Graham Harding  Phone interview 13/12/2017 with Jan Bache

The continuance of another Yankalilla F.C. club stalwall is Graham Harding.

Graham commenced playing for Yankalilla in 1972 and his career spanned until 2000, with an approx

number of 350 matches. As a young boy Graham played with the Encounter Bay F.C. in the colts but

at the age of 17 commenced his working career at the Meat Works at Yankalilla, hence the move

to the Yankalilla club. Graham boarded with the Borlace family at Wattle Flat and as their family were

members of the club Graham was able to travel to matches with them.

During his career Graham was successful in playing in 4 ‘A’ grade Grand Finals winning one in 1985, along with 2 successful ‘Reserve’ premierships in 1972/1973. Graham was appointed Vice Captain with Jeff Biddle appt Captain. During his time he was coached by several excellent motivators/ teachers of the game,one in particular being B.Hartfield, along with Bill Prior and Terry Smallwood. Bill was an excellent coach with strong

coaching style and with Terry along came a style of ‘enjoyment’ of the game.

With his experience in playing coaching was his next step and was appointed ‘B’ grade and senior colts over a period of 5 years.

Graham talked re special memories and the matches v Myponga were always a game played with great

enthusiasm, Myponga boys Hutchins, Rowntree were keen opposition along with Strathalbyn’s

Brenton & Kym Smith, Kevin Wray,

Respected players in his own team was Greg White and Ian (Jack) Jones.

Graham was made a Player Life Member of the GSFL in 1984 and Life Member of the Yankalilla F.C. (cannot remember was year).

Graham is still a solid supporter of the club and attends all matches, catching up with old stalwarts and looks forward to great enthusiasm with the young players coming on, one is particular Bradley Fitzgerald, a ‘young gun’ but looks like he is going to have to leave to pursue his working career.

I found chatting to Graham very interesting and to continue on with the wonderful history of the Yankalilla F.C. Graham has given me the name of two gentlemen Ray & Kym Clark who will continue on with this interesting project.