

# 80 - 50 - 20 Anniversary A Celebration of Oakleigh Football

- Oakleigh C.Y.M.S 1932 - 1949
- Oakleigh Y.C.W 1950 - 1972
- Emmanuel FC 1962 - 1991
- Sacred Heart 1973 - 1991
- Oakleigh Amateur FC 1992 -

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This booklet has been produced with the utmost care and respect. We have endeavored to ensure that information contained within this booklet is accurate and true. We hope that any omissions, additions and corrections will be drawn to our attention and be amended in subsequent publications.

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## Introduction and Welcome

This celebration is truly a once in a lifetime event. This booklet published as a memento of community football in Oakleigh provides a snapshot of 80 years of five of Oakleigh's best and most significant community sporting organisations.

From difficult economic times in the early 1930's, through the Second World War and the post war migration that saw Oakleigh take on a uniquely multicultural flavour and up to the fast paced life of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the five football clubs of Oakleigh have given much to the community of Oakleigh and the City of Monash. To measure that contribution over 80 years is an impossible task.

The predecessor clubs to Oakleigh Amateur Football Club, Oakleigh CYMS (1932-1949), Oakleigh YCW(1950-1971), Emmanuel Football Club (1962-1991), Sacred Heart Football Club (1972 -1991), would have contributed much to the community of Oakleigh. From the health of individual young men to the financial contribution that playing sport brings to a local economy; all this adds much to the general well being of the local community.

It is hard now in the age of Facebook and Twitter to imagine what that first game in 1932 was like. We do know that sport was becoming increasingly important to an Australia coming out of the severe global depression that followed the First World War. We know that it was a time when Bradman and Phar Lap held centre stage. It was also a time when local communities in Melbourne were beginning to feel for the first time a sense of community, and sport was an important part of this. But in many ways it would be no different to today. Mostly it is the same questions and considerations that we experience today. Do we have a goal umpire? Are there enough jumpers? Did anyone bring the oranges and so on?

This year we honour of a number of significant leaders of the combined clubs by inducting them into the inaugural Hall of Fame. As we do that I would like you all to reflect on the deeds of these people. I am sure that as they are recognized that they in turn would like you to thank the many committed club volunteers that allowed them to perform such herculean deeds on and off the field.

On a personal level I have been privileged to play alongside and against many of the champions and the stalwarts of three of the clubs involved. As such I understand fully the contributions and applaud thoroughly all the men and women who have committed themselves to working hard for the five clubs.

My hope and vision is that the 80:50:20 year celebration and this booklet will bring back many fond memories. For some this will mean a rekindling of a passion for and an involvement in local football. The Oakleigh Amateur Football Club welcomes you with open arms and with a desire to continue what is clearly now a proud and successful tradition of football in Oakleigh. I like to think that this isn't the celebration of five clubs but rather the celebration of one family that started in 1932 and continues today as the Oakleigh Amateur Football Club.

**Mr. Barry Alexander**  
**President of Oakleigh Amateur Football Club 1992 -**

## Home is where you hang your boots!

We all know that the Oakleigh Amateur Football Club has called W.A. Scammell Reserve in Guest Road home for the last twenty years. The predecessor or “parent” clubs however have had many homes and relocations to contend with since 1932. There were various reasons for this, some changes were forced upon the clubs and other moves were to better their facilities. The relocations no doubt present challenges for both committee and player.



The Oakleigh CYMS in the 30's through to the 50's played at what was commonly known as the Oakleigh police paddocks - most likely to 1958. It was next to the brick quarry adjacent to Scotchman's Creek. This is now the site of the Oakleigh Recreation Centre and Oakleigh Swimming Pool.

The CYMS played there on a Saturday, whilst the underage YCW teams played at the "Rec" on Sunday. The "Rec" is now known as Edwards

Street Reserve in Huntingdale. The original home ground for YCW in the early years was off Chadstone Road in East Malvern.

When the Oakleigh Districts Football Club vacated the “Rec” to move to the Princess Highway Reserve, which by the way was the turnaround point for the 1956 Olympic Marathon<sup>1</sup>. Oakleigh CYMS in turn relocated to the “Rec” to play on Saturday. The YCW continued to play its home games during the late 1950's on Sundays at the “Rec”.

With the demise of the CYMS competition in the early 60's most players eventually moved on to play for the Oakleigh YCW. It was about this time in 1962 that Des Baker formed the Emmanuel Football Club. They were also without a ground to play on, that was until a deal was struck with the Oakleigh Technical School on the corner of North and Poath Roads. They played there until Des brokered a deal with the then Oakleigh Council to build a pavilion and play at W.A Scammell Reserve.



As we know Sacred Heart Football Club evolved out of YCW always using the Edwards Street Reserves as its home ground until the formation of the Oakleigh Amateur Football Club. The OAFCl have played at W.A Scammell Reserve as its main home and Warree Park, the spiritual home for Oakleigh football, as its second base.

The clubs played in the following leagues; Oakleigh CYMS played in the Catholic Young Mens Society Association; Oakleigh YCW played in the YCW Football Association; Emmanuel and Sacred Heart played in the Eastern Suburban Churches Football Association (ESCFA); Oakleigh Amateur Football club played in ESCFA in its first year and from thereon in the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA).

<sup>1</sup> This was won by Alain Mimoun (FRA) in a time of 2:25:00. A great day for him as he not only won Olympic Gold but his wife gave birth to a daughter that morning

## Oakleigh CYMS. Early Football in Oakleigh.

Not a lot is recorded about the life and times of the Oakleigh CYMS football team. We do know that they entered the Catholic Young Men's Society (CYMS) Association in 1932. Australia at the time had a population of just over 6 million; the Sydney Harbour Bridge opened Sunday 20th March and a couple of weeks later Australians woke to the news of the death of Phar Lap on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

### Inaugural Oakleigh C.Y.M.S Football Team 1932



*Back Row: Pat Phelan, Alf Gobby, Jim Johnson, Mick Hynes, Jim Stainsby, Bill Henry, R McKie  
Third Row: Andy O'Rourke, Jack Murphy, Jack O'Keefe, Alf Fahey, Frank O'Shea, Bert Le Plastrier, Percy Parkinson, Arthur Bartle  
Second Row: Mick Crowe, Jack McCarthy, Jack Phelan, Frank Crowe, Vin Stafford, Mick Glennon, Bill Short  
Front Row: Bert Buston Tom Cairnes, Dick Caples*

The Melbourne Argus on the 15th of February recorded that Oakleigh, West Footscray, and Heidelberg were accepted into the CYMS Association. The Association had been around for some time and football was only one of the many activities that the CYMS organized. The Argus records also that 24 teams were represented and the elected President for 1932 was from Coburg and the Vice president was from Brunswick.

The Argus also records in August 1934 that during a CYMS football match between Oakleigh and South Melbourne that the field umpire J. Clanchy took exception to the conduct of an Oakleigh player, and refused to continue until the player left the field. It took a conference between the opposing captains to settle things down and the player walked off the ground. Even though he had apparently exceeded his powers the spectators applauded umpire Clanchy for his firmness. Sadly it isn't recorded as to who was Oakleigh's first send off! We should not condone disputing umpires decisions but it would appear that Oakleigh CYMS were early adopters.

The second world war meant that the CYMS was disbanded for a time. Oakleigh reformed in around 1945 playing in the open age competition at the Police Paddock with its changing room being an old tin shed near the quarry. A lack of players saw a few lean years in the early 1950's where the CYMS were unable to field a team. In 1954 or 1955 the player numbers improved enough to see them back on the field again until the evolution of CYMS into the YCW open age competition.

**According to the inscription on the ball in the photo this is the 1955 CYMS open age team.**



*Back Row: Mr K. White, M. Wiseman, L. Bibby, J. Wilding, A. McDonald, K. Rohan, P. Cox, P. Quinn, W. O'Shea, Mr F. O'Shea.*

*Centre: J. White, B. Maher, V. Kendall, G. Collins, K. White, B. Marshall, G. Honan ( V.C ) , J. Miller.*

*Front: M. O'Shea, E. Shanley (Capt / Coach), B. McCarthy, B. Marshall, E. Bryant.*

The CYMS News of 1956 records on the eve of the first semi final against Mentone that captain-coach George Allen was acknowledged as an inspiring leader for the season with solid leadership from his vice-captain Rod Moloney. Peter Quinn and back pocket Les Bibby and full back John White are also acknowledged as leading players for the season.

Notable open age coaches for CYMS included Harold Lapan as playing coach, Kirk White, and George Allen who coached the 1957 runners up team with a 3 point loss having kicked 3 goals 15 points - bad kicking is.....!

Frank O' Shea coached from about 1960 with back to back premierships in 1961 and 1962 and runners up in 1963 and topped it off with a flag again in 1965. His son Bill added to the family record with another flag in 1970. From the late 1960's Jack Gubbins took on the role as playing coach of the seconds. A great record for a great club.

## Oakleigh YCW: A brief history

A keen eye will note that many of the players playing in the CYMS open age team also appear in the first known photograph of the YCW under 18 team. At least seven of these players such as J. White, G. Honan, P. Cox and B Marshall would saddle up on a Saturday for CYMS and back on a Sunday for the YCW under 18 team. Tough breed!

## Oakleigh Y.C.W Under 18 1955



*Back Row: J McAlister (Coach), B. Greely, J. McKenna, T. Healey, R. Clarke, G. Honan (v.c), E. Bryant, J. Tindley, J. Kennedy, B. McArthur, Mr. Le Brocy (Pres.)*  
*Middle row: B. Kirwan, P. Rohan, B. McAlister, B. Woodhouse, P. Cox (Capt.), B. McCarthy, M. Wiseman.*  
*Front Row: J. Miller, K. Reed, J. White, B. Marshall, K. Gardiner.*

Over the clubs history YCW won a least fifteen premierships at various levels including four open age with the first one coming in 1961. For very good reason 1961 was described as “ A proud year”<sup>2</sup>. With the record of never having won a premiership 1961 was a year of abundance as the Oakleigh YCW won three. All three games were played at Kooyong.

Playing in the B Grade South section of the Open Age YCW competition the well respected and football-wise Frank O’Shea is recorded as coach of the open age team that defeated Elwood by 57 points. The final scores being 14 goals 13 behinds to 6 goals 4 behinds. Having got close to a premiership in previous years with a notable loss to Mentone in 1957 due to inaccurate kicking, many of the players were quite conscious of needing to break the drought. Elwood had finished the season in third spot and had won through to the Grand Final with ease. On a very windy day Oakleigh won the toss and chose to kick with the wind and with eight goals to none in the first quarter the first open age premiership win was well

<sup>2</sup> Oakleigh YCW. *3 Football Premierships:1961*. Oakleigh YCW, Huntingdale,1961.

on the way. And with good defense in the second quarter meant Oakleigh turned at halftime with about an eight goal lead.

### **Oakleigh Y.C.W Open Age "B" Grade South Premiers 1961**



*Back Row: Mr J. Ryan ( goal umpire), R. Megna, R. Clarke, E. Healey, J. Comerford, G. Evans, P, Quinn, W. O'Shea, J. White, D. Boswell, B. Boner, M. O'Callaghan ( boundary)*

*Centre Row: B. Jones, L. Bibby, P. Rohan, C. Ridsdale, J Gubbins (Capt.), Mr F. O'Shea (coach), B. Carr (v.c) , E. Walsh, J. Harford, J. Ryan, Mr. J. McCarthy ( Trainer)*

*Front Row: J. Launder, J. Thompson, B. McCarthy, K. Reed, G. Honan,*

The 1961 under 19 team coached by Melbourne's "Big" Bob Johnson defeated the Flinders Naval Depot 12.2 to 7.7. Bad kicking is bad football as both teams had 14 shots at goal. Best players were named as McMahon, Brown and Mick Skehan.

Coached by Roy Weston the under 17 team completed the hattrick for 1961. They defeated Middle Park 8. 11 to 4. 9. Again better use around the goalmouth was a defining element. Best players named as Richard Weston, Frank Davis, L Walker and P Wiseman. The under 17 team went from near the bottom to winning the flag having only been beaten twice that year. Richard Weston is also recorded as having won the competition best and fairest trophy that year.



Oakleigh Y.C.W. Open Age  
Premiers 1962



*Back Row: G. Brown, J. Launder, E. Healey, J. Comerford, R. Epstein, W. Beckwith,  
Centre Row: G. Ryan, B. McCarthy, J. McKenna, W. O'Shea, P. Quinn, B. Carr, K. Rohan, G. Honan, M. Reed.  
Front Row: K. Reed, K. Jenkins, J. Gubbins (Capt.), Mr. F. O'Shea (Coach), J. White (v.c), L. Bibby, R. Clarke,*

The club went back to back in 1962 with Frank O'Shea as open age coach and he coached another in 1965 and his son Bill O'Shea coached the 1970 open age premiership.

**Oakleigh Y.C.W. Premiers 1970**



*Back Row: J. Launder, J. Mackey, J. Gordon, C. Cairns, P. Sturrock, R. Todd, B. Young, S. Conway, T. Green, G. Cahill  
Middle Row: P. Quinn, J. Keogh, W. Oshea (Coach), J. McInerny, R. Feguson, Fr Des. Panton, M. Casey.  
Front Row: D. Ryan, B. Gordan, J. Gawne, J. Lopes, T. Gregall,  
Absent: S. Grose*

## Oakleigh Sacred Heart Football Club: A short history

The Oakleigh Sacred Heart Football Club came into being on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 1973. At its first committee meeting President Jack Callanan, Secretary Bill Bourke and Treasurer Kevin Garner were the elected leaders of the new club and the meeting opened with a prayer. Overseen by Sacred Heart priest Fr Des Panton who was the designated Chaplain for the OSHFC.

The minutes record that the reason for forming the new club was because of an increasing financial burden on the Oakleigh YCW branch and what seems to have been a player "revolt". The minutes record that the open age players of 1970 were dissatisfied with the administration of YCW branch in regards to football.

The minute book of the first years or so of the Oakleigh Sacred Heart Football Club reveal a group of people with great energy. Many issues big and small had to be attended to. These included developing the rules for the new club, setting subscriptions (\$5 for players and \$2 for social members), getting used to the send-off rule in the newly joined Eastern Suburban Churches Association (ESCFA), fundraising and ensuring the players had jumpers and appointing coaches were just some of the matters that the club needed to come to terms with. As well as organising practice matches and it would appear that 17<sup>th</sup> March 1973 saw OSHFC play Emmanuel for the first time in a practice match.

### Inaugural Oakleigh Sacred Heart Club Photograph 1973



*Top Row: Phil Mackey (Street clothes), Peter Washington, Brian Young, Frank Nosedo, Bill Bourke, Rod Bourke, Peter Bindley, Phil Nicol, Fr Des Panton*  
*Second Row: John Smyth (Blue Jacket), Jack Launder, Paul D'Astoli, George Tomlins, Ray Allen, Damian Healy, George Jones, Noel Gregory, Paul McMahon, Robin Epstein, Jack Callanan (President)*  
*Third Row: Mick Cahill, Pat Lanagan, Terry Green, Jack Gubbins, Mick Skehan (Coach), Dave Goulden, Greg Cahill, Mal Hardiman, Noel Benson*  
*Front Row: Lucci DeFede, Dave Callanan, Steve Gross, Matthew Gubbins (with ball), John Bennett, Greg Callanan, Jim McInerney.*

Mick Skehan coached the inaugural first XVIII and Captain was Dave Goulden who won both the club and league best and fairest in 1973. Two years earlier in 1971 Dave won the league goal kicking for Oakleigh YCW. The design of the new jumper was predominantly a red jumper with the royal blue vee or yoke. It wasn't approved by the league until the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1973 which explains why the 1973 team were wearing the old YCW jumper. Earlier in the year much debate was had on the design of the Sacred Heart jumper including the suggestion that second hand jumpers be purchased from Port Melbourne FC.

The first premiership for the club came in 1973 with a win to the First XVIII in C1 Section where Oakleigh defeated Preston Methodist. The minutes note that Mr Spurling donated eight dozen bottles of beer and Greg Cahill purchased one dozen bottles of champagne. Somehow celebrations for the premiership team continued on to the Oakleigh Club through to the Sunday!

In 1974 the seconds competed in the B grade reserves grand final and were capably Captained & Coached by Jack Callanan Jnr. Also the OSHFC Under 17's and Under 15's were premiers this year.

*The grand final day was an absolute tragedy for both the Oakleigh Sacred Heart Football Club and the Callanan family. Jack Callanan Senior unfortunately passed away during the Reserves game. The game was called off and for obvious reasons Oakleigh were unable to field a team for a rematch the following week. The League rightly so, awarded the reserves premiership to both Oakleigh and Hampton United. Jacks passing triggered a flood of condolences from many opposition clubs demonstrating the high regard and respect in which Jack was held. The club recognized Jacks contribution by naming the award for Best Clubman, **The Jack Callanan Memorial Trophy**.*

The following year 1975, both the seniors and reserves won premierships – *not a bad start to a fledgling club*. Mick Skehan was now president and in support were Greg Cahill (Sec) and John McInerney (Tres). Bob Ferguson was the first XVIII Captain Coach and Jack Callanan Jnr continued as Captain Coach of the second XVIII.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 1978 the club inducted its first life member. Most of the names, Jack Gubbins, Bill O'Shea, Mick Skehan, Jack Callanan, Phil Mackie and Peter Quinn were regularly seen on the honour boards of Oakleigh YCW.

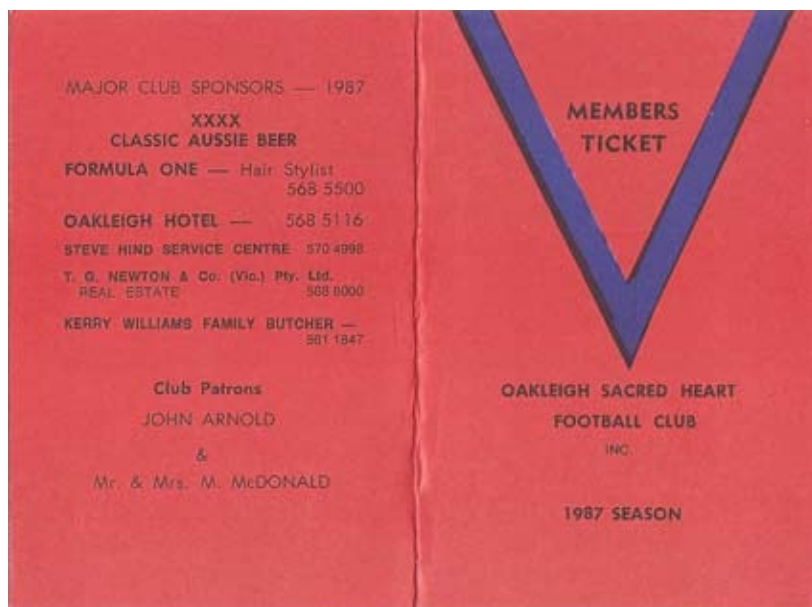
The following years saw the club promoted up the ranks and deservedly compete in the A grade section of the ESCFA. They played in consecutive grand finals 1978,79 only to fail both times to St Mary's. Presidents during this period were Norm Walsh who came to the club in 1977 and Bill Bourke with Ray Henstridge as senior coach. 1982 saw the reinstatement of Alan Reeves as senior Coach and Bruce "Chooka" Garner debuted as reserves coach. Greg Cahill's younger brother Mick was now president.

Following an ordinary performance in 1983 the club was relegated to the B section in 1984 but rallied to win the premiership in that year. The 1984 season was close fought across B Grade. In a typical Oakleigh fighting fashion OSHFC dug deep to come back from a two goal deficit to win the preliminary final by 15pts (Oakleigh 16.19.115 to Mazenod 15.10.100) so set up a grand final against Cheltenham Assumption. Best players were: Jones, Chapple, Drill, Allen, Miller. Goals: Miller 4.

The 1984 Grand final was played at Tucker Rd in excellent conditions for football.



The euphoria of the 1984 win had to last for a number of years as it proved to be the last major victory for the club. Life memberships were awarded in 1985 to Pat Lanagan, Mick Cahill, Phillip "Pip" Nicol, Alan Reeves and Bernie McMahon, with Barry Tossal winning the 1985 Best and Fairest.



Barry Alexander appears as President in 1986, Bruce Garner and Harry Osborne were recognized as life members that year and Mick Welshford won the first of an amazing four consecutive best and fairest awards. Mick shared the 1989 best and fairest with Alan Cloke who followed with the final two best and fairest trophies making it three in a row for Alan.

Oakleigh Club Photograph 1989 Showing the devil logo in the background.



Back Row: R Sharp, C Garbuio, D Doria, F Tzimas, J Russo, M Miller, B Matherson, C Hanley, A Pellissier, F Andrews, J Bruerton, G Tocknell, G Miller.  
 Second Row: J Podesta, C Moore, J Green, B Osborne, P Ansell, A Cloke, S Hargreaves, E McDonald, S Pellissier, S Leane, J Carrol, M Podesta, C Jacobs, M Coppock.  
 First Row: S Callanan, D McKenner, J Rice, G Paydon, A Walsh (coach), B Alexander (president), M Welsford (capt), B Garner, P Clements, T Ianchello.  
 Front Row: J Flynn, B Fowler, S Jackson, P Trevaskis.

Page 34 — OAKLEIGH-SPRINGVALE TIMES, Wednesday, February 22, 1989



## Heart beats quicken as footy season starts

OAKLEIGH Sacred Heart Football Club is no different from countless other local sporting clubs when it comes to the subject of money and players.

They need more of both to survive.

Officials James Podesta and Barry Alexander reckon that it costs \$24,000 a year to field and equip two teams in the Eastern Suburban Churches competition.

"And we don't even have paid players," said Jim, as he looked out upon the group of 44

footballers going through their paces on a hot Tuesday night.

The only salaried on-field performer is coach Andrew Walsh, a Sacred Heart boy who has returned to the fold after an honorable nine-year stint at VFA club Oakleigh.

Time demands required of an Association player, especially at a club returning to First Division, were the main reason that Walsh came back to Sacred Heart.

"A bit of gentle persuasion," he says as he describes the influence

of old friends at the club where he began his football career.

There was a fair amount of "gentle persuasion" in the other direction as the 29-year-old defender had strong family ties with Oakleigh.

He feels that he can devote more time to his wife and two young children while doing justice to the job of trying to lift Sacred Heart from the middle-order spot it occupied last year.

Walsh says he has been pleasantly surprised at the skill level of

his team and is hoping for a successful year.

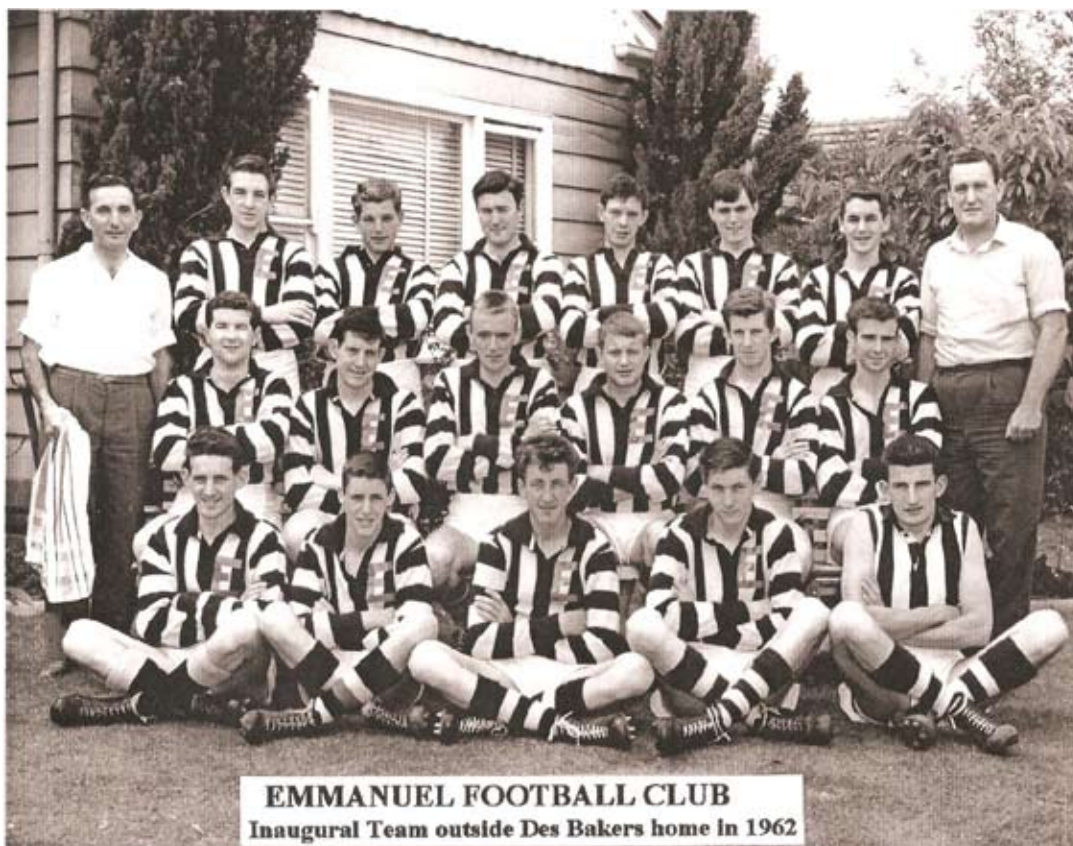
"We could still do with more players", he says. "They can ring me on 547 8089 if they are interested."

Barry Alexander is delighted that players are willing to don the colours without payment, which says a lot for the spirit of the 57-year-old club. The club based at the Edwards Street reserve was originally known as Oakleigh YCW and nurtured Melbourne stars Bob Johnson, Paul Gallery, and Frank Davis.

## Foundations of the Emmanuel Football Club

In 1962 some of the younger men of the Emmanuel Church of England Boys Society, under the leadership of Des Baker, decided to form a football team. Thirty years later, after commencing in C grade in the Eastern Suburban Protestant Churches Football Association, the wonderful legacy of achievement and community involvement by the Emmanuel Football Club (EFC) is to be admired.

### Emmanuel Football Club Inaugural Team 1962



**BACK ROW:** Dennis Mann (trainer/manager) Les Mann, Rick Morcom, Brian Potter, Peter Curley, Paul Rowlands, Peter Sheppard, Des Baker (Coach)

**MIDDLE ROW:** Bruce Haydn, Owen Binnaise, Jim Webber, Max Curley, Peter Donnelly, George Dixon,

**FRONT ROW:** Bruce Gardiner, Colin Foote, Archie Buchanan, Adrian Molineux, John Daniels.

From 1962 to 1965 EFC played home games at Oakleigh Technical College. The oval had a decided slope from South to North, so teams winning the toss had to factor in the wind as well as weather and if they wanted to kick up or down hill. Some memorable tussles took place on this ground as Des had brought with him the tough relentless style of play honed by over 100 games and a Premiership at the Port Melbourne Burroughs.

In 1963 with a style of play in place that ensured no one took a backward step, Des took the club to its first premiership. Emmanuel defeated North Balwyn Methodists in the "C" Grade Grand Final. The final score saw Emmanuel (13.18 96) defeat North Balwyn (9.13 67) with goal kickers being Harrison 4 Lewis and Calvert 2 and singles to Kerley, Mann, Webber, Paterson and Slater.

**Emmanuel Football Club 1963 "C" Grade Premiers**



*Back Row: D. Mann (Trainer), G. Dixon, A. Smith, R. Lewis, G. brown, A Buchanan, R. Levey, P. Rowlands, L. Mann, J. Harrison, D Wilkinson (Trainer)  
 Centre Row: N. Norton, R. Fisher, C. Calvert, J. W (Captain), D. Baker( Coach) J. Daniel, (Vice- President) J. Slatter (Vice- Captain) P. Kerley, P. Shephard  
 Front Row: R. Morris, A. Molineux, C. Foley, B. Gardiner, I. Patterson, R. Jordan, P. Donnelly.*

In 1966 EFC moved to Waverley High School for a season, but Des and the fledgling committee had their eye on Guest Road Reserve, regarded as the best all weather ground in the competition. With the support of Councillor Donnelly, the Oakleigh council agreed to make Guest Road Reserve or Scammell Reserve as it is also known today, the permanent home of Emmanuel Football Club. Guest Road at the start of the 1967 season boasted some primitive conditions. Facilities comprised a tin shed that doubled as changing rooms and a canteen set up under a tarpaulin run by Audrey Baker and many hearty volunteers. Des and the committee continued to lobby the council about the building of a pavilion. Des supplied them with all the plans and drawings and once again was successful in persuading council, with the pavilion being completed during 1969. Subsequently, in 1970 the club was able to celebrate another premiership in their own rooms.

On losing the unlosable Grand Final to Ashburton in 1968 at Box Hill, the club was promoted to A Grade where it remained until the amalgamation with Sacred Heart. It was around this time that there was an influx of "old boys" coming back from other competitions and some new recruits who joined their mates who had been the core of the team. To remain at the highest level of a growing and highly competitive promotion/relegation competition in any sport for over two decades is something that few other teams can boast.

By 1971, with the club now amongst the powerhouses in the competition, EFC thrashed Camberwell in the Grand Final to win our first A Grade Premiership. After several near misses in the next few years, Emmanuel again triumphed in 1976 against another A Grade icon.

In a tough, often fiery encounter, which included the customary couple of reports, Emmanuel managed to beat off traditional rivals Donvale. Since entering the competition from the YCW league in the early 70's as St Francis, Donvale and Emmanuel had developed a fierce rivalry and this was indeed a sweet victory for the Krushers played out in front of a record crowd estimated at over 4,000 spectators.

With some premiership cups in the cabinets, new clubrooms and the respect of the competition it seemed the next step for Emmanuel in the mid seventies was to start developing the club "personality". The brainchild of player Ron Norton the Krusher was born. Drawn by Ron, the Krusher has managed to live on and still epitomizes the fierce determination that those early teams under Des had exhibited. Around this time the Krusher's Kronicle also emerged. Often rough and ready and sometimes more than a little bit risqué, the KK captured the day-to-day gossip, player profiles and happenings of the club. Meant as a throwaway this now forms an importantly and usual record of the EFC. It is great to see them both surviving today as a tangible link to the past.

After the 1976 triumph, the club entered a rather lean period, culminating in a second last finish in 1979 and destined for relegation to B Grade for the first time in our rich history. It was only by divine providence that in the post season review it was discovered that good old St Mary's had played an unregistered player against us in one of the early rounds, resulting in the points being reversed and us avoiding the trip back to B Grade on percentage.

Big changes were needed for Emmanuel to grow into the eighties and rise from the shock of near relegation to become competitive again. A major recruiting drive was launched, a new coach appointed, and with a new committee and a lot more off field activity, the lifeblood of the club was renewed. The results followed and Emmanuel made the next three Grand Finals with one success in 1981. The other two were breathtakingly close losses to St Mary's and Syndal.

The club remained competitive in the following years, which saw great changes, particularly when player payments became an issue. The clubs policy was that if you didn't want to play for the jumper and your mates, Emmanuel didn't want you. This made Emmanuel a lot stronger as we competed extremely well against clubs that were paying plenty. Of course, when the money runs out, so do most of the players but if you play as a group as Emmanuel did you don't suffer the swings and roundabouts that the pay for play mentality brings.



**Emmanuel Football Club 1981 "A" Grade Premiers**



*Back Row : S. Jostlear, A. Gregoriou, K. Osborne, N. Burke, T. Phillips, P. Illman, P. Jakobi, R. Richards, R. Sanders  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Row : B. Boxall (Secretary?), K. Burkwood, R. Myers, G. Warren, K. Nikakis, K. Bourke, K. McKenzie, P. Dickson, B. Caddell (President)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Row : B. Scarella, K. McQuillen, C. McQuillen, B. Beynon (Coach), G. Warren (Capt), P. Spooner, P. Paris, S. Semmens (Runner)  
 Front Row : G. Phillpots, P. Chapman, G. Chinitidis, P. Nikakis, J. West, J. Findlay*

Emmanuel remained strong and in A Grade into the early nineties when among other things, structural changes to the ESCA triggered the amalgamation between Sacred Heart and Emmanuel. This put the two neighboring, but rival clubs, together as the new Oakleigh Amateur Football club in 1992.

Perhaps a fitting coda to the proud legacy of the Emmanuel Football Club occurred in November 1994 at the AGM of the Oakleigh Amateur Football Club. The W. A Scammell Reserve Pavilion was renamed the Des Baker Pavilion, recognizing his long and great service. Des bought across much of his love for football from Emmanuel to the OAFC especially as a fierce and loyal supporter for all of the nearly 20 years of the OAFC. He would look to all those former players and supporters of EFC and urge them to get involved in the Oakleigh Krushers of today, whether it is getting involved in the committee or on field or becoming part of the 200 club to help the Krusher once again reach A Grade.

### **Oakleigh Amateur Football Club – A short history of the VAFA Krushers.**

Oakleigh Amateur Football Club came together in 1992 as an amalgamation of the Oakleigh Sacred Heart and Emmanuel Football Clubs. Born in difficult times, the newly formed Krushers had a mixed start in life. Hard decisions had to be made by both clubs about how best to navigate the turmoil in the early 1990's surrounding the breakup of the Eastern Suburban Churches Football Association(ESCFA) and its joint venture with the Southern football league. Neither club could be convinced that the Southern League was the way to go.

For both clubs resource issues were a defining factor in the decision to merge. Emmanuel had no juniors and wanted to continue playing at the highest level. For Sacred Heart the Edwards Street Reserve was massively substandard and the Oakleigh council was unlikely to make any improvements in the foreseeable future; and soccer was beginning to impose itself on Oakleigh life. The powers at EFC and OSHFC, namely Barry Alexander, Jim Podesta, Peter Chapman and Jim Mullholland did not want to be in the same competition with numerous other local clubs competing for the same player and sponsorship resources. Hence they decided to go to the VAFA and time has proven this to be a very wise decision from many points of view.

The first OAFC teams took the field in 1992 against Bentleigh at Scammell Reserve on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April in the ESCFA "A" grade division. Sadly the OAFC lost by three points. Coached by John Aldridge the best players on the day were Alan Cloke, Peter Hamilton, Steve Jenkins , Brett Matheson and Andrew Walsh. With Matt Forrest kicking 5 goals by any standards this was a gutsy start to a great and successful club, heralding a never lie down ethos that was inherited from EFC and OSHFC and continues today with OAFC.

### **Inaugural Oakleigh Amateur Football Club Seniors 1992 ESCFA A Grade**



The first year in the VAFA (F2) 1993 delivered a remarkable and extremely rare result for OAFC with a flag against Yarra Valley Old Boys. Coached by Rod Bourke and played at Bill Lawry Oval in Northcote, Oakleigh blew the game away by half time with a ten-goal lead. The final result was a 67 point "Krushing" to the inaugural "Ammo" Krushers. Dan Hall was outstanding, along with Alan Cloke, Geoff Brereton and Tom Flinn and major goal kickers featured Peter Leslie (5 goals) and Matt Forrest with 4 goals.

### **Oakleigh Amateur Football Club Premiers 1993 F2 Grade**



In 1994 Oakleigh played Yarra Valley again in the F1 grand final and lost. However, the reserves delivered a flag back to the "Krusherdome" beating Balwyn Combined by 3 goals with Brad Osborne and Steve Pellissier as the best players.

1999 could be seen as the coming of age of the club. Epitomized by a moment in time. A team photograph captured after the game that proclaims loudly the Krusher spirit. This was the first of two premierships against Peninsula Old Boys. Coached by Chris Moore from "the wing" at Central Reserve, Oakleigh got away to a poor start but came home strongly in wet conditions to "PUMP" the Pirates by just on six goals. A young Trevor Bromley, who coincidentally in 1997 was adjudged most consistent in the OAFC reserves as a 16 year old, displayed poise and class by kicking 3 goals and being named best on ground. The Kitts brothers played excellent games along with Tony "Budgie" Adamic and Doug McKenzie.

**Oakleigh Amateur Football Club Premiers 1999 D2 Grade**

The second flag against Peninsula was also played at the happy hunting ground of Central Reserve 2006. Coached by first year coach David Gately and playing in D2. Oakleigh "pumped" the Peninsula Old Boys by 67 points, (O AFC 23.12 150pts) to Peninsula (12.11 83pts). We do like the 67 point grand Final win!

The goal kickers on the day featured Trevor Bromley and Ash Kitts with four each and a young Mick Harold snagging three. Nathan Wills, Shaun Briggs and Doug McKenzie added to the Pirates pain with two goals each. Bromley, Harold, Ash Kitts, Jon Rutter and Dave Counihan were named as best players. Trevor Bromley, was awarded the A.R Fellows medal from the VAFA for best on the ground in the D2 Grand Final.

In between the Krushers wins over the Pirates, the Oakleigh AFC (4 goals 23 behinds 47) put paid to the highly fancied Rupertswood ( 5 goals 8 behinds 38 points) in the pouring rain at Cheltenham Reserve in the 2004 D2 grand final. Notable for Daniel Wills kicking the only goal in the second half and the Rupertswood full back rushing through 9 behinds – the final winning margin!

The selection of Wills was one of a number of canny selections of young players by coach Chris Moore who bought up his second senior premiership. This included Chris Hogan who in his fourth game played an outstanding game in the wet. Chris Hogan winning the V.B Zanin Medal from the VAFA – the first of many VB's to follow! Bromley, Kitts, Zula, Britt, and the ever-reliable Peter Holden also figured in the best.





The following two years in B grade have been solid and late in each season the Krushers were still a chance to make the finals. At the same time the club has continued to work hard on developing young footballers. The legacy of a strategic decision taken by Barry Alexander and Chris Moore in 2002 and somewhat as a result of the double relegation that started in 2000. They had in mind the idea of building a sustainable model for developing our own playing stock.

The club has benefited greatly from having a junior development program. With under 18's in recent years and under 19's back to 2002 we are now in a situation where very few players these days are recruited from other clubs. Fittingly Chris Moore savored success as our first under 18 team won the inaugural VAFA under 18 premiership in 2009 with a 44 point win over St Bernards. Most of these players backed up again in 2010 to win the under 19 flag against Mazenod.

Off the field the OAFc have always managed to run on what seems to be "the smell of an oily rag". Without a doubt the most important off field development was the establishment of the 200 Club coterie in 2006 by Craig Hanley. Not only providing the club with valuable funds it has served as an vibrant social group bringing many past players back to the club, and their families - some days there are more young children running around the 200 club than adults! The club has had some very loyal servants with Barry Alexander being President for the entirety of the clubs 20 year history, many of those with the ever reliable Norm Walsh as his trusty sidekick and secretary.

The Oakleigh Amateur Football Club on reflection has an amazing record having played in a grand final at some level for at least seventeen of its twenty year history. For the record the only years we missed were 1996, 2000, and 2001.

In fact, in the club's twenty year history the OAFc have played exactly twenty grand finals, and have won 8 with an average winning margin of 34 points. Just a reminder to the Krushers of 2012 and onwards - we do prefer the 67 point win!

May we continue to knock them down and drink their blood and roll them in the mud for many years to come! Something our opponents so richly deserve!



# Inaugural Hall of Fame 2012

## Inductees



**Des Baker**  
Emmanuel F.C.



**Kevin McQuillen**  
Emmanuel F.C.



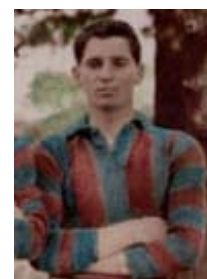
**Peter Chapman**  
Emmanuel F.C.



**Bob Beynon**  
Emmanuel F.C.



**Peter Quinn**  
Oakleigh C.Y.M.S  
Oakleigh Y.C.W.  
Oakleigh Sacred Heart F. C.



**Bill O'Shea**  
Oakleigh C.Y.M.S  
Oakleigh Y.C.W.  
Oakleigh Sacred Heart F. C.



**Jack Gubbins**  
Oakleigh Y.C.W.  
Oakleigh Sacred Heart F. C.



**Greg Cahill**  
Oakleigh Y.C.W.  
Oakleigh Sacred Heart F. C.



**Barry Alexander**  
Oakleigh Sacred Heart F. C.  
Oakleigh Amateur F.C.



**Bruce Garner**  
Oakleigh Sacred Heart F. C.  
Oakleigh Amateur F.C.

