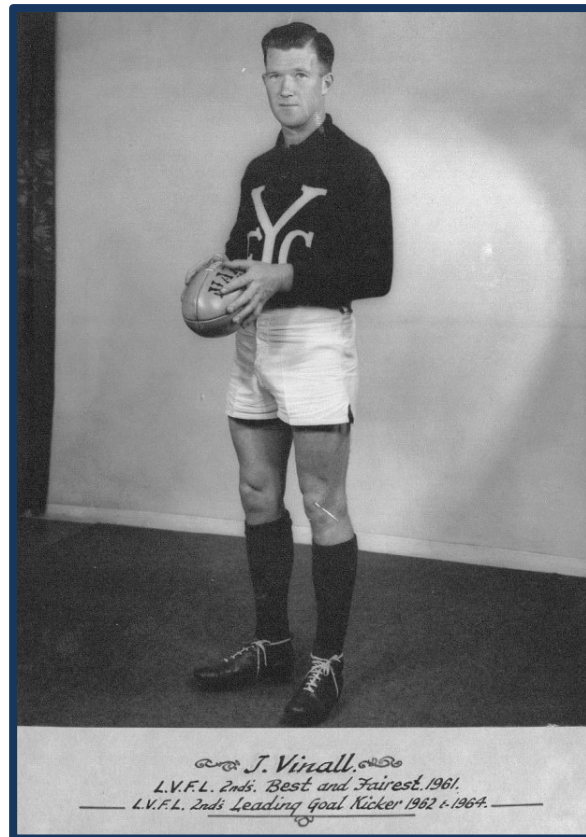


A TRIBUTE TO
JACK VINALL (1931-2021)
‘A COMMUNITY CHAMPION’



JACK VINALL: ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL IN 2014.

THE SAD PASSING OF JACK VINALL

One of the great personalities of Gippsland, Jack Vinall, passed away at his home in Creamery Road, Yinnar, on Monday 25th January 2021. Jack Vinall, who was student at Yallourn High School in the 1940's, played more than 200 games with the 'Blues and was a prominent player in the Central Gippsland Cricket Association.

Many Virtual Yallourn readers will remember Jack's outstanding achievements in local football for the Blues and cricket (with Morwell CC) and, of course, who could ever forget his energetic and resolute community involvement and lasting contribution to the affairs and organizations of the Latrobe Valley?

Jack Vinall has a place in the hearts of all people of the 'Valley. He was a person of immense character, gifted talents and unpretentious ways.

Jack was aged 89 at the time of his death; and all readers convey their condolences to the Vinall family at this time of deep sorrow. Jack's funeral service will be held on Friday, 5th of February at Kernot Hall in Morwell. (**Note:** The details of the service are published below).

• THREE ARTICLES ABOUT THE LIFE OF JACK VINALL

Jack's remarkable life could be best summarized as a 'journey of enduring and diligent service to his community'; and the following three articles, from various sources, highlight his contribution to the district for more than five decades.

• ARTICLE :1 VIRTUAL YALLOURN WEBSITE - 2012

The following article, about Jack Vinall, was written for the Virtual Yallourn website in October 2012; and it is a useful reminder of Jack's on-field prowess for the Yallourn Football Club for fourteen years.

Jack Vinall as born in 1931 and has lived in the Latrobe Valley all of his life. As a teenager, Jack witnessed the great changes that were taking place in the region as the power industry expanded, townships spread and the population grew. Opportunities for employment brought hundreds of workers to the 'Valley and the influx of men provided the impetus for the growth of recreational activities particularly cricket and football.

Jack loved both sports and he was a natural. He attended the Yallourn High School; and, in 1947, Jack and his team mates hit the sporting pages of 'The Gippsland Times' when the Yallourn High School travelled to play the Sale High School in a cricket match. In a low scoring affair, Jack and a young boy named Ken Cooper (7/17) bowled the Yallourn team to an exciting victory.

One of Jack's thrills was to travel to the city in 1944 to watch his uncle (also named Jack Vinall) play football for Essendon. In those days, Dick Reynolds was the undisputed 'King' of Victorian football. Unfortunately, Uncle Jack's VFL career was cut short when he broke his leg. Uncle Jack resumed his football with Williamstown (VFA); and in 1947, he coached Williamstown's Reserves. Uncle Jack Vinall died in 1991.

Jack gained prominence as a footballer quickly and at the age of 17 was invited to train with Carlton. (Percy Bentley was the coach of Carlton). Jack forged a name for himself at Morwell FC as a key forward. He had good ground skills, strong hands and was an accurate kick for goal.

He played in the famous CGFL Grand Final Replay against Yallourn in 1953. Morwell had a star-studded team and Jack and ex-St Kilda star John Coffey were part of the Tiger's forward set-up. Morwell won an epic contest by five points. Winning the CGFL flag was one of the highlights of Jack's football career.

Early in 1954, Jack trained with Footscray (coached by the VFL legend Charlie Sutton) and he was named on the Bulldogs' Supplementary List. In April 1954, Jack was part of a two-way trade deal between Yallourn and Morwell.

After negotiations between the clubs, Jack was cleared to Yallourn in return for Bruce Crawley going to Morwell. Morwell's ruckman, Jack Aitken, was appointed

as the coach of Yallourn that year, so Yallourn got a 'two for one' bargain. The 'two Jacks' were to prove great recruits for the Blues.

Jack Vinall went on to play in excess of 230 games for Yallourn and a total of 350 games in the CGFL /LVFL. Unfortunately, there are no exact statistics, but it seems that Jack probably kicked more than 500 goals in local football. While playing with Yallourn, Jack gained a reputation as a creative forward with an uncanny ability to kick 'tight-angle' goals.

Jack's many achievements at Yallourn FC included:-

1961-Rex Hartley Medal for Best & Fairest in the LVFL Reserves (20 votes)

1962-LVFL Reserves Goal-kicking Award with 47 goals.

1963 -Runner-up to Graham Davey in Yallourn Reserves Best and Fairest.

1964-LVFL Reserves Goal-kicking Award with 63 goals.

In 1955. he kicked 8 goals in a match against Warragul.

Jack kicked 10 goals in a game twice in his career. (Trafalgar and Stratford)

Jack has strong memories of his 14 years at Yallourn FC and regards Kevin Fanning and Jimmy Shaw as 'simply remarkable' players for the club. Many brilliant footballers played in the LVFL in that era but Jack thinks that Kevin Coverdale (Bairnsdale) and John Nix (Sale) were the 'stand-outs.'

Jack recalls that in his seasons with the Blues he had some excellent coaches. The list included: Jack Aitken, Gerald Marchesi (North Melbourne), Vin Sabbatucci (Fitzroy/St Kilda), Vic Lawrence (North Melbourne) Jim Dorgan (South Melbourne) and John Hutchinson (Yallourn/Fitzroy).

Cricket was Jack's other passion in which he shone. He was a wily leg-spinner who captained Morwell, represented CGCA and is a Life Member of Morwell Cricket Club. His best bowling figures were 8/ 63 against Moe in the CGCA Grand Final in 1964. Jack also took 8/71 against Monash in 1957-58.

In 1965, Jack was elected to council and it was the beginning of a dedicated and meritorious involvement in local government. For more than forty years, Jack has participated in the affairs, events, organizations and life of the region. He held the office of Mayor of Morwell and Shire President at various times.

In 1994, during the amalgamation/restructure of shire councils, Jack was appointed Commissioner of the South Gippsland Shire Council. He also stood for State Parliament on six occasions. In a close call in 1967, Jack lost the election for the Seat of Morwell by only 300 votes. His involvement in community life has been exemplary and a credit to him and his family.

At the time of recording this history, Jack's wife Betty had recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Jack and Betty have been married for 57 years and have always lived in the Yinnar-Driffield district.

Jack finished his football career at Yallourn in 1968. He had seen the CGFL merge to become the LVFL; and flourish into one of the strongest country football competitions in Australia. It is true, a lot of coal and good footballers came out of the Latrobe Valley!

Yallourn Football Club did particularly well out of the 'trade deal' almost 60 years ago. Not only did Yallourn obtain a skilled forward and remarkable club man but Jack Vinall was an ornament to the game of Australian Rules. Yallourn Football Club was most fortunate!

Finally, readers of Virtual Yallourn will be interested to see a photograph of Jack as a student at Yallourn High School in 1947. One of Jack's life-long friends Arthur Webb is also pictured. The boy holding the football is another noted Yallourn identity Stan Ostlund. The tall blonde student in the back row is former Yallourn ruckman Gavin Edmonson.

(Source: Roger for Virtual Yallourn in October 2012).



YALLOURN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM: 1947

**Back: A Burrage, B Stevenson, C Fowler, N Moller, G Edmonson, C Cullen
Centre: J Briese, L Hopkins, K Collins, S Ostlund, A Webb, D Graham, J Jackson
Front: ... , ... , J Vinall, K Robertson**

In the photograph (below), of the 1955 Yallourn Football Club Grand Final team, which played Sale at Morwell, Jack can be seen on the right-hand side of middle row. His brother-in-law, Mossie Williams, is on the left hand side of the same row. Jack was selected on the half forward flank in the Grand Final team and, in a 'nail biting finish', Sale defeated Yallourn by 10 points to claim the flag.

Stories about Jack, Peter Cook, Mossie Williams, Laurie Shipp, Jim Watt, Kevin Fanning, Stan Brown, Jimmy Shaw and other stars of Yallourn Football Club can be found on this website.



YALLOURN FOOTBALL CLUB—GRAND FINAL TEAM 1955

• **ARTICLE: 2 -‘ CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS’ - 2014**

In 2014, Jack Vinall was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his enduring service to the community; and the following comprehensive article was published in the ‘Churchill and District News’: Issue 125, March 13th 2014. The author of the article is unknown.

Jack Vinall was honoured with an Order of Australia award on Australia Day. Jack Vinall grew up on a dairy farm at Driffield, becoming a dairy farmer in the area, with his own property.

From early manhood, Jack became involved with supporting his community. He started first with involvement in Young Farmers on a local level in 1963-64, then for Gippsland, and finally State representation. Jack was the foundation president of Gippsland Young farmers.

A group of friends and colleagues in Young Farmers, the footy club, and school friends encouraged Jack to run as a candidate for the West Riding of Morwell Shire Council, which had representatives who were mostly in their 70’s and 80’s. Jack brought a fresh young approach to council matters. From these beginnings Jack has gone on to serve his community in an amazing variety of ways.

- Local Government-Shire of Morwell and Latrobe City-30 years of service.
- At age 33, in 1964, was elected to Morwell Shire Council. President of Morwell Shire Council 1970-71, 1971-72, 72-73, 1980-81, 85-86.
- Mayor of Morwell City 1993-94 and his final year of service to Morwell.
- Amalgamation of South Gippsland Shire Commissioner.
- 1995/96/97 Community Activities.

- Foundation President of Latrobe Valley Arts Centre.
- President Strzelecki Boy Scouts.
- District President Advance Latrobe Valley Association.
- Foundation President, Region 10 of the Grants Commission, President greater Gippsland.
- Deputy Chairman Latrobe Regional Commission.
- Commissioner Hernes Oak Water Trust (14 years).
- Chairman Traralgon Division (Gippsland) of the Traffic Control Authority.
- Member of -Interim Committee Latrobe Valley Planning Authority.
- Latrobe Valley Airfield Committee (12years).
- Yallourn Storage Dam (6years).
- Council Delegate to the Gippsland Water Utilisation Committee.
- Founding member of fund raising organisation for Mitchell House project for Senior Citizens.
- Member of Morwell Lions Club.
- Justice of the Peace.
- Insurance Inspector with City Mutual Life Society.
- Silver badge Award 1977-78 City Mutual Life Society.
- Community member Gippsland Lakes Study Industry.
- Chairman of Directors and Director of Moe and Drouin Company Co-Operative Dairy Company (19 years).
- Council representative on Latrobe Valley regional Committee in 1986, seeking jobs for employees of 'Valentine Lee', 'Kayser' and 'Exacto'
- Education Chairman Campus Community Service Committee, Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education (G.I.A.E.) Council.
- Council member - G.I.A.E. (13 years) Member of Committee.
- Yallourn High School Advisory Council (6 years).
- Member of Committee, Driffield State School.
- Young Farmers Member of Organising Group, Yinnar Young Farmers Club 1948. Member of Yinnar Young Farmers Club 1948.
- President of Yinnar Young Farmers Club 1949, 50, 52.
- Foundation President, Gippsland District Council- Young Farmers.
- Attendee-50 year re-union Yinnar Young Farmers Club 2012.
- National Party State President, Victorian Country Party 1971-73 State Treasurer 1975-87.
- President, Morwell Electorate District Council 1960-67. Foundation Secretary, Morwell branch (14 years). From the age of 28- Central Councillor for 30 years

Sporting Bodies

- A keen exponent of Australian Rules football, as player, captain, and coach of teams: Member of Yallourn, Morwell, and Footscray teams for a total of over 300 games.
- President of Morwell Football Club (1978, 79, 80, 81, 82.)
- Cricket-club member Morwell Cricket Club 1948-70.

- Team captain 1961-64.
- Represented Central Gippsland at Country Week and in inter-association games.
- Vice President of Central Gippsland Cricket Association for many years.
- In 1967, was Chairman of the Indian Cricket team tour of Gippsland
- Life Member of Morwell Cricket Club Lawn Bowls-
- President Yinnar Bowls Club

Jack says he has enjoyed his community involvement very much. “It has not always been easy,” he states, “Especially when we were farming, trying to fit in engagements between milking’s.” But he loved meeting people and doing things for the community. “There are things you want to do. They do not always work out, but you never stop trying,” says Jack.

This is the mark of this man. Doing things which opened doors for the community was a great reward for Jack. He is particularly thrilled that his award has been given in merit of his Gippsland-wide efforts of which he is proud.

During his times in council, and with other organisations, Jack and Betty, his faithful wife of over 60 years, say they have rubbed shoulders with people in high places but have found them to be ordinary people doing an extraordinary job.

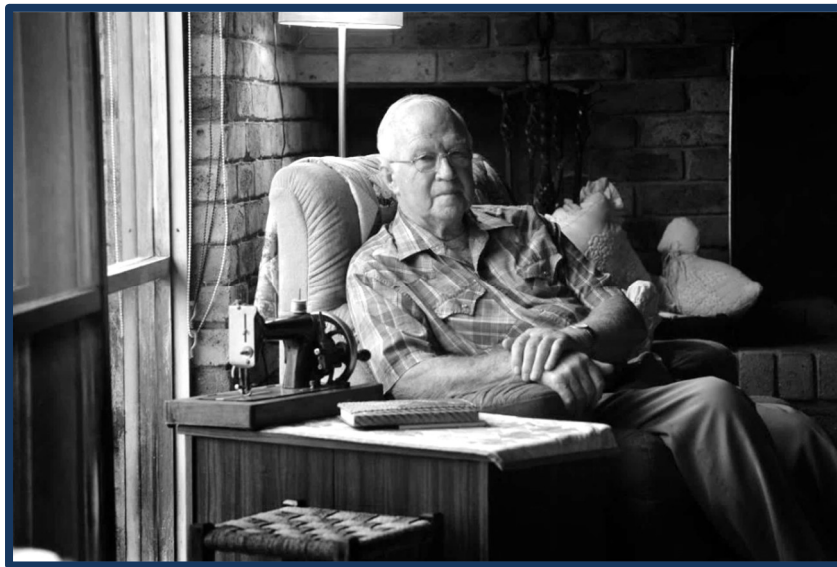
Jack says he could not have done what he did without the support of Betty and his six children who pulled their weight with helping on the farm to make it possible. Jack is rightly proud and pleased with his family and thanks them for being there for him.

(Source: ‘Churchill & District News’- March 2014)

- **ARTICLE: 3 ‘THE EXPRESS’ - JANUARY 2014**

The following article, which also relates to Jack being awarded the Order of Australia Medal, was published in ‘The Latrobe Valley Express’ on January 27th 2014. It was written by journalist, Jessica Chambers, and was accompanied by a photograph of Jack. Jessica’s story provides another excellent insight into Jack’s devoted service to his community for more than five decades.

**JANUARY 27th 2014 –
AUSTRALIA DAY 2014 HONOURS:
JOHN VINALL- OAM
Written by
JESSICA CHAMBERS**



Jack Vinall, at home in Creamery Road in 2014

At 33 years old, John Vinall became a Morwell Shire councillor and it was for his service to the community through this and a variety of other organisations that he has been recognised with an Order of Australia Medal. The retired 82 year-old dairy farmer, formerly of Driffield and now living in Yinnar, said he was shocked and honoured to receive a letter telling him of the award he will collect later this year.

Among Mr Vinall's many roles, he was chairman and director of the Moe Cooperative Dairy Company and a member of the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education council.

He was also president of the National Party's Victorian branch, Yinnar Young Farmers, Central Gippsland Cricket Association, Morwell Football Club and Yinnar Bowls Club. Mr Vinall said it was his friends made through cricket and Young Farmers that encouraged him to pursue a position on Morwell council, where he sat from 1965 to 1994.

"My friends wanted someone young to get involved in politics," Mr Vinall said. "There were some things happening that I didn't agree with and a lot of young people didn't agree with."

Looking back at his time at council, Mr Vinall said he was most proud of getting Mid Valley to Morwell, as opposed to Traralgon, but a part of the job he enjoyed was meeting people.

"The main thing was the people you met were important in the community in which they were involved and they were very ordinary people and wanted to talk about ordinary things, and these things made them important," Mr Vinall said.

(Source: THE 'LV Express' written by Jessica Chambers in January 2014).

THE VINALL FAMILY NOTICE

AS PUBLISHED BY THE LATROBE VALLEY FUNERAL SERVICES.

VINALL – John (Jack) OAM

Born on August 28, 1931. Passed away January 25, 2021.

Passed away peacefully at the family home on the 25th January 2021 aged 89.

Loved and husband of Betty (Dec).

Much loved father and father-in-law of Sue (Dec) and Brian, Peter and Cheryl, Sally and Darryle, Jo-Anne, Lindy and Bill, Leesa and Wayne.

Loved Grandpa of all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Loved brother and brother-in-law of Doris (Dec), Arthur, June, Denise and Morris. *Cherished memories in our hearts forever.*

The Funeral for Mr. John (Jack) Vinall will be held at Kernot Hall, Princes Dr Morwell, on Friday (5th February 2021) commencing at 11am. At the conclusion of the Service the Funeral will leave for the Hazelwood Cemetery.

OTHER ARTICLES ON THIS WEBSITE RE: JACK VINALL

1. An article, regarding Jack's friend and former team mate, Alan Ripper, can be found on this website. Click on this link....

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/Alan%20Ripper.pdf>

2. Other stories about Jack and the Yallourn Football Club can also be found on the website by typing the word '**football**' into the search field, at the top right hand side of this page... and then press '**Enter.**'

THANK YOU.

A special 'thank you' to Mossie Williams (Jack's brother-in law) and Sally Gee (Jack's daughter) for their kind assistance in preparing this tribute to Jack Vinall for the Virtual Yallourn website.

FURTHER READING ABOUT JACK VINALL

Many of Jack exploits on the cricket field can be found in John White's informative history of local cricket '**Coaldust & Cricket**' which was published in 2011. John, who grew up in Yallourn, is also a well-known identity in Gippsland cricket circles.

Any memories and anecdotes of Jack Vinall's years at Yallourn HS, Yallourn Football Club, Morwell Cricket Club and his later community involvement would be welcomed. Please contact Julie if you can contribute in any way. Thank you.

The above article was researched and compiled by Roger Spaul and presented and posted on the Virtual Yallourn website by Julie George in January 2021.