



The
first
25
years



BELCONNEN FOOTBALL CLUB

R.F. Goddard

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National Library of Australia

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Published by Belconnen Football Club Incorporated

Canberra, 1991

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PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

BOB McMULLAN
SENATOR FOR THE A.C.T.

This year, as Belconnen Football Club celebrates its 25th birthday, it is good to remember that the club is almost as old as the area it serves. The Belconnen area was gazetted in 1968 and the Belconnen Football Club played its first CANFL game in 1971.

Just as the Club has grown up with the Belconnen area, so I grew up with Australian Football in Western Australia. Never an outstanding player and one who played for only a short period of time, I have nevertheless retained my interest in the game throughout the years.

It was with great pleasure that in 1988 I accepted the position of Patron of the Club and my association ever since has been one of mutual respect and delight. The members have made me very welcome and on the rare occasions I now have to see a game, I am thrilled when a win occurs and extremely disappointed at a loss.

I admire the spirit of the Club which has come through many ups and downs over the years and I look forward to remaining Patron for a long time to come. I have no doubt that the time is not too far off when a 1st Grade Premiership will be added to the list of achievements.

It is especially pleasing to welcome this history of the Club which has been written by Rob Goddard. Rob and his family have been stalwart supporters since its inception. Rob coached juniors for many years as well as playing for the seniors. His father, Frank has been an active worker and committee member, serving in many positions, over many years and both Rob and Frank are life members.

Too often records of clubs and organisations are lost or accidentally destroyed. I congratulate Rob on recording for posterity the first 25 years of Belconnen Football Club and I hope that future players and club members will have the initiative to record the next 25 years and beyond.

I am proud and happy to be part of the Belconnen Football Club.

BOB McMULLAN



PREFACE

Tradition adds a special dimension to any activity or endeavour. In the early years of the Belconnen Football Club there were many of us who looked with envy at the history and tradition associated with the Ainslie, Eastlake and Manuka football clubs. While the Turner Football Club provided an important foundation for the Belconnen Football Club, including several administrators and most senior players in the early years, the carryover of tradition to a large extent did not occur. In part I believe this reflects the fact that Turner did not have the infrastructure (both social and physical) in place nor the success on the field to help in building a strong tradition of its own. However, there was also a strong desire by the newly established club for a fresh start.

The Belconnen Football Club has been operating now for 25 years and is building a tradition of its own. Now, like the older clubs, we are starting to see sons of Belconnen players following in their fathers' footsteps (for example, Brett Allison, Evan Hourigan, Brent Smith, Ben and Sam Danaher, Rob Kelly, Peter Stubbs, Jim Dawes and Owen Gregory). In the next few years we will see many more. Our premierships are growing in number, although not as fast as we would like. We now have forty-six 100 game players, six with over 200 games and one with an extraordinary 302 games. We have a strong spirit that shows itself when needed, such as for the special function held in 1993 for Mal Manson. We are rightly very proud of our all-Australian and ACT representative players and league medal winners and our AFL successes in Brett Allison and Don Pyke.

The primary objective of this book is to reinforce the Club's sense of tradition.

I thank Frank and Helen Goddard, David Bennett, Ray Baguley, Brian Falconer, Tom Allison, Jim Calvert, John Molony, Rob White, Barbara Marshall and Reg Proctor for their support and assistance. In particular, Frank and Reg contributed many days work in providing information for the appendices and David many long and late hours in proof reading.

Much of the information contained in the book has been drawn from meeting records of the Turner and Belconnen National Football Clubs and the Football Committee of the BNFC and original match records. This book could not have been written without these detailed match sheets maintained by Reg Proctor between 1972 and 1990. The Club is most fortunate to have such records for Firsts, Reserves and Under 19s over this period. If the Club wishes to place a high priority on history and tradition - and, indeed, we must if we are to become stronger - then we need to continue this practice.

Every effort has been made to verify the information contained in the book but records are less than comprehensive for some years, particularly those covering the transition from Turner to Belconnen. Nevertheless, any errors or omissions are mine.

Many of the photographs contained in the book are courtesy of *The Canberra Times*.

Some readers will have been associated with the Club for its full history, others for much less. Irrespective of the period, for most the Club would have played an important role in their lives and hold a special place in their hearts. I hope that this book brings back some memories. I also hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed putting it together.

INTRODUCTION

On Saturday, 27 March, 1971, Tom Allison; a gifted player with the North Melbourne Football Club and Victoria over many years, led an enthusiastic but under-prepared team from the Belconnen Football Club on to Kingston Oval for its inaugural First Grade match in the Canberra Australian National Football League (CANFL). The significance of the occasion fortunately overshadowed the final result, Eastlake 34.19(223) to Belconnen 3.2(20) – an inauspicious start but prophetically symbolic of the many challenges the Club would face over the next 25 years.

The purpose of this book is to present a summary of these 25 years; to recall some of the more memorable characters, achievements and events that have helped shape the Club; and to consolidate and make available to all players and Club members, past and present, statistics lovingly and methodically collected initially by Reg Proctor and subsequently by Frank Goddard.

For each year a short commentary is presented together with a one page 'year at a glance'. Photographs are scattered throughout the book, less liberally unfortunately in the earlier years because fewer photos were taken. Tables summarising the Club's first 25 years are provided at Appendix I, including a table which lists long-serving players by jumper number. A table providing game statistics for all of the 1000 players who have donned the BFC jumper is at Appendix II.

Background to establishment of the Belconnen Football Club

For many years the Turner Football Club had been based at the Canberra Workman's Club in Childers St, Civic. However, in 1964 the Club began drawing up plans to build a clubhouse of its own to be located on the corner of David and McCaughey Streets, Turner. After several years of frustration, finance was eventually obtained in 1968. By then the Belconnen area was opening up and the CANFL zoning plan was to allocate Belconnen to Turner and reallocate Turner's suburbs to Ainslie. Turner's initial presence in Belconnen came through the formation of the Belconnen Junior National Football Club. This gave the Turner senior club two junior clubs, Turner and Belconnen, although both junior clubs were run independently of the senior club. The inaugural President of the Belconnen Juniors was Brian Falconer, who became an ex-officio member of the Turner senior committee, as was Matt Dickins, President of the Turner Junior Football Club.

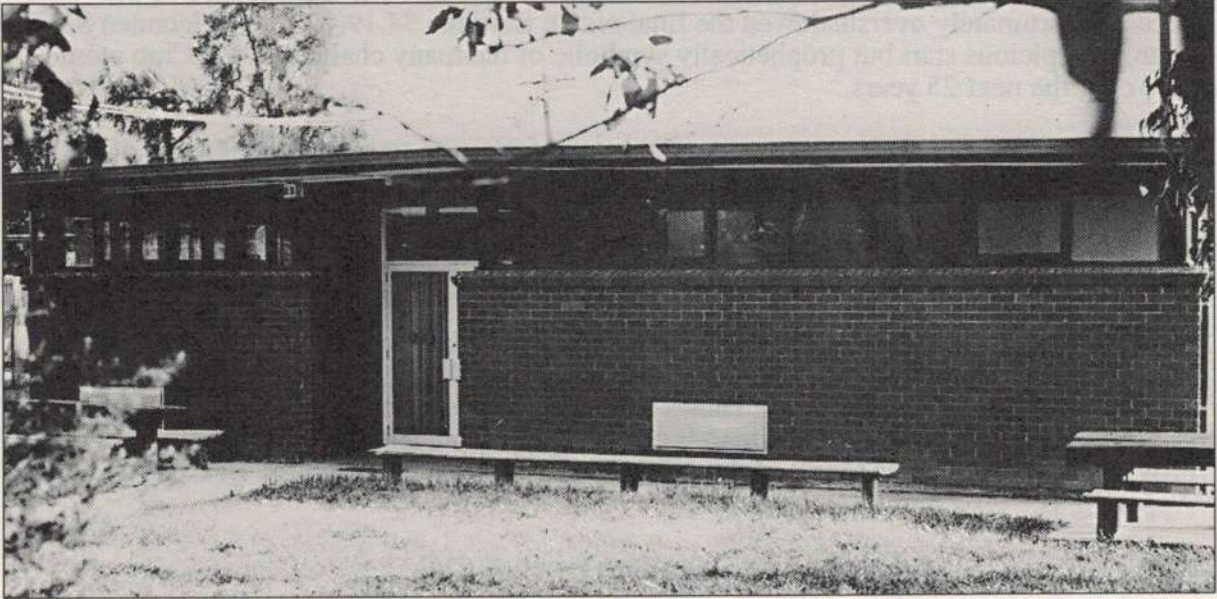
A difficult decision was taken by the Turner Football Club in 1968 to relocate in the Belconnen valley. To give effect to the decision, the Club established the Belconnen Sports Club. Ken Jones resigned as President of the Turner Football Club to become President of the new club.

The goal of the Belconnen Sports Club was to build and maintain licensed premises in Belconnen which, among other things, would be the headquarters of the Turner Football Club. About two-thirds of the required finance (\$34,000) was provided by the bank. The remainder came from the Turner Football Club's building fund (\$6,000), debentures and life memberships.

Block 2, Section 49, in Bowman Street, Macquarie was allocated to the Belconnen Sports Club early in 1969 and construction of the Club premises, later to be affectionately known as the 'Shed', commenced in the same year.

The Shed was officially opened by Jack Dorman, President of the CANFL on 11 October 1970.

During 1970, as construction of the Shed was nearing completion, there were strong feelings within the Belconnen Sports Club that, rather than relocate Turner Football Club, there was a need for a fresh start with a new name and jumper for the football team. Accordingly, a Football Vice President position was created by the Belconnen Sports Club. Brian Falconer was elected to the position. He established a small football committee to prepare the Club for its entry into CANFL the following year. At the same time, the name of the Belconnen Sports Club was changed to the Belconnen National Football Club to reflect more accurately the primary role of the Club (and for fear of takeover from other football codes).



The beloved Shed

Turner Football Club held a Special General Meeting on Wednesday, 14 October 1970 to consider its future. With CANFL introducing zoning in 1969 which declared the Turner area part of the Ainslie zone, the desire for change in the Belconnen Sports Club, the rapid growth of Belconnen and the diminishing administrative support within Turner, the meeting, inevitably perhaps, resolved that:

'subject to the incorporation of a body called the Belconnen Football Club and its acceptance into the CANFL and provided that it accepts the policies contained in the motions passed before at this meeting, the business of the Turner National Football Club Inc. be transferred to that body after the 1970 Annual Meeting of the TNFC Inc. and the affairs of the TNFC Inc. be allowed to lapse and the committee be empowered to take action to these ends'.

Two key policies associated with the resolution were:

'that this meeting directs its committee that it desires to have teams in 1st and 2nd grade of CANFL called "Belconnen" and

'that Belconnen retain the current colours worn by the Turner Football Club'.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Turner Football Club on Sunday 15 November 1970, it was resolved that after 22 years, the Club would cease to field teams in the CANFL.

The new Belconnen football committee swung quickly into action. While the Club was in no financial position to import large numbers of quality recruits, there was general agreement about the need to attract a high profile playing coach from Melbourne. Brian Falconer and another Club member, Cleve Weatherill, had only recently moved to Canberra with the

transfer of the central office of the Department of Supply. They and another Club member, Reg Proctor, had worked with Tom Allison in Melbourne. Tom, who had played over 100 senior games with North Melbourne, was also looking to move to Canberra. He had held fruitful discussions with Eastlake and had received a letter of offer from that club to join them as playing coach. Fortunately, Brian and Cleve persuaded Tom to come to Belconnen.

Bob Koehne was the second significant recruit. Bob was a centre half back from South Australian League club North Adelaide who was transferring to Canberra with his job in the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Club had heard about Bob on the grapevine and approached him early. Having a high profile coach in Tom Allison stood us in good stead in signing Bob.

Complying with the letter but perhaps not the spirit of the Turner policy to maintain 'current colours', the Belconnen Football Club replaced the 'Geelong' navy blue and white hoops with the 'Carlton' navy blue with white 'BFC' monogram jumper, which had been adopted by the Belconnen Junior National Football Club.

After a year of planning, all was in readiness for Belconnen to take the field.

HOW WE FINISHED

UNDER 19s	RESERVES	FIRSTS
Eastlake 70	RMC 72	Eastlake 72
Mannika 72	Ainslie 70	Mannika 70
Ainslie 64	Eastlake 60	Ainslie 60
Belconnen 52	Mannika 48	ANU 48
Queanbeyan 36	ANU 38	Belconnen 38
	Belconnen 20	Acton 22
	Acton 12	Queanbeyan 16
	Queanbeyan 4	

Under the First Semi-final - Belconnen lost to Ainslie (scores not available)
 Final for Under 19s table not available

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

UNDER 19s	RESERVES	FIRSTS	Awards
John Talska	Prince Devonish	Tom Allison	Best and Fairest
	Jim Hourigan	Brian Jones	Romney Cup
	Doug Lambourn	Ray Baguley	Most Improved
		John Laddy	Most Consistent
		Steve Walling	Best First Year Player
	Stephen Gardner		Best Team Player
			BEST CL URMAN
			ACT REPRESENTATIVE
			LEADING GOALKICKER
			Mark Read (52)
			Tom Allison, Bob Koehne
			Steve Lister

1971 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN NATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB:

Ron Thompson

VICE-PRESIDENT FOOTBALL:

Brian Falconer

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Ken Aspinall, Geoff Tompsett, Alan Briggs, Ken Jones

COACHES

FIRST GRADE: Tom Allison

RESERVES: Jim Hourigan

UNDER 19s: Ray Baguley

CAPTAINS

Tom Allison

Jim Hourigan

John Talikka

TRAINER: Robert 'Andy' Anderson

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Eastlake	72
Manuka	70
Ainslie	60
ANU	48
Belconnen	38
Acton	32
Queanbeyan	16

RESERVES

RMC	76
Ainslie	72
Eastlake	64
Manuka	52
ANU	36
Belconnen	20
Acton	12
Queanbeyan	4

UNDER 19s

Eastlake
Manuka
Ainslie
Belconnen
Queanbeyan

Points for Under 19s ladder not available.

Under 19s First Semi-final: Belconnen lost to Ainslie (scores not available)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Tom Allison	Bruce Devenish	John Talikka
Runner-up	Brian Jones	Jim Hourigan	
Most Improved	Ray Baguley	Doug Lambourn	
Most Consistent	John Leahy		
Best First Year Player	Steve Walding		
Best Team Player		Graham Gardiner	

BEST CLUBMAN:

Steve Lister

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Tom Allison, Bob Koehne

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Mark Read (52)

1971

With the recruitment of Tom Allison and Bob Koehne, some talented junior footballers pushing into senior ranks and a core of better Turner senior players, the Club looked to its first season with confidence.



New arrivals - Tom Allison and Bob Koehne still in their North Melbourne and North Adelaide jumpers.

The first ever Belconnen First Grade side was:

B	Bruce Devenish	Bill Parker	John Stankevicius
HB	Ian Meek	Bob Koehne	Ray Baguley
C	Rob Goddard	John Leahy	Ralph Lay
HF	John Talikka	Ian Eberhard	Ned Weir
F	Mick Chinnick	Mark Read	Steve Lister
Followers	Brian Jones, Tom Allison, Steve Walding		
19/20	Mike Drekovic, Peter Clifford		

Apart from Tom, Bob, Peter Clifford and Steve Walding, all players were from either Turner senior or junior ranks. Steve Walding was an outstanding Belconnen junior. He was just 15 years and 9 months of age. He remains the youngest ever First Grade player for the Club.

A two hundred point thrashing is not the way any club would wish to start the season, let alone its first season. *The Canberra Times* reported on the match as follows:

'Saturday's match at Kingston Oval proved little less than a tragedy for the new Belconnen club. Running into a superbly fit Eastlake side, fresh from two trial-match victories against strong teams, could not have proved a more severe test for the club having its first ever match.'

Youthful enthusiasm is no answer for big men, fit and talented, team-work and killer instinct, all of which this Eastlake side has, but Belconnen should not be written off at this early stage of the season as just another "Turner" of years gone by.

Mick Chinnick, if he gets fit, will be one of Canberra's best ruckmen, and was Belconnen's best on Saturday. Others who did well were Mark Read, Bill Parker and Ian Eberhard.' (TCT, 29/3/71)

As he walked from the ground Tom Allison was wondering what he had got himself into, particularly since he had turned down the offer to join Eastlake. As Tom noted in his after match address, we could only improve.

The reference by *The Canberra Times* to Mick Chinnick's fitness is telling. On paper the side was a good one and should have performed better than it did. However, Tom Allison had not been in Canberra for long and had had insufficient time to prepare the team. Some players had trained just once or twice prior to the game.

In passing it is worth noting that even Mick Chinnick would acknowledge that fitness was never one of his strongest suits. The cigarette, the wheeze and the red face at half time will remain firmly in the minds of many fortunate enough to have played with Mick. Those who saw him play would know that he more than compensated for lack of fitness with strength, courage and determination rarely seen on the football field. Mick also held the jug skulling record at the Club for many years. He developed his skulling skills at the Tourist Hotel, Queanbeyan after a Turner match in which Jim Calvert had broken his ankle. Jim would be off work for many weeks and it was decided that as a fund raiser bets would be taken on Mick downing a jug within 20 seconds. Mick in fact downed several jugs that day - each in 16 seconds. In between skulls as more bets were being collected Mick would have another schooner.

While losing Jim for a season was a great blow to the Club, he did spend much time painting the newly built Shed.

Training after the Eastlake match was much harder. Tom focused on the basics, even to the extent of practising how to pick up the ball. Tom felt there was little point in practising higher level skills, such as kicking and handball, until we were capable of winning possession.

Over the ensuing weeks fitness and teamwork improved and so did the results. We lost to ANU, an eventual finalist, by just two points in the second game of the year, to Acton by 19 points in the third game of the year and by 90 points to the strong Ainslie side the following week. Even so, *The Canberra Times* remained highly critical:

'Belconnen still has too many passengers, however, and needs about five more players of at least average ability before it will be a danger to anyone but the lower teams.' (TCT, 17/4/71)

The easybeat tag was one that had plagued Turner for many years and it was one that the new Belconnen side was determined to avoid. Tom Allison settled into Canberra football quickly and soon showed his class. In addition, experienced players in Neville Cooney and Gary Muir were recruited (from Swan Districts and the Adelaide Amateurs) and John O'Dea, a solid under age performer for Turner, was slotted into the back pocket to stiffen our defence. Slowly but surely the tide began to turn.

Our first win came against Queanbeyan on 1 May. This was followed up by a win against ANU two weeks later.

The true measure of how much the side had improved came on 19 June when Belconnen met the eventual premier for 1971, Manuka. The result was a draw and was all the more impressive given that Bob Koehne, our star centre half back, had just returned from his honeymoon and Stawell Gift winner and champion Geelong wingman, Tony Polinelli, was playing his first game for Manuka.

Here is how *The Canberra Times* saw the result:

'At Deakin Oval, Tom Allison, a former Victorian representative and now captain-coach of Belconnen, led his team to a draw with Manuka, one of the 1970 grand finalists.

The story of Belconnen this season could be summed up as new name, new coach, new attitude. The club, formerly Turner, was the weakest in the competition last year, but the advent of Allison from North Melbourne and the appearance of other experienced faces in the team has changed the club's outlook.

It is hard to climb off the bottom, but Belconnen should be able to set its sights confidently on reaching the final four next season.' (TCT, 21/6/71)

We finished the season on a high note, winning three of our last five games, giving us six wins and a draw for the year and a creditable fifth on the final ladder.

While Reserve Grade struggled throughout the season, eventually finishing with just five wins, the Under 19s, under astute coach Ray 'Bags' Baguley, easily made the finals and unluckily lost a very close encounter in the first semi-final to eventual premier Ainslie. The strength of the Under 19s in 1971 was to be an important factor in the success of Belconnen's senior teams during the early 1970s. Twelve of the players who played in that Under 19 side went on to play senior football with the Club, playing over 600 senior games in total.

Off the field the Club was making solid but slow progress. Membership reached 275 but this was insufficient to prevent the Club losing \$2,500 in its first year of trading. The loss was due to the servicing of debts associated with loans taken out to cover the initial cost of the building, furniture and equipment.

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

UNDER 19s	RESERVE 19s	FIRSTS	Best and Fairest
Mike Daskovic	Alan Richards	Mick Chinnick	Runners-up
Mark Sava	Jim Heenan	Bob Keane	Most Improved
Geoff Reed	Rob Bailey	Mark Reed	Most Consistent
	Pete Stubbs	Jim Carter	Best First Year Player
		Tony Phillips	Coach's Trophy
		Rob Goddard	
		Cleve Westwell	
		Mick Chinnick, Bob Keane	
		Mark Reed (40)	

1972 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN NATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB:

Ron Thompson

VICE-PRESIDENT FOOTBALL: FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Brian Falconer

Reg Proctor, Cleve Weatherill, Frank Goddard, Ray Baguley, Jack Walding, Peter Stubbs (senior), Jim Hourigan, Tom Allison

FIRST GRADE: Tom Allison
RESERVES: Jim Hourigan
UNDER 19s: John O'Connor

CAPTAINS
 Tom Allison
 Jim Hourigan
 Mike Drekovic

TRAINER: Andy Anderson

HOW WE FINISHED

<u>FIRSTS</u>		<u>RESERVES</u>		<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Eastlake	76	Ainslie	80	Manuka
Manuka	76	Manuka	72	Eastlake
Ainslie	64	Eastlake	58	Queanbeyan
Belconnen	48	RMC	44	Ainslie
Queanbeyan	30	Belconnen	32	Belconnen
ANU	26	ANU	30	
Acton	16	Acton	16	
		Queanbeyan	4	

Points for Under 19s ladder unavailable.

First Grade First Semi-final: Belconnen 13.10(88) lost to Ainslie 24.14(158)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Mick Chinnick	Alan Richards	Mike Drekovic
Runner-up	Bob Koehne	Jim Hourigan	Mark Sawa
Most Improved	Mark Read	Rob Baguley	
Most Consistent	Jim Calvert	Peter Stubbs	Geoff Read
Best Yirst Year Player	Tony Phillips		
Coach's Trophy	Rob Goddard		

BEST CLUBMAN:

Cleve Weatherill

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Mick Chinnick, Bob Koehne

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Mark Read (40)

1972

Confidence was building in early 1972. The Club recruited several experienced performers, including giant 'sergeant' Bernie Smith from Eastlake, 'Ocker' (David) Spencer from ANU, experienced half forward Barry Wight from South Australia, and high flying full forward Russell Walton from Victoria. In addition, several of the Club's quality juniors were maturing as senior footballers, including Tony Phillips, Rob Goddard, Tim Grant and John Talikka.

Bernie Smith, Brian Jones and Mick Chinnick gave the Club a rucking division the envy of the competition and with Ocker Spencer as rover the team was confident of becoming a threat to the big three - Ainslie, Eastlake and Manuka.

The Club's second season commenced against Queanbeyan at the very small Queanbeyan Oval, which many will recall has a bike track about one metre from the boundary line. While not one of the forces in CANFL at the time, Queanbeyan had a definite home ground advantage. Our regular time-keeper, Ken Jones, was unavailable for the match and Reg Proctor took on the job as a fill-in. It was the beginning of a nineteen year career. Club officials were clearly pleased with the 14.12(96) to 11.10(76) win and especially with the form of new recruit Russ Walton, who kicked five goals at full forward.

The real test came the following week against the 1971 premier, Manuka. Unfortunately, with Tom Allison, Brian Jones and Bernie Smith out injured we were nowhere near full strength. However, these injuries did give the opportunity for a newcomer to the Club from Ainslie, Mick Burgess, to have his first taste of First Grade football. The result, Belconnen 4.12(36) to Manuka 21.22(148), showed we had a long way to go to become a serious threat in 1972.

The match against Acton a fortnight later was significant for two reasons. First, it was the first game champion Turner player Jim Calvert played for Belconnen after missing all of 1971 with a broken ankle. Secondly, it turned out to be the Club's biggest win since joining the CANFL, 19.22(136) to 7.6(48).

By mid-season the competition was becoming polarised. Ainslie, Eastlake and Manuka were clearing away at the top of the ladder and Queanbeyan, Acton and ANU were struggling. Belconnen sat between the two groups but it was not long before we would threaten the top three.

The match against Ainslie on 12 June was a memorable one. Despite losing Brian Jones before the game through injury, Belconnen started full of confidence with a strong wind at our backs. By quarter time we led by six goals a side we had never beaten. By half time the wind had levelled things somewhat but we managed to keep our nose in front by two points. By three-quarter time we had extended our lead to 30 points and though we knew the wind would make things tough we were confident of holding Ainslie out. Unfortunately, it was not to be. With a six goal last term, Ainslie edged us out by just six points. A disappointing result but a significant one because it showed that we were coming of age.

The second half of the season produced no upsets. We won comfortably against the sides below us and lost to the sides above us.

As the finals approached, it became clear that we would meet Ainslie in the first semi-final. After the close match in June, we saw ourselves as a genuine chance, particularly since for only the second time that year all three of our star ruckmen were free of injury. Another key would be Mark Read at full forward. Mark had kicked 13 goals in the three games prior to the semi-final after replacing Russ Walton.

The first semi-final was held on 27 August at the not so neutral Ainslie Oval in perfect weather in front of a crowd of 2000.

Our first finals team was:

B	Mick Chinnick	Ray Baguley	Jim Calvert
HB	Mick Burgess	Bob Koehne	Neville Schroeter
C	Tony Phillips	Gary Muir	Ned Weir
HF	Tom Allison	Ian Eberhard	Rob Goddard
F	John O'Dea	Mark Read	Bernie Smith
Followers:	Brian Jones, Barry Wight, David Spencer		
19/20:	John Talikka, Mick Suidgeest		



FIRST GRADE - SEMI-FINAL SIDE

Standing: Ray Baguley, Bob Koehne, Jim Calvert, Mark Read, Mick Burgess, Ian Eberhard, Tom Allison, Mick Chinnick, John Talikka, Brian Jones, Barry Wight, Bernie Smith, Neville Schroeter
 Squatting: Mick Suidgeest, Ned Weir, Gary Muir, Tony Phillips, Rob Goddard, David Spencer, John O'Dea

The game started evenly enough and by quarter time we were just a goal down (6.3 to 5.2). However, Ainslie's star full forward Alan Bongetti was looking threatening on Ray Baguley. By half time Bongetti had kicked six goals and Ainslie led 12.6(78) to 9.4(58). Bags continued to battle hard but the brilliant Bongetti could do no wrong. After another two goals to Bongetti, Neville Schroeter was moved to full back but he too had his hands full. At the other end of the field Belconnen were making the Ainslie defence work. Rob Goddard on the half forward flank had kicked three goals to three-quarter time, Tom Allison two, Mark Read two and Bernie Smith two. However, by the start of the last quarter Ainslie had slipped out to a 19 point lead.

The last quarter was a let down. While we had battled gamely for three quarters, the effort had clearly taken its toll. An all-in brawl erupted early in the final term. An amusing note on the brawl is that the smallest player on the field, Ainslie's fire-brand wingman, Brian Read, was reported for striking the biggest player on the field, Brian Jones. Ainslie maintained control despite the brawl and Bongetti continued at his brilliant best, kicking four goals for the quarter, giving him 13.2 for the game. A very tired Belconnen battled on gamely but by the final siren had added just two points for the quarter.



Our first ever semi-final. Mark Read holds Ainslie at bay while John O'Dea moves on to his favoured left foot.

Canberra's new daily afternoon paper, the *Canberra News* covered the game with the headline: '*But Belconnen Can Be Proud*'. It reported as follows:

'Belconnen, led in inspired fashion by captain-coach Tom Allison, justly can feel proud of their outstanding effort in taking the game right up to Ainslie for three quarters.

Tom Allison and big follower Bernie Smith did much to encourage their younger team mates and it was players like Robert Goddard, Ned Weir, Tony Phillips, Mark Read and John O'Dea who turned in such outstanding displays under their guidance and inspiration. Others who tried hard for Belconnen were Ian Eberhard at centre half forward, centre half back Bob Koehne, who kept Peter Johnson at sixes and sevens for most of the day, Barry Wight and Brian Jones. ' (*Canberra News*, 28/8/72)

An interesting footnote to the match is that three of the Ainslie players, Peter Johnson, Kevin Hassett and Brian Read, were each to serve Belconnen in later years as senior coach. Another, Martin Smith, has a son playing for the Club.

With just five wins, our Reserves had a disappointing year finishing fifth. Performances were affected by the long list of injuries suffered to regular First and Reserve Grade players, giving the side little chance to settle. However, several regular Reserve Graders in 1972 went on to become long-serving First Grade players, including Peter Stubbs and Mick Burgess. Others had commenced a long and valuable association with the Club as a Reserve Grade player and/or administrator, including Pat Sheedy, Ross Byrne and Bob Burgess. Reserves also gave us an opportunity to give promising Under 17s, John and Mal Manson and Stan Widera, their first taste of senior football.

The Under 19s struggled throughout 1972, registering just one win for the year. Depth was a major problem with just three players going on to make a significant contribution to the Club in future years. Not surprisingly, these were the three award winners for the year, Mark Sawa, Mike Drekovic and Geoff Read, brother of Mark Read.

For the Shed 1972 was a year of consolidation. Membership had fallen to 250 and the Club suffered a loss of \$994 for the year. Nevertheless, moneys in the building fund had reached \$500 and so plans to build a beer garden were being developed.

1973 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN NATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB:

Ron Thompson/Bill Simington
Brian Falconer

VICE-PRESIDENT FOOTBALL: FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Reg Proctor, Peter Stubbs (senior), Cleve Weatherill, Frank Goddard, Ray Baguley, Jack Walding, Jim Hourigan, Tom Allison

FIRST GRADE: Tom Allison

RESERVES: Brian Falconer

UNDER 19s: John O'Dea

CAPTAINS

Tom Allison

Bruce Devenish

Trevor Fardell

TRAINER: Andy Anderson

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie 56
Eastlake 56
Manuka 48
Acton 20

ANU 40
Queanbeyan 24
RMC 22
Belconnen 6

RESERVES

Ainslie 68
Manuka 48
Eastlake 44
ANU 40

RMC 28
Belconnen 20
Acton 12
Queanbeyan 12

UNDER 19s

Manuka
Eastlake
Ainslie
Queanbeyan
Belconnen

First Grade and Reserve Grade competition split after ten rounds.
Points for Under 19s ladder unavailable.

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

Best and Fairest
Runner-up
Most Improved
Best Team Man
Club Trophy
Coach's Trophy

Records for Under 19s lost.

FIRSTS

Pat Bateman
Brian Prendergast
Peter Stubbs
Mick Burgess
Ray Baguley

RESERVES

Larry Pickering
Graham Moss
Vince Guica
Ian Johnston

BEST CLUBMAN:

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Reg Proctor, Frank Goddard

Tom Allison, Bob Koehne

Mark Read (20)

1973

After such a promising year in 1972, it was important for the Club to continue its improvement during 1973. However, it was not going to be easy given the loss of our three leading ruckmen, Brian Jones and Bernie Smith, who retired, and Mick Chinnick, who moved to Queensland, as well as Jim Calvert (overseas), Bob Koehne (overseas), Tony Phillips (interstate), Ned Weir (retirement), Neville Schroeter (retirement) and Barry Wight (retirement). Furthermore, recruitment was constrained by limited funds, which also meant that there would be no match payments for the year.

Under the circumstances, we were lucky to recruit Pat Bateman from Melbourne and Brian Prendergast from RMC. Just how lucky we were became evident as the year progressed and Pat and Brian regularly appeared in the list of best players. Pat was a ruckman, and though much smaller than Mick Chinnick, was of similar style. Brian was a solid left foot back pocket who rarely made a mistake.

The season started poorly with a 34 point loss to the struggling RMC. However, we were well below full strength, particularly with our two leading ruckmen, Pat Bateman and Peter Stubbs, and our centre half back, Tim Grant, unavailable. Some might say that a measure of our limited player strength was reflected in the fact that Ross Byrne, better known for his football brain than his football ability, was 19th man. Furthermore, Ross had already played a full game that day for the Reserves.

Ross was never sure whether he was a left footer or a right footer. Although he is right handed he was such a bad right foot kick that he thought he must be a natural left footer. He therefore practised his left foot kicking until it got to be about as good as his right footers. In a memorable incident in 1973 Ross took a mark in the goal square. As he ran in to kick a goal he could not decide which foot to use. The ball hit his knee and fell to the ground. As the man on the mark jumped in the air anticipating a normal shot at goal, Ross kicked the ball off the ground under the man on the mark for a goal.

The highlight of the game against RMC was the impressive debut of John Manson at centre half forward. John kicked four goals, all of them in the third quarter.

Although we lost the next three games, to Acton, ANU and Queanbeyan, we were becoming more competitive. Pat Bateman had played in all three and was performing well. Peter Stubbs and Tim Grant were also back but not before Ross Byrne had played another game, this time in the forward pocket against Acton. The match against ANU was significant since 19th man for the day was ex-Turner junior, Steve Taylor, playing his first First Grade game.

Our next three games were against the top sides, Manuka, Eastlake and Ainslie. We were soundly thrashed in each. However, there was a bright spot against Manuka when a young Mal Manson, playing his first First Grade game, kicked two goals after coming off the bench.

After seven games we had failed to record a win and morale was flagging. The match against fourth-placed Queanbeyan at Queanbeyan Oval on 9 June was, therefore, not one that we looked forward to with much confidence, although we knew we were a better side than we had shown to date.

We went out against Queanbeyan with a 'nothing to lose' attitude. By quarter time we had a one goal break but Queanbeyan came back strongly in the second quarter to lead by 10 points at half time. The *Canberra News* described our third quarter as follows:

The third quarter belonged to Tommy Allison. The Blue's captain-coach led his team on a rampage which realised 7.6 for the term, and kept the opposition to one point. Allison was in everything, scooting around centre-half-forward, shooting out

handpasses as players dashed past, and kicking two goals himself. Queanbeyan was quite bewildered...' (Canberra News, 11/6/73)

The final term was a nail-biter. The *Canberra News* saw it this way:

'the Tigers began the final term needing seven goals to pass the Belconnen score. Belconnen did not relax but it was a very tired side. Allison, after reigning over the third quarter like an all-powerful monarch, had dropped out of the running. Strongman Tim Grant looked much the worse for wear, and it was an absorbing desperate struggle as Queanbeyan tried to close the gap.

With 10 minutes to go, Queanbeyan was six points behind. It was running strongly with the Hopkins brothers and Renato Res playing particularly strongly.

With very little more than time-on to go, Rob Goddard kicked the most valuable point of the match. His score from a set shot about 50m out meant Queanbeyan needed two goals to win. The siren sounded as the Tigers stormed into attack. Another behind after the siren made it a six-point win to the Blues, and a wild night at the Club to celebrate.' (Canberra News, 11/6/73)

The *Canberra News* nominated best for Belconnen that day to Pat Bateman, Peter Stubbs, Tom Allison, Tim Grant and Rob Goddard. Brian and Dennis Hopkins, both of whom were to play for Belconnen in later years, were nominated best for Queanbeyan.

Under the circumstances, the win was one of the more memorable for the Club. It is a rare thing that we have been able to beat sides four places and four wins higher than us on the ladder.

Unfortunately, we had little to celebrate for the rest of the year. Apart from a draw against RMC, thanks largely to the efforts of Mick Burgess, who kicked three goals from centre half forward, we lost all games.

For Reserves the story was marginally better. We had a one point win over RMC at the start of the season but then lost the next six games before beating Queanbeyan and Acton in consecutive games. One more win for the season, against RMC, finished a disappointing year. However, it had been a good year for our captain and back pocket, the ever-reliable Bruce Devenish, and for his vice captain and full back and one of our most famous sons, cartoonist Larry Pickering.

The Under 19s won just two games for the year. The first was against Queanbeyan early in the year. The second was against the strong Manuka side on 24 June. In our previous encounter we had lost by eight goals. However, several of our very talented Under 17s were brought in to cover injuries and unavailability. Mal Manson played in the forward pocket, Phil Culnane at centre half forward, Stan Widera in the centre, Danny Murphy at centre half back and John Manson in the ruck. Mal Manson and Phil Culnane between them kicked six of the team's ten goals and the side ran out winners by nine points.

While the year had been a struggle for us, it had served an important purpose in blooding a number of our talented under age players in First Grade, including Bill Sleeman, John and Mal Manson, Steve Taylor and Phil Culnane. These players made a major contribution to the Under 17 premiership won that year. It was a very talented team which carried the hopes of many for a much stronger senior side in years to come.

Our good fortune in picking up Pat Bateman and Brian Prendergast at the start of the year was reflected in their domination of the First Grade best and fairest voting.

Off the field things were not faring much better. However, a significant development was the establishment of the Supporters Group during the year. The purpose of the Group was to

raise funds specifically for the players so that we might retain our better performers and increase our player depth.

In his annual report to members President Bill Simington started thus:

'It is always easier to write and report when things are prosperous and running smoothly but unfortunately this is not the case with the affairs of your Club'.

The Club lost \$1402 for the year. The Club Secretary, Russell Brown, pointed to the drop in bar sales and attributed this to the opening of the Jamison Inn and the lack of success of the football teams.

REG PRICER, CLIVE WESTERHILL, DON JOHNSTON, FRANK GODDARD, RAY BAGLEY, JACK WILDING, BILL CAMERON, TIM HOUNGAN, TOM ALLISON, RUSSELL BROWN, GEORGE LANGLEY, MIKE BURGESS, BRIAN FALCONER

CAPTAINS Tom Allison Larry Pickering Bill Sleeman	COACHES Tom Allison Larry Pickering Clive Westerhill Bill Cameron	FIRST GRADE: RESERVES: UNDER 19:	TRAINER: Andy Anderson
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HOW WE FINISHED

UNDER 19: Belconnen 48 Eastlake 44 Manks 40 Queanbeyan 18 Ainslie 50	RESERVES: Ainslie 48 Manks 44 Eastlake 40 Belconnen 18 ANU 50 RMC 36 Queanbeyan 20 West Canberra B 20	FIRSTS: Manks 36 Eastlake 30 Ainslie 24 Belconnen 24 ANU 36 Queanbeyan 36 West Canberra B 8 RMC 4
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Competition split after two rounds
Under 19 final table may vary

Belconnen 10 (17) lost to ANU 16 (10)
Belconnen 9 (10) lost to Eastlake 11 (7)
Belconnen 8 (10) defeated Eastlake 8 (4)
Belconnen 19 (12) defeated Eastlake 14 (9)

First Grade Jamison final
Reserves Jamison final
Under 19 Second Semi-final
Under 19 Grand Final

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

UNDER 19: John Hanson Mal Manson John Binks	RESERVES: Rob Bagley Pat Schooby Ross Byrne Paul McGaw	FIRSTS: Rob White Mal Lawe Mick Burgess Tim Grant Mal Manson	BEST AND FAIRER: Runner-up Most Improved Most Consistent Coach's Trophy
	BEST FULLBACK: Tom Allison, Bob Koehn Mal Manson (49)	ACT REPRESENTATIVE: Mal Manson (49)	LEADING GOALKICKER: Mal Manson

1974 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN NATIONAL

FOOTBALL CLUB:

Bill Simington

VICE-PRESIDENT FOOTBALL:

Bill Mandle

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Reg Proctor, Cleve Weatherill, Don Johnston, Frank Goddard, Ray Baguley, Jack Walding, Bill Cameron, Jim Hourigan, Tom Allison, Russell Brown, George Langley, Mick Burgess, Brian Falconer

	COACHES	CAPTAINS
FIRST GRADE:	Tom Allison	Tom Allison
RESERVES:	Larry Pickering/ Cleve Weatherill	Larry Pickering
UNDER 19s:	Bill Cameron	Bill Sleeman

TRAINER: Andy Anderson

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Manuka	56
Eastlake	50
Ainslie	42
Belconnen	24

RESERVES

Ainslie	48
Manuka	44
Eastlake	40
Belconnen	18

UNDER 19s

Belconnen
Eastlake
Manuka
Queanbeyan
Ainslie

ANU	36	ANU	60
Queanbeyan	36	RMC	26
West Canberra	8	Queanbeyan	20
RMC	4	West Canberra	0

Competition split after ten rounds.

Under 19 final ladder unavailable.

First Grade Elimination Final:	Belconnen 10.11(71) lost to ANU 16.13(109)
Reserves Elimination Final:	Belconnen 9.16(70) lost to Eastlake 14.13(97)
Under 19s Second Semi-final:	Belconnen 8.10(58) defeated Eastlake 5.14(44)
Under 19s Grand Final:	Belconnen 19.9 (123) defeated Eastlake 14.9(93)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Rob White	Rob Baguley	John Manson
Runner-up	Mal Lawn	Pat Sheedy	Mal Manson
Most Improved	Mick Burgess	Ross Byrne	
Most Consistent	Tim Grant	Paul McGaw	John Blake
Coach's Trophy	Mal Manson		

BEST CLUBMAN:

Ray Baguley

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Tom Allison, Bob Koehne

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Mal Manson (49)

UNDER 19 LEAGUE MEDAL:

Mal Manson

1974

The Club was looking for a resurgence in 1974 and hopes were building with the return of Mick Chinnick from Queensland (to take on the role of assistant coach to Tom Allison) and Jim Calvert from overseas and the maturing of the previous year's Under 17 premiers. We were most fortunate to have received a \$3000 donation from Larry Pickering, specifically for the recruitment of players. With the additional funds at its disposal the recruitment committee did well, picking up a young but well-credentialled rover/centreman from Eaglehawk in the strong Bendigo league, Rob White. Brian Falconer visited Bendigo with the intention of signing up ex-Carlton player Barry Mulcair but found that Barry had injured a knee. On the advice of local talent scouts Brian approached Rob, who readily agreed to move. However, we were not to gain Rob's services until the fifth game of the year. Other new signings were Winston Gregory from Ainslie (but also with experience in South Australia and the VFA), Mal Lawn (a brother-in-law of the Mansons) from Manuka and Steve Lewis, from Narrandera. Winston was a strong and skilful half-forward. Mal was a courageous centreman with a high leap and a strong pair of hands. Steve was a talented half back and still eligible for Under 19s.

On the debit side the Club lost Pat Bateman who returned to Melbourne.

We started the year slowly with a 10 point loss to West Canberra in a pre-season trial match. The following week we were to meet West Canberra again but this time for four premierships points. Despite the loss of Tom Allison for the first game and our indifferent pre-season form, we were clearly a stronger side on paper than in the previous year and were full of confidence as we ran out on to Football Park, Phillip to commence season 1974.

Kicking with the wind in the first quarter, we jumped to a six goal lead by quarter time, thanks largely to four goals from Mal Manson. Although West Canberra came back at us in the second quarter, we held a 24 point lead at half time. While we got a little ragged in the third quarter, we held a handy 42 point lead at three quarter time and eventually ran out winners 11.18(84) to 8.5(53). The most pleasing aspects of the game were the excellent form of recruits Winston Gregory (two goals) and Mal Lawn and the Manson twins, who between them kicked seven goals.



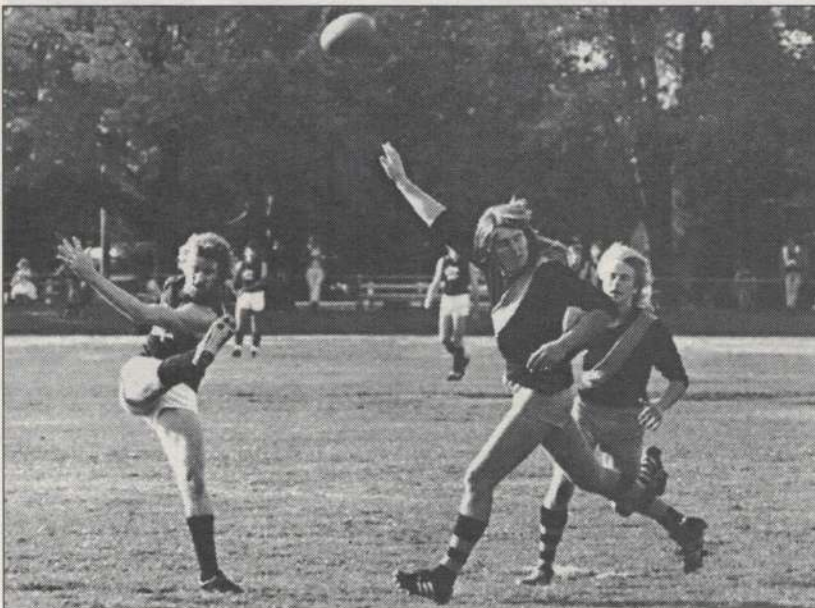
Ray Baguley and Jim Calvert - good mates on and off the field. Jim is at last learning how to break a fall.

After 10 games we had registered six wins and four losses (including big losses to the strong top three sides - Ainslie, Eastlake and Manuka). There had been some good individual performances from Steve Walding (four goals in our win against RMC), Rob White and Mal Manson. Steve was still eligible for Under 19s but had already played three years of senior football. Mal had kicked seven of the side's 13 goals in our win against Queanbeyan on 22 June and followed this up with six goals against West Canberra two weeks later. However, we would have to face the remainder of the year without Mark Read, who was moving interstate. His loss was covered to some extent with the return of Bernie Smith who had been coaxed out of retirement.

Our loss to Manuka was perhaps bigger than it should have been. There were mitigating circumstances. Our fund-raisers had been given approval by the Committee to host a striptease show at the Canberra Showground on 28 June, the Friday night before the Saturday game against Manuka. We had sold 150 tickets initially but demand was strong so we printed more. It was a good deal - \$6 covered entertainment and beer all night. Attendance was overwhelming - 600 people. One thousand dozen cans of Courage had been purchased for the night (Courage had given us a special deal). The entertainers were somewhat taken aback when they saw the crowd. Their agent had told them it was to be a small buck's night crowd.

As the night wore on the crowd was becoming a little raucous - not least because Courage was not the most popular of beers. Danny Murphy, who was standing on point duty, notified Bags on the walkie talkie that several police cars were approaching. It was time to turn over the gambling tables. Unfortunately, as one table was being turned it fell on Rob Baguley who retaliated. A fight ensued - a very big one in fact. Within a minute an all-in brawl had developed - it was pandemonium. The Mansons were in the thick of it standing on tables and taking on all-comers. After matters had quietened the police instructed us that no more beer could be sold and the raffle planned for the end of the night could not proceed. Mick Chinnick, never one for letting a chance go by, informed the entertainers that he had won the raffle. He and the entertainers were not seen again that night.

In the wash up, charges were laid by the police, but later dropped, against Mick Burgess who had taken out the liquor licence. The charges related to the drinking of beer outside the building. While we made a \$2000 profit on the night we agreed that there were probably better ways to raise funds. Another moral was that such events should not be held the night before a game.



Rob White - star recruit for 1974. Rob was a left footer but claims to have kicked a goal with this right footer - despite the attention of Brian Hopkins (later to join Belconnen).

In its wisdom the CANFL decided to continue an experiment introduced in 1973 to split the competition after ten rounds, with the top four playing each other and the bottom four doing likewise. The fourth placed side in the top group would then play the top side in the other group in an elimination final to qualify for the first semi-final. As the fourth placed side after ten rounds, we played our remaining six games against the top three and were soundly beaten in all of them. ANU, on the other hand, had a confidence boosting time against the bottom four sides, finishing well on top.

Our record against ANU for the year was one win and one loss and because we had not played them for 12 weeks we were not sure what to expect. Nevertheless, our side for the elimination final was a good one:

B	Bernie Smith	Tim Grant	Brian Prendergast
HB	Jim Calvert	Winston Gregory	Paul McGaw
C	Rob Goddard	Mal Lawn	Tony Jamieson
HF	Tom Allison	Mick Chinnick	Stan Widera
F	Ray Baguley	Mal Manson	Steve Walding
Followers:	Peter Stubbs, Danny Murphy, Rob White		
19/20:	John Blake, Steve Taylor		

The selection of Bags in the forward line was an interesting one. He had in fact played four of his last six games up forward. Bags started his First Grade career with Turner at full forward and after some good performances there (including four goals on debut) soon showed that goal-kicking was not one of his strengths. It was not long before the Turner selectors saw the error of their way and moved him as far from our goals as possible - to full back. There he stayed for the next three seasons until mid-way through 1974.

We started slowly, kicking just one goal to quarter time. ANU had kicked four goals. They were playing confidently with teamwork that had developed well over the second half of the year. Mal Manson kicked all three of our goals in the second quarter. At half time we were behind by 22 points. Bags had kicked three straight behinds. Apart from another three goal burst from Mal in the last quarter, the second half was a disappointment - although to be fair to Bags, he did kick a goal. At the siren, ANU had won 16.13(109) to 10.11(71) and Bags had played his last game on the forward line for Belconnen.

Larry Pickering was appointed coach of Reserves at the start of the year, but his talent as one of the best political cartoonists in the country meant he was in demand. He was offered a Sydney based job too good to refuse and so long-serving committeeman, Cleve Weatherill, took over the reigns mid-season. Larry's dedication to us saw him making the weekly trip to Canberra to finish out the season.

Despite winning only three of our first ten games, Reserves also were placed fourth and therefore were to face the top three sides, Ainslie, Eastlake and Manuka, for the remaining games leading up to the finals. Apart from an excellent win by five points against Manuka on 3 August, turning around the 52 point loss to them four weeks earlier, we never really threatened. We lost the first semi-final against Eastlake by 27 points.

For the Under 19s, 1974 was a year to remember. At the start of the year expectations were high, having comfortably won the Under 17 premiership the previous year. After five matches we had kicked a massive 124 goals. Mal Manson had kicked 21, Phil Culnane, a high flying half forward flanker, had kicked 18, as had captain and rover Bill Sleeman. The team was an awesome sight in full flight.

Just as we were thinking that we would breeze through the season without a side getting close to us, we were brought crashing to earth with a 5.8(38) to 8.16(64) loss to Eastlake. There could be no excuses that day since most of our stars were playing. In hindsight, it was an important result for us because Eastlake was the only side capable of putting up any serious

resistance. It ensured that when we met them in the finals we would be less complacent than might otherwise have been the case.

Confidence is an essential element of all great sides. Our Under 19s certainly had plenty. They also liked to enjoy themselves at the Shed - often raising the eyebrows and sometimes the ire of Clarrie Hopper and other Club regulars. Many would recall Mal and John Manson and Stan Widera standing on tables leading the team in a rousing rendition of 'Clarrie and the Members' sung to Elton John's hit of the time 'Benny and the Jets'.

We kicked 102 goals in the last five games leading up to the finals and approached the second semi-final against Eastlake with confidence. The result was a hard fought win 8.10(58) to 5.14(44). It was the first time a Belconnen side had reached a grand final. Predictably, our opponents in the grand final were Eastlake. Our side was:

B	Greg Burgess	Mark Sawa	Tony Read
HB	John Blake	Steve Lewis	Bill Campbell
C	Jeff Hurst	Stan Widera	Mark Wigley
HF	Steve Taylor	John Manson	Phil Culnane
F	Bill Sleeman	Mal Manson	Marty Dexter
Followers:	Kevin Heaney, Danny Murphy, Steve Walding		
19/20	Kim Birch, Geoff Van Senden		

Twelve of the 20 had already played First Grade football - 138 games in all. As long as we played to our potential we knew we had our first flag. However, with the loss to Eastlake earlier in the year, the tough second semi-final encounter and the historic significance of the game, tension was high. Our confidence was boosted with Mal Manson winning the Under 19 League medal, the T.A. Wharton Trophy, in the week preceding the grand final.

Not surprisingly, we started nervously. There was little system to our game and Eastlake were hitting us with everything. By quarter time tension was building. Eastlake led 4.4(28) to 2.5(17). Apart from two good goals, one each to John and Mal Manson, we were not showing the form of which we were capable.



Under 19 grand final - John Manson looks to tap to brother Mal. Steve Taylor and Mark Wigley (45) look on.

Things did not improve in the second quarter. We kicked four goals but Eastlake outscored us, kicking 5.5 for the quarter, and went in at half time 20 points up. Was the unthinkable about to happen?

Coach Bill Cameron spoke well at half time and pointed out to the boys that they were just 20 points down but had played well below their abilities. By remaining calm and playing systematically as a team, the score would look after itself.

It was not long into the third quarter before we did settle. Mal Manson kicked an early goal which seemed to push the side up a gear. We kicked another six for the quarter. At the other end of the ground our defence was working hard and restricted Eastlake to just two goals. At three quarter time we had a lead of 11 points. It was a good lead but not enough to be comfortable. The first goal in the last quarter would be important.

The final quarter began well. Marty Dexter kicked an early goal to relieve some of the pressure. Steve Taylor and John Manson chimed in with two each and Phil Culnane kicked our last. The game was over and we had won by 30 points. A great win by a great side.

The premiership was important to us but even more important was the undoubted football potential of the side. Providing the players' interest in football could be maintained, the future for the Belconnen Football Club looked bright. Interestingly, all but four of the side eventually played First Grade football for the Club - 769 games in total.

At the end of the season and after leading the Club as captain-coach for its first four years, Tom Allison decided to stand down but to continue as a player. No one would deny the difficulties Tom had faced over the period. Nor would they deny the impressive way in which he tackled them. His contribution to the Club, though not over, was already immeasurable. His devotion to us was reflected in his continuing commitment to us, both on and off the field.

The Shed had performed well during the year. While membership was down marginally, to 202, the Shed was well patronised and recorded its first net profit - \$6,570.

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

Player	Reserve	First	Award
Steve Taylor	John Taylor	Rob White	Best and Fairest
Tim Hughes	Mark Wiley	Stan Wiley	Rising Star
David Bennett	Bob Burgess	Steve Lewis	Best Improvement
Scott Johnson	Doug McGregor	Jim Cairns	Most Consistent
		John Manson	Coach's Trophy
			Most Valuable
	Bill Cameron		BEST CLERK
	Mark Clarke, Peter Johnson, Rob White		ACT REPRESENTATIVE
	Bill Quade (M)		LEADING GOALKEEPER
	Rob White		MURROONEY MEDAL
	David Bennett		UNDER 19 LEAGUE MEDAL

1975 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN NATIONAL

FOOTBALL CLUB:

Bill Simington

VICE-PRESIDENT FOOTBALL:

Don Johnston

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Reg Proctor, Cleve Weatherill, Frank Goddard, Ray Baguley, Les Scotland, Russell Brown, Jack Walding, Bill Cameron, Tom Allison, Peter Johnson, Brian Falconer, Peter Franklin

COACHES

CAPTAINS

FIRST GRADE:

Peter Johnson

Peter Johnson

RESERVES:

Cleve Weatherill

Mike Drekovic

UNDER 19s:

John Stankevicius

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Col Enright, Jock Gregor

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie	56
Eastlake	52
Manuka	52
Belconnen	48
ANU	36
Queanbeyan	32
RMC	8
West Canberra	4

RESERVES

Manuka	58
Ainslie	54
Eastlake	54
ANU	42
Belconnen	36
RMC	16
Queanbeyan	16
West Canberra	8

UNDER 19s

Manuka	72
Eastlake	52
Belconnen	48
Ainslie	44
Queanbeyan	36
West Canberra	28
ANU	8

First Grade Elimination Final:	Belconnen 13.14(92) lost to ANU 17.9(111)
Reserves Elimination Final:	Belconnen 14.13(97) defeated ANU 6.7(43)
Reserves First Semi-final:	Belconnen 18.14(122) defeated Eastlake 14.9(93)
Reserves Preliminary Final:	Belconnen 11.13(79) lost to Manuka 15.10(100)
Under 19s Qualifying Final:	Belconnen 7.10(52) lost to Eastlake 8.13(61)
Under 19s First Semi-final:	Belconnen 9.10(64) lost to Ainslie 13.12(90)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Rob White	John Talikka	Peter Taylor
Runner-up	Stan Widera	Mark Wigley	Tim Hughes
Most Improved	Steve Lewis	Bob Burgess	
Most Consistent	Jim Calvert	Doug McGregor	David Bennett
Coach's Trophy	John Manson		
Most Valuable			Scott Petterson

BEST CLUBMAN:

Bill Cameron

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Mick Chinnick, Peter Johnson, Rob White

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Bill Quade (61)

MULROONEY MEDAL:

Rob White

UNDER 19 LEAGUE MEDAL:

David Bennett

1975

After the setback following 1972, momentum was again beginning to build. A reasonably successful 1975 would stand us in good stead. Nevertheless, there was a need to recruit not only a coach but also some experienced key position players if we were to pose a serious threat to the top three sides. Fortunately, our financial position had improved, thanks in no small measure to the efforts of the Supporters Group which was now headed by Tom Allison. We were able to consider importing a small number of quality players to bolster our ranks. Consequently, our recruitment committee, led by Bob Brown, was particularly active and successful in preparing for 1975.

Peter Johnson, the experienced and well-performed Ainslie ruckman/centre half forward, was appointed coach and a talented full forward from Ainslie Park, Bill Quade, was the second significant signing. A bonus for the Club was that Bill brought with him his friend Dennis Beasley, a nippy and skilful rover/forward. We were also lucky to pick up Ken Duryea, who had moved to Canberra to study at the Canberra College of Advanced Education (now the Canberra University). Ken was a young but strong-marking ruckman who always seemed to be growing. In addition, Bob Koehne had returned to Canberra after a posting overseas.

After the first three games of the year we were on top of the ladder, undefeated. We had easily disposed of Queanbeyan by 85 points, RMC by 28 points and West Canberra by a staggering 137 points. New signing Bill Quade had kicked 18 goals and Rob White was already being regarded by some as the best footballer to have played in Canberra.



Ken Duryea - A strong ruckman with a great pair of hands. Greg Burgess waits for the crumbs.

Our fourth round match on 4 April at Jamison Oval against Ainslie was, therefore, being regarded with some relish. Ainslie was a side we had never beaten and there was a sense around the Club that history was about to be written. Since 1958 Ainslie and Turner had played for the Cock of the North Trophy. Since 1958 the trophy had remained behind glass at the Ainslie Football Club.

Our side for the game was one of the strongest we had been able to field in the short history of the Club, despite the unavailability of Tom Allison because of work commitments. The

importance to the Club of the champion Under 19 team of the previous year was becoming evident. Six of that team, John and Mal Manson, Steve Taylor, Stan Widera, Phil Culnane and Greg Burgess were selected in the twenty. The side was:

B	Peter Stubbs	Ray Baguley	Brian Prendergast
HB	Steve Lewis	Bob Koehne	Jim Calvert
C	Rob Goddard	Mal Lawn	Stan Widera
HF	Dennis Beazley	Mal Manson	John Manson
F	Steve Taylor	Bill Quade	Mick Chinnick
Followers:	Ken Duryea, Peter Johnson, Rob White		
19/20:	Phil Culnane, Greg Burgess		

We started the game well, hitting Ainslie hard but goals for both sides were difficult to come by. John Manson opened the scoring with our first goal and Bill Quade added another before Ainslie replied. By quarter time we had a five point lead.

The game stayed tight throughout the second quarter. We kicked five goals but Ainslie replied with four goals six behinds. The half time score was Belconnen 7.5(47) to Ainslie 5.10(40).

Ainslie, also aware of its unbeaten record against us, came out hard in the third quarter. They kicked three quick goals before we recovered with two, one each to John and Mal Manson. Nevertheless, by three-quarter time Ainslie had edged its way to a one point lead.

The last quarter was a memorable one for us. John Jillard, Ainslie's captain-coach, moved himself to full back but this did not stop Bill Quade registering our tenth goal. Rob White was inspirational. He was not only smothering kicks but taking the ball cleanly off his opponents' boots.

The turning point in the game came when Rob won possession in the back line and bounced the ball to the other end to score the decisive winning goal. Ken Duryea capped off the game with a last goal to give us our first ever win over Ainslie and the Cock of the North Trophy. The final scores were Belconnen 12.14(86) to Ainslie 10.15(75). Our best, apart from Rob White, were John and Mal Manson, Stan Widera and Steve Taylor - highlighting the faith the Club had put in the talented Under 17 and 19 sides of previous years.

The win was a great fillip for the Club and a personal triumph for ex-Ainslie coach Peter Johnson.

The Canberra Times highlighted the importance of the win to the League:

'A well-deserved win, it was the greatest result for the code in Canberra in at least five seasons.' (TCT, 5/5/75)

So confident were Ainslie of a win that they had failed to bring the Cock of the North Trophy with them. After substantial post match celebrations at the Shed, a group of 30 well-lubricated players and supporters led by Bags set off in a convoy of ten cars for the Ainslie Football Club to collect the trophy. After another one and half hours of drinking and generally being obnoxious at the Ainslie Football Club it was time to return to the Shed with our prize.

The convoy set off winding its way slowly through the streets of Ainslie and O'Connor until it had reached Pedder St, at which time Bags in the lead car had realised he had forgotten the trophy. Without losing a beat he simply did a u-turn and, with the convoy following, returned to the Ainslie Club. The doorman quickly retrieved the trophy for us - he was not keen for another extended visit. The convoy resumed its journey and this time arrived triumphantly back at the Shed with the Cock of the North Trophy.

Perhaps suffering a let down after the momentous win, we lost to the very strong Manuka side the following week. Nevertheless, after five weeks of competition the ladder was something to behold:

	w	l	pts	%
Belconnen	5	1	20	157.78
Manuka	5	1	20	131.56
Eastlake	4	2	16	178.95
Ainslie	4	2	16	157.79
ANU	3	3	12	123.37
Queanbeyan	2	4	8	60.74
West Canberra	1	5	4	60.51
RMC	0	6	0	37.58



FIRST GRADE

Standing: Jim Calvert, Tom Allison, Mick Chinnick, Owen Bradbrook, Graham Moss, Peter Johnson, Mick Burgess, Ken Duryea, Peter Stubbs, Bob Koehne, Mal Manson, Les Calvert, Andy Anderson
Squatting: Dennis Beazley, Rob Goddard, John Manson, Steve Lewis, Rob White, Stan Widera, Bill Quade, John O'Dea

The next test for us came on 1 June against Eastlake. Unfortunately, Mick Chinnick and John Manson were out through injury and Tom Allison was again unavailable because of work commitments. The match was a disappointing one for us, with Eastlake running out easy winners by 58 points.

For the remainder of the season results followed a predictable pattern. We won easily against the sides below us, ANU, Queanbeyan, West Canberra and RMC, and lost to Ainslie, Manuka and Eastlake. However, we had performed creditably against both Ainslie and Manuka, losing by just 23 points and 19 points to Ainslie and by 17 points to Manuka. The final ladder for the year had us fourth, but only one game behind second and third placed Eastlake and Manuka.

The ACTAFL, which had changed its name from the CANFL in 1975, continued with the final five experiment. We were therefore required to play ANU in an elimination final before we could get on with the serious business of tackling Manuka. While we were going to miss Mal Lawn, who had broken his wrist five weeks earlier and would not play again that year, a

young Stan Widera was doing a fine job in the centre and because we had easily beaten ANU throughout the year we did not see the students as a real threat.

Despite the fact that we were playing in only our third ever First Grade final and despite our loss to ANU the previous year in the elimination final, we approached the game over-confidently and suffered the consequences. ANU came at us hard, jumped to a 14 point lead by half time and never gave us a chance in the second half, running out winners 17.9(111) to 13.14(92). It was a tragic result for the Club when our prospects for seriously threatening the top three sides in a final series were the best they had ever been.

Under crafty coach Cleve Weatherill, our Reserves fared better. A steady if not spectacular year had seen them finish fifth on the ladder but well behind the top four.

As for First Grade, the elimination final was against ANU and while the students had beaten us easily during the year we had a strong side with substantial First Grade experience. The result was an impressive 54 point win to us.

The Reserves' first semi-final was against Eastlake, another side we had not beaten all year. Playing inspired football and with 1975 recruit Graham Boyd and John Talikka kicking four goals each we ran out surprise winners, 18.14(122) to 14.9(93). Our Reserves had become the first senior Belconnen team to progress beyond a first semi-final.

The preliminary final was against Manuka, another side we had not beaten all year. However, by now we were on a roll and confident of making our first grand final. With first use of the wind we started the game brilliantly and with John Talikka at centre half forward showing the way we jumped to a three goal lead at quarter time. Manuka recovered well in the second quarter to take a two point lead into the half time break. Using the breeze effectively up forward in the third quarter we kicked four goals, three to John Talikka. However, we also conceded three goals and this was to prove telling. Although we held a one goal lead at three-quarter time, Manuka made the most of the breeze to kick five goals and run out winners 15.10(100) to 11.13(79). While disappointed at not making our first senior grand final it was a significant achievement for the team and coach.

After a slow start to the year, losing our first three matches, the Under 19s recovered well to reach third on the ladder. Coach John Stankevicius had a fairly talented team, with several players who would go on to have long and distinguished careers with the seniors, including David 'Curly' Bennett, Peter 'Pup' Taylor and Frank 'Tank' Southwell. David's talents were acknowledged with his winning the T.A. Wharton Under 19 League medal.

In the qualifying final against Eastlake we lost narrowly, 7.10(52) to 8.13(61). In the first semi-final the following week we came up against Ainslie, a side we had beaten once during the year. With David Bennett at centre half forward (double checked), speedy Frank Southwell on the half back flank and Peter Taylor as rover, we took the field ready for battle. Unfortunately, after a fairly even first quarter, Ainslie got on top and never looked back, eventually running out comfortable winners by 26 points.

Although we had failed to win a premiership or even make a grand final across the three grades, 1975 had been a good year for us. This was boosted with the winning of the Mulrooney Medal by Rob White - a first for the Club. We were clearly maturing as a Club and our player depth was strengthening.

The Shed also had a reasonable year, recording a net profit of \$6,468. This enabled us to commence roofing in the beer garden as the next step in extending the Club.

1976 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN NATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB:

Bill Simington

VICE-PRESIDENT FOOTBALL:

Don Johnston

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Frank Goddard, Ray Baguley, Les Scotland, Bill Mandle, Jack Walding, Tom Allison, Brian Falconer, Peter Franklin, George Langley, Arthur Wigley, Reg Proctor

	COACHES
FIRST GRADE:	Cleve Weatherill
RESERVES:	Barry Wight
UNDER 19s:	Bill Cameron

CAPTAINS
Jim Calvert
Pat Sheedy
Peter Falconer/ Brendan Lowes

TRAINERS: Andy Anderson, Col Enright, Dave Macilwain

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Manuka	56
Eastlake	48
Ainslie	44
Queanbeyan	40
Belconnen	36
ANU	32
West Canberra	20
RMC	0

RESERVES

Ainslie	60
ANU	52
Eastlake	44
Manuka	44
Belconnen	36
West Canberra	12
Queanbeyan	12
RMC	8

UNDER 19s

Ainslie	64
Manuka	60
Eastlake	44
Belconnen	40
ANU	24
Sutherland	24
West Canberra	8
Queanbeyan	0

First Grade Elimination Final:	Belconnen 8.12(60) lost to Queanbeyan 18.24(132)
Reserves Elimination Final:	Belconnen 9.6(60) lost to Manuka 15.21(111)
Under 19s Elimination Final:	Belconnen won on forfeit from ANU
Under 19s First Semi-final:	Belconnen 4.7(31) lost to Eastlake 13.15(93)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Tom Allison	Pat Sheedy	Frank Southwell
Runner-up	Bob Koehne	Steve Whennan	Peter Falconer
Most Improved	Steve Taylor	Alan Wylucki	Ross Goddard
Most Consistent	Mal Manson	Bill Russell	
Coach's Trophy	Jim Calvert		
Most Determined	Mick Burgess		Peter Taylor

BEST CLUBMAN:

Tom Allison

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Mal Manson, Bill Quade, Stan Widera

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Mal Manson (53)

1976

The first priority for 1976 was to recruit a coach since Peter Johnson had decided not to continue in that role. Cleve Weatherill, after such an outstanding effort during the Reserves finals series in 1975, was duly appointed.



Cleve Weatherill - one of nature's gentlemen but a hard task-master nonetheless.

Cleve was a fitness fanatic, as the players were soon to find out. Here is an excerpt from his report of 23 February to the Football Committee:

'Our pre-season training so far has been restricted to "roadwork", 3 to 4 miles three times a week and a 4.2 miles time trial each Wednesday evening.'

What Cleve left out of his report was his penchant for requiring players, once they had struggled up Aranda Hill during the '3 to 4 mile' run in 30 plus degree pre-season heat, to run down it in order to run up it again. Cleve was also famous for bringing lacrosse to the Club. Having had extensive experience as coach of the Australian lacrosse team, he thought it would be a great way to get players fit. The players thought this might be a good idea and certainly better than Cleve's famous roadwork sessions until they realised the amount of hard running required even to survive on a lacrosse field.

Key players lost during the off-season were Peter Johnson, who returned to Ainslie, and John Manson, who had decided to have a break from football. However, we had recruited Steve Whennan, a solid back pocket, from Flinders University in South Australia and Randall Strongman, a 'utility' player, from Victoria.

During the year we were to pick up two more players - Rob (later to be known as 'Dirty' for good reasons) Dawson, a rugged defender/ruck rover from Tongala and Mick Price, a classy left-foot half forward flanker from East Perth. Mick had in fact been training with Eastlake but fortunately for us had spent his first 21 days in Belconnen territory. The zoning rules were such that Mick was ours. He agreed to play with us for a year.

The season started brilliantly. We recorded our first ever win over Eastlake.

Our side for the day had Tom Allison selected in his North Melbourne and Victorian State position of back pocket and our champion full forward, Bill Quade, in the centre. Kim Birch,

another of the 1974 Under 19s, was selected to play his first First Grade game, at centre half back. The side was:

B	Tom Allison	Bob Koehne	Ray Baguley
HB	Randall Strongman	Kim Birch	Steve Lewis
C	Rob Goddard	Bill Quade	Mick Suidgeest
HF	Brian Prendergast	Mal Manson	Stan Widera
F	Ken Duryea	Mick Burgess	Steve Taylor
Followers:	Peter Stubbs, Jim Calvert, Rob White		
19/20:	Tim Grant, Dennis Beasley		

We started the game well scoring four goals to Eastlake's two in the first quarter. Even though he was playing in the centre, Bill Quade always knew where the goals were. He had kicked half our score. We maintained our lead at half time.

The third quarter was our best. We kicked six goals, two to Ken Duryea in the forward pocket, and kept Eastlake to one. By three quarter time we had a 47 point lead. There was no way we were going to let Eastlake deprive us of our first ever win against them. They kicked three goals to our five behinds in the final quarter but at the siren we were ahead by 26 points. It was a great win against one of the early favourites for the flag.

We won our next three matches, against ANU, West Canberra and RMC, and in so doing repeated our great start of 1974. A young, long-haired university student, after starting in the first ruck for the Reserves the week before (kicking three goals), was promoted to 20th man for the match against ANU. It was the first of 268 First Grade games for David Bennett. In the match against RMC another future Club great, Frank Southwell, played his first First Grade game, also as 20th man.



FIRST GRADE

Standing: Mark Wigley, Greg Burgess, Mal Manson, Ray Baguley, Peter Stubbs, Rob Dawson, David Bennett,
Mick Burgess, Mick Price, Cleve Weatherill, Roger Dannock, Randall Strongman, Ken Duryea
Crouching: Steve Taylor, Peter Falconer, Rob Goddard, Jim Calvert, Steve Whennan, Steve Lewis, Tom Allison

Our fifth game of the year was against the also undefeated Queanbeyan. New recruit Rob Dawson was playing his first game, at centre half back. Unfortunately, after a very close first half Queanbeyan edged clear to win by 26 points.

That result triggered a mid-season slump. We lost to Ainslie by 65 points, despite gaining the services of new recruit Mick Price, and then to Manuka, Eastlake, ANU and West Canberra, the Club's one hundredth game. Our performances were not helped by the loss of Stan Widera to Glenorchy after just three games with us, Rob White, who returned to Wycheproof after six games, Bill Quade with knee cartilage problems and Mick Chinnick. Mick was to stand down after just one game in the middle of the year because of a recurring shoulder injury, putting a lot of pressure on Peter Stubbs and Ken Duryea to carry the rucking duties for the rest of the year. Matters deteriorated further when Ken Duryea missed four games through injury. However, this gave David Bennett an opportunity to show his range of talents by stepping in as second ruck.

As an aside, it is worth noting the symbolism associated with David Bennett being given his first real test in First Grade as a result of Mick's misfortune. Mick had taken on all-comers over the last few years and remained unconquered as the Club's champion skuller. Some who had seen David perform impressively in a number of boat races decided it was time for a challenge to Mick's crown. The challenge was schooners. Most of the money was on Mick. David has never looked like a champion skuller - but he looked much less like one in 1976. It was over in a flash. As Mick had worked his way through half a glass with his usual efficiency, David had downed his and placed the glass on his head. We had entered a new era.

The special talent Cleve had for engendering fight in adversity, evident from the Reserves' finals efforts the previous year, came to the fore. We regrouped against RMC then comfortably defeated Queanbeyan, the side that had broken our unbeaten run earlier in the season, before coming up against our old foe, Ainslie. However, by now our confidence had returned and we were playing good football.

After an even first quarter, we broke away to kick seven goals in the second quarter. Mal Manson led the way with four. The second half was tight. Each time Ainslie kicked a goal we replied. At the final siren Mal Manson had kicked seven goals and we had recorded our second ever win over Ainslie - 20.8(128) to 15.12(102). The win was all the more meritorious given that Bob Koehne was carried off in the last quarter with a knee injury. We had already used our two reserves and finished the game with 17 men. *The Canberra Times* nominated as best players Mal Manson, Jim Calvert and Ray Baguley.

After losing to Manuka the following week, we again came up against competition leader Eastlake - a side which had won its last ten games and which we knew would be hell bent on avenging its early season loss to us. However, it was important for us to maintain our momentum and Cleve had us well-primed for the encounter.

At half time we were four points down but with Mal Manson kicking two goals in the third quarter we edged our way to a one point lead. A magnificent last quarter in which we kicked five goals (Mal Manson three goals) to one saw us home by 24 points to record our second ever win over Eastlake. Best players were Steve Taylor, Tom Allison, Mal Manson, Rob Dawson and David Bennett.

To consolidate fifth position on the ladder and make the finals we needed to beat the strong ANU side in the second last game of the home and away series.

While the game at the picturesque ANU South Oval started fairly evenly, ANU kicked six goals in the second quarter to go in at half time leading 10.5 to 5.8. It looked as though our season was over and Cleve highlighted the point in his half time address. We came out after half time to play one of the best halves of football in the short history of the Club. Mal

Manson kicked two goals and Ken Duryea two more. By three quarter time we trailed by just seven points. However, we were kicking against a strong breeze in the last quarter.



A young David Bennett in the ruck. Rob Goddard and Jim Calvert look on.

A win for ANU and they were in the finals. A win for us and we were there. It had been a long hard season and our future for the year had come down to one quarter. We played accordingly. Our defence was magnificent, keeping ANU to just one goal for the quarter. Up forward, Peter Stubbs, not renowned for his goal-kicking kicked an early goal. Mal Manson added a second and Steve Taylor a third to give us one of our more memorable victories. Best players were Jim Calvert, David Bennett, Rob Dawson, Mal Manson and Ray Baguley.

Inside Football was impressed with our efforts:

'Belconnen gave a great display of courage and determination to make a virtual certainty of their final five place by defeating ANU in a close hard-fought match. After a great start, in which it had three goals on the board before ANU scored, Belconnen were overpowered by the high-marking ANU team, which lead by nearly five goals at half time. In the third quarter Belconnen got within seven points, but faced the test of kicking against the breeze in the last quarter. The players rose to the occasion magnificently, and out-played and out-tackled ANU.' (*Inside Football*, 19/8/76)

After losing the last game of the home and away series against West Canberra, we came up against Queanbeyan in the elimination final. *The Canberra Times* summarised the game fairly succinctly:

'The Belconnen Bees were pushed ignominiously out of the ACT Australian Rules competition yesterday by the Queanbeyan Tigers. Queanbeyan literally did as they liked for three-quarters of the match and then eased up to win 18-24 (132) to Belconnen's 8-12 (60).' (TCT, 30/8/76)

Again, we had had a disappointing end to a year which promised much. What could have been became evident when Eastlake, a side we had beaten handsomely twice during the year, went on to become premiers.

The Canberra Times reference to the Belconnen 'Bees' deserves some comment. In our early years we were generally referred to as the 'Bees', perhaps to distinguish us from ANU which also had a blue jumper and were sometimes referred to as the Blues. However, 'Bees' was a

term not strongly supported or used within the Club. For example, the Club song referred to us as the 'mighty fighting Blues'. Mercifully, with the withdrawal of ANU from ACTAFL after 1978, *The Canberra Times* dropped references to 'Bees' and began referring to us as the 'Blues'.

Our Reserves had a similar year to Firsts. By the end of the home and away series we had won eight matches and had finished fifth on the ladder. John Talikka and Roger Dannock, a new recruit for the year from Victoria, had been performing well up forward. In the third game of the year against West Canberra, John kicked an impressive 11 goals one behind to set a Club record. He followed this with nine goals the following week against RMC and seven goals the week after against Queanbeyan. Unfortunately, he missed the next ten weeks through injury.

In the Reserve Grade elimination final against Manuka we went on to the field with a good blend of youth and experience. John Talikka was at full forward, having kicked six goals the previous week in his comeback match. Although we battled hard, we were not up to the task of beating Manuka, losing by 51 points.

Under 19s had some promising players in captain Peter Falconer (later to play First Grade football in Perth), Frank Southwell, Ross Goddard and Peter Taylor. However, player depth was a problem and with several of the better players either injured for long periods or playing up occasionally in Reserves or Firsts, the team had problems in settling and showing its true potential. Nevertheless, it performed creditably over the year to finish fourth and earned a first semi-final appearance against Eastlake.

Unfortunately, the match was a one-sided affair. Eastlake held a handy three goal lead at half time and ran out easy winners 13.15(93) to 4.7(31).

Financially, the football operations finished the year in a better position than we ever had, thanks largely to the efforts of the Supporters Group, led now by Bill Mandle, and of the Social and Fundraising Sub-committee, led by Ray Baguley.

At the end of the season all coaching positions were advertised. At a meeting of the Football Committee on 6 December, a decision was taken to appoint Kevin Hassett as coach for 1977. Kevin was an ex-St Kilda and Ainslie player (over 150 games with Ainslie) and an ex-Ainslie coach.

The Shed had traded well during the year. The result was a profit of \$8,077. On the basis of this success the Club borrowed \$30,000 to recarpet both bars and, importantly, to purchase our first poker machines.

1977 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN NATIONAL

FOOTBALL CLUB:

Russell Brown

VICE-PRESIDENT FOOTBALL:

Bill Cameron

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Ray Baguley, Pat Brazel, Bob Brown, Frank Goddard, Tim Grant, Reg Proctor, Gary Schmidt, Les Scotland, Jack Walding, Arthur Wigley

COACHES

CAPTAINS:

FIRST GRADE: Kevin Hassett

Jim Calvert

RESERVES: Winston Gregory

Pat Sheedy

UNDER 19s: Dave Macilwain

Peter Taylor

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Dave Macilwain

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Manuka	72
Eastlake	68
Queanbeyan	64
Belconnen	44
Ainslie	44
West Canberra	24
ANU	20

RESERVES

Manuka	60
Belconnen	60
Ainslie	48
Eastlake	40
Queanbeyan	36
ANU	28
West Canberra	24
Sutherland	16

UNDER 19s

Ainslie	60
Eastlake	56
Manuka	56
Belconnen	52
Sutherland	36
ANU	32

First Grade First Semi-final:	Belconnen 13.12(90) lost to Eastlake 17.13(115)
Reserves Second Semi-final:	Belconnen 12.9(81) lost to Manuka 14.14(98)
Reserves Preliminary Final:	Belconnen 16.14(110) lost to Ainslie 20.17(137)
Under 19s First Semi-final:	Belconnen 6.2(38) lost to Manuka 14.20(104)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	John Manson	Peter Stubbs	Ross Goddard
Runner-up	David Bennett	Greg Burgess	Frank Southwell
Most Improved	Roger Dannock	Paul Butterworth	Rod Jessup
Most Consistent	Mick Price	Owen Bradbrook	
Coach's Trophy	Rob Goddard		
Most Determined	Stan Widera		Wayne Agnew

BEST CLUBMAN:

Frank Goddard

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Mal Manson, Stan Widera

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Mal Manson (41)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

Ray Baguley, Rob Goddard, Tom Allison,
Pat Sheedy, Peter Stubbs

UNDER 19 LEAGUE MEDAL:

Peter Taylor

1977

The year began on a very sad note with the sudden death of Cleve Weatherill from a stroke at just age 54. His obituary in *The Canberra Times*, written by long-standing Australian football reporter, Barry Rollings, highlighted his dedication to the Club:

'Mr Weatherill was the epitome of the club stalwart. An eager worker for Belconnen, no job was too hard for him, no personal sacrifice too great. One of the code's true gentlemen, he wore the mantles of victory and defeat with equal humility and never was heard to denigrate the umpires, the opposition or his own team..' (TCT, 27/1/77)

Despite our reasonably comfortable financial position, we recruited only modestly. The one exceptional pick up was Noel O'Neill who moved with Kevin Hassett from Ainslie. However, a bonus for the Club was the return to football of John Manson. Nevertheless, we were short of an experienced ruckman.



FIRST GRADE

Back row: Ray Baguley, Mick Suidgeest, Peter Stubbs, Ken Duryea, Bill Quade, Tim Grant, Roger Dannock, Rob Dawson, Winston Gregory
 Middle row: Dave Macilwain, Peter Falconer, Peter Taylor, Mal Manson, Frank Southwell, David Bennett, Mick Price, Paul Butterworth, Geoff Clarke
 Front row: Steve Taylor, Rob Goddard, Frank Goddard, Jim Calvert, Kevin Hassett, Russell Brown, Noel O'Neill, Steve Whennan

The season started promisingly with a good effort against Ainslie before going down by just six points. It was a game we could have easily won, particularly with Mal Manson kicking an uncharacteristic no goals five behinds for the day. Stan Widera played a great game as rover, kicking five goals and half forward flanker, Noel O'Neill, in his first game for us showed he would be a valuable asset. After spending most of last year on the ball or in the forward line, David Bennett had started a long stint at centre half back.

Our next game was against ANU. A young Peter Taylor, still eligible for Under 19s, was selected for his first First Grade game as 20th man. After an even first quarter, ANU moved well clear as a result of our bad kicking. By half time we had kicked 1.15 and by the final

siren 6.25(61) to ANU's 12.14(86). We won eight of our next sixteen games to finish fourth after the home and away series. There were some excellent wins, including a 113 point win against ANU, two wins over Eastlake, by 18 points and 24 points and a 15 point win over Ainslie.

We had one of the most versatile forward lines in the competition and certainly the strongest we had ever had. Mal Manson, playing in the forward pocket, kicked 41 goals for the year, Roger Dannock kicked 33, mainly at full forward, and Noel O'Neill and Mick Price 20 each on the flanks. Bill Quade, playing most games in the centre, was also dangerous in front of goals.

Our opponents in the first semi-final were Eastlake, a team we had beaten twice during the year, including a 24 point win just two weeks previously. Previewing the game, *The Canberra Times* had the headline 'Bees are favoured against Eastlake'. The match was to be played on 28 August at Jamison Oval. Our side was:

B	John Manson	Ray Baguley	Steve Whennan
HB	Randall Strongman	David Bennett	Jim Calvert
C	Danny Murphy	Stan Widera	Rob Goddard
HF	Bill Quade	Noel O'Neill	Mick Price
F	Peter Taylor	Roger Dannock	Mal Manson
Followers:	Ken Duryea, Rob Dawson, Steve Taylor		
19/20	Tom Allison, Tim Grant		

At quarter time we held a three point lead. However, Eastlake came out strongly in the second quarter and had jumped to a seven point lead by half time. Despite a three goal burst from Mal Manson in the third quarter, we conceded seven goals to trail by 18 points at three quarter time. The last quarter was a dour battle with Eastlake holding us out to win by 25 points. Mal Manson finished the game with five goals, Roger Dannock four and Mick Price two. It was another disappointing end to a season which promised much.

Our Reserves started the year slowly, winning just two of our first six games. However, it was a very talented side, with many players with First Grade experience, including Winston Gregory, John Talikka, Peter Stubbs, Graham Moss, Mick Burgess, Mick Suidgeest, Steve Lewis, Phil Culnane, Danny Murphy, and others soon to gain First Grade experience, including Peter Falconer (Under 19s), and Mark Wigley.

By our seventh game we were settling down well. Winston Gregory and John Talikka were becoming a very successful two-pronged attack and Roger Watson was in dangerous form on the half forward flank. We won our seventh game, against West Canberra, and then proceeded to win our next ten - a Club record for longest winning sequence. There were some memorable wins, including against Ainslie twice and Manuka and Eastlake once each. We finished the home and away series in second place on percentage to Manuka. Our highest ever finish.

Going into the second semi-final Winston Gregory had kicked 46 goals for the year, John Talikka 34 and Roger Watson 15 and our confidence was high. We started brilliantly, making the most of the breeze and jumped to a five goal lead by quarter time. Our three in-form forwards were looking good having kicked four goals between them. Manuka fought back well to lead by three points at half time.

With the breeze in the third quarter, we had the chance to take the game away from Manuka and although we kicked five goals, we let them in for five. Coming home against the breeze we never really threatened. The final score was Manuka 14.14(98) to Belconnen 12.9(81). It was a disappointing result. However, our season was not over. It was only the second time a senior Belconnen side had lasted beyond the semi-finals and we were confident of meeting Manuka again in the grand final. Our opponents in the preliminary final were Ainslie - a side we had beaten twice during the year.

Our side was:

B	Mike Drekovic	Owen Bradbrook	Danny Murphy
HB	Pat Sheedy	Steve Lewis	Mick Burgess
C	Paul Butterworth	Geoff Clarke	Bob Burgess
HF	Roger Watson	Tony Read	Peter Falconer
F	John Talikka	Winston Gregory	Les Calvert
Followers: 19/20	Peter Stubbs, Frank Southwell, Mark Wigley Manuel Moullakis, Kym Fullgrabe		

Unfortunately, the game was over by quarter time. Ainslie had jumped us, kicking 10.8 to 4.4. It was a lead they maintained until the siren. Our best chance to date to reach a grand final had gone.

Our Under 19s had a disappointing year winning only three games (one on forfeit). However, we received points in four other games because our opponents had played unregistered players. We met Manuka in the first semi-final but never seriously threatened, eventually losing by 66 points. While player depth had been a problem for the Under 19s, there were some good performers, including David Tompsett, Ross Goddard, Wayne Agnew and Frank Southwell. Others who played during the year but spent more time in senior sides were Peter Taylor and Peter Falconer. Despite having played only five and a half Under 19 games during the year, Peter Taylor shared the Under 19 League medal, the T.A. Wharton Trophy. Interestingly, Peter played the half game after he had played in First Grade the day before. While not intending to play, he did so in the second half because numbers were down. The umpire later told Club officials that he would have given Peter votes if he had played for more than a half.

Although we had failed to win any of the four finals games in which we appeared, 1977 had been a significant year for us. For the first time our First Grade side had finished the home and away series above one of the 'top three' - Ainslie - a very pleasing result for our coach. Our player depth was increasing, as reflected in the competitiveness of our Reserves. We were also maturing as a Club, with three players - Ray Baguley, Rob Goddard and Tom Allison (in that order) - reaching one hundred First Grade games - the first to do so.

Off the field 1977 had been a busy year for us. Using his contacts, Mick Burgess had secured for the Club contracts to plant trees throughout the newly developing suburbs of Giralang and Macgregor. In early June a large group of players and committee personnel gathered at Bob and Moira Burgess's house with the intention of spending a few leisurely hours strolling around Giralang to plant the odd tree. More fool us. Two thousand trees, a similar number of blisters and 40 backs unable-to-be-straightened later, we had completed the task. The usually easy-going Mick Burgess, with his henchman Rob Dawson, had turned into a monster, driving us to get the job done before nightfall on the Sunday. Many of us continue to be amazed at how those trees have survived and grown over the years. As delirium was setting in, more than once a tree was planted still in its plastic container.

The effort was an important one for the Club, earning us over \$6,000. Another important fund-raiser for us was the Pot of Gold. This was to be the first of many successful Pot of Gold promotions over the next few years.

The Shed had entered a new era with the introduction of poker machines in 1976. During 1977 bar trade was up and poker machine takings were increasing from month to month. For the first time Shed operations were sufficiently healthy to be able to provide some financial support to the football operations (\$7,564). By the end of the year the Shed had made a net profit of \$44,742. We were slowly but surely positioning ourselves for a major expansion.

1978 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN NATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB:

Russell Brown

VICE-PRESIDENT FOOTBALL:

Barry Johnston/Barry Wight

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Tom Allison, Ray Baguley, Bob Brown, Russell Brown, Ross Byrne, Frank Goddard, Max Gibbs, Daryl Hills, Brian Stirling

FIRST GRADE:

COACHES

Kevin Hassett/
Neil Conlan/Max Gibbs

CAPTAINS

Mick Chinnick/
Laurie Moloney

RESERVES:

Bryan Sheridan

Pat Sheedy

UNDER 19s:

Dave Macilwain

David Tompsett

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Wayne Bolton, Gary Schmidt, Manny Kargas

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie	68
Eastlake	68
Queanbeyan	60
Belconnen	52
Manuka	42
West Canberra	30
ANU	16

RESERVES

Ainslie	76
Belconnen	64
Sutherland	52
Queanbeyan	48
Manuka	48
Eastlake	32
ANU	8
West Canberra	8

UNDER 19s

Ainslie	56
Eastlake	40
West Canberra	32
Manuka	24
Belconnen	22
Sutherland	6

First Grade First Semi-final:

Belconnen 17.14(116) defeated Queanbeyan 13.11(89)

First Grade Preliminary Final:

Belconnen 14.14(98) lost to Eastlake 21.14(140)

Reserves Second Semi-final:

Belconnen 14.20(104) defeated Ainslie 15.8(98)

Reserves Grand Final:

Belconnen 16.5(101) defeated Ainslie 11.12(78)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Stan Widera	Paul Butterworth	David Tompsett
Runner-up	Peter Taylor	Denis O'Malley	Wayne Agnew
Most Improved	Noel O'Neill	Frank Southwell	Warwick Grigor
Most Consistent	David Bennett	Steve Whennan	John Dess
Coach's Trophy	Max Johnston	Tim Grant	Trevor Driscoll
Most Determined	Randall Strongman		
Best First Year Player	John Dess		

BEST CLUBMAN:

Bob Brown

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

John Manson, Mal Manson, Bob Randall,
Rob White, Stan Widera

LEADING GOALKICKER:

Chris Bowman (46)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

Mick Burgess, Mick Suidgeest, Bob Burgess
Tim Grant

1978

With Kevin Hassett's re-appointment late in 1977, we moved quickly into gear for the new season.

The improved financial position of both the football operations and the licensed Club meant that we could look to import some quality players to fill weaknesses in the team. The new Football Committee, headed by Barry Johnston, was in a hurry for success and embarked on a strong recruitment campaign. Players picked up included: Laurie Moloney, an experienced first grade Essendon player; Bob Randall, a talented ruckman from Fitzroy; Rob White, who had returned after two years with Wycheproof; Andy Bowden, an experienced and skilful centreman from Glenelg; Chris Bowman, a key forward from ANU; Mal Crawford, a strong defender from Tongala; John Dess, a clever centreline player from Murtoa; Max Johnston, a strong marking ruckman from Melbourne University; Colin Milburn, a clever centreman from Flinders Park, South Australia; Trevor O'Riley, a fast and skilful half forward from Myrtleford; Joe Box, a young ruckman from Griffith; and Barry Slade, a tough central defender from Whyalla.

To ensure that some of the current players were retained, several were offered substantial match payments - others were not.

Clearly, the Football Committee had big plans for 1978, even to the extent of appointing a full-time football administrator - although this did not eventuate.



FIRST GRADE

Back row: Daryl Hills, Bill Quade, Max Johnston, Chris Bowman, Rob Dawson, Bob Randall, Joe Box, Neville Gill, John Manson, Manny Kargas
 Middle row: Bob Brown, Mal Crawford, Andrew Brown, Noel O'Neill, Andrew Bowden, Randall Strongman, David Bennett, Rob White, Colin Milburn, Roger Dannock, Wayne Bolton
 Front row: Gary Schmidt, Rob Goddard, Mick Price, Steve Whennan, Laurie Moloney, Max Gibbs, Stan Widera, Tony Hills, Mick Burgess, Jim Calvert

The extent of recruitment and the match payment arrangements were such that disquiet began to build within the player ranks. Kevin Hassett had a difficult job in bringing together the

new with the old in a relatively short space of time and to achieve the results the Committee so desperately sought. A hint of his problems came up in his report to the Committee on 21 March where he 'stressed that the Committee should try and instill a positive approach into the players' (Committee minutes 21/3/77).

Kevin's position was made even more difficult once the season started. Team selection was generating concern among many players. Consequently, our performances in the early part of the season were mixed.

We started with a good win over Ainslie, 16.18(114) to 14.7(91), before going down to Manuka by 21 points. After beating West Canberra, we lost to Eastlake (22.20(152) to 9.11(65)), Queanbeyan (14 points) and Ainslie (5 points).

By round eight disharmony had reached crisis point. Several representatives from the Football Committee met with players in the change rooms at Aranda Oval to discuss the position of First Grade coach. Following that meeting, Chairman of the Football Committee, Barry Johnston, resigned and Kevin Hassett was stood down. Barry Wight took on the job of chair of a new Football Committee, which as a matter of urgency moved to appoint Neil Conlan as First Grade coach. Neil joined us with a most impressive record, having coached Manuka to six grand finals and five premierships between 1967 and 1973.

Reporting on the turmoil, *The Canberra Times* quoted Barry Wight:

'...Initially there was 100 per cent support for him (Hassett) by the football chairman and his committee but in my view there was a loss of confidence in each other as the season progressed. There also was concern about the selection of the side when Barry Johnston was chairman and lack of player support about selected sides'.
(TCT, 24/5/78)

Many players felt Kevin had been dealt with unfairly, that he had been caught up in the overly-ambitious plans of the Football Committee. However, with the resignation of Barry Johnston most decided to get on with the job of playing football. Further disruption came with the loss of champion rover Rob White after the eighth round with a knee injury. Rob would not return to First Grade football until 1980.

Neil Conlan settled in quickly and players were responding well to his methods. We came up against a very strong Eastlake side on 9 August and were beaten comfortably, 21.15(141) to 12.17(89). However, it was to be a significant match for it was the last First Grade game played by Tom Allison. After eight years of great service Tom's work commitments, injuries and perhaps age had combined for Tom to decide to hang up the boots. However, he did return for a cameo one game appearance in Reserves in 1980.

Despite that loss to Eastlake, Neil's coaching was having a positive impact. Training drills were simple, as were his addresses to the players, focussing on the basic skills and on commitment - the latter being a quality which he extracted from each player by the inner force of his personality and presence. A good test of just how much we had improved came in the game against Queanbeyan on 15 July. After losing our first round clash by 14 points we were keen for a win - and win we did - 26.17(173) to 11.14(80). Chris Bowman had a great day kicking ten goals five behinds.

Suddenly and tragically, Neil Conlan died on 22 July, aged 42. Max Gibbs, a long-time supporter and administrator for the Club and one-time coach of Turner stepped into the breach.

With just four games before the finals, Max successfully maintained our fourth position on the ladder, including a great 14 point win against Eastlake in the last round. That win prevented Eastlake from finishing as minor premiers. Despite the turmoil during the year, we

had qualified for only our third ever First Grade semi-final. Our opponents were Queanbeyan, a side we had beaten once during the year.

As a pre-match tactic our selectors released to the press a side with Barry Slade in defence instead of Chris Bowman. This was to upset Queanbeyan's team plans. Barry Slade was regarded by Queanbeyan with some concern after their full forward, Ron Hopkins, suffered a broken jaw earlier in the year in a match against us when Barry was at full back. The side which took the field was:

B	Peter Taylor	David Bennett	Chris Bowman
HB	John Dess	John Manson	Randall Strongman
C	Mick Price	Stan Widera	Noel O'Neill
HF	Colin Milburn	Mal Manson	Rob Dawson
F	Max Johnston	Bill Quade	Andrew Bowden
Followers:	Bob Randall, Laurie Moloney, Steve Taylor		
19/20:	David Tompsett, Trevor O'Riley		

We started the game well, kicking five goals to two in the first quarter. Stan Widera was prominent, kicking two goals from the centre. After a fairly even second quarter, we went in at half time two goals up. The third quarter was a tough one for us. Queanbeyan threw everything at us to level the scores at three quarter time. It looked as though our poor finals record was to continue. Max brought on David Tompsett and Trevor O'Riley to give us some fresh legs at the start of the final quarter and this did the trick. Both players kicked early goals to break Queanbeyan's resistance. We finished off with three more goals to give us an historic first semi-final win. Best players were Stan Widera, Bob Randall, Andy Bowden, David Bennett, Randall Strongman and Chris Bowman.

Our first ever First Grade preliminary final was against Eastlake, a side we had beaten two weeks previously. It was a windy day and after winning the toss we started the game kicking with the wind. A good start, with Bill Quade kicking two goals, gave us a 5.3 to 3.2 lead at quarter time. However, with the wind in the second quarter, Eastlake began to dominate. By half time they had established a lead of 21 points. If we were to make our first ever grand final we had to make the most of the wind in the third quarter. While we kicked five goals, we conceded four to give Eastlake a very good lead kicking with the wind in the last quarter. Although we battled hard in the last term, we struggled, kicking just one goal to Eastlake's six. The final score was Eastlake 21.14(140) to our 14.14(98). Best players were Peter Taylor, David Bennett, Rob Dawson, and Noel O'Neill.

It was a disappointing way to finish a difficult year. Nevertheless, we had achieved our first finals victory in First Grade and that was something about which Max Gibbs and the players could be rightly proud.

Reserves were also affected by the dislocations with the Committee and senior coach but with the crafty Bryan Sheridan at the helm could focus more clearly on football. One benefit of the Club's recruitment drive was that the Reserve Grade side resembled a First Grade side of years gone by and performed accordingly. It was bolstered for the first half of the year with the return of Mick Chinnick. Unfortunately, after eight Reserve games and two more in Firsts, Mick succumbed to injury which would see him retire from football. A sad way for one of the Club's greats to finish his career.

During the year the Reserves set a senior Club record of 11 straight wins. After the home and away series we were second, three games behind arch rival Ainslie. To quarantine his side as much as possible from the turmoil within the Club, Bryan had set about building a strong social base upon which the talent he had at his disposal could perform. He did this by convening weekly lunchtime meetings at the Stockade, a bar and steakhouse in Braddon. His strategy was a good one - by the end of the season attendance at these meetings was about 25.

Our first ever senior second semi-final appearance was going to be a tough affair. Ainslie had beaten us easily throughout the year and their captain-coach, Peter Johnson, would not accept a loss easily. After several meetings at the Stockade, we were ready to go.

As expected, Ainslie came out very confidently. For much of the first half we were led a merry dance. By half time we were 27 points down and struggling. Bryan made a number of positional changes to shake us up and this did the trick. We began to wear Ainslie down but they maintained a 12 point lead at three quarter time. The last quarter was a typically torrid finals quarter. We came out strongly and gradually pegged Ainslie back. Moving towards time-on we were just one goal down but our momentum was building. Rob Goddard, playing on the wing, ran down the ground to goal and level the scores. Deep into time-on he repeated the dose. The siren went as the ball was being bounced. We had won by six points and now had an appointment for the Club's first ever senior grand final.

The grand final was to be against Ainslie at Manuka Oval. After some careful planning at the Stockade a side was selected which had 666 First Grade games in experience:

B	Steve Whennan	Denis O'Malley	Ray Baguley
HB	Frank Southwell	Barry Slade	Steve Lewis
C	Mick Suidgeest	Paul Butterworth	Rob Goddard
HF	Tony Hills	Tim Grant	Trevor O'Riley
F	Rick Sawa	Roger Dannock	Les Calvert
Followers:	Peter Stubbs, Danny Murphy, Geoff Coggins		
19/20:	Mick Burgess, Pat Sheedy		

Having learned from our previous encounter, we came out determined to over-run Ainslie early. Our first quarter was magnificent. With Barry Slade and Denis O'Malley dominating in defence and Roger Dannock proving a real handful up forward with five goals, we jumped to a 28 point lead by quarter time. After an even second quarter Ainslie hit us with everything in the third. By three-quarter time they had reduced our lead to just seven points. In his annual report Bryan Sheridan described the final quarter thus:

'The last quarter was desperate football. Ainslie kicked two early goals which took them into the lead and for the first time we looked in trouble. But then it all happened. The boys accepted the challenge and with a superb team effort piled on the goals. The excitement which developed was tremendous as players and supporters sensed our first premiership. 7 goals in the great last quarter took us to 16.5 against Ainslie's 11.12, and we had achieved the ultimate finale to the season - THE ACTAFL 2ND GRADE PREMIERSHIP.'

It was a marvellous result for the Club, particularly given our problems over the year. Celebrations continued for much of the week, with a long post mortem at the Stockade.

So pleased were Max Gibbs, Mal Manson and Mick Burgess about our win that they thought they would share their joy with Ainslie. On the Monday following the game they set off for the Ainslie Football Club with Ray Andrews. The Club was being extended (again) at the time and a back hoe was at the front of the Club. Max, Mick and Mal were all capable back hoe drivers and thought it would be good to show Ainslie just how good they were. After successfully starting the machine they headed straight for the main doors of the Club. The doorman, putting his life in his hands, stood before the oncoming machine exhorting Max, Mick and Mal to stop. They did eventually but with just a few centimetres to spare. Not satisfied, they grabbed the Ainslie welcome mat, sign-in book and flag and jumped into the get-away car driven by Ray Andrews. They were banned from the Club after the incident. A footnote to the story is Mick's return to the Club some 17 years later for an ACTAFL function. Incredibly, the same doorman was on duty. He recognised Mick and pointed out that he was banned. Always a capable talker, Mick negotiated his way into the Club after a few laughs.



RESERVE GRADE PREMIERS

Back row: Brian Harry, Rob White, Mal Crawford, Roger Dannock, Neville Schroeter, Rick Sawa, Joe Box, Peter Stubbs, Dave Macilwain

Middle row: Daryl Hills, Roger Watson, Rob Goddard, Steve Lewis, Paul Butterworth, Randall Strongman, Geoff Coggins, Mick Suidgeest, Wayne Bolton

Front row: Gary Schmidt, Ray Baguley, Tony Hills, Pat Sheedy, Bryan Sheridan, Mick Burgess, Steve Whennan, Les Calvert, Andy Anderson

The Under 19s had a mediocre year finishing fifth and out of the finals. Nevertheless, there were some talented players who made their mark or soon were to make their mark in the senior grades, including David Tompsett, Wayne Agnew and John Dess.

The commitment to match and contract payments made at the start of the year was clearly going to over-tax the football operations' finances. Our committed expenditure for the year was more than double that of the previous year and \$21,000 in excess of funds to hand. During the season Barry Wight had kept the Club's Board fully informed of our predicament with a request for assistance in meeting these commitments. At its meeting of 9 October the Board agreed to cover the liability. At its meeting of 12 October, the Football Committee discussed recruitment policy and acknowledged the lack of purpose and direction in our 1978 recruitment.

It had been a no less significant year for the Club's licensed operations. We had continued to trade well following our successful year in 1977 and were looking to extend. At about the same time the Hibiscus function centre adjacent to the Club was put on the market. The prospects of jointly developing the Hibiscus and Shed were exciting. Accordingly, the Club's Board sought and subsequently obtained finance - a first mortgage with Mutual Acceptance for \$270,000 and a second mortgage with Lakeside Catering for \$300,000 - and acquired the Hibiscus. The Belconnen Football Club had entered a new era - but not all members were convinced that it was for the better. Many preferred to patronise the Shed. In his annual report to members, President Russell Brown stated the following:

'Although the benefit to some members is not immediately apparent, I am confident that the acquisition will enable us to become one of the strongest clubs in the area. Some growing pains have occurred since the acquisition which are gradually being sorted out and I believe that next year the Club will be in a better position to promote and advertise all areas of the Club for the benefit of members.'

1979 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN NATIONAL

FOOTBALL CLUB: Russell Brown/Jack Walding

VICE-PRESIDENT FOOTBALL: Barry Wight

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Tom Allison, Wayne Bolton, Bob Brown, Jim Hourigan, Brian Stirling, Geoff Walker

	COACHES	CAPTAINS
FIRST GRADE:	Norm Smith	Norm Smith
RESERVES:	Bryan Sheridan	Steve Whennan
UNDER 19s:	Ray Green	Chris Althaus

TRAINERS: Andy Anderson, Wayne Bolton, Gary Schmidt, Jack Parmeter

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS	RESERVES	UNDER 19s
Ainslie 64	Ainslie 76	Eastlake 80
Belconnen 64	Belconnen 72	Ainslie 72
Manuka 56	Manuka 64	Manuka 60
Eastlake 48	Eastlake 44	Belconnen 36
Queanbeyan 48	Queanbeyan 36	RMC 36
West Canberra 16	ANU 24	Sutherland 26
Sutherland 12	Sutherland 16	Queanbeyan 18
	West Canberra 4	West Canberra 8

First Grade Second Semi-final:	Belconnen 14.20(104) defeated Ainslie 10.7(67)
First Grade Grand Final:	Belconnen 11.8(74) lost to Ainslie 17.18(120)
Reserves Second Semi-final:	Belconnen 18.16(124) defeated Ainslie 11.17(83)
Reserves Grand Final:	Belconnen 14.16(100) lost to Ainslie 19.7(121)
Under 19s First Semi-final:	Belconnen 6.10(46) lost to Manuka 16.10(106)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	FIRSTS	RESERVES	UNDER 19s
Best and Fairest	Peter Taylor	Barry Slade	Wes Maloney
Runner-up	David Tompsett	Robert Lipp	Andrew Brown
Most Improved	Bill Quade	Geoff Coggins	Tim Harrington
Most Consistent	Mal Manson	Steve Whennan	Mick Dwyer
Coach's Trophy	Laurie Moloney	Rob Goddard	Chris Althaus
Most Courageous	Peter Taylor		
Best First Year Player	Brian Eagles		

BEST CLUBMAN:	Reg Proctor
ACT REPRESENTATIVES:	David Bennett, Col Graham, John Manson, Mal Manson, Laurie Moloney, Bill Quade, Peter Searle, Stan Widera
LEADING GOALKICKER :	Bill Quade (114)
100 GAME MILESTONE:	Mal Manson, Jim Calvert, Steve Taylor

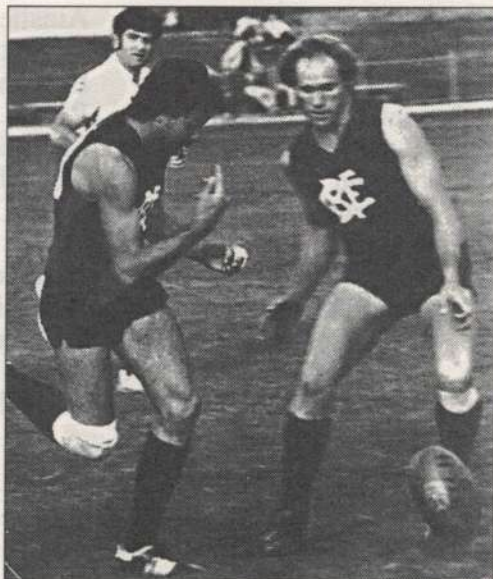
1979

Norm Smith, an experienced ruck rover from Corowa, was appointed playing coach in January 1979, following advertising of the position in late 1978. Bryan Sheridan was re-appointed Reserve Grade coach.

The Football Committee commenced recruitment activity once it had received an indication from the BNFC Committee that it would provide \$20,000 to support football operations for 1979. Recruits picked up were Brian Eagles, an experienced rover from Scoresby in Victoria; Colin Graham, a fast and classy wingman from Melbourne Football Club; Peter Searle, a strong rover from ANU; Steve ('Jack') Juniper, a half back flanker from South Australia; Harold Turner, a high-flying forward from Ainslie; and Robert Lipp, a well-performed centreman/half-forward (including ACT representation) from Eastlake.

Major losses from 1978 were Bob Randall, Andrew Bowden and Mal Crawford. Rob White was still recovering from a knee injury.

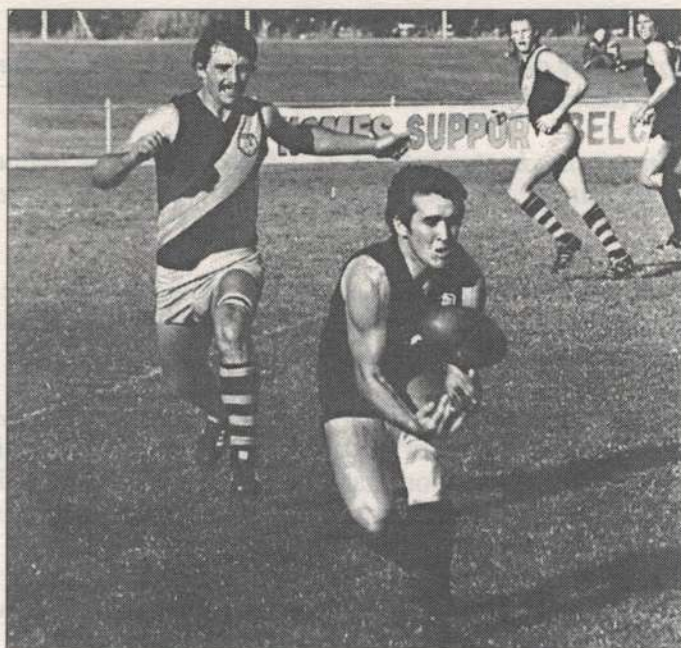
Expectations were high at the start of the season. We had recruited well and lost few. Furthermore, many of our talented ex-juniors were maturing as senior footballers. The season started well with a 22 point win over Eastlake. In our second game against a hapless Sutherland, we kicked a Club record 39.24(258) to 10.12(72). In that game Bill Quade and Brian Eagles each kicked eight goals.



Norm Smith - a strong leader on and off the field, shepherds for Danny Murphy.

Over the next seven weeks we won four games and lost three, twice to Ainslie and once to Manuka. A team meeting was held at the Hibiscus to discuss our slightly disappointing start to the season. It was a good move. The tenth game of the year marked the beginning of a ten game winning streak that would see us playing in the grand final against Ainslie.

On the way to the grand final, we had kicked 30 goals or more in a game on six occasions and beaten Manuka twice (the first of these being the first time ever). Bill Quade had kicked eleven goals on three occasions and set a Club record of 15.6 against West Canberra on 17 June.



Bill Quade - His record 15 goals in a match still stands.

Our first ever First Grade second semi-final was against arch rival Ainslie at Phillip on 9 September. Our side was:

B	Laurie Moloney	David Bennett	Jim Calvert
HB	David Tompsett	John Manson	Rob Dawson
C	Peter Taylor	Stan Widera	Colin Graham
HF	Danny Murphy	Mal Manson	Mick Price
F	Noel O'Neill	Bill Quade	Brian Eagles
Followers:	Max Johnston, Norm Smith, Peter Searle		
19/20:	Joe Box, Steve Taylor		

The first quarter was tight. Noel O'Neill kicked the first goal of the game from a free kick. Ainslie replied quickly. By quarter time we held a five point lead, 3.6 to 3.1. We had had much more of the play but inaccurate kicking, particularly from Mal Manson (who had kicked 1.3) kept Ainslie within touch. David Tompsett had been carried off just before the break with an ankle injury but Ainslie had lost their full back, Alan Smith, with a shoulder injury.

The second quarter was a good one for us. We kicked three goals and held Ainslie to just one. At half-time we had a handy 6.10 to 4.3 lead.

Ainslie kicked the first two goals of the third quarter to reduce our lead to just six points. After some great work by John Manson to turn Ainslie back at centre half back, Brian Eagles goaled. This was followed by goals to Colin Graham and Stan Widera (two). At three-quarter time we had stretched our lead to 3.6.

The last quarter started well for us with Mal Manson kicking two quick goals. Although Ainslie's Brett Hannam had tried hard all day, he could not curb Mal's brilliance. By now Ainslie's spirit was broken. The siren went with us leading by 37 points and we had reached our first First Grade grand final. Best players were Stan Widera, John Manson, Peter Taylor, Brian Eagles, Mal Manson and Norm Smith.

It was an easy win and should have been much larger but for some inaccurate kicking. *The Canberra Times* agreed:

'Belconnen thoroughly deserved to win, their teamwork and determination allowing them to eclipse a dismal Ainslie in every aspect of the game.

*Belconnen's win was the best result for ACT football and the league, as Belconnen is the first club from outside the "big three" to make it since Queanbeyan in 1961'.
(TCT 10/9/79)*

The grand final was to be a rematch of the second semi-final after Ainslie accounted for Manuka in the preliminary final. Our side was the same as for the second semi-final, except that Chris Bowman replaced Joe Box on the bench.

Despite our great win two weeks earlier, three of the four tipsters in the *Footy Record* tipped Ainslie. *The Canberra Times* headline for the grand final preview was 'Ainslie has edge on Blues'. Ainslie had played in and had won many recent grand finals and this would stand them in good stead. They had also learned much from the second semi-final.

A crowd of about 9,000 at Manuka Oval eagerly awaited the first bounce. Ainslie started the game very strongly and established a 7.4 to 3.2 quarter-time lead before we had even settled. By half-time we had clawed our way back to trail 5.6 to 8.5 and were not out of it. However, the third quarter was a disappointment. Ainslie kicked seven goals to our two and by three-quarter time the game was over, with Ainslie leading 15.12 to 7.7. We finished with a spirited four goal last term to walk off at the siren disappointed, but rightly proud of our year. The final scores were Ainslie 17.18(120) to Belconnen 11.8(74). *The Canberra Times* singled out Steve Taylor as one of our better players together with Bill Quade, Max Johnston, Jim Calvert, Rob Dawson and Laurie Moloney.

Reserves also had a great year. After seven games we had lost on just two occasions. We then won the next 13 games (a senior Club record) before losing to Manuka in the last home and away match of the year. We had kicked more than 30 goals on four occasions, including a Club record for Reserves of 36.21(237) against ANU mid-year. In the match against Sutherland on 14 July, Trevor O'Riley set a new Reserve Grade goal-kicking record with 12.3.

As for Firsts, Reserves met Ainslie in the second semi-final. After an even first half, we gradually got on top, finally running out winners 15.17(107) to 12.9(81).

The Reserve Grade grand final side was:

B	Steve Lewis	Tony Cibiras	Randall Strongman
HB	John Dess	Barry Slade	Steve Juniper
C	Greg Crawford	Robert Lipp	Rob Goddard
HF	Trevor O'Riley	Tim Grant	Tony Hills
F	Neville Gill	Harold Turner	Steve Walding
Followers:	Joe Box, Ken Tucker, Geoff Coggins		
19/20:	Peter Stubbs, Mick Burgess		

The match started badly for us, Ainslie jumping to a 6.1 to 3.7 lead at quarter time. Our inaccurate kicking was to prove fatal. By half-time Ainslie led 11.5 to 6.10. Although we narrowed the gap in the third quarter, our inaccurate kicking kept Ainslie in front 13.6 to 9.16. We kicked five goals straight in the final term, but it was too late. Ainslie powered home with six goals to win 19.7(121) to 14.16(100). Although we had beaten Ainslie on three out of four occasions during the year, we had lost the one that counted. On reflection, it is probably fair to say that with the grand final win in the previous year, and with First Grade playing in their first grand final later in the day, the level of intensity was marginally less than it needed to be.

Under 19s won nine games during the year to finish fourth, but were out-gunned by a strong Manuka side in the first semi-final 16.11(107) to 6.11(47). Players to have performed well

during the year included Dean and Rowan Falconer, Chris Althaus, Wes Maloney, Andrew Brown and Mick Dwyer – all of whom would go on to play senior football for the Club.

The Club's performance off the field contrasted strongly with our success on the field. It became evident early in the year that we were going to struggle to repay loans taken out to purchase the Hibiscus. At a BNFC Committee meeting of 5 February, President Russell Brown reported a \$3,114 shortfall in expected income over the last four weeks. By June our bank overdraft had been increased to \$29,000. In addition, there was an outstanding debt to football operations of \$500 per week. Concerns were such that a proposal to sell the Shed was discussed by the BNFC.

By July the Football Vice-President reported to the BNFC Committee that players were requesting payments but that these could not be met. The football operations had \$5,900 in outstanding accounts for each of June and July. By August matters had deteriorated to the extent that the sale of the Hibiscus was advertised in Melbourne and Sydney newspapers. The Football Committee was projecting a shortfall of its own of \$18,230 by November. In September, a \$10,000 loan from Capital Finance was taken out by the BNFC Committee to pay a brewery account. Several directors of the Club nominated as guarantors. Subsequently, other loans were taken out to cover debts, again with several directors nominating as guarantors.

By October the estimated deficit for football operations was \$20,000. Russell Brown advised that the Club could not meet its financial commitment to coaches and players. Despite our difficulties, Norm Smith was reappointed coach in November for season 1980.

At the BNFC Committee meeting of 12 November, Russell Brown pointed to the gravity of the Club's financial situation, stating that \$5,000 was needed within the next few days in order to settle certain outstanding accounts. The money was not forthcoming.

On 16 November receivers were called in by Mutual Acceptance to take over the business of the BNFC.

The purchase of the Hibiscus was a calculated gamble. We had committed ourselves to the limit but had purchased a function centre which required substantial alterations to transform it into a club. Furthermore, the popularity of the Shed had been underestimated. Many of the Club's regular drinkers refused to patronise the Hibiscus. It was a disaster for the Club and one from which we have never recovered.

A meeting of supporters, chaired by Bob Brown, was held on 20 December to discuss action needed to be taken to ensure that teams were entered in the ACTAFL competition in 1980. The receivers advised that they were not interested in running football operations.

1980 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:

Bob Brown

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Tom Allison, Ray Baguley, Rob Dawson, Max Gibbs, Manny Kargas, Harry Phillips, Reg Proctor, Neville Schroeter, Geoff Walker, Jim Watt, Barry Wight, Arthur Wigley

COACHES

FIRST GRADE:

Rob White

RESERVES:

Ken Tucker

UNDER 19s:

Noel O'Neill

CAPTAINS

Rob White

Ken Tucker

Mark Walding

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie	72
West Canberra	52
Eastlake	48
Manuka	48
Queanbeyan	28
Belconnen	24
Sutherland	8

RESERVES

Eastlake	70
Ainslie	58
Queanbeyan	44
West Canberra	44
Manuka	40
Belconnen	12
Sutherland	12

UNDER 19s

Eastlake	60
Ainslie	52
Weston Creek	52
Manuka	40
Belconnen	32
West Canberra	24
RMC	16
Sutherland	12

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

FIRSTS

Best and Fairest

David Bennett

Runner-up

Laurie Moloney

Most Improved

Steve Juniper

Most Consistent

Noel O'Neill

Coach's Trophy

Max Johnston

Most Courageous

Rob White

Best First Year Player

Mick Dwyer

RESERVES

Robert Lipp

Bill Sleeman

Bob Simpson

Rod Jessup

Ian Currie

UNDER 19s

Dean Falconer

Michael Dunne

Mervin Jones/
Mark Walding

Wes Maloney

Alan Lyall

BEST CLUBMAN:

Manny Kargas

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

John Manson, Mal Manson, Bill Quade,

Peter Taylor

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Bill Quade (56)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

David Bennett, Frank Southwell, Peter Taylor

1980

The Supporters Group had worked behind the scenes since 1973 to raise funds for the players. The time had come for the Group to take over football operations as the new Football Committee.

One of the Committee's early tasks was to finalise coaching positions for the year. With the financial difficulties facing the Club, commitments to coaches and many players could not be met. After careful consideration, Norm Smith decided not to continue as First Grade coach. Bryan Sheridan also decided not to continue.

Rob White, Ken Tucker and Noel O'Neill were approached by the Committee to coach Firsts, Reserves and Under 19s, respectively, for 1980. Each accepted the invitation.

Player losses from 1979 were substantial and included Chris Bowman, Peter Searle, Colin Graham, Danny Murphy, Norm Smith and Joe Box. In addition, Jim Calvert had retired after 105 games and eight years of distinguished service and Peter Stubbs had moved interstate, after 152 games and 10 years with us. Pre-season, Stan Widera had not made a firm decision about playing and Mal Manson's intentions were also unclear.

It is worth including a footnote to Jim Calvert's career. Those who were fortunate enough to see Jim play would know that he was a courageous and desperate backman who would do almost anything to prevent his man from getting a kick. He would smother off his opponent's boot with any part of his body that was most readily available. Whenever a pack formed, Jim was at the bottom. Consequently, he suffered many injuries over his career. While he played 105 games with us he missed another 48 games through injuries - that is more than two seasons out of the eight he played. Many jokes have been made about the famous suspect Calvert hamstrings and his other injuries, but his absences were a great loss to the side. The fact that Jim played as long as he did (for some years against medical advice) is a measure of his commitment to football and the Club.



Jim Calvert - a champion who suffered frustrating injuries for much of his career.

Recruitment was necessarily kept to a minimum. However, Jamie Belltowers, a forward, joined us from Ainslie and Bernie Carroll, a utility player, joined us from the Riverina.

The fall-out from 1979 would take a long time to pass. We knew that 1980 would be a difficult year, particularly given the loss of players. In addition, pre-season training had been

disrupted with uncertainties about coaches, player movements and player payments. Many players who continued with the Club approached their work with less intensity than the previous year - a point acknowledged by Rob White in his annual report to members. However, a positive development for the Club was the decision of Mal Manson to stay.

The season started with a loss to Manuka by 30 points. However, we performed with spirit and with a solid core of players from the successful First Grade side of 1979 performing well, hopes for a good year were building.

The second match of the year was against Queanbeyan. Our side that day was:

B	Wayne Agnew	Laurie Moloney	Tony Cibiras
HB	Wes Maloney	David Bennett	Rob Dawson
C	Andy Brown	Peter Taylor	Mick Dwyer
HF	Noel O'Neill	Mal Manson	John Dess
F	John Manson	Bill Quade	Steve Walding
Followers:	Max Johnston, Rob White, Brian Eagles		
19/20:	Mick Price, Bernie Carroll		

It was a strong side, albeit without an injured John Manson, and we performed accordingly. By half time we had shot to a 17.7 to 5.3 lead. Bill Quade, Mal Manson and Noel O'Neill had each kicked five goals. We were relentless in the second half and powered home to win 35.9(219) to 13.9(87). Bill Quade finished with ten goals for the day, Mal Manson nine, and Noel O'Neill seven. Our best players were Mal Manson, Noel O'Neill, Laurie Moloney, Mick Dwyer, John Manson, Bill Quade and David Bennett.

Shortly after the Queanbeyan match our fortunes began to turn. We lost the next three games, to West Canberra, Eastlake and Manuka. The Manuka match was to be Mal Manson's last for the year. He decided to focus on basketball. After a much closer encounter with Queanbeyan, but a win nevertheless, we lost the next six games. Our fortunes dived further with the loss of John Manson for the remainder of the year after our mid-season loss to Ainslie. John also turned his attention to basketball.



Steve 'Jack' Juniper and Rob Dawson make life difficult for this Eastlake player. Mick Price looks on.

By the end of the season we had won just four matches, two against Queanbeyan, which finished above us on the ladder, and two against wooden spooners Sutherland.

It had been a difficult year. However, the courage of Rob White in taking on a tough job in difficult circumstances was something for which the Club was truly grateful.

With only five of our previous year's grand final side continuing, it was also going to be a difficult year for Reserves. By mid-season player enthusiasm was waning. The football report to the Football Committee meeting of 24 June stated 'The Reserves are having difficulties. There are 26 names on the list. Only 10 are available for training and of these only 3 train.'

Ken Tucker tackled the task of coaching with enthusiasm but must have been frustrated with the fall off in numbers and the reluctance of some of the more seasoned campaigners to exert themselves to any great extent. On one occasion after a particularly poor effort the weekend before, Ken told the players - Ray Baguley, Steve Lewis, Steve Whennan and the three others who had turned up - that they were not good enough to train on the oval. He then led them to the dark treed area adjacent to the oval (Giralang) to do 100 push-ups, 100 sit-ups and 100 burpees. Ken led the way. Bags, Lewie and Whennso called on their vast experience to use the conditions to best effect. As Ken was throwing himself into his exercises, the others, with much puffing and panting and enthusiastic counting crouched in the shadows giving every impression of keeping pace. At the end of the burpees, a player favourite, Bags asked Lewie how many he had done. Lewie proudly replied 'nearly one'.

In the first few games of the year the Reserves were competitive but failed to record a win. By mid-season we still had not registered a win and our prospects of doing so did not look good. It was not until the second-last round of matches that we broke our duck. Playing against Sutherland on 16 August, Robert Lipp, a player who had come to the Club the previous year with a good reputation, showed his capabilities. Robert kicked ten goals five that day to give us our one and only win for the year.

Under 19s had been quarantined to some extent from the problems in the Club and performed creditably to win six games and finish fifth at the end of the season. Players to have performed well during the year were Dean Falconer, John Phillips and Peter 'Spud' Bradley.

It had been a hard year on the field - but it was not unexpected. However, we had survived a crisis that would have seen other clubs fold. For that we would thank Bob Brown and his loyal band on the Football Committee and Rob White, who kept things together on the field.

It had also been a hard year off the field. Early in the year Russell Brown stood down as President of the BNFC and Jack Walding bravely took on the job with a committee in caretaker mode. Barry Wight resigned as Football Vice President of the BNFC in March. At a Special General Meeting of the BNFC on 30 June, Bob Brown was elected Football Vice-President.

The Football Committee began planning for season 1981 early. The First Grade coaching position was advertised in September. At its meeting of 3 November, the Committee appointed Keith Miller, the 1979 Mulrooney Medallist from Eastlake, coach for 1981. It was a significant signing for the Club. We looked to 1981 with renewed enthusiasm.

At its meeting of 23 October, the Committee decided to take steps to incorporate the Belconnen Supporters Group in order to separate football operations more distinctly from the operations of the BNFC. The future of the BNFC had remained unclear throughout the year. By the end of 1980 the Supporters Group had been renamed the Belconnen Australian Football Supporters Club.

1981 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:

Bob Brown/Les Scotland

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Tom Allison, Ray Baguley, Rob Dawson, Max Gibbs, Manny Kargas, Harry Phillips, Reg Proctor, Neville Schroeter, Geoff Walker, Jim Watt, Barry Wight, Arthur Wigley

COACHES

FIRST GRADE: Laurie Moloney

RESERVES: Bryan Sheridan

UNDER 19s: Noel O'Neill

CAPTAINS

Laurie Moloney

Rob Goddard

Peter Bradley

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie	72
Manuka	68
Eastlake	56
West Canberra	52
Belconnen	40
Queanbeyan	24
Sutherland	20

RESERVES

Ainslie	76
Eastlake	76
Belconnen	56
Manuka	44
West Canberra	32
Sutherland	28
Queanbeyan	24

UNDER 19s

Weston Creek	66
Ainslie	60
Eastlake	50
Manuka	40
Belconnen	28
Sutherland	28
RMC	12
West Canberra	0

Reserves First Semi-final: Belconnen 18.14(122) defeated Manuka 12.20(92)

Reserves Preliminary Final: Belconnen 14.13(97) lost to Eastlake 25.17(167)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Rob White	Rob Goddard	Dave Kennedy
Runner-up	David Bennett	Frank Southwell	Haydn Daw
Most Improved	Wes Maloney	Tony Cibiras	Bruce Burke
Most Consistent	Peter Taylor	Steve Juniper	Garry Watt
Coach's Trophy	Rob Dawson	Mick Burgess	Peter Bradley
Most Courageous	Rob White		
Best First Year Player	Dean Falconer		

BEST CLUBMAN:

Bob Brown, Ray Baguley

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Rob White

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Bill Quade (55)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

Rob Dawson

RESERVE GRADE LEAGUE MEDAL:

Frank Southwell

1981

Keith Miller had commenced pre-season training at Aranda Oval in November 1980. On 10 February the Committee received a letter of resignation from him in which he pointed out that he could not sever his links with Eastlake. On 12 February, the Committee appointed Laurie Moloney First Grade coach for 1981. It was not the sort of start we needed, particularly after the previous two difficult years. However, Laurie was well-respected by the players (even after his first training night when - his rushed appointment allowing no time for meticulous planning - he ordered a run from Aranda Oval around Lake Ginninderra and back) and had substantial experience to bring to the job.



New coach Laurie Moloney - substantial experience and well-respected by players.

By March, Bryan Sheridan had been appointed assistant coach and coach of Reserves.

Recruitment activity was limited because our financial position remained tight. Nevertheless, we were fortunate in picking up Peter Buchan, a hard-working utility player from Turvey Park; David Foster, a utility player also from Turvey Park; Dennis Hopkins, a fast, skilful and experienced wingman from Queanbeyan; Mick Pledge, a strong and courageous backman from Wagga Agricultural College; and John Lawson, a young ruckman from Mangoplah-Cookardinia. In addition, Mal Manson had returned to football. The one key loss from last year was John Dess, who would miss all of the season with a knee injury.

The disruptions associated with the change in coaches affected our start to the year. We played poorly in our first game against West Canberra, losing 21.26(152) to 4.9(33). West Canberra's new star full forward, Peter Neville, kicked ten goals. The loss was a blow but not as serious as the loss of Mal Manson with a knee injury. It was to be Mal's one and only game for two seasons.

We recovered well to defeat Sutherland by 22 points the following week before losing to Ainslie and Manuka. The next game was against a competitive Queanbeyan side. A cocky but fast and talented Dean Falconer was brought up from the Under 19s to play on the wing for his first First Grade game. It was a good day for us. Bill Quade, playing at full forward, kicked three goals in the first quarter and we never looked back. We had a nine point lead at half time and went on to kick 12 goals in the second half to run out winners 20.16(136) to 15.18(108). Bill finished the day with 9.6.

We lost four of our next five games - the one win being against Sutherland - before coming up against Eastlake. Our side for the day was:

B	Laurie Moloney	David Bennett	Mick Price
HB	Mick Pledge	David Tompsett	Nigel Brennan
C	David Foster	Rob White	Dean Falconer
HF	Dennis Hopkins	John Manson	Noel O'Neill
F	Wes Maloney	Bill Quade	Greg Watt
Followers:	John Lawson, Rob Dawson, Peter Taylor		
19/20:	Peter Buchan, Haydn Daw		

An interesting aspect to the team was the selection of Mick Price in the back pocket. Mick had played almost all his games for the Club on the half forward flank. From the fifth game of the 1981 season until its end he would play either in the back pocket or on the half back flank. Although it may have been a sign that he was slowing down, he performed strongly.

We started the game well, kicking four goals to Eastlake's two. However, Eastlake came back well in the second term to go in at half time 11 points up. Our third quarter was excellent. Peter Taylor kicked two goals and so did Bill Quade; Noel O'Neill and John Manson added singles. At the other end of the ground David Bennett and Laurie Moloney were well on top. By three quarter time we had jumped to a 23 point lead. The last quarter was a dour one. We defended superbly to restrict Eastlake to just one goal and kicked two ourselves, one each to Peter Taylor and Bill Quade. The final scores were Belconnen 14.12(96) to Eastlake 9.11(65). It was a meritorious victory against a side two places above us on the ladder. Our best players that day were Peter Taylor, Rob White, Wes Maloney, Mick Pledge, John Manson and Dean Falconer.

The following week we met West Canberra. In our previous encounter we had lost by over eight goals. However, we were gathering momentum following our win over Eastlake and West Canberra were to be without their star full forward Peter Neville. In a great team effort we dominated the game, running out winners 22.18(150) to 6.15(51). Rob White was clearly best on the ground. After an easy win over Sutherland, we slumped to four straight losses before finishing the year with a good win over Queanbeyan. We finished the year fifth, with seven wins and eleven losses. It had been a year of modest success but a significant improvement on 1980.

Reserves fared better. With the return of Bryan Sheridan as coach and several experienced players who had taken a year off football in 1980, the side took on a more formidable look than in the previous year. In the second game of the year we beat Sutherland by 115 points, with Peter Dean kicking 13 goals, a Reserve Grade record. However, by mid-season we had won just four of our nine games.

Our tenth game of the year was against Manuka. This was to mark the beginning of a great second half to our season in which we lost just one more game - against Ainslie on 26 July. As a result of our great run up to the finals, we finished third on the ladder. We were to play Manuka in the first semi-final, a side we had beaten comfortably all year. Our side for the day was:

B	Gary Ryan	Tony Cibiras	Steve Whennan
HB	Steve Lewis	Jack Juniper	Frank Southwell
C	Peter Dean	Colin Milburn	Rob Goddard
HF	Peter Wren	Harold Turner	George Chilko
F	Ian Currie	Mick Burgess	Bill Sleeman
Followers:	Max Johnston, Rowan Falconer, Steve Walding		
19/20	Ray Baguley, Peter Bradley		

Although Manuka had plenty of the football in the first quarter, we were more accurate in front of goals. By quarter time we had edged our way to a three point lead. Two great goals

by Mick Burgess in the second quarter saw us go in at half time ten points up. Bryan moved Peter Dean into the forward line in the second half and this ignited us. Peter kicked three goals in the third quarter and two in the last to give us a solid win, 18.14(122) to 12.20(92), and an appointment with Eastlake in the preliminary final.

Colin Milburn was to miss the preliminary final through injury. Kevin Damschke was brought onto the bench and Ray Baguley started in the back pocket. Although we had comprehensively beaten Eastlake in our two previous encounters, they had their strongest side for the year available. From the start of the match it became apparent that we were playing a very different side to the one we had met during the year. By quarter time they had established a lead of six points and never looked back. By three quarter time they had a seven goal lead and finished us off in the last quarter with another eight goals to win by 70 points. It was a disappointing end to the year, particularly given our great run into the final series.

It was also the end of an era at Belconnen with Ray Baguley playing his last game. After starting out with Turner in the 1960s, and after 169 senior games with Belconnen, Bags had called it a day. He was one of the unsung heroes at Belconnen. Even Bags would admit that he was not a naturally gifted footballer. But he was the epitome of Belconnen's spirit. Always there, always giving his best. He played some marvellous games over his 11 years and contributed substantially to many of our more memorable wins. Bags' career was put to music by the famous Down Brothers for his 40th birthday. This is reproduced on pages 93 and 94. Of course, he was to continue to play a major off-field role.

The Reserve Grade year finished on a positive note with Frank Southwell winning the Reserve Grade Best and Fairest League medal, the McNamara Trophy.

Under 19s finished fifth after a particularly difficult year. For many games numbers available for selection were low and several Under 17s were brought up to help out, including Mick Brazel, Mark Killer, Geoff Lyall, John Phillips and Darrel Scotland. One highlight of the season was the 34.32(236) to 0.0(0) win over West Canberra on 12 July. In that game Peter 'Spud' Bradley kicked ten goals six behinds - an Under 19 Club record. The other highlight was the win over top side and eventual premier, Weston Creek, in the last game of the year. Playing in a howling gale at Curtin Oval, we headed Weston Creek by ten points at three-quarter time but they had the assistance of the breeze in the last quarter. In a truly courageous effort, we held Weston Creek to just one goal in the last quarter and kicked one ourselves to run out winners 6.7(43) to 4.10(34).

The Committee had a change of President during the year with Bob Brown stepping down in advance of his job transfer to Sydney. On 7 April, Les Scotland was unanimously elected to take over. In June the Belconnen Australian Football Supporters Club (BAFSC) became an incorporated body. In November, members of the BAFSC elected a committee of ten, with Ray Baguley as President, to administer and finance football operations. This was the first time in Belconnen's history that more than one representative of the football committee had been elected by members. Our links with the BNFC were weakening.

The new Committee, with many members on it for the first time, would shape the course of the Club for the next ten years. One of its first tasks was to reappoint Laurie Moloney as coach for 1982. The Committee had worked hard in the fund-raising area throughout the year. We had run another successful Pot of Gold draw, thanks to the efforts of Mick Price, and while we finished the year with a \$14,000 deficit, could look to 1982 with a reasonable football budget. The BNFC continued to be controlled by the receivers. Fortunately, however, the Shed stayed open for business and remained our home.

1982 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:
FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Ray Baguley

David Bennett, Ross Byrne, Rob Dawson, Ben Lane, Robin Maloney, Noel O'Neill, Harry Phillips, Mick Price, Harry Souter, Peter Taylor

FIRST GRADE: Laurie Moloney
RESERVES: Rob Goddard
UNDER 19s: Mick Burgess

COACHES
 Laurie Moloney
 Rob Goddard
 Mick Burgess

CAPTAINS
 Laurie Moloney
 Rob Goddard
 John Phillips

TRAINERS: Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt, Wayne Bolton

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie 84
 Eastlake 64
 Manuka 64
 Queanbeyan 44
Belconnen 44
 Sutherland 20
 West Canberra 16

RESERVES

Eastlake 76
 Ainslie 72
 Manuka 60
 Weston Creek 48
Belconnen 44
 Sutherland 24
 Queanbeyan 12
 West Canberra 0

UNDER 19s

Manuka 68
 Ainslie 68
 Eastlake/WC 48
 Sutherland 36
 West Canberra 32
 Queanbeyan 24
Belconnen 12

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Peter Taylor	Rob Goddard	Geoff Lyall
Runner-up	Dean Falconer	Andy Stuart/ Steve Taylor	Bruce Burke
Most Improved	John Lawson	Ian McLeod	Glen O'Sullivan
Most Consistent	Dennis Hopkins		Sean Michelle
Coach's Trophy	Peter Buchan	Russell Forster	George Kohler
Most Courageous	David Bennett		
Best First Year Player	Darrel Scotland		

BEST CLUBMAN:

Ross Byrne

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Peter Taylor

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Noel O'Neill (77)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

Noel O'Neill, Steve Walding

1982

With Laurie Moloney appointed early we could prepare ourselves better than in the previous two seasons for a serious assault on the First Grade competition. Rob Goddard was appointed assistant senior coach and coach of Reserves and Mick Burgess coach of the Under 19s on 1 March.

Our modest financial position meant we could not undertake a major recruitment campaign. We were to look largely to our ex-juniors again to cover the very major losses of Rob White, who had transferred to Shepparton with his job, John Manson, who had moved to Queensland and Bill Quade who had retired. The significance of these losses is reflected in their records :

- Rob White: 82 senior games, ACT representative, Club Best and Fairest three times, Most Courageous player twice, Mulrooney medallist;
- John Manson: 114 senior games, ACT representative, Club Best and Fairest once, First Grade Coach's trophy once, Under 19s Best and Fairest once;
- Bill Quade: 109 senior games, ACT representative, 316 goals, Club leading goal-kicker four times, League leading goal-kicker once.

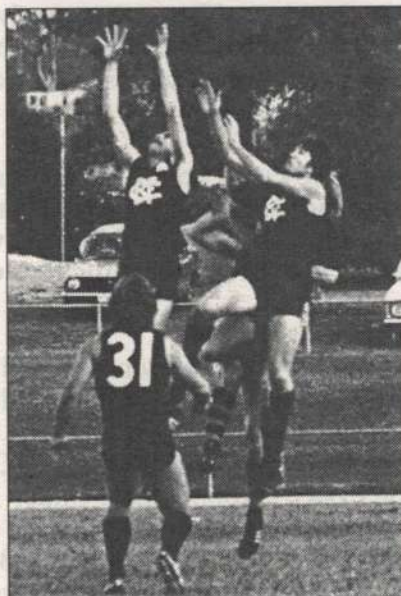


John Manson - one of the most talented players to have donned the BFC jumper.

We had also lost Mick Price as a player. After reluctantly joining us for a trial year in 1976, Mick played 108 senior games over six years. In that time he missed just one game. He had turned in many brilliant performances over that time and his sure hands and great disposal would be sorely missed. Fortunately for the Club, Mick has continued his involvement with us as chief fund-raiser initially and then as Treasurer.

Laurie decided that a pre-season camp would be a good idea in order to bring the players closer together. This was held at ex-player Bill Russell's motel in Batehaven. After a particularly noisy first night, Bill's wife spent some time with Laurie the next morning complaining - as it happened just outside Steve Walding's room. Laurie was at his calming best and had made substantial progress in pouring oil over troubled waters when several of Steve's mates pulled him out of the shower and pushed him out of his room and locked the door. With only a tissue to cover himself, Steve calmly confronted the pair and as if nothing

was amiss asked 'What seems to be the problem here?' Laurie was back at square one. Needless to say we never returned to Batehaven.



Mick Price - a classy and dangerous left footer, holds out a Queanbeyan opponent for Harold Turner.

Gains for the Club were Don McMichael, a dashing forward from Manuka, and the return of John Dess from a serious knee injury.

After our first four games we had three wins - reflecting our improved preparation over previous seasons. This included a good win over Queanbeyan, the side we would be competing with for fourth place. It was already apparent that Ainslie, Manuka and Eastlake were much stronger than the rest of the competition. Noel O'Neill had started the season well at full forward kicking 12 goals in the season opener against West Canberra and following up with eight against Queanbeyan. John Phillips had started his First Grade career coming off the bench against Sutherland.

Our fifth match of the year was against Eastlake. A young ruckman with the biggest feet seen at the Club was playing his first First Grade game. Sean 'Bozo' Michelle has since played 140 First Grade games and continues today.

We lost the game to Eastlake and managed to win just two of the next eight, against the lowly West Canberra and Sutherland. During that time other talented ex-juniors in Mick Brazel and Darrel Scotland were given their first taste of First Grade football. In addition, a new player to the Club, Craig 'Sleepy' Maher, played his first game in First Grade, kicking six goals against Sutherland.

After easy wins over Sutherland and West Canberra again, we came up against Queanbeyan in the third last game of the year. We were not out of the finals race but we needed to win two of our last three to make the first semi-final. It was not going to be easy since Queanbeyan had beaten us by 86 points in our previous encounter. Our side for the Queanbeyan match was:

B	Laurie Moloney	Don McMichael	Gary Ryan
HB	Rob Dawson	Mick Pledge	David Bennett
C	Mick Brazel	Dean Falconer	John Dess
HF	John Phillips	David Tompsett	Wes Maloney
F	Darrel Scotland	Noel O'Neill	Rowan Falconer
Followers:	John Lawson, Dennis Hopkins, Peter Taylor		
19/20:	Mark Killer, Greg Watt		

Wes Maloney had been coaxed back to the Club mid-season by a very persistent Laurie Moloney. Mick Brazel had settled in well, playing fearless football reminiscent of Jim Calvert. Darrel Scotland was also establishing himself as a regular First Grade player. He was one of the classiest movers we had seen.

Playing as though our season depended on it - which it did - we attacked with determination from the first siren. By quarter time and with first use of the breeze we had jumped to a three goal lead - 6.4 to 3.3. Noel O'Neill had kicked two and the wily Rowan Falconer (his wiliness compensated for his lack of pace) had kicked one. However, we had lost Mick Pledge, who was helped off the ground injured after just nine minutes. The second quarter was fairly even, with us maintaining a 13 point lead at half time, but we had also lost Rob Dawson with a leg injury. We continued our momentum in the third quarter, kicking eight goals to have the game virtually sewn up by three quarter time, 17.8 to 9.14. In the last quarter we defended stoutly against the breeze to restrict Queanbeyan to just three goals. We kicked two ourselves to run out winners 19.13(127) to 12.20(92). Best players were John Lawson, who had dominated in the ruck all day, Dean Falconer, Noel O'Neill, Dennis Hopkins and David Bennett. It was a great win that kept our finals' hopes alive.

Our next assignment would be tougher. Eastlake had beaten us by nine goals the last time we met and had maintained second position on the ladder for most of the year. Peter Buchan replaced Greg Watt from the side that played Queanbeyan.

In wet conditions, Eastlake played strongly in the first half and moved steadily to a handy lead at half time, 11.6 to 7.6. We knew what was at stake but Laurie pointed it out in his half time address anyway. We came out inspired in the third quarter and played accordingly. Four great goals to one in the third quarter brought us to within seven points of the opposition. The final quarter was torrid. We defended magnificently to restrict Eastlake to two goals but could only manage one ourselves. The final score was Eastlake 14.13(97) to Belconnen 12.11(83). Our run to the finals had ended but it had been a courageous effort, reflecting the respect and fondness the players had for Laurie Moloney.

Unfortunately, as it turned out, we still had one game to play - against Ainslie. With our final aspirations gone we played poorly. So poorly, in fact, that we set a dubious Club record that day - our biggest ever loss - Ainslie 43.19(277) to Belconnen 11.8(74). It was a sad and unjust way to farewell - as it turned out - Laurie, a terrific performer for the Club since joining us five years previously. While Laurie had intended to continue coaching in 1983, in October he asked to be released from his contract since there was a strong possibility (which later became a reality) of him being posted to Washington with his job.

Reserves won eleven games during the year but it was not enough to get us into the finals. Performances were affected by the unavailability of many players for the first six games and by injuries in both Firsts and Reserves throughout much of the year. In fact, numbers were so thin during pre-season that coach Rob Goddard convinced Jim Calvert, who had retired two years earlier, to play half a game in a practice match against Sutherland. Rob was confident that once Jim felt the footy leather and smelt the linament again he would be back. After some promising early touches it happened. Ross Byrne gave Jim a long floating hand pass in the forward pocket. Jim very effectively drew his opponent - some would say too effectively - and handballed to Rob in the goal square for a goal. When Rob looked around to congratulate Jim all he could see was a river of blood coming from Jim's hands which were cupped over his face. His nose had been broken. It was the end of one of the shortest comebacks on record - and Jim had once again succumbed to injury.

After eight games we had just three wins, against West Canberra, Sutherland and Queanbeyan. Andy Stuart, a young wingman from Albury had played his first game for us against Sutherland.

By round nine we were starting to settle as a combination. We won the next four games before losing to Eastlake and Ainslie. If we were to make the finals we needed to beat Manuka and Weston Creek, both above us on the ladder.

The match against Manuka was to be a memorable one. Our side was:

B	Peter Trye	Wayne Agnew	Peter Jonas
HB	Ian McLeod	Mark Rayner	Russell Forster
C	Bruce Burke	Rob Goddard	Greg Watt
HF	Peter Bradley	Craig Maher	Brian Karey
F	Andy Stuart	Mick Burgess	Max Johnston
Followers:	Sean Michelle, Geoff Coggins, Steve Taylor		
19/20:	Kingsley Victory, Dennis Coombe		

It was a fairly talented side but also one full of characters. 'Skeeta' Trye and 'Prog' Jonas in the back pockets were solid Reserve Grade performers and, while not blessed with a lot natural ability, were great team men. 'Bruiser' Karey had joined the Club at the start of the year and for most of it no-one knew his real name. Even Bruiser had forgotten it. After watching him play no-one needed to ask how he got his name. He eventually found fame years later as a champion kick-boxer. Kingsley Victory had also joined the Club at the start of the year. Affectionately known as the 'King', Kingsley had raised the expectations of the selectors with a confident account of his previous experience. We soon found out his confidence inversely reflected his abilities but he was an enthusiastic player who enjoyed his football and kept the selectors honest - all year.

We started the game strongly and ended the first quarter one goal ahead. However, by the second quarter Manuka had settled and kicked four goals to our two to go in at the half time break ten points up. They continued their dominance in the third quarter to lead 11.13 to 8.4 at three quarter time. Our last quarter was one of our classics - full of heart and determination. We hit Manuka with everything in a last ditch effort to stay in the finals race. Max Johnston took two great grabs in front of goals and kicked truly to get us moving. Greg Watt added three of his own and 'Sleepy' Maher two to get us home by just two points, 15.5(95) to 13.15(93).

We won our next two games against Sutherland and West Canberra before coming up against Weston Creek. It was a must win for us but we played poorly. Although we held a four point lead at three quarter time, Weston Creek finished the game strongly to kick six goals to our two.

We finished the year with a good 13 point win over Queanbeyan before losing to Eastlake and Manuka. We had finished fifth despite having beaten the third and fourth placed teams during the year.

The Under 19s struggled throughout the year registering just one win - by a point against Queanbeyan. However, the team had provided many players for both Firsts and Reserves during the year and this clearly affected performances. Players to play up included Mick Brazel, Mark Killer, Sean Michelle, Darrel Scotland, John Phillips, Chris Brown and Bruce Burke. Player numbers were so low at the start of the year that there was some doubt about whether we could participate in the competition. Mick Burgess went to extraordinary lengths to ensure we had sufficient numbers, including regular visits to Canberra night spots to prise players out of bars and onto the training track.

During the year the BAFSC Committee had been examining the possibility of purchasing the Shed. At its meeting of 25 October Ray Baguley and Ross Byrne were authorised to negotiate a suitable price.



A dedicated bunch - our 1982 Committee

Back row: Harry Souter, David Bennett, Mick Price, Rob Dawson, Ross Byrne, Noel O'Neill
 Front row: Peter Taylor, Ray Baguley, Ben Lane, Robin Maloney

Financially, the year had been a good one. Again thanks largely to the efforts of Mick Price on the Pot of Gold, we made a profit on football operations and could reduce the deficit carried from the previous year by almost \$6,000. In his annual report to members, President of the BAFSC, Ray Baguley, stated the following:

'Our Club is at a considerable disadvantage when compared with other ACTAFL Clubs, as we do not receive any financial support for football operations from the licensed Club (Belconnen National Football Club Incorporated). This is most disappointing considering the support given by the football community to the BNFC. I believe that unless significant changes in this regard occur in the near future it will be necessary for the BAFSC to reappraise its involvement with the BNFC.'

In November, after advertising the position of First Grade coach, Ian Low was appointed for 1983.

UNDER 19s Sean Mitchell Shane Jones Gavin Mitchell Chris Brown Glen O'Sullivan	RESERVES Frank Southwell Lloyd Daw Peter Jones Max Johnston Peter Bradley	FIRSTS Geoff Hocking David Bennett John Lawson Steve Taylor Peter Buchanan Peter Taylor Peter Taylor	BEST AND FAIREST Lance-up Most Improved Most Consistent Coach's Trophy Most Consistent Best First Year Player Steve Bayer
	Mick Price Geoff Hocking, Ian Low Noel O'Neill (80) Max Johnston		BEST CLUBMAN ACT REPRESENTATIVES LEADING GOALKEEPER 100 GAME MILESTONE

1983 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:

Ray Baguley

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

David Bennett, Ross Byrne, Rob Dawson, Peter Franklin, Rob Goddard, Ben Lane, Robin Maloney, Noel O'Neill, Mick Price, Harry Souter, Jordan Starkey

FIRST GRADE:

COACHES

CAPTAINS

RESERVES:

Ian Low

Ian Low

UNDER 19s:

Glen Rebecca

Glen Rebecca

Mick Burgess

Mick Nicholson/

Glen O'Sullivan

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Manuka	72
Ainslie	68
Eastlake	68
Queanbeyan	52
Belconnen	36
Tuggeranong	28
West Canberra	12

RESERVES

Manuka	76
Eastlake	68
Ainslie	64
Queanbeyan	48
Belconnen	44
Tuggeranong	24
West Canberra	12

UNDER 19s

Ainslie	76
Manuka	64
Queanbeyan	52
Belconnen	40
Tuggeranong	28
West Canberra	24
Eastlake	16

Under 19s First Semi-final: Belconnen 7.9(51) lost to Queanbeyan 16.14(110)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Geoff Hocking	Frank Southwell	Sean Michelle
Runner-up	David Bennett	Haydn Daw	Shane Jones
Most Improved	John Lawson	Peter Jonas	Gavin Mitchell
Most Consistent	Steve Taylor	Max Johnston	Chris Brown
Coach's Trophy	Peter Buchan	Peter Bradley	Glen O'Sullivan
Most Courageous	Peter Taylor		
Best First Year Player	Steve Bayer		

BEST CLUBMAN:

Mick Price

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Geoff Hocking, Ian Low

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Noel O'Neill (86)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

Max Johnston

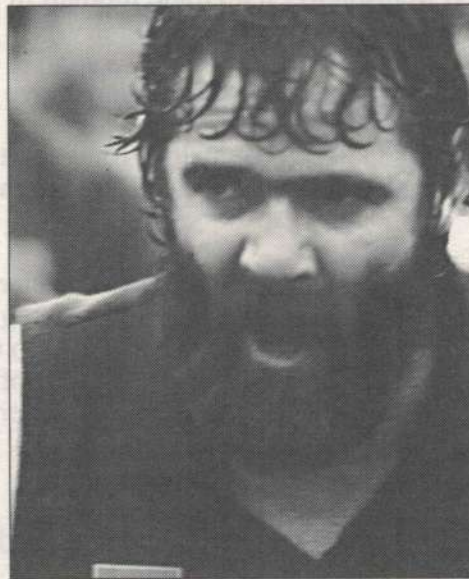
1983

Ian Low's appointment as playing coach - for three years - was an important one for the Club. Ian had been a prominent Manuka player before playing a number of years, very successfully, with Footscray and Collingwood. His appointment for three years was to give us some stability between seasons. Rob Goddard stood down as assistant senior coach and Reserve Grade coach after season 1982. He was replaced by Glen Rebecca, a long-serving Ainslie player. Mick Burgess continued as Under 19 coach.

We recruited well. In addition to Ian Low, we picked up Geoff Hocking, a quality ruckman who had been playing First Grade football with Claremont in Western Australia after ten senior games with Carlton; Steve Bayer, a fast and skilful wingman from Walla; Graeme Wilson, a clever forward who had played 14 First Grade and 50 Reserve Grade games with South Melbourne; and Greg Whittle, a well-performed ruck rover or defender from West Canberra. Others to join the Club were Dave Korda, Greg Gill and Brett 'Soda' McMillan.

Our key losses were Laurie Moloney (overseas) and Dean Falconer (West Perth). Tony Cibiras and Geoff Coggins had retired.

Ian Low had come to the Club with a mission. He felt that over the years we had much talent but that the level of discipline had been less than that necessary to get the best out of us. Early in his reign after several senior players had again turned up late for training he made his famous statement that from now on we were to operate on Eastern Standard Time - not Belconnen time.



Ian Low - 'From now on we'll work on Eastern Standard Time - not Belconnen time!'

We started the season well, winning comfortably against Tuggeranong. We were then comprehensively beaten by Eastlake, Queanbeyan and Ainslie. In the match against Eastlake, David Tompsett injured his knee and would miss the remainder of the season. After predictable wins against the bottom sides, West Canberra and Tuggeranong, and a loss to Manuka, we fronted up to Queanbeyan, a side we had lost to by ten goals last time we had met. Unfortunately, we would be without Greg Whittle, who would also miss the rest of the season through injury.

Our side for the day was:

B	Steve Taylor	Don McMichael	Mick Pledge
HB	David Foster	David Bennett	Mick Brazel
C	Steve Bayer	John Dess	Dennis Hopkins
HF	Rowan Falconer	Ian Low	Graeme Wilson
F	Darrel Scotland	Noel O'Neill	Geoff Hocking
Followers:	John Lawson, Peter Buchan, Peter Taylor		
19/20:	Andy Stuart, Haydn Daw		

Noel O'Neill always seemed to keep his best back for Queanbeyan and this match was to be no exception. In a brilliant first quarter he kicked five goals in a nine goal burst by us to take the game by the scruff of the neck. David Bennett was well on top of Geoff Harrold and Mick Pledge was giving him terrific support. While Queanbeyan settled in the second quarter, we went in at half time 21 points up. Our third quarter was another great effort. With a glut of possession we spent most of the quarter in our forward line. Noel O'Neill kicked another five goals to give him eleven by three quarter time and the side a lead of 35 points. We finished the game with four goals in the last quarter to Queanbeyan's two, to run out easy winners, 24.19(163) to 16.13(109). Noel O'Neill finished with twelve goals. Best players were David Bennett, Mick Pledge, John Dess, John Lawson, Geoff Hocking and Noel O'Neill.

It was a marvellous win that turned out to be the highlight of our year. Apart from two more wins against West Canberra we had little to celebrate. There was some good news, however, and that was the return of Mal Manson to First Grade football in the third last game of the year after almost two seasons out with a serious knee injury.

It had been another disappointing year, with just six wins to give us fifth place again.

Reserves fared little better. We won just eight matches and apart from the last game of the year, in which we defeated an eventual grand finalist, Eastlake, had little to celebrate. The side that day was:

B	Brian Karey	Haydn Daw	Peter Jonas
HB	Brett McMillan	Alan Lyall	Greg Gill
C	Andy Stuart	Frank Southwell	Rob Goddard
HF	M. Sylvester	Craig Maher	Geoff Gardiner
F	Kevin Thompson	Mick Pledge	Peter Trye
Followers:	Max Johnston, Glen Rebecca, Peter Bradley		
19/20:	Bob Burgess, Geoff Lyall		

There were some eyebrows raised when Mick Pledge was named at full forward. Mick had many attributes on a football field but accurate kicking was not one. By half time we were leading 7.6 to 4.5 and Mick had kicked one goal four behinds. Because we were going so well, Glen Rebecca was not keen to shuffle players around so Mick was left at full forward for the second half. He did redeem himself somewhat with one goal from just two shots. The final scores were Belconnen 11.11(77) to Eastlake 7.10(52) and Mick Pledge two goals five.

That great win aside, the highlight of the Reserve Grade year was the return to football of Mal Manson against Tuggeranong on 9 July. If there was ever any doubt in people's minds about the genius of Mal it was dispelled that day. He kicked eleven goals.

Mick and Anita Burgess had been working hard to build up the Under 19s after a disappointing year in 1982. We had a talented side which would do well if players were not lost too frequently to the senior sides. By mid-season we had recorded four wins and four losses. A reasonable run home would see us playing in an Under 19 final for the first time

since 1979. On 16 July we met bottom of the ladder Eastlake. It was a memorable game for Chris Brown, who kicked 14.4 and set a new Under 19 goal-kicking record.

After easily defeating Eastlake again in the last match in the home and away series, we had qualified for the first semi-final, finishing fourth, three games behind Queanbeyan.

Queanbeyan had beaten us comfortably during the year and unfortunately the first semi-final was to be no different. We were held scoreless in the first quarter to Queanbeyan's 5.5. Although we battled hard for the rest of the match we never threatened. The final score was Queanbeyan 16.14(110) to Belconnen 7.9(51).

Good performers for the Under 19s during the year were Brett McMillan, Mark Killer, Sean Michelle, Geoff Lyall, Rogan Sharp and John Phillips. All would go on to make a major contribution to the seniors in years to come.

Off the field 1983 was a landmark year. The Hibiscus had been sold in June and the Shed was put up for sale in August. Under Ray Baguley's leadership we mounted a 'Save our Shed' campaign to raise the funds needed to purchase the Shed. We had been involved in protracted negotiations with the receivers for many months. We raised \$10,000 through debentures, negotiated a \$120,000 loan from Tallard Holdings, and a \$30,000 loan from the ANZ Bank, of which \$20,000 was guaranteed by the ACTAFL and \$10,000 by Committee personnel. We purchased the Shed for \$150,000 and began trading in our own right on 23 September. In his annual report to members Ray Baguley made the following points:

"The existence of an economically viable licensed club is vital to our long term prospects. It not only provides much needed finance but also a base on which we can establish our administrative, football and social platforms.

Although "The Shed" is now ours, we must not underestimate the difficult job ahead.'

Prophetic words.

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

UNDER 19 Rogan Sharp David Hallett Chris Goddard Gery Conway Craig Wall	RESERVES Frank Southwell Wes Maloney Peter Fyne Harold Daw Bob Hargreaves	FIRSTS Geoff Hocking Peter Taylor Sean Michelle Steve Bayer John Deas Michael Pledge Janis Smith	BEST AND FAIREST Kramer-up Most Improved Most Consistent Coach's Trophy Most Courageous Best First Year Player
	David Bennett Geoff Hocking Guy Conn John Deas Ian Low Peter Taylor Mal Maloney (77) Peter Bradley Rob Goddard Geoff Hocking Rogan Sharp		BEST CLUBMAN ACT REPRESENTATIVE LEADING GOALKICKER 100 GAME MILESTONE 200 GAME MILESTONE MUR ROONEY MEDAL UNDER 19 LEAGUE MEDAL

1984 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:

Ray Baguley

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

David Bennett, Ross Byrne, Peter Franklin, Rob Goddard, Geoff Hocking, Ben Lane, Robin Maloney, Mick Pledge, Mick Price, Harry Souter, Jordan Starkey

FIRST GRADE:

COACHES

CAPTAINS

RESERVES:

Ian Low

Ian Low

UNDER 19s:

Rob Goddard

Rob Goddard

Mick Burgess

Rogan Sharp

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt, Kym Austin

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie	80
Queanbeyan	72
Eastlake	52
Manuka	48
Belconnen	48
Tuggeranong	18
West Canberra	18

RESERVES

Ainslie	76
Manuka	76
Queanbeyan	64
Belconnen	44
Eastlake	40
Tuggeranong	24
West Canberra	12

UNDER 19s

Queanbeyan	76
Manuka	72
Ainslie	60
Belconnen	44
Tuggeranong	36
Eastlake	28
West Canberra	20

Reserves First Semi-final: Belconnen 13.11(89) defeated Queanbeyan 7.15(57)
 Reserves Preliminary Final: Belconnen 15.8(98) lost to Manuka 16.16(112)
 Under 19s First Semi-final: Belconnen 9.8(62) lost to Ainslie 12.22(94)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Geoff Hocking	Frank Southwell	Rogan Sharp
Runner-up	Peter Taylor	Wes Maloney	David Heitel
Most Improved	Sean Michelle	Peter Trye	Chris Clothier
Most Consistent	Steve Bayer	Haydn Daw	Gerry Conway
Coach's Trophy	John Dess	Bob Burgess	Craig Watt
Most Courageous	Michael Pledge		
Best First Year Player	Jamie Smith		

BEST CLUBMAN:

David Bennett

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Geoff Hocking, Gary Conn, John Dess, Ian Low, Peter Taylor

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Mal Manson (73)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

Peter Bradley

200 GAME MILESTONE:

Rob Goddard

MULROONEY MEDAL:

Geoff Hocking

UNDER 19 LEAGUE MEDAL:

Rogan Sharp

1984

Preparations for 1984 could start early with coach Ian Low beginning the second year of his three year term. However, Reserves and Under 19s were to be affected by the late appointment of Rob Goddard as Reserves coach in March and Mick Burgess as Under 19s coach in April.

We had recruited well. Ken 'Grubba' Grigg was appointed assistant coach to Ian Low. Ken was a tough half back flanker with years of experience with Manuka and the ACT. Gary Conn, a classy centre half forward/centre half back joined us from Werribee and Glen Maguire, a reliable backman, was picked up from Bairnsdale. Major losses were ruckman John 'Lawso' Lawson, who after just two games in 1984 took the overseas trip he had won in the previous year's Pot of Gold (never to return), David Foster, who had returned to Melbourne and Graeme Wilson, who had been posted overseas.

The loss of Lawso would be a major blow, not just because of his footballing abilities. He was a great character to have around the Club. Lawso was famous for his appetite. He would eat enough for three or four adults. On one occasion when he was staying with Pup Taylor at the famous Chewings Street house, which used to accommodate half the Club at any one time, a leg of lamb had been sitting in the fridge tempting Lawso for some time. With Pup out he took the opportunity to cook and eat it by himself. He very thoughtfully put the denuded bone back on the plate in the fridge. When Pup came home to prepare the leg of lamb he was particularly angry. Lawso innocently but seriously suggested that Pup's dog, Chewings, must have eaten it (and opened the fridge and placed the bone back on the plate).

We started the First Grade season with high expectations. The recruitment of Gary Conn and Ken Grigg, the retention of Geoff Hocking and Ian Low and the maturing of several of our ex-juniors gave the side its most formidable look on paper since 1979. Consequently, we were disappointed with the first two games of the season in which we lost to Manuka and Ainslie. A blow in the Manuka game was the loss of star recruit Gary Conn with a hamstring injury. Gary would play just one more game in the next eleven. However, it had been a promising start by under age players Jamie Pyke and Chris Brown, who were playing First Grade for the first time.

By the third game, against Eastlake, we were settling down. Eastlake started the game well and by half time had moved to an eight point lead. We started the third quarter brilliantly with Mal Manson kicking three goals. By three quarter time we had a two point lead. The last quarter was our best. We kicked six goals to Eastlake's four to win 19.10(124) to 16.12(108). It was a win that showed we could be a force this year. Our best players were David Bennett, Geoff Hocking, Peter Taylor, Mal Manson and Mick Pledge. Sean Michelle and Jamie Pyke also had good games.

The following week in the match against West Canberra a young Jamie Smith was named 20th man. It was his first First Grade game. We won that game easily. After another win, against Tuggeranong, and a loss to the very strong Queanbeyan, we came up against Manuka for the second time for the season.

The side that day was a good one although Gary Conn remained injured. By half time we had jumped to a 21 point lead. We kicked ten goals in the second half to Manuka's nine to win 19.17(131) to 15.11(101). It was only our third ever First Grade win over Manuka and a particularly pleasing result for our coach against his former club. Geoff Hocking had played a great game in the ruck. He was well supported by John Dess and Mark Killer who ruck-roved. A particularly pleasing aspect of the game was the performance of Jamie Smith on a half back flank.

Although competitive against Ainslie and Eastlake in the ensuing games, we never really threatened. Our next real test came three weeks later against second-placed Queanbeyan.

Although Gary Conn had still to return and David Bennett was to miss his first First Grade game in 109 through injury, our side was a good one:

B	Steve Taylor	Sean Michelle	Mick Pledge
HB	Glen Maguire	Mark Killer	Peter Buchan
C	Tony Stubbs	Steve Bayer	Jamie Pyke
HF	John Phillips	Ian Low	Chris Brown
F	Ken Grigg	Noel O'Neill	Mal Manson
Followers:	Geoff Hocking, Rob Dawson, Peter Taylor		
19/20:	Mick Brazel, Wes Maloney		

Queanbeyan started the game confidently and by three quarter time had taken a commanding lead 17.8 to 11.11. However, in an inspired final term we kicked 7.6 to Queanbeyan's 0.3 to run out winners 18.17(125) to 17.11(113). Noel O'Neill, again showing his fondness for playing Queanbeyan, had kicked eight goals.

It was an important win for us. At last we had played to our potential. We had beaten the second-placed side and our finals prospects were rising.

Unfortunately, that was the last time we were to beat a side in the top four. We lost our second last game for the year against Queanbeyan by one point after leading by eight at three quarter time in a do or die match and finished the season with a whimper against a strong Ainslie outfit, losing by 65 points.

It had turned out to be one of our most disappointing years. We had promised much with wins over Manuka, Eastlake and Queanbeyan during the year (for the first time since 1979) and yet we missed qualifying for the finals on percentage.

Ian Low summarised the year in his annual report thus:

1984 was 'A year that offered everything but in fact realised very little. One more kick, one different umpiring decision, one less rainy day, one more player or a different coach might have made the difference. But it was not to be.'

By the end of the home and away series Reserves had finished fourth after a slow start to the year. The team had benefitted from the recruitment of Brian Hopkins and Manfred Globocnik from Queanbeyan and Murray McQueen from Manuka mid-year. In addition, Bill Campbell had returned to football at about the same time.

Our first semi-final was against Queanbeyan, a side which had beaten us comfortably throughout the year and by eight goals just two weeks previously. To win we needed some unusual tactics. After giving matters some thought, master tactician, Ross Byrne, devised with coach Rob Goddard a risky but innovative strategy to throw Queanbeyan off their game. At each centre bounce we would set up with just a full forward and a centre half forward. The remaining forwards would run through the centre from defence, with some criss-crossing for added confusion. We practiced the drill solidly during the week before the game. The secret was to run the ball up to the forward line. Our side on paper for the day was:

B	Alan Lyall	Haydn Daw	Peter Trye
HB	Bill Campbell	Barry Hayden	Murray McQueen
C	Jerry McPherson	Frank Southwell	Bruce Burke
HF	Manfred Globocnik	Rowan Falconer	Rob Goddard
F	John Phillips	Dennis Hopkins	Peter Bradley
Followers:	David Korda, Brett McMillan, Andy Stuart		
19/20:	Peter Jonas, Brian Karey		



RESERVE GRADE

From left: Andy Anderson, Bob Burgess, John Phillips, Andy Stuart, Brian Karey, Manfred Globocnik, Dennis Hopkins, Bill Campbell, Peter Jonas, Rob Goddard, Rowan Falconer (obscured), Peter Bradley, Alan Lyall (obscured), Jerry McPherson, Brett McMillan (obscured), Peter Trye, Barry Hayden, Bruce Burke, Frank Southwell, Haydn Daw, Brian Hopkins, Kym Austin, Murray McQueen, Robin Maloney, Glen O'Sullivan, Gary Schmidt, Dave Korda

It was a good side but we would miss Brian Hopkins who sat out with an injury.

At the bounce we had Rob Goddard as our only half forward and Rowan Falconer as our only full forward. Our tactics worked to perfection. While Queanbeyan defenders were scratching their heads, we shot to an 8.10 to 0.7 lead at half time. Although Queanbeyan regrouped in the third quarter, we maintained a five goal lead at three quarter time. Setting up more conventionally in the last quarter, with Dennis Hopkins playing a spare man in defence, we ran out easy winners 13.11(89) to 7.15(57). It was a remarkable victory and a triumph not only for the tacticians but also for Manfred Globocnik who could not break into the Queanbeyan side earlier in the year.

In the preliminary final against Manuka, another side we had not beaten all year, we tried the same tactics. They worked brilliantly again. By three quarter time we had a 17 point lead. A highlight had been one of the best marks ever seen in Canberra football. Bruce Burke soared high above the pack to take a classic 'specky'. Unfortunately, we tired badly in the last quarter, perhaps showing the effects of our big game the previous week. Manuka kicked 6.6 to our 2.3 in the final term to win by 14 points. They went on to win the premiership.

While disappointed at not going one step further, it had been a good year for Reserves and a remarkable final series.

The Under 19s again provided many of their more talented players to First Grade during the year, including Jamie Pyke, John Phillips, Mick Brazel and Jamie Smith. On occasions we were therefore struggling for numbers. Mick Burgess selected several of the more promising Under 17s to assist from time to time, including Don Pyke, Chris Stubbs and Brendan Scotland.

Despite the disruptions we finished fourth and qualified to play Ainslie in the first semi-final. Although we started slowly, kicking just one goal in the first quarter, we recovered well in

the second quarter to go in at half time just six points down. Ainslie dominated the third quarter and maintained their lead in the last to win 12.22(94) to 9.8(62).



Bruce Burke takes the mark of the year during the Reserve Grade preliminary final.

The football year was to finish on a high for us with Geoff Hocking winning the Mulrooney Medal, Frank Southwell finishing runner up for the Reserve Grade League Medal, the McNamara Trophy, and Rogan Sharp winning the Under 19 League medal, the T.A. Wharton Trophy.



Geoff Hocking - 1984 Mulrooney Medallist.

At Presentation Night two of the Club's greatest servants - Andy Anderson and Reg Proctor - were awarded life memberships.

Andy was awarded life membership after serving Turner and Belconnen from 1963 as trainer and head trainer. His eminence in his field was recognised with his appointments as trainer to ACT representative sides. Apart from his skill as a trainer (and his provision of much necessary first aid equipment), Andy's importance to the players came from his cheerfulness at all times, his close identification with and support of his players (to the extent of

occasionally being moved to join in the pre-match warm-up), and the confidence of knowing that Andy, with his calm and assured manner, was there if serious injury were to strike.



Andy and Reg - awarded life membership in 1984.

Reg first became involved with the Belconnen Football Club in 1972 as Treasurer. Since then Reg has always been a faithful and energetic supporter, often at cost to his health. By 1984 Reg already had been timekeeper in over 200 ACTAFL senior games and, beginning with Tom Allison and Cleve Weatherill, regularly assisted coaches at training. Club playing records would not exist without his introduction (in 1972) and maintenance of match work sheets and his careful compilation of yearly summaries for annual reports. His efforts over many years as team co-ordinator of Under 19 sides and timekeeper for Under 17s gave our younger players a great friend and supporter at the start of - and throughout - their senior careers.

The Shed had performed well during the year. Bar trade had been good and profits from the poker machines healthy. However, our income was less than projected because of the mid-year withdrawal of draw card poker machines, which had been declared illegal.

After the season Ian Low stood down after serving two years of his three year contract with us as coach and Ken Grigg was appointed senior coach for 1985.

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

<p>UNDER 19s Rod Carr Roger Sharp Chris Christie Brendan Scotland Damien Maloney Mick Maloney</p>	<p>RESERVES Geoff Lyall Grant Martin Greg Gill Dennis Hopkins Peter Jones</p>	<p>FIRSTS Peter Taylor Gary Conn Brent Allison Glen Maguire Gary Conn</p>	<p>Best and Fairest Runner up Most Improved Most Consistent Coach's Trophy Most Courageous Best First Year Player Don Tyler</p>
<p>David Bennett Geoff Hocking, Gary Conn, John Posa Peter Taylor, Don Lowe, Roger Sharp Mal Manson (81) Mick Rugeley, Steve Taylor Wes Maloney</p>			<p>BEST CLUBMAN: ACT REPRESENTATIVES: LEADING GOAL KICKER: 500 GAME MILESTONE: RESERVE GRADE LEAGUE MEDAL:</p>

1985 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:

Ray Baguley

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

David Bennett, Mick Burgess, Michael Butler, Robbie Hall, Peter Jonas, Robin Maloney, Paul McQueen, Mick Pledge, Mick Price, Harry Souter, Jordan Starkey

FIRST GRADE: Ken Grigg
RESERVES: Rob Goddard
UNDER 19s: Mick Burgess

COACHES

Ken Grigg
 Rob Goddard
 Mick Burgess

CAPTAINS

Ken Grigg
 Rob Goddard
 David Heitel

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt, Kym Austin

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie 68
 Queanbeyan 68
 Eastlake 56
 Manuka 56
Belconnen 44
 Tuggeranong 28
 West Canberra 16

RESERVES

Manuka 80
 Queanbeyan 68
 Ainslie 54
 Eastlake 46
Belconnen 38
 Tuggeranong 26
 West Canberra 20

UNDER 19s

Manuka 74
 Queanbeyan 74
 Ainslie 56
Belconnen 48
 Eastlake 36
 Tuggeranong 28
 West Canberra 16

Under 19s First Semi-final: Belconnen 8.6(54) defeated Ainslie 6.5(41)
 Under 19s Preliminary Final: Belconnen 13.13(91) defeated Queanbeyan 11.6(72)
 Under 19s Grand Final: Belconnen 11.8(74) lost to Manuka 16.19(115)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Peter Taylor	Geoff Lyall	Rod Carter
Runner-up	Gary Conn	Grant Martin	Rogan Sharp
Most Improved	Brett Allison	Greg Gill	Chris Clothier
Most Consistent	Glen Maguire	Dennis Hopkins	Brendan Scotland
Coach's Trophy	Gary Conn	Peter Jonas	Damien Molony/ Mick Molony
Most Courageous	Steve Bayer		
Best First Year Player	Don Pyke		

BEST CLUBMAN:

David Bennett

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Geoff Hocking, Gary Conn, John Dess,
 Peter Taylor, Don Lowe, Rogan Sharp

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Mal Manson (81)

200 GAME MILESTONE:

Mick Burgess, Steve Taylor

RESERVE GRADE LEAGUE MEDAL:

Wes Maloney

1985

The ACTAFL held a workshop in Wollongong in February out of which came a recommendation that Belconnen and West Canberra should amalgamate. The rationale was that this would provide a more competitive team in a stronger competition. The League Executive was keen for the amalgamation to take place for 1985. After meetings between the League and both clubs it was agreed that if amalgamation were to take place, and both clubs indicated an interest in looking at the option, it would not be possible before season 1986.

Consequently, our year started with some uncertainty. However, for football operations our task was clear enough - to perform well in 1985 and let 1986 look after itself. With Ken Grigg, Reserve Grade coach Rob Goddard, and Under 19s coach Mick Burgess, appointed early we could prepare ourselves well for the season.

We again looked to our talented ex-juniors to boost our ranks. In addition, we picked up Don Lowe, a talented utility player from RMC. The major losses from 1984 were Ian Low and Jamie Pyke, who had transferred to Norwood in South Australia.

Our first game was against Eastlake. With Gary Conn fit and the talented Don Pyke and Rogan Sharp playing their first First Grade games, we went into the game with confidence - but it did not last long. Eastlake kicked ten goals in the first quarter to our five. We never recovered and finally went down 18.9(117) to 22.12(144). Over the next five weeks we comfortably beat West Canberra and Tuggeranong but went down to Manuka, Ainslie and Queanbeyan. For the Queanbeyan match Gary Conn, Geoff Hocking, John Dess and Peter Taylor were unavailable because of ACT representative duties and David Bennett was injured. However, this gave Under 19 Mick Molony his first taste of First Grade football. Under the circumstances, we did well that day going down by 20 points.

With Gary, John, Peter and Geoff back the following week for the match against Eastlake we were confident of giving a better account of ourselves than our first round encounter. It turned out to be our best performance for the year to date with a hard fought 14.17(101) to 12.13(85) win - thanks largely to the efforts of our rovers, Peter Taylor and Don Pyke, who between them kicked seven goals.

After losing to Manuka and winning convincingly against West Canberra and Tuggeranong we came up against Ainslie. Although we would again be without our ACT representative players, Ainslie were to be harder hit.

Our side for the day was:

B	Glen Maguire	Peter Buchan	Ken Grigg
HB	Barry Hayden	Mark Killer	Mick Brazel
C	Steve Taylor	David Bennett	Jamie Smith
HF	Gary Whytcross	Mal Manson	Damien Molony
F	Mick Pledge	Rogan Sharp	Chris Stubbs
Followers:	Sean Michelle, Steve Bayer, Don Lowe		
19/20:	Andy Stuart, Brett Allison		

The loss of our representative players had given the opportunity for Brett Allison and Chris Stubbs to play their first First Grade games.

Looking as though they had played together all year, Ainslie moved the ball well throughout the first half and went in at half time eight goals up. We had played poorly and knew that we could do much better. Brett Allison showed us the way kicking an early second half goal. That started an avalanche. We kicked another ten goals for the half (two more to Brett) and kept Ainslie to just three goals. The final score was Belconnen 15.20(110) to Ainslie 14.15(99). Mick Brazel and Peter Buchan had been superb in defence all day and David

Bennett and Steve Bayer had dominated around the packs. It was the first time since 1979 we had beaten Ainslie to reclaim the Cock of the North Trophy.

Under the headline 'Ainslie falls to Belconnen's ruthless charge', *The Canberra Times* started:

'Belconnen's amazing comeback from a 50-point deficit caused the upset of the season with a thrilling win over fancied Ainslie...'

'Still suffused with the glow of victory, they headed for the Ainslie Football Club with a "please deliver" demand for The Cock of North Trophy, which Ainslie had to unbolt and dust off after about six years' permanent residence.' (TCT, 19/6/85)

The win was significant but so was the debut of Brett Allison. He was to play First Grade for the remainder of the year apart from the last match in order for him to prepare for the Under 19s final series.

The Ainslie game turned out to be the climax of our season. We won against the bottom two sides, West Canberra and Tuggeranong, and lost all other games and once again finished fifth. It was another disappointing year given the talent in the team.

Reserves had a similarly frustrating year. Despite the loss of players through injury and promotion, we had won two of our first five games and had lost two others - to Manuka and Ainslie - by just five points and seven points respectively.

For the next five games we were seriously affected by the loss of players to First Grade to cover for the unavailability of our ACT representatives. We performed poorly during the period, winning just one game against West Canberra. We were not helped when coach Rob Goddard broke his arm against Tuggeranong.

The side was a talented one which could dig deep on occasions. In the next match against Ainslie we did just that and were unlucky to draw - Belconnen 13.13(91) to Ainslie 14.7(91).

The following week we met Manuka, the side we were competing with for fourth place and a berth in the first semi-final. Given the draw for the rest of the year, a win would almost assure us of fourth position and a loss would mean curtains. We had a seven point lead at three quarter time but as in the preliminary final the previous year, we succumbed in the last quarter, to go down by just two points.

We now had only a slim hope of making the finals. We needed to win all remaining games and hope for an upset for Manuka. We easily defeated West Canberra and Tuggeranong before coming up against top side Ainslie for the last time. It was a memorable match in which we took them apart, running out winners 15.29(119) to 7.9(51). As in 1984, Brian Hopkins had joined the team late in the season but was settling in well. He kicked 7.7 for the day following on from his 7.5 effort against Tuggeranong the week before.

Our last match was against Queanbeyan but even a win would not get us into the first semi-final. We played accordingly to lose 11.6(72) to 14.13(97).

It had been a frustrating year. At full strength we could beat even the top side easily. But for too many matches we had many of our better players injured or covering for other players in First Grade.

After years of perseverance, Mick Burgess had built up a very competitive Under 19s team. However, as in previous years success would depend on how many players were lost to First Grade during the year. Fortunately, many were promoted towards the end of the season and therefore would qualify for Under 19 finals matches.

The season started brilliantly with four straight wins, including against the flag favourite, Manuka. Thereafter results were up and down. By mid-season we were fourth and well clear of fifth-placed Eastlake. We needed only to beat the sides below us to make the finals. With this in mind Mick actively lobbied for his boys to be given an opportunity to play First Grade but kept a close eye on the number of games they were playing in order to qualify them for the finals.

The remainder of the home and away series held no surprises and we finished fourth. We were to play Ainslie in the first semi-final.

Our side was a strong one. Jamie Smith, Damien Molony, Mick Molony, Brett Allison, Chris Stubbs, David Heitel and Rogan Sharp all had First Grade experience. Rob Walker and Brendan Scotland were soon to emulate them.

In a tight match we gradually wore Ainslie down to win 8.6(54) to 6.5(41). Rogan Sharp had rucked well all day, taking some telling marks around the ground. Jamie Smith, the Molony brothers and Chris Stubbs had also played well.

Our preliminary final was against Queanbeyan, a side we had lost to by 112 points just two weeks earlier. However, we were a much stronger combination this time and soon began to show Queanbeyan just how. By three quarter time we had taken a commanding six goal lead. The final score was Belconnen 13.13(91) to Queanbeyan 11.6(72). Best players for the day had again been Rogan Sharp, Jamie Smith and Chris Stubbs as well as Brendan Scotland and Marcus Cosgrave. We had qualified for our first Under 19 grand final since 1974.

As predicted at the start of the year our opponents in the grand final were to be Manuka.

Our side for the day was:

B	Tony Smith	Mick Molony	John Hynes
HB	Lindsay Carne	Brendan Scotland	Tim Xirakis
C	Gerry Conway	David Heitel	Chris Stubbs
HF	Tony Nicholson	Damien Molony	Brett Allison
F	Guyon Gageldonk	Rob Walker	Ben Devenish
Followers:	Rogan Sharp, Jamie Smith, Chris Clothier		
19/20:	Alby Ongania, Rod Carter		

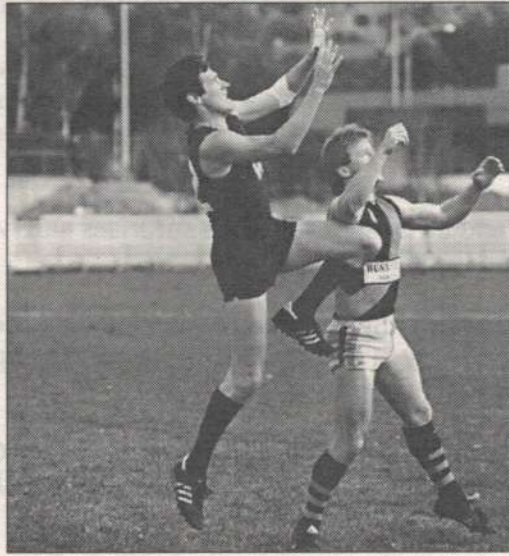
Manuka started the better, kicking 4.4 to our 2.2 by quarter time. Nevertheless, we were beginning to settle and Brett Allison, who had kicked both our goals, was looking dangerous. Our second quarter was a good one. We kicked five goals (two to Rob Walker) and held Manuka to four. At half time we had reduced Manuka's lead to ten points.

The second half was a hard one for us. Manuka's teamwork was excellent and they gradually got on top. By three quarter time they extended their lead to 23 points and continued on in the last quarter to win by 41 points.

It is always disappointing to lose a grand final but Mick and the boys could be proud of their efforts over the year.

Four long-serving senior players were to retire at the end of the season - Rob Goddard, Steve Taylor, Max Johnston and Steve Whennan.

Rob had played in the very first Belconnen First Grade side in 1971 after playing a handful of senior games with Turner in 1970. He played 226 senior games for the Club (113 Firsts and 113 Reserves) plus a season of Under 19 games in 1971, for which statistics have been lost. He coached Reserves for three years and was Reserve Grade captain for four. He would continue in a range of administrative capacities for many years to come.



Rob Goddard bows out after 226 plus games.

Steve Taylor had retired after 213 games (174 Firsts, 25 Reserves and 14 Under 19s) with the Club between 1973 and 1985. Known to many as Garth, Steve had served us with distinction. He had played some memorable games - often on the big occasions, such as the 1979 grand final.



Steve 'Garth' Taylor retires after 13 years of service. He played many memorable games including the 1979 Grand Final.

Steve was one of those solid performers who never turned in a bad game. Although for a rover he was not blessed with natural pace, he more than compensated with his courage and great anticipation.

Max ('Taxi') Johnston had retired after 126 games with Belconnen. Max had served the Club impressively in both Firsts and Reserves over an eight year period. In his later years he perfected the classic lurch forward at the front of the pack playing for the free kick. Even our Canberra umpires, not well known for their perceptiveness, twigged fairly quickly. But Max continued undeterred and always took time to explain to the umpires why they had made a mistake. Max was a great clubman and continued to serve as team manager for several years.



Max ('Taxi') Johnston - retires after 126 games.

Steve Whennan played 96 games for the Club between 1976 and 1985. He was a very solid back pocket who rarely made a mistake. He was also a very popular player with a great sense of humour. Working one year at the Show, where we were selling our usual hamburgers with onions, coleslaw and sauce - and nothing more, a customer asked for one with the lot and one standard. Never one to let a chance go by, Steve gave the customer two of our standards and charged 80 cents for the one with the lot and 60 cents for the standard. The customer asked what the difference was between the two. Quick as a flash Steve said 20 cents.

At Presentation Night three life memberships were awarded, to Ray Baguley, Mick Burgess and Rob Goddard.

Ray was awarded life membership after a then Club record 169 senior games for Belconnen between 1971 and 1981. Ray won the Most Improved First Grade Player in 1971 and was a member of the Reserve Grade premiership team of 1978. After coaching our Under 19s in 1971, Ray became the Club's chief fund-raiser for ten years and played a major part in keeping the football operations solvent. He was awarded Best Clubman in 1973 and shared the award in 1981. He had been President of the BAFSC since 1982. He was awarded life membership of the BNFC in 1982.

Mick was awarded life membership after 14 years and 200 games playing service to the Club. He was a member of the 1978 Reserve Grade premiership team and won the Best Team Man Award in 1973, the Most Determined Player in 1976 and the Reserve Grade coach's trophy in 1981. He had been coach of the Under 19s since 1982.

Rob was awarded life membership after 15 years service and 226 senior games with the Club. During that time he won the First Grade Coach's Trophy in 1972 and 1977, the Reserve Grade Coach's Trophy in 1979 and the Reserve Grade Best and Fairest in 1981 and 1982. He joined the Committee in 1982. Like Ray, Rob was awarded life membership of the BNFC in 1982.

Off the field there had been some significant developments. Discussions with the ACTAFL and West Canberra had continued through the year about a possible amalgamation arrangement. A committee, chaired by John Molony, was established to report on the matter. The committee recommended that the football operations of Belconnen and West Canberra be amalgamated. By the end of the season agreement had been reached by members of both

clubs. West Canberra members voted for a one year trial. The football operations were to alternate between clubs for after-match functions. Five members from each club were to form an interim committee under the chairmanship of John Molony to set the amalgamation in progress. The Belconnen and West Canberra licensed premises were to support the Belconnen Football Club with teams playing in the West Canberra jumper. The committee moved quickly to advertise the position of First Grade coach. Norm Smith was duly appointed as non-playing coach.

Financially, the football operations had performed well during the year. Our fund-raising budget target of \$40,000 had been achieved, thanks again to the efforts of Mick Price and his dedicated band.

The Shed performed satisfactorily over the year but we remained a long way from being financially secure. In his annual report to members, President Ray Baguley expressed the view that the amalgamation would enable us to channel extra resources into the Shed's operations. At the Annual General Meeting Ray stood down as President and Brian Read, the ex-Ainslie and ACT champion wingman and father of three boys soon to play for the Club, was duly elected. Ray was to continue his involvement as a member of John Molony's committee.

Steve Whisman played 90 games for the Club between 1976 and 1982. He was a very solid back pocket who rarely made a mistake. He was also a very popular player with a great sense of humour. Working one year at the Show, where we were selling our usual hamburgers with onion, coleslaw and sauce - and nothing more, a customer asked for one with the lot and one standard. Never one to let a chance go by, Steve gave the customer two of our standards and charged 50 cents for the one with the lot and 60 cents for the standard. The customer asked what the difference was between the two. Quick as a flash Steve said 20 cents.

At Presentation Night three life memberships were awarded to Kay Baguley, Mick Burgess and Rob Goddard.

Kay was awarded life membership after a then Club record 109 senior games for Belconnen between 1971 and 1981. Ray was the Most Distinguished First Grade Player in 1971 and was a member of the Reserve Grade premiership team of 1978. After coaching our Under 19's in 1971, Kay became the Club's chief fund-raiser for ten years and played a major part in keeping the football operations solvent. He was awarded Best Clubman in 1973 and earned the award in 1981. He had been President of the BAFSC since 1982. He was awarded life membership of the BAFSC in 1982.

Mick was awarded life membership after 14 years and 200 games playing senior to the Club. He was a member of the 1978 Reserve Grade premiership team and won the Best Team Man Award in 1973, the Most Distinguished Player in 1976 and the Reserve Grade coach's trophy in 1981. He had been coach of the Under 19's since 1981.

Rob was awarded life membership after 12 years service and 226 senior games with the Club. During that time he won the First Grade Coach's Trophy in 1972 and 1973, the Reserve Grade Coach's Trophy in 1979 and the Reserve Grade Best and Fairest in 1981 and 1982. He joined the Committee in 1982. Like Kay, Rob was awarded life membership of the BAFSC in 1982.

Off the field there had been some significant developments. Discussions with the ACTAFC and West Canberra had continued through the year about a possible amalgamation arrangement. A committee, chaired by John Molony, was established to report on the matter. The committee recommended that the football operations of Belconnen and West Canberra be amalgamated. By the end of the season agreement had been reached by members of both

1986 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:

Brian Read

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

John Molony

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Ray Baguley, David Bennett, Frank Goddard, Mick Kenny, Terry Lewis, Greg Matthews, Jeff McCaskill, Robin Maloney, Mick Pledge, Bernie Pocock, Mick Price, Les Scotland

COACHES

FIRST GRADE:

Norm Smith

CAPTAINS

Geoff Hocking

RESERVES:

Noel O'Neill

Noel O'Neill

UNDER 19s:

Mick Burgess

Tim Xirakis

MONARO:

Tony Van Diemen

Paul Dellamarta

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Geoff Hawker, Gary Schmidt, Kym Austin

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Queanbeyan	48
Tuggeranong	44
Ainslie	28
Eastlake	24
Manuka	20
Belconnen	16

RESERVES

ADFA	80
RMC	68
Ainslie	56
Belconnen	52
Queanbeyan	44
ANU	40
Tuggeranong	28
Eastlake	12

UNDER 19s

Ainslie	80
Manuka	64
Belconnen	64
Eastlake	44
Queanbeyan	32
Tuggeranong	28
ADFA	24

Monaro ladder unavailable. Belconnen finished second.

Reserves First Semi-final:	Belconnen 18.9(117) defeated Ainslie 13.13(91)
Reserves Preliminary Final:	Belconnen 19.11(125) defeated Def Academy 7.18(60)
Reserves Grand Final:	Belconnen 9.4(58) lost to RMC 24.13(157)
Under 19s First Semi-final:	Belconnen 9.15(69) defeated Eastlake 3.6(24)
Under 19s Preliminary Final:	Belconnen 7.8(50) defeated Ainslie 6.10(46)
Under 19s Grand Final:	Belconnen 7.8(50) lost to Manuka 24.18(162)
Monaro Grand Final:	Belconnen 7.4(46) lost to Harman 40.18(258)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>	<u>MONARO</u>
Best and Fairest	Mal Manson	John Broekhuysse	Mark Garrity	David Pocock
Runner-up	Peter Taylor	Grant Martin/ Peter McPhan	Mick Molony	Kel Glossop
Most Improved	Kyran O'Shaughnessy	Greg Gill	Emil Milat	Barry Floyd
Most Consistent	David Bennett	Dennis Hopkins	Darren Cain	
Coach's Trophy	David Bennett	Peter Jonas	Brendan Trevaskis	Paul Dellamarta
Most Courageous	Chris Stubbs			Robert Pocock

BEST CLUBMAN:

Bernie Pocock

ACT REPRESENTATIVES: Geoff Hocking, Peter Taylor, Brett Allison, Don Oliver

LEADING GOALKICKER : Mal Manson (62)

100 GAME MILESTONE Haydn Daw, Rowan Falconer, Dennis Hopkins

Peter Jonas, Sean Michelle, Mick Pledge, John Phillips

200 GAME MILESTONE: David Bennett

1986

We had amalgamated with West Canberra to strengthen our player depth which had suffered badly in the off-season. Losses included Gary Conn, Don Pyke, Don Lowe, Steve Bayer, John Phillips, Peter Buchan, Ken Grigg, Mark Killer, John Dess, Barry Hayden and Mick Brazel. Don Pyke was cleared to Claremont in Western Australia. It was from Claremont that he transferred to the West Coast Eagles in the AFL. Don now has played over 100 First Grade games with the Eagles and was a prominent player for them in the Club's two AFL premiership wins. Don won the Eagles' Best and Fairest Trophy in 1994.

The magnitude of our player losses was such that we looked to 1986 with some trepidation. However, we had our most successful First Grade coach, Norm Smith, back at the helm, Ian Low and Darrel Scotland returning to football, Steven Bews, brother of Andrew Bews, joining us from Geelong and some talented players from West Canberra strengthening our ranks, including Steve Lancaster, Kyran O'Shaughnessy, Brett Matthews, Peter 'Syd' McMenamin, Brian Diamond and Mick Konemann. The first task Norm had was to mould the side together.

The season opener was against Ainslie. Our side was:

B	Rowan Kowald	David Bennett	Alan Lyall
HB	Peter McMenamin	Glen Maguire	Brendan Scotland
C	Brett Matthews	Peter Taylor	Dean Falconer
HF	Steve Lancaster	Geoff Hocking	Brett Allison
F	Chris Stubbs	Ian Low	Mal Manson
Followers:	Sean Michelle, Jamie Smith, Daryl Scotland		
19/20:	Rogan Sharp, Mick Konemann		

While Ainslie had the better of the first half, they had wasted many opportunities up forward. By half time they had a ten point lead, 6.11 to 6.1. After the break our teamwork and endeavour improved considerably. Glen Maguire, Peter McMenamin and David Bennett got well on top in defence and Ian Low and Brett Allison were looking dangerous in attack. We kicked four goals in the third quarter and kept Ainslie goalless to take a twelve point lead into the final quarter. We continued our good work to the final siren and eventually ran out winners 15.8(98) to 9.22(76). Our best players were Geoff Hocking, Ian Low, Glen Maguire, Peter McMenamin, Brett Matthews and Steve Lancaster. The benefits of amalgamation were clear to see.

A footnote to the game was the performance of Shaun Smith, an ex-Belconnen junior, who, despite living in Belconnen territory and despite an appeal by us to the Permit and Match Committee, was cleared by the Committee to Ainslie in 1985. Shaun was one of Ainslie's best players that day. He would go on to play for North Melbourne and Melbourne Firsts in the AFL.

Our fighting win against Ainslie had raised expectations. However, after losses to Queanbeyan and Tuggeranong in our next two matches we could see a long season ahead, particularly after we lost Ian Low through injury.

Our next two matches were against Eastlake and Manuka. We won them both. The match against Eastlake was to be Kyran O'Shaughnessy's first taste of First Grade with Belconnen. Another long-serving player, Jeff Scheetz, was to play his first First Grade game with us the following week against Ainslie.

It had been a topsy turvy season so far but it was becoming clear that the competition was far more evenly balanced than in previous years. There would be no easy games.

The remainder of the season was very disappointing. In our last ten games we won just one, against Manuka on 20 July. Despite the results, Mal Manson performed brilliantly. In just six games he kicked 43 goals. His week-by-week tally was 8, 7, 5, 7, 7 and 9.

Our first year of amalgamation had seen us finish bottom of the ladder for only the second time in the Club's history, with just four wins. It was a tragedy that we had lost so many talented players at the start of the year. However, without amalgamation we could have finished the year without a win.

The benefits of amalgamation were more apparent in the results for Reserves and Under 19s.

Under Coach Noel O'Neill, the Reserves started the year well, winning five of our first six games. Noel was providing a focal point at full forward and Graeme Wilson, who had returned from overseas, was also proving dangerous around goals. Our first real tests were to come in games seven and eight against the strong RMC and ADFA teams.

We lost both of those games by more than ten goals and it looked as if our best efforts this year might get us to third. Our twelve game run up to the finals was very disappointing. We won just four of those games. However, team selection had been affected by injuries and unavailability of both Reserve and First Grade players. Fortunately, we had performed well enough during the year to finish in fourth position and with the Firsts not playing in the finals we would be able to field a competitive team in the first semi-final against Ainslie.

The side selected was very strong. Eighteen of the 20 had had First Grade experience and this soon came to the fore. By half time we had jumped to a 31 point lead and ran out winners by 26 points.

The preliminary final was against ADFA, a side that had demolished us twice during the year. In one of the very best performances from a Belconnen Reserve Grade side we dominated the match after quarter time to win 19.11(125) to 7.18(60). Noel O'Neill led the way with six goals. Graeme Wilson was also dangerous with three. The win had earned us a place in only our third Reserve Grade grand final. Our opponents were RMC.

Our side was:

B	Greg Gill	Mick Pledge	Brian Diamond
HB	Mick Lancaster	Haydn Daw	Peter Harwood
C	John Broekhuysen	Frank Southwell	Gary Whytcross
HF	Graeme Wilson	Grant Martin	Tony Stubbs
F	Steve Walding	Noel O'Neill	Dennis Hopkins
Followers:	Jeff Scheetz, Rob Dawson, John Phillips		
19/20:	Peter McPhan, Geoff Lyall		

From the outset it was to be a struggle. RMC were fast, fit and confident. Just after the opening bounce a large brawl erupted. The RMC full forward, Dean Herbert, was about to run to the centre to participate when our full back, Mick Pledge, suggested that he did not need to run all that way for a fight. Mick was never one for holding back on a football field - as many an opponent would testify. Nevertheless, it was a particularly brave, and/or possibly stupid, thing for Mick to have said. Mick swung the first punch. His opponent swung the next twenty and connected with all of them. Mick felt it appropriate at that stage to ask the goal umpire if he intended to intervene. Mick later learned that Herbert was the College's champion boxer.

By quarter time RMC led 7.0 to 3.1 despite kicking into a breeze. They kept us goalless in the second term and had the game well in control at half time 14.5 to 3.1. To our credit we fought back well with the breeze in the third quarter to kick six goals. However, it was never going to be enough with RMC having last use of the breeze. They kicked seven more goals in the fourth quarter to our solitary point and ran out easy winners 24.13(157) to 9.4(58).

While it was a disappointing note on which to finish, it had been a good year and an exceptional finals series.

The Under 19s had retained a number of players who had played in the grand final in 1985. These were joined by some talented West Canberra players, including Kyran O'Shaughnessy, Rowan Kowald, Scott Reid, Mark Garrity, Peter Wallensky, Mark Diamond, Paul McCaskill, Scott Glare, John Kennedy, Tony Monaghan and Brendan Trevaskis.

By mid-season we were well placed, having won five out of our nine games. We came home strongly in the second half of the year to win seven of our last eight. We finished third on the ladder and were to play Eastlake in the first semi-final.

Our record against Eastlake during the year was one win and one loss, but we had our strongest side for the year available for the match and were confident of a win. Our confidence was well justified. We over-powered Eastlake early to take a 23 point lead by quarter time. We outscored them in each of the other quarters to win 9.15(69) to 3.6(24).

The preliminary final was against Ainslie, a side we had not beaten all year. After a very tight first half in which each team kicked just three goals, Ainslie came out hard in the third quarter to go to the three quarter time break 17 points up. In a great fighting last quarter, in which Rob Walker kicked two goals, we gradually got our noses in front to win a thriller 7.8(50) to 6.10(46). For the second year in a row we had reached the grand final. For the second year in a row our opponents were to be Manuka.

Our grand final side had a lot of senior experience:

B	Paul McCaskill	Paul Hynes	Kyran O'Shaughnessy
HB	Emil Milat	Mick Molony	Mark Diamond
C	Peter Wallensky	Jeff Dunne	John Kennedy
HF	Adam Heath	Darren Cain	Rob Walker
F	Tony Monaghan	Scott Glare	Brendan Trevaskis
Followers:	Tim Xirakis, John Brennan, Brett Matthews		
19/20:	D.Lilley, Steve Badcock		

We had beaten Manuka twice during the year, although our last encounter had been a very tight affair. We expected a tough match and that is what we got. By half time Manuka had a commanding 12.12 to 2.4 lead. Although we fought hard in the third quarter to match Manuka's four goals for the quarter, we were outplayed in most positions. At the final siren the score was Manuka 24.18(162) to Belconnen 7.8(50).

For coach Mick Burgess it was another big disappointment but, typically, he shrugged it off and started looking to 1987 with as much enthusiasm as ever.

With the increased number of players due to the amalgamation, we fielded our first Monaro team in 1986. Under coach Tony Van Diemen the side performed most impressively to reach the grand final against the highly fancied Harman after finishing second. While we were soundly thrashed in the grand final [40.18(258) to 7.4(46)], it had been a good first up effort.

1986 would also be remembered as the last year of football for two great Club stalwarts - Rob 'Dirty' Dawson and Bob Burgess.

Rob had played 136 games (129 in Firsts) over eleven years. He also served on the Football Committee from 1980 to 1983. His performances on the field were at times inspiring. He was one of the toughest, most courageous players to have worn the BFC jumper. His performances off the field are equally legendary. When Rob was around you always had to watch your pockets. Sometimes you would find something missing. Sometimes you would find something there that was not supposed to be there. Rob also had a penchant for placing ties in peoples' beer.

1987 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:

Brian Read

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

John Molony

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

David Bennett, John Dess, Frank Goddard, Rob Goddard, Tom Kreiger, Greg Matthews, Jeff McCaskill, Henry Posch, Mick Price, Sonia Thomas

COACHES

FIRST GRADE: Geoff Hocking

RESERVES: Mick Burgess

UNDER 19s: Greg Matthews

MONARO: Robert Smith

CAPTAINS

Geoff Hocking

Brian Diamond

Brendan Trevaskis

Peter Dunne

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt, Kym Austin, Geoff Hawker,
Lou McKellar

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Queanbeyan	56
Manuka	52
Ainslie	28
Tuggeranong	24
Eastlake	16
Belconnen	4

RESERVES

Ainslie	64
Manuka	52
RMC	40
ANU	40
ADFA	40
Queanbeyan	36
Tuggeranong	32
Eastlake	32
Belconnen	24

UNDER 19s

Eastlake	52
Manuka	52
Ainslie	30
Belconnen	20
Tuggeranong	18
Queanbeyan	8

Monaro ladder unavailable. The team finished fourth with seven wins.

Under 19s First Semi-final: Belconnen 5.10(40) lost to Ainslie 8.16(64)

Monaro First Semi-final: Belconnen lost to Ainslie by three points.

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>	<u>MONARO</u>
Best and Fairest	Peter Taylor	Brian Diamond	Brett Matthews	Greg Bulman
Runner-up	Geoff Hocking	John Broekhuyse	Tony Monaghan	Peter Dunn
Most Improved	Tony Stubbs	Gerry Attwood	Steve Kemp	Barry Floyd
Most Consistent	Kyran O'Shaughnessy	Darren Cain	David Hanley/ Brendan Trevaskis	Kevin McDonald
Coach's Trophy	Rogan Sharp	Carlo Tenaglia	Richard Truesdale	Chris Flood
Most Courageous	Jeff Dunne			
Best F/Y Player	Peter Wallensky			

BEST CLUBMAN:

Brian Read

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Geoff Hocking, Peter Taylor, Jamie Smith

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Graeme Wilson (27)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

Peter Bradley, John Dess

200 GAME MILESTONE:

Peter Taylor

1987

Belconnen and West Canberra agreed to continue the amalgamation in 1987. Geoff Hocking was appointed coach after Norm Smith stepped aside. Some Committee members held the view that the younger players would benefit from a playing coach. Geoff took on the job under no illusions. As for 1986 there was a large player exodus which would be very difficult to cover. Players lost were Mal Manson (who had moved to Queensland), Ian Low, Brett Allison, Steve Lancaster, Brendan Scotland, Glen Maguire, Darrel Scotland and Mick Konemann, as well as Noel O'Neill and Rob Dawson who had retired.

Mal would be an enormous loss. His record was impressive: 179 games, 15 years service, 555 goals, First Grade Best and Fairest once, First Grade leading goal-kicker on six occasions, twice ACTAFL leading goal-kicker, T.A. Wharton Under 19 League Medal winner and ACT representative. He would also be missed because he was always a cheerful and cheeky face around the Club, at times a larrikin and always a good mate.



Mal Manson - a great player and character who would be sorely missed.

Brett was cleared to AFL club North Melbourne. His loss would also be a major blow but he went with our best wishes. Having worked his way through the Belconnen junior ranks and then into First Grade, Brett was and still is one of the Club's favourite sons. He now has played over 100 First Grade games with North Melbourne. He and Tom are the only father and son combination to have achieved that feat. In 1991 he took the AFL Mark of the Year.

On the positive side of the ledger, we had picked up Tony Hogan, a strong and high-flying backman from Western Australia, Steve Bayer had returned from interstate and John Dess had returned after missing all of the previous year following a knee reconstruction.

Of the first First Grade side selected for 1987, nine had played in the Reserve Grade or Under 19 grand final sides of the previous year.

After five games we had failed to record a win. To make matters worse, Dean Falconer had dislocated his elbow in the second game and would miss the rest of the year and Steven Bews had returned to Melbourne.

The sixth game of the year was against Queanbeyan. Ross Howe would remember the game for it was his first First Grade match. It also turned out to be our biggest loss for the year 33.18(216) to 12.13(85).

After eight games we had still to record a win and we were looking at a blank sheet for the year. Our ninth game was against Eastlake, the weakest of the sides above us. It was our best chance to break our duck.

Our side for the day was:

B	Kyran O'Shaughnessy	Peter Wallensky	Tony Stubbs
HB	Greg Gill	Sean Michelle	Tony Hogan
C	Cam Whitty	Peter Taylor	Jamie Smith
HF	Graeme Wilson	Rogan Sharp	Rob Walker
F	Steve Bayer	David Bennett	Peter McMenamin
Followers:	Geoff Hocking, Jeff Dunne, Chris Stubbs		
19/20:	Gary Whytcross, Jeff Scheetz		

David Bennett had been pestering the selectors for some time to play in the forward line. Even David's critics would agree that he had done a reasonable job there over the last few weeks - kicking five goals against Ainslie.

We started the game enthusiastically and matched Eastlake for much of the first quarter. However, we lost our way in the second and third quarters so that by three quarter time we were down 8.14 to 13.8. In an inspired final term we kicked six goals, three to Chris Stubbs, and held Eastlake to one to record one of the more courageous wins in the Club's history. Best players were Rogan Sharp, Jeff Dunne, Steve Bayer, Peter Taylor and Geoff Hocking. David Bennett finished with three goals two.

That was to be our one win for the year. It had been a difficult year for all concerned but especially for coach Geoff Hocking. Geoff was a good strategist and communicated well. With greater player depth he would have had more opportunities to show his undoubted abilities as a coach.

Mick Burgess had taken on the job of coach of Reserves after five years as coach of Under 19s.

After a good year in 1986, expectations for a successful Reserve Grade year were high. However, with the promotion of several players into Firsts and the retirement of others, the side had a different look about it in 1987. Only three of the previous year's grand final team played in the side's first match of 1987 against Queanbeyan.

Despite the large turnover of players, we started the year promisingly, winning two of our first three games - against ADFA and Eastlake. In those games Graeme Wilson and John Broekhuysen had performed well kicking five goals and six goals respectively. As a result they were promoted to Firsts. Over the remaining thirteen games we were to win just once - a one point win over Queanbeyan on 18 June.

The Under 19s won six games during the year and this was enough for them to reach fourth position. In the first semi-final against Ainslie we fought hard but eventually lost 5.10(40) to 8.16(64). Compared with our two previous years it had been a disappointing season. However, there were some good performances during the year from boys who would go on and make a significant contribution to the senior sides in the years ahead, including Glen and Mick Hassett, David Williamson, Brett Matthews and Sean Walsh.

At the end of the season one of our longest serving players, Mick Burgess, retired. Over a 16 year period from 1972 Mick had played a total of 203 games. During that time he was

awarded First Grade Best Team Man, First Grade Most Improved and First Grade Most Determined. In 1985 Mick was awarded life membership.



Mick Burgess - His enthusiasm for football and for the BFC was infectious.

Mick was the archetype of a utility player. He played at full back, centre half back, centre, centre half forward, full forward, wing, ruck rover, half forward flank and half back flank. He played all of those positions with equal enthusiasm - he was proud just to be part of the team. Mick played in many of our great wins but he also played in many of our losses. One of his great attributes was his positive attitude. After a bad loss there was always next week. All teams need a Mick Burgess or two. For players and coaches alike, Mick would be sadly missed on the field.

Some enjoyable social functions had been held during the year, including some highly successful BWANAS (Belconnen Wine and Nouriture Appreciation Society) nights. The famous Down Brothers performed at one in celebration of David Bennett turning 30. The Down Brothers were to become an institution at the Club. They were:

Ida Down (Lesley Daw) on castinets
 Lai Down (Helen Goddard) on guitar
 Neil Down (David Bennett) on lagerphone
 Stan Down (Rob Goddard) - from the Newcastle dockyards - on keyboards
 Go Down (Peter Jonas) on guitar
 Bobby Down (Graeme Wilson) leader and vocals

Their first and one of their greatest hits was to the tune of Davy Crockett, entitled 'King of the Centre Half Backs':

*Born in New South Wales back in '57
 Would have made it easier if his name was Kevin
 Instead they called him Dave. He thought life was a rave.
 Until kicked out of primary school because he couldn't behave*

*Chorus: Curly, Curly Bennett
 King of the centre half backs
 Curly, Curly Bennett
 The man with the baggy dacks*

*Belconnen he did join when he was just a child
A tough defender he was not - just meek and mild
Some start to a career! His kicking it looked queer!
The forwards were concerned a lot. His passes they did fear*

*Once back in to primary school he settled down
His football followed suit but still he looked a clown
He had a useful leap. His marking was unique
Still the problems with the kicks but plaudits he did reap*

*So many games have passed he's now reached thirty years
His football it continues still despite his years
His kicking's just got worse, his back he has to nurse
All other things that he has wrong they won't fit in this verse*

At the Presentation Night Frank Goddard was awarded life membership. Frank had been on the Football Committee from 1972 to 1979 and returned in 1986 and had served the Club as First Grade manager between 1972 and 1977. He had also been on the Committee of the BNFC between 1977 and 1979. Throughout those years of service Frank had worked tirelessly, tackling many of the difficult and thankless tasks that enable a football club to survive. Fortunately for us, Frank continues to serve the Club as effectively today.

Financially, it had been another disappointing year for the football operations. We raised just \$28,000 during the year, well short of our target of \$49,000. Expenditure was again well in excess of income generated and, as for 1986, the shortfall was made up by the two licensed premises.

After two years of experimentation it was agreed that the amalgamation had been a failure. Support, rather than increasing, had in fact fallen away alarmingly. While some solid friendships had been established, particularly between players, it was agreed that each Club should go its own way. Acknowledging its limited player and administrative base, West Canberra withdrew from the ACTAFL to focus its football operations on the Monaro League but agreed that any West Canberra players wanting to play ACTAFL football should do so with Belconnen. Conversely, Belconnen agreed to encourage players not selected for its senior sides to play Monaro football with West Canberra.

With the amalgamation over, the Belconnen Australian Football Supporters Club re-established its own football committee with John Molony as chairman. One of its first tasks was to appoint a coach for 1988 since Geoff Hocking was transferring with his job to Victoria. After two disappointing years on the football field the Committee felt there was a need to attract a high profile coach to lead a resurgence. Coincidentally, John Molony had heard that the famous Alex Jesaulenko was interested in returning to Canberra and taking on a coaching role. John arranged for Brian Read, David Bennett, Rob Goddard and himself to meet the Great Man.

The meeting was held in November at the Fishing Village, Hawker. After a very pleasant meal and several bottles of wine - although it should be noted an Alex Jesaulenko out to impress drank lemon squash all night - the Committee decided to appoint Alex for two years. Alex was also to take on the job of manager of the Shed. It was a major coup for the Club. Articles on Alex's appointment were carried in *The Canberra Times*, the *Melbourne Herald* and the *Melbourne Sun*.

There had been an improvement in the performance of the Shed during the year, thanks largely to the efforts of Paul 'BP' McQueen, who had taken over as caretaker Club manager. However, the sharing of football functions between the Shed and the West Canberra premises continued to constrain bar trade and poker machine revenue.

1988 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:
FOOTBALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

David Bennett, Frank Goddard, Rob Goddard, Alex Jesaulenko, Peter Jonas

Brian Read
 John Molony

COACHES

FIRST GRADE: Alex Jesaulenko
RESERVES: Greg O'Neill
UNDER 19s: Greg Watt

CAPTAINS

John Dess
 Brian Diamond
 Brett Matthews

TRAINERS: Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt, Kym Austin, Geoff Hawker

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie 64
 Queanbeyan 60
 Manuka 52
 Eastlake 48
Belconnen 16
 Tuggeranong 0

RESERVES

Ainslie 60
 Manuka 44
 Eastlake 40
 Queanbeyan 40
Belconnen 40
 ADFA 24
 ANU 20
 RMC 16
 Tuggeranong 0

UNDER 19s

Manuka 70
 Eastlake 52
Belconnen 44
 Ainslie 38
 Tuggeranong 24
 Queanbeyan 12

Under 19s First Semi-final: Belconnen 8.7(55) lost to Ainslie 8.11(59)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

FIRSTS

Best and Fairest David Bennett
 Runner-up John Dess/
 Jeff Dunne
 Most Improved Mick Molony
 Most Consistent Andy Endall
 Coach's Trophy Sean Michelle
 Most Courageous Jeff Dunne
 Best First Year Player Mick Sloan

RESERVES

Greg Gill
 Gerry Conway
 Brendan Trevaskis
 Alan Lyall
 Peter Jonas

UNDER 19s

Brett Matthews
 David Williamson
 Adam Weir
 John Kennedy
 Ian Donlan

BEST CLUBMAN:

Paul Kelly

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Geoff Hocking, Rogan Sharp

LEADING GOALKICKER:

Rod Symons (24)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

Geoff Lyall

200 GAME MILESTONE:

Frank Southwell

1988

With the appointment of Alex Jesaulenko and the return to our navy blue jumpers, there was something of a resurgence in interest in the Club. National Capital Motors became our major sponsor and based a number of television commercials around Alex.

Another important development had been the acceptance by Bob McMullan, Senator for the ACT, of our invitation to become Club patron. He soon became much more than a figurehead. He became a regular attendee at games and functions and continues to be one of our staunchest supporters, despite the pressures associated with a Ministerial position. He would also soon contribute substantially to the Club's well-being.

Recruitment activity had been limited because of our tight funding position. However, we were lucky to pick up Rod Symons from the RAAF, Andy Endall from Ainslie and Peter Graham and Peter Clayden from Manuka. Peter Clayden, a speedy and clever wingman, had won his Club's First Grade best and fairest award the previous year but wanted to play under Alex Jesaulenko. In addition, Noel O'Neill returned for one last year.

Major losses were Geoff Hocking, Peter McMennamin, Rogan Sharp, who had moved to Sydney, and Jamie Smith, who would miss the year from injury. It was clearly going to be another difficult year.

Alex was generating a lot of interest and there were many faces at our first few games that had not been seen around the Club for years. Alex appointed his old Carlton mate, Syd Jackson, runner for the year but, unfortunately for the Club, pressure of work meant Syd would have to relinquish the job during the year.

The season started badly for us. We lost the first four games before recording our first win, against Tuggeranong on 1 May. The side was an inexperienced one which was going to take time to settle. Injuries to key players would not help.

By mid-season we still had just the one win. On 23 May we were to meet Manuka with Peter Taylor, John Dess, Steve Bayer, Brendan Scotland, Tony Hills and Tony Hogan all sidelined. Our side was:

B	Mick Molony	David Bennett	Tony Stubbs
HB	Andy Endall	John Tulloch	Jeff Dunne
C	Rob Walker	Peter Clayden	Mick Sloan
HF	Peter Graham	Greg Gill	Kyran O'Shaughnessy
F	Ross Howe	Rod Symons	Sean Walsh
Followers:	Sean Michelle, Rob Kelly, Brett Matthews		
19/20:	Graeme Wilson, Gary Whytcross		

The first half held no surprises. Manuka held a one goal lead at quarter time and a four goal lead at half time. While we had had a fair amount of the play we could not convert our opportunities into goals. The result looked like a foregone conclusion.

We kicked five goals in the third term but had conceded six so Manuka started the last quarter with a handy five goal lead. Alex's advice at three quarter time was simple. Play direct football and kick the ball long.

Suddenly, the game changed. New recruit Rod Symons took a strong mark and goaled. At the other end of the ground we were getting on top. David Bennett and Tony Stubbs in particular were doing well. Three more times the ball went forward to Rod and three more times he goaled. We were now just eight points down. Unfortunately, the siren went with us charging forward once more. The final score was Manuka 14.8(92) to Belconnen 12.12(84). Our best players had been Rod Symons, Kyran O'Shaughnessy, David Bennett, Tony Stubbs,

Greg Gill and Mick Sloan. It was another loss but a courageous effort and one that showed we could be competitive.

Alex was never one for complicated instructions. He always focussed on the basics. In one memorable game against Queanbeyan Alex was at his best. It was a particularly close battle and Peter Taylor playing with his usual level of intensity made a rare error for him and kicked the ball directly to the opposition. Alex told the runner, Rob Goddard, to 'go out and tell Pup not to kick to the opposition'. As Rob approached Pup he could see Pup's level of intensity had not diminished and so thought a little discretion was in order and simply offered him a drink of water.



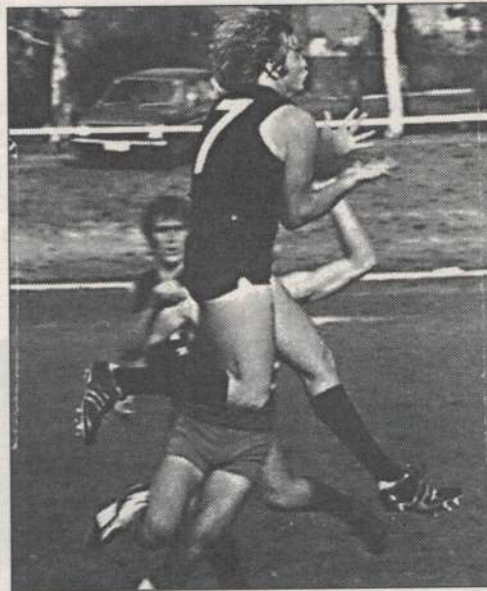
Belconnen's brains' trust - Brian Read, Frank Goddard, John Molony and Alex Jesaulenko.

We won just three more games for the year, all against Tuggeranong. However, we did run Ainslie to 15 points towards the end of the season after a very poor effort on 9 July, kicking just 1.9 for the game against Eastlake in foot-deep mud at Football Park - our lowest ever First Grade score.

In his annual report, Alex admitted that it had been a disappointing season but that many of our ex-juniors had improved markedly during the year and that our prospects for 1989 were good.

After finishing with the wooden spoon in 1987, Reserve Grade could only improve. It became apparent early in the season that we had much better player depth than the previous year. Although the side suffered the usual problems of any Reserve Grade side, with the loss of key players on a weekly basis to First Grade, we were better able to cover these losses.

The third game of the year against RMC was significant since it was the last game Noel 'Noddy' O'Neill would play for Belconnen. Noel played 170 games for the Club after joining us from Ainslie in 1977. He coached Under 19s in 1980 and 1981 and Reserves in 1986. He was the Club's leading goal-kicker in 1982 and 1983, when he was also the League's leading goal-kicker. He kicked a total of 345 First Grade goals during his time with us. Noel was a strong leading player and a particularly strong mark. When he first joined the Club there were some who thought this brash and forthright character from Ainslie would not fit in. How wrong would they be. While never shy to venture an opinion, Noel became one of our greatest team players and one of our very best forwards.



Noel 'Noddy' O'Neill retires after 170 games and 345 First Grade goals.

One of our better performances for the year came against second-placed Manuka on 26 June. Our side had a good blend of youth and experience:

B	Peter Jonas	Alan Lyall	Geoff Lyall
HB	Gary Whytcross	Greg Gill	Gerry Conway
C	Stan Widera	Rob Walker	Gerry Attwood
HF	Peter Short	Damien Molony	Garth Brooks
F	J Parkinson	Mark Diamond	Ken Howard
Followers:	Brad Gordon, Peter Wallensky, Brendan Trevaskis		
19/20:	Carlo Tenaglia, David Tompsett		

We started slowly and kicked poorly for goal to give Manuka a handy 6.3 to 3.7 lead at half time. The third quarter was not much better. By three quarter time Manuka led 8.3 to 4.9. Although we had had more scoring shots, we were 18 points down. The last quarter was one of our best for the season. We suddenly found some accuracy in front of goal and began to convert opportunities. Mark Diamond kicked an early goal and Garth Brooks and Greg Gill followed with one each shortly thereafter. Brad Gordon chimed in with two at the end and we had run over the top of Manuka to win 9.12(66) to 9.5(59).

By round ten we had won six matches and lost just three - to Ainslie, Manuka and ANU (by 5 points). Hopes were growing of a repeat of our 1986 effort to make the grand final. Unfortunately, we were to lapse badly in rounds 10 and 11, to Ainslie and Queanbeyan, due largely to loss of players through injury and to First Grade. We lost by 144 points to Ainslie and, with 15 men, by 174 points to Queanbeyan. We set a Reserve Grade record lowest score against Queanbeyan - just three points.

Player availability improved for the remaining five games of the year and so did our results. We won four and lost a close game to ANU.

The final ladder had us unluckily in fifth place with a surprisingly good record of ten wins from 16 games. We had the same number of points as third-placed Eastlake and fourth-placed Queanbeyan but had missed out on a finals berth by just five percentage points. As it turned out, our mid-season two-game lapse had cost us dearly. With our best side available we would have been a threat to most sides above us. We had beaten second-placed Manuka once during the year, third-placed Eastlake both times we had played them and Queanbeyan once.



Our own men in white - trainers Andy Anderson, Geoff Hawker and Gary Schmidt.

Under 19s fared better than both senior sides, finishing third on the ladder but well behind Manuka and Eastlake. On paper we were a very strong side. Players included Tony Mahar, Ross Howe, John Kennedy, Rob Kelly, Brett Matthews, Cam Whitty, Ian Macaulay, Greg Richter, Glen and Mick Hassett, Sean Walsh, Tony Monaghan, Damon Bryce, Andrew Tattersall, David Williamson, Ian Donlan and Andrew Reed. On our day we could beat the best. During the year we defeated top side Manuka twice. But we had also lost to the bottom team, Queanbeyan.

Our first semi-final was against Ainslie, a side we had beaten three times during the year. Ainslie played with spirit in the first half and were just seven points down at half time. They came out strongly in the third quarter to kick four goals to our one to take the game by the throat. Although we fought back well in the last quarter we could not bridge the gap, finally going down by four points. It was a disappointing end to the year when, with the talent available, we should have gone close to a premiership.

At the end of the season one of the Club's longest serving players, Frank 'Tank' Southwell, retired. Frank played 201 games (14 First Grade, 154 Reserves and 33 Under 19s) from 1975 to 1988. During that time he won the Reserve Grade Best and Fairest on two occasions. Frank was not blessed with pace but he more than compensated with courage and great skills to win possession and evade opponents. Frank's body sway had to be seen to be believed. He clearly impressed the umpires (many of whom tend to be impressed by body sways), winning the ACTAFL Reserve Grade Best and Fairest Trophy, the McNamara Trophy, in 1981 and being runner up in 1984.

Socially, 1988 had been a big year. Building on the emotion of a return to the navy blue jumpers, a 'Rebirth of the Blues' ball was held at the CCAE. Over 180 people attended.

The Down Brothers released one of their biggest hits, 'A shout with Bags' in honour of Ray Baguley turning 40. Here are the lyrics to the tune 'Click go the shears':

*Long ago in Turner days a young full forward played
A strong and sleek physique he lacked and errors often made
To watch him kick for goal it was a pity and a shame
The side got thrashed each week so he drank to forget the game*

Chorus

*Down go the beers boys, one, two, three
 You're in a shout with Bags, well you must be crazy
 The barmaid turns around and says it's time to shift your load
 But Bags he says it's for the Shed - we'll have one for the road*

*As the years rolled by and jumpers changed to navy blue
 Bag's kicking stayed the same so what else could they do?
 They moved him from the goals about as far as you could go
 So then he wound up kicking out - to forwards! don't you know*

*He played so many games that they lost count of one or two
 But Bags just kept on drinking - what else was there left to do
 The grog it sent him blind but he kept playing nonetheless
 With Whennso for his eyes it was a sight we must confess*

*The seasons came and went and Bags became a wee bit slack
 Never at the bar of course, but on the training track
 He passed his guile and drinking skills to many who came through
 His protege is Curly - taught him everything he knew*

*Retirement was a thing that Bags had fought for many years
 The subtle hinting from the coach it fell on Bags' deaf ears
 But finally the day came round when Whennso packed it in
 Without his eyes he had no choice so Bags he followed him*

*The Club became concerned that profits now might take a dive
 Without Bags to commiserate with teammates after five
 But fears were soon allayed because it then became quite clear
 That Bags could now devote more time to knocking back the beer*

*And now he's reached full 40, a surprise to you and me
 He's many scalps upon his belt from many a drinking spree
 His pace has slowed a bit but be forewarned by victims past
 If you get in a shout with Bags it could just be your last*

The Down Brothers also performed at the farewell to Graeme Wilson, who had been posted to Paris. Here are the lyrics of their hit 'Old Willo' sung to the tune 'My Bonny':

*Old Willo's going over the ocean
 Old Willo is leaving the Shed
 He's leaving us full of emotion
 Was it something that Ray Bags has said?*

Chorus:

*Don't go Willo
 Stay here and play footy instead, instead
 Don't go Willo
 We'll all miss your bright shining head*

*He came from Melbourne in glory
 He came with skills unsurpassed
 He's told us many a story
 We hope now that we've heard the last*

*His staging with Curly has ended
At training they'll no longer pair
Poor Curly is somewhat offended
The end of an ageing affair*

At the 'Rebirth of the Blues Ball' life memberships were awarded to David Bennett and Mick Price. A third life membership was awarded, to Judy Hynes, at Presentation Night.

David was honoured after 239 games with the Club over 14 years. During that time he won the T.A. Wharton Under League medal, First Grade Best and Fairest in 1980 and 1988 and had been runner-up in 1977, 1981 and 1983. He was nominated Best Clubman in 1984 and 1985 and had served on the Committee since 1982.

Mick played 106 games with the Club after joining us in 1976. Between 1976 and 1988 he had been on the Committee for six years, with two as Treasurer. For most of his years on the Committee Mick was directly responsible for raising in excess of \$40,000 each year. He was awarded the Best Clubman Trophy in 1983.

Judy's involvement with the Club flowed from her close association with the Belconnen South Junior Football Club over many years. Judy worked tirelessly as a function organiser, co-ordinated the catering at hundreds of games, ran many shop stalls and took on many other jobs. She spent many hours in the kitchen preparing meals for functions and for players and supporters after matches.

Financially, football operations had performed well during the year, raising \$53,000, which was double the figure for 1987. This was due in no small measure to the efforts of Peter Jonas, who had taken on the onerous job of Treasurer.

The Shed's performance deteriorated during the year. Bar trade and poker machine revenue dropped alarmingly due in large part to the exodus of a group of regular members to other clubs.

MANAGERS

Managers have tended to be the unsung heroes at the Belconnen Football Club. A full list of our managers by year of service is presented at Appendix I. We have had many characters taking on one of the most thankless jobs in the Club. Here is a brief look at some of them.

Frank Goddard was manager from 1972 to 1977. In the early days he took on the job for Firsts and Under 19s and even Reserves on occasions. Frank also took on the job of organising trophies for the annual Presentation Night - always a big night on the Club calendar. For Frank the 1974 Presentation Night is one he may choose to forget. Frank was, and still is, one for doing a job thoroughly and his efforts in purchasing the trophies for 1974 were no exception. He carefully placed the large cardboard box with the trophies behind the car in his driveway before going back into the house to hurry the rest of the family along so they could get to the function on time. He was, and still is, also one for being on time. The Goddard family rushed to the car, Frank threw it into reverse and proceeded to back over the box. There was a deathly hush in the car as the realisation of what had happened dawned.

It was a disaster at the time but it did make for a memorable Presentation Night. The vision of Bags going up to receive his trophy not with right hand extended for the handshake but hands cupped to receive his trophy in bits is something that will remain in the minds of many.

Max Johnston was Reserve Grade manager between 1981 and 1985. He took on the job as a cover to enable him to play three years beyond what his wife, Judy, thought. Each weekend Max would head off with his 'manager's' bag and assorted brooms, eskies, boxes etc with Judy firmly in the belief Max was simply doing his bit off the field for the Club. One wonders how Max disguised the aches and pains after a match. It perhaps explains why he never over-exerted himself towards the end of his playing days.

Robin Maloney, appropriately called Penguin, or 'Peng', was First Grade manager from 1982 to 1984, from 1986 to 1988 and then again in 1990. Penguin was encouraged to become associated with the Club by his old mate from Essendon, Laurie Moloney. In his later years, Penguin became the patriarch of managers, overseeing the up and comers such as Paul McQueen, Glen O'Sullivan, Keith Ramsey and Tim Xirakis. He passed many of his skills and experience to his protege, Paul McQueen.

Paul McQueen was manager between 1982 and 1985 and again in 1989. Paul's nick name is BP - Brother Paul - because of his monk-like appearance (but not habits). BP took his job seriously. During his reign, finances at the Club were tight and BP had been told by the Committee to reduce expenditure on consumables. To this day BP speaks with pride of how he holds the Club record of one bottle of cordial and one large packet of chewies for a full season. It was also in BP's day that there was a major glandular fever outbreak among the players. Subsequent investigations cleared BP of any wrongdoing. He cleaned the one water bottle used by Firsts and Reserves thoroughly after each weekend.

Neville Hickmott was manager in 1992 and 1993. Known as Sticks for fairly obvious reasons, Neville's thoroughness as a manager was perhaps rivalled only by Frank Goddard. Sticks was a Petty Officer in the navy. He established his own 'Sportsman's Warehouse' under his house in Kaleen. In typical navy fashion, everything had its place and everything was spic and span. Sticks and his wife Julieanne, who was also very active in the Club, were sadly missed when they moved to Nowra at the end of 1993.

1989 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB:
FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

John Molony

David Bennett, Frank Goddard, Peter Jonas, Paul Kelly

	COACHES	CAPTAINS
FIRST GRADE:	Alex Jesaulenko/ Brian Read	John Dess
RESERVES:	Mick Pledge	Mick Pledge
UNDER 19s:	Chris Aulich	Mick Hassett
MONARO:	Gerry Monaghan	Darren Browning

TRAINERS: Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt, Kym Austin, Geoff Hawker

HOW WE FINISHED

<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Queanbeyan 56	Ainslie 60	Belconnen 56
Ainslie 52	Queanbeyan 44	Eastlake 44
Manuka 32	Manuka 36	Tuggeranong 36
Belconnen 20	Belconnen 24	Manuka 24
Eastlake 16	Eastlake 16	Queanbeyan 16
Tuggeranong 4	Tuggeranong 0	Ainslie 4

Table for Monaro unavailable. Team finished seventh.

First Grade First Semi-final: Belconnen 5.8(38) lost to Manuka 11.13(79)
Reserves First Semi-final: Belconnen 11.7(73) lost to Manuka 18.16(124)
Under 19s Second Semi-final: Belconnen 12.10(82) defeated Eastlake 10.10(70)
Under 19s Grand Final: Belconnen 11.14(80) defeated Eastlake 7.9(51)

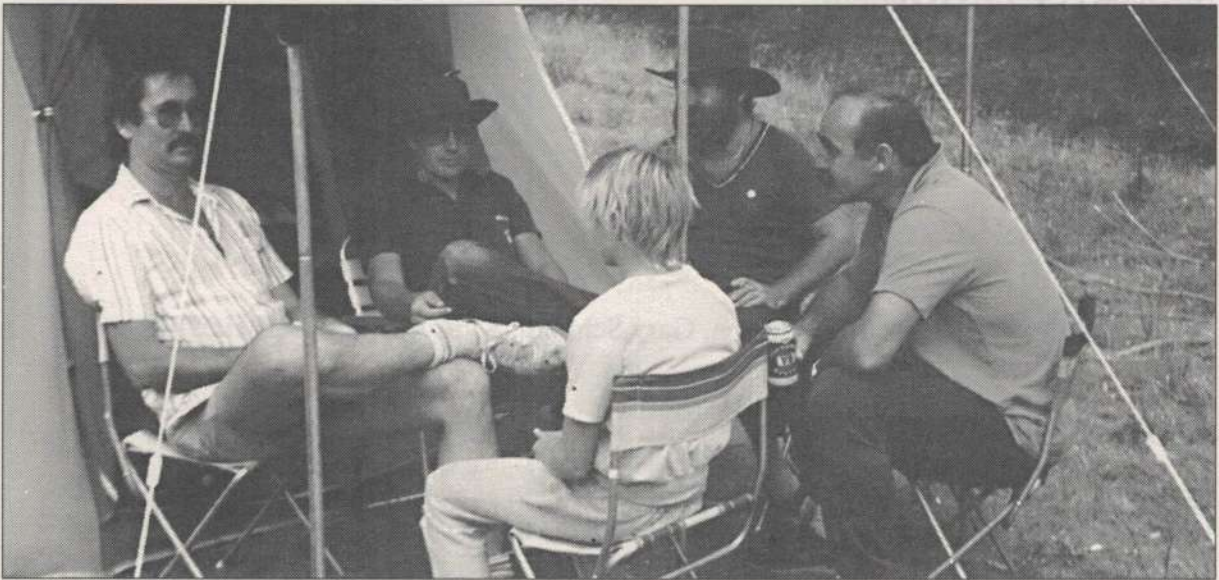
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>	<u>MONARO</u>
Best and Fairest	Peter Taylor	Damien Molony	Nick Culnane	Tom Monaghan
Runner-up	David Bennett	Craig Maher	Steven Briggs	David Williamson
Most Improved	Greg Richter		Adam Jones	Darren Browning/ Gary Trounson
Most Consistent	Joe Box	Shane Bellchambers	Damon Bryce	Grant Martin
Coach's Trophy		Mick Sloan		
Best Team Player		John O'Loughlin	Mick Hassett	
Best F/Y Player	Dale Frankel			

BEST CLUBMAN: Peter Jonas
ACT REPRESENTATIVES: Dale Frankel, Jamie Smith, Peter Wallensky
LEADING GOALKICKER : Peter Wallensky (27)
100 GAME MILESTONE: Tony Stubbs

1989

With Alex Jesaulenko commencing the second year of his contract with us, preparations for the season started early. A 'workshop' for senior coach and several committee members was held in the Brindabellas during the summer months to develop strategies for the coming season. As workshop leader, Alex was in charge of coffee and port. By the end of the workshop the team coffee spoon could stand up by itself. The port was of sufficient quality to ensure that none would suffer from incontinence.



Alex hard at work leading one of the seminar groups made up of Ray Baguley, Rob Goddard, Robin Maloney and Matthew Maloney.

Mick Pledge was appointed Reserves coach and Chris Aulich Under 19s coach. The good player depth evident in 1988 had increased at the start of 1989 so a team was entered in the Monaro competition, with Gerry Monaghan as coach.

We lost several players in the off-season, including Steve Bayer, Jeff Dunne, Tony Hills, Kyran O'Shaughnessy, Brendan Scotland, Rod Symons and Graeme Wilson, who had been posted overseas again. However, we also recruited well. Dale Frankel, a high-flying forward (and ex-West Canberra junior), joined us from Kedron in Queensland and Clinton Bravo, a tall ruckman, joined us from Broken Hill. Dean Falconer and Jamie Smith returned to football after a year off due to injury and Joe Box returned after stints with Eastlake and Tuggeranong.

Our prospects for the year looked reasonably good, particularly with several of our ex-juniors maturing as senior footballers, including Peter Wallensky, Greg Richter, Ross Howe, Damien Molony, Rob Walker and Sean Walsh.

Our season started with a win over rapidly improving Tuggeranong. Our next game was against Manuka on a very muddy Phillip Oval. By half time we had struggled to a 4.10 to 2.10 lead. The conditions and some fierce tackling from both sides were making scoring difficult. The third quarter was extremely tight. Just one goal was scored for the quarter - 'an unlikely free kick to Peter Bradley' was how *The Canberra Times* described it. Nevertheless, Spud put it through, to give us a handy 5.15 to 2.13 lead at three quarter time. Spud was clearly having a good day. In the last quarter he received another 'doubtful' free kick as described by *The Canberra Times*, followed up with a 50 metre penalty and goal. That goal sealed the game with us running out winners 8.19(67) to 5.16(46).

After five games we had won three, including one against the strong Eastlake side. Things were looking good.

That week the Belconnen Football Club became known around the nation. We were the poor battling club that had lost our famous coach, Alex Jesaulenko, to the silver tails of the VFL - Carlton. After a particularly poor start to the season, the knives were out at Carlton. The Carlton Committee had decided to sack Robert Walls and appoint a new coach who could revive the old Carlton spirit - not only among the players but among the supporters. The obvious choice was our Alex.

Alex was desperate to return to his beloved Carlton but at the same time had become very attached to us. The Belconnen Committee seeing his dilemma indicated that it would support his move providing we were suitably compensated.

With Committee Chairman John Molony in Melbourne to meet Carlton officials, Vice President, David Bennett was thrown into the hot seat at a national press conference held at the Shed. All the major TV networks had their lights and cameras there. It was a big day for the Shed. The quaver in David's voice was barely noticeable as he very competently fielded questions.

History now shows that we were unsuccessful in obtaining any meaningful compensation from Carlton. However, we went down fighting. John Molony had much fruitless communication with Carlton, including a meeting in Melbourne with Ian Collins of Carlton. We considered legal action but decided that the costs involved could be large. Media coverage was extensive. One of the more prominent articles appeared under a major back page headline, 'Blues court threat', in the *Melbourne Sun* of 15 June:

'Canberra's Belconnen Football Club is planning legal action against VFL club Carlton after it refused to consider compensation for poaching its coach, Alex Jesaulenko. A furious Belconnen president, Professor John Molony, said last night he had referred the matter to the club solicitors....' "This behaviour reinforces my remark to Mr Collins yesterday that the behaviour of his club both towards the media and towards the public has made it a byword of arrogance throughout Australia."

It had been an exciting time but a disruptive one. Brian Read took over the coaching reins with enthusiasm. However, his task was a difficult one as anyone who has taken over a side mid-season would testify.

After winning our next match against Tuggeranong we lost four before registering our last win for the year, again against Tuggeranong. That match was to be John Dess's 130th and his last for the Club. He finally succumbed to injury. John had been a great player for the Club over 12 years. For two of those years he had been First Grade captain, and for two others he had represented the ACT with honour. It was a sad way to end such a distinguished career.

Although we had won just five games for the year, we qualified for the first semi-final against Manuka. It was our first First Grade finals appearance in ten years.

Despite the efforts of Sean Michelle and Joe Box, who dominated all day in the ruck, we were never in the hunt. By half time Manuka led 7.4 to 3.3 and by the final siren had run out winners 11.13(79) to 5.8(38). Aside from Bozo and Joe, *The Canberra Times* highlighted the efforts of Dale Frankel and Peter Taylor, who soldiered on strongly in defence, and nominated Dean Falconer, David Bennett, Peter Clayden, Darren Stuart and Peter Bradley as 'other triers'.



FIRST GRADE

- Standing: Gary Schmidt, Brian Read, Damien Molony, Dale Frankel, Peter Taylor, Joe Box, Peter Graham, Sean Michelle, Clinton Bravo, David Bennett, Peter Wallensky, Peter Clayden, Tony Hogan, Geoff Hawker, John Dess, Paul Kelly, Andy Anderson
- Crouching: Nick Culnane, Sean Walsh, Mick Hassett, Alan Lyall, Rob Walker, Greg Richter, Darren Stuart, Ross Howe, Dean Falconer, Peter Bradley



John Dess - Finally succumbed to injury after 130 games over 12 years.

Reserve Grade started the season well with wins over Tuggeranong (by 119 points) and Manuka (by 28 points). We were to win just four of our remaining 13 games in the home and away series but that was enough for us to qualify for the first semi-final against Manuka.

Our side for the day was:

B	Tooma Papinniemi	Mick Molony	David Williamson
HB	Gary Whytcross	Mick Sloan	Tony Stubbs
C	Peter Ludwig	Gary Scott	Adam Lean
HF	Tom Monaghan	Greg Gill	Wayne Middleton
F	Darren Browning	Mick Pledge	Garth Brooks
Followers:	Glenn Wilson, Rob Kelly, John Phillips		
Inter:	Grant Martin, Peter Jonas		

It was an experienced lineup. Ten players had played First Grade - a total of 320 games.



RESERVE GRADE

Standing: Gary Schmidt, Bill Campbell, Wayne Middleton, Tom Monaghan, Shane Bellchambers, Tony Stubbs, Mick Molony, John Phillips, Mick Sloan, Rob Kelly, Darren Browning, Greg Gill, Adam Lean, Gary Scott, Glenn Wilson, Grant Martin, Garth Brooks, Peter Jonas, David Williamson, Mick Pledge, Peter Ludwig, Geoff Hawker, Andy Anderson
Kneeling: Gary Whytcross, Tooma Papinniemi

Unfortunately, from the start it was clearly not going to be our day. Manuka jumped to a 9.11 to 3.3 lead by half time and never looked back. The final score was 11.7(73) to 18.16(124). Nevertheless, there had been some good individual performances from Greg Gill, Rob Kelly, David Williamson, Mick Molony and Gary Whytcross.

The Under 19s were going to have a good year. Ten of the previous year's very talented side were again eligible to play and some quality Under 17s were moving through, including Ben Aulich, Steven Briggs, Nick Culnane, Jim Dawes, Jamie Horne, Evan Hourigan, Jason Kidney, David Klep, Wayne Read, Adam Jones, Brent Smith and Steven Netting.

After four games we were undefeated. In our fifth game, against arch rival Eastlake, we played poorly to lose 9.4(58) to 1.7(13). There could be no excuses for our effort since we had a strong side playing that day.

We were to win the ten remaining games of the home and away season to qualify for the second semi-final against Eastlake in a year with remarkable similarities to 1974. As in 1974

we lost just one game for the year. As in 1974 that loss was to arch rival Eastlake. We hoped the similarities would continue - to give us our second Under 19 premiership.

Coach Chris Aulich used the loss to Eastlake during the year to ensure that we approached the second semi-final in the right frame of mind. This worked well. By half time we had a two goal lead but play had been tight. In the third quarter Eastlake dominated to kick four goals and take an eleven point lead by three quarter time. Steven Briggs kicked an early goal to reduce the difference to one kick and then Damon Bryce kicked two and David Klep two for us to run out winners 12.10(82) to 10.10(70). It had been a tough test for us and we had come through with flying colours. However, we still had to win the big one.

As expected, our opponents in the grand final were to be Eastlake. The similarities with 1974 continued.

Our side was:

B	Tony Gibbon	Ian Jones	Adam Jones
HB	Jim Dawes	Greg Richter	Mick Hassett
C	Brent Smith	Nick Culnane	Travis Macilwain
HF	Ben Aulich	Tony Mahar	Steve Netting
F	David Klep	Andrew Tattersall	James Watson
Followers:	Steven Briggs, Jamie Horne, Damon Bryce		
Inter:	Ian Donlan, Jason Kidney		

It was a great side. Sixteen of the twenty would go on to play First Grade for the Club - a total of 306 games (and still increasing).



UNDER 19s

Standing: Kym Austin, Greg Weir, Travis Macilwain, Nick Culnane, Brent Smith, Jason Kidney, Chris Aulich, David Klep, Jamie Horne, Phil Ryder, Evan Hourigan, John Molony
 Kneeling: Steve Netting, Ian Donlan, Ian Jones, Adam Wheelens, David O'Rourke, Tony Mahar, Steven Briggs, Greg Richter, Jim Dawes, Andrew Tattersall
 Sitting: Wayne Read, Adam Jones, James Watson, Simon Hobbs, Mick Hassett, Damon Bryce, Steve Wood, Ben Aulich, Adam Souter

The first half was as expected - a tough low scoring affair. By half time we had a two point lead - 5.6 to 5.4. The third quarter was our best. We kicked three goals, one each to Nick Culnane, Ben Aulich and Brent Smith, and kept Eastlake goalless. We maintained the pressure throughout the last term, kicking three goals to two, to run out winners by 29 points. We had won only our third ever premiership and the first in ten years.

The Canberra Times reported as follows:

'The difference between the two sides was Belconnen's ability to capitalise on limited opportunities while Eastlake had fewer opportunities with goal-sneak Matthew Smith being well contained by Damon Bryce.'

'Belconnen had plenty of good contributors with Tony Mahar, Nick Culnane, James Watson, Jamie Horne, Brent Smith and Ben Aulich leading the way while the defence, led by Greg Richter and Michael Hassett, stood up strongly against the repeated thrusts of the Lakes.' (TCT, 25/9/89)

Our Monaro side struggled for much of the year for numbers. However, coach Gerry Monaghan tackled his job with commitment and could be well pleased under the circumstances with the team's seventh-place.

Developments off the field during the year tended to overshadow our efforts on the field. The loss of Alex Jesaulenko had been a major blow. However, a greater blow was the sale of our beloved Shed.

Support continued to dwindle in 1989. During the year the Shed's financial position had deteriorated to the extent that football operations were now financially supporting it. After a comprehensive examination of options by a sub-committee headed by Vice President, Campbell Brede, members decided that in the interests of the Belconnen Australian Football Supporters Club the Shed should be sold. We had a willing buyer in neighbouring Western Districts Rugby Union Club. Campbell announced the sale on 28 July.

A wake was held on Friday, 8 September to say goodbye to something that had a special place in many hearts. The Down Brothers performed that night and brought tears to many eyes with their song entitled simply 'Ode to the Shed' to the tune of 'Those were the days'. Here is an excerpt:

*'In 1971 we built a clubhouse
A modest place but plans were big and bold
Just sufficient space to raise a glass in
But to us it was a palace lined with gold*

*Support was pretty thin way back in those days
And more games were lost than games were won
But through it all the Shed was there to welcome
Supporters, players, coaches - everyone*

*Chorus: That was the Shed my friends
We thought it'd never end
We'd drink and dream for ever and a day
Home of Belconnen Blues
We'd play and never lose
For we were young and sure to have our way*

*For nearly 20 years the Shed's cared for us
 Heard stories that outside we'd never tell
 Shared our joys and sorrows, learnt our secrets
 Caught us when we swayed, then drunken fell*

*As we raise a glass here for the last time
 And pause as memories come rushing by
 Rejoice that through the friends now all around us
 The spirit of the Shed will never die*

Final chorus

*We are the Shed my friends
 Our bond will never end
 We will fight on for ever and a day
 We'll meet the goals we choose
 For the Belconnen Blues
We are the Shed and that's the way we'll stay*



Brian Read, Tom Allison, Laurie Moloney and Bryan Sheridan - four of our more successful coaches at the closing of the Shed.

With the sale of the Shed, the BAFSC moved to Western Districts. It was a gloomy end to the year as reflected in John Molony's report to members:

'Never before has Belconnen attracted so few supporters, never before has the Club rested in the hands of so few committee members to make it work. The fact is that, apart from the players and a small number of totally dedicated people, we have scarcely any basis in the community.'

Two life memberships were awarded at the annual Presentation Night - to Gary Schmidt and Peter Taylor. Gary was awarded life membership for his service to the Club as a trainer over 17 years. During that time he developed his expertise to make him one of the best trainers in the ACT. Pup was honoured after 239 games with the Club over 15 years. During that time he won the First Grade Best and Fairest award an unprecedented five times and was runner-up three times. In 1977 Pup shared the T.A.Wharton Under 19 League medal. In 1985 he was awarded a merit award for playing services to the Club.

1990 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN FOOTBALL CLUB: John Molony/David Bennett

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Ray Baguley, Amanda Crumblin, Frank Goddard, Rob Goddard, Peter Jonas, Peter Metha, Peter Monaghan, Rob Walker, Tony Wheelens

	COACHES	CAPTAINS
FIRST GRADE:	Brian Read	David Bennett
RESERVES:	Gerry Monaghan	Mick Sloan
UNDER 19s:	Peter Bradley	Sean Miller

TRAINERS: Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt, Kym Austin, Geoff Hawker, Steve Ryder

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS	RESERVES	UNDER 19s
Queanbeyan 72	Queanbeyan 68	Ainslie 72
Ainslie 62	Ainslie 64	Belconnen 56
Manuka 38	Manuka 52	Manuka 52
Belconnen 26	Tuggeranong 24	Eastlake 36
Tuggeranong 16	Belconnen 20	Queanbeyan 20
Eastlake 14	Eastlake 4	Tuggeranong 4

First Grade First Semi-final: Belconnen 17.13(115) defeated Manuka 13.14(92)

First Grade Preliminary Final: Belconnen 9.10(64) lost to Queanbeyan 34.18(222)

Under 19s Second Semi-final: Belconnen 12.4(76) lost to Ainslie 15.13(103)

Under 19s Preliminary Final: Belconnen 13.7(85) lost to Manuka 15.13(103)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	FIRSTS	RESERVES	UNDER 19s
Best and Fairest	Ben Aulich/ Dale Frankel	Grant Martin	Daryl Read
Runner-up		Damon Bryce	Wayne Read
Most Improved	Ross Howe	David Williamson	Simon Badenoch
Most Consistent	Brett Matthews	Ian Donlan	Matthew O'Brien
Coach's Trophy	Steve Netting		
Most Courageous	Alan Lyall		
Best First Year Player	Ben Aulich		
Most Determined			Damien Dawe
Best Team Player		Greg Booth	

BEST CLUBMAN: Tony Wheelens

ACT REPRESENTATIVES: Ben Aulich, Dale Frankel, Jamie Smith, Brett Matthews

LEADING GOALKICKER : Rob Walker (28)

100 GAME MILESTONE: Alan Lyall, Dean Falconer

1990

Western Districts had welcomed us as an affiliated club in late 1989 so that by early 1990 we were comfortable in our new surroundings. With Brian Read continuing as First Grade coach and with the success of our Under 19s in 1989, the year held promise. However, we had suffered major player losses, including Clinton Bravo, Peter Clayden, John Dess, Andy Endall, Peter Graham, Rob Kelly, Sean Michelle, Darren Stuart, Peter Wallensky, Gary Whytcross and Peter Taylor. Pup had intended to retire but as the statistics show, he was to return for one more year. Andy, Rob, Sean and Clinton would all return to the Club in later years. These and other losses reduced player depth to the extent that we did not enter a team in the Monaro competition.

On the positive side of the ledger we regained the services of Jamie Smith, who had recovered from injury, and Brett Matthews, who had returned from South Australia. New recruits included Damien Tuck, a tough utility player from Corowa; Brad Parker a high flying ruckman from Henty; and Alan Tutt, a rover from Ainslie.

Our first First Grade side for the year included Under 19 Matthew Warnken and five of the previous year's Under 19 premiership team - David Klep, Mick Hassett, Ben Aulich, Greg Richter and Steven Briggs. Two more, Travis Macilwain and Jamie Horne, were selected the following week and another, Tony Mahar, the week after. Our selectors were clearly placing much faith in our youth.

The inexperience in the team may have affected performances in the first two thirds of the season since we won just three of our first twelve matches, two against Eastlake and one against Tuggeranong. However, as our younger brigade became used to the pace of First Grade football our performances improved. We won four of our last seven home and away matches, including a great ten point win over Manuka in very muddy conditions at Phillip, to qualify for the first semi-final to give us another shot at Manuka.

Our side was:

B	Tony Stubbs	Alan Lyall	Ross Howe
HB	Damien Tuck	Dale Frankel	Damien Molony
C	Steve Netting	Brett Matthews	Sean Walsh
HF	Ben Aulich	David Bennett	Rob Arranz
F	Sean Miller	Tony Hogan	Wayne Read
Followers:	Brad Parker, Jamie Smith, Owen Gregory		
Inter:	Matthew Warnken, Damon Bryce		

Fifteen of the twenty were products of the Club's junior and/or under age ranks. We had an average age of just 21 years.

Pressure was intense at the start of the game. Brian Read had the boys stirred up for a big performance. It was goal for goal in the first quarter. By quarter time Manuka held a one point lead. Inspired by our young brigade in Ben Aulich, Steve Netting, and Damon Bryce, we kicked 6.4 to 2.4 in the second quarter to take a handy 23 point lead at half time. Manuka came back hard in the third quarter to kick 5.4 to our 1.3 and wrest the lead from us at three quarter time - 11.11 to 11.9.

Under the guidance of David Bennett and Alan Lyall, our younger players steadied. We kicked six goals to two in the final term to run out winners 17.13(115) to 13.14(92). David Bennett and Alan Lyall had had a marked effect on the game. In the ruck Brad Parker had given Leigh McPhan (later to join Belconnen) a good run for his money. Sean Walsh, Steve Netting, Brett Matthews, Ben Aulich and Damon Bryce also had good games.

It was a marvellous result, particularly given the youth of our side and fully vindicated the selectors' faith in our younger players.

After the game Rob Goddard and David Bennett went to the Manuka Football Club to collect the Neil Conlan Trophy - the trophy contested between the two clubs in honour of the great coach. Manuka officials refused to hand the trophy over arguing that it was not contested in finals matches. It was a petty argument but probably reflects the pressure they were under to take some difficult decisions about their club's future. They rushed to an urgent committee meeting while Rob and David were there. The outcome of the meeting was a recommendation to members that Manuka amalgamate with Eastlake to form a new football team - Southern District.

Two changes were made to the side for the preliminary final - Andrew Tattersall and Sean Miller were brought in for Tony Hogan, who would be overseas, and the injured Damien Molony. We were to play Queanbeyan. The closest we had come to them all year was 104 points.

From the first bounce it became evident we would struggle. Queanbeyan kicked four goals to our one in the first quarter and extended their lead to 45 points by half time. However, Alan Lyall was doing a great job on Queanbeyan's star full forward, Steve Cornish, holding him to just one goal.

Unfortunately, the flood gates opened in the second half with Cornish kicked a staggering ten goals to give him eleven for the game. *The Canberra Times* reported that Alan Lyall should be proud of an honest day's work in defence as he cleaned up and cleared with authority. But, perhaps unfairly, the statistics at the end of the day reduced his performance. The final scores were Queanbeyan 34.18(222) to Belconnen 9.10(64). Best players had been Ben Aulich, Jamie Smith, Brad Parker, Sean Walsh and Alan Lyall. *The Canberra Times* concluded:

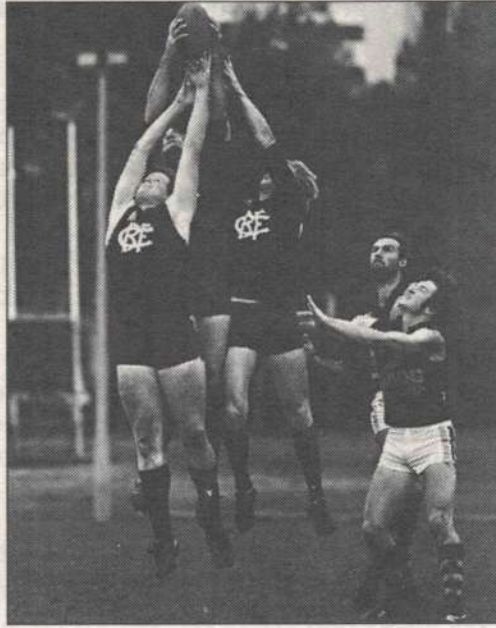
*'Belconnen coach Brian Read will be disappointed at bowing out so ingloriously, nevertheless pleased with his young side's performance for the season'.
(TCT, 1/10/90)*

Reserves had a disappointing year. They won just three games - all against bottom side Eastlake. Our first win over Eastlake was to be significant since it was the last game played by Mick Pledge.

Over ten years Mick had played 119 games with the Club and was Reserve Grade coach in 1989. He would be greatly missed because he played with total commitment and much enthusiasm. Mick was a great character on and off the field. On a memorable end-of-season players' trip away Mick had been told by Bags, David Bennett's roommate, of the fine striped flannelette pyjamas Curly had brought with him. Mick was so impressed with the pyjamas (and especially their appearance on a players' trip away) that he wore them out, complete with bow-tie, to a nightclub in South Melbourne. The bouncer allowed Mick to enter since dress rules were explicit about rejecting jeans but not pyjamas. Not surprisingly, our group was the subject of stares all night. David was particularly embarrassed and never wore those pyjamas again.

In thirteen games Reserves had failed to kick ten goals or more. In ten games we kicked six goals or less. Despite picking up 8 premiership points due to opponents playing unregistered players we finished fifth for the year.

After such a great year in 1989, big things were again expected of our Under 19s. Thirteen of last year's team were still eligible to play. In addition there were some talented Under 17s moving through, including Simon Badenoch, Paul Craig, Damien Dawe, Owen Gregory, Brett Matheson, Sean Miller, Matthew O'Brien, Terry O'Kane, Daryl Read, Andrew Reed and Phil Ryder.



Mick Pledge - a character on and off the field. Note three Belconnen players up and none down.

We started the season well with a ten point win over a strong Ainslie side but then lost the next two games - to Eastlake and Manuka. By the fourth round we were settling down as a combination. We won the next four matches, including big wins over Eastlake and Manuka. For the rest of the home and away matches we performed well, losing just four more games - three times to Ainslie and once to Eastlake. Twelve wins for the year gave us second position and a shot at Ainslie in the second semi-final. Despite some accurate goal-kicking we were outclassed by Ainslie, going down 15.13(103) to 12.4(76).

Our opponents in the preliminary final were Manuka, a side we had beaten three times during the year. By half time we had jumped to a lead of 26 points. However, Manuka over-ran us in the third quarter to kick nine goals to our one. We fought hard in the last term but could make little impression on the deficit, eventually going down 15.13(103) to 13.7(85). Simon Badenoch, Adam Jones, David Klep, Jim Dawes and Phil Ryder had played well but it had been a disappointing end to a year which had promised much.

Major changes had occurred off the field during the year. John and Denise Molony left Australia for a stay in Dublin and David Bennett took over as President. Despite the disruption, we had a good year financially, raising \$73,000. This was due in no small measure to the efforts of our Patron, Bob McMullan. Thanks to Bob we secured a major sponsorship with Westfield and continue to enjoy the support of Westfield today.

ACTAFL were looking to expand the competition by admitting West Canberra as a second side from the Belconnen area in 1991. The Club Committee was concerned about our lack of player depth and the serious plight we would face in the future if a second side from Belconnen were to enter the League. At the same time West Canberra Football Club approached us about a possible affiliation arrangement. This would be different to the amalgamation arrangements in 1986 and 1987. This time Belconnen would control football operations and West Canberra would provide financial and other support to Belconnen. If the affiliation were to go ahead West Canberra would not re-enter ACTAFL. A West Canberra proviso to any affiliation arrangement was that we change jumpers to the West Canberra black and white.

At our Annual General Meeting the Committee recommended that we accept the affiliation offer. The recommendation was accepted by the AGM and we moved our base for the second time in just over twelve months. A new era for the Club had begun.

1991 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN FOOTBALL CLUB: David Bennett

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Dan Dawes, Shane Evans, Frank Goddard, Rob Goddard, Ross Howe, Peter Jonas, Steve Netting, Mick Price, Norm Smith, Rob Walker, Tony Wheelens, David Williamson

	COACHES	CAPTAINS
FIRST GRADE:	Brian Read	Marc Housley
RESERVES:	Leigh McPhan	Mick Sloan
UNDER 19s:	Geoff Bartley	Andrew Reed
MONARO:	Paul McCaskill	Paul McCaskill

TRAINERS: Andy Anderson, Gary Schmidt, Kym Austin, Geoff Hawker, Steve Ryder

HOW WE FINISHED

<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>	<u>MONARO (Div 1)</u>
Queanbeyan 56	Southern District 52	Belconnen 58	RMC 52
Southern District 48	Belconnen 50	Southern District 38	ANU 44
Ainslie 36	Queanbeyan 40	Ainslie 36	UCanberra 40
Belconnen 16	Ainslie 26	Tuggeranong 24	ADFA 32
Weston Creek 16	Weston Creek 12	Queanbeyan 12	East Canberra 28
Tuggeranong 8	Tuggeranong 0	Weston Creek 12	Ainslie 16
			Belconnen 8
			Queanbeyan 4

First Grade First Semi-final: Belconnen 10.11(71) lost to Ainslie 26.15(171)
 Reserve Grade Second Semi-final: Belconnen 14.11(95) defeated Southern District 11.16(82)
Reserve Grade Grand Final: Belconnen 13.13(91) defeated Southern District 11.6(72)
 Under 19s Second Semi-final: Belconnen 17.11(113) defeated Southern District 3.6(24)
 Under 19s Grand Final: Belconnen 8.10(58) lost to Ainslie 14.12(96)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>	<u>MONARO</u>
Best and Fairest	Brent Smith	Evan Hourigan	Andrew Reed	Paul McCaskill
Runner-up	Neil Mardling	Scott Reid	Brett Matheson	Peter Pocock
Most Improved	Brad Parker		Ian Barton	Daniel O'Dea
Most Consistent	Marc Housley	Peter Bradley	Paul Craig	Neville Hickmott
Coach's Trophy	Sean Walsh	David Williamson	David Bugg	
Most Courageous	Alan Lyall			
Best F/Y Player	Terry O'Kane			
Most Determined			Rob Cowdroy	
Best Team Player		Mark Diamond		

BEST CLUBMAN: Paul McCaskill
LEADING GOALKICKER : Marc Housley (39)
100 GAME MILESTONE: Greg Gill, Mick Molony
MULROONEY MEDAL: Brent Smith
RESERVE GRADE LEAGUE MEDAL: Sean Walsh
UNDER 19 LEAGUE MEDAL: Andrew Reed

1991

With Brian Read again at the helm and a reasonably successful season in 1990, we were hopeful of a good year on the field. However, we had again suffered badly from player losses, including Ben Aulich (to South Adelaide), Tony Hogan, Tony Mahar, Damien Molony, Darrel Scotland and Matthew Warnken. In addition, Jamie Smith would miss the whole season through injury.

On the positive side, we were lucky to pick up three experienced players in Marc Housley, a Queensland State representative rover from Caloundra (and who also had AFL experience with Richmond), Neil Mardling, a strong centre half back from Corowa and Leigh McPhan, a ruckman from Manuka (and West Canberra). Leigh was appointed Reserve Grade coach. In addition, Peter Taylor, Sean Michelle and Kyran O'Shaughnessy had returned.

Our first game for the year was against newcomers Weston Creek. While they had recruited some quality experienced players, we were expected to win. Unfortunately, we suffered injuries to five key players during the game - Marc Housley, Dale Frankel, Leigh McPhan, Dean Falconer and Peter Taylor. Under the circumstances, the eight point loss was a commendable effort. Nevertheless, it was not the best way to start the year.

Our circumstances deteriorated further for the second match of the year, against Queanbeyan, when Brent Smith withdrew due to injury and Sean Michelle was unavailable. We lost that game and the next two, to Southern District and Ainslie, before coming up against Tuggeranong. With players returning from injury we were looking desperately for our first win of the season. From the outset we outclassed our opposition and ran out winners 35.16(226) to 10.7(67).



FIRST GRADE

Standing: Brian Read, Dale Frankel, Leigh McPhan, Terry O'Kane, John Kennedy, David Klep, Neil Mardling, David Bennett, Jeff Scheetz, Brad Parker, Brent Smith, Kyran O'Shaughnessy, Tony Wheelens

Kneeling: Greg Richter, Scott Green, Ross Howe, Steve Netting, Sean Walsh, Brett Matthews, Owen Gregory, Marc Housley, Peter Taylor

It looked as though we had turned the corner - but alas it was not to be. We performed poorly in the next three games, against Weston Creek, Queanbeyan and Southern District, to

lose by big margins before coming up once again against Weston Creek. It was a game we had to win since a loss meant we would need to defeat one of the top three sides, Ainslie, Queanbeyan and Southern District, to tip Weston Creek out of fourth position. In a tough and tense encounter we threw everything at Weston Creek but at the end of the day had failed by just ten points. All was doom and gloom. Our chances of defeating one of the top three were small.

The next game was against Ainslie on 4 August at Jamison. By quarter time we had a handy lead, 5.6 to 3.3. Ainslie hit back hard in the second term, aided by some poor disposal by us. They kicked seven goals to our two to lead by 20 points at half time. After the break Ainslie kicked the first two goals and it looked as though the match was over. However, we recovered superbly thanks to the efforts of Marc Housley, Dale Frankel and Sean Walsh up forward and Terry O'Kane in defence. We went goal for goal with Ainslie to give a three quarter time score of Ainslie 16.14 to Belconnen 13.9. The last quarter would have to rate as one of the best ever from a Belconnen side. We continued to build on the momentum of the third quarter, kicking six goals to Ainslie's two. With just seconds to go we had a one point lead. Tension around the ground was high because there was so much hanging on the result. Here is how *The Canberra Times* saw it:

'As cries of "How long to go?" echoed around the ground, the Belconnen timekeeper sat with his finger suspended above the siren, one eye on the game, one eye on the stopwatch, and screams from the Belconnen bench of "Push the bloody thing!" reverberating in his ears.

My, how long ten seconds can take to tick by.

Finally the button was pushed - and not before time for the Magpie supporters as the ground shook with a level of noise not heard at Jamison Oval for many a season.'
(TCT, 5/8/91)

We had won by one point. One supporter making as much noise as anyone as he ran onto the ground was our Club patron, Bob McMullan. Bob had shared many of our lows in recent years and it was appropriate that he was present to see the Belconnen spirit come to the fore.

For any who may have doubted the strength of the Belconnen spirit, their doubts would have been dispelled that day.

With predictable wins over Tuggeranong (twice) and losses to Queanbeyan and Southern District, we finished fourth and had qualified to play Ainslie in the first semi-final.

Our side for the day was:

B	Greg Richter	Leigh McPhan	Peter Taylor
HB	Ross Howe	Neil Mardling	Steve Netting
C	Terry O'Kane	David Bennett	Kyran O'Shaughnessy
HF	Sean Walsh	Dale Frankel	Brent Smith
F	Evan Hourigan	David Klep	Brett Matthews
Followers:	Joe Box, Owen Gregory, Marc Housley		
Inter:	Scott Green, Alan Lyall, Brad Parker		

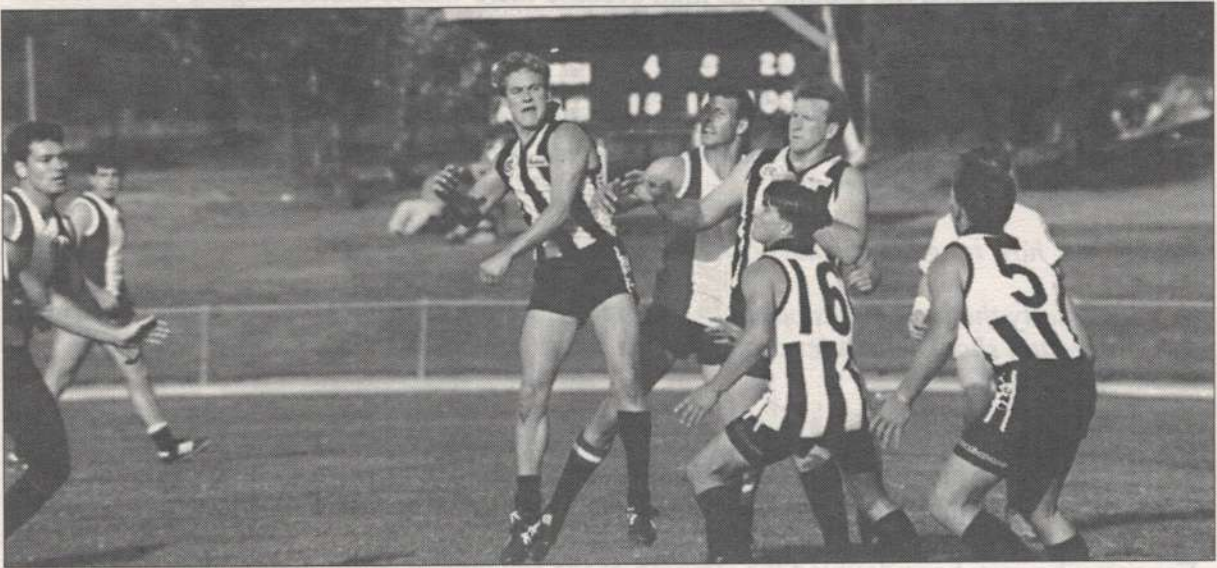
As it turned out, we had played our semi-final five weeks earlier. Apart from the efforts of Marc Housley, Neil Mardling, David Bennett, Alan Lyall and Sean Walsh, it was a disappointing day. Ainslie had a commanding 16.7 to 4.4 lead by half time and by the final siren had kicked 26.15(171) to our 10.11(71).

It had been a reasonable year for Firsts but importantly we had given many younger players an opportunity to adjust to First Grade football.

Reserves had a formidable look, benefitting from the inclusion of many of the West Canberra Monaro team of 1990. We lost just two games during the home and away series - both times to Southern District - to finish second.

In the second semi-final against Southern District we started slowly to trail by four goals at half time. Playing with more purpose and commitment in the third term we kicked six goals and kept Southern District goalless. In a tight last quarter we went goal for goal to maintain our lead to win 14.11(95) to 11.16(82) and make an appointment for our fourth Reserve Grade grand final. Evan Hourigan had been dangerous all day around goals and David Williamson and Alan Lyall had been particularly effective in defence.

A boost to the Club prior to grand final day was the success of Belconnen players in winning ACTAFL individual honours. Brent Smith became the third Belconnen player to win the Mulrooney Medal, Sean Walsh became the third Belconnen player to win the McNamara Medal for best and fairest Reserve Grade player and Andrew Reed became another in a long line of Belconnen champions to win the T.A. Wharton Under 19 League medal.



Brent Smith - Mulrooney Medal winner.

The grand final was to be against Southern District. Our side was:

B	David Williamson	Alan Lyall	Mick Sloan
HB	Nick Hately	Kel Glossop	Wayne Read
C	Michael Johnston	Mark Diamond	Simon Hobbs
HF	John Broekhuysse	David Klep	Peter Bradley
F	Tony Stubbs	Ian Macaulay	Damien Dawe
Followers:	Joe Box, Scott Reid, Evan Hourigan		
Inter:	Andy Endall, Rob Walker		

The game started with Southern District kicking with the wind. Tackling was ferocious and players were given little time to dispose of the ball. By quarter time Southern District held a five point lead but we had done well against the breeze. With the breeze we kicked three goals to Southern District's two to take a five point lead by half time. Despite kicking against the breeze in the third quarter, we gained the upper hand but still could not shake off the opposition. By three quarter time we led 7.7 to 6.6 and were coming home with the breeze.

After kicking three quick goals in the final term we appeared to have the game won. Just as some of the players were thinking the same, Southern District hit back with four goals to

make the difference just twelve points. We steadied in time, with Rob Walker kicking two goals in time-on, to give us only our second ever Reserve Grade premiership.

Mark Diamond had dominated in the centre all day. He was helped by the efforts of Joe Box in the ruck. Others to do well were Tony Stubbs, Rob Walker, Scott Reid and David Klep.



RESERVE GRADE PREMIERS

Back row: Leigh McPhan, Grant Martin, John Broekhuysse, Joe Box, Kel Glossop, David Klep, Paul Montgomery
 Middle row: David Williamson, Mark Diamond, Nick Hately, Wayne Read, Mick Sloan, Evan Hourigan, Scott Reid, Tony Stubbs
 Front row: Andy Endall, Grant Sharman, Peter Bradley, Rob Walker, Michael Johnston, Ian Donlan, Simon Hobbs, Alan Lyall

Under 19s had another great year. We finished the home and away series undefeated. The one blemish had been a draw against Southern District early in the year. During the season we equalled the Under 19 record for longest winning sequence - 13 games. The thirteenth win was in the second semi-final against Southern District. A win in the grand final would give us a premiership and a Club record of fourteen straight wins. Our opponents were to be Ainslie following a surprising win over favoured Southern District in the preliminary final. Our side was:

B	Scott Chapman	Phil Ryder	Ian Barton
HB	Rob Cowdroy	Rob Arranz	Greg McClymont
C	Daryl Read	Andrew Reed	Matt Williams
HF	Gerard Corradini	Terry O'Kane	Simon Badenoch
F	Sean Miller	Paul Craig	David Bugg
Followers:	Adam Wheelens, Brett Matheson, Andrew Irwin		
Inter:	Todd Crawford, Greg Taylor		

Compared with our previous Under 19 champion teams, it was inexperienced. Eight players had First Grade experience but between those eight they had played just 30 First Grade games. Nevertheless, we were a very talented side and had accounted for Ainslie easily in all three games during the year. We approached the game confidently.

From the bounce it became clear we had a fight on our hands. Ainslie were a mature Under 19s side that had adopted a strong physical style to counter our undoubted skills. By half time we had not come to grips with the Ainslie tactics and were trailing 3.4 to 10.8. The second half was a dour affair but no matter how hard we tried, we could make little impression on the margin. As the final siren sounded we had kicked 8.10(58) to Ainslie's 14.12(96).

It was a bitterly disappointing result given our record for the year. However, it was also a valuable learning experience for a young side. Next time we would be ready.

We again entered a team in the Monaro competition since player numbers were high, largely as a result of the affiliation. Paul McCaskill took on the job of coach and did a great job in getting a side together each week. Although we struggled throughout the year, finishing seventh with two wins, all those involved with the side had an enjoyable time. The side also provided important back-up to the Reserves and can rightly claim some credit for the Reserve Grade premierships.

The end of the playing year marked the end of an era for the Club with the retirement of one of our greats - Peter 'Pup' Taylor.



Peter 'Pup' Taylor retires after 17 years of service. His fierce competitiveness would be missed.

Pup played 254 games (219 First Grade) for us over a 17 year period beginning in 1975. During that time he won First Grade best and fairest a record five times and was runner-up three times. He played for the ACT in 1980, 1982 and 1984 to 1987. Most people associated with the Club would have been fortunate enough to have seen Pup play. He was one of the smallest players on the field but through his tenacity and courage was always one of the more prominent. His small stature and cheeky character were no doubt the traits that led Laurie Moloney to coin the nickname 'Pup' way back in the late 1970s. But 'Pup' was appropriate for another reason. Pup's dog, Chewings, was as much an icon around the Club as his master. Chewings was named after the famous Chewings Street house. In the early days Chewings would attend training even more religiously than Pup. Chewings used to travel in the boot of Pup's car. After a particularly hard night's training one Thursday, and given that hard training was not one of his favourites, a tired Pup put Chewings in the boot and headed home. Pup went to bed early that night. During Friday Pup started to wonder where Chewings had gone. It was unlike him to stay away for such a long period - still it was not the first time so there was no point worrying. Saturday morning came and Pup went to the boot to get his footy bag and out jumped Chewings. 'Where have you been Chewings?', said Pup. Chewings did not hang around to reply.

While today old age is curtailing Chewings' involvement with the Club, fortunately for us Pup is as involved as ever as President and First Grade selector.

There are many other stories that could be told about events at Chewings Street. Perhaps one of the more famous is the shaved eyebrow affair. In the early 1980s parties were held at Chewings Street almost weekly. On one such occasion, Mick Dwyer fell asleep after a few (quite a few) drinks. Actually, Mick had an unfortunate habit of falling asleep anywhere after a few drinks. On more than one occasion he nodded off at the Shed. At the Chewings Street party John 'Lawso' Lawson thought it would be a good idea to test how soundly Mick could sleep by attempting to shave off one of Mick's eyebrows. Mick hardly stirred as the deed was done. Needless to say he was a little upset the next morning at his unbalanced appearance. There was more than a smirk from many players when he turned up to training that day with a band-aid above his eye.

Financially, we had had a reasonably successful year, raising \$70,000, just under our target of \$74,000. Income had been affected by the loss of revenue from car raffles, permits for which were not granted in 1991, and the inability of West Canberra to meet its financial commitment under the affiliation agreement. The West Canberra licensed club had agreed to provide a \$25,000 grant to the Club in each of 1991 and 1992 but, due to difficult trading in the recession, was able to provide only the first installment (\$8,000). This severely impacted on the Club's on-field plans for the next few years and led to continuing tension between the Belconnen and West Canberra clubs. However, although the relationship at the Committee level was uneasy, the affiliation was succeeding on the field, with players encouraged to focus their attention on team performance.

For President and player, David Bennett, and the Belconnen Committee the year was a difficult one, but - below the surface - none doubted that affiliation had been the right move or that the present difficulties would be resolved over time as the seemingly fixed attitudes brought by each club became blurred and then forgotten in the common purpose of providing the Belconnen area with well-administered, quality teams playing with the Belconnen spirit.

At the end of the year David Bennett stepped down as President in order to concentrate on one last season as a player. Geoff Bartley, who was already President of West Canberra Football Club, took on the job.

One of the early tasks of the new Committee was to advertise for coaches for 1992. In December Maurie Wingate was appointed First Grade coach. Maurie would bring much experience to the Club. He played 39 senior games with Melbourne Football Club between 1976 and 1978, coached Kyabram in 1983-84, was assistant coach at Nathalia in 1986 and played five seasons with Ainslie, the last two as assistant coach. Leigh McPhan was reappointed Reserve Grade coach and Brian Read was appointed coach of Under 19s.

1992 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN FOOTBALL CLUB: Geoff Bartley

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

David Bennett, Tony Wheelens, Frank Goddard, Rob Goddard, Julieanne Hickmott, Dave Williamson, John Klep, Mick Price, Brian Read, Rob Walker, Sean Walsh, Cathy Craig

COACHES

FIRST GRADE: Maurie Wingate

RESERVES: Leigh McPhan

UNDER 19s: Brian Read

MONARO: Peter Pocock

CAPTAINS

Marc Housley

Mick Sloan

David Bugg

Paul McCaskill

TRAINERS:

Andy Anderson, Geoff Hawker, Kym Austin, Peter Roscoe,
Max Warner, Roger Carter

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Ainslie	52
Queanbeyan	48
Weston Creek	32
Southern District	28
Belconnen	20
Tuggeranong	0

RESERVES

Ainslie	52
Queanbeyan	44
Belconnen	40
Southern District	32
Weston Creek	12
Tuggeranong	0

UNDER 19s

Belconnen	52
Tuggeranong	48
Southern District	32
Weston Creek	32
Queanbeyan	16
Ainslie	0

MONARO (Div 2)

Harman	56
Belconnen	48
Queanbeyan	28
Goulburn	24
Weston Creek	20
Cooma	4

Reserve Grade First Semi-final: Belconnen 7.10(52) lost to Southern District 11.11(77)

Under 19s Second Semi-final: Belconnen 12.9(81) defeated Tuggeranong 11.7(73)

Under 19s Grand Final: Belconnen 14.14(98) defeated Tuggeranong 6.9(45)

Monaro Second Semi-final: Belconnen 16.6(102) defeated Harman 12.8(80)

Monaro Grand Final: Belconnen 16.9(105) defeated Harman 9.4(58)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>	<u>MONARO</u>
Best and Fairest	David Bennett	Glen Hassett	Simon Badenoch	Robert Pocock
Runner-up	Mark Diamond	Mick Molony	Tony Schell	Simon Hobbs/ Andy Patmore
Most Improved	Kel Glossop		Troy Klep	Brett Jones
Most Consistent	Marc Housley	Peter Bradley	Jason Moore	Mark Pocock
Coach's Trophy	Brett Matthews	John Graham/ Phil Willis	David Bugg	
Most Courageous	David Bugg	Damien Dawe		
Best First Year Player	Daryl Read			
Most Determined			Matt Williams	
Best Team Player		Andy Endall		

BEST CLUBMAN:

Julieanne Hickmott/Neville Hickmott

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Marc Housley (53)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

David Williamson

300 GAME MILESTONE:

David Bennett

1992

On joining us Maurie Wingate was quoted in the *The Canberra Times* as follows:

'Every year it has been said that Belconnen shows great potential but they have not gone on with it.

'Last year, I think, proved that they are the competition's sleeping giants, with a win in the reserve-grade premiership, second in the under-19s and fourth in first-grade...'
(TCT, 12/12/91)

Maurie was right of course, but 1992 was not going to be easy with the loss of Joe Box (retired), Dale Frankel (interstate), Owen Gregory (rugby league), Ross Howe (interstate), Alan Lyall (retired), Sean Michelle (interstate), Steve Netting (interstate), Kyran O'Shaughnessy (interstate) and Peter Taylor (retired). In addition, we were to lose ruckman Brad Parker after just one game due to study commitments. However, we had picked up John Kerr and Leigh and Dean Mills from Kedron Grange in Queensland and Damien Carmichael from Essendon Grammar Old Boys. John and Leigh came with substantial reputations and much was expected of them. John was a strong and mobile centre half forward who had played representative football for Queensland and Leigh was a wiry but tough centre half back. Damien was a clever wingman/centreman. In addition, Jamie Smith had returned after another year off through injury.

The season started well with a 15.16(106) to 7.10(52) win over Weston Creek. We had many winners on the day including Kel Glossop at full back, Rob Kelly, Brett Matthews, Brett Matheson, Sean Walsh, Greg Richter and Paul Craig. Captain Marc Housley had a great day kicking five goals.



Maurie Wingate and Chairman of Selectors, Tony Wheelens, complete the pre-match address.

We were to lose comprehensively the next three games, to Queanbeyan, Ainslie and Southern District, before coming up against bottom side Tuggeranong. We won that game 37.13(235) to 5.9(39). In a remarkable forward display, Marc Housley and Ian Macaulay each kicked eleven goals.

After losing narrowly to Weston Creek in round six, we came up against Southern District. It was a must win if we were to make the finals.

From the outset we hit Southern District hard. With Tony Stubbs impassable on the back line and David Bennett giving us great drive around the ground we slipped out to a 5.4 to 4.4 lead at quarter time. The second quarter was largely a repeat of the first. By half time we had a handy lead of 12.6 to 9.5. We drew steadily away in the third term and then kicked five unanswered goals in the first 16 minutes of the last quarter to run out easy winners 22.13(145) to 15.10(100). Here is an excerpt from *The Canberra Times* report:

"Get the old man," urged one Southern District supporter, with Bennett and the Magpies in full flight....

...Bennett turned on some vintage football to read the play well, mark strongly and work the ball forward with clever handpasses.

Bennett found himself in good company as Tony "Barrel" Stubbs turned in an outstanding non-stop display in both defence and attack to continually frustrate the Demons.

Brett "Yabba" Matthews proved his brain and body could work as fast as his chatter...

Mark Diamond, Marc "Gnome" Housley, Terry O'Kane John Kerr and David Klep were others who worked hard to set up Belconnen's richly-deserved 45-point victory. (TCT, 29/6/92)

That game was to be the highlight of our year. We defeated Tuggeranong twice and lost by just four points to equal top side Queanbeyan. In the Queanbeyan game Marc Housley kicked a brilliant eight goals. *The Canberra Times* summarised the game thus:

'Undoubtedly the better team lost on the day after leading at every change and having the better of the Hunny Bunny Tigers everywhere but on the final siren and scoreboard.' (TCT, 13/7/92)

However, by season end we had finished a disappointing fifth, two games behind fourth-placed Southern District. Our effort against Queanbeyan mid-year showed what we were capable of but bad luck during the year with injuries to key players, including Neil Mardling, John Kerr and David Klep, prevented us from performing at our best.

Our last game, against Tuggeranong on 30 August, was the end of a 302 game career for David 'Curly' Bennett. A Belconnen First Grade side without Curly always seemed incomplete and it would take some time to adjust to playing without the famous Number 17 in the sleeved jumper somewhere on the field. It was certainly a day tinged with sadness and the bleakness of the weather seemed appropriate. Freezing rain was blowing almost horizontally across the ground.

In his eighteen year playing career Curly had won the T.A. Wharton Under 19 League medal, three First Grade best and fairest awards, four runner-up best and fairest awards, and one Most Courageous Player award and had represented the ACT in 1979. He was First Grade captain in 1990. David holds Club records for the longest First Grade playing sequence, 109 games, and the longest playing sequence across all grades, 135 games. It is an outstanding record. But what makes it all the more impressive is that while Curly was achieving so much on the field he was contributing in so many other ways off the field, including as a Committee member from 1982 to the present and Club President in 1990 and 1991, when he lead the Club through a difficult transitional period in its relocation to the West Canberra premises.

Curly had few failings on the football field - as his record would testify. However, there were many who thought his perceptions of his goal-kicking talents were not well founded. Such perceptions are common among players who have spent more than 200 games in the

backline. As he approached the twilight of his career, coaches and selectors succumbed to his constant badgering to play in the forward line. To the experienced supporter this could be frustrating but also profitable.



David 'Curly' Bennett celebrates his 302nd and last game for Belconnen with sons Alexander and James.

On one such occasion in 1987 during a match at Jamison, coach Geoff Hocking had been awarded a free kick in the goal square. Unfortunately, Geoff had been injured and could not take the kick. Curly insisted that he take the kick and despite Geoff's protestations, the umpire agreed. A long-standing supporter announced to the crowd standing on the 'hill' in front of the sheds that he would back Curly to miss. A newcomer to the Club thought this was a joke since Curly was just one metre out dead in front. He happily took the bet when he realised it was a serious call.

Curly duly ran in and kicked into the man on the mark. The players were not surprised. Geoff Hocking certainly was not surprised. There was only one surprised face on the hill.

Fortunately for the Club, Curly remains as involved as ever as chairman of selectors and as a member of the Committee.

For Reserves the year was to be a let down after the effort of winning a premiership in 1991. We finished a creditable third after the home and away series, with ten wins and five losses. However, in the first semi-final against Southern District, we lacked any real spark and went down by 25 points.

With the shock loss in the grand final still in the forefront of many minds, the Under 19s played with great determination throughout the year.

After a very successful home and away series in which we lost just two games, we finished top of the ladder and had qualified to meet Tuggeranong in the second semi-final. The match would be a tough one. Tuggeranong had beaten us by nine points two weeks previously.

In many respects the game was similar to our last encounter. There was clearly little difference between the two sides. Fortunately, after a tight battle all day we finished on top - by eight points. We had qualified for the grand final and now had a chance to put the disappointment of last year behind us.

Not surprisingly, our opponents were to be Tuggeranong.

Our side for the day was:

B	Scott Chapman	Phil Ryder	Corey Bell
HB	Simon Usback	Matt Williams	Greg McClymont
C	Jason Moore	Tony Schell	Adam Bloom
HF	Simon Badenoch	Ian Barton	Rowan Schlesinger
F	Paul Netting	Steve Mahar	John Williams
Followers:	Troy McKay, Troy Klep, David Bugg		
Inter:	Sean Kimball, Scott Hammond, Rob Gilbert, Trevor Nation		

The game started as expected. Tension was high and tackling was ferocious. By half time we had edged our way to a four point lead. We had a smaller but much faster and more skilful side than Tuggeranong and we needed the play to open out in the second half to take control. Fortunately, it did. We piled on ten goals in the second half and restricted Tuggeranong to just two. We had won our third Under 19s flag.

We had many good players that day but none better than Greg McClymont, who took some excellent marks and proved to be a real barrier on the half back line. Matt Williams also played a great game at centre half back. Others to stand out were captain David Bugg, who played his usual courageous game and gave us great drive around the packs, Simon Badenoch, who kicked five goals, and Ian Barton at centre half forward.

After a difficult year in Division One in 1991, our Monaro team played in Division Two in 1992. We were competitive all year and finished the home and away season second to a Harman side that had lost just one game all year. The second semi-final was a close match but our superior pace and fitness told to give us a great 16.6(102) to 12.8(80) win. We were to play Harman again in the grand final. Our side was:

B	David Pocock	Bernie Jones	Ian Jones
HB	Paul Dellamarta	Andy Patmore	G Campisi
C	Mark Pocock	Simon Hobbs	John Broekhuysse
HF	Neville Hickmott	Paul McCaskill	Greg Sharman
F	Greg Pocock	Barry Collins	Robert Pocock
Followers:	Bernie Finnerty, Rob Walker, Peter Pocock		
Inter:	Alan Davidson, Kevin McDonald, Michael Drage, Bob Foster		

We were a fast side and our pace was clearly worrying Harman from the outset. By quarter time we had established a three goal lead. This was extended to five at half time and eight at three quarter time. While Harman fought hard in the last quarter, they could make no real impression on the margin. At the siren we led 16.9(105) to 9.4(58). We had won the first ever Monaro premiership for Belconnen. Best players had been the five Pockocks, all of whom used their pace and skills well, Simon Hobbs, Rob Walker and Neville 'Sticks' Hickmott, who won the umpires award for best player on the ground.

Overall, it had been a good year on the field - for the first time we had won two premierships. Firsts showed they had the potential to seriously threaten next year and Reserves had been competitive throughout the year.

Maurie Wingate was reappointed First Grade coach in early September so that he could build on the momentum developing.

Our fund-raising efforts over the year had generated an income of \$51,600, well down on our original target of \$63,300. An important development during the year was a decision by the Lotteries Office to allow us to reintroduce car raffles - a major income source for us.

1993 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN FOOTBALL CLUB: Brian Read

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Pat Brazel, Les Craig, Reg Frankel, Frank Goddard, Julieanne Hickmott, Neville Hickmott, Leigh McPhan, Alan Phillips, Mick Price, Peter Schlesinger, Sean Walsh, Leanne Weinert, Tony Wheelens

	COACHES	CAPTAINS
FIRST GRADE:	Maurie Wingate	Jamie Smith
RESERVES:	Leigh McPhan	Peter Bradley
UNDER 19s:	Brian Read	John Williams
MONARO:	Neville Hickmott/ Robert Pocock	Frank Nash

TRAINERS: Andy Anderson, Geoff Hawker, Kym Austin, Steve Ryder, Peg Townley, Max Warner

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS		RESERVES		UNDER 19s		MONARO (Div 1)	
Weston Creek	72	Southern District	80	Belconnen	80	ADFA	56
Southern District	70	Ainslie	68	Weston Creek	56	ANU	44
Ainslie	64	Belconnen	52	Ainslie	50	RMC	32
Queanbeyan	58	Weston Creek	52	Tuggeranong	48	KingstonWolves	32
Belconnen	36	Queanbeyan	44	Queanbeyan	44	UCanberra	28
Tuggeranong	20	Tuggeranong	28	Southern District	42	East Canberra	24
Batemans Bay	16	Batemans Bay	12	ADFA	16	Belconnen	8

Reserve Grade First Semi-final: Belconnen 11.12(78) lost to Weston Creek 15.16(106)
 Under 19s Second Semi-final: Belconnen 6.12(48) lost to Weston Creek 8.8(56)
 Under 19s Preliminary Final: Belconnen 14.8(92) defeated Tuggeranong 7.11(53)
Under 19s Grand Final: Belconnen 15.11(101) defeated Weston Creek 5.5(35)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	FIRSTS	RESERVES	UNDER 19s	MONARO
Best and Fairest	Marc Housley	Damien Carmichael	Trent Gourgard	Andy Endall
Runner-up	Brent Smith	Greg Richter	Brenden Read	Mark Pocock
Most Improved	Damien Dawe		Justin Lalor	
Most Consistent	Jeff Scheetz	Rowan Schlesinger	Simon Usback	Frank Nash
Coach's Trophy	John Kennedy	Ian Donlan	Paul Gunn	David Pocock
Most Courageous	Wayne Read	Paul Netting		
Best First Year Player	Simon Badenoch		Jason Moore	Tony Gibbon
Most Determined				
Best Team Player		Mick Molony		

BEST CLUBMAN:

Neville Hickmott

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Brett Matthews, Neil Mardling, Terry O'Kane

LEADING GOALKICKER :

Marc Housley (43)

100 GAME MILESTONE:

Sean Walsh

RESERVE GRADE LEAGUE MEDAL:

Greg Richter

UNDER 19 LEAGUE MEDAL:

Brenden Read

1993

Maurie Wingate's reappointment as First Grade coach enabled him to commence preparations for the year early. Turn out at pre-season training was good, particularly among the younger players. It was a year in which we would depend very largely on our talented youth since recruitment activity was negligible. However, we did regain the services of Brad Parker.

Players lost from the 1992 season were John Kerr, Leigh and Dean Mills and Brett Matthews, all of whom moved interstate, Mark Diamond, who was travelling overseas and David Bennett, who had retired.

Overall the season was a disappointment, with just six wins - all against the two bottom teams Tuggeranong and Batemans Bay. However, our results did not accurately reflect our competitiveness, particularly in the second half of the year. In June we lost to Weston Creek by just five points after leading all day. Brent Smith, Jeff Scheetz, Marc Housley, Damien Tuck and Troy Klep turned in great performances to give one of the finals favourites a real scare. In July we gave competition leader, Ainslie, a fright before going down by 22 points. Brent Smith, Marc Housley and Jeff Scheetz again featured in the best players together with Jamie Smith, Damien Dawe and Sean Walsh. The following week, again against Weston Creek, we were just two points down at three quarter time before going down by 20 points. Marc Housley kicked five great goals that day. In our last game for the year we were just two points behind Southern District at three quarter time before losing by 23 points. Best that day had been Neil Mardling, Marc Housley, Kyran O'Shaughnessy and two of our up-and-coming stars, ex-juniors, David Mair and Steve Mahar.



Marc Housley - Best and Fairest for 1993 and leading goal-kicker with 43 for the year.

The year served to introduce five of our talented under age players to senior football. These were Adam Bloom, Troy Klep, Steve Mahar, David Mair, Tony Schell and John Williams. In addition, other young players benefitted from another year in the top grade, including Simon Badenoch, Paul Craig, Damien Dawe, Rob Hanily, David Klep, Terry O'Kane and Daryl Read.

Reserves had a moderately successful year, finishing third at the end of the home and away series. In the lead up to the finals we defeated two of the other three finalists - Ainslie and Weston Creek. The match against Ainslie was a great fighting effort in atrocious conditions. After a full half of football we had kept Ainslie goalless and had kicked four goals ourselves. By full-time the score was Belconnen 7.12(54) to Ainslie 2.12(24). Rob Hanily, Kel

Glossop, Damien Carmichael, Glen Hassett, Nick Hately and Paul Netting dominated all day to set us up confidently for the finals. The win against Weston Creek, by 11 points, was important because we were due to meet them again in the first semi-final in two weeks time.

The first semi-final was a disappointment. Weston Creek played with far more commitment than us and as a result ran out comfortable winners, 15.16(106) to 11.12(78).

Under 19s had another very successful year. At the end of the home and away series we had lost just one game. Our opponents in the second semi-final were Weston Creek. In a tight match in which we had trouble with accuracy in front of goal, Weston Creek caused an upset by defeating us by eight points.

Our opponents in the preliminary final were Tuggeranong, the one side to have beaten us during the home and away series. That loss and the scare from losing the previous week ensured that we approached the game in the right frame of mind. As the game wore on our superior skills and teamwork gave us a comfortable lead. By the final siren the score was Belconnen 14.8(92) to Tuggeranong 7.11(53). We had given ourselves another opportunity to defeat Weston Creek and win consecutive flags - a feat never achieved by a Belconnen side.

Our confidence was given a boost with Brenden Read winning the T.A. Wharton Under 19 League medal in the week preceding the grand final. On the same night Greg Richter won the Reserve Grade League medal, the McNamara Trophy.



Brenden Read being congratulated by ACTAFL President, Kevin Delmenico, on winning the T.A. Wharton League medal for Under 19 Best and Fairest.

Our side for the day was:

B	Matthew Brown	Ben Danaher	Justin Lalor
HB	Daryl Read	Simon Usback	Adam Ryder
C	Trent Gourgard	Tony Schell	Jason Moore
HF	Neil Davill	David Mair	Adam Bloom
F	Rob Gilbert	Steve Mahar	Mick Williams
Followers:	Vaughan Carder, Brenden Read, John Williams		
Inter:	Andrew Garrett, Scott Hammond, Ben Knight, Steve Monohan		

It was a relatively inexperienced side, with just six players having played a total of 35 First Grade games.

With the memory of our last encounter ringing in many heads - suitably reinforced by Brian Read before the game - we hit Weston Creek hard. We dominated from the start and never gave Weston Creek an opportunity to get into the game. At the final siren we had a 66 point lead and had set a new record for the Club - our first consecutive premierships flags.



UNDER 19 PREMIERS

Standing: Paul Gunn, Steve Ryder, Tony Schell (Snr), Brian Read, Brenden Read, Vaughan Carder, David Mair, Steve Mahar, Ben Knight, Adam Ryder, Simon Usback, Ben Danaher, Peg Townley, Andy Anderson

Kneeling: Adam Garrett, Matthew Brown, Scott Hammond, Daryl Read, Jason Moore, Neil Davill, Justin Lalor, Kieren Bennetts

Sitting: Mick Williams, Rob Gilbert, John Williams, Trent Gourgard, Steve Monohan, Adam Bloom, Tony Schell

Our Monaro team struggled throughout the year after being promoted to Division One following the previous year's premiership. We won just two games during the year and finished in seventh place. Nevertheless, the team played with great spirit, thanks largely to the efforts of coach Neville 'Sticks' Hickmott, and provided good support to the Reserves throughout the year.

Financially, 1993 had been another disappointing year. We fell well short of our income target of \$70,200, raising \$56,950.

At the end of the year the Committee advertised all coaching positions. John Harper, a 31 year old ruck rover or half back flanker, was appointed First Grade coach. John had played 43 games with Ainslie in the late 1970s prior to periods with Oakleigh in the VFA, Essendon in the mid-1980s (including 63 Reserve Grade games) and West Torrens and Central Districts in South Australia in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In 1992-93 he had coached Freeling in the Barossa Light and Gawler Football League.

Marc Housley was appointed Reserve Grade coach and Shane Evans took on the position of coach of the Under 19s.

1994 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN FOOTBALL CLUB: Brian Read

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

David Bennett, Pat Brazel, Shane Evans, Reg Frankel, Frank Goddard, Rob Goddard, Neville Hickmott, Leigh McPhan, Mick Price, Scott Reid, Tony Stubbs

	COACHES	CAPTAINS
FIRST GRADE:	John Harper	John Harper
RESERVES:	Marc Housley	Mick Molony
UNDER 19s:	Shane Evans	Brenden Read

TRAINERS: Andy Anderson, Kym Austin, Steve Ryder, Peg Townley

HOW WE FINISHED

FIRSTS

Queanbeyan	76
Ainslie	72
Weston Creek	52
Belconnen	48
Southern District	48
Tuggeranong	28
Batemans Bay	12

RESERVES

Ainslie	64
Belconnen	64
Southern District	60
Tuggeranong	60
Queanbeyan	52
Weston Creek	24

UNDER 19s

Tuggeranong	72
Belconnen	64
Weston Creek	36
Ainslie	32
Queanbeyan	28
Southern District	8

First Grade First Semi-final:	Belconnen 10.18(78) lost to Weston Creek 19.5(119)
Reserves Second Semi-final:	Belconnen 9.9(63) defeated Ainslie 7.12(54)
Reserves Grand Final:	Belconnen 10.7(67) lost to Southern District 10.9(69)
Under 19s Second Semi-final:	Belconnen 5.11(41) lost to Tuggeranong 16.12(108)
Under 19s Preliminary Final:	Belconnen 7.5(47) lost to Ainslie 9.16(70)

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>RESERVES</u>	<u>UNDER 19s</u>
Best and Fairest	Paul Netting	Matt Walsh	Justin Lalor
Runner-up	John Harper	Damien Dawe	Rob Gilbert
Most Improved	Steve Mahar		Adam Ryder
Most Consistent	Marc Housley	Jeff Scheetz	Ben Knight
Coach's Trophy	Damien Carmichael	David Williamson/ John Kennedy	Matt Kimball
Most Courageous	Daryl Read	Mick Hassett	
Best First Year Player	Paul Netting		
Best Team Player		Travis Macilwain	
Most Determined			Ben Danaher

BEST CLUBMAN: Frank Goddard

ACT REPRESENTATIVES: Steve O'Brien, Brent Smith, Steve Mahar, Clinton Bravo

LEADING GOALKICKER : Marc Housley (77)

100 GAME MILESTONE: Mick Hassett, Rob Kelly

RESERVE GRADE LEAGUE MEDAL: Matt Walsh

1994

The Committee decided not to enter a team in the Monaro League in 1994 since player numbers were low as a result of a decision by the West Canberra Football Club to enter a team, a reflection of continuing off-field tension between the two clubs.

John Harper was to commence his association with the Club facing a large exodus of players prior to the start of the season. Players lost were Simon Badenoch, David Klep, Troy Klep, Tony Mahar and Brett Matthews - all of whom moved interstate, Neil Mardling who travelled overseas, Leigh McPhan, who took up the position of coach of ANU, and Brad Parker, who had retired.



John Harper - faced a difficult task following player losses after 1993.

Gains for the year in addition to John Harper were Steve O'Brien, a classy high flying forward from John's previous club, Freeling, Ken Meredith, who had transferred to Canberra with the navy and Matthew Walsh, a young and fast wingman/rover from Tuggeranong. In addition, Clinton Bravo had returned after a period with Minlaton in South Australia.

The season started well with good wins over Tuggeranong 15.12(102) to 10.13(73) and Weston Creek, 12.12(84) to 8.7(55). Steve Mahar, who was still eligible for Under 19s, was playing exceptional football in the ruck and Paul Netting was dominating in defence.

We were to lose four of the next five games, but managed to hold on to fourth position on the ladder behind Queanbeyan, Ainslie and Weston Creek and ahead of Southern District by one game.

After predictable wins against Tuggeranong and Batemans Bay and losses to Queanbeyan and Ainslie we came up against Southern District in a must win match. Unfortunately, Southern District's on-ball players dominated the game. Starved of possession, we trailed all day to eventually lose 7.8(50) to 11.11(77). Despite the loss we held on to fourth place on percentage.

Our next big test came two weeks later against third placed Weston Creek. A win would almost guarantee a first semi-final berth.

Our side for the day was:

B	David Bugg	Clinton Bravo	Rob Hanily
HB	Damien Carmichael	Sean Michelle	Paul Netting
C	Steve O'Brien	John Harper	Paul Craig
HF	Marc Housley	Ken Meredith	Brenden Read
F	John Williams	Terry O'Kane	David Mair
Followers:	Steve Mahar, Brent Smith, Daryl Read		
Inter:	John Kennedy, Sean Miller, Jason Moore		

We started the game well, jumping to a four goal to two lead by quarter time. Marc Housley was looking dangerous up forward and Clinton Bravo and Sean Michelle were doing a good job on Weston Creek's key forwards, Snowden and Trabinger. However, we had lost David Bugg and Steve O'Brien through injury. The subsequent reshuffle allowed Weston Creek to rally in the second quarter to reduce our lead to just four points by half time. The third quarter was tight. We kicked four goals and Weston Creek three to give us a seven point lead at three quarter time. The last quarter was our best. Sean Michelle, Clinton Bravo and Rob Hanily were superb in defence and kept Weston Creek to just one goal. At the other end of the ground Marc Housley continued his good form. By the time he kicked his eighth goal the game was over. The final score was Belconnen 16.11(107) to Weston Creek 10.13(73). Our best players were Marc Housley, John Harper, Clinton Bravo, Sean Michelle, Ken Meredith and Damien Carmichael. The win gave us a four point plus percentage break on fifth-placed Southern District and barring a loss to Batemans Bay virtually assured us of a place in the first semi-final.

The match against Batemans Bay was our second last before the finals. We kicked a Club record score that day, 49.30(324) to 0.1(1). Steve O'Brien kicked 15 goals to equal the First Grade goal-kicking record set by Bill Quade (against stronger opposition) in 1979. In our last home and away game we defeated Southern District 15.10(100) to 10.10(70) to build our confidence for the first semi-final against Weston Creek the following week.

The side selected for the first semi-final differed from the team which had defeated Weston Creek five weeks earlier. Sean Michelle was unavailable and Terry O'Kane and Kyran O'Shaughnessy had returned from injury. This led to a major reshuffle:

B	Paul Netting	Rob Hanily	Adam Ryder
HB	David Mair	Ken Meredith	Paul Craig
C	Terry O'Kane	John Harper	Mark Diamond
HF	Daryl Read	Clinton Bravo	Marc Housley
F	Steve O'Brien	Brent Smith	John Williams
Followers:	Steve Mahar, Damien Carmichael, David Bugg		
Inter:	Kyran O'Shaughnessy, Rob Kelly, Jason Moore		

Weston Creek started the game well, kicking two goals in the opening minutes. Although we soon steadied and kicked two ourselves we let Weston Creek in for three more late in the quarter to give them a handy 18 point lead. The second quarter was a frustrating one for us. Although we had plenty of possession we could not convert our opportunities into goals. By half time Weston Creek had shot to a commanding 11.3 to 4.9 lead. Weston Creek continued to use the ball more effectively than us in the third term and stretched their lead to 39 points by three quarter time. The last quarter was fairly even. By the final siren Weston Creek had scored 19.5(119) to our 10.18(78). While we had had more scoring shots, we had wasted too many opportunities in front of goal and had given up possession too easily. Marc Housley had played well all day. Others to stand out were Clinton Bravo in defence, Steve Mahar, Kyran O'Shaughnessy, John Harper and Terry O'Kane.



Paul Netting - Product of our Under 19s and very popular winner of the First Grade Best and Fairest for 1994 - his first year in senior football.

At the end of the home and away season Reserves had finished second but equal on points with minor premier Ainslie.

There had not been much separating us all year so we were expecting a tough and tight second semi-final. And that is how things turned out. Fortunately, we had a little more desperation on the day and this proved telling. By keeping pressure on Ainslie all game and not giving them any easy kicks we eventually ran out winners 9.9(63) to 7.12(54).

Our grand final opponents were Southern District, after they accounted for Ainslie in the preliminary final.

Prior to the match Matt Walsh was announced the winner of the McNamara Trophy for the best and fairest Reserve Grade player in ACTAFL.

Our side for the day was:

B	Tony Stubbs	David Williamson	Sean Miller
HB	Jamie Smith	Rob Hanily	Mark Browning
C	Matt Walsh	Damien Dawe	Adam Jones
HF	Rowan Schlesinger	John Kennedy	Mark Diamond
F	Glen Hassett	Rob Kelly	Sean Walsh
Followers:	Jeff Scheetz, Travis Macilwain, Mick Hassett		
Inter:	Chris Swift, Graeme Wilson, Peter Bradley		

We kicked with the aid of a breeze in the first quarter but Southern District made most of the running. However, we fought back well in the second quarter to go in at half time just five points down. With the breeze in the third quarter we made the most of our opportunities. Travis Macilwain kicked two goals for the quarter, with singles from Rob Kelly, Jamie Smith and Rowan Schlesinger. By three quarter time we had a 15 point lead but Southern District were coming home with the wind.

The final quarter was very tense. Southern District kicked early goals to take an eight point lead. However, John Kennedy kicked one for us to reduce the margin to two points in time-on. At the bounce we moved the ball forward again and Jeff Scheetz marked on the 50 metre line as the siren went. Jeff is a good kick but against the breeze it was asking too much. His kick fell just metres short. It was a disappointing way to finish a great year. Nevertheless, it had been a great game and a courageous effort by both sides.

Under 19s finished the home and away series in second place behind the very strong Tuggeranong team. After a one-sided second semi-final in which Tuggeranong kicked 16.12(108) to our 5.11(41), we came up against Ainslie in the preliminary final. Ainslie had finished fourth during the year and we had defeated them comfortably each time we had played them. Perhaps as a consequence of this good record we approached the game with less intensity than is needed to win finals. Ainslie played with commitment and dominated for much of the game. The final score was Ainslie 9.16(70) to Belconnen 7.5(47).

Off the field, an important development during the year was the recognition by the National Football League of the service to football by Frank Goddard. Frank became the second Club official, after Ray Baguley in 1986, to be honoured with a National Football League merit award.

It had been a fairly good year for the Club financially. While our income of \$79,100 was below our target of \$84,250, it had been one of our best ever fund-raising years, largely as a result of car raffles success and sponsorship.

During the year the Club lost one of its greatest supporters and servants. Andy (Robert) Anderson died suddenly on 23 July.



Andy Anderson - A great Clubman and wonderful friend.

Andy had been with us as trainer since that very first game against Eastlake at Kingston Oval in 1971. Prior to that he had served Turner Football Club. Andy was awarded life membership of the Club in 1984.

Here is an excerpt from the eulogy delivered by David Bennett at Andy's funeral:

'In his involvement with the Football Club, Andy did much more than minister to the body. As in other areas of life, his service was special because it came with warm friendship, with the open pleasure he found in life and his friends, with cheerfulness, enthusiasm, loyalty and humility and with loving care and concern for each person.'

To the end Andy was with us, taking his turn at training just a week before his death. The Club would certainly push on without Andy but we would not be the same.

1995 AT A GLANCE

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT, BELCONNEN FOOTBALL CLUB: Brian Read/Peter Taylor

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

David Bennett, Pat Brazel, Damien Carmichael, Shane Evans, Reg Frankel,
Frank Goddard, Mick Molony, Bruce Moore, Judy Netting, Mick Price, Tony Stubbs,

FIRST GRADE:

RESERVES:

UNDER 19s:

CANBERRA DISTRICT:

COACHES

John Harper

Marc Housley

Shane Evans

Andy Endall

CAPTAINS

John Harper

Mick Hassett/

Glen Hassett

Damien Brazel

Andy Endall

TRAINERS:

Kym Austin, Steve Ryder, Peg Townley, Gary Schmidt, Terry
'Blue' Forrest

ACT REPRESENTATIVES:

Terry O'Kane

1995

With the reappointment of John Harper as First Grade coach towards the end of 1994, our preparation for 1995 could start early.

We started the year again with no big name recruits. However, we were lucky to pick up the services of Simon Badenoch and Troy Klep, who returned to the Club after a year with Sandy Bay in Tasmania. Our finances were such that we needed to rely again on the wealth of talented under age players coming through to senior ranks. However, many of these players now have substantial First Grade experience, including Paul Craig, Paul Netting, David Mair, Terry O'Kane, Brenden Read, Daryl Read, Jason Moore, Troy Klep, Adam Ryder and David Bugg. At the start of the year big things were expected from others, including Rob Gilbert, Troy McKay, Adam Garrett and John Williams.

Unfortunately, we have suffered major losses from 1994 with our four ACT representatives, Brent Smith, Clinton Bravo, Steve O'Brien and Steve Mahar, moving on.

Before the start of the season, President Brian Read stood down for business reasons. His place was taken by Peter 'Pup' Taylor.

Pre-season also marked the inaugural challenge match between the Club's retired 'greats' and the Under 19s. The greats side for the day was a blend of talent and experience, but perhaps more of the latter:

B	Spud Bradley	Andy Endall	Gary Whytcross
HB	Mick Price	Leigh McPhan	Prog Jonas
C	Rob Goddard	Andy Stuart	Tom Monaghan
HF	Graeme Wilson	Greg Gill	Grubba Grigg
F	Rowan Falconer	Tank Southwell	Henry Posch
Followers:	Bozo Michelle, Curly Bennett, Pup Taylor		
Inter:	Darrel Scotland, Alan 'Parko' Parkinson, Dave Korda, Jamie Smith, Barrell Stubbs, Gnome Housley, David Bell, Damien Molony, Mick Molony		

Under 19 coach, Shane Evans, had primed his boys for a big match. The humiliation of losing to a bunch of old crocks would be too much to bear. In the pre-match warm-up Curly had announced he intended to bounce the ball during the game. It is something he had always wanted to do in a game but after 302 of them had never managed it.

Kicking with the aid of the breeze but without the aid of the umpire, Greg French (a former Belconnen junior player and experienced ACTAFL umpire also returning from retirement), the greats settled quickly and jumped to a comfortable two goal lead at quarter time. Shane and the boys were not panicking yet - they had the wind in the second quarter and were confident of overhauling their seniors as legs and every other movable part began to tire. Surprisingly, the greats maintained the pressure and played with a level of cohesion which bewildered their opponents (as well as themselves). By half time the greats led by seven points.

With the breeze in the third quarter, the greats kicked three quick goals to take a strong hold on the match. They continued to team well and remained calm in the face of some atrocious decisions against them by the umpire. Pup was dominating around the packs and the old heads in the forward line were making the most of their opportunities.

Bags was so impressed by the greats' efforts that he was lost for words when asked to give the three quarter time address. Not that it mattered. They had heard it all before.

The final term began with two quick goals to the greats after some excellent teamwork in the lead up. No matter how Shane moved his players they could make little impression. Towards the end of the match the greats clearly took pity and so as not to dent the boys confidence too much before the start of the season allowed three or four goals to be scored before the final siren sounded. The greats had won by seven points in what can only be described as a footballing lesson for the Under 19s.

Pup had finished with 30 possessions and started seriously thinking about a come-back. Curly had forgotten to bounce the ball. Rowan Falconer, using all his old guile and efficiency, finished with two goals from just three kicks for the day. Mick Price had broken a rib and would not sleep for the next two weeks.

The season proper started on a cold and wet Friday night at Phillip. For those with less than perfect eye sight, the game was played in one half - the near half. For the players conditions were less than ideal but this suited us, a young enthusiastic team against the more highly favoured and experienced Weston Creek.

Our side for the game was:

B	Paul Netting	Adam Ryder	Damien Tuck
HB	John Harper	Andy Patmore	David Mair
C	Matthew Walsh	Marc Housley	Troy Klep
HF	Simon Badenoch	Terry O'Kane	Kyran O'Shaughnessy
F	David Bugg	John Read	Greg Richter
Followers:	Sean Michelle, Damien Carmichael, Daryl Read		
Interchange:	Wayne Read, Brenden Read, Jason Moore		

The conditions ensured that the match would be a close, low-scoring affair. By quarter time we were behind by just two points, 2.2 to 2.4. In the second quarter both teams scored 2.4. After half time we began to get on top. We were playing with more commitment and this began to show on the scoreboard. New recruit, John Read (from Ainslie, a cousin of the three other Reads in the team), kicked three goals in the third quarter to give us a good 8.10 to 5.13 lead at three quarter time. We maintained our dominance in the last quarter to run out easy winners, 11.15(81) to 6.14(50). John Read finished with five goals. Best players had been Adam Ryder, Andy Patmore, Matt Walsh, John Harper, David Bugg and John Read.

For the eight games since then, with a number of key players lost through injury, we have won just one more game, against Tuggeranong. However, we have been very competitive against Ainslie and Queanbeyan and at full strength some upsets later in the year would not surprise.



Terry O'Kane - Brilliant balance and skills - and now maturing as a champion senior footballer.

Our Reserves have started reasonably well, losing four games to be placed third on the ladder. It is a talented and youthful side which will only improve over the year.

The Under 19s are also performing well, having won six games to be in second place. They will have a difficult task overcoming a very talented Tuggeranong side this year but our first goal must be to make the finals. Once there, anything can happen on the day - as the Under 19s know only too well.



FIRST GRADE

Standing: Les Craig, Gary Schmidt, Matt Kimball, Terry O'Kane, Peg Townley, Simon Badenoch, Sean Michelle, Damien Tuck, Adam Ryder, Damien Carmichael, Ken Meredith, John Harper, Greg Richter, David Williamson, David Mair, Andrew Patmore, David Bennett, Steve Ryder, Kym Austin, Peter Taylor
 Kneeling: Matthew Walsh, Rob Gilbert, Mick Hassett, Paul Netting, Jason Moore, Brenden Read, John Williams, Adam Garrett

This year has seen the introduction by the ACTAFL of an open age competition. The Club is pleased to be an inaugural participant in the competition. Under coach Andy Endall we struggled in the first few games but since then have settled into a good combination which is playing some entertaining football. After eleven matches we have chalked up three good wins and expect several more before the season is out.

Andy was struggling to field a team for the first few games. In fact, numbers were so low that one of our long serving trainers, Kym Austin, thought he might make a comeback. Kym last played football in 1984 but retired because his five foot nothing, 50 kilo frame was not built for the rigours of football. Eleven years had passed and Kym was still five feet tall and 50 kilos - but eleven years older. Eight minutes into the game Kym broke his collarbone. It had been the shortest comeback on record - just beating Jim Calvert's 20 minute effort in 1982. Kym insists he took the field simply to understand better the player perspective on injuries to enable him to become a better trainer. From that point of view the exercise had been a roaring success.

Under Peter Taylor, the committee has found a new lease on life. In particular, our efforts to attract sponsorship, largely through the work of the Belconnen Incentive Group (a group of retired players), is bearing fruit. Our aim is to be in a position to attract a small number of quality recruits for 1996 around which our talented youth can mature.

During the year the Club will be holding a function to celebrate our 25th anniversary. At the function three long serving members, Tom Allison, John Molony and Brian Read, are to be honoured with life membership.

Tom was our first First Grade coach. He guided the development of the Club on the field for four years (longer than any other coach), between 1971 and 1974. He played 109 games with the Club between 1971 and 1980 and during that time won First Grade Best and Fairest on two occasions, in 1971 and 1976. Tom was coach of the ACT representative team in 1973 and 1974 and represented the ACT himself in 1971, 1973 and 1974. Tom was also active off the field. He was a member of the Supporters Group between 1973 and 1978 (including as chairman), a member of the BNFC Committee between 1972 and 1976 and again in 1978. He was also a member of the BAFSC Committee between 1979 and 1981.

John Molony first became involved in the Club in an official capacity in 1985 when he chaired a committee to investigate the possibility of amalgamating Belconnen with West Canberra. He chaired the Football Committee from the beginning of 1986 and was Club President in 1989 and 1990 until 31 July 1990 when he and his wife Denise departed for Ireland for two years. John was instrumental in recruiting Alex Jesaulenko as coach and in the appointment of Senator Bob McMullan as our Patron. John presided over football operations during a difficult transitional phase and did so with aplomb. His vision, wisdom and rational approach carried us through this period. His oratory was often inspiring, often amusing. After returning from Ireland, John renewed his involvement as chair of the committee to look at restructuring of the Club.

After a long and distinguished football career with Ainslie Football Club, Brian Read took over as President at Belconnen in 1986. His commitment to the Club has been a major factor in the Club's survival since then. When Alex Jesaulenko left for Carlton mid-season in 1989, Brian stood down as President and took over as First Grade coach. He continued in that role most effectively in 1990 and 1991 to become our second-longest serving First Grade coach. In 1992 he was a member of the Football Committee and Under 19 coach. In 1993 he continued as Under 19 coach but also resumed as President of the Club until early in 1995. His record speaks for itself. But it is not indicative of the amount of work Brian has taken on above and beyond the call of duty.



RESERVE GRADE

Standing: Peg Townley, Gary Schmidt, Tania Haslam, Jeff Scheetz, Mick Molony, Mick Sek, Ben Danaher, Troy Klep, Andrew Smith, Paul Montgomery, Troy McKay, Paul Huppatz, Ben Knight, Graeme Wilson, Wayne Read, Kyran O'Shaughnessy, Matt Williams, John Graham, Ian McCaulay, Kym Austin, Steve Ryder
 Kneeling: Mark Diamond, Jamie Smith, Rowan Schlesinger, Justin Lalor, Steve Monohan, Glen Hassett, Marc Housley, Adam Bloom

SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

In our first 25 years we have had our share of successes and certainly our fair share of failures on the football field. Across all three ACTAFL grades we have played 1317 games in that time (to 2 July 1995). We have won 627 lost 682 and drawn 8. By grade the records are:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
First Grade	439	168	268	3
Reserves	467	232	232	3
Under 19s(a)	411	227	182	2

(a) Excludes games played in 1971 - records lost.

The adjacent figure graphs wins as a percentage of matches played for each of our 25 years. The sharp drop in our fortunes in Firsts and Reserves after 1979 is most noticeable, as are the all-time low for Firsts in 1987 and for Under 19s in 1982. An interesting feature of the trends is the correlation between the graphs for Firsts and Under 19s once a five year lag is introduced. The importance of a strong Under 19 side cannot be overestimated. One of our challenges has been, and will continue to be, to hold our more talented Under 19s long enough for them to develop into mature senior footballers.

The graphs also show by asterix our two Reserve Grade premierships, and four Under 19 premierships. A First Grade flag continues to elude us.

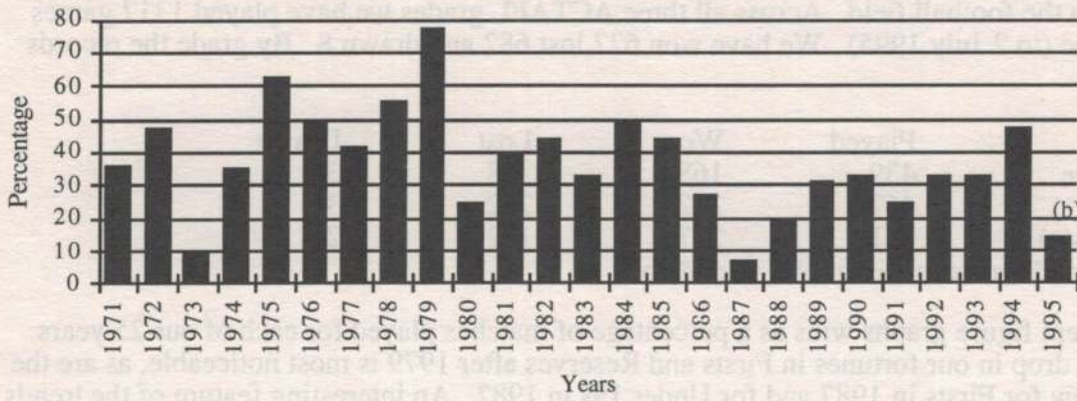
While our premiership achievements have been modest we should be rightly proud of the long list of gutsy wins we have recorded against more fancied sides - often in circumstances of adversity. Our two wins over eventual premiers Eastlake in 1975 come readily to mind. Other examples are our courageous effort against ANU the following year to qualify for the finals, our win against Ainslie, again to make the finals in 1991 and even our win early this year, against Weston Creek. These are the measure of the strong spirit that has been characteristic of the Belconnen Football Club from the outset. It is a spirit that will eventually see us win a First Grade premiership. And when we do it will be something very special.

We have had some great players. Put them together and we would have a champion side - not only because of their natural abilities but for the Club spirit which brought the very best out of them when playing for Belconnen.

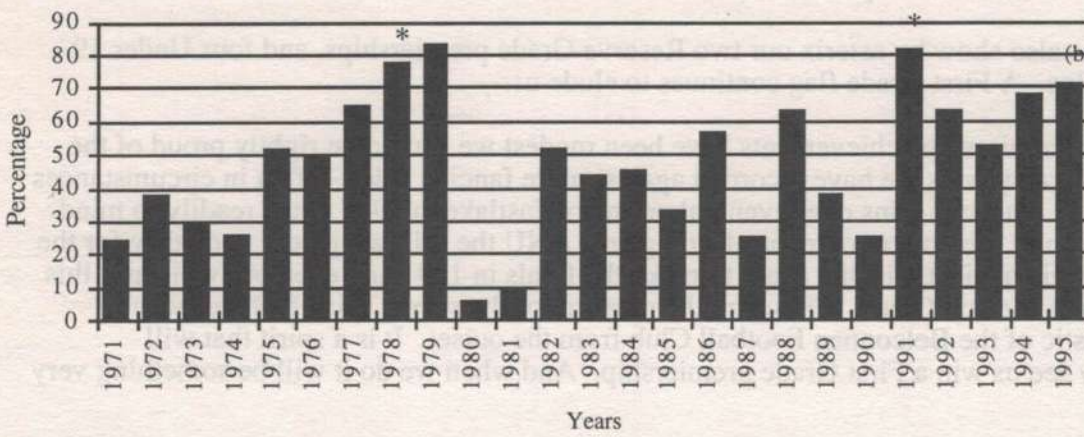
Club stalwart, long-time player and supporter and student of the game, Ray Baguley, was asked to select a best ever side. Drawing only on players who have played a minimum of two years First Grade, here it is:

B	Laurie Moloney	David Bennett	Tom Allison
HB	Gary Conn	John Manson	Bob Koehne
C	Brett Allison	Stan Widera	Rob Goddard
HF	Mick Price	Mal Manson	Ian Low
F	Marc Housley	Bill Quade	Peter Taylor
Followers:	Geoff Hocking, Mick Chinnick, Rob White		
Reserves:	Rob Dawson, John Dess, Dale Frankel, Rogan Sharp, Steve Taylor, Terry O'Kane, Brent Smith		

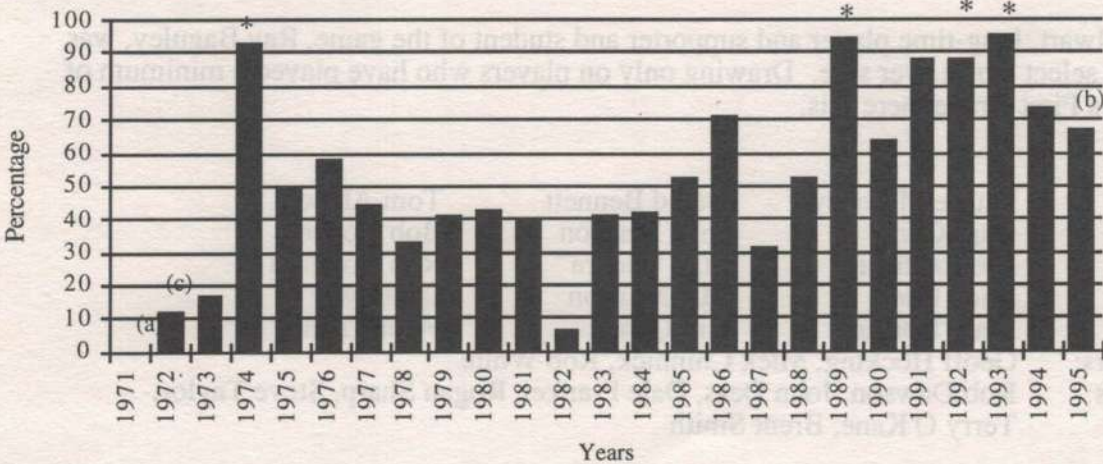
Wins as a Percentage of Games Played – Firsts



Reserves



Under 19s



* Premiership Year

(a) Records not available

(b) Up to and including games played 2/7/95

(c) Records for last four games unavailable

Here is Bag's reasoning:

The Last Line

The last line of defence is Tom Allison, David Bennett and Laurie Moloney, selections not many would argue with. Jim Calvert and Steve Whennan were both fine back pocket players and would do well if Tom was out or required elsewhere. The selected trio all liked to attack the ball and would quickly seize any opportunities to turn defence into attack.

Half Back

At half back we have Gary Conn, John Manson and Bob Koehne. Although all played at centre half back, both Koehne and Conn played half back flank for the ACT on many occasions with great results. Both are about 6'3" and very strong overhead and also at ground level. John goes to CHB mainly due to the versatility of the other two, and that it was easily his best position. He read the play very well and his spectacular high marking and long kicking were features of his game. Koehne was a busy, bustling player who could also play full back. Gary was a very good team player with great ball distribution skills.

Centre Line

Brett Allison and Rob Goddard are the wingers. Brett, a spectacular attacking player, is an obvious choice. Rob was a positional type of wingman who got most of his kicks from well timed leads into open spaces to receive the ball from the backline. He was a very effective link player. John Dess, the master of open space, would also do very well in this role. Terry O'Kane and Brent Smith would also come into contention for spots on the wing. Both are well balanced players who use the ball extremely effectively. While Terry has played most of his games more recently on the half forward line, he is a classic attacking wingman with the ability to score long goals running the ball from the centre line. Stan (the Man) Widera is the centremen. A strong, gutsy player who was unbeatable on his day. Even on his infrequent quiet days he could go into the forward line and wind up with two or three goals.

Forwards

Full forward was the hardest spot to pick. Bill Quade and Noel O'Neill are the leading contenders and Mark Read would also do well. We didn't see enough of Mark at full forward but he was a handful for full backs in being strong, fast and tall. Bill and Noel both led Belconnen's goal-kicking as well as ACTAFL goal-kicking, so both are certainly well qualified. In the end, in a toss up decision I went for Quade because he was more intent on leading out and was the better kick of the two.

Mal Manson is the centre half forward as he was the only player to hold down this difficult position on any sort of consistent basis. Although he was probably better suited at full forward he was always dangerous, with uncanny accuracy, and played very few ordinary games. Rogan Sharp, a strong mark and long kick, also did well here.

Ian Low and Mick Price are the forward flankers although John Dess, Steve Taylor, Dale Frankel or Danny Murphy would all do well here. Pricey, a left footer who could also play wing or centre, was a creative player with excellent disposal. He was also a one grab player who moved the ball on very quickly. Ian was also a very good ball handler, much stronger than Mick, with deceptive pace. Both were good for two or three goals a game.

Marc Housley is the goal-kicking forward pocket. Marc is a strong player for his size who can hold out his opponent to take great pressure marks. His goal sense and goal-kicking abilities are some of the best the Club has seen.

Rucks and Rovers

The rucks and rovers were fairly easy automatic selections. Geoff Hocking is the best ruckman in the Club's history and is the only true ruckman selected. Geoff was a very mobile player with good positional sense who often rucked all day. The feature of his game was his tap work at both centre bounces and boundary throw ins. Rob White and Peter Taylor are the rovers changing in the forward pocket. They were both prolific kick winners who would go all day and were never out of the play. They were also very tough in that they could absorb plenty of punishment. Nobody had more courage than these two. White was particularly effective in the packs. Most good players could smother opposition kicks but Rob was the only player I saw who could take the ball cleanly off an opponent's boot. He did this often. Steve Taylor would come in if either of these two were out.

Mick Chinnick is the ruck rover just ahead of Rob Dawson. Although only 6 foot, Chinnick was a dynamic and skilled ruckman in the early seventies who knew only one way, straight ahead. White and Taylor would walk a foot taller with big Mick lurking about. He changes with Gary Conn on the half back flank.

Some of us may have selected differently. However, all would agree that it is a terrific side which would have been a joy to watch. Significantly, eight of the first eighteen selected and four of the seven reserves are ex-Belconnen or West Canberra juniors.

We have also had our ups and downs off the field over our first 25 years. We faced oblivion following the calling in of receivers in 1979. But that disaster brought out the spirit which has always been at the core of the Belconnen Football Club. It was that spirit that saw us purchase the Shed in 1983 with our 'Save the Shed' campaign. It is fair to say that with the unsuccessful amalgamation with West Canberra in the mid-1980s, the selling of the Shed in 1989 and the change in jumpers in 1991 loyalties were tested. But the Belconnen spirit had always been there, if somewhat latent. A true measure of its strength was when we came together in 1993 to collect \$11,000 for an old mate, Mal Manson, to help him in his hour of need after he sustained serious injuries following a bicycle accident. It is that same spirit that is seeing a resurgence now in our administration which, in turn, will see substantial improvements in our football achievements over the next few years.

Financially we have struggled since 1979, largely because until recently we have not had any significant support from licensed premises. With the strong partnership now (at last) developing between Belconnen and the West Canberra Football Club things are changing. There is no doubt that the stronger this partnership becomes the stronger the Belconnen Football Club (and, for that matter, the West Canberra Football Club) will be.

As the Club's first 25 years draw to a close we can look to the future with confidence. We have developed a strong tradition over the last quarter of a century. This tradition *and awareness of it* are important elements in the level of support for the Club. And, as has always been the case, our future success will depend on our level of support.

SUMMARY FACTS AND FIGURES

PRESIDENTS

Turner

1948	D.O. Hay
	M. Orr
1949-55	L. Ainsworth
1956	W. Cottingham
1957	J. Hourigan
1958	G.J. Burridge
1959	R.K. Laird
1960-61	J. Hodgson
1962	K.W. Nunn
1963-68	Ken Jones
1969	Pat Galvin
1970	Jack Dingwall

Belconnen

1970	Ken Jones
1971-73	Ron Thompson
1973-76	Bill Simington
1977-79	Russell Brown
1979	Jack Walding
1980-81	Bob Brown
1982	Les Scotland
1983-85	Ray Baguley
1986-89	Brian Read
1989-90	John Molony
1990-91	David Bennett
1992	Geoff Bartley
1993-95	Brian Read
1995	Peter Taylor

LIFE MEMBERS

Turner

Vince Samuels
 Les Ainsworth
 A.N. Hunter
 J.W. Curtin
 J.S. Gleeson
 P. McCaskill
 Bill Wise
 Mrs P. Hourigan
 Ken Jones
 Jack Sheahan
 Max Gibbs
 Keith Mitchell

Belconnen

D.E. Thompson
 Jim Hourigan
 Bob Brown
 Keith Mortimer
 Bill Simington
 Andy Anderson
 Reg Proctor
 Ray Baguley
 Mick Burgess
 Rob Goddard
 Frank Goddard
 David Bennett
 Judy Hynes
 Michael Price
 Gary Schmidt
 Peter Taylor
 Tom Allison
 John Molony
 Brian Read

BEST CLUBMAN**Clair Jones Perpetual Trophy****Turner**

1965 R.Matts
 1966 Bill Wise
 1967 J.Nunn
 1968 R.Henderson
 1969 John O'Connor
 1970 Bob Brown/Jim Hourigan

Belconnen

1971 Steve Lister	1983 Mick Price
1972 Cleve Weatherill	1984 David Bennett
1973 Frank Goddard/Reg Proctor	1985 David Bennett
1974 Ray Baguley	1986 Bernie Pocock
1975 Bill Cameron	1987 Brian Read
1976 Tom Allison	1988 Paul Kelly
1977 Frank Goddard	1989 Peter Jonas
1978 Bob Brown	1990 Tony Wheelens
1979 Reg Proctor	1991 Paul McCaskill
1980 Manny Kargas	1992 Julieanne Hickmott/Neville Hickmott
1981 Bob Brown/Ray Baguley	1993 Neville Hickmott
1982 Ross Byrne	1994 Frank Goddard

FOOTBALL MANAGERS

1971 John Simpson, Keith Mortimer, Jack Low, Jack Walding
 1972 Frank Goddard, Keith Mortimer,
 1973 Frank Goddard, Keith Mortimer
 1974 Frank Goddard, Keith Mortimer, Jim Hurt
 1975 Frank Goddard, Keith Mortimer, Jeff Fischer
 1976 Frank Goddard, Arthur Wigley, Jack Burgess
 1977 Frank Goddard, Arthur Wigley, Jack Burgess
 1978 Bob Brown, Manny Kargas, Brian Harry, Mick Duggan
 1979 Bob Brown, Brian Harry, Bob Russell
 1980 Manny Kargas, Brian Harry, Jim Watt
 1981 Manny Kargas, Max Johnston, Jim Watt
 1982 Robin Maloney, Max Johnston, Paul McQueen, Anita Burgess
 1983 Robin Maloney, Max Johnston, Paul McQueen, Keith Ramsey
 1984 Robin Maloney, Max Johnston, Paul McQueen, Glen O'Sullivan
 1985 Paul McQueen, Brian Burgess, Max Johnston, Shane Fallon
 1986 Jeff McCaskill, Robin Maloney, Keith Ramsey, Gerry Conway, Glen O'Sullivan,
 Paul Gunn, Peter Dunn, Ken Ryan, John Geary, Julie Ryan
 1987 Jeff McCaskill, Robin Maloney, Gerry Monaghan, Glen O'Sullivan, Dave
 Perryman, Keith Ramsey
 1988 Paul Kelly, Robin Maloney, Tim Xirakis, Greg Weir
 1989 Paul Kelly, Greg Weir, Paul McQueen, Bill Campbell, Jim Donlan, Adrian
 Linehan, Bruce Clarke
 1990 Robin Maloney, Dan Dawes, Bill Campbell, Tony Wheelens
 1991 Dan Dawes, Grant Martin, Doug Taylor, David Posche
 1992 Neville Hickmott, David Byatt, Alan Netting, Stephen McCaskill
 1993 Neville Hickmott, Les Craig, Adam Jones, Tony Schell, Barry Collins
 1994 Les Craig, Michael Sek, Pat Brazel
 1995 Les Craig, Michael Sek, Pat Brazel

PREMIERSHIPS		RUNNER UP	
1974	Under 19s	1979	First Grade
1978	Reserves	1979	Reserves
1989	Under 19s	1986	Reserves
1991	Reserves	1986	Under 19s
1992	Under 19s	1986	Monaro Div 2
1992	Monaro	1991	Under 19s
1993	Under 19s	1994	Reserves
		1994	Under 19s

HOW TEAMS HAVE FINISHED				
	Firsts	Reserves	Under 19s	Monaro/CD
1971	5th	6th	4th	
1972	4th	5th	5th	
1973	8th	6th	5th	
1974	5th	5th	Premiers	
1975	5th	3rd	4th	
1976	5th	5th	4th	
1977	4th	3rd	4th	
1978	3rd	Premiers	5th	
1979	2nd	2nd	4th	
1980	6th	6th	5th	
1981	5th	3rd	5th	
1982	5th	5th	7th	
1983	5th	5th	4th	
1984	5th	3rd	4th	
1985	5th	5th	2nd	
1986	6th	2nd	2nd	2nd
1987	6th	9th	4th	4th
1988	5th	5th	4th	-
1989	4th	4th	Premiers	-
1990	3rd	5th	3rd	-
1991	4th	Premiers	2nd	7th
1992	5th	4th	Premiers	Premiers
1993	5th	4th	Premiers	7th
1994	4th	2nd	3rd	-

COACHES AND CAPTAINS

Coach Captain	1971	Firsts	Reserves	Under 19s	Monaro/CD
		T.Allison	J.Hourigan	R.Baguley	
		T.Allison	J.Hourigan	J.Talikka	
	1972	T.Allison	J.Hourigan	J.O'Connor	
		T.Allison	J.Hourigan	M.Drekovic	
	1973	T.Allison	B.Falconer	John O'Dea	
		T.Allison	B.Devenish	T.Fardell	
	1974	T.Allison	L.Pickering/ C.Weatherill	W.Cameron	
		T.Allison	L.Pickering	W.Sleeman	
	1975	P.Johnson	C.Weatherill	J.Stankevicius	
		P.Johnson	M.Drekovic		
	1976	C.Weatherill	B.Wight	W.Cameron	
		J.Calvert	P.Sheedy	P.Falconer/ B.Lowes	
	1977	K.Hassett	W. Gregory	D.Macilwain	
		J.Calvert	P.Sheedy	P.Taylor/ R.Wylucki	
	1978	K.Hassett/ N.Conlan/ M.Gibbs	B.Sheridan	D.Macilwain	
		L.Moloney	P.Sheedy	D.Tompsett	
	1979	N.Smith	B.Sheridan	R.Green	
		N.Smith	S.Whennan	C.Althaus	
	1980	R.White	K.Tucker	N.O'Neill	
		R.White	K.Tucker	M.Walding	
	1981	L.Moloney	B.Sheridan	N.O'Neill	
		L.Moloney	Rob Goddard	P.Bradley	
	1982	L.Moloney	Rob Goddard	M.Burgess	
		L.Moloney	Rob Goddard	J.Phillips	
	1983	I.Low	G.Rebecca	M.Burgess	
		I.Low	G.Rebecca	M.Nicholson/ G.O'Sullivan	
	1984	I.Low	Rob Goddard	M.Burgess	
		I.Low	Rob Goddard	R.Sharp	
	1985	K.Grigg	Rob Goddard	M.Burgess	
		K.Grigg	Rob Goddard	D.Heitel	
	1986	N.Smith	N.O'Neill	M.Burgess	A. Van Diemen
		G.Hocking	N.O'Neill	T.Xirakis/ S.Reid	P. Dellamarta
	1987	G.Hocking	M.Burgess	G.Matthews	R. Smith
		G.Hocking	B.Diamond	B.Trevaskis	P.Dunne
	1988	A.Jesaulenko	G.O'Neill	G.Watt	
		J.Dess	B.Diamond	B.Matthew	
	1989	A.Jesaulenko/ B.Read	M.Pledge	C.Aulich	G.Monaghan
		J.Dess	M.Pledge	M.Hassett	D.Browning
	1990	B.Read	G.Monaghan	P.Bradley	
		D.Bennett	G.Martin	S.Miller	
	1991	B.Read	L.McPhan	G.Bartley	P.McCaskill
		M.Housley	M.Sloan	A.Reed	P.McCaskill
	1992	M.Wingate	L.McPhan	B.Read	P.Pocock
		M.Housley	M.Sloan	D.Bugg	P.McCaskill
	1993	M.Wingate	L.McPhan	B.Read	N.Hickmott/ R.Pocock
		J.Smith	P.Bradley	J.Williams	F.Nash
	1994	J.Harper	M.Housley	S.Evans	
		J.Harper	M.Molony	B.Read	
	1995	J.Harper	M.Housley	S.Evans	A.Endall
		J.Harper	M.Hassett/ G.Hassett	D.Brazel	A.Endall

**FIRST GRADE BEST AND FAIREST
WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP**
From 1977 - Cleve Weatherill Memorial Perpetual Trophy

	Winner	Runner-up
1971	Tom Allison	Brian Jones
1972	Mick Chinnick	Bob Koehne
1973	Pat Bateman	Brian Prendergast
1974	Rob White	Mal Lawn
1975	Rob White	Stan Widera
1976	Tom Allison	Bob Koehne
1977	John Manson	David Bennett
1978	Stan Widera	Peter Taylor
1979	Peter Taylor	David Tompsett
1980	David Bennett	Laurie Moloney
1981	Rob White	David Bennett
1982	Peter Taylor	Dean Falconer
1983	Geoff Hocking	David Bennett
1984	Geoff Hocking	Peter Taylor
1985	Peter Taylor	Gary Conn
1986	Mal Manson	Peter Taylor
1987	Peter Taylor	Geoff Hocking
1988	David Bennett	John Dess/ Jeff Dunne
1989	Peter Taylor	David Bennett
1990	Ben Aulich/ Dale Frankel	Brett Matthews
1991	Brent Smith	Neil Mardling
1992	David Bennett	Mark Diamond
1993	Marc Housley	Brent Smith
1994	Paul Netting	John Harper

**RESERVE GRADE BEST AND FAIREST
WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP**
Oscar Washington Perpetual Trophy

	Winner	Runner-up
1971	Bruce Devenish	Jim Hourigan
1972	Alan Richards	Jim Hourigan
1973	Larry Pickering	Graham Moss
1974	Rob Baguley	Pat Sheedy
1975	John Talikka	Mark Wigley
1976	Pat Sheedy	Steve Whennan
1977	Peter Stubbs	Greg Burgess
1978	Paul Butterworth	Denis O'Malley
1979	Barry Slade	Robert Lipp
1980	Robert Lipp	Bill Sleeman
1981	Rob Goddard	Frank Southwell
1982	Rob Goddard	Andy Stuart/ Steve Taylor
1983	Frank Southwell	Haydn Daw
1984	Frank Southwell	Wes Maloney
1985	Geoff Lyall	Grant Martin
1986	John Broekhuysen	Grant Martin/ Peter McPhan
1987	Brian Diamond	John Broekhuysen
1988	Greg Gill	Gerry Conway/ Peter Wallensky
1989	Damien Molony	Craig Maher
1990	Grant Martin	Damon Bryce
1991	Evan Hourigan	Scott Reid
1992	Glen Hassett	Mick Molony
1993	Damien Carmichael	Greg Richter
1994	Matthew Walsh	Damien Dawe

**UNDER 19s BEST AND FAIREST
WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP**

From 1975 - Reg Proctor Perpetual Trophy

	Winner	Runner-up
1971	John Talikka	-
1972	Mike Drekovic	Mark Sawa
1973	-	-
1974	John Manson	Mal Manson
1975	Peter Taylor	Tim Hughes
1976	Frank Southwell	Peter Falconer
1977	Ross Goddard	Frank Southwell
1978	David Tompsett	Wayne Agnew
1979	Wes Maloney	Andrew Brown
1980	Dean Falconer	Michael Dunne
1981	David Kennedy	Haydn Daw
1982	Geoff Lyall	Bruce Burke
1983	Sean Michelle	Shane Jones
1984	Rogan Sharp	David Heitel
1985	Rod Carter	Rogan Sharp
1986	Mick Garrity	Mick Molony
1987	Brett Matthews	Tony Monaghan
1988	Brett Matthews	David Williamson
1989	Nick Culnane	Steven Briggs
1990	Daryl Read	Wayne Read
1991	Andrew Reed	Brett Matheson
1992	Simon Badenoch	Tony Schell
1993	Trent Gourgard	Brenden Read
1994	Justin Lalor	Rob Gilbert

1971	Mark Read	32	1983	Noel O'Neill	86
1972	Mark Read	46	1984	Mal Manson	73
1973	Tom Allison	20	1985	Mal Manson	81
	Mark Read	20	1986	Mal Manson	62
1974	Mal Manson	49	1987	Gregory Wilson	27
1975	Bill Oude	61	1988	Rod Symons	24
1976	Mal Manson	23	1989	Peter Walthersky	27
1977	Mal Manson	41	1990	Rob Walker	28
1978	Chris Bowman	46	1991	Marc Housley	39
1979	Bill Oude	114	1992	Marc Housley	29
1980	Bill Oude	26	1993	Marc Housley	43
1981	Bill Oude	22	1994	Marc Housley	77
1982	Noel O'Neill	77			

OTHER PERPETUAL TROPHIES**Most Courageous First Grade Player (Neil Conlan Memorial Perpetual Trophy)**

1979	Peter Taylor	1987	Jeff Dunne
1980	Rob White	1988	Jeff Dunne
1981	Rob White	1989	No award
1982	David Bennett	1990	Alan Lyall
1983	Peter Taylor	1991	Alan Lyall
1984	Mick Pledge	1992	David Bugg
1985	Steve Bayer	1993	Wayne Read
1986	Chris Stubbs	1994	Daryl Read

Most Consistent First Grade Player (Robert 'Andy' Anderson Memorial Perpetual Trophy)

1994 Marc Housley

Best First Year First Grade Player

1979	Brian Eagles	1987	Peter Wallensky
1980	Mick Dwyer	1988	Mick Sloan
1981	Dean Falconer	1989	Dale Frankel
1982	Darrel Scotland	1990	Ben Aulich
1983	Steve Bayer	1991	Terry O'Kane
1984	Jamie Smith	1992	Daryl Read
1985	Don Pyke	1993	Simon Badenoch
1986	No award	1994	Paul Netting

LEADING GOAL-KICKER (First Grade)

1971	Mark Read	52	1983	Noel O'Neill	86
1972	Mark Read	46	1984	Mal Manson	73
1973	Tom Allison	20	1985	Mal Manson	81
	Mark Read	20	1986	Mal Manson	62
1974	Mal Manson	49	1987	Graeme Wilson	27
1975	Bill Quade	61	1988	Rod Symons	24
1976	Mal Manson	53	1989	Peter Wallensky	27
1977	Mal Manson	41	1990	Rob Walker	28
1978	Chris Bowman	46	1991	Marc Housley	39
1979	Bill Quade	114	1992	Marc Housley	53
1980	Bill Quade	56	1993	Marc Housley	43
1981	Bill Quade	55	1994	Marc Housley	77
1982	Noel O'Neill	77			

GOAL-KICKING RECORDS**Highest Score**

First Grade: 49.30(324) to 0.1(1) v Batemans Bay, 1994
 Reserves: 48.16(304) to 0.0(0) v Batemans Bay, 1994
 Under 19s: 37.23(245) to 2.4(16) v Queanbeyan, 1974
 Monaro: 26.19(175) to 3.4(22) v Goulburn, 1992

Individual - single match

First Grade: Bill Quade 15 v West Canberra, 1979
 Steve O'Brien 15 v Batemans Bay, 1994
 Reserves: Jason Kidney 14 v Batemans Bay, 1994
 Under 19s: Ben Knight 16 v Southern District, 1994

Individual - season

First Grade: Bill Quade 114 from 22 matches, 1979
 Reserves: Winston Gregory 52 from 21 matches, 1977
 Under 19s: Ben Knight 98 from 19 matches, 1994

100 GAME PLAYERS

David Bennett	302	Max Johnston	126
Peter Taylor	254	John Phillips	124
Rob Goddard	226(a)	Mick Pledge	119
Steve Taylor	211	Jamie Smith(b)	117
Mick Burgess	203	Sean Walsh(b)	117
Frank Southwell	201	Tim Grant	115
Tony Stubbs(b)	195	Mick Suidgeest	114
Peter Bradley	187	Haydn Daw	113
Sean Michelle(b)	182	Tom Allison	110
Mal Manson	179	John Kennedy	110
Noel O'Neill	170	Dennis Hopkins	109
Ray Baguley	169	Bill Quade	109
Mick Molony(b)	153	Stan Widera	109
Peter Stubbs	152	Greg Gill	109
David Williamson(b)	147	Mick Price	108
Bob Burgess	146	Mick Hassett(b)	107
Rob Dawson	146	Geoff Lyall	106
Peter Jonas	142	Jim Calvert	105
Pat Sheedy	134	Rowan Falconer	105
Rob Walker	131	Wayne Read(b)	103
Steve Lewis	130	Jeff Scheetz(b)	102
Alan Lyall	130	Dean Falconer	101
John Dess	129	Rob Kelly	101
John Manson	129	Graeme Wilson(b)	100
Steve Walding	129	Kyran O'Shaughnessy	100(b)

(a) Excludes games played in Under 19s in 1971 - records lost.

(b) Still playing

JUMPER NUMBERS

The following is a list of jumper numbers worn by players for more than 50 games or by players who have made some other significant contribution to the Club:

- 1 Tom Allison (1971-75), Steve Taylor (1976-81), Andy Stuart (1982-85), Jamie Smith (1986-90), Marc Housley (1991-present)
- 2 Bob Koehne (1972), Tim Grant (1973-78), Norm Smith (1979), John Phillips (1982-87)
- 4 Peter Bradley (1981-84), Brett Allison (1985-86), Dale Frankel (1989), Brent Smith (1994), Kyran O'Shaughnessy (1987-88, 1995)
- 5 Jim Hourigan (1971-72), Mick Price (1976-81), Ian Low (1983-84), Wayne Read (1990-present)
- 6 Tom Allison (1976-78), Don Pyke (1985)
- 7 Mick Chinnick (1971-72, 1974-78), Noel O'Neill (1977-86), Rob Walker (1987-93)
- 8 Mick Burgess (1972-74, 1976-83), Peter Johnson (1975), Peter Taylor (1981-89, 91)
- 9 Peter Stubbs (1974-79),
- 10 Mick Brazel (1982-85), Sean Walsh (1991-94)
- 11 Laurie Moloney (1978-82)
- 12 Bill Quade (1975-81)
- 13 Steve Bayer (1983-85, 1987-88)
- 14 Bill Sleeman (1973-76, 1980-81)
- 15 Rob White (1978), Peter Buchan (1981-85), John Kennedy (1986-1994)
- 16 John O'Dea (1971-77), Steve Juniper (1979-81), Steve Taylor (1982-85)
- 17 David Bennett (1976-92)
- 18 Gary Conn (1984-85)
- 19 Ray Baguley (1971-81), Sean Michelle (1982-present)
- 20 John Dess (1978-80, 1982-85, 1988-89)
- 21 Jim Calvert (1972, 1974-79), Ken Grigg (1984-85)
- 22 Rob Goddard (1972-79, 1981-85), Mick Sloan (1988-92)
- 23 Rob Burgess (1974-77), Tony Stubbs (1987-present)
- 24 Steve Whennan (1976-81), John Harper (1994-present)
- 25 Rob Dawson (1976-85), Alan Lyall (1988-91)
- 26 John Manson (1973-75, 1977-81)
- 27 Mal Manson (1974-81, 1983-86)
- 28 Mike Drekovic (1973-75, 1977), Peter Jonas (1982-85)
- 29 Graham Moss (1973-77), Mick Pledge (1981-86, 1989)
- 30 Randall Strongman (1977-79)
- 31 Stan Widera (1974-80, 1988)
- 32 Paul Butterworth (1976-78), Wes Maloney (1979-85), Paul Craig (1990-present)
- 33 Rob White (1974-76, 1980-81), Geoff Hocking (1983-87), Damien Carmichael (1992-present)
- 34 Mick Suidgeest (1974-78), Dale Frankel (1990-91)
- 37 Greg Burgess (1975-77), Max Johnston (1979-83, 1985)
- 38 David Williamson (1991-present)
- 39 John Lawson (1981-84)
- 40 Bob Koehne (1971), Pat Sheedy (1972-79), Haydn Daw (1982-84, 1986)
- 41 Bob Koehne (1975-76)
- 42 Mick Chinnick (1978), Rowan Falconer (1981-85)
- 44 Steve Lewis (1977-81)
- 45 Frank Southwell (1977-86)
- 47 Brett Matthews (1990-93)
- 48 Gary Ryan (1981-83)
- 49 Peter Taylor (1977-80), Dennis Hopkins (1981-85)
- 50 Geoff Coggins (1978-82)
- 59 Geoff Lyall (1983-89)

APPENDIX II

**PLAYERS BY GRADE AND YEAR
1971 TO 4 JUNE 1995**

YEAR	ACTUAL RET	MINOROR CAPD DIST	RESERVE	FIRST	PLAYER
1971					Boll M
1972					Boll G
1973					Holl G
1974					Holl G
1975					Holl G
1976					Holl G
1977					Holl G
1978					Holl G
1979					Holl G
1980					Holl G
1981					Holl G
1982					Holl G
1983					Holl G
1984					Holl G
1985					Holl G
1986					Holl G
1987					Holl G
1988					Holl G
1989					Holl G
1990					Holl G
1991					Holl G
1992					Holl G
1993					Holl G
1994					Holl G
1995					Holl G
1971					Boll M
1972					Boll M
1973					Boll M
1974					Boll M
1975					Boll M
1976					Boll M
1977					Boll M
1978					Boll M
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1980					Boll M
1981					Boll M
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1993					Boll M
1994					Boll M
1995					Boll M
1971					Boll M
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1992					Boll M
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1994					Boll M
1995					Boll M
1971					Boll M
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1973					Boll M
1974					Boll M
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1989					Boll M
1990					Boll M
1991					Boll M
1992					Boll M
1993					Boll M
1994					Boll M
1995					Boll M
1971					Boll M
1972					Boll M
1973					Boll M
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1985					Boll M
1986					Boll M
1987					Boll M
1988					Boll M
1989					Boll M
1990					Boll M
1991					Boll M
1992					Boll M
1993					Boll M
1994					Boll M
1995					Boll M

PLAYER	FIRST	RESERVE	U 19	MONARO/ CANB DIST	ACTAFL REP	YEARS
A						
Abbott, D		7				1975-78
Adams, M			11			1992-
Adcock, C			1			1987
Agnew, W	11	30	42			1977-85
Allan, K						1982-83
Allan, W			20			1982-85
Allen, I			2			1995-
Allison, B	20		10		1986	1985-86
Allison, T	106	4			1971, 73, 74	1971-80
Althaus, C	4	3	42			1976-79
Anderson, B		10				1990
Anderson, C			6			1984
Anderson, D			3			1987
Anderson, W		1				1994
Andric, N			1			1982
Arbuthnot, N			2			1979
Armour, A		1		4		1989
Armstrong, R				1		1995-
Arranz, R	5	4	26			1990-91
Athanasiou, L	7	2				1979
Atkinson, T		14		2		1987-
Attwood, G		24		2		1987-89
Aulich, B	16		12		1990	1989-90
Austin, A		5				1982
Austin, D			12			1978
Austin, K			34	1		1981-84, 95
Austin, N			5			1975
B						
Badcock, D	1		6			1973
Badcock, S			16			1985
Badenoch, J				3		1991
Badenoch, S	28		34	4		1990-
Baguley, Ray	115	54				1971-81
Baguley, Rob	19	36				1972-75
Baker, S			4			1986
Barbaro, F				4		1992
Barker, J			5			1988
Barnard, N			13			1982
Barnett, S			4			1984
Barton, I		5	24			1991-92
Barty, G			6			1973
Bateman, P	15					1973
Bayer, S	84	1				1983-88
Bean, A		5				1973
Beasley, D	17	14				1975-76
Beasley, S			1			1982
Beatty, D	2	2				1973
Bek, B	3	8				1975
Bell, C		3	30	3		1991-93
Bell, Chris			3			1973
Bell, G			9			1981
Bell, M			5			1993

Bellchambers, S	4	26	16			1984-89
Belltowers, J	13	3				1980-81
Bennett, A			10			1979-80
Bennett, D	268	21	13		1979	1975-92
Bennett, J		7				1986
Bennett, John			2			1973
Bennetts, K			30			1992-
Bennetts, S			3			1978-79
Best, M		11				1987
Bews, S	14	4				1986-87
Bice, M		1	3			1989
Bink, J		3	10			1973-74
Bink, P			12			1972-73
Birch, K	3	22	25			1973-78
Bitmead, E		5				1980
Black, M			18			1994-
Blake, J	2	16	12			1973-77
Bland, S		3				1986
Bloom, A	1	5	52			1992-
Blunden, D			7			1981-83
Bock, D		1				1984
Bond, N		1	5			1995-
Booth, G		18				1990-
Booth, S				4		1995-
Borbiro, P	1	2				1982
Boulton, S			4			1984-85
Bowden, A	14	1				1978
Bowen, M		14				1990
Bowman, C	19	4				1978-79
Box, J	47	12		2		1978-79, 89-91
Boyd, G	2	5				1973
Boyd, M		6				1975
Boyd, P		4		8		1985-89
Bradbrook, O	5	29				1975-77
Bradbury, S		1				1983
Bradley, P	24	128	33	2		1979-
Brady, D		1	6			1977
Branson, A		1		10		1991
Brasher, B			2			1991
Brasher, B			2			1991
Bravo, C	27	1			1994	1989, 94
Bray, S				1		1995-
Brazel, D			34			1992-
Brazel, M	48	2	12			1981-85
Breen, T		17				1973-74
Breiner, R			1			1994-
Brendish, C			15			1986
Brennan, J	2	1	16			1986
Brennan, N	14	1	3			1981
Brennan, S		14				1982-84
Brian, D		1				1975
Briggs, S	7	13	14			1989-90
Briscoe, A			1			1979
Broderick, A			4			1982
Broekhuysse, J	7	37		4		1986-92
Bromfield, M			2			1975
Brooks, G	2	22				1988-89
Brooks, S			1			1978

Brown, A	6	19	43		1978-83
Brown, C	11	9	49		1979-84
Brown, E J	1	12			1971
Brown, M			25	1	1992-
Brown, N		1			1972
Browning, D		11	21	8	1981-89
Browning, M	2	7			1989-
Bryce, D	7	11	22		1987-94
Buchan, P	78	5			1981-85
Budd, S				2	1991
Bugg, A				2	1995-
Bugg, D	31	8	24	1	1991-
Bugg, J				2	1995-
Bunyan, D	11	8			1985
Burgess, D			33		1976-78
Burgess, G	24	36	13		1974-77
Burgess, M	78	125			1972-87
Burgess, R		146			1972-86
Burgess, S			1		1984
Burgess, T		1	31		1976-79
Burke, B	7	31	41		1979-85
Burns, M			5		1973
Burris, C		3			1971
Burrows, W			10	2	1987
Burton, N		16			1985
Butler, G			6		1973-74
Butterworth, P	15	56			1976-82
Butterworth, S		6	6		1978-79
Byatt, D				1	1992
Byrne, R	3	71			1971-80
C					
Cain, D	3	11	24	4	1982-92
Cain, M		3	4		1987
Calvert, J	94	11			1972-79
Calvert, L	11	71	10		1975-82
Calwell, S			7		1995-
Cameron, A				7	1995-
Campbell, D		1	19		1988
Campbell, P		2	2		1975-77
Campbell, W	4	27	16		1972-90
Campisi, G			21		1992
Carbone, J			6		1981-84
Carder, V			26		1993-
Carmichael, D	27	30			1992-
Carne, B		1	9		1978-80
Carne, G			11		1984-85
Carne, L		12	19	3	1985-89
Carroll, A				3	1995-
Carroll, B	13	3			1980-82
Carroll, M				2	1995-
Carter, R			37		1984-85
Carter, W		3			1994-
Caruso, R		4			1988
Cassimatis, G				3	1995-
Castalanelli, M			3		1972
Castellari, J				11	1993
Cavuoto, A		7			1971
Chadwick, R	4	17			1975-77

Chalker, L				3		1995-
Champion, C	2	5				1973-75
Chapman, S			29			1991-
Chappill, D	4	2				1991
Chase, B			3			1989
Cheeseman, G		2	31			1982-84
Chilko, G	4	10				1979-81
Chinnick, M	60	9			1972,74,75	1971-78
Christensen, G	2	4				1972
Christie, D				1		1991
Cibiras, A	29	28				1979-82
Cini, G				1		1993
Clark, C			3	2		1991-
Clark, J		6	18	22		1989-
Clark, S		8	6			1975-80
Clarke, G	1	12				1977
Clayden, P	24					1988-89
Clifford, P	1	3				1971
Clifton, D				4		1991
Clothier, C			40			1983-85
Coen, P				1		1993
Coggins, G	4	59				1978-82
Cole, B			1			1982
Coleman, P			8			1978
Collier, L		6				1977
Collins, B				8		1992
Collins, G			1			1974
Conlan, J			6			1978
Conn, G	23				1984,85	1984-85
Connolly, S		2				1986
Conway, G	3	50	37	3		1984-89
Cook, P		6				1974
Coombe, D		17				1980-82
Cooney, M			1			1987
Cooney, N	15					1971
Cooper, A		9				1975
Corby, S			10			1976-77
Corradini, G		7	13			1991-
Cosgrave, M			15			1985
Couzens, K		5				1971
Cowdroy, R	2	12	16	3		1991-92
Craig, P	52	4	25			1990-
Cranswick, C		4				1972
Crawford, G	28	10				1978-80
Crawford, M	14	4				1978
Crawford, T		1	12	3		1991
Croker, G			3			1977-79
Croker, N			12			1979
Crooks, S			4			1977
Crosby, M	2					1984
Crosby, S		2				1995-
Crouch, G			1			1985
Crumblin, W	8	10	7			1980-82
Culnane, G		4				1979
Culnane, N	5		15			1988-89
Culnane, P	10	60	16			1971-81
Curley, R	3					1976
Currie, I	9	33				1980-82

D						
Dalgrin, P	4	7				1971-74
Damschke, K		14				1981
Danaher, B		8	38			1992-
Danaher, M		7				1974
Danaher, S			7			1995-
Dannock, R	21	24				1976-78
Darley, B			1			1978
Davidson, A				31		1992-
Davidson, W		2				1971
Davill, N			33			1993-
Davy, P		8				1971
Daw, H	26	45	42			1979-86
Dawe, D	23	43	18			1990-
Dawes, D	1	19				1971
Dawes, J	2	4	25	5		1989-91
Daws, M		13				1980
Dawson, P		1				1977
Dawson, R	129	17				1976-86
Day, A			1			1995-
Day, P			4			1995-
Deakin, E		2				1971
Dean, P	11	31				1979-81
Dean, S				9		1989
Deane, S			16			1993-94
Dellamarta, P		5		18		1987-
Dennis, Mark		15	1*			1972-81
Dennis, Michael		3	3*			1971-72
Dess, J	105	16	8		1984,85	1978-89
Detoni, Z				1		1989
Devenish, Ben			20			1985
Devenish, Bruce	1	37				1971-73
Dexter, M			8			1974
Di Carlo, S			4			1981
Diamond, B	11	27				1986-88
Diamond, M	25	25	11	3		1986-
Dickenson, D		1				1977
Doak, G	7	3				1971
Dohnt, L		49				1972-80
Dolensky, M		1				1981
Donlan, I		45	32	17		1988-
Douglass, C			1			1994-
Dower, K		2				1971
Drage, M				12		1992
Draper, R				3		1991
Drekovic, M	26	42	8*			1971-77
Driscoll, T		2	21			1978-80
Dulke, M		7				1990
Dummett, L		1	25	7		1983-90
Dunn, C				2		1992
Dunne, J	26	1	9			1986-88
Dunne, M		2	21			1979-81
Dunstan, I		4				1980
Dureau, B	2	8				1978
Duryea, K	42	6				1975-77
Dwyer, M	12	24	16			1979-82

E						
Eagles, B	25					1979-80
Eastick, D		8				1972
Eastwood, B			4			1995-
Eberhard, I	29					1971-73
Eccles, C			24			1977-79
Edlington, C			4			1988
Edwards, M		1				1980
Egan, R			5			1994
Ellis, J		2				1971
Emmerton, M			13			1987
Endall, A	30	17		24		1988-
Erickson, D		4	23			1978-79
Ericson, M			9			1976
Ewing, S			11			1978
F						
Falconer, D	74		27			1979-91
Falconer, P	12	10	12			1976-79
Falconer, R	23	56	26			1978-86
Fardell, T	10	10	12			1972-79
Farmer, B		19	7			1975-80
Favalora, P	1	23				1973-74
Fenton, S	3	14	2			1972-74
Finnerty, B				13		1992
Fischer, J		5	2			1972-75
Fischer, M			39			1975-78
Fischer, W		2	3			1972-72
Fitzgerald, J		13				1975-76
Fitzpatrick, B	1		9	6		1987-
Flanagan, W			3			1980
Flinn, C		5				1975
Flint, R			6			1972
Flood, C	14	2				1978
Ford, G				1		1991
Forrest, J		6	8	10		1991, 1995-
Forster, R	1	14				1982-83
Foster, D	34	14	5			1981-83
Foster, N			26			1976-78
Foster, R				10		1992
Fothergill, K		12				1982
Frankel, D	47	1			1989, 90	1989-91
Franklin, P		31				1974-76
Fraser, A		1	25			1980-82
Fredericks, C			6			1972
French, G			35			1975-77
Frost, B			2			1977
Fullgrave, K		10				1977
Fyffe, R		4				1977
G						
Gageldonk, G			36	11		1984-85
Gageldonk, J				3		1991
Galvin, J				1		1995-
Galvin, T			1			1991
Gardiner, G		12				1971
Gardiner, J		30				1982-85
Gardiner, N		1				1978

Garlick, L				2		1995-
Garrett, A		13	35			1992-
Garrett, T			7			1995-
Garrity, M	2		14	2		1986
Gayford, D	8	33				1972-74
George, N			7			1972
Geyson, F			7			1976-77
Gibbon, A		5	10	16		1989-
Gibson, J			4			1995-
Gilbert, R	3	7	49			1992-
Giles, M		7				1993-
Gill, G	21	72		16		1983-92
Gill, N	10	43				1977-82
Gill, R				2		1992
Girvan, A				1		1993-
Glare, S			16	11		1991-
Globocnik, M		5				1984
Glossop, K	14	37		10		1986-
Goddard, Rob	113	113	*			1971-85
Goddard, Ross		4	32			1975-78
Goldsmith, T			7			1995-
Gordon, B	4	8				1988
Gordon, I			8			1984
Gotovac, W	3	13				1975
Gourgard, T	2		25			1993-
Goynich, A			15			1979
Goynich, M			13			1979
Graffin, K		1				1982
Graham, C	18				1979	1979
Graham, J		38		4		1992-
Graham, P	23	6				1988-89
Grame, P	1	39				1973-77
Grant, D		2	32			1982-83
Grant, R				11		1989
Grant, T	74	41	*			1971-80
Gray, G			7			1972-73
Green, S	31	15		2		1991-
Greenhill, A			4			1984
Greenwood, A		1		3		1989, 1995-
Gregory, O	24	1	7			1990-91
Gregory, W	18	32				1974-80
Grey-Reitz, G			4			1974
Griffith, R	2	8				1973
Grigg, K	31					1984-85
Grigor, W		5	28			1976-80
Guica, V	2	25				1973-74
H						
Hall, D			1			1986
Hamilton, N		2				1981
Hammond, B			14			1994-
Hammond, S			38			1992-
Hancock, R		1				1984
Hanily, R	21	21	4			1992-
Hanley, A			1			1983
Hanley, D		14	14	7		1987-
Hansen, P			1			1985
Hare, N			11			1982
Harkin, I		4				1971

Harmer, P		2	13			1979-80
Harper, A	1	8	5			1983
Harper, J	26					1994-
Harrington, D			8			1972
Harrington, T			33			1978-79
Harris, S			1			1981
Harry, B		3				1973
Hartwig, P		9				1976
Harwood, P		9		2		1986
Hassett, G	4	40	14	14		1987-
Hassett, M	27	47	33			1987-
Hately, N	6	43				1991-
Haugh, I			11			1973
Hawke, B	3					1983
Hayden, B	13	15				1984-85
Heaney, K		3	9			1974-77
Heath, A			23			1984-86
Hebditch, R		2				1971
Heitel, D	5	2	28			1984-86
Henderson, J			2			1975
Hengst, C			2			1972
Henske, M				1		1993
Hewett, M		3				1976
Hickmott, N		18		34		1991-94
Hicks, T		1				1986
Hill, A		9				1976
Hills, A	21	30	1			1977-79,88
Hobbs, S	2	13	18	22		1988-91
Hocking, G	78				1983-88	1983-87
Hodder, D			1			1979
Hodges, D			4			1992
Hogan, A	50	23		1		1987-93
Holloway, S			4			1979-80
Holmes, S			21			1987-88
Holohan, M				4		1993
Hooper, D			5			1982
Hopkins, B		12				1984-85
Hopkins, David			5			1987
Hopkins, Denis	51	58				1981-86
Horan, M		19	35			1977-81
Horne, J	4	10	12			1989-90
Hourigan, E	5	35	23	3		1989-
Hourigan, J	13	25				1971-72
Hourigan, M		26				1971-72
House, J				3		1991
Housley, M	69					1991-
Houston, C			1			1982
Howard, K		11				1988
Howe, D			13			1978
Howe, A			16			1986
Howe, R	77	1	8			1987-91
Hucker, D			7			1991
Hufton, N		1	5			1980
Hughes, B	6	7				1972-73
Hughes, T			13			1975
Humphries, B			14			1972-73
Hunt, D		3				1982
Hunt, M			15			1987
Huppatz, P		1		1		1995-

Hurlestone, B		2				1988
Hurst, A			9			1979-80
Hurst, J		16	24			1973-76
Hurt, J		16				1976
Hutchinson, N		3				1986
Hyland, J		13	7			1973-80
Hynes, A				5		1989
Hynes, J			11			1985
Hynes, P		2	36			1985-87
I						
Illingworth, A		3	5			1979-80
Innes, W	2	7	1			1973
Irwin, A			12			1991
Irwin, J		13	26	8		1990-92
J						
Jackson, W		16				1973-74
Jacob, P		7				1984
Jamieson, A	16	3				1974-77
Jamieson, B			5	1		1989
Jarman, S			4			1985
Jeffreys, W				1		1993
Jessup, A			25			1975-77
Jessup, R		17	21			1975-81
Johns, B		4				1976
Johnson, P	18				1975	1975
Johnson, S		1				1985
Johnston, G		3	34			1975-76
Johnston, I		48				1973-75
Johnston, M	54	72				1978-85
Jolley, D			11	8		1987
Jolley, K			1			1977
Jolly, P			2			1975
Jonas, P		140		2		1979-90
Jones, A	2	26	34	1		1989-91,94-
Jones, B				13		1992
Jones, Bernie	5	1				1985
Jones, Brian	21					1971-72
Jones, D				3		1993
Jones, I		4	26	7		1989-92
Jones, M		2	26			1979-81
Jones, N				3		1992
Jones, P			1			1975
Jones, Phil			6			1972
Jones, S		3	40			1980-84
Jones, W			6			1993
Jovanovic, T		6	28			1976-80
Juniper, S	21	30				1979-81
K						
Karey, B		50				1982-85
Keegan, G			11			1972-73
Keenan, L				2		1995-
Kelly, J		3				1975
Kelly, P		12				1972-73
Kelly, R	27	60	12	2		1987-94
Kemp, S			9			1987
Kennedy, D		23	31			1979-85

Kennedy, J	58	14	38			1986-
Kennedy, P			18			1976-77
Kennedy, S			7			1987
Kenny, M	7	5				1971-76
Kerger, A	3	2				1973
Kerr, D			17			1984-85
Kerr, J	9	4				1992
Kershaw, L			1			1972
Kidney, J	9	31	12	5		1989-
Kilgower, J			14			1994-
Killer, M	43	4	23			1981-85
Kimball, C			8			1994-
Kimball, M	4	2	17			1994-
Kimball, S			6			1992
Kinmonth, M	1		13			1987
Klep, D	37	10	20			1989-93
Klep, T	19	2	22			1992-
Klopper, J	4	1				1971
Knight, B	2	1	41	2		1993-
Koehne, R	56				1971, 72	1971-76
Kohler, G		6	13			1982
Konemann, M	11	1				1986
Korda, D		31				1983-88
Kowald, R	4	1	5			1986
Kumnick, D		1				1972
L						
Laird, A			12			1975
Lalor, J		10	42			1993-
Lambert, C			11			1994-
Lambourn, D	3	11				1971-72
Lamont, A			27			1975-77
Lancaster, M	15					1986
Lancaster, S	11					1986
Lane, D		1				1988
Langley, M		1				1986
Langshaw, C			19			1972-73
Lawn, M	30					1974-75
Lawn, R		23				1974-75
Lawrence, N				5		1991
Lawry, S			15			1977
Lawry, S			15			1977-78
Lawson, C		6				1985
Lawson, J	51		1			1981-84
Lay, R	12	17				1971-72
Leahy, J	25					1971-72
Lean, A		3	18			1988-89
Leditschke, M		7				1971
Leer, A				4		1989
Leggett, P				1		1993-
Legzde, M			6			1972
Lewis, S	46	72	12			1974-81
Lillepruun, A				13		1989
Lilley, D			14			1986
Linnegar, S			22			1982-83
Lipp, R	7	22				1979-80
Lister, S	18					1971
Livingston, A				2		1995-
Livingstone, D				2		1993-

Loeschnaeur, P		1	8			1980
Loughhead, P			3			1985-87
Low, I	33	1			1983, 84	1983-86
Lowe, D	14	1			1985	1985
Loves, B		1	25			1975-76
Loves, G			11			1973
Loves, I			7			1972
Ludwig, P		10		4		1989
Lyall, A	46	53	31			1979-91
Lyall, G	9	60	34	3		1981-89
Lyall, I			3			1972-73
Lynam, M		10	32			1989-90
Lynch, J		1				1986
Lynch, S	3	2				1993-
Lyons, G		11				1986
M						
Macaulay, B				3		1993
Macaulay, I	6	14	14			1986-
Mace, G			13			1994-
Macilwain, T	8	23	25			1988-94
Mackinlay, I	6	3				1979
Macleod, I		16	11			1981-83
Macrae, C		5				1994-
Madden, D				8		1991
Maddigan, P		1	18			1972-74
Magee, D			6			1974
Maguire, G	44	1				1984-86
Mahar, A	33	16	21	2		1988-93
Mahar, S	23		24	5	1994	1992-
Maher, C	2	7				1988
Maher, G	7	21				1982-83
Mahl, P			1			1978
Mail, J				7		1993
Mair, D	29		11			1993-
Maloney, W	47	26	26			1979-86
Mann, J		2				1974
Manning, W			7			1995-
Manson, J	111	3	11		1978-80	1972-81
Manson, M	158	9	12		1976-80	1972-86
Mardling, N	37	5			1993	1991-93
Martin, B			3			1995-
Martin, D		14				1982
Martin, G	8	80		9		1985-90
Matheson, B	15	1	28			1990-92
Matthews, B	60	2	32	1	1990, 93	1986-93
May, C	3	11	3			1973-74
McAllum, C		1	1			1988
McCann, B		7				1978
McCarthy, G			1			1975
McCaskill, P	4	7	19	36		1986-87
McCaskill, S			7	2		1987
McClymont, B				1		1995-
McClymont, G			25			1991-
McConnell, I		10				1971-75
McCormack, A				8		1992-
McCormack, A		3				1994-
McCormack, B			4			1972
McCrae, K			4			1974

McCulloch, P				3		1993
McDonald, K				6		1992
McDowell, S			9			1984
McFadyen, J			1			1990
McGaw, P	3	8				1974
McGee, A			41			1981-84
McGee, R		4				1990
McGregor, D	1	33				1975-76
McIntosh, A			7			1995-
McKay, T	4	3	13			1992-
McKenzie, R	6	11				1993
McKeough, A			12			1981
McLaren, N			13			1992-
McLay, G			7			1973
McLennan, G		10				1972
McLinden, J			14			1975-77
McMenamin, P	29					1986-87
McMichael, D	32	1				1982-83
McMillan, B	4	33	4			1983-85
McMillan, S		4				1988
McNicol, I		3				1971-72
McNicol, S	4		4			1980
McPhan, L	35	9				1991-93
McPhan, P		17				1986
McPherson, J		16				1984-85
McQueen, M		30				1984-86
Meek, D		8				1971-72
Meek, I	60	9				1971-74
Megee, R			1			1980
Meredith, K	20	1				1994-
Michelle, S	141	18	23			1981-
Middleton, W		17		2		1989-90
Milburn, C	20	21				1978-83
Milet, E			18			1986
Miller, B			5			1992
Miller, F	7	2				1973
Miller, S	8	11	18			1990-
Mills, D		13				1992
Mills, L	9	1				1992
Milne, D		2				1990
Minall, P		3				1994-
Mitchell, G			30			1982-83
Mitchell, K	3					1971
Mitchell, R		1	1			1981
Moloney, L	84	1			1979	1978-82
Molony, D	38	15	13			1985-90
Molony, M	27	83	33	11		1985-
Monaghan, A	1	4	54	14		1985-91
Monaghan, P		8		8		1985-87
Monaghan, T	2	18		10		1985-90
Monahan, S	1	6	32			1993-
Montgomery, P		18				1991-
Moore, D			6			1994-
Moore, J	19	11	37			1992-
Morley, R			7			1979
Morris, J			6			1980
Morris, James			1			1985
Mortimer, G		36				1971-74
Moss, G	30	53				1972-77

Moss, M				2		1993
Moullakis, M	3	16				1977
Muir, G	31	15				1971-77
Munroe, C		2				1971
Murphy, D	29	34	12			1973-79
Murphy, T		1				1971
Murray, P			2	5		1987, 1995-
N						
Nash, F		11	14	14		1986-93
Nash, G			6			1986
Nation, T			14			1991
Netting, P	25	16	26	5		1991-
Netting, S	26	6	8	1		1989-91
Newton, D		2				1994-
Nicholson, A			33	4		1985-89
Nicholson, M	2		22			1982-83
O						
O'Brien, C		2	7			1982
O'Brien, M			12			1994
O'Brien, P		15		13		1986-91
O'Brien, S	16				1994	1994
O'Connor, P			26			1980-82
O'Dea, D				13		1991
O'Dea, John	67	20				1971-77
O'Dea, Justin			23			1976-77
O'Dea, S			9			1981
O'Kane, T	48	2	25		1993,95	1990-
O'Loughlin, B			15			1976-78
O'Loughlin, J		22		3		1988-89
O'Malley, D	1	19				1978-79
O'Mara, D				4		1992
O'Neill, N	145	25				1977-88
O'Riley, T	12	20				1978-79
O'Rourke, D		7	27			1988-90
O'Shaughnessy, K	82	3	12			1986-88,91-
O'Sullivan, G		23	30			1982-86
Oliver, H				2		1992
Ongania, A			34			1984-85
Orsag, P		3				1983
Osborne, D		28				1974-76
Osborne, M		3				1985
P						
Palazzo, R			37			1975-77
Papinniemi, T	2	28		1		1986-89
Parker, B	33	9				1990-93
Parker, G				5		1995-
Parker, J	3	4				1991
Parker, W	8	3				1971
Parkes, G		2				1974
Parkinson, A				7		1995-
Parkinson, J		1	8			1987-88
Parolin, M			5			1988
Parsons, P		6				1984
Patmore, A	14	21		13		1991-
Patten, J		6				1987
Peacock, J	8	8				1972

Pedlar, G		15				1976-78
Penna, M		4		12		1989-90
Penny, D		6				1985
Pereomibida, S			3			1981
Peric, M				1		1995-
Perris, M		9				1981
Perry, R				1		1989
Peterson, W		2				1973
Petrohelos, H			1			1989
Pettersson, S	3	23	25			1975-80
Phillips, A	26	8	5			1971-73
Phillips, J	37	46	41			1980-89
Phillips, J				4		1995-
Phillips, L		3				1991
Phillips, R			7			1995-
Pianella, S			6			1988
Pickering, L	2	65				1971-74
Pisciotta, J				15		1992-
Pledge, M	88	31				1981-90
Pobjoy, M			20			1972-73
Pocock, D				24		1992-93
Pocock, G				33		1992-93,95-
Pocock, J				25		1992-93
Pocock, M				44		1991-93,95-
Pocock, P		11		26		1987-93
Pocock, R				31		1992-93
Pollard, R		20				1980-81
Porter, D			4			1989
Porter, S		4	6			1976
Posch, H		13				1986-87
Potts, N			1			1980
Pound, D		7		3		1991
Pratt, T			10			1979-80
Prendergast, B	41	1				1973-76
Preston, A			1			1979
Price, M	103	5				1976-81
Prow, G			3			1981
Pryor, S			1			1978
Puniard, K		19				1971
Pyke, D	14		1			1984-85
Pyke, J	12		9			1984
Pyke, S			1			1981
Q						
Quade, J		2				1987
Quade, W	104	5			1976, 79, 80	1975-81
Quigg, R				5		1995-
Quinn, D			5			1992
R						
Ramsey, K		7				1983-84
Randall, R	16				1978	1978
Rankin, B			15			1994-
Raynor, M	1	21	43			1975-82
Read, A	3	17	23			1973-77
Read, B	15	5	39			1991-
Read, D	31	7	37	1		1990-
Read, G		11	8			1971-75
Read, J	5	1				1995-

Read, M	63	12			1971-75
Read, W	58	28	17		1989-
Rebecca, G		19			1983-84
Reed, A	1	2	31	2	1990-
Reed, A	3	17	8		1975-77
Rees, G		5			1986
Reeves, E			7		1973-75
Reeves, G			18		1975-77
Reid, S	5	14	3	4	1986-93
Revens, R		15			1973-74
Rhode, C				5	1995-
Richards, A		5	14		1971-72
Richardson, G			2		1972
Richter, G	50	16	21	1	1988-
Robb, A			11		1979
Roberts, A	3	1	6		1981
Roberts, A	5	3	6		1981
Robertson, G			1		1984
Robin, B			4		1990
Rodda, D		12			1972
Rooney, G		13	1		1989
Rowe, S				1	1993
Royal, H			4		1982
Ruediger, M			1		1988
Ruskin, J			1		1982
Russell, C	2	3			1987
Russell, G			2		1977
Russell, R		22			1971-72
Russell, W		12			1976
Ryan, B				5	1995-
Ryan, G	10	40			1981-83
Ryder, A	10	1	31		1993-
Ryder, P			19	7	1989-
S					
Saddler, A		2		10	1993
Salom, M			1	2	1985-89
Sammut, E			10		1981
Samuels, G	7	6			1971
Sarah, M			2		1985
Sawa, M	6	10	10		1971-74
Sawa, R	1	32	12		1973-79
Scheetz, J	39	57		6	1986-
Schell, A	3		44		1992-94
Schlesinger, R.	7	29	34		1991-
Schmidt, G		13	*		1971-76
Schmidt, S			19		1991-
Schroeter, N	30	20	*		1971-79
Scoble, D		12			1971-72
Scotland, B	17	1	24	2	1984-89
Scotland, D	50	3	14	1	1981-90
Scott, G	5	16			1988-89
Searle, I		4			1975
Searle, M				1	1993
Searle, P	12	2			1979
Seebagh, A			1		1989
Selman, C			29		1978-79
Selman, T			1		1979
Shannon, A			16		1988

Sharman, G		13		16		1991-
Sharp, K			15			1983
Sharp, Rob			21			1982-83
Sharp, Rogan	37	1	28		1985, 88	1984-87
Shearer, G		8				1974-75
Sheedy, P	17	118				1972-79
Sheldrick, M		1	17			1979-81
Sheldrick, N			8			1981
Sherman, P				5		1992
Sherry, G		5				1995-
Short, P	2	9				1988
Shorthill, B			8			1973
Siebert, B		1				1980
Simmons, G				3		1989
Simons, B			1			1978
Simper, D		2		11		1989
Simpson, B	2	9				1980
Simpson, J		1				1971
Simpson, M		2	6			1972-75
Slade, B	8	35				1978-81
Slater, T		1				1971
Slaven, M		1				1990
Sleeman, W	18	39	13			1974-85
Sletton, D		2				1974
Sloan, M	27	48	2			1988-92
Smerdon, M				1		1992
Smith, A		1	27			1994-
Smith, A			40			1982-85
Smith, Bernie	22	1				1971-74
Smith, Brent	67	1	12		1994	1989-94
Smith, C		16				1987
Smith, James	76	23	18		1987, 89, 90	1983-
Smith, John			23			1975-77
Smith, M			10			1987
Smith, M		2				1971
Smith, N	19					1979
Smith, P	2		4			1988
Smith, R		1				1979
Sneddon, J	7	6				1988
Souter, A		13	9			1989-90
Southwell, D			16			1984-85
Southwell, F	14	154	33			1975-88
Spencer, D	29	3				1972-73
Spillman, M		5				1974
Spindler, J			1			1993-
Spring, E		12				1971
Spring, M		12				1984-85
Stanford, J		7				1973
Stankevicius, J	2					1971
Staunton, A		1				1974
Steele, J			2			1985
Stewart, C		2	4			1980
Stirling, I			11			1973-74
Stoka, B		5				1977
Streller, J		2				1987
Strongman, R	45	28				1975-79
Stuart, A	17	45				1982-85
Stuart, D	21	11				1985-89
Stubbs, A	121	61	13			1982-

Stubbs, C	38	9	12	1		1984-89
Stubbs, P	82	70				1972-81
Stubbs, P J		4				1971
Suidgeest, J		2				1984
Suidgeest, M	56	58				1972-79
Sullivan, W			20			1978-81
Summers, J			1			1988
Summers, John	9	26				1972-77
Surkitt, D		3				1985
Sutton, G			1			1985
Swift, C		12				1994-
Sykes, D		8				1971-72
Sylvester, M		12	30			1983-84
Symons, R	14	3				1988
Szabo, D			1			1982
T						
Taafe, L		1				1993
Talikka, J	30	49	*			1971-78
Tattersall, A	8	14	35	1		1987-94
Taylor, G			14	1		1991
Taylor, I		13				1973
Taylor, M			12			1982
Taylor, P	219	4	31		1980, 82, 84-87	1975-91
Taylor, R		10				1994-
Taylor, Steve	174	25	14			1973-85
Taylor, Stuart			1			1989
Telfer, D			15			1980-81
Templeman, K		2				1979
Tenaglia, C		27		1		1987-89
Terron, J			7			1995-
Terron, O			1	8		1987, 95-
Thirkell, D			1			1979
Thompson, G				1		1993
Thompson, Gary		15				1971-73
Thompson, K		12	9			1979-84
Thorley, R			4			1981
Thorpe, J			1			1992
Tilley, S		7				1990
Tindal, K			15			1984
Tipson, S			19			1994-
Tompsett, D	59	11	18			1977-88
Tompsett, I			16			1979-80
Toomey, R			5			1984
Tosun, O				3		1989
Towers, J		12				1985
Trevaskis, B	1	20	31			1986-
Trevenan, S				2		1992
Trounsen, G		1		9		1989
Truesdale, R			16			1987
Trye, P		65				1981-87
Tuck, D	59	7				1990-
Tucker, K	11	14				1979-80
Tulloch, J	3	5				1988
Turnball, S			12			1994-
Turner, H	18	14				1979-82
Tutt, A	6					1990
Tyers, N		7				1973

U						
Upton, G		1	2			1973-76
Usback, S	1	8	28			1992-
V						
Van Senden, D			3			1973
Van Senden, G		3	14			1972-74
Vaughan, D			16			1989-93
Vickery, M	5	6				1971
Victory, M		11				1982
Vojlay, P	3	1				1973
Volker, P		17				1979-80
W						
Wade, A		5				1971
Wakeling, I		5				1987
Walding, M		7	24			1978-81
Walding, S	58	58	13*			1971-88
Walker, J		12				1971
Walker, R	51	28	35	17		1984-93
Walker, T			8			1972
Wallensky, P	36	6	12			1986-89
Walsh, M	14	13				1994-
Walsh, S	65	36	15	1		1987-
Walton, R	13	2				1972
Warnken, M	19	11				1990-92
Watson, J		4	41			1988-90
Watson, R	1	58				1972-83
Watt, A			5			1981-82
Watt, C		1	25			1981-86
Watt, Gary	3	1	12			1981
Watt, Greg	31	25	30			1979-87
Waye, S				3		1991
Weekley, S			25			1994-
Weir, A			12			1988
Weir, D	9	21				1971-72
Weise, D		2				1984
Weldon, G				15		1991
Wenban, P			2			1981
Werner, D	2	1				1984
West, R				1		1993
Wharton, M				4		1989
Wharton, S				2		1989
Wheelens, A	5	16	31	21		1989-92
Whennan, S	32	64				1976-81
Whitbourne, R	14	1	2			1971-74
White, B	18					1972
White, M			1			1982
White, R	79	3			1975, 78, 81	1974-81
White, S			1			1981
White, T		8				1986
Whittle, G	8	2				1983-87
Whitty, C	11	21	25	4		1987-
Whytcross, G	29	39		9		1985-92
Wickham, A			12			1987
Widera, S	93	7	9		1976-79	1972-88
Wienke, S			1	1		1989
Wight, B	18	13				1972-77

Wigley, M	27	34				1974-77
Wilkinson, A		9	35			1981-87
Williams, B			9			1994-
Williams, D		3				1988
Williams, G			37			1992-
Williams, G			2			1995-
Williams, J	17	13	38	2		1991-
Williams, Matt		20	31	3		1991-
Williams, Mick			23			1993-
Williams, P		17				1977
Williams, R			9			1976-77
Williams, Ron			5			1972
Williams, S			2			1987
Williamson, A			8			1990
Williamson, D	8	92	35	12		1987-
Williamson, G	2	6	4			1971-74
Willis, P		4				1992
Wilson, B		5				1990
Wilson, Glen	1	19				1988-89
Wilson, Graeme	37	55		6		1983-
Wise, G				1		1991
Withers, C				6		1989
Wodrow, W			11			1985-86
Wood, S		1	43			1988-90
Woodbridge, G		7	21			1982-85
Woodham, N			13	1		1988-89
Woodruffe, D			2			1972
Woods, D		5				1971
Wren, P	2	15				1981-83
Wylucki, A		20	11			1975-77
Wylucki, R	1	5	36			1975-77
X						
Xirakis, T		4	33	1		1984-89

* Records for Under 19s in 1971 lost.

