**The following 10 inductees were inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010 at a function to celebrate the Clubs 100th consecutive season of senior (major) league football. The Club’s affiliation with major leagues began in 1901 (the league was suspended through the two world wars).**

 **Bill Bennett** *– inducted by Allan Evans (154 senior games, senior coach 1973-75, 81; reserves coach 1972, 93; thirds coach 1988-89; secretary 2004-05, 07 and life member of the MFNC).*

It is the dream of most boys when they first pull on their football boots, to one day run onto the MCG in an AFL Grand Final.

For only the lucky few, does it become a reality. Our next inductee is a local lad who made his dream a reality.

In 1964, our inductee at the age of 16 won the Maffra 3rds Best and Fairest and also played the first of 70 senior games for this Club. It was to be a big year, as these initial senior games coincided with Maffra’s first LVFL finals appearance. Sadly it ended in a semi final loss to Morwell. However, it was just the beginning for our inductee. After a successful season with Maffra in 1965, he was invited to Carlton to have a crack at the big time.

In 1966, he tried his luck and made it to the firsts for 4 games; the best of which was a 4 goal performance against Essendon in Round 4. Despite this success, he returned to Maffra, still barely 18 years old, but not happy in the city, nor a great rap for the discipline of coach Ron Barassi.

He continued with the local club, until Carlton pressed again at the beginning of 1968. They had liked what they saw and lured him back to Melbourne. As a consequence Bill Bennett became one of only 3 Maffra boys to play in a VFL/AFL premiership team, when he played Centre Half Forward in Carlton’s 3 point win over Essendon.

(Quote from *The Maffra Football Story* p. 127).

*With the onset of the 1969 VFL season, Carlton coach Ron Barassi had demanded that his players only bother to turn up to preseason training when they were 110% ready. When Barassi noticed Bill Bennett’s absence, he inquired through club Secretary, Bert Deacon of his whereabouts. He tells me he is not quite 100% ready yet, Ron, was the coded information passed on to an agro Barassi. Bill was soon back on the banks of the Macalister. Apparently he had been enjoying a relaxing summer break with training not his priority. At any rate Carlton’s loss was Maffra’s gain*.

Bill’s VFL career was over and if your read what is called the *Blueseum* on the web, you will find this postscript on Bill’s VFL career

“*A somewhat laid back character, Bill was never comfortable with coach Ron Barassi’s rigid discipline and fiery temperament, so after 11 games that produced 9 goals and a premiership medallion, Bill went back to Maffra where he continued to play and coach for many years”.*

Now that is not completely correct. We know that Bill did initially return to Maffra, for 1969 season, but thereafter he travelled far and wide creating almost legendary status in Adelaide and the Northern Territory.

In 1970, he played in Mt Gambier, attracting the attention of South Adelaide recruiters. In 1971, he moved to Adelaide where he became great player for the Panthers. In 1972, he was runner up to Malcolm Blight in the Margarey Medal. His fierce and protective approach on the field earned him the nickname of “The Godfather”.

Football is played in the summer in the Northern Territory, so during the off season, Bill ventured north to Alice Springs and St Mary’s in the Darwin competition for number of seasons, further extending his reputation.

In 1976, Bill returned home, to play for Maffra. After winning our best and fairest, he took up the coaching reins in 1977. If some of my early comments may have given the impression that Bill was less than 100% about his football, his seasons at Maffra late in his career put these impressions completely to rest. I have never played with a man whose physical presence on the ground had such an effect, or with a man who was more dedicated to success. He played one game less than a week after a knee operation.

It wasn’t a successful year for the Club. We were terribly undermanned. Immediately the end of the season, despite the condition of his knee, Bill went north again and was a member of St Mary’s 1977-78 premiership team, kicking the goal that won them the game.

In 1980, Bill returned to Maffra to play under Jeff Gieschen. Sadly his knees had caught up with him by this stage, but he was still a great presence on the field, despite his injuries and veteran status.

Bill Bennett was an outstanding footballer - some might say Maffra’s best ever local product. He gave his all for Maffra and football in general and is a most worthy addition to our Hall of Fame.

**Brendan Donahoe** *– inducted by Allan Evans (154 senior games, senior coach 1973-75, 81; reserves coach 1972, 93; thirds coach 1988-89; secretary 2004-05, 07 and life member of the MFNC).*

Who has played more than 400 games for Maffra? The next inductee has and the total may be nearer to 500.

He commenced his playing days in the Under 8’s as a 6 year old under the astute coaching of Garry Goddard and played junior football with Maffra for 9 years. How many games this entailed, I’m unsure, but at 16 games a year, that makes it nearly 150. Couple this with 270 with the senior club, and a few games in the thirds, you can appreciate that the total is clearly over 400.

What we do know for certain is that Brendan Donahoe commenced his senior playing days as a 17 year old in 1986 and continued serving his club to become the senior player with the greatest number of games next to his name; a total 249 senior games, over the next 16 seasons. Add to this his 21 appearances in the Reserves; you get a tally 270 games for the Club.

Brendan loved his football and his longevity and resilience is in no small amount due to his determination to be on the field. An example of this occurred during 1985. While part of the thirds team, he played 10 days after an appendix operation.

When he commenced his career, Brendan must have thought success came easily as he was a member of the Reserves premiership in 1991, under Wayne Butcher, but it took until 2002 for him to realize his senior premiership dream.

This was not achieved without difficulty as he worked in Melbourne during the last 2 seasons and travelled back to Maffra each weekend.

The Age newspaper on 22/9/2002, finished its summary of Maffra’s memorable win with these words

*“Club games record holder, Brendan Donahoe was lifted on to teammate’s shoulders. Donahoe, 33, considered playing in Melbourne after moving 2 years ago. But he rejected the idea because, he said: I would have killed myself if they won without me”.*

Brendan only played 3 more senior games for Maffra - it would have indeed been an injustice if he hadn’t been in the side as Brendan was integral part of the club’s development of locals throughout the 90’s and early 21st century.

Like all good footballers, he had ambitions of playing at a higher level; in 1994, along with fellow Maffra players, Anthony Gravener and Trevor Crothers, he spent a year at West Perth in the WAFL under the coaching of Jeff Gieschen.

But the lure of home was too great for him to persist and he returned the following season with his mate Anthony Gravener who had been appointed coach.

Brendan’s contributions to the club have not been restricted to the playing field. He coached the reserves in 2000. I’m sure his coaching career would have continued had he not moved to Melbourne with employment.

As a player of unsurpassed longevity at the highest level that this club can offer, Brendan Donahoe is a worthy inductee into our Hall of Fame.

**Daryl Cunningham** *– inducted by Allan Evans (154 senior games, senior coach 1973-75, 81; reserves coach 1972, 93; thirds coach 1988-89; secretary 2004-05, 07 and life member of the MFNC).*

Many of the inductees into the MFNC Hall of Fame had an affiliation with Maffra as juniors, but not this player. However, once he started playing for Maffra, it didn’t take long for him to be accepted by the playing group and supporters because of his example on the field and his honest approach to football.

It was only by chance that he came to Maffra. Just before the 1988 season, the club was still looking for a coach. Through a long convoluted series of rumours, whispers and name dropping, Buck Linaker heard that Daryl Cunningham might be interested in a coaching position. So began the coaching career of Maffra’s longest serving senior coach. No-one else has coached Maffra seniors for 5 seasons.

I remember his first night at training. I was coaching the thirds that year, and was sitting there waiting for players to arrive, when “Fader” rolled in.

“How ya goin?”

Fader is a man of few words and is not interested in the trimmings and fancy stuff. Players’ soon came to realize this and appreciated his lead by example style of coaching. They followed willingly and the team became a very tight group.

It is history now that this group was pipped at the final hurdle, losing the 1989 grand final by 2 points to Leongatha. Typically though D. Cunningham was named in the best and kicked 4 goals. Indeed he was stiff not to be our first senior premiership coach in the Latrobe Valley League.

Fader coached the seniors for another 3 seasons and continued as a player while playing under other coaches, notably Leon Baker and his brother Geoff (Joffa). In all he played 116 senior and nine reserves games. These reserves games came when he was coach of the twos when Joffa was at the senior helm.

He won the best and fairest surprisingly only on one occasion, the first year he coached in 1988. Only Anthony Gravener and Jeff Gieschen have successfully combined coaching with best and fairest wins. However, 9 reserves games as coach in 1999 were enough for him to win the reserves award. He was still good enough to be in the seniors, but saw on field leadership important in his role as reserves coach.

Prior to coming to Maffra, Daryl had an outstanding football career. He started at Golden Point in the Ballarat league as a junior, before being recruited to St Kilda in 1983. He played with the Saints for 4 seasons, playing 41 games and kicking 34 goals. His best performance was in round 20 of 1983 when he kicked 5 goals against Richmond. That was his best season with the Saints as he played 15 games.

In 1987, he transferred to Essendon where he played a further 7 games. Unfortunately this left him 2 short of 50 AFL games.

Football means a lot to Daryl. Since his halcyon days at Maffra, he had been associated with the Sapphire Coast League and at Boisdale Briagolong. Currently he is the President of the latter.

 Daryl came to Maffra as the boy from Ballarat who played league football, but now 23 years later, he is very much a Maffra identity and a worthy addition to the Maffra Football Club Hall of Fame.

**Anthony Gravener** *– inducted by Allan Evans (154 senior games, senior coach 1973-75, 81; reserves coach 1972, 93; thirds coach 1988-89; secretary 2004-05, 07 and life member of the MFNC).*

When the term multiple Best and Fairest awards is mentioned, several players come to mind, but there are only 2 players who have won the Maffra senior Best and Fairest award on 7 occasions - Jeff Gieschen and Anthony Gravener.

To win this award when there were so many other good players around during the period of his career (Daryl Cunningham, Todd Proud, Anthony Robbins, Brendan Donahoe, Matthew Gravener, Leon Baker, Andrew Gieschen, Trevor Crothers. Geoff Raven, Peter Geddes and so on) gives you no small indication of how good a footballer Anthony was.

Anthony Gravener wasn’t born locally. His father was a legend in South Gippsland around the Korrumburra area, but the family moved to Maffra when Anthony was just entering Secondary School. He quickly made his name in junior football circles and as a 16 year old he made his debut for Maffra seniors in 1982.

His years with the club from that point on weren’t concurrent; Anthony had a lot to achieve in his life, both on the field and off. Firstly there was his career. He moved to Melbourne to train as a teacher. Some of this time he travelled back to Maffra to play, but he also spent a couple of seasons with Footscray reserves.

In 1987, when father Adrian was president of the club, he returned to Maffra and won the best and fairest in 1987, 1989, 1990, 1992 and 1993. The last one of these was coupled with a win in the Trood Award Rodda Medal, the league best and fairest.

Then, possibly because of new family commitments, Anthony took a break from Maffra and started to hone his coaching skills in Yarram. It didn’t take too long for the kangaroos on the South Gippsland highway to become too much, so he returned to the Eagles as coach in 1995, a position he held for 3 seasons.

During 1997, whilst coach of the club, he won his 6th Best and Fairest of the club. Jeff Gieschen and Daryl Cunningham are the only other coaches to be recognized with a B& F award in the same year they were senior coach.

Another Best and Fairest arrived in 2000 when Anthony had entered the veteran stage of his career.

Anthony’s success as a player can be attributed to a lot of natural ability, but also he had an incredible work ethic. He trained longer, harder and with more resolve than most of his teammates. He was not a natural runner but during a game he would cover many, many kilometers accumulating possessions.

In 2002 a career promotion had taken him to the Bellarine Peninsula, but the prospect of playing in a premiership lured him back. Several weekends he made the 4-5 hour journey back, in order to qualify for the finals. Senior coach Wayne Butcher anguished for long hours over his dilemma with Gravs. He would have loved to have played him, but sentiment isn’t big with Butch. One of his regulars would have missed out. In typical fashion, Anthony took the decision on the chin, played in the Reserves, contributed heavily to that premiership and won the medal for best on the ground.

Anthony Gravener, welcome to the Maffra Football Club Hall of Fame.

**Kim Coridas** – inducted by Allan Evans (154 senior games, senior coach 1973-75, 81; reserves coach 1972, 93; thirds coach 1988-89; secretary 2004-05, 07 and life member of the MFNC).

You will not find this next inductee’s name on too many best and fairest trophies. It does appear in our Honour Board under best and fairest - once in the Under 18’s column. However, he was a very good footballer, one of the best defenders ever produced in this area. If we were to select a team of the century, I would be very surprised if the name Kim Coridas did not appear on a half back flank.

This was the Club’s dilemma with Kim; standing only 5’10”, we would have loved to played him on a flank, but our lack of key position players meant that he had to play centre half back or full back and this he did with distinction. He took on the stars of other teams and beat them.

“1969 Semi final - Kim Coridas quietened Heyfield’s gun Dick Noble” (The Maffra Story p.127). (He was 19 at the time).

I didn’t see that match, but I did see his game at Maffra against future Brownlow medallist , Traralgon’s Kelvin Templeton in 1973. Templeton was 6’5” and kicked over 100 goals during that season, but that day, in dry conditions, KB Coridas, giving away 20 cm in height gave him a bath and kept him to 3 goals, despite Traralgon’s dominant score.

To just restrict Kim’s career at Maffra to these two games would be a great disservice. He began with Maffra seniors in 1967 as a 17 year old, having won the 3rds Best and Fairest, the same season.

However, his early career was interrupted in 1969 and 1970 when his marble came out and he had to complete 2 years National Service, including a stint in Vietnam.

After his time in the army, he returned to his duties on the backline in a decade when success was limited. As his coach during 3 of those seasons, I relied on Kim immensely to keep the backline together, usually under much pressure.

Kim played 143 senior games and then a further 48 in the Reserves.

One of his great strengths was in analyzing the game, seeing strengths and weaknesses in the opposition and covering problems in our own game. Others quickly recognized Kim’s abilities and relied upon them.

When John Vardy took over coaching the reserves in 1977, who did he take with him as assistant and runner? - Kim Coridas.

When Wayne Butcher coached the reserves in 1990-91, who was the runner? - Kim Coridas.

And again when I coached the thirds in 1989, who was runner? - Kim Coridas

All these sides were successful, some were premiers; all the others were finalists. Much of their success was due to Kim. It was like having a coach on the ground. He trained with the teams and both coach and players had immense respect for his judgement and decision making. His presence on the ground was perhaps pushing the rules and I did see him chased off the ground by an umpire one day. But what an advantage for young players – having a veteran like Kim there to advise and help.

With such a football brain, why didn’t he coach?

He did, firstly his son Bradley’s team in the juniors and then the Reserves under Daryl Cunningham in 1987-88.

However coaching takes a lot of time and time was always an issue for Kim. His farm is very successful, but managing such an enterprise is time consuming. Kim would have been a great Club administrator, but for the time factor. Nevertheless, in 1988, when we couldn’t get a president, it was Kim who stepped into the breach, at least until he could talk Adrian Gravener into taking over the reins.

If you were unaware of Kim Coridas’ contribution to the club, that wouldn’t be surprising as he seldom speaks of his career or contribution. Nevertheless there are sufficient of us who know Kim’s worth and because of this it is my pleasure to formally induct him into Maffra Football Club’s Hall of Fame.

**Jim Guyatt** – inducted by Ron Reed (62 senior games, reserves coach 1968, 1970-71, co author of “The Maffra Story” and life member of the MFNC).

The Maffra Hall of Fame must include all those that have legitimate grounds to be considered “simply the best” footballers that have come from this town and through this Club.

A consequence of being that good is that they may well have played little football with Maffra. Their decorated careers will have been played at the highest level, i.e. VFL and interstate.

And so it was that Jimmy Guyatt played but one season, 1956, with Maffra. He was sixteen years old. Previous to this he played school football with St. Pats in the Sale/Cowwarr League.

1956 coach Les Foote started Jim as second rover to ex-St. Kilda player Ian Drohan. By season’s end Jim had replaced Drohan and was runner-up Club Best & Fairest to Ray Walton. He figured in the best players in both finals games.

Foote alerted St. Kilda to Jim’s potential and St. Kilda coach Alan Killigrew came and watched Jim play. He was signed on the spot.

Jim started with St. Kilda as a 17 year old in 1957, debuted in Round 2 and by 1959 was established in the back line. That back line...

Brian Walsh Verdun Howell Bud Annand

Eric Guy Neil Roberts Jim Guyatt

...is recorded in the St. Kilda club history as its greatest ever. Jim is also listed in the top 100 players of the more than 1500 who have represented the St. Kilda Football Club.

Ever versatile, Jim became a ruck rover and was among the best in the VFL in the caper. He twice donned The Big V in 1962 and was in the State squad in 1964 before being injured.

As a footballer Jim had speed and power and was highly skilled. He had the powerful Guyatt legs and was an outstanding kick. But the universal quality all those who have contributed to this biography mention is his toughness. This quote from Bill Young says it all: “he was a tough, hard little fellow”.

Jim understood sporting achievement; it was part of his breeding. Mother Marie was a Burley and from that side of his family Jim could call on the examples of the Tom Burley’s (senior and junior). Uncle Tom (Tiger) was Maffra coach during Jim’s younger years. Uncle Bill Guyatt was a champion Australian cyclist and much admired by young Jim.

It is remembered locally that young Jim prepared for his transfer to St. Kilda by undertaking sprint training with grandfather Tom Burley senior. He must have been put in a good paddock too, as the 1956 interleague statistics list him as 5’6” and 10.6; less than a year later St. Kilda list him at 5’10” and 12.2.

But there was no remedy in 1964 for an ACL knee injury and that stopped Jim at 24 years old and in his prime (he was runner-up in the St. Kilda Best & Fairest in 1963). This in a side that was on the march and would win a flag within two years.

He returned to St. Kilda as Chairman of Selectors in the 1980’s and was later President of the Phillip Island Football Club.

We lost Jim in his prime too, just 56 years old, a man who must contend among just a few to be the best to ever pull on a boot from this Club.

**Dave Ferguson** – inducted by Ron Reed (62 senior games, reserves coach 1968, 1970-71, co author of “The Maffra Story” and life member of the MFNC).

Dave Ferguson was 29 when he first donned the Red and Black. He was an experienced player, and evidence suggests he had played in the VFA. He was at Maffra in 1901, the clubs first year in senior competition. Maffra played off to decide the premiership of the Gippsland Senior Competition after a tie for the minor premiership. Dave was one of Maffra’s best players in that losing match to Sale, as he was when the club won its first premiership, (against Sale again), in 1904. As captain he would have shared the podium when the club president, N.G. Glassford accepted the magnificent Shamrock Brewery Cup on behalf of the club. The trophy was mislaid for a century until recently recovered and restored. The Maffra Football Club is proud to display it this evening in all its former glory. 1904 was the first of an imposing 5 premiership seasons for Dave Ferguson which followed: 1906-08, and again in 1910. It was a record which stood for a century until recently equalled by six Maffra players and beaten by one.

Dave Ferguson was accorded the rare honour of a Testimonial in 1905. Supporters were asked to contribute a shilling (10c) to the fund. Ferguson had also been captain of the district side in 1904 which won the premiership in the Sale District Football Association. No wonder the skipper was feted. It has always been that way in Maffra.

In 1908 Maffra comfortably defeated Bairnsdale in the defining match to decide the premiership. It was a particularly fiery clash in which Ferguson, acting captain on the day, was again prominent. Indeed Ferguson was rarely out of best player lists, especially in those defining games. Although principally a defender, he had a reputation for going forward to kick goals from long distances. At season’s end in 1908 he shared the trophy with his captain (Kerr) as Maffra’s best backline player. The club’s extraordinary run of success was maintained in 1910 when Maffra won narrowly by 8 points from Sale in the deciding match for the premiership. After the traditional presentation of caps to the Maffra team at the AGM in early 1911, it was Dave Ferguson as the oldest player in the side who duly acknowledged *“the pleasure of these trophies”* and offered thanks on behalf of the players.

The 1911 season was Ferguson’s last hoorah on the playing field. He retired, aged 40 after a stellar career and an estimated 55 senior games in what had been a highly successful period for Maffra, one which placed the Club at the head of league tables. He lays claim to being the oldest player ever to represent Maffra seniors. However his service to the Club was not at an end. He had been a committee (and match committee) man from the outset of his involvement with Maffra football. Indeed, it appears that Dave Ferguson had an unbroken committee membership from 1901 – 1921, except for war time suspension. His departure from the town was marked by a farewell function and the presentation of a high citizen honour; an *Illuminated Address.* Dave Ferguson had certainly made his mark in the Maffra community.

Although many of the family have been based in New South Wales, the tradition of Australian Rules still remains strong. Two great grandsons are presently making their name with the ACT Rams. The Club acknowledges the presence this evening of Dave Ferguson’s surviving daughter, May Surplace, born in Maffra , aged 95, granddaughters Jan Easton and Lorraine Brownlie and unnamed others in what has all the characteristics of a family reunion. They have travelled long distances to honour their patriarch, and by extension the Maffra Football Club. In joining us this evening, the extended family has created a wonderful re-engagement with our illustrious past.

 It is entirely appropriate that this most worthy entrant into the Club’s Hall of Fame be inducted on the anniversary of Maffra’s 100 seasons of senior competition, for Dave Ferguson was there as a driving force in 1901 when it all began.

**Alf Honey** – inducted by Ron Reed (62 senior games, reserves coach 1968, 1970-71, co author of “The Maffra Story” and life member of the MFNC).

Alf Honey came to Maffra from the UK in his teens under a sponsorship program. His foster parents, Abraham and Elizabeth Ruff were bakers on Johnson St. His foster sister was Mrs J T Jones who subsequently became a Life Member of the Maffra Football Club for service to the Ladies Committee. The Ruffs were a football oriented family, and contemporaries retained vivid memories of a household crowded with players after training and on match days.

At the outbreak of WW1, Honey, who worked in the bakery enlisted in the A.I.F. He won the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry in the Gallipoli campaign. After the war he was part of the burgeoning army of supporters who swarmed around the Maffra football team in its run of success in the next eight years. However that success had evaporated by the time Honey became a committee man in 1928.

Alf Honey was elected president of the Maffra Football Club at its AGM in March 1929, only months before the disastrous stock market crash which marked the onset of the Great Depression. Honey’s legacy will be forever defined by his adroit leadership over the ensuing 11 years as he steered the club through those challenging times. That he was able to do that at the same time as keeping his Johnson St. bakery business afloat is a tribute to his energy and business competence.

The Depression through its depth and longevity undermined the very fabric of society in the decade prior to World War II. No football club or community was spared. Whilst Maffra was to a degree sheltered because of a greater level of employment opportunity, it was not immune from the downside of depression. The 1934 MFC Annual Report stated that 8 players were unemployed and the club established a Relief Fund to assist them. The committee was effectively a welfare agency. Clubs trimmed budgets to cater for sharply falling revenues. Yet Maffra under Honey never faltered financially, occasionally even posting significant surpluses. The Club was even able to contribute $300 to a long awaited ground reconstruction in 1937-38 costed at $1400; a stellar achievement.

The leadership of the MFC was conscious of its role as custodian of the town’s fragile morale. The success which Honey’s administrative team consistently delivered over the decade gave its supporters comfort and hope. An extraordinary turn out of fans to a training run after a stunning Preliminary Final victory over Sale in 1933 was judged bigger than a home game crowd during the season.

An urbane man, Honey possessed engaging social skills, augmented by considerable political acumen and a certain toughness when required. All that skill base was apparent at special meetings in 1934 when a rebel group within the MFC, disaffected by a GFL delegate’s boundaries decision, supported a motion to exit the league. Courageously supporting the line that the interests of the league transcend club interests, Honey successfully backed the league view and Maffra remained in the GFL.

Exceptional leaders gather quality people around them. The Honour Board of the Maffra Football Club in the 1930’s bears testimony to Alf Honey’s skills in that area – legendary coaching names like Canet, Wrigglesworth and Ryan; secretaries of the calibre of Frank O’Dea and A.T. Wasley, doyen of Gippsland football administrators and head-hunted from Sale; and treasurers of the ilk of W.E. (Denis) Kearney and J.H. Newman. All formed part of a leadership team which gave the community 6 grand final appearances, including 2 premierships, augmented by 2 third placings during his watch.

As an indication of his priorities for football in the town, Honey served concurrently for three years as vice president of the Maffra Rovers. The Rovers were the nursery of Maffra football and the senior’s principal source of recruits. It was an engagement often lost in a sometimes fractured relationship between the two bodies after World War II. Honey was awarded a life membership in 1937 for his distinguished service as a delegate to the GFL. His club awarded him a similar honour in the late 30’s.

Maffra football has spawned many fine leaders, all of whom have been very conscious of the role football plays in the culture of the town. None stands taller in the pantheon of great Maffra leaders than Alf Honey. Although he would have seen himself otherwise, today he might be characterized as a successful social entrepreneur; one conscious of the need to assemble social capital and invest it wisely in the football club for the common good of the Maffra community. For a record 11 unbroken years he garnered an army of workers around him to support those objectives in troubled times.

It is indeed appropriate, on this the anniversary of Maffra’s 100 seasons of senior competition, that Alf Honey be inducted into the Club’s Hall of Fame. For without his significant contribution and influence during the most difficult of times we would not be celebrating the milestone tonight.

**Cam Shaw** – inducted by Ron Reed (62 senior games, reserves coach 1968, 1970-71, co author of “The Maffra Story” and life member of the MFNC).

Cam Shaw, as a newcomer to town from Bacchus Marsh, first won senior selection for Maffra in 1930, aged 19. His coach, ex Carlton and Sale player Charlie Canet, played a significant role in moulding the skills of young Shaw. Maffra missed the finals that year after being whipped by Sale in a last round match dubbed the “Bloodbath”. Shaw’s level of participation in the violence that day is unknown. Sale finished with 16 men. Five of their team were categorized as “cripples” by the game’s end. For the young gun in his rookie season with the Sugarbeeters, it was a baptism of fire. The hurt of losing by 7 points after booting a wasteful 16.27 became a lasting, but unwanted memory.

1931 replicated the disappointment of 1930. Under new coach, the Newry superstar, Vern Lanigan, the team was a tearaway leader in the GFL at the halfway mark of the season. Then, beset by injuries they lost 6 of the next seven games before bowing out to a resurgent Stratford in the first semi final. It must have been a character building experience for Shaw; one of inestimable value in underpinning the successful times which lay ahead for himself and the team.

Shaw went on to establish an outstanding playing record; one of consistently high performance at both club and league levels. When the war time suspension of the Gippsland League effectively ended his senior career in 1939, Cam Shaw had created a club record with an estimated 150 games including a then club record 19 finals, of which 6 were grand finals, including two premierships – 1935 and 1938.

Two of the losing grand finals featured agonizingly narrow defeats by one and three points. His record of 19 finals appearances was eclipsed by Tom Burley in the 1940’s and more recently by a number of senior players from the “golden era” – he currently sits 6th on the all time finals appearance table *(as at 2012).*

Cam Shaw’s reputation was that of a clever, skilled, ball playing centreman, one who was perhaps ahead of his time. At a time when the conventional tactic was for players to keep to position, Shaw often went forward to create scoring opportunities. In the 1935 grand final against Yallourn, and with the game still to be won, Shaw varied Maffra’s defensive mode late in the last term to find space, mark and kick his third goal. The rapturous scenes that greeted this match sealing effort were no doubt etched in Cam’s memory for life.

At league level, Shaw established a unique, if somewhat frustrating playing record of the highest order. He made his interleague debut in the second of the series against Central Gippsland in 1932. He was one of a record quintet of Maffra stars in the GFL line up. The GFL won by 16 points after surviving a last quarter surge by the Centrals. In a compliment to Gippsland football standards at the time, nine GFL players were signed by VFL clubs from that game, including Norm Ware, Sale’s Brownlow medallist. Shaw later received overtures from the Melbourne F. C., but declined.

In 1933, 1934 and 1935, arguably years of the highest standard in the old GFL, Shaw finished runner up in the Trood Award. That was typical of this often underrated achiever in an illustrious career with Maffra. A sympathetic supporter presented Cam with an inscribed medal in 1936 to recognize his unique feat. This trophy remains in the family archives. His conqueror in the 1933 Trood, Maurice Gibb of Rosedale, went on to play 135 games for Melbourne.

Cam Shaw had the pleasure, and perhaps the responsibility of welcoming his brother, Stuart (Mick) into the Maffra senior team in 1935. The brothers were of contrasting personality. The extroverted Mick exuded a flamboyancy only matched by his playing style. The kid brother achieved notoriety by booting nine goals in a game against Sale in 1938. That was in contrast to the downside of a season when Mick was suspended for a week by hard-line coach, Jack Ryan for mucking up at training. All was forgiven however, and it was a huge honour for their father Alf to see his sons figure prominently in the best players list following the team’s 1938 grand final triumph over Bairnsdale.

Cameron Shaw’s outstanding playing record with Maffra is perpetuated in club history as one notable for its longevity and quality of performance sustained throughout the entire decade of the 1930’s and he is a worthy inductee into the club Hall of Fame.

**Jim Hill** **– LEGEND** – inducted by Jack Vardy jnr.

Firstly, let me tell you about this inductee’s football career.

In total, it amounted to only 7 senior games, plus 90 games in the Reserves, spread over a period of 7 years. It was not a career dotted with awards. As quoted in “The Maffra Football Story”, Jim Hill considered himself to be a very ordinary footballer.

Jim began his football career in 1964. When encouraged by his soon to be brother -in-law Bill Pleydell, he attended training at Maffra, and so commenced his almost 50 year’s attachment to the Club. Jim had returned to Maffra at that stage to work in the office with his father. A career in football wasn’t high in his priorities.

Nevertheless, for 2 years he plodded around in the Reserves, enjoying his game of football and the few beers that followed, whilst watching the seniors. One particularly memorable day at Bairnsdale, these few beers necessitated him becoming friendly with roadside trees 11 times during his return trip to Maffra.

For the 1966-67 seasons, Jim was in Melbourne, but his desire to be involved in football continued; this time the Montmorency Football club had the benefit of his playing services.

In 1968, working for NZI, Jim moved to Warragul. This was too close to Maffra for him to join the local club; instead he travelled back to Maffra to play. It was during 1968 that Jim played his first senior game. He was named as 19th man at Morwell and his services were required on the ground when brother in law Bill Pleydell snapped his Achilles tendon. Six more senior games entered the record books over the next 5 seasons.

Possibly the most memorable of these for Jim was the day against Warragul when he was pitted against future Footscray/Sydney Swans Brownlow Medallist, Barry Round in the ruck. Despite his best efforts, Jim was unable to follow frustrated rover Ian Banner’s pleading to “hit the f…. ball to the f......ground, Jim”.

Jim’s least memorable game was in 1971, again against Warragul when he broke his leg. This was to be his last senior game.

It was a brief senior career; one that pales into insignificance when compared to Jim’s contribution to the Maffra Football Club since. It would be shorter to compile a of list of what Jim **has not** done for the Club than to detail his various contributions. Compiling such a list would be an impossible task because no-one will ever know all the things Jim has done for this club.

However, Jim is listed on the Club’s Honour Board as having accepted the following duties and responsibilities.

* President - 1987
* Secretary - 8 years (1977-1984)
* Treasurer - 6 years (1971-72; 1976-77; 1991-92)

This covers a period of 22 years involved in the administration of this club.

But his name on the Honour Board only recognizes a minor portion of Jim’s commitment to Maffra Football. For nearly 50 years, right up until today when Jim rang the siren in the reserves match, Jim has been the man to whom other club administrators have turned if they wanted things done; more often he offered his services without being asked.

He has been

* a club delegate at league meetings
* Barman
* Ground keeper
* Scoreboard attendant
* Club historian
* Goal umpire
* Recruiting officer (it was through his job with NZI that he procured Phil Wynd’s signature in 1975)
* Recreation Reserve representative
* Timekeeper
* And President of the Past Players Association (1989-2000)

About the only thing I can think of that I haven’t seen Jim do on a regular basis is act as a trainer (Some might say thank God!).

Jim’s contributions haven’t been ignored. He has been recognized by the Club on a number of occasions.

* He is a Life Member of the Maffra Football Netball Club.
* He is a Life Member of the Maffra Football Club Past Players & Officials
* He is also a Life Member of Latrobe Valley Football League (or whatever it is called this week)
* He has been awarded Numerous Best Clubman awards
* And the best player in Maffra/Sale Matches receives the Carter/Hill trophy.

Tonight we would like to add to these honours. It is eminently appropriate that we publicly acknowledge and recognize what Jim Hill means to this Club and induct him into the Maffra Football Club *Hall of Fame* with the added title of “*Legend of the Club*”. For without Jim Hill, this club would not be the same place, nor would we have enjoyed the same success that we are enjoying today. The facilities we play on and the atmosphere around the club are testament to Jim’s contribution.