BLAST FROM THE PAST. GSFL Interview 2/8/17 by Jan Bache

MYPONGA FC. Club with a very long history. The Chronicle 1909 shows a picture of a Myponga Football team.

According to a few of the old timers, the club had its infancy around 1939-40. A few scratch matches were organised ad-hoc against Yankalilla and Mt Compass with the home ground in the corner of a paddock on Barclay Road out of the town. There was no official club and obviously no colours so the players tried to wear something that matched. Nothing much happened during the war with most of the young men overseas, but after the war a meeting was called to form a club. At that historic gathering on March 25th.1946 the minutes recorded, by a show of hands, it was decided to form a club and that a team be play in the Southern Football League

The two gentlemen interviewed today Don Clarke & Peter Whitford, began with Myponga FC in the SFL.

Brief resume for them is as follows:

**Don Clarke** played his first game in 1950, only playing approx 157 ‘A’ & ‘B’ grades but his commitment to

Myponga was in the Administration area. In his playing days he remembers playing in 1953 Premierships, both A & B played on the day, Ruckman in the ‘B’ grade and 19th man in ‘A’ grade. Don was awarded the ‘Best & Fairest in the ‘B’ grade in 1957 and also represented SFL in an Under 21 game. In 1950 the ‘A’ grade competition consisted of teams from Myponga, Willunga, McLaren Vale, McLaren Flat, Port Noarlunga, Mount Compass, Noarlunga ,Reynella and Morphett Vale. Travelling to these ovals the boys were transported in an Air Force Truck and their Guernsey were an old Air Force Jumper, dyed orange with a green sash. In 1950 The club colours were changed to Bottle Green with a Gold Vee.

Due to the suburbs encroaching it was decided in 1966 that the club switch to the Great Southern Football League and continue to play country football. In 2003 the club changed the name to the Myponga-Sellicks Football Club to incorporate the area and growing population of Sellicks Beach.

Don was President 1962-63-64-68-69. Secretary 1966-67-70-71-72 and 89 (employment took him away for many years). Vice President of the GSFL , Inter Association Delegate for 15 years, gatekeeper at Myponga for 15 years,

.

**Peter Whitford,** started playing in 1950 at the age of 15 years. After school Peter would go over to the oval and have a few kicks. The coach of Myponga was Bernie Kelly who liked the look of Peter. Friday morning Peter goes to local shop to see the side that was placed in shop window, he was named in ‘B’ grade, not making his parents happy as they did not want him to play football. His 2nd game he was placed in ‘A’ grade and kicked 3 goals against well accredited player from Willunga, Lloyd Binney**.** He never went back to ‘B’ grade until moving to the Great Southern Football Assoc. where he played both. Peter’s main position was Back Pocket and he played 250 ‘A’ grade games in the SFL. Peter remembers a match v Reynella, Reynella 32.34, Myponga 4.3, boys very raw The boys who played in the team were farmers with strength but not that much skill, but experience saw them develop. His greatest achievement was being selected in Myponga Team of the Century in the Southern Football League of which he is Life Member. He also represented the SFL in Association sides. Peter was President of Myponga in 1966 in the SFL, and when Myponga entered the GSFL Peter held the position of President of Myponga **1**967. He also was a Delegate and goal umpire for many years.

Both men remember the standard of the oval, Mud, mud, Mud. The change room was a tin shed, with shower, hot water (but not for long). the ground was so wet in those days the football ended up being round.

Peter tells of the day I was never reported during my football career but if I had been caught in this instance maybe I would have!!

A guy who had played league football for Glenelg came as a playing coach to McLaren Flat. He was a big guy and had a brace on his knee. He went up for a mark, sticking his knee in Rex Corby’s back and flattening him. I ran up and looked up to his 6ft.3” guy and said “you rotten sod”... And he said “What are you going to do about it”. So I gave him a good hard kick in the shin and made sure I kept my distance from him for the rest of the day. When I came off the field, two Myponga stalwarts,” Pal” Magor (Shane’s grandfather), and Maurice Clarke said, “I didn’t think you had it in your whitty!!”.

One of their favourite coaches was Alwin ‘Pop’ Faggotter, great player of the Myponga F.C.

Of course many great players have worn the Guernsey for the club.

Respected players in the opposition were Willunga boys, Lloyd Binney, Barry McDonald, Jim,Terry & Mick Fitzpatrick,and Terry eventually came and coached at Myponga.

Peter still is on the committee of the Myponga Memorial Community in his 54th year, and was also on the committee in both associations.

There are so many stories that can be told so this is going to be an ongoing project. Another wonderful

chat with great Stalwart gentlemen of the club who are still involved.

(subject to amendment)