

# THE STORY OF BILL JACKSON'S BATTLE TO PLAY VFL FOOTBALL

What started out as a fairly straight-forward and brief story for the Virtual Yallourn website, about Bill Jackson, 'mushroomed' into an article of some length.

Life's journey is rarely a straight line; and this tale begins almost seventy years ago and has a few tricky twists and turns. Consequently, it seemed best to tell the story in two parts. The first deals with Bill Jackson's attempt to play VFL football with Geelong; and the other part of the story centres upon Bill's time as a pupil at the Yallourn High School in 1952 and 1953.

It is hoped that the article does justice to Bill not only as an accomplished footballer with the Blues but also as a dedicated student at YHS.

## PART: 1

### THE DOGMATIC DEMONS

#### SETTING THE SCENE

Late in 1953, one of the emerging young stars in local football, Bill 'Ginger' Jackson, was signed by the Melbourne Football Club. It was thrilling news for the sports-loving town of Yallourn; and a just reward for Bill's dedicated training on the track and his courageous style of play on the field.

**MANY MORE**  
"Many more players of outstanding ability have been signed up. Among them are:  
"Clyde Laidlaw, tall and strongly-built forward from Portland; Brian Pierce, winger and Bill McMahon, half-forward, from Tasmania; Laurie Mithen, Colin and Brian Wilson, from our local district team of Ormond Amateurs; Bill Hawes, an interstate amateur player from our district; Ian Ridley, rover from Hamilton; John Shelton, full-back from Hamilton; Peter Stronix, forward from Croydon; Bill Jackson, from Yallourn; Ian Black from Bairnsdale, and Ron Blackburn, from Heidelberg."  
Because of Melbourne's lack of success last season, match receipts were well below budgeted figures. The over-all deficit was

In that era, Melbourne FC, under the leadership of the legendary Coach Norm Smith and Secretary Jim Cardwell, was undertaking an aggressive recruiting campaign to re-build the Demon's stocks. Mr Cardwell was a 'man on a mission' in the way he hunted far and wide for potential senior footballers; and Bill Jackson was just one of many young footballers pressed to sign with Melbourne in those times.

**Note:** Three of the mentioned players (in the extract) became household names during Melbourne's Golden Era: Laurie Mithen, Ian Ridley and Clyde Laidlaw would, in time, become champions for the Demons. It is fair to say that Bill Jackson was in 'good company' at Melbourne in 1953.

Initially, Bill was as 'pleased as Punch' to be listed with Melbourne. What youngster would not be?

However, Bill's personal circumstances changed when, at the completion of his studies at Yallourn High School, he was granted a studentship to undertake Primary Teacher training at Geelong Teachers' College.

Bill was without a car at that stage of his life; and to practise with Melbourne was not only onerous but quite expensive. Travelling to training (twice a week) and on match days by rail, stretched his 'student budget' and, more importantly, the time involved in such journeys could be best used in studying.

## **BILL SEEKS A CLEARANCE TO KARDINIA PARK**

In trying to balance teacher training and sport, Bill found things were just too demanding; and, in April that year, he applied for a clearance from Melbourne to cross to Geelong FC. To most fair-minded people, it seemed logical but to Melbourne officials, in that combative era of VFL player recruitment, it was a 'bridge too far.'

This extract from 'The Argus' (May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1954) shows how Bill's father (Chas) tried to persuade Melbourne FC to see some sense and clear his son to Geelong FC.

As many country clubs discovered in those days, club officials were 'hardnosed' in any such clearance negotiations; and Bill Jackson was the 'ham in another VFL sandwich.'



The issue of Bill's clearance was also noted in an earlier article on this website...

***"Bill Jackson ...had played CGFL and LVFL football at a young age. Bill was a fierce competitor who never took a 'short step in any contest'. His strength at ground level enabled Yallourn to win a 'fair share' of centre breaks. The Melbourne Football Club took considerable interest in Bill and he signed on with the Demons as a teenager. Bill broke into the news ('The Argus' May 1954) when his request to seek a transfer to another VFL club was refused by the VFL permit committee." Source: Virtual Yallourn - 24332 / 2013.***

## IN HIS OWN WORDS

It is 66 years since Melbourne FC refused to clear Bill to Geelong; and the facts behind that harsh treatment, at the hands of Melbourne FC, have remained a puzzle. However, by chance, an opportunity arose in April this year to ask Bill about his 'scuffle' with the VFL permit committee.

The following is Bill's recollection of that dispute....

*" I had signed a Form 4 with Melbourne F.C. in 1953 when Jim Cardwell, who was the secretary of the MFC, pulled a 'swifty' over me and got me to sign a form assuring me it was not a Form 4 ( i.e. a clearance) but something else. I was rather naïve in regard to such things.*

*Anyway, by 1954 I had a chance to train with Geelong and was tried to obtain a clearance to Geelong F.C....*

*I remember my first practice run at Geelong. Bob 'Woofers' Davis took me around for a bit of a jog. He was a great guy and took one stride to my four. Reg Hickey was the coach, Peter Pianto and Neil Trezise their rovers. Bernie Smith was in the back pocket and Bruce Morrison was the Cat's full back at that time.*

*One of my old school contacts from Warrnambool, Johnny O'Neill, who was captain of the Christian Brothers College whilst I was captain of the Warrnambool High School team also came to Geelong at that time. He went on to represent Victoria. He was a gifted footballer; and there was some talent out of the Western district...e.g. Thorold Merrett being at Collingwood in the early days."*

Despite being denied the chance to play with Geelong, it must have been indeed a thrill for a teenager to train with the Cats and meet such champions as the 'the Geelong Flyer', Bob Davis, and the iconic figure of Australian football Reg Hickey.

Reg (pictured) who was to be later named as the skipper of Geelong's Team of the Century, coached Geelong in 304 games in a coaching career that spanned from 1932 until 1959. Reg Hickey was unique and exemplified the 'power of one' in sporting clubs.



Peter Pianto, who was recruited from Eaglehawk, was also named in the Cats' team of the Century; and in 1957 he won the McClelland Medal for the best player at the ANFC Carnival...

*“One of Peter’s most memorable interstate performances was against South Australia in July 1957 in front of a crowd of 27,736. The Victorian line-up was a powerful combination that comprised five (past or future) Brownlow Medal winners in Brian Gleeson, John James, Roy Wright, Fred Goldsmith and Kevin Murray....*

*Peter Pianto dominated that game and was awarded the McClelland Medal for his superb display of roving...” Source: Boyles Football Photos*

## **BILL JOINS GEELONG WEST**

While training under the watchful eye of Reg Hickey at Geelong, Bill was presented with an opportunity to play with Geelong West FC.

At that time, Geelong West was affiliated with the Ballarat FL. The BFL was a VCFL major league; and a very tough competition, which tested the mettle of all young footballers. Bill consolidated his place in a strong line up; and he remembers travelling to such towns as Maryborough and Daylesford to play matches. The other clubs in the BFL at that time included: Redan, North Ballarat, Golden Point, East Ballarat and Ballarat.



In 1954, Geelong West finished 7<sup>th</sup> on the BFL Ladder with 9 wins; and in 1955 won its way into the BFL finals with 13 wins and a percentage of 130%. It was apparent that Geelong West was a club on an upward trajectory. As history, shows Geelong West won four consecutive premierships in the Ballarat FL in 1956-57-58-59.

The stars of Geelong West during that successful period in the Ballarat League included: Bill Dalziel, Mick O’Bierne , Terry Fulton (ex-Geelong), Brian Clegg (ex-South Melbourne), Bill Icke (ex-South Melbourne/Geelong), Wally Roberts, John Goldsmith (ex-Geelong) and Bill James (ex-Geelong).

## BACK HOME TO YALLOURN

Bill's time at Geelong West FC was a productive period in his football career and he benefited from the experience of playing in such a high standard of VCFL football.

In 1956, Bill graduated from Geelong Teachers' College; and, after completing the obligatory three-month stint of National Service, he returned home to play for Yallourn FC.

Bill could not have re-joined the Blues at a better time because **Gerald Marchesi** was the coach of Yallourn at that time. Gerald had played 92 VFL matches and had captained North Melbourne in 1954.

With Gerald's encouragement, Bill took his football to a new level and gained a reputation in the LVFL as robust and spirited midfielder. Gerald Marchesi was an astute and inspirational on-field leader and a perfect role model for young and emerging footballers such as Bill Jackson.



Bill was a forceful but fair player; and, like Gerald, he enjoyed a physical brand of football. Another aspect of Bills' football, that supporters admired, was the fact that he was 'mudlark' and relished playing in wet and heavy conditions... and Gippsland was great place for quagmires in mid-winter. Welcome home to the 'Valley Bill...mud, mud and more mud!

Bill also played under the leadership of former VFL speedster **Vin Sabbatucci** in 1957. 'The Argus' newspaper described Vin as a 'nuggetty rover'; and in another match report referred to his 'hard work' around the packs.

He played six VFL matches for St Kilda and kicked 9 goals. In June 1955, he crossed to Camberwell FC (VFA). Vin was a powerful and fleet-footed athlete and made his name in the popular sport of professional running in that era.

Vin Sabbatucci took over the coaching role at Yallourn FC when Gerald Marchesi was appointed to coach Heyfield (Gippsland FL). Although diminutive (166cm), Vin was a rover with tremendous pace and a prodigious kick. Unfortunately, he was hampered by a broken thumb (see above - with John Henderson) and a persistent leg injury during that season but he made his presence felt whenever able to take to the field.



**Vic Lawrence** coached Bill Jackson in 1958-59. Vic was one of the all-time greats in the history of YFC; and in 1955, he had represented Victoria.

In his time, at North Melbourne, Vic had played on such champion spearheads as Ray Poulter (Richmond), George Goninon (Geelong), Noel Clarke (Melbourne), Bill Gunn (South Melbourne) and the super star of Australian Rules football, John Coleman (Essendon).

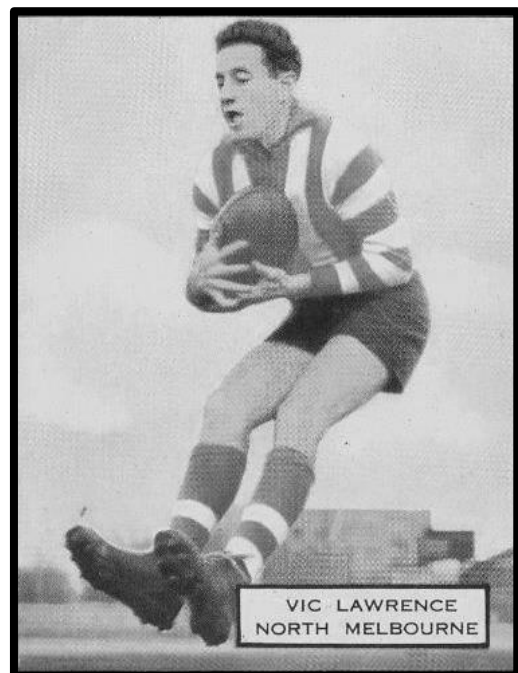
Vic's appointment to coach Yallourn FC was greeted, by all supporters, with keen anticipation because the Blues had a promising mix of 'hard', experienced footballers and a sprinkling of enthusiastic, talented but 'raw' youngsters.

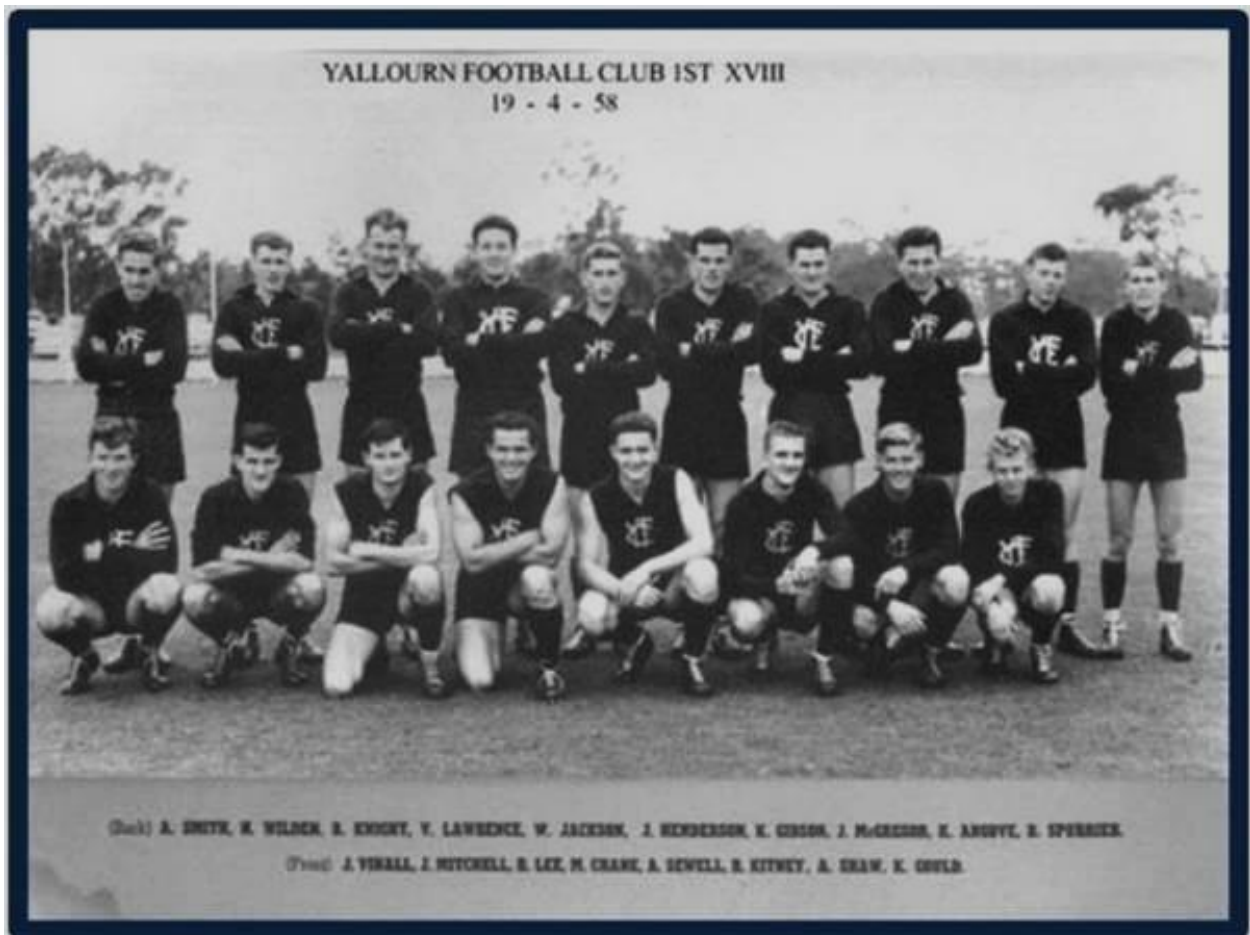
Yallourn's playing list in 1958 included... Ron Lee, Ray Kitney, Merv Crane, Bruce Knight, Bill Jackson, Jock McGregor, Keith Gibson, Jack Vinall, John Henderson, Barney Sewell, Brian Bertoli, Barry Spurrier, Kevin Gould, Keith Angove and Alec Shaw.

Vic was not only admired for his ability as a player, but he was popular with all the people of the town; and he proved to be a superlative player for Yallourn.

Few, if any, players in the LVFL could out mark Vic Lawrence. His big frame, vice-like hands and uncanny ability to read the play gave him the added advantage in overhead marking contests.

Vic played mainly in defence for Yallourn, but he was a first-class follower and sometimes, went to centre half forward to lift the Blues in attack.





The above photo is Yallourn Football team in 1958, Bill Jackson can be seen next to Vic Lawrence. Betty Mitchell's brother, Jim is in the front row next to Jack Vinall. Stories about many of the above players can be found on the Virtual Yallourn website.

Sadly, Vic passed away in 1986; and following his death, a letter was published in 'The Latrobe Valley Express'. The letter was a short tribute from a Yallourn supporter about Vic's time at Yallourn FC...

*"...a most vivid memory of Vic Lawrence was on a cold wet wintry afternoon when he took 30 marks against the Warragul club". Anecdotal evidence supports this claim and there are those at Yallourn Oval on that day who never have forgotten Vic's exceptional feat."*

## **BILL JACKSON'S LAST GAME FOR YALLOURN**

Footballer's rarely forget their last match; and Bill's final appearance for Yallourn was at Trafalgar in 1959. He has never forgotten that day because Trafalgar's giant ruckman Bill Milroy starred in a memorable exhibition. 'Big Bill' was a former star at Carlton FC and had arrived at Trafalgar in 1957. Within one season, Bill Milroy had taken the 'Bloods' to their first LVFL flag. Trafalgar was a star-studded team in the era; and for such a small rural community, it 'punched well above its weight.'

Looking back on his last game, Bill has some vivid memories of that day...

*"I remember I was given the honour of leading the team out onto the ground. The players gave me a set of bone-handled steak knives which I still have. There was another function that night at one of the halls in Yallourn. Roy Norden (pictured) was the President of Yallourn at that time."*



'Hanging up your boots' is probably the most difficult call to make in any footballer's career and Bill's last game was an occasion of mixed emotions. However, the Victorian Education Department had 'blown the final siren' on Bill's career at Yallourn Football Club because...

*"I was appointed to a teaching position in a country school some 25 miles from Bendigo..."*

## AWARDS & TROPHIES FOR YALLOURN

While Bill was most humble and failed to mention the awards that he had won during his career with YFC, a search in the local newspapers of the 1950's indicated that he won the following trophies while playing with the Blues:

- \* **Special YFC Trophy-1953.**
- \* **Bud Williams Memorial Trophy-1953.**
- \* **Most Serviceable player-1956.**
- \* **As shown in the cutting, Bill was Runner-up in the Club's Best and Fairest Award in 1958.**

Kevin Gould won the Best and Fairest player award in 1958 and was another Yallourn FC footballer who trained at VFL level in that era. In 1958, Kevin was invited to train with Essendon (then coached by the fabled Dick Reynolds).

## GIPPSLAND FOOTBALL STARS

Bill Jackson played with and against some of the best footballers in the history of Gippsland football during his years with Yallourn FC. Bill listed Alan Morrow (Sale), Bill Young (Stratford), Bill Milroy (Trafalgar), John Coffey (Morwell), the Hart brothers (Sale), the Archbold brothers (Traralgon) and the clever and enigmatic Lester Ross of Moe, as distinguished opponents and wonderful sportsmen.

The 1958 YFC award winners were:  
**SENIOR AWARDS:**  
Best & Fairest. Kevin Gould  
Runner-up Best & Fairest. Bill Jackson  
Most Consistent Player. Alec Shaw  
Most Determined. Barry Spurrier  
Best Utility. Barney Sewell  
Goal kicking Trophy. Roy Illingworth  
Selectors' Trophy. Kevin Gould  
Youngest Player Award. Tony Radford  
Best Clubman. John Henderson  
**RESERVES AWARDS:**  
Best & Fairest. Brian Bertoli  
Runner- Up Best & Fairest. Alister Tho  
Most consistent Player. John Fullwood  
Most Improved Player. Ron Gale



Bill recalls that the biggest thrashing he ever received, in a football match, was at the hands of the renowned Les Foote in a trial game against Maffra in 1956. Les Foote was said to be one of the finest VFL players of all time; and, by the end of that game, Bill reckoned he could not agree more with that assessment.



**Simon Shaw the Champion & Gentleman Footballer of Yallourn**

Bill has fond memories of many teammates but rates Simon and Jimmy Shaw as 'blue ribbon' footballers and true gentlemen of the game. He also admired the special qualities of Vic Lawrence, Gerald Marchesi, Bernie Nairn, Kevin Fanning, Bill Harkness, Bruce Knight and Ron 'Knuckles' Lee. It was a hard task for Bill to 'circle the best' Yallourn footballers because every player had an interesting background and a good story to tell.

## **FOOTNOTE ON THE VFL CLEARANCES**

Melbourne's refusal to clear Bill Jackson to Geelong was typical of the wrangling that transpired in those days of VFL football. Unfortunately, Bill wasn't the only Yallourn player to be 'put through the wringer' by Melbourne FC in that era.

In 1956, Yallourn's champion centre-half forward, Peter Cook was involved in a protracted clearance dispute; and it took some very strong words from Yallourn's Secretary, Tom Hayes, to break the deadlock...

The extract on the right was published in 'The Argus' on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1956. A story about Peter Cook can also be found on this website.



## THE GEELONG – YALLOURN CONNECTION

There exists a 'slender' connection between Yallourn and Geelong clubs...

- George Card, who played with Yallourn in the post-war years, was cleared to Geelong in 1946; and went onto become a key defender with the Cats. George played 46 games with Geelong before returning home to Yallourn FC. George later coached for YFC who later played with Geelong (1947-51). Syd played 85 games with Geelong and was a member of Geelong's 1951 premiership team.
- Bill's friend and co-midfielder Ray 'Steak' Kitney also trained with Geelong in 1956.



Syd Tate



George Card

## BILL'S THOUGHTS ON YALLOURN FC

It seems fitting to end the first part of Bill Jackson's story with the following quote about his time with the 'Mighty Blues'....

*"It's a long journey back in time, but I started playing for Yallourn in 1952. I got my first kick in the seniors that year when I gave a lead on the half forward flank and our champion rover, Jimmy Shaw punched a great little stab kick right down my throat...that was the beginning of something very special in my sport and life. The friendships and the support you received from all the guys, young and old who were associated with the club was worth so much in your life. You formed bonds automatically and life-long friendships ...I loved the humour and certainly heard some funny things. If you didn't come home from a night's training at Yallourn without a few jokes making you smile, it had been an odd day. I have the fondest regard for all the guys who were just great team mates. That's what football is about surely - mateship."*

## PART: 2

### PHOTOGRAPHS OF BILL JACKSON

Bill Jackson was born in Horsham in 1935; and when he arrived at Yallourn High School, from Warrnambool in 1952, he made a 'real splash.' Within a short space of time, Bill was nominated for several key leadership roles in Flinders House and also in YHS school teams.

#### HOUSE CAPTAINS

BASS: Helga Gartner, P. Archibold.  
FLINDERS: Betty Mitchell, W. Jackson.

MAWSON: Betty Wallace, K. Rogers.  
PHILLIP: Kay Spurrier, A. Marr.



1952 - The Yallourn High School House Captains as published in 'The Pylon.'

## BOYS INTER-SCHOOL SPORT, 1952

### Summer Sport—

**SENIOR CRICKET:** Captain, Ken Rogers.

Y.H.S. 5/78 d. Y.T.S. 2/69; Y.H.S. 8/148 d. T.H.S. 29 and 2/11; Y.H.S. d. W.H.S. 3/96.

Once again the school senior cricket team won the premiership—this being the second time in succession. This success can be attributed, not to individual performances, but to the excellent team work displayed by every player at all times.

Averages: Batting, W. Jackson 36.0, K. Rogers 19.3; Bowling, J. Evans 5.3, B. Edmondson 7.8.

**JUNIOR CRICKET:** Captain, Jim Mitchell.

Y.H.S. 108 d. Y.T.S. 58; Y.H.S. 7/172 d. T.H.S. 20 and 3/21; W.H.S. 72 d. Y.H.S. 8/86.  
Premiers: W.H.S.

In 1952, Bill Jackson won the YHS Senior Cricket XI batting award with an average of 36.0. Ken Rogers, who was captain of the Senior XI (and later opened the batting with Yallourn Cricket Club) came second with an average of 19.3 runs per innings. The captain of the YHS Junior XI in 1952 was Jim Mitchell (who would, in time, become Bill's brother-in-law).



1952 YHS Senior Football Team

Bill Jackson can be seen in the front row sitting next to the team's Captain, Peter Archbold (holding the football). Peter, who was one of Bill's best friends at YHS, died in most tragic circumstances when he was involved in a car crash near Traralgon on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1956. Bill was badly shaken by the news of Peter's death and, to this day, he mourns the loss of his dear friend.

### THIRD CONSECUTIVE PREMIERSHIP

#### Boys' Senior Football Result:

Y.H.S., 6-3 d. W.H.S., 0-5.

In a game more even than indicated by the scores we defeated Warragul in the mud on No. 2 oval. Features of the game were our impenetrable defence, the clever ruck work and our accurate forwards. The match was very friendly and both sides gave good exhibitions.

Goalkickers: P. Archibold 3, W. Carrie 2, J. Hutchinson 1.

Best Players: J. Hutchinson, P. Archibold, W. Jackson, K. Rogers, K. Greenway, W. Carrie.

This match report is from 1952 and shows that Yallourn High School defeated Warragul High School by 34 points. Bill Jackson was listed among the better players that day. Peter Archibold kicked three goals; and, as is well known in the history of Yallourn, John Hutchinson became a leading sportsman and civic leader.

#### THE TEAMS

**MORWELL:** Quinn (c), Bridle, Bourke, Carmichael, K. Cooper, W. Couper, Denier, Fleming, Hourigan, Hower, Jorgensen, Keeper (v.c.), O'Sullivan, Ron. Morgan, Ray Morgan, Rohde; 19th, G. Mooney; 20th, Fisherty.

**YALLOURN:** Jones (c), McColl, Madden, Harkins, Bennett, S. Shaw, J. Shaw, Botten, Nairn, Bates, D. Knight, Paice, W. Jackson, Whitbourne, Brewer, Fanning, J. Jackson, Squires; 19th, Whelan; 20th, G. Knight.

Central Gippsland Football League Round : 1 1952

Bill Jackson was named in the Yallourn Senior XVIII for the opening clash of the 1952 season against Morwell. Yallourn's coach that year was former Richmond ruckman Les Jones who played 59 games with the Tigers.

The Yallourn team was laden with stars and Bill Jackson wasn't the only player to attract attention from VFL scouts in that era. Jim Shaw played with Melbourne and Lloyd Brewer was selected for three gamers for Richmond in 1953. Lloyd was a talented ruckman for Yallourn, and it is recorded that he won a club Best & Fairest award in that era.

From the above selected Yallourn team, it is known that the following players were invited to train with VFL clubs: George Bates (Richmond), Bruce Knight (Collingwood), Kevin Fanning (Fitzroy and Richmond) and it is thought that Stan Brown also received an offer to train in the 'big smoke.'



A VFL match, St Kilda v Footscray, was played at the Yallourn Oval in 1952.

In 1952, Bill played in the curtain-raiser to the highly publicized clash between St Kilda and Footscray at the Yallourn Oval. The match was part of the VFL National Round when games were also played at Albury, Brisbane, Euroa, Hobart and Sydney. It was quite an honour for Yallourn to host such an important match.

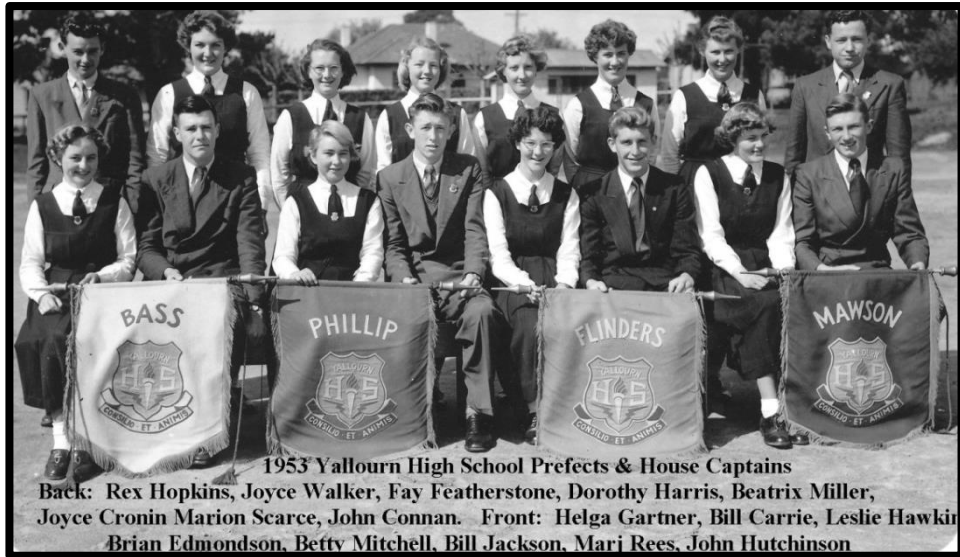
As can be seen in the above photo, the weather was dreadful that day, the oval became a quagmire and the crowd that braved the elements copped a drenching.

<b>P R E F E C T S :</b>	
<b>Head Prefects:</b> Betty Mitchell, Marion Scarce, Lesley Hawkins, Helga Gartner, Dorothy Harris, Joyce Cronin, Marjorie Rees, Faye Featherstone, Joyce Walker, Beatrice Miller, Ann Ritchie, Brian Edmonson, John Hutchinson, William Carrie, William Jackson, John Connan, Rex Hopkins.	
<b>H O U S E   C A P T A I N S :</b>	
<b>BASS:</b> Helga Gartner, William Carrie.	<b>MAWSON:</b> Marjorie Rees, John Hutchinson.
<b>FLINDERS:</b> Betty Mitchell, William Jackson.	<b>PHILLIP:</b> Leslie Hawkins, Brian Edmonson.

Bill Jackson and Betty Mitchell were House Captains of Flinders at YHS in 1953.



YHS Prefect's Badge



Bill Jackson and Betty Mitchell were the House Captains of Flinders in 1953. From the above photograph, Bill, John Hutchinson and Brian Edmondson became key players for the Yallourn FC in later years. John went on to play with Fitzroy in 1957 and later coached the Blues in 1962 and 63.



1953 House Captains Flinders  
 Bill Jackson and Betty Mitchell.

This photograph is part of a much bigger story as Bill Jackson and Betty Mitchell were married in 1957. Bill related the following...

*“Betty Mitchell who lived in Edgehill Rd is my wife of 63 years. Most of my working life was in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne: teaching at Blackburn, later a speech pathologist at a clinic there and finally as principal of the primary school. Retired in 1991 and another life opened up. We lived in Croydon and Mooroolbark, Betty worked at the Bureau of Statistics for years. We now live in Trafalgar in a house built by Clarrie Swenson's son...”*

Note: Clarrie Swenson was born at Heywood in 1923 and played 37 leagues games with Collingwood and Hawthorn (1941-49). Among a long list of notable achievements in local football, Clarrie coached Trafalgar for nine years in two stints (1949-54 and later 1968-69).



Yallourn Senior Cricket XI -1953.

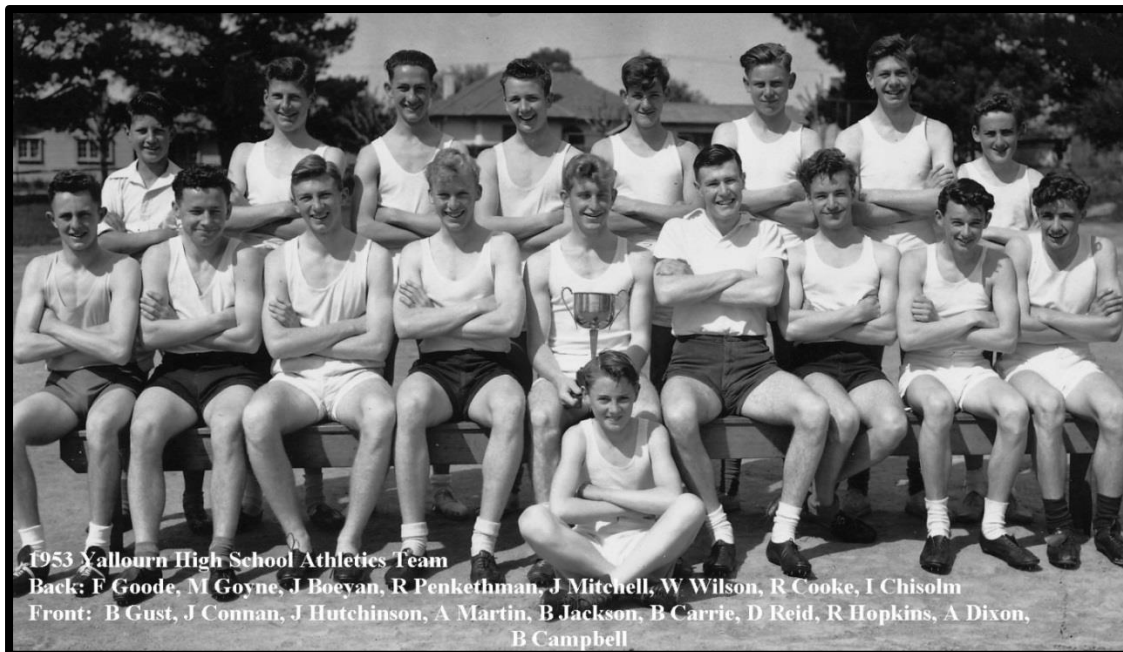
Bill and Brian Edmondson are holding the cricket bats.

**Senior.**  
Boys: 100 yds.-11.3 secs.; 220 yds.-25 secs.; 440 yds.-61.7  
secs.; all won by W. Jackson.  
High Jump: B. Edmondson-5 ft 1½ in.  
Long Jump: W. Carrie-16 ft. 1½ in.  
Champions— W. Jackson.  
Girls: 75 yds. & 100 yds., G. Scanlan-3.9 secs. & 13.1 secs.  
Champions— G. Scanlan.

**THE HOUSE ATHLETIC SPORTS**

In 1953, Bill Jackson 'swept the board' at the YHS House athletics sports. Bill won the three major foot races and was 'crowned' as the Senior Boys' Champion. The highly talented athlete, Greta Scanlon, was the Senior Girls' Champion that year.





Bill Jackson (centre) holding the Athletics trophy at YHS in 1953. Jim Mitchell can also be seen in the back row. One of Yallourn's best athletes, Barry Gust is in the front row at the extreme left of the photograph.

Frank Goode (who is on extreme left in the back row) went on to become a player of great standing in VFL football (1961-67). Frank played 73 games with North Melbourne FC and booted 107 goals. He topped the Kangaroos' goal kicking list in 1965 and 1966. When he retired from the playing field, Frank, among a long list of other things, became a successful coach. Frank has achieved much in life and football since his days at Yallourn High School: To read more about Frank's notable achievements go to:

<http://www.aflcombined.com.au/about-us/delegate-profiles/35-club-delegate-profile-frank-goode>



Yallourn High School Senior XVIII team in 1953. Bill is holding the football.

## HOUSE NOTES

### FLINDERS — BOYS

Throughout the year Flinders boys have combined well in all house activities. Although we were not over successful, we have always been a problem to our opponents; however, our Senior Cricket team looks set for another premiership this year.

After a keen tussle with Phillip we came second in the House Athletic Sports and we must thank the girls at this stage for their worthy assistance. In all school appeals we were well represented. Many of our boys represented our school in different teams. Our thanks to Mr. Wynd, our house master, and also the vice captain, who have helped make this year a pleasant one for us all.

—Bill Jackson

In 1953, Bill wrote the House Notes for the Flinders' Boys in the High School's magazine 'The Pylon'. Julie has posted copies of the magazine on this website.



Yallourn High School always produced good results in examinations, on the sporting fields and in the 'friendship stakes.' As mentioned above, Bill married Betty Mitchell in 1957 at the Yallourn Presbyterian Church.



**From left to right: Mrs and Mr Jackson, Bill, Betty, Dr Finlay Fraser (the Minister of the Yallourn Presbyterian Church), Mr Mitchell and Mrs Mitchell.**



**Bill and Betty Jackson - 2020  
63 years together**

**After living at Croydon and Mooroolbark, Bill and Betty retired and took up residence at Trafalgar. In cricketing parlance... It has been another outstanding innings for Yallourn.**

## **THANK YOU**

Special thanks to Bill Jackson for his patient assistance in bringing this story, about his life as a footballer and his student days at Yallourn High School, to fruition.

## **SOURCES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The main sources in the story were Included: 'The Pylon', local and metropolitan newspapers ('The Argus', 'The Sporting Globe' 'The Age' and 'The Morwell Advertiser') AFL publications, Boyles Football Photos and a series of articles, related to the history of the Yallourn Football Club, that were written and posted on this website some 5-6 years ago.

## **CONTACT JULIE**

Although the genesis of this article was simply a small press cutting, it was, nevertheless, another opportunity to take a 'step back in time' and discover more about the people and organizations of the township of Yallourn.

If there are readers with cuttings, photos and other memorabilia please contact Julie. Newspapers articles offer many avenues for research about the people of Yallourn and their life connections and achievements.

A great deal of effort is being made to gather and post the history of Yallourn and its people on the website; and any assistance in this project would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for any help you can offer Julie.

This article was researched and written by Roger Spull and prepared and posted by Julie George for the Virtual Yallourn website in April 2020.