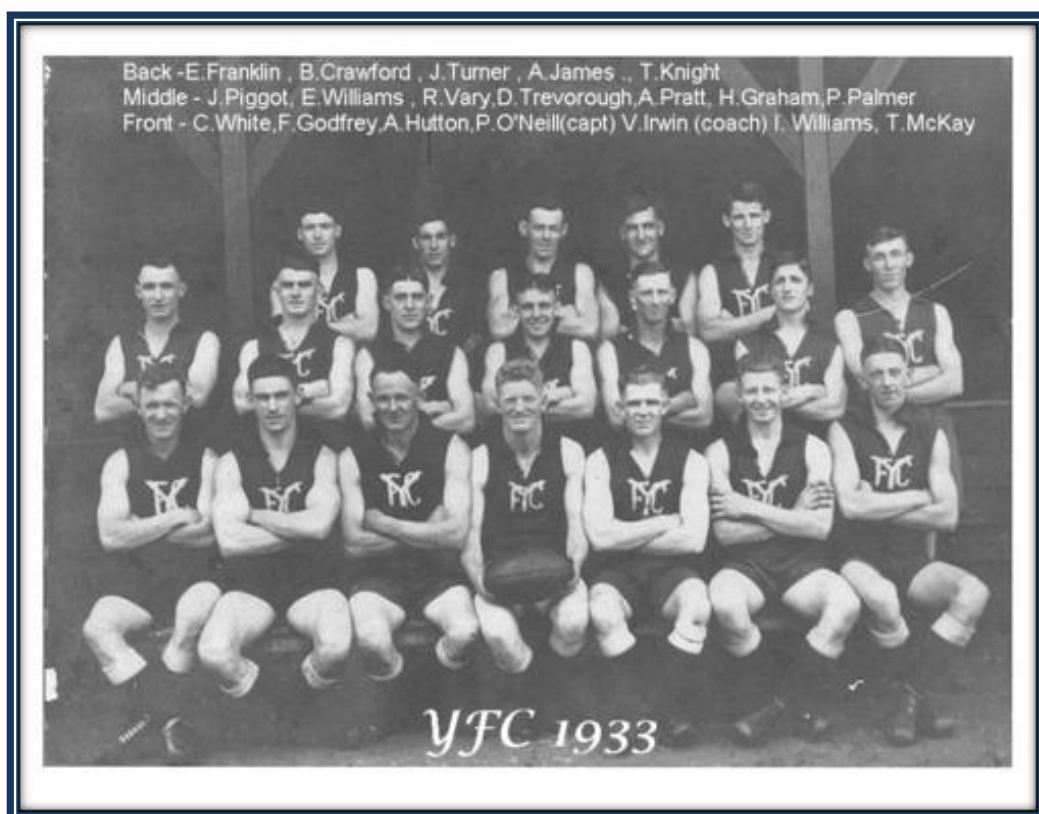


VIRTUAL YALLOURN
'FROM THE NEWSPAPERS'
YALLOURN FOOTBALL CLUB

1933

A SEASON TO REMEMBER



PREMIERS OF THE GFL

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

1933

A SEASON TO REMEMBER

FOR YALLOURN FC



Yallourn's triumphant coach and former Essendon champion - Vin Irwin

It wasn't long after Sir John Monash turned the first sod to commence the SECV's ambitious project at Yallourn, that the Yallourn Football Club came into being. Wherever there are men, such as in the camps at Yallourn, one will usually find a football match, of some code, being played. Consequently, with hundreds of workers being employed in the Yallourn Project, it was only a matter of time before (i) a football team was formed and (ii) matches between neighbouring towns were organized.

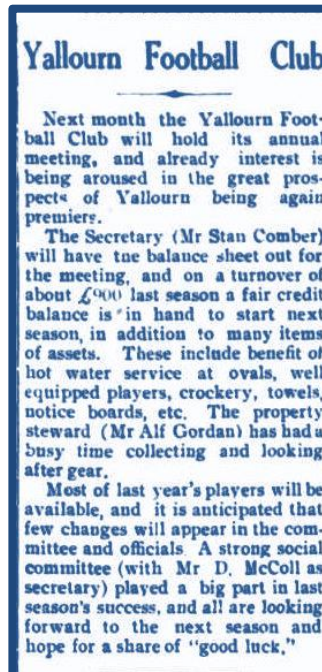
Yallourn Football Club was founded in 1922; and, under the leadership of Pat Kennelly (later to become a Senator in the Australian Parliament), the club won its first premiership in 1925.



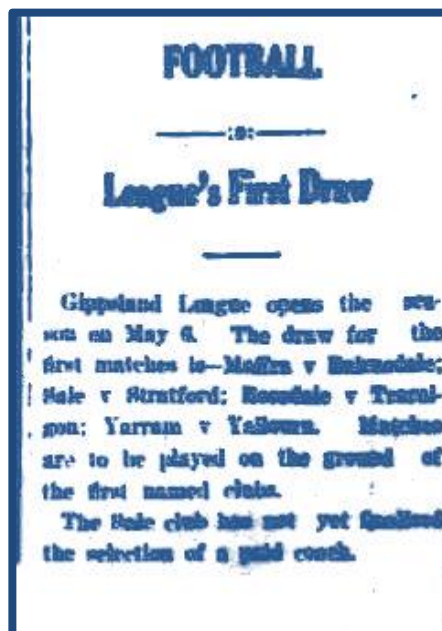
Pat Kennelly – Yallourn's first premiership coach

In the period 1922-1940, the club won eight flags including a hat trick of flags in 1931-32-32. This was Yallourn Football Club's 'Golden Era'; and the like of which would never be repeated.

Not only did the YFC win the widespread admiration of country football followers in that period but also many of the club's players etched their name into the record books for their 'on and off' the field contribution in building and strengthening YFC.



Details of the Yallourn Football Club's AGM in 1933.



The first round of football in the Gippsland Football League for 1933 gives an indication of the participating teams that season.

- Maffra v Bairnsdale; Sale v Stratford; Rosedale v Traralgon; Yarram v Yallourn.
- The above details of the opening draw also give readers some idea of the long distances that Yallourn FC travelled during 1933 to play away matches.

The following newspaper extract was published in the 'Morwell Advertiser' and described the mighty battle that transpired between Maffra and Yallourn in the 1933 Gippsland FL Grand Final at Traralgon. The name of the scribe is unknown but his/her review of the game gives an excellent pen picture of the game; and the match report is a most valuable record in Yallourn's sporting history.

In a thrilling last quarter, Yallourn wrestled the lead from Maffra and 'hung on' to record an unforgettable victory. As stated in the newspaper article, Yallourn's 'hero of the hour' was skipper Peter O'Neill who led his team in exemplary style that day.

SEPTEMBER 28th 1933 **PAGE: 8**
MORWELL ADVERTISER
FOOTBALL
Gippsland League Final.
Yallourn Again Premiers

Delightful weather favoured the grand final match in connection with the Gippsland League, which was staged at Traralgon on Saturday last, when Yallourn once more demonstrated their superiority by defeating Maffra, after a hard fought brilliant game that was marked by dashing and dazzling play on both sides, that provided no ends of thrills and plenty of excitement. The ground presented quite a picture. The playing arena was covered with a beautiful green sward of grass and had the appearance of an immense billiard table. It was surrounded by motor cars, in some places three deep, in front of which were rows of onlookers. The grandstand on the west side was also crowded and altogether the sight was a rare and animated one.

A special train from the Spark town was crowded and the steam horse was gaily decorated. Quite a number also travelled per motor cars and motor buses. Morwell, Hazelwood, Latrobe, Warragul and other places being well represented. Another special train from Maffra brought a large contingent of **sugar beeters**, whilst Sale and Rosedale were in strong force. In addition, Traralgon "wife and family" were there, the result of the combination being gate receipts of £131. The crowd was very orderly and well behaved, and excellent service was rendered by the police in directing the traffic to and from the ground.

It was the opinion of many club delegates of the League that Traralgon would not be able to raise a decent gate, but with everything in their favour on this occasional-typical weather and such evenly matched teams, as Yallourn and Maffra, to do battle - is it any wonder that the gate takings were large? Those gentlemen should be now quite satisfied that this end of the League can rise

to the occasion when given the opportunity , just as well, if not better, than those at the other end.

One frequently hears the oft-repeated tale about Yallourn being always able to get a strong team together, as a man has only got to be a good footballer and he will be found a decent job. That sort of talk is all 'moonshine' and carries no weight whatever with any fair-minded thinking individual. It will be something for these people to learn that among the players in the Yallourn team this season, are about ten footballers who have played in the Morwell-Mirboo Association a few seasons ago.

It can honestly be said that since Yarram and Yallourn joined the Gippsland League, the standard of football has greatly improved, and the following these teams always have, will compare with any of the other teams.

Both competing teams on Saturday were right in the pink of condition, and Yallourn stood up to the hard and strenuous tussle better than Maffra, especially in the closing stages of the last quarter. There were no dull moments, and four boundary umpires were engaged. It turned out to be one of the best contested matches seen on the Traralgon ground for many long years.

The fine performance put up by Yallourn in the last 15 minutes of the final term, was freely commented upon. But the lads from the 'Spark' town are noted for the way they finish off the last quarter, and their great effort in the grand final, saw them true to the latter.

Aided by a fairly strong breeze, which favoured the northern goal, Maffra soon sent the leather goal-ward. From a free to Col Mahoney Shaw played but the shot was taken by Trevorah, who returned. A few more fine rallies by Maffra were repulsed by Hutton. Fine play by Pollard, gave Col Mahoney a chance and he booted Maffra's first goal.

From the bounce D. Williams sent-up to J. Turner but the latter's shot went out of bounds. A lot of fast up and down play followed. Yallourn then had a chance to score but the Maffra back line were right on the job and drove them back.



Yallourn's famous captain - Peter O'Neill

'Peggy' O'Neill (better known as Cockey down this way) was putting in a lot of useful work for Yallourn, aided by Graham; and Alan Hutton was also a tower of strength. Maffra then came along to score their second goal, by W. Mahoney, and another shot went out. Yallourn then came to light with a point, by J. Turner, and the same player snapped another single on the kick off. Kiernan from a free soon after, added another.

A fine rally by Maffra, brought the leather within distance, and Quirk collecting, added Maffra's third goal. Sam Barrett (Maffra) was playing at his top, and frequently repulsed many attacks. Maffra again took a turn and Scoones sent a long kick through for full points.

Maffra's accuracy in shooting for goal up to this stage was splendid - four goals, without a single. Yallourn, however, did not seem to be able to get properly into their stride, whilst Maffra were playing a most determined game. However, a splendid bit of play by Yallourn, gave them an opening, and Crawford, from a free on the boundary, kicked their first goal, which was greeted with cheers.

A lot of give and take play followed, but eventually Yallourn broke away, but Davis marked finely. On the rebound Scoones played up to Orton for Maffra's only single for the term. A free to I. Williams stopped a Maffra drive by Phelan then H. Crawford sent Yallourn over the centre to J. Turner for a point. Scores at quarter time:

Maffra 4-1: Yallourn 1-4.

From the bounce in the second quarter Yallourn (favoured with the breeze) soon moved up and J. Turner with an open goal, was only equal to a point. Alan Hutton (always reliable) stopped a Maffra counter-attack, then Cameron to Kerr, was blocked by T. Knight. J. Pickett, who was playing a slashing game, sent Yallourn in again, but a free to Young eased the pressure. Then Yallourn came with a rare dash and A. James accounted for a goal.

Some nice football followed on both sides, which resulted in Orton connecting on Quirk and on went another sixer for Maffra. J. Piggott sent well down on the bounce, and Trevorah with a hurried shot added a single for Yallourn. The attack was renewed, and after some really smart and tricky play, H. Crawford did the necessary.

Yallourn were now forcing the play, and soon had their defenders hard pressed, and breaking through after a time, J. Turner (who was closely watched), added a goal. Still Yallourn prevailed with the good work, and through the efforts of 'Cockey' O'Neill, a beautiful goal was got by V. Irwin. Three goals in as many minutes, was followed by a fourth a minute later as J. Piggott connected with H. Trevorah. This put the big following of

supporters of Yallourn in great heart, and they earnestly urged their team along, and it evidently had the desired effect.

Yallourn sent the leather up again for still another sixer from the crush. Maffra then rallied and a single was scored, but T. Burley went one better a little later, by registering a goal.

Maffra appeared to be tiring after the hard and strenuous going, whereas the Yallourn men hung on manfully. Yallourn came along for a point, and H. Crawford then raised the twin flags, and the same player after many exchanges, got another point. This was the last score for the quarter, and when the bell rang for the long interval, Yallourn were 18 points to the good, the scores being:

Yallourn: 8-8 - Maffra: 6 -2.

Maffra lost the services of their captain (Sam Barrett), who had the misfortune to injure his shoulder in the second quarter, and his place was taken by E. Teychenne. Yallourn also had to bring in their 19th man (V. Irwin) in the first quarter.

Maffra put up a splendid exhibition in the third quarter, and having the breeze to aid them, they made the most of it.

Playing with a lot of dash, intermixed with plenty of smart exchanges, they scored 6-6 to Yallourn's two points. Mahoney Bros., Quirk, Pollard, Noble, Scoones and Birrell were very conspicuous players for Maffra in this term, and 'Cockey' O'Neill, A. Hutton, J. Piggott and E. Williams shone out for Yallourn. At the last change-over, Maffra had a handy lead of 22 points, the score board showing:

Maffra: 12-8 -Yallourn: 8-10.

The opening of the last quarter witnessed a great struggle for supremacy. Maffra threw themselves into the fray on the bounce, and a goal to Scoones put them 28 points in the lead. Then Yallourn came with their usual last quarter dash, but the Maffra's defenders kept them out for a long period. In fact, nearly half the quarter had gone, with little impression being made.

Then 'Cockey' O'Neill (a trustworthy skipper) made several changes in his team's ranks, which altered things considerably. 'Cockey' set his men a fine example and broke through first himself for a much-needed goal. This had the desired effect, as goals were shortly added by A. James and H. Trevorah. Mahoney then had a try for Maffra, but nothing resulted.

With only a few minutes to go, and excitement at fever heat, J. Turner, with a beautiful long kick on the grand stand wing, set both flags waving, that gave Yallourn a lead of 5 points, which they held till the ringing of the final bell. It

was a great effort by Yallourn, and we heartily congratulate 'Cockey' O'Neill and his gallant men on their victory.

Final scores:

YALLOURN: 13-14 (92 points)

MAFFRA: 13- 9 (87 points)

As the Yallourn players left the ground, the Traralgon and District Brass Band struck up with 'See the Conquering Heroes Come' and the players received many congratulations. McDermott acted as central umpire in a capable manner.

Goal-kickers & Best Players:

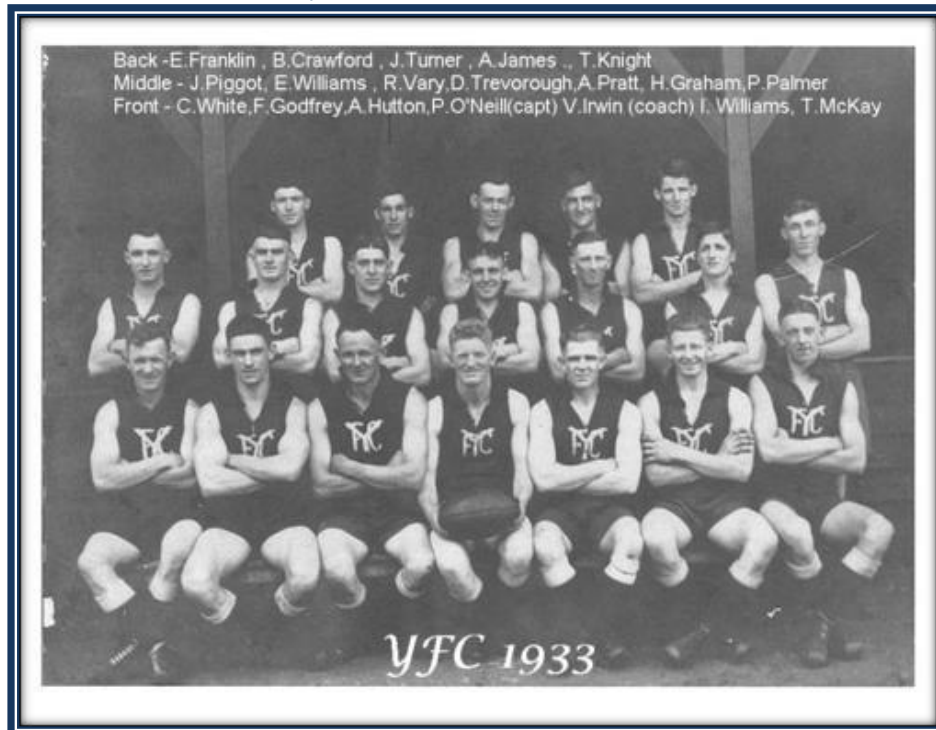
Yallourn: H. Crawford 3; P. O'Neill, J. Turner, R. Trevorah and A. James 2 each and V. Irwin 1.

Maffra : Quirk 3; Birrell, Scoones, Burley, W. Mahoney 2 each; Orton and C. Mahoney 1 each.

On the winning side: J. Piggott, A. Hutton, P. O'Neill and H. Crawford were about the pick of a clever combination and they were ably backed up by the Williams' Bros. L. Kiernan, H. Graham, R.Trevorah and Franklin.

On the losing side: B. Kerr, J. Scoones, E Orton, M. Phelan, C. Shaw, Mahoney Bros, G. Davis, S. Barrett (till injured) and Birrell all worked hard to avert defeat.

THE 1933 PREMIERSHIP TEAM.



Back row: E. Franklin, B. Crawford, J. Turner, A. James, T. Knight

Middle row: J. Piggot, E. Williams, R. Vary, D. Trevorah, A. Pratt, H. Graham, P. Palmer

Front row: C. White, F. Godfrey, A. Hutton, P. O'Neill (Captain), V. Irwin (Coach), I. Williams, T. McKay

NOTES ON THE GAME & THE 1933 SEASON

1. As mentioned earlier, the clubs that comprised the Gippsland League in 1933 were Yallourn, Maffra, Bairnsdale, Sale, Traralgon, Rosedale, Stratford and Yarram. The aspect of YFC travelling such long distances, to play 'away games', must have been an issue of concern during those austere and troubled times of the Great Depression.
2. Yallourn's delegates to the Gippsland Football League in 1933 were: S. E. Comber and J. Ross.
3. A fact that has faded with the passage of time is that Yallourn entered the Gippsland Football League in 1932. In that initial season, Yallourn defeated Maffra to take the pennant.
4. 1933 was another year of promise for Yallourn but Sale FC, with its powerful line-up, had taken all before it and was rightly regarded as the favourites to win the GFL flag that year.
5. The 'road to glory' for YFC was challenging as Yallourn had to overcome the highly fancied Sale team in the Second Semi-Final at Maffra. In a game that was described as a 'ding-dong' battle by a local newspaper, the result was a draw with each team kicking 10.11.71. Yallourn was well served by Jack Piggott, Tom Knight, I. Williams, E. Franklin, Bert Crawford, Vin Irwin and Jack Turner who kicked three goals.
6. In the replay (again at Maffra) on the following Saturday, Yallourn, stirred by another brilliant display by Jack Turner (5 goals), broke the shackles; and in the second half of the match and won by 29 points. Yallourn's best players were listed as: Godfrey, Crawford, Knight, O'Neill, Turner, Irwin and White. It was a long trip home that night but, with a premiership in their sights, the players would have had lots to talk about as they nursed their tired and sore limbs.
7. The 1933 Grand Final was not only an important event for the two competing clubs (Yallourn and Maffra) but it was an opportunity for the people of Traralgon to put their town's sports arena on public display. As referred to in the above extract, Traralgon FC passed every test in sponsoring such an important sporting event. It is stated that the playing surface of the oval was like a veritable 'billiard table top.'
8. In the years to come, the attention given to by the Traralgon FC, on that Grand Final day in 1933, was to become 'part and parcel' of the club's approach in all football matters. TFC would become a powerful and highly organized club that 'tasted success' on a regular basis.
9. For a town that generated electricity, the sobriquet 'Spark Town' was relatively straightforward to appreciate. Maffra, on the other hand, was called the 'Sugar-beeters' (in paragraph: 3 of the above match review).

The name had been acquired due of the fact that 1897 a sugar beet factory was established in 1897 in Maffra.

10. It is documented that, in 1898, some 500 tons of sugar were produced at the Maffra factory. (Note: The Maffra Sugarbeet Company operated until 1948).
11. The gate receipts of £131, at the 1933 Grand Final, were substantial and, in today's currency, equates to approximately \$12,790 (dollars).
12. Considering the severe economic situation that had gripped the nation at that time and the downturn in rural areas, it again illustrates the power of football to draw a large crowd.

UMPIRE MCDERMOTT

13. Although no first name is given in the above match report, the umpire of that game was probably Francis McDermott. Francis was a member of the VFL panel from 1930 until 1938; and was appointed as a central umpire in 26 VFL senior matches in that period.
14. Francis McDermott's best season appears to have been in 1937 when he was the central umpire in eleven VFL matches. Francis would have also umpired fixtures in other major country and suburban leagues during his career. According to the above review, Francis was deemed to have umpired in a 'capable manner' in that GFL Grand Final.
15. In those days, there was one central umpire. However, as stated above, the fact that four boundary umpires officiated in the 1933 GFL Grand Final was quite a 'trailblazing' innovation in Australian Rules football.

THE YALLOURN TEAM

16. The Yallourn team that day in 1933 included: Peter O'Neill, Carl White, Fred Godfrey, the Williams brothers, John Turner, Bert Crawford, Hugh Graham, Allan Hutton J. Pickett, Len Kiernan, Tom Knight, E. Franklin, Jack Piggott, A. James, Vin Irwin and R. Trevorah.
17. Other players known to have represented Yallourn during the 1933 season were: Percy Palmer, R. Vary, Tom McKay, A. Lazarus, N. Godridge, A. Pratt, R. Smith and E. Harry.

THE MAFFRA TEAM

18. The Maffra list for 1933 included : R. Noble (c), R. Westwood, Sam Barrett, Gordon Davis, Frank Quirk Dave Birrell, Mick Phelan, Bob Kerr, W. Mahoney, J. Mahoney, G. Withell, E. Teychenne, Col Mahoney, Reg Kerr, Leo Young, L. Fleischer, Dick Pollard, Tom Burley, Bill Cameron, Cam Shaw, W. Lestrangle, N. Comben, Jim Scoones, Ellis Orton and Emmett Lanigan.

NOTES ON THE YALLOURN FC PLAYERS

1. JACK 'JOCK' TURNER



Jack Turner (born 1909). Although not widely known, Jack played one VFL game for Essendon in 1930; and despite kicking two goals his VFL debut hardly 'raised an eyebrow.' However, in his role as the Yallourn full forward in 1933, he wrote his name into the annals of country football when he broke the Gippsland League record that season for goal-kicking.

Jack was known throughout Gippsland as the 'champion forward' and his exploits were reported in 'Weekly Times'...

"YALLOURN MAN'S RECORD JACK TURNER, of Yallourn, headed the Gippsland League goal-kicking list with 116, breaking the existing record held by Ian McLean, of Bairnsdale, who in 1930 had 111 goals for the season."
'Weekly Times' August 26th 1933 Page: 65.

In that season, Jack kicked 28 goals against Bairnsdale. The scores that day were: Yallourn 53.27 (345) defeated Bairnsdale 6.7. (43). Yallourn's listed goal kickers that day were: Turner 28, Graham 6, Pratt 4, Crawford 4, Knight 2, Franklin 2.

Although several sources refer to Jack kicking 116 goals in the 1933 season, not one report appears to take into account the 10 goals that he kicked in the three finals matches that season. In all, his tally was 126 goals. According to all available records, Jack Turner is the **only YFC player** to have kicked a 'ton' in one season.

In October 1933, Jack Turner, then known as the 'champion goal kicker of Yallourn' was seriously injured in a motor accident in Melbourne. Apparently, the incident occurred on the same day that Jack had started work with the Melbourne Gas Company.

Jack was tempted to play for Sale in 1934 but returned to Yallourn where Vin Irwin was coaching that season. In next to no time, Jack hit his straps and was back to his brilliant best in front of goals...

“Yallourn Goal-kicker Jack Turner, of Yallourn club, the Gippsland League's champion goal kicker, who at one time played for Essendon has struck top form early. In two matches played he has kicked fifteen goals, securing seven out of a total of ten registered by his team against Rosedale. Prior to the start of the season Turner was working at Sale and though that club had hopes of retaining him, his love for his old team was uppermost and he returned to Yallourn. Another former Essendonian Vin Irwin, is playing coach of Yallourn.” Source: ‘Weekly Times’ June 2nd 1934 Page: 61

Jack won the GFL goal-kicking trophy again in 1934. Sadly, Jack died in March the following year. The ‘champion of Yallourn’ died as a result of a tragic road accident ...

“Cyclist’s Injuries Fatal....Yallourn ... Friday. Jack Turner aged 27, an electric welder, died in the Yallourn Hospital last night from injuries received when a motor-cycle he was riding crashed into a stationary transport in Railway Avenue early on Thursday morning.” ‘The Argus’ March 9th 1935 Page: 30.

Jack’s death was indeed a shock to all and hit his teammates at YFC and the people of Yallourn very hard. The dreadful news also reverberated throughout Gippsland. The following tribute to Jack was an indication of depth of feeling by many for the loss of one of the greatest footballers that ever played in Gippsland...

“Condolences ...it was with feelings of profound regret that all associated with this league learned of the death of the popular and capable and gentleman, Mr Jack Turner. On and off the field he was an ornament to the gamehis example of a player must ever prove of value to all who play the game and as a pattern to be copied, he left nothing desired...” Source: ‘The Gippsland Times’ April 1st 1935.

2. FRED GODFREY

FRED GODFREY (born: 1911) was a champion ruckman for Yallourn; and in 1938 played six VFL games with Footscray. Fred made his debut for Footscray against South Melbourne at the Lake Oval in Round: 1, 1938. Fred was 26 years of age and kicked one goal that day.

Fred’s last VFL game was against Geelong at the Corio Oval in Round: 6; and, although there is no proof, it **may** have been that case that Fred did not apply for further permits to play for Footscray that season.

On the 5th April 1939 'The Age' reported that Fred had been offered £3 (pounds) per week to play with Brighton in the VFA .It is known that Fred accepted the offer and played with the bayside club that season....

“FRED GODFREY, who played with Footscray last year, has been guaranteed 20 matches at £3 a match with Brighton for this season. Godfrey has been training there, and is inclined to accept.” Source: ‘The Age’ April 5th 1939.

A few days later, the newspaper reported that Fred had starred for Brighton...

“Fred Godfrey, from Footscray, was outstanding among Brighton's big men. Marking and handling the greasy tall with ease. When resting in a forward pocket his work was cool and effective.” April 8th 1939.



Yallourn's Fred Godfrey at Footscray FC

Caption: IN FOOTSCRAY club rooms last night — Joe Kelly (left), the coach, discussing next Saturday's game with members of his team. They are (from left) Fred Godfrey, Bob Flannigan, Arthur Olliver, Jack Greenham, Arthur Clay, Albert Morrison and Norman Ware.

Fred Godfrey was just one of many talented Yallourn players who found their way to VFL Senior XVIII football over the years. Others included: Peter Cook (Melbourne), Tom Garland (Richmond), Ken Williams (Collingwood), George Card (Geelong), Colin Dell (Footscray), Jim Shaw (Melbourne), Syd Tate (Geelong), Leo Hillis (Footscray), Jack Sambell (Melbourne), John Paice (Carlton), John Hutchinson (Fitzroy), Doug Williams (Carlton), Bill Green (Essendon), Stan Attenborough (North Melbourne), Don Benson (Richmond), Lloyd Brewer (Richmond), Geoff Collins (Melbourne), Mike Collins (Melbourne), Gavin Smith (Fitzroy) and 'Mossie' Williams (Carlton). There is another substantial list of Yallourn footballers who trained with VFL clubs and also played VFL Reserve Grade football. An article entitled Yallourn footballers who played VFL -1945-65 can be found on this website.

3. TOM KNIGHT



Stalwarts of YFC: Tom Knight and his son, Bruce.

TOM KNIGHT (mentioned above) was a stalwart of Yallourn FC and his service, as a player and committee man, was noteworthy. Tom captained the Yallourn Golds in later years and was a popular personality around the township. Very few local supporters were aware that Tom's brother, Jack Knight, played 128 VFL with Collingwood and St Kilda.

"JACK KNIGHT. Another instance of Collingwood club loyalty... Was sent from Bendigo by Teddy Baker ... Born at Bendigo and attended Nth. Bendigo S.S. Later played with Golden City (under 21), and then with South Bendigo. A fireman at North Melbourne and married... Two children Marjorie...and Janice Summer sports, cricket and swimming. A brother, Tom, played with South Bendigo and later coached Yallourn" Source: 'Sporting Globe' May 11th 1940 Page: 6.

Tom's sons Bruce and Daryl were stars with Yallourn in the 1950's Bruce, a lion-hearted ruckman, won two club Best and Fairest trophies (1956 & 57); and he won several prestigious local awards. Bruce trained at Collingwood in 1951 and represented the LVFL at inter-league level.

Daryl Knight won the YFC goal kicking award in 1951 and Purvis Stores trophy for his outstanding efforts in 1951.

4. HUGH GRAHAM



Hugh Graham was quite an heroic character in the town. He was he known for his prowess on the football field; and also was a leading light in the Yallourn Swimming Club. It is documented that Hugh served the Yallourn Swimming Club, in various capacities (including as a life-saving instructor) for 46 years.

5. ALAN HUTTON



ALLAN HUTTON was an inspiring footballer and a greatly admired resident of Yallourn. Allan was as one of the finest footballers in the Gippsland FL; and, although it is difficult to verify, there is some evidence to suggest that Allan played two games with St Kilda in 1927.

There is little doubt that he was key player in Yallourn's victory that day; and throughout the 1933 season he has dominated in defence for YFC...

Yallourn Stalwart ...ALAN HUTTON, the 6ft. defender of I the Yallourn team in the Gippsland League, is playing such fine football so early in the season that followers of the I game thought he had been training for I months. Actually, he has been only three weeks out. In the match against Yarram the ball rarely passed him. He seems to have gained experience in ground play under coach Vin Irwin (formerly of Essendon). His high marking is still a feature, and his long, telling kicks often clear the danger zone. Source: 'Weekly Times' 20th May 1933 Page: 61

Allan died tragically in September 1939 and it is documented that CGFL introduced a medal –'Allan Hutton Medal ' in his honour in 1940. The medal was awarded to a leading player in local football. A story regarding Alan's brilliant football career and his sad passing can be found on this website.

6. JACK SAMBELL



At the start of the 1933 season, Yallourn lost the services of **JACK SAMBELL** who was listed by Melbourne FC that year. Jack, who was a member of staff at the Yallourn Higher Elementary School in 1932, was transferred to a city school at the beginning of 1933.

Jack Sambell was a gifted footballer and starred in the club's premiership win against Maffra in 1932; and he received accolades for his sterling performance that day. After his 'Best-on-the Ground' performance for Yallourn in that tough final, it came as no surprise to local football followers that VFL clubs keenly sought Jack's services...

"Yallourn Losing Sambell...Gippsland League is losing its star centre man of last season. Jack Sambell of Yallourn club. The Education Department has notified him of transfer to the metropolitan area. He was a dashing player. To him the Yallourn club owe their last year's premiership win in the Gippsland League in their first year. It is understood Melbourne League clubs have negotiated for his services" Source: 'Weekly Times' February 25th 1933 Page: 58.

Jack made his debut for Melbourne in Round: 1 against Richmond at the MCG in 1933; and went onto play 24 senior games with Melbourne FC. In his last appearance for Melbourne, against Footscray in Round: 18 1934, he kicked three goals. On that day at the MCG, Jack's team-mates included three of Melbourne's most famous players: Jack Mueller, Percy Beames and Allan La Fontaine.

Jack was re-listed with Melbourne in 1935 but broke his collarbone and was forced to stand aside from VFL football. Jack later played with Camberwell in the VFA. He died in 1982 at the age of 74 years.

7. R. TREVORAH



The name **TREVORAH** is somewhat of mystery in the match report as there is reference to a 'H' and 'R' Trevorah (perhaps a misprint in the original extract) R. Trevorah may have been related to Tom Trevorah a well-known Yallourn identity who lived in Railway Avenue. It is known that R. Trevorah had played with Castlemaine FC and was a footballer of some calibre. The following extract, from the 'Weekly Times', clearly informs readers why he was selected as a rover in the strong Gippsland FL combination in 1933...

"(Yallourn) have secured an even better player in Trevorah, formerly of Castlemaine. As a rover, he is a champion, and rarely fails to take the hit-out from the followers. He is exceptionally fast, and a splendid kick. In every match he has played in, he has kicked goals. Before going to Gippsland Trevorah was not brilliant, but under the able tuition of the former Essendon player, V. Irwin, he gives promise of being the selected rover for the inter-League matches against Central Gippsland and Wimmera Leagues" ' Source: 'Weekly Times' 10th June 1933 Page :65

8 PETER O'NEILL



A famous photo of Peter O' Neill and the 1930 Premiership team

PETER O'NEILL was the proverbial 'evergreen' of Yallourn Football Club; and was one of the longest serving and most distinguished members in the club's history. Peter's debut with Yallourn can be traced back to the 1920's and he can be seen in some of the earliest team photographs of Yallourn FC (when the club was known as the Tigers). Peter lived for football and spared nothing in his efforts to advance the interests of the club. Not only did he captain the team in the club's Golden Era (see above), but he was a tireless 'workhorse' and was highly regarded by the young footballers of the town. Peter was described as a 'dynamic coach' by the youngsters of those times.

Peter was the inaugural president of the Yallourn Football Club Past Players' Association, which came into being in 1958, and was the mainstay of the Yallourn Past Players' Association. Other well-known personalities of the YPPA included: Col Benson, Bert Downs, Col Webster, Tom Knight, Bert Crawford, Tim McCoy, Fred Byron, Kevin Comber, Alan Hawkins and George Newton

9 VIN IRWIN



VIN IRWIN was one of the best footballers in Gippsland and was 19th man for Yallourn in that Grand Final. Vin took the field in the opening quarter and kicked an important goal which aided Yallourn's narrow victory.

Vin (originally from the then-VFA club North Melbourne FC) had played 78 games for Essendon between 1921 and 1926 and had played in five VFL finals. The highlight of his VFL career was being a member of the Essendon Premiership team, which defeated Fitzroy at the MCG in 1923.

Vin was best known as a rover and was a superb 'crumber.' Vin kicked 10 goals against St Kilda in 1924; and during his VFL career kicked a total of 102 goals. Vin was lethal around goals and as a goal sneak booted 'bags' of four goals or more on nine occasions. Vin also represented Victoria four times during his distinguished VFL career.



Essendon FC team of 1922. Vin Irwin is in the front row second from the right hand side of the photograph.

Vin's last VFL game was against Collingwood in Round:13 in 1926 at Windy Hill; and, according to the Essendon FC database, Vin played in the Bendigo FL in 1928 and then crossed to Oakleigh (VFA) for two seasons (1929-30) before arriving at YFC. It is known that Vin coached the club during his time at Yallourn and was given due recognition in press articles for assisting the development of several players (see above) in that era at Yallourn FC.

On the day of the 1933 Grand Final against Maffra, Vin Irwin was 34 years of age. Vin had a brother named Frank who played 45 games for Carlton between 1925-27. Vince Irwin died on May 29th 1956. It is probable that Don Irwin, who played with Yallourn in the 1960's, was related to Vin.

10 BERT CRAWFORD



BERT CRAWFORD may have been the first boy who was actually born in the town of Yallourn to play with club. Bert also played with the Yallourn Golds in the

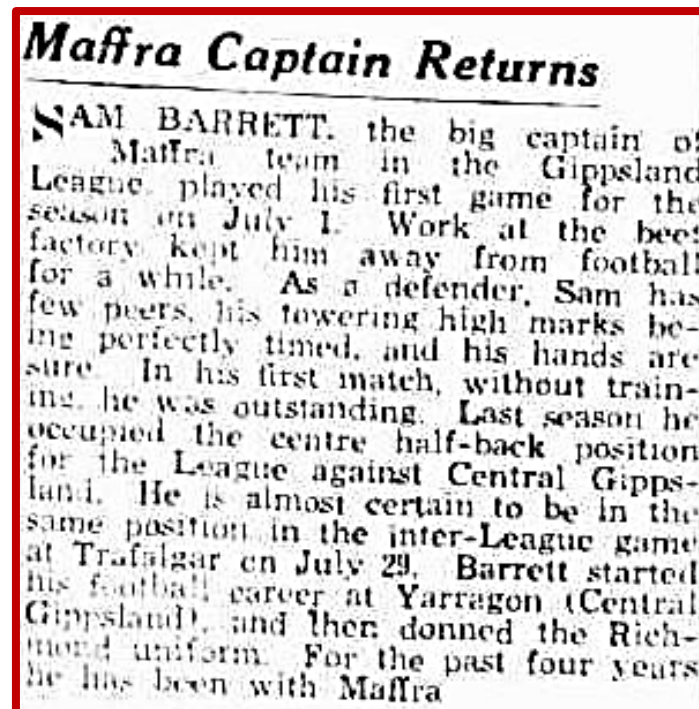
period 1937-40. One source said that Bert's father had been the President of the YFC in the formative years of the town.



'Gippsland Times' Monday 25 September 1933. Page: 6

NOTES ON MAFFRA'S STARS

SAM BARRETT was a key player for Maffra that day until injured. One text said that Sam was the finest high mark in the Central Gippsland Football League. It is documented that Sam commenced football with Yarragon (CGFA) and, while still a teenager, was signed by Richmond FC. Unfortunately, Sam suffered a serious knee injury after just three VFL games, which brought his football career to a temporary halt. He was just 20 years when he stepped down from VFL football in 1925.

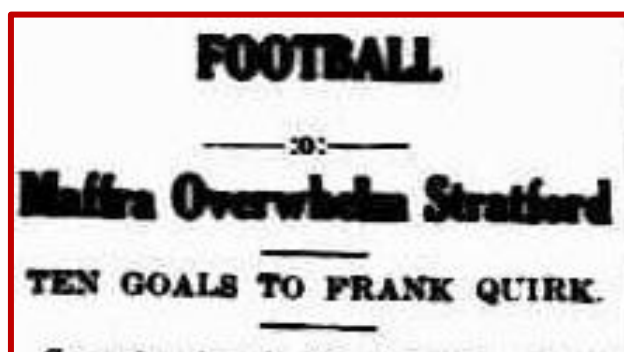


'Weekly Times' 15 July 1933. Page: 64

Sam Barrett arrived at Maffra Football Club around 1928. He is the uncle of former St Kilda ruckman Ray Barrett (ex-Stratford) who played 10 games on permits in the mid 1950's. Ken Barrett (also recruited from Stratford FC) played with South Melbourne in 1960.

FRANK QUIRK kicked three goals for Maffra that day. Frank was Maffra's spearhead and reliable avenue to goal. Frank was regularly mentioned among the goal kickers from Maffra; and, in 1933 he kicked 48 goals for Maffra. It is also known that Frank played with Moe FC in 1934 before returning to Maffra.

Frank had three sons, (Barry, Bryan and Richard). Barry gained a reputation as a steadfast defender for Morwell (and later with Bairnsdale) in the LVFL; while Bryan, who started his football at Morwell, was cleared to Carlton in 1965. Bryan played 167 games (112 goals) for the Blues and was a member of the CFC premiership team of 1968. He also represented Australia in football and was a member of the 'Galahs' in a special tour of Ireland, England, USA and Romania in 1968.



Frank Quirk booted 10 goals against Stratford in 1933.
Gippsland Times Monday 10 July 1933. Page 6

COL MAHONEY, who kicked one goal for Maffra that day, was cleared from Maffra to Yallourn in 1935. Colin can be seen in a later team photograph of the Yallourn Blues, which Allan Hutton captained. Colin's sons, Colin and Ron, were also prominent and capable players with Morwell FC in the LVFL in the 1960's.



Col Mahoney, who played with Maffra that day, later played with Yallourn FC.

THE 1933 INTERLEAGUE MATCH THE BATTLE OF GIPPSLAND

One of the highlights of the 1933 season was the interleague clash between the Central Gippsland Football Association and the Gippsland Football League. The match was promoted as the 'Pears Challenge Shield' and the game was played at Trafalgar on the 29th July 1933.

Special trains ran from Sale, Yallourn and Warragul and the gate takings that day were £ 75 (pounds). Tom Standing, from Traralgon FC, was captain of the GFL while Moe's Harry Twitt was captain of the CGFA. Yallourn had four representatives in the GFL combined team that day: Jack Turner, Allan Hutton, R. Trevorah and G. Williams (one of the brothers).



The victorious Gippsland team which included Yallourn players Jack Turner, Alan Hutton, G. Williams and R. Trevorah.

Much prestige was at stake including 'bragging' rights; and, in a lively contest, Gippsland FL eventually ran out winners by 35 points.

The final scores were:

GFL: 12. 15. 87 defeated CGFA: 9.10.64.

Yallourn's **Jack (aka Jock) Turner** starred for the GFL with seven goals; and according to the 'Morwell Advertiser' the best players and goal kickers for the respective teams were:

- **Best for GFL:** Standing (Traralgon) **Hutton Turner Trevorah Williams** (Yallourn) Gibb (Rosedale) Cotter and E. Roft (Yarram) Foster (Sale) and T. Fogarty (Bairnsdale).
- **Best for CGFA :** G. Campbell V. Bond and T. Bawden (Morwell) G. Brown (Trafalgar), Carlon (Drouin), C. Dodd (Moe) J. McPherson (Trafalgar) H. Carter (Warragul) and Ashworth (Thorpdale).
- **Goal-kickers for Gippsland FL:** **Turner (7) Trevorah** Foster Mahoney Gibbs and Johnson.
- **Goal-kickers for Central Gippsland FA:** McCarten (3) McPherson (2) Brown T. Bawden McGrath and Carter.

YALLOURN FOOTBALL CLUB AWARD WINNERS FOR THE 1933 SEASON

According to a newspaper report, **Bert Crawford** won Yallourn's Best and Fairest trophy that season. Other known club awards in 1933 included:-

- Best in the Grand Final: **Allan Hutton.**
- Best in the Finals Series: **Peter O'Neill.**
- Most Improved player: **Len Kiernan.**
- Special awards were also presented to: **Tom Knight, Percy Palmer and Allan Hutton.**
- **Jack Turner** also received commendation for his outstanding performances in front of goal and for smashing the GFL goal- kicking record.

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN - THE IMPERIALS

While Yallourn achieved the ultimate reward in the Gippsland league that day at Traralgon, it is not to be overlooked that in 1933 there was also another Yallourn football team which was known as the **Yallourn Imperials** . In 1933, the team competed in the Morwell and Yallourn Association as shown below:

**MORWELL AND YALLOURN
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

The Annual Meeting of the association was held at Brown Coal Mine on Tuesday evening.

The following office-bearers for the ensuing season were elected:—

President:—Mr R. L. Brock.

Vice-President:—Messrs J. Sinclair, P. Palmer, R. Humbert and C. Peck.

Secretary:—Mr J. W. Pentland.

Assist. Secretary:—Mr R. Humbert.

Auditor:—Mr C. Johnstone.
Independent Tribunal:—Messrs Hutchinson, Meddows and Yeoman.

It was decided to affiliate with the Country Football League.

Applications will be called for umpires at a fee of £1/1/ including travelling expenses.

The Willowgrove Football Club was admitted to the Association.

The Brown Coal Mine, Yallourn Imperials, Trafalgar, Moe, Yinnar and Morwell Bridge have rejoined the Association.

Source: 'Morwell Advertiser' March 30th 1933 Page: 1

Briefly, it seems that the Morwell and Yallourn Football Association disbanded in 1935 and became known as the Mid Gippsland Football League. It is known that in that era, teams from Jeeralang, the Haunted Hills and Morwell, Bridge also existed and competed in local fixtures

According to the 'Weekly Times' (September 1934), Yallourn defeated the Coal Mine in the Preliminary Final which was played at the Yinnar ground. Family names mentioned in the Yallourn Imperials line-up in that era included: Franklin, Phillips Rickman, Whitmore, Guy, Calder, Turvey, Godfrey, Oakley, Price, Skinner, Palmer Lazarus Harry, Ross and Boyce.

Yallourn Imperials in Final

Yallourn Imperials won the preliminary final of the Morwell-Yallourn Football Association by defeating Coal Mine on the Yinnar Oval by five points. At half-time the winners had an advantage of 30 points—4.8 to 0.2. Combining better together, Coal Mine were within a goal of victory when the final bell rang. The score board read: Yallourn, 7.13; Coal Mine, 7.8.

For the winners A. Whitmore, R. Calder, Turvey and Guy were the best, while the losers had good players in Cronin, Stepnell, Woods, Dillon and Spriggs.

Morwell Bridge and Yallourn Imperials will meet in the grand final on the Moe Oval.

The Grand Final that year (1933) was between Yallourn Imperials and Morwell Bridge; and, as history reveals, Morwell Bridge ran out easy winners by nine goals.

For those who enjoy the history of Gippsland football in that period, it makes interesting reading because substantial changes were taking place in the various country leagues and also at the Yallourn Club.

In 1937, Yallourn elected to nominate two teams in the Central Gippsland Football League as shown by Rounds : 1 and 2 fixture that season.



With the formation of Yallourn Golds and the Yallourn Blues, a new, exciting and successful chapter of the club began...but that is another story.

TOWARDS A LATROBE VALLEY LEAGUE - 1954



Only seven clubs: (Moe, Trafalgar, Morwell, Warragul, Thorpdale Drouin and Yarragon) were affiliated with the Central Gippsland FA in 1933, which meant that a bye was forced upon one team each round. After the challenges of travelling to East Gippsland for some games, it was little wonder that YFC entered local competitions. The logistics and cost would make such 'away game' journeys virtually prohibitive for supporters and players.

In later years, Yallourn affiliated with the Central Gippsland Association before being a founding member of the LVFL.

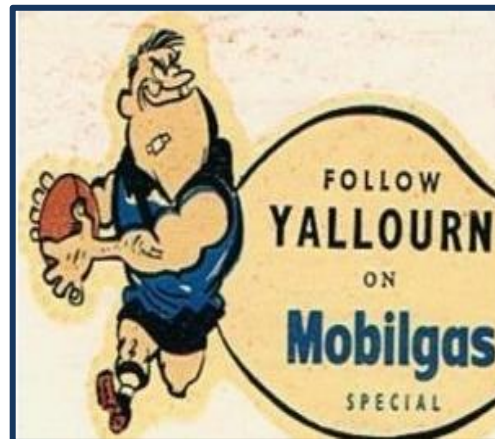
In 1954, a new and powerful football competition, based about the 'main-line' towns were formed. Yallourn, Morwell, Sale, Traralgon Moe and Yarragon Warragul and Trafalgar were the foundation affiliates of a league that would, in time, set new benchmarks in country sport.

1954 was one of the most exciting, and arguably, one of the best seasons in local football; and the people of Yallourn embraced the new Latrobe Valley Football League with extraordinary enthusiasm.

Within a short space of time, the LVFL became the topmost league in Gippsland and one of the finest in country football. Although Yallourn was an influential and competitive member of the LVFL until 1977, the club failed to win a Senior XVIII Grade premiership in the Latrobe Valley League.

CONCLUSION: YFC - A MIGHTY CLUB

Yallourn Football Club was a mighty club; and one that caught the imagination of the town's youngsters and garnered wide support across the community. Former players speak proudly of the days with the Blues; it was club with spirit and camaraderie.



A most significant feature of the club was the number of people who volunteered to serve on the committee or support the club throughout the season. For example, as shown below, in the 1963 Annual Report the number of local people enlisted to assist the club was simply staggering.

Very few, if any, modern-day country clubs could boast of a structure to match Yallourn FC in 1963...

Yallourn Football Club

OFFICE-BEARERS — SEASON 1963

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President | MR. R. NORDEN |
| Vice-Presidents | Messrs G. NEWTON, C. WHITE |
| Immediate Past President | Mr. K. V. DENNY |
| Committee | Messrs G. LYNCH, B. CHRISTIE, V. WIGGINS, W. PHILLIPS, K. COMBER, K. BARTON, C. BENSEN, C. WEBSTER, L. GREENHAM, J. CRAMERI, J. SHAW, A. SCARCE. |
| Treasurer | Messrs J. UNWIN, G. LYNCH |
| Ground Manager | Mr. W. ENTWISTLE |
| Assistant Secretary | Mr. J. GORDON |
| Assistant Treasurer | Mr. G. COCKBURN |
| Publicity Officers | Messrs F. BYRON, R. EDMONDSON |
| Latrobe Valley League Delegates | Messrs G. LYNCH, K. BARTON, J. CRAMERI |
| Players' Representatives | Messrs M. FRENCH, G. DAVEY |
| Honorary First Aid Officer | Mr. G. WRIGHT |
| Auditor | Mr. P. H. WATKINSON |
| Honorary Masseur | Mr. F. JACKSON |
| Playing Coach and Captain | Mr. J. HUTCHINSON |
| Assistant Coach and Vice-Captain | Mr. R. RUMBOLD |
| Coach of Seconds | Mr. J. CARMODY |
| Captain of Seconds | Mr. A. THORPE |
| Teams Manager | |
| Room and Staff Manager | Mr. V. WIGGINS |
| Goal Umpires | Messrs R. CANNON, P. WILLIAMS |
| Boundary Umpires | Messrs D. SIMPSON, T. FRENCH |
| Timekeepers | Messrs H. O'BERN, J. CRAMERI |
| Training Room Staff | Messrs G. WRIGHT, J. HARRIOT, D. MARSHALL, F. MENNER, K. GIBSON, J. HOLLOWOOD |
| Boot Studder | Mr. H. JAMES |
| Ball Steward | Mr. W. PHILLIPS |
| Players' Personal Property | Messrs J. JACOBSON, C. MCGREGOR |
| Property Steward | Mr. R. MCGREGOR |
| Selection Committee | Messrs C. BENSON (chairman), L. GREENHAM, C. WEBSTER |
| Social Committee | Mr. C. WHITE (President), Mesdames D. MENNER (Secretary), M. BROBERG (Treasurer), G. SLATTER, J. EDMOND- SON, C. SMITH, D. NORDEN, V. SLOAN, J. BOTTEN; Messrs J. MCGREGOR, T. SLACK, C. BENSEN, W. JOYCE, G. DAVEY |
| Junior Football Club | Mr. L. WHITE (President), Mr. C. FOY (Secretary), Mr. D. BEARD (Treasurer), Mr. J. BROWN (Vice- President), Mrs. J. WHITE (Assistant Secretary); Mrs. J. RICHARD- SON, Mrs. J. BROWN, Mrs. C. FOY, Mrs. ENGLISH (Committee) |
| Honorary First Aid Officer | Mr. J. RICHARDSON |
| Coach of Thirds | Mr. J. CARMODY |
| Coach of Fourths | Messrs W. GODFREY, R. RUMBOLD |
| Coach of Fifths | Mr. M. FRENCH |
| Coach of Midget Digits | Mr. R. CHRISFIELD |
| Secretary | Mr. A. MCGREGOR, 17 Andersen Avenue, Yallourn North; telephone 204 |

CAN YOU HELP RECORD THE SPORTING HISTORY OF YALLOURN?

The history of Yallourn Football Club is absorbing and, over the years, the Virtual Yallourn website has tried to fill the gaps in the club's history. If you have a story to tell (e.g. career highlights, memorable matches, awards, club personalities) about the 'Mighty Blues' please contact Julie and have your story posted on this website. Thank you.

For other stories and photos regarding the history and players of the Yallourn Football Club type the word 'football' into the search field on the top right hand corner of the screen and press ENTER.

This story is part of an on-going project regarding the history of Yallourn. The story was researched and written by Roger Spaul; and presented and posted by Julie George for the Virtual Yallourn website in April 2019.

The above article, from the 'Morwell Advertiser' newspaper, has been faithfully reproduced. The only amendments to the original copy are the font style, font size and spacing, to enhance the article for purposes of posting on the Virtual Yallourn website.

THE END