companies and individuals for their

sponsorship, cash, food and equipment donations: Louis Dreyfus Australia, AWB Landmark, Tap Productions, Opis Capital, Intandem, Herds Meats, Southern Quality Produce, Blue Ribbon Grains, RV Broadbent & Sons, UMS, the VFF, Peregrine Adventures & Gecko's Adventures per Peter Lemon, Sandhurst GC, ESP, Emma & Tom's Fruit Juices, Julie and Simon Cole, Mike and Vicki Stevens, Catherine Bell, Barry Lansdell, Mark Avery, Tom Betts, Simon O'Brien, Steve Lansdell, Nick Casbault, James Hawker, Henry Legoe, James Kilpatrick, Greg Allen, Will Paul, Lachie and Skye Stevens, Charlie Stevens and James Cole. For those who happen to have a copy handy, the *Weekly Times* of 29 March features an article about the Club's efforts (even if it didn't quite get the Club's name totally correct). Any additional donations can be made to the Old Geelong Football Club Inc. or at any ANZ bank to "The Grampians Bush Fire Appeal". Please also register your pledge with the Old Geelong Football Club, by contacting Lachie Stevens (0419 350 721, [stevensl@louisdreyfus.com.au](mailto:stevensl@louisdreyfus.com.au)).

## OGFC Sponsors

Sponsors form an integral and extremely important part of the Club's fundraising initiatives, and we point out that their contributions are not just a donation. It is most important that Club members support our sponsors whenever and wherever possible.

It would be interesting to go back through the Club records – some of which have been kept well, others of which have not – and check the number of seasons in the last 30 where **Bennison Mackinnon Carmichael** have been our major sponsor. At a guess it would probably come in at about 25. Past players **Richard Mackinnon** (24 games, 1973-4), **Andrew McCann** (37 games 1997-9) and **Iain Carmichael** (10 games 1976) are our direct contacts at Bennisons, and we do ask any members considering selling real estate in the Melbourne or Macedon areas to get in touch with them – and most importantly to advise that you are connected with the OGFC.



We also welcome back our other major sponsors. The **Prince Alfred Hotel** in Church Street, Richmond, is well known to many of our readers, and is apparently still celebrating its record takings for food and drink from last September's OGS Grand-Final night celebrations. **Urban Maintenance Services**, thanks to **Sam Furphy** and **Cam Walker**, and with the invaluable assistance of **Dale Fraser** (all past players of unquestioned ability) have been of considerable assistance to the Club, as has design and printing company **Tap Productions** under the control of **Gary Fawcett** (they produce many of our publications). Another past player is **Nick Strauss** of **Northern Motor Services** who now demonstrates considerably more pace off the field in his range of new and fine used cars than he managed on it. And again, courtesy of **Michael Davis** and **LoAn Tran**, we have **Jester's The Jaffle Pie Company** of 55 Swanston Street in the city (and of the OGS canteen on Thursday nights after training, and on match-days at Como), proving that a huge range of pies can be both delicious and healthy at the same time.

### **Changes at Como – sometime, never?**

We had understood from the Council that, at long last, the extensive renovations and improvements downstairs at Como were going to be effected at the end of the coming football season. As a matter of top priority. The current facilities downstairs, both for home and visiting sides, have been little short of appalling for some years, and we had been looking forward to the long-promised improvements with a considerable sense of anticipation. Unfortunately we have been advised just recently that the work has yet again been put on hold for at least another 12 months after that! It has also been suggested that the surface at Como is going to be substantially replaced and improved at the end of the current season football season. It is hoped that no-one is holding their breath.

### **Finances**

Last year it cost over \$97,000 to run the OGFC. We hope that people receiving this Newsletter will make a point of paying subscriptions promptly to assist in raising the necessary funds for 2006. Subscription notices for non-players are enclosed.

### **2006 Subscriptions (and the OGFC Pivot Club)**

Subscription notices for non-playing members of the Club are enclosed. We ask members to make their payments as soon as possible, and preferably at Pivot Club level to become a member of our main support and coterie group.

Back in 1980, the then President of the OGFC **Michael Fraser** and his Committee established the Pivot Club. The intention was three-fold:

- \*it was to provide a platform largely for past players of the OGFC to get together on an occasional basis and to be kept informed of the doings of the Football Club;
- \*it was to enable those members to keep up-to-date with news of their contemporaries;
- \*it aimed to help raise funds each year to assist the Football Club with its operations and to help with the obtaining of capital items.

In the 1990s, the emphasis changed a little, with a once-a-year mainly male-only dinner being replaced by lunches held at Como about three times a season. In addition to past players, many parents, sponsors and other friends of the Football Club became involved as well, in a significant diversification.

With the expansion of the OGFC family and the move into the Netball area, it is envisaged that there will be room for considerable further increase, and we do invite all recipients of this Newsletter to join up as members of the Pivot Club.

However, if feel you are not able to join the Pivot Club, your social membership is also shown on the attached form.