

TRIBUTE TO ATHOL ATTWATER.[OAM].28/6/1926—6/6/2013.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF A PASCOE VALE SPORTS CLUB LEGEND.

ATHOL WAS BORN IN 1926 AND GREW UP IN GROVER STREET PASCOE VALE WITH HIS BROTHERS GORDON AND DOUG.

ATHOL WENT TO PASCOE VALE STATE SCHOOL AND COBURH HIGH SCHOOL.

DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR SENIOR FOOTBALL WAS IN RECESS BUT OUR CLUB PLAYED IN AN UNDER 18 COMPETITION AS THE 'SONS OF SOLDIERS'.

ATHOL PLAYED HIS FIRST GAME IN 1943 AS A 16 YEAR OLD.

ATHOL SERVED IN THE AIF 1945-1947.

ATHOL THEN PLAYED BOTH FOOTBALL AND CRICKET FOR OUR CLUB FOR MANY DECADES.

WHEN ON OCCASIONS WE WERE SHORT OF PLAYERS I REMEMBER ATHOL GOING HOME TO GET HIS GEAR TO PLAY FOOTBALL IN HIS 40'S-50'S AND RON LUCKMAN TELLS ME HE REMEMBERS ATHOL ,THEN IN HIS 70'S GOING HOME TO GET HIS WHITES TO HELP OUT WITH CRICKET.RON ALSO ADVISES THAT ATHOL TOOK A CATCH THAT DAY.

ATHOL WAS CRICKET SECTION SECRETARY FROM THE 1948/49 SEASON THROUGH TO 1978/79 SEASON,- 30 YEARS.

HE WAS CLUB SECRETARY,THAT IS FOOTBALL AND CRICKET, FROM 1957 TO 1969,AND CLUB TREASURER FROM 1970-1979.

DURING THIS PERIOD OF ABOUT 20 YEARS ATHOL WAS ALSO OUR CLUB DELEGATE TO THE COBURG DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION,THE NORTHERN METROPOLITAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND THE COMBINED NORTHERN JUNIOR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

ATHOL WAS AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTHERN METROPOLITAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND WAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF IT FOR 5 YEARS.

IN 1955 OUR CLUB FIELDED AN UNDER 17 TEAM IN THE CNJFA WITH ATHOL AS COACH.HE ALSO COACHED OUR JUNIOR CRICKET TEAMS FROM 1955/56.

ATHOL COACHED OUR UNDER 17'S FOOTBALL FROM 1955-1971 AND DURING THAT PERIOD WE WON 7 PREMIERSHIPS.

IN 1956 ATHOL ALSO COACHED OUR NEW UNDER 15 TEAM ON THE TRAINING TRACK.HIS BROTHERS GORDON AND DOUG, LOOKED AFTER THE U/15'S ON SATURDAY MORNINGS WHILST ATHOL LOOKED AFTER THE U/17'S.

ATHOL'S TRAINING METHODS WERE VERY THOROUGH AND MANY OLD PLAYERS RECALL OUR TRAINING DRILLS WERE WE DID CIRCLE WORK TO THE RIGHT AND KICKED RIGHT FOOT AND THEN TO THE LEFT AND KICKED WITH OUR LEFT FOOT. THE SAME WITH OUR HANDBALL,RIGHT AND THEN

LEFT. HE TAUGHT US TO ROLL CORRECTLY WHEN WE HIT THE GROUND TO AVOID INJURY AND WHEN WE WENT INTO A RUCK OR MARKING CONTEST TO RAISE OUR KNEE TO 'PROTECT OUR VITALS'.

ATHOL'S TRAINING AS VERY EFFECTIVE AS WE WON PREMIERSHIPS AND MANY PLAYERS ATHOL COACHED WENT ONTO PLAY VFL [NOW AFL] FOOTBALL. THERE ARE PHOTOS OF ELEVEN ON THE CLUBROOM WALLS.

DURING THIS PERIOD ATHOL WAS ALSO TEAM MANAGER AND A SELECTOR OF OUR SENIOR TEAMS FOR OVER 10 YEARS.

IN SUMMER ATHOL TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO CRICKET.

HE CAPTAINED A,B,AND C GRADE SENIOR TEAMS FOR THE APPROIMATELY 15 YEARS AND WON A B GRADE PREMIERSHIP.

HE ALSO COACHED OUR JUNIOR CRICKET TEAMS U/17,U/16,U/14 AND U/12 FROM 1955/56 THROUGH TO 1993/94, ALMOST 40 YEARS , AND WON MORE PREMIERSHIPS.

FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CLUB ATHOL WAS AWARDED A LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

AFTER OUR OLD CLUB ROOMS AND GRAND STAND 'THE BOB TAYLOR STAND ' BURNT DOWN WE ENDURED A FEW YEARS WITH VERY BASIC FACILITIES.

IN 1976 THE COBURG COUNCIL THEN BUILT OUR CURRENT ROOMS AND AFTER MUCH LOBBYING FROM OUR CLUB THE COUNCIL AGREED TO NAME 'THE A B ATTWATER PAVILION' IN HONOUR OF ATHOL'S CONTINUOUS AND LOYAL SERVICE TO OUR CLUB AND COMMUNITY.

ATHOL SERVED AS A CITY OF COBURG COUNCILLOR FROM 1978-1994 AND SERVED A TERM AS MAYOR 1985-1986.

ATHOL WAS AWARDED AN 'ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL' IN 2000 FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

ATHOL'S LOVE AND PASSION FOR THE CLUB CONTINUED RIGHT TO THE END.

AS LATE AS THE START OF THE CURRENT FOOTBALL SEASON HE WOULD WALK OVER FROM HOME MOST SATURDAYS, FOOTBALL AND CRICKET, ASK THE SCORE, SIT AND WATCH AND CHAT TO ALL, AND THEN GO THROUGH THE RUBBISH BINS.

OUR NEWER CLUB MEMBERS AND OPPOSITION WOULD OFTEN ASK 'WHO IS THE OLD TIMER GOING THROUGH THE BINS.

I WOULD THEN TELL THEM ABOUT ATHOL'S SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTION AND POINT OUT THE PLAQUE ON THE WALL SAYING 'THE A B ATTWATER PAVILION'.

I WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN THAT ATHOL WAS COLLECTING THE RING PULL FROM THE CANS TO COLLECT THE TITANIUM FOR A CHARITY.

THAT WAS THE ATHOL ATTWATER THAT WE ALL KNEW.

HIS SERVICE WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR EVER. AS WELL AS THE THE PAVILION NAMED IN HIS HONOUR THERE ARE MANY PLAYER TROPHIES ALSO NAME AFTER HIM.

ATHOL WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR CLUB.

REST IN PEACE.

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