



Emerald Football Club

Est 1905

Celebrating its Centenary year in 2004

Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~emerald

Ray White

EMERALD

5968 6000

Red & Black Centenary Ball Souvenir Edition

*Round 9: 5 June 2004
vs Seville*



Emerald Co-op

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EMERALD FOOTBALL CLUB SENIORS - PREMIERS - 1955

Back Row:- Len Allen, Peter Haag, Lionel Reid, Bill Sands, Ron Duncan,
John Swain, Sam Lamendola, Roly Harman, Darryl Knight,
Roly Betheras, Bob Dixon

Front Row:- Wally Wescombe (Vice Capt.), Bill Smith, Lionel Moss, Kim Hajrulla,
George Church, David Cairns (Cpt.-Coach), John Haag (Mascot),
Bill Worrell, Ron Eaton, Angus Douglas

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PARADISE HOTEL

Div 2 » Commodore Press Division Two » Seniors

Ladder & Last Round Results - printed Friday, 4th of June, 2004.

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:: Team	Pld	Won	Lost	Drawn	Byes	Fft	For	Agst	%	Pts
Gembrook-Cockatoo	8	6	1	0	1	0	769	505	152.28%	24
Sth Belgrave	8	5	2	0	1	0	830	562	147.69%	20
Seville	8	5	2	0	1	0	604	460	131.30%	20
Emerald	8	4	3	0	1	0	616	525	117.33%	16
Yarra Junction	8	2	5	0	1	0	536	677	79.17%	8
Powelltown	8	2	4	0	2	0	470	613	76.67%	8
Yarra Glen	8	0	7	0	1	0	431	914	47.16%	0

:: Last Round Played: Round 8 Date: 29/5/2004

Home Team

Yarra Glen	5.11 (41)
Yarra Junction	10.7 (67)
Gembrook-Cockatoo	14.10 (94)
Powelltown	0.0 (0)

v Away Team

v Seville	14.12 (96)
v Sth Belgrave	15.13 (103)
v Emerald	7.6 (48)
v Bye	0.0 (0)

Div 2 » Commodore Press Division Two » Reserves

Ladder & Last Round Results - printed Friday, 4th of June, 2004.

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:: Team	Pld	Won	Lost	Drawn	Byes	Fft	For	Agst	%	Pts
Sth Belgrave	8	7	0	0	1	0	993	331	300.00%	28
Gembrook-Cockatoo	8	6	1	0	1	0	834	284	293.66%	24
Emerald	8	4	3	0	1	0	694	421	164.85%	16
Seville	8	4	3	0	1	0	671	455	147.47%	16
Yarra Glen	8	2	5	0	1	0	448	841	53.27%	8
Yarra Junction	8	1	6	0	1	0	329	944	34.85%	4
Powelltown	8	0	6	0	2	0	172	865	19.88%	0

:: Last Round Played: Round 8 Date: 29/5/2004

Home Team

Yarra Glen	8.14 (62)
Yarra Junction	5.4 (34)
Gembrook-Cockatoo	11.8 (74)
Powelltown	0.0 (0)

v Away Team

v Seville	18.10 (118)
v Sth Belgrave	33.15 (213)
v Emerald	6.13 (49)
v Bye	0.0 (0)

Seniors**Reserves****:: Top 10 Player stats // Div 2**

» Top 10 Players by Goals:

1. O'DONNELL, Ben	13
2. COX, Matthew	12
3. ANDREWS, Brett	10
4. WESTIN, Robert	9
5. COX, Jason	6
6. PICCIOLI, Adrian	5
7. WRIGHT, Wesley	5
8. CARGILL, Joel	3
9. FRASER, Jonathon	3
10. MACKAY, John	3

:: Top 10 Player stats // Div 2

» Top 10 Players by Goals:

1. FRASER, Jonathon	10
2. CONDER, Joshua	8
3. MEGARRELL, Liam	7
4. MARSH, Clinton	6
5. BERGWERF, Darren	4
6. CRANFIELD, John	4
7. MCLEAN, Peter	4
8. WILSON, Adam	4
9. BRYANT, Shane	3
10. ALLEN, Adrian	2

Presidents Report, Centenary Ball 5 June 2004



I would like to welcome all Life Members, together with past and present members, past and present players and guests. I hope you enjoy the evening and have the opportunity to catch up with names and faces you may not have seen for a number of years. We really appreciate your effort in attending this function and hope you enjoy a number of trips down memory lane.

I would sincerely like to thank the Social Sub Committee for organising this function and Karin Hartnell for assisting them.

This year has been successful, both on and off the field, compared to last year where we had minimal numbers and had to work extremely hard to stay afloat and be a viable club. The beginning of this season saw the largest number of players on the training track, of any club in the YVMDFL. We also saw 35 people attend the AGM with the majority putting their hands up to help out this year. We just need to keep this momentum going for the success of this great Club, as we go into the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to Pat Caddaye, who, with the assistance of her husband Reg, has supplied us with interesting information about the history of our Club. Most of the slide show has come from Pat's archives. Without people like Pat and Reg the history of our great Club may not have been documented and it would have been very difficult to collate our 100 year old history. It is times like this, when you celebrate your Centenary, that you appreciate records being kept and recorded.

Pat is still heavily involved in supplying the Emerald Museum with the history records for our big reunion weekend to be held on Saturday 24th July when we will be playing Gembrook at home at Chandler Reserve, Avonsleigh. This will be followed on Sunday 25th July with a comprehensive display of the history and memorabilia of the Emerald Football Club to be held in the Emerald Museum between the hours of 11.00am to 5.00pm. Afternoon tea will be available from 2.30 p.m.

Emerald Museum, Nobelius Heritage Park, Crichton Road, Emerald

Again enjoy the evening and please attend our big weekend in July.

Bill Kuys, Joint President
Emerald Football Club 2004

Social Functions: Emerald Senior Football Club 2004 "Celebrating our Centenary"

Date	Vs	Social Event	Where
5 th June	Seville	Centenary Ball	York on Lilydale
26 th June	Yarra Glen	\$2.00 Bourbon Night	Clubrooms
3 rd July	Sth Belgrave	Trivia Night	Clubrooms
17 th July	Yarra Junct.	Auction Night	Junior Clubrooms
24 th July	Gembrook	Whole Reunion Day/Night all Years	Club Rooms
31 st July	Seville	Awards	Paradise Hotel
14 Aug	Yarra Glen	Hippy Night	Junior Clubrooms

EFC Committee 2004

Bill Kuys (Pres) 5968 3233

Nick Wright (Pres) 5968 5898

Peter Cotter (Sec) 0412 446 891

Phil Gluckman (Treas) 5968 3084

Bob Colbert 5968 5297

Peter McLean 5968 8874

Nigel Robson 5968 2262

Mick Mott 5941 2410

Brian Wright 5968 9768

Daniel Porter 5968 3586

Simon Bergin 5968 4128

Geoff Baguley 5968 3658

Peter Rush 5968 3656

Leanne McKenzie 5968 8083

Robyn Kuys 5968 3233

Coaches

Seniors: Tony Walker 0409 357 420

Reserves Coach: Andrew Rolfs 0425723607

Registration

A reminder about membership / registration. The Club has already forwarded to the League its affiliation fees which covers player insurance. We now need the players to reimburse the Club for the fees it has paid on their behalf – please pay your registration ASAP.

We also encourage our supporters to become members which includes free entry to home games.

Senior Player and Family	\$180.00 (Player & wife and children or Player & Parents)
Single Senior player	\$150.00
Family Social	\$110.00 (up to 2 adults plus children U16)
Single Social Member	\$60.00
Pensioner	Donation to Club if pension card produced



Match Reports

Seniors: Gembrook-Cockatoo 14.10 - 94 def Emerald 7.6-48

Emerald managed to keep pace with the ladder leaders for three quarters but were blown away in the last quarter to go down by 46 points.

The first half was an even battle with the defence of both sides well on top in a low scoring match. Ben Mitchell and Steve Robbins were leading the way in the Emerald back half, while Blair Kuys and Mark Wheatley were picking up plenty of the ball in the middle. Emerald by three points at the long change.



Gembrook wrestled back the initiative with a four goal to one third quarter. The Brookers were getting on top in the middle and their forwards began to find the big sticks. Gembrook by 16 points at the final change.

Emerald whittled the margin back to 8 points early in the last quarter and missed a few opportunities to get closer. The rest of the quarter was all Gembrook as they slammed on six goals as the Bombers fell away in disappointing fashion.

For Emerald, Blair Kuys was best and his work rate and attack at the ball was outstanding. Mark Wheatley was a link player through the middle, the Cox brothers tried their all and it was great to see David Black back on the paddock.

Reserves: Gembrook-Cockatoo 11.8 74 def Emerald 6.13 - 49

Emerald's sluggish start cost them dearly as they were unable to claw their way back into the match to eventually go down by 25 points.

Despite outplaying the Brookers in the second and third quarters, the poor first and last quarters made it a disappointing performance.

Big David Willcox is getting better every week and lead the way in the ruck. Peter McLean was into everything. Jim Robson worked well up forward and in the mid-field. Nigel Robson and Al McKay were determined in the back half.



Seniors: Emerald 18.17-125 def Yarra Junction 7.11-53

Emerald put in a solid four quarter performance to defeat Yarra Junction by 72 points.

The first half was tight as Junction took the match up to the Bombers. The lead was 22 points at the long break. The second was all Emerald as they kicked away to score a resounding win.

For Emerald, Ben Mitchell was outstanding in defence and provided a lot of mid-field drive. Mark Wheatley was back to his best. Steve Robbins continued his fine season in the back half. Blair Kuys relished his run up forward and really enjoyed his two goals. Wes Mills was uncompromising in this attack on the footy. Adrian Allen took an absolute screamer of a mark and is finding form.

Rob Westin and Adrian Piccioli kicked three goal each, Matt Cox, Blair Kuys and Brett Andrews kick two goals.



Reserves: Emerald 21.22-148 def Yarra Junction 7.7-49

The Bombers dominated play all day to run out 99 point victors.

In a good team performance, Peter McLean was best on ground and kicked four goals. Josh Conder was also in great form with four goals. Dave Willcox is getting better each week and celebrated as he kicked his first goals playing aussie rules footy. Jon Fraser kicked three goals. Bruce White head got very excited when he kicked his major.



Ray White

EMERALD

5968 6000



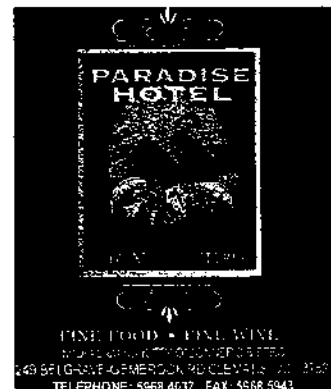
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EMERALD SENIOR FOOTBALL CLUB – 100 YEARS

A special thank you to our Esteemed Life Member, Pat Caddaye and her husband Reg, who undertook the task of compiling the history of our Club from its origin.



Thanks also to Robyn Kuys and Daniel Porter for their assistance.

The Emerald Club was one of the earlier Clubs in the Mountain District Football Association, as it was named, when first formed in 1905. In 1967, it became known as the Yarra Valley Mountain District Football League.

During its long and colorful history it has produced many outstanding players and administrators who began, and maintained, great standards and traditions.

At Emerald the recruiting of players for our junior and senior sides is most important, particularly the junior sides, as these players are the hope for the future.

One of the great strengths of the Club has been the calibre of players and committee persons from the early twenties up until the present. The Club is renowned for the strength of its administration and never say die spirit of players and supporters alike.

THE EMERALD TRADITION

This Club spirit and tradition just does not happen, they are born on the formation of the Club, and all past and present members and supporters should be very proud of its foundation President and Committee who laid these foundations so many years ago.

This undoubtedly was achieved from hard work, commanding respect, good behaviour, and total commitment, thus creating a Football Club that is held in high esteem.

It is up to our current members and supporters to see that this legacy continues in the future.

Emerald's tradition is striving to win, refusing to accept defeat, being of good conduct on, and off, the field.

Another important part of our tradition is our Club colours. Initially our colours were blue and white, followed by green and gold, until what we have to-day, red and black.

In the mid twenties we were nick named the 'EMITES', the thirties the 'REDLEGS', and later the "BOMBERS."

Pre 1920

The first game in the hills was played in 1895 when Ferntree Gully defeated Monbulk.

A small Association was formed in 1905 and teams were Cockatoo, Emerald, Gembrook, Macclesfield, Monbulk and Woori Yallock,

Knickers were worn 3"-4" below the knee, as anything shorter would have been considered indelicate.



Emerald Football Team 1915

THE PLAYING YEARS 1920-1926

Quite a number of games were only ever played in paddocks, not on properly constructed ovals, and because of the lack of transport players walked to neighbouring grounds for the match. At the same time this was a means of training, kicking and passing the ball to one another en route to the respective grounds.

There was no insurance for players if injured, and they had to finance all their own football gear.

Our colours in the early days were blue and white.

1921-1926

1921 Monbulk won the Flag, followed by Ferntree Gully, Belgrave, Ferny Creek, Emerald and Gembrook, played in the M.D.F.A.

Emerald's colours in this League were green and gold. During these years Emerald had the nickname "THE EMITES."

A game of football in those days was quite an event. The ladies brought picnic hampers and everyone enjoyed a social cup of tea at half time. This was particularly enjoyed by the players,



Emerald Football Team 1921

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!!!!!!!

THE PLAYING YEARS 1930-1931

Our colours were green and gold. Emerald were the first Club to introduce a Membership Ticket and an Entrance Fee from 1930.

1931

The season commenced on the 9th May and Emerald won the first eleven games. They went on to win a further two and finished top of the ladder.

Emerald were defeated by Ferntree Gully 10.12 to 7.6, in the Second Semi Final. In the Preliminary Final, Emerald 6.12 defeated Boronia 6.7, then the ultimate, the Grand Final, a first for Emerald. Emerald won 5.16 to Ferntree Gully 6.4.



THE PLAYING YEARS 1934-1935

The class of football seen this season was even better than the two previous years, and it was a fine achievement for the team to go through the season undefeated. Unfortunately we were taken out in the Grand Final by Monbulk 11.15 to Emerald 11.14 only a point.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1936-1937

Emerald had a fairly successful season finishing in fourth position on the ladder.

The Hawthorn Football Club were active this season as far as Emerald were concerned. They signed four of Emerald's most promising players - Cedric Barron, Alex Forster, Jack Hirst and Bill Pavey for season 1937.

1937

This season we transferred to the Dandenong District League with the colours black jumper, red monogram and black socks with red tops and nick-named "THE REDLEGS."

It was a very dismal season for Emerald with only two wins and twelve losses. This resulted in our being the wooden spooners.

The only good that came out of this season was Bill Pavey playing for Hawthorn. He continued on and played until 1945, completing 100 games and kicking 7 goals.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1938-1939-1940

1939

The third dismal season, the first eleven games were losses so it will give you an idea of just what the year was like -Again Emerald were the wooden spooners.

The only enjoyable part of the season was the end of season football trip

1940

On the 14th June, Emerald withdrew from the Association due to W.W.2.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1945-1946

1945

The M.D.F.A. was reformed and competing teams were Belgrave, Emerald, Gembrook and Monbulk.

Our colours were black jumper and red monogram.

We could only find results of the first four games, but we did go through the season undefeated. We defeated Monbulk 7.10 to 5.9 in the second Semi Final and Belgrave 4.7 to Emerald 13.13 in the Grand Final-

Each player received an inscribed medal with the words:-
"UNDEFEATED CHAMPIONS"

1946

Emerald won thirteen out of the fourteen matches played for the season. Their only defeat was against Belgrave on the 13th July, and it was Emerald's first for twenty two matches.

We defeated Upwey-Tecoma 13.13 to Emerald 16.17 in the second Semi Final, and again in the Grand Final 15.15 to 8.7.



Emerald Football
Team 1946

During the season, noted player, Harry Paternoster, moved to Echuca and Jack Hirst drove to Echuca to bring Harry back to play in the Grand Final. After the game he drove Harry back to Echuca.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1949-1950-1951

1949

All games were played at Upper Beaconsfield due to Emerald's ground being under repair.

Female spectators went on to the ground at Olinda when it was foggy so that they could see the game.

Goal umpires each end had a young runner who ran from end to end when a goal was scored.

Wally Wescombe is the only player to have played in four premierships, 1945-1946-1955-1956.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1955-1956

1955

Because the newspapers for 1955 were in such poor condition we were unable to sight them at the State Library of Victoria to gain information.

The one thing we are aware of is we were Premiers.



THE PLAYING YEARS 1960-61-62

1960

Emerald finished top of the ladder this year, losing only four games. Upper Ferntree Gully won the Grand Final 8.4 to Emerald 4.12.

1961

Emerald won twelve, lost four and were knocked out in the First-Semi Final by Ferntree Gully.

This same year Box Dixon, ruckman, played his 100th consecutive game, something that doesn't happen very often. Pewter Mugs were presented to all players.

1962

Emerald finished in third position on the ladder, with eleven wins and seven losses and were defeated by Belgrave 14.19 to Emerald 8.17 in the Second Semi Final.

Again we had another player with 100 consecutive games to his credit, Peter Berry, who is related to the Founder of the Alice Berry Hospital in Emerald.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1963-1964-1965

1963

This year we finished fourth on the ladder and reached the Preliminary Final only to be defeated by Monbulk 19.10 to Emerald 12.10.

This year Membership Fees for "A" and "B" Grade was £1.00 and for Under 16, 5/-.

1964

Not a very good season for Emerald, we finished second bottom.

Our Under 16 were defeated by Monbulk 9.12 to Emerald 3.7 in the Grand Final.

Memberships remained at £1.00 for "A" Grade and 10/- for Juniors.

Unfortunately, due to lack of players, "B" Grade had to disband.

Ken Ferris, Derry Robertson and Phil Hastings were all invited to train with the Hawthorn Under 19's.

The Coach was paid a fee of \$10.00 per week. Trainers received \$1-15 and £1.10.

THE PLAYING YEARS LATE 1960'S

1965

PRESIDENT

Jim Haag

SECRETARY

Ian O'Donahoo

TREASURER

Alf Hart

CAPTAIN-COACH

Laurie Anderson (£14 per week)

ASSISTANT COACH

Rodney Haag

M.D.F.A. BEST AND FAIREST

John Haag

EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST

John Haag

LIFE MEMBER

Roy Church

We finished in fifth position.

There was a move this year to change the Under 16 to Under 17, but it was defeated. This same year a possible football merger was discussed between Club Delegates from M.D.F.A. and Y.V.F.L.



Emerald
Football
Team
1965

1966

PRESIDENT

Roy Church

SECRETARY

Tom Lowrie

TREASURER

Duncan Ridley

CAPTAIN-COACH

Rodney Haag

M.D.Y.V.F.L. BEST AND FAIREST

Derry Robertson

EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST

Derry Robertson

LIFE MEMBER

Joe Stone

We won two games, lost fourteen, so it was rather a poor year.

The amalgamation of the two Leagues begun on a trial basis for two years.

1967

PRESIDENT	Roy Church
SECRETARY	Jim Haag
TREASURER	Joe Stone
CAPTAIN-COACH	Rodney Haag (£16 per week)
M.D.Y.V.F.L. BEST AND FAIREST	Terry Moule
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Terry Moule
LIFE MEMBERS	Doris Stork "Poppy" Grady Sarah Nobelius Beryl Haag

We finished in ninth position with eight wins and ten losses.

The trial amalgamation period was pronounced a success and the Y.V.M.D.F.L. was formed and continues today, although several clubs have moved in and out of the competition.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1968-1969

1968

PRESIDENT	Roy Church
SECRETARY	John Tolley
TREASURER	Joe Stone
CAPTAIN-COACH	John Booker (£16 per week)
YV-M.D-F-L. BEST AND FAIREST	Vince Lamendola (Under 16)
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Terry Moule
LIFE MEMBERS	Roy and Bonnie Butterworth Rodney Haag Joe Hirst Duncan Ridley Wally Wescombe

Emerald continued on into the Preliminary Final, played at Gembrook, where they met Healesville, but were defeated by Healesville 5.1 to 3.10

1969

Our situation was not good this season in that we struggled badly for players

Unfortunately Emerald were the wooden spooners this year. It was one of our worst seasons, we did not win one game.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1970-1971-1972

1970

PRESIDENT	Clem Worrell
SECRETARY	Bryan Hope
TREASURER	Joe Stone
COACH	George Millman
CAPTAIN	Bryan Hope

EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST Graeme Appleby
LIFE MEMBER Carol Arney

Second year in a row the wooden spooners. No other information available.

1971

As at the 13th July, Emerald had played thirteen games, won three, lost ten, but we finished a little better this season second bottom.

1972

What little game results we could find only amounted to defeats for Emerald and we have no information as to where we finished for the year.

This year the Emerald Junior Football Club was founded and became an affiliated Club with the Dandenong Ranges Junior Football League, also founded in 1972.

We joined with Belgrave, Gembrook, Monbulk, South Belgrave and Upwey Tecoma and the Premier team was decided by a Lightning Premiership. Emerald had a lowly beginning, failing to win a game in their first season.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1973-1974-1975 1976

1973

PRESIDENT	Alan Chandler
SECRETARY	John Holt
TREASURER	Len Parnail
CAPTAIN-COACH	Max Thomas-Brian Wicks
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Doug Page
LIFE MEMBER	Len Stephens

Another poor season, wooden spooners yet again.

1974

The early seventies were not overly successful years for finals appearances.

One notable player of this period, was Ian Craig, who featured in the Sunkick Competition, a Semi Finalist in 1967 and Runner Up in 1968. He came to us from Richmond, and during his football career he had won nine Best and Fairest Awards.

This same season, 1974 saw our Under 14 'Runners Up' to Upwey Tecoma in the Grand Final

1975

PRESIDENT	Alan Chandler
SECRETARY-TREASURER	Mai Kewish-Don Fitzgerald
CAPTAIN-COACH	Frank Lowrie
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	John Haag
LIFE MEMBER	John Haag
	Bryan and Lyn Hope

No information of any kind for this year. The age group at Junior level was changed to Under 12 and Under 15 and this time our Under 12 were Runners Up to Woori Yallock-

THE PLAYING YEARS 1978-1979-1980

1978

PRESIDENT	John Hartnell
SECRETARY	Geoff Shaw
TREASURER	Tony Rennison
CAPTAIN-COACH	Dennis Young
Y.V.M.D.F.L. RESERVE BEST AND FAIREST	Mark Morris
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	David Sands
LIFE MEMBER	Phil Gramlick
	Max Thomas

Both the Under 17 and the Seniors were Runners Up this season.

In one match Geoff "Digger" Dolan booted eighteen (18) goals of Emerald's one hundred and thirty three (133) point win over Silvan.

This season red shorts were introduced in place of black.

In the Juniors the age groups remained the same. We were Premiers in the Under 11 and Under 15 and won three Best Conducted Club Awards. We also fielded two (2) teams in the Under 13 age group.

1979

PRESIDENT	Leon Michalski
SECRETARY	Keith Lark
CAPTAIN-COACH	Dennis Young
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Jim Brennan

The Under 17's were Semi Finalists and the Seniors were Preliminary Finalists. This season in the Juniors an Under 9 age group was introduced and Emerald were the Premiers. The Under 11's were Runners Up and the Under 15's took out the Best Conducted Club Award.

1980

PRESIDENT	John Hartnell
SECRETARY	Keith Lark
TREASURER	Les Gobbett
CAPTAIN-COACH	Dennis Co'lee
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Terry Geddes

Emerald had eight wins, one draw and eight losses and finished in fourth position. In the Juniors, the Under 13's were Runners Up,

THE PLAYING YEARS 1981

1981

PRESIDENT	Jim Brennan
SECRETARY	Phil Gramlick
TREASURER	George Millman
CAPTAIN-COACH	Terry Geddes
Y.V.M.D.F.L. SENIOR BEST AND FAIREST	Terry Geddes
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Terry Geddes

After a twenty five year drought this was to be our year, Premiers for 1981.

We finished the season top of the ladder by two clear games after being a most aggressive, defensive and consistent side all year playing steady and intelligent football.

Prior to the Second Semi Final, Emerald had not had a game for three weeks, due to byes, and because we were beaten by Thornton in the Second Semi Final 15.14 to 12.21, blame was placed on "no matches for three weeks." Also a large amount of 15 metre penalties awarded to Thornton helped them three goal wise.

With more aggression in our play, we met Silvan in the Preliminary Final with Emerald 17.21 to Silvan 9.14 and there were still a large number of 15 metre penalties.

In the Grand Final when Emerald beat Thornton 17.16 to 6.10. there were many highlights.

There was Terry Gedde's inspirational leadership. Jim Brennan's ability to produce his best when needed, his brilliant dashes and goal kicking. George Millman's display of casual strength and supremacy over his opposition and Geoff "Digger" Dolan's beating of two opponents and bagging of goals.

The backline never gave an inch all day. Forwards combined well to convert most opportunities and rucks and rovers were on top all day and were running their opponents ragged.

Looking back on the game we were just too good. Having lost the Second Semi Final by a narrow margin to Thornton, then getting a good solid game against Silvan in the Preliminary Final, it was just what we needed.

Our Under 17's also won the Grand Final, and were UNDEFEATED CHAMPIONS with a score of Emerald 16.7 to Yea 6.8.

This same year our Juniors did well with the Under 11 and Under 13 taking out the Premierships and the Under 15 being awarded the Best Conducted Club.

This was the season we produced our Premiership Port and raffled the Greyhound pup, donated by Kevin Burns.

Our Red and Black magazine commenced publication.
(A tradition that has now continued for 23 years.)



1981 Senior Grand Final Premiers Team

THE PLAYING YEARS 1982-1983

1982

We finished bottom of the ladder and were relegated after three wins and fifteen losses.

1983

PRESIDENT	Quentin Porter
SECRETARY	Pat Caddaye
TREASURER	Mike Owen
CAPTAIN-COACH	Terry Geddes
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Jeff Arnott
LIFE MEMBER	Stan Morris

This was to be another memorable year for Emerald. Apart from taking out the Senior and Reserve Premierships, and the Runner Up in the Under 17, we were also the recipients of a large number of Y.V.M.D.F.L. Awards.

Our Reserves finished second with fourteen (14) wins and four (4) losses, and were Premiers against Powelltown with a score of 11.7 to 8.13.

This is the first time an Emerald Reserve side has won a Premiership, and for the record, fourteen (14) members of the team had come up through the Junior ranks.

This same year two of our Senior players , Terry Simpson and Dave Walton, and John Vanderplight (Reserve Premiership Coach) competed in the "Run against Puffing Billy" from Belgrave to Emerald. Dave finished with a time of 53 minutes 40 seconds. Terry finished with a time of 61 minutes 30 seconds. John finished with a time of 62 minutes 30 seconds. The train time was 49 minutes.

The season ended on a sad note when Syd Jinnette lost his life in a car accident. He was Captain of the Reserve team and it would have been a very proud moment for Syd to have been a part of this first Reserve Premiership.

After his death, parents Syd and Pat instigated the "MOST COURAGEOUS IN THE CLUB TROPHY" to be awarded each year in memory of Syd.



**1983 Reserves
Grand Final Premiers Team**

THE PLAYING YEARS 1984-1985

1984

We recruited Bob Colbert, originally from Clarence in the Tasmanian Football League, Yarraville and Port Melbourne, as well as Grant Dempster from Silvan. Whilst at Silvan he won the Club's Best and Fairest every year from 1980-1983. He also won the Y. V. M. D. F. L. Goal kicking in 1980 with 70 goals.

The only honours for our Juniors this season was the D.R.J.F.L. Runner Up Best and Fairest in the Under 11's, Scott Black

1985

PRESIDENT	George Millman
SECRETARY	Maureen Southcott
TREASURER	Bert Bergwerf
CAPTAIN-COACH	Don Henwood (ex Footscray)
Y.V.M.D.F.L. BEST AND FAIREST	Grant Dempster
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Grant Dempster
LIFE MEMBER	George Millman

We finished fourth on the ladder with ten wins and eight losses

A notable Junior, Richard Wicks, entered the ranks of the Under 17's this year and whilst there in 1986, was signed up by Hawthorn to play in the Under 19's. Richard went on to play for Dandenong.

1986

Coach. David Dickson. played for Preston Under 19 in 1971 He played for Carlton from 1972 to 1976 and featured in their 1972 Premiership. He had one year at Collingwood in 1977, In 1978 he coached Bayswater. emerging triumphant in 1985 with a Premiership, then in 1986 coached Emerald to sixteen wins and two losses Emerald finished top of the ladder.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1987-1988

1987

PRESIDENT

George Millman

Leon Michalski

SECRETARY

Lyn Hope

TREASURER

Colin Richards

CAPTAIN-COACH

Terry Geddes

EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST

Peter Murphy

Terry Geddes, as Coach, started the season with only half the 1986 team and the vacancies were filled with local talent. He had hoped to consolidate in First Division with a predominantly "local" side. This approach, concentrating on home grown talent, would give the team a lot more spirit.

A lot of the players in the First Eighteen, were members of the Juniors when Terry last coached Emerald in 1983. We had some experienced players and Terry was hopeful that the younger players would benefit from that experience.

1988

PRESIDENT

Pat Caddaye

SECRETARY

Maureen Southcott

TREASURER

Colin Richards

CAPTAIN-COACH

Ken Arnott

Y.V.M.D.F.L..RESERVE BEST AND FAIREST

Geoff Carr

EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST

John Colby

LIFE MEMBER

John Hartnell

With six wins and ten losses, Emerald finished sixth.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1989-1990

1989

PRESIDENT

Pat Caddaye

SECRETARY

Maureen Southcott

TREASURER

Colin Richards

CAPTAIN-COACH

Ken Arnott

EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST
LIFE MEMBER

John Crosby
Peter Murphy
Mick Anzin

Emerald finished the season in sixth position, again with six wins and ten losses.

We had an English recruit this season for a short time, Steve Dunn - our 'Pommie' footballer, who gave a good account of himself before having to return to England.

1990

PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
CAPTAIN-COACH
Y, V, M-D. F. L, BEST AND FAIREST
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST
LIFE MEMBER

John Hartnell
Maureen Southcott
Colin Richards
Michael Mott
Darren Lunt
Darren Lunt
John Hartnell

Not the best of seasons for success. Three wins, fifteen losses and second bottom.

No. 1 Recruit this year was Darren Lunt, ruckman, ex Waverley 1985 Best and Fairest and Most Determined at Loch in the Bass Valley.

Our Juniors did well this season with the Under 9's taking out the Premiership, and the Under 11's coming in as Semi Finalists

THE PLAYING YEARS 1991-1992

1991

PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
COACH
CAPTAIN
Y.V.M.D.F.L. PLAYER OF THE YEAR
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST
LIFE MEMBER

Geoff Shaw
Maureen Southcott
Paul Nichols
Alan Davis
Brendan Pola
Brendan Pola
Brendan Pola
Pat Caddaye

We finished the season with nine wins and nine losses.

David Gough Report:-

It has been a successful year on and off the field. I think the early losses when we had only won one game out of five in the first six rounds really made us struggle all season. Lack of depth cost us in the end, together with injuries, and our side just wasn't strong enough in the last few weeks. The first three quarters against Upwey-Tecoma was the major highlight, we matched it with the best until three quarter time.

This season we lost our ruckman Darren Lunt to East Perth.

We recruited well this year with Coach Alan Davis ex St. Kilda, Melbourne, Essendon and Collingwood. Brendan Pola from South Melbourne, St. Kilda, Dandenong and Oakleigh. Colin Lowe from St. Kilda and Oakleigh. Ken Benham from Prahran. Peter Wallace ex South Melbourne and Prahran and Dean Notting ex Lake Boga and Richmond.

Our Junior Under 9's and Under 11's were Finalists and the Under 13's were awarded the Best Conducted Club.

1992

PRESIDENT	Russell Cook
SECRETARY	Maureen Southcott
TREASURER	Geoff Shaw
COACH	Alan Davis
CAPTAIN	Brendan Pola
Y.V.M.D.F.L. UNDER 17 BEST & FAIREST	Stephen Butler
Y.V.M.D.F.L. RESERVE GOALKICKING	Jeff Banks (50 goals)
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Brendan Pola

This year we had five wins, thirteen losses and finished eighth.

The Under 17 age group was changed to Under 18 this year.

The Junior age groups were changed to Under 10, 12, 14 and 16.

Our Under 10's were Preliminary Finalists and Best Conducted Club, Under 12's were Finalists, Under 14's Semi Finalists and Under 16's Preliminary Finalists.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1993

1993

PRESIDENT	Keith Thomas
SECRETARY	Maureen Southcott
TREASURER	Colin Richards
COACH	Michael Bingley (ex Highfield)

CAPTAINS

Our Senior Coach- "Binga," this season thought it more appropriate to share the Captaincy of the team between himself and players such as David Alexander, Liam Megarrell, Danny Thomas, Michael Mott, John Crosby, Rob Westin, Brian Thomas, Wayne Corbett, Geoff Ladner, Colin Lowe and Gary Santini.

Y-V.M.D.F.L. BEST AND FAIREST	Adam Bowater
LEADER NEWSPAPERS PLAYER OF THE YEAR	Adam Bowater
MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWSPAPER SENIOR GOALKICKER	Colin Lowe (98)
MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWSPAPER RESERVE GOALKICKER	Jeff Banks (74)
EMERALD 300 GAMES	Rory Cahill
	Steven Hartnell
	Peter Rush

We finished the season with twelve wins and eight losses and finished third on the ladder. Emerald 20.11.131 defeated Warburton-Millgrove 11-13.79 in the first Semi Final at Yarra Glen, but Emerald 6.9.45 were defeated by Wandin 19.15.129 in the Preliminary Final at Monbulk.

It has been a very positive and progressive season for 1993 because of the fact that it has been some seven years since Emerald were in the final four . 1986, in fact, when ex Carlton player, David Dickson was Senior Coach and Emerald finished on top of the ladder.

Unfortunately, Emerald were eliminated in the Preliminary Final then, the same as now in 1993, but despite this there has been a most significant improvement both on and off the field.

Together with Coach "Binga", Emerald have indeed been fortunate this year to have acquired the services of a number of talented players.

Firstly, there is Adam Bowater (rover), ex Highfield (Victoria) and Airlie Beach (now the "Whitsunday Football Club) in the Queensland League who, in his first season at Emerald won the Y.V.M.D.F.L. Best and Fairest and the Leader Newspapers Player of the Year Award.

Our juniors also had a very successful season with the Under 12's Semi Finalists, Under 14's Premiers and Under 16's Finalists

Emerald also polled well in the D.R.J.F.L. voting.

Under 10 Best and Fairest

Clinton Marsh

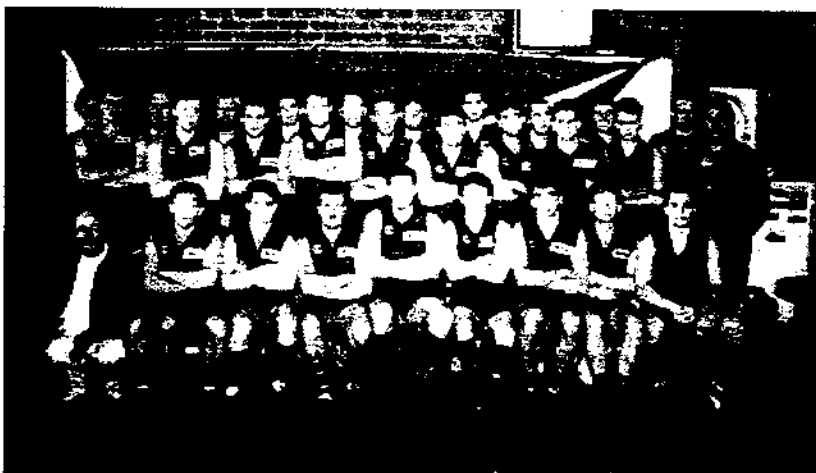
Under 10 Best Conducted Club

Under 12 Best and Fairest

Mark Wheatley

Under 14 Runner Up Best and Fairest

Shannon Richardson



Emerald
Football
Club 1993

THE PLAYING YEARS 1994

1994

PRESIDENT

Russell Cook/George Millman

SECRETARY	Maureen Southcott
TREASURER	Colin Richards/Arthur Carew
COACHES	Michael Bingley/Wayne Corbett
CAPTAINS	Michael Bingley/Wayne Corbett
Y.V.M.D.F.L. RUNNER UP BEST AND FAIREST	Scott Allen (U.18)
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST	Adam Bowater

Despite the changes in Committee personnel and Senior Coaches, we managed to complete the season in sixth position with eight wins and ten losses.

Firstly, our President, Russell Cook, was unable to continue, due to work commitments, and Treasurer, Colin Richards taking on a new venture, the Woori Yallock Hotel.

Secondly, Coach, Michael Bingley, also had to resign due to work commitments, resulting in Wayne Corbett being appointed Senior Coach from Round 11.

Our Under 18's finished in fourth position, with eleven wins and five losses. They defeated Warburton-Millgrove 8.6 to 8.10 in the first Semi Final, and then went on to play Upwey-Tecoma in the Preliminary, when they were defeated 10.6. to 7.3. Upwey-Tecoma then went on to become Premiers. The formation of an excellent Social Committee this season resulted in some most successful fund raising functions, such as, a Mystery bus trip and a bus trip to the Trots, Karaoke night and a Calcutta.

We also had a 1981 Premiership Team Reunion Luncheon at the clubrooms and this proved to be most entertaining and enjoyable to all who attended. All but five members of the team were present.

Finally, improved lighting at our ground at Avonsleigh was a major exercise this year. This will mean that a night competition of cricket and football can be conducted.

Our Juniors had a successful season with the Under 10's taking out the Premiership, with the Under 12's, Under 14's, and Under 16's finishing Semi Finalists,

The Under 14 also won the Lightning Premiership Cup.

Josh Taylor was the D.R.J.F.L. Runner Up Best and Fairest in the Under 12's.

Finally, Emerald were the recipients of the D.R.J.F.L. Aggregate Shield for the most number of wins by all four teams for the season.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1995

1995

PRESIDENT	John Tolley
SECRETARY	Maureen Southcott
TREASURER	Arthur Carew
COACH	Wayne "Bear" Corbett
CAPTAINS	Liam Megarrell/Danny Thomas
BEST AND FAIREST	Danny Thomas
LIFE MEMBER	Romalo Turco

Emerald have not experienced such a disappointing season for some years.

Our records show that some twenty six years ago in 1969, Emerald finished the season without a win. It was a year when the Club struggled for players, not like this season when players have been plagued by injury.

Danny Thomas, returning from a knee operation in 1994, had a rewarding season, taking out the Best and Fairest and then the Captaincy after Liam Megarrell had to retire due to injury

David "Rags" Alexander returned this season after a year's retirement, only to sustain a broken jaw after playing ten games, thus putting him out for the remainder of the season.

Even our Coach had a difficult year with injury, failing to compete in the last seven games.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this season was the recruitment of Mike Pudney, Shaun Sheehan and Daie Harris, all of whom more than proved their worth, despite our overall performance on the field.

It was extremely difficult to field a competitive senior side, when you consider that over the period of the season, forty six different names appeared on the team sheet.

Socially and financially, the Club had a most successful season, and, despite the lack of success on the field, players, committee and supporters kept their morale at a high level.

The endeavour now is to look and work hard for 1996.

Our Junior teams enjoyed a degree of success, with the Under 10's Preliminary Finalists, Under 12's Finalists, Under 14's Semi Finalists and the Under 16's Finalists.

David King of the Under 16's won the Dandenong Ranges Junior Football League Best and Fairest Award.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1996

1996

PRESIDENT	Geoff McIntyre
SECRETARY	Maureen Southcott

TREASURER
COACH
CAPTAIN
EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST

Vanessa Pryn
Andrew Coffey
Danny Thomas
Daryl Lucas

Despite relegation to Second Division, Emerald's season was off to a good start with the recruitment of some fourteen new players, including new Coach, Andrew Coffey and brother, David, from Heatherton.

1996 also heralded the return of Mick Mott from South Belgrave, Mark Butler from the Waverley Panthers, and Wayne Corbett from Coldstream.

At the commencement of training there was a big contingent of players in attendance, which was great to see.

Emerald started the season slow, losing the first three games, but winning the next six, thus making them a big contender for the Grand Final.

We finished the season with thirteen (13) wins and five (5) losses and second on the Premiership ladder.

All three teams were winners in the Second Semi Final and advanced to the Grand Final. Unfortunately the Seniors and Reserves were Runners Up, but the Under 18's were the Premiers. Our last Under 18 Premiership was in First Division in 1988.

Emerald also achieved some success in the Y.V.M.D.F.L. Best and Fairest voting with Senior player, Danny Thomas coming in third, Reserves player, Stuart Young Runner Up and Under 18's David King fourth.

In the Mountain Views Newspaper Leading Goalkickers Award, our Under 18 Shannon Richardson was the winner with fifty six (56) goals and David King second with thirty eight (38).

At Junior level our Under 10's finished in ninth position, the Under 12's were Premiers and the Under 14's and 16's were defeated in the elimination finals.

1996 also saw the end of an era for the Emerald Football Club at Administration level. Maureen Southcott, Secretary for eleven (11) years decided to call it a day and retire.

For all those who have known Maureen for this period of time, and prior at Junior level, will realize what a devoted and totally committed person she has been in all this time. In this day and age it is hard to find people willing to commit more than that 100%, but Maureen, to her credit, did this admirably.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1997

1997
PRESIDENT

Geoff McIntyre

SECRETARY
TREASURER

COACH

CAPTAIN

EMERALD BEST AND FAIREST

Andrew Coffey

Danny Thomas

Justin Carusi

Having finished the 1996 season Runners Up to South Belgrave, Emerald would be the logical red hot favourites for 1997.

We finished top of the ladder with fourteen wins, one loss and three byes. We won our first seven games and were then defeated by Gembrook.

We continued on with our winning streak for a further seven rounds, only to be the losers again to Gembrook in the Second Semi Final, with a score of 12.21 to 10.11.

Emerald went on to defeat Croydon North in the Preliminary Final 28.17 to 10.9.

Finally the big one - the Emerald-Gembrook Grand Final - with the Bombers coming out victorious 12.16 to 9.8, and Premiers, Second Division 1997.

We also enjoyed success with a Reserve Premiership against Yarra Junction and a great achievement for young (Emerald only) Coach, Tony Walker.

The Under 18's were not so fortunate having been knocked out in the semi final, but one extremely pleasing factor was the big last year Under 16 input to Under 18's for 1997 - thirteen players in all.

Our Juniors, had a very successful season with the Under 10's being Finalists, Under 12's Preliminary Finalists, and the Under 16's Premiers.

They also had some D.R.J.F.L. achievements such as :Under 10's Runner Up Best and Fairest, Sam Creed. Under 12's Runner Up Best and Fairest, Joel Cargill and Under 16's Equal Best and Fairest, Ryan Simpson.

There would be many still involved with Emerald who would remember Terry Simpson (father of Ryan mentioned above, who featured strongly in our 1981 and 1983 Premierships, and has been, and still is, totally committed to the Junior club.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1998

1998

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

SENIOR COACH

RESERVE COACH

UNDER 18 COACH

Geoff McIntyre

Christine Bromfield

Michael Mott

Todd Devine

Tony Walker

Andrew Morris

Not a very good season on the field, or financially, a season when most of what we

tried to achieve was not totally successful.

As far as Executive were concerned, Emerald lost its Secretary after her husband passed away and then Christine moved to Queensland. Mick Mott then stepped in as Secretary/Treasurer, and did an admirable job until the Annual Meeting.

We could not find any minutes for further information.

The Senior Coach only played six games when he injured his knee and was out for the rest of the season, but continued to coach.

The Reserve Coach broke his ankle during the season, but also continued to coach.

The return of Craig Clarke after playing Under 18's at Gembrook, prior to joining Gembrook, Craig played all his junior football at Emerald.

A successful U/18 team continued to develop under the tutelage of Andrew Morris with a large core of the premierships U/16 team progressing to senior ranks. The highlight of the year was U/18 night finals at Avonsleigh. A double header featuring Woori v Warburton Millgrove and Emerald v Seville. Captained by Chris Elliott, the team won an emotion charged match with Josh Taylor (U/16), Ryan Simpson and Justin Van Rossen starring but the following week they were defeated by Woori Yallock at Gembrook to end their season. The return of Justin Barrot after a stint at junior umpiring.

New recruits, Cameron Dalgleish, Glenn and Darren Gambetta, Stephen Johnson, Marcus Ramani, Denis Balding, Andrew and Steven Bell, David Edgar, Bruce Morris, Adam Sadell and Mark Sampson.

THE PLAYING YEARS 1999

PRESIDENT	Michael Mott
SECRETARY	Wayne Corbett
TREASURER	Paul Davies - Michelle Mott
SENIOR COACH	Troy Keeling
RESERVE COACH	Peter Ferrari
UNDER 18 COACH	Andrew Morris

Paul Davies moved to Albury during the season and Michelle took over as Treasurer until the Annual Meeting.

We enlisted new recruits, Peter Bain, Justin Binding, Ty Fitzpatrick, Tom Hosemans, Troy Keeling, Mick Meehan, Sean O'Grady, Gavin Panther, Ryan Binding, Tim Chisholm, Trent Cranford, Liam Porter, Ben Robinson, Paul Ramani, Siekman Cameron, Brent Smith, Greg Whyte, Luke Janssen and Ryan Wigmore.

A disappointing year for the senior side with new coach Troy Keeling fracturing his leg in the opening round against Woori Yallock, the Bombers struggled to be competitive in a long season. Despite the efforts of Liam Megarrell, Danny Thomas, Mick Mott and the host of U/18's who played half games in the unders and then

played seniors, the team finished bottom of the ladder and were relegated to second division.

It was a very successful year for the thirds, captained by Daniel Porter, the side including current senior players Jay Mills, Wes Mills, Liam Porter, Wes Wright, Clinton Marsh, Adrian Allen, Luke Whyte, Matthew Cox and John Mackay. Other players who played major role in the successful year were Marcus Kenny who went on to be rookie listed by Essendon and is currently one of the dominant players in EFL First Division, Josh Taylor and Ryan Simpson (Springvale VFL) Kade Simpson (Carlton) and Gavin Tippett (Noble Park). The team went through the season with one loss to Upwey, but defeated Upwey in a thrilling semi final under lights at Yarra Junction by 6 points. The side then disposed of a strong Woori Yallock side in the preliminary final at Gembrook to make the grand final. Strengthened by the return of Josh Taylor and Marcus Kenny from Eastern Ranges for the match, overconfidence and slippery conditions played against the Bombers going down by six points to Healesville at Healesville, a side they had beaten comfortably during the year.

THE PLAYING YEARS 2000

Senior Coach: Jason Hardwick

Reserves: Rowan Pascoe

U/18 Peter Ferrari

A new year and another senior coach in Jason Hardwick from Rosebud, with the side relegated to second division, a strong performance was needed. New players in Michael Poon, Michael Epstein, John Mellere and Pete Fenby helped to give the young side some experience and the club some character, possibly not in the best way. The season included the infamous match against Boronia Park in which Emerald kicked a record 63 goals. The season came to a dramatic climax in the final round against Yarra Junction. With Emerald needing a win and other results to fall their way, the return of Shannon Richardson and Ryan Simpson from Springvale was the catalyst for a huge win for the under dog Emerald side. Simmo dominated gun Eagle full forward Jason Long and Richo kicked 7.8 as Junction predictably lost the plot in the final quarter. Emerald's involvement in finals was short lived however, disappointingly succumbing to the same Yarra Junction outfit in a home final a week later to finish the year fourth. Yarra Junction went on to lose the grand final to Gembrook.

With the U/18 competition changed back into two divisions to align with the senior competition, our talented thirds found themselves playing a very two sided season. Going through the season close to undefeated with the only real threat, an always competitive South Belgrave. The grand final was once again a one sided affair, Emerald winning the premiership by about 40 points. A team consisting of Rob Gluckman, Shane Bryant, Jarred Kelly, John Mackay, Clinton Marsh as well as new players Matt Dixon, Dane Mosely and Weeks from ROC F.C. gave the side the class required to win a premiership which was well deserved.

THE PLAYING YEARS 2001

Presidents Nick Wright Leanne McKenzie

Senior Coach Tony Walker
Reserves Rowan Pascoe
U/18 Pete Ferrari

Another year and yet another senior coach with home-town favorite Tony Walker assuming the role as leader of the club. Losing the previous years best and fairest Michael Poon was offset by the return of big man Darryl Lucas and with another group of U/18's stepping up to play seniors, Emerald had a good mix of experienced players and talented youngsters.

Captained by Steve Robins, the team hit the finals full of running, finishing the year in third spot saw them take on Powelltown in the first semi final at Gembrook. An older, slower Powelltown were exploited by the hard running Bombers, led by Steve Robins and Liam Porter out of the back-line, Matt Dixon and Paul Ferrari in the middle and Adrian Allen, Nik Ferrari and Rob Gluckman up forward, the Bombers dominated to run out winners by 8 goals.

The preliminary final the next week against Yarra Junction was a heart-stopper played at the rock hard, windy Kilsyth ground. The wind wreaked havoc with Emerald's kicking, at half-time the scores were Yarra Junction 5.2 Emerald 2.7. The second half saw Emerald full of running, Nik Ferrari kicking two goals leaving Emerald 7 points down at three quarter time. An infamous speech by Tony Walker at the three quarter time huddle in which he nominated Liam Porter as the match winner inspired Emerald to hit the front by 9 points with just minutes to play. Two 50m penalties against Junction and an inspired run and bounce by Justin Barrot spurred Emerald towards an unlikely grand final berth however a snap from a boundary throw in and a 50m bouncing goal that bounced over the head of a desperate Liam Megarrell meant Emerald lost a thriller by 3 points, 8.5.53 to 6.14.50.

The reserves also lost the preliminary final at Kilsyth, despite the best efforts of Mark Wheatley who dominated the match. Emerald were behind the eight ball after a disastrous first quarter in which Yarra Junction kicked 7.5 to Emerald's 1.1. Emerald outscored their opponents from then on to close out the match brave 21 point losers. Best players included Luke Whyte, Scott Delmarco, Paul Govaars, Lyndon Richardson, Matthew Bromfield, Tom Hoseman, Justin Eadie, Wayne Dalglish and Aaron Lupton.

Once again the U/18 comp was combined and Emerald came up short against a firing Olinda-Ferny Creek in a semi final on the same day at Kilsyth. In a disappointing end to a season that promised so much, Emerald went down 14.6.90 to 3.5.23. Best players were Paul Mackenzie, Jason Cox and Mick Sheers

THE PLAYING YEARS 2002

President Nick Wright
Coach Tony Walker
Reserves Rowan Pascoe
U/18's Wayne Delmarco

Against tradition we retained our coach, Tony Walker, but keeping with recent

tradition, our Best and Fairest, Darryl Lucas retired leaving the ruckwork to Simon Bergin and two extremely talented U/18's in Brad Charman and Steve Kenny. The highlight of the season, as well as reaching the grand final, was the development of our under18's. No less than eight players, David Black, Charman, Kenny, Caillin Porter, Jason Cox, Daniel Hickleton, Ben Van Brummelton and Joel Cargill not only tasted senior action, but excelled to the extent that 5 played in the senior finals and if all had've been available for the senior grandfinal, the end result may've been different.

Emerald finished the season in third position, with 12 wins and 6 losses. and came up against South Belgrave in the first semi-final at Yarra Glen. In summery conditions, Emerald got the jump on their opponents early but were reigned in by a Saints side led by Robbie Westin who kicked 98 goals for the season. Emerald again jumped clear in the third quarter with some brilliant sharp shooting by Joel Cargill and the Bombers outlasted the fast finishing South to win 14.11 to 13.7.

The next week Emerald faced Yarra Junction who were humbled in the first semi final by Silvan to the tune of 59 points. A windy day greeted Emerald who again had the luxury of including their U/18 contingent thanks to their win the previous week in the first semi. Junction got the jump on Emerald, kicking with the wind they put on 5.4 to Emerald's 1.5, Emerald fought back to 9 point deficit at half time. In the third quarter, Emerald took control kicking 4.4 into the wind to Junction's 3 behinds. Leading by 16 points at three quarter time, Emerald didn't look back running out winners by 55 points, John Mackay and Matt Dixon kicking four goals each with Dixon and Danny Thomas best on the ground.

Emerald entered the grand final massive under dogs against the Silvan machine who'd only lost one match for the year against the lowly Yarra Gen. With the U/18's also making the grand final, players faced a tough decision. U/18 captain Brad Charman played for his side, as did Jason Cox and Caillin Porter, with SteveKenny and David Black making themselves available for the seniors.

On a hot and blustery day of football, the Bombers played bravely against their highly fancied opponents. Kicking into the breeze in the first quarter, Michael "Eppa" Epstein snapped the first goal of the game. Emerald defended grimly until into time on when the floodgates opened, three quick goals pushing Silvan out to a 5.3 to 1.1 lead at quarter time. Emerald fought back in the second quarter but adding just 2.3 with a 6 goal wind wasn't enough, trailing by 19 points at half time. The third quarter saw Emerald held scoreless

Despite numerous opportunities and down by 36 points. The Bombers hadn't given up hope of snatching a win however, two goals from Daniel Porter and one from John Mackay got Emerald within 17 points. Emerald then had three realistic attempts at goal but failed to capitalise, pushing Silvan all the way but losing by 17 points. Best players were Daniel Porter, Steve Kenny, Blair Kuys, Michael Epstein, Shane Farr, Adrian Allen, Paul Mackenzie

The Reserves also finished the season in third position with 12 wins, 5 losses and a draw against Yarra Glen, (the drawing score coming from the boot of Luke Whyte in the dying moments). The Bombers faced up against Silvan in the first semi final at

Yarra Glen in a match Emerald were favoured to win. A side including regular seniors Shane Farr, Mark Wheatley and Wes Mills started well and opened up a comfortable lead. Things started to go haywire for the Bombers in the last quarter as a succession of goals by the cats and a dubious 50m penalty almost right on the siren saw Silvan goal and win the encounter by a solitary point.

Given the talent in the thirds, it was a given that they would contest the grandfinal against South Belgrave this season. Both teams only lost one game all season, to each other and when they met in the first semi final at Gembrook, Emerald were playing with their full contingent of players, leading the Bombers to a comfortable 46 point win to progress straight to the grand final.

Despite missing Steve Kenny and David Black for the grand final, Emerald were still favoured to win but a fired up South, spurred on by a large contingent of supporters ran all over the Bombers to record an easy victory and a disappointing end to the season to the Emerald side.

THE PLAYING YEARS 2003

The previous years losing grand finals and a round Australia trip resulted in an exodus of players and resulted in the club coming close to shutting down. Thankfully, the work done by Mick Hawken resulted in the club providing a competitive season but unfortunately we didn't field an U/18 side. There were a host of new faces for supporters to contend with. The likes of Vaughan Geddes, Ben O'Donnell, Josh Conder returned when their club was most in need while new players in Ben Mitchell, Adam Wilson, Brad Smith, Robbie Westin, Shaun Smith, Darren Trotter helped the club through its darkest hours.

The side started off very well, matching it with the strongest sides but as the season progressed, injuries took their toll and the disappointing losses of Brad Charman and Rod Williams hurt the side badly. The performance of the best and fairest winners Paul Mackenzie and Vaughan Geddes was a welcome site for supporters and gave cause for optimism regarding the upcoming centenary year.

Reserves: the new players to the club added some much needed depth to the reserves and getting a team together from the seven or eight players who were fronting for pre-season training and that team making the finals was an impressive effort.

Emerald snuck into the four with a good finish to the season, a dramatic win over Gembrook at Gembrook in the rain. The first semi-final was played against Yarra Glen in wintry conditions at Warburton- millgrove. Yarra Glen got the good start but with the conditions worsening, the desperation of the likes of Bruce Whitehead, Grant Allen, Daniel Hams, Luke Whyte and Shane Bryant, Emerald clawed their way back, eventually running out convincing winners.

The preliminary final brought out better numbers for training than had been seen all season, a clash against Yarra Junction at Avonsleigh. The Junction side had plenty of new faces from previous meetings between the two clubs and got away quickly but four quick goals from Emerald to finish the first quarter kept them in touch. Emerald played generally poor football but bad kicking from Junction kept Emerald in the match. In a desperate last couple of minutes, "Skip" had a shot on goal that would've

given Emerald the lead but it wasn't to be as Junction ran out winners.

THE PLAYING YEARS 2004

Presidents Bill Kuys and Nick Wright

Senior coach Tony Walker

Reserves Andrew Rolfs

U/18 Chris Alenson

The centenary season started full of enthusiasm, with record numbers at pre-season training, the return of John Mackay after a premiership with Lilydale, Matt Cox who also won a premiership with Woori, Jason Cox, Liam Porter, Adrian Allen, the Ascenbrenner's, Steve Robins, Daniel Porter and Daniel Hams who travelled last season, new players in Adrian Piccioli, Dale Street, Dave Willcox, Joel Duggan all looks towards a season full of promise.

Thus far injuries have taken their toll but it is testament to the depth of talent at the club that despite losing last years best and fairest, runner-up B&F, captain and full forward, the club continues to perform well and push for a finals spot.

A black mark on the clubs report card is it's failure to field an U/18's team, despite such a strong junior club and tireless work from Chris Alenson earlier this year. It should be some solace to let you know that plans are already in place to ensure the mighty Bombers field an U/18's in 2005.

