

1940

This was the year many local footballers exchanged their guernsey's for khaki uniforms.

Once again Tim Healy was the club's Captain and Coach, but mid season he ended a long and distinguished association with Avoca enlisting in the RAAF.

The players list was:

Ian Templeton (Vice-Capt), Tony Jolly, Bill Resuggan, Tom French, Jack Whitley, Paddy Ryan Jnr., Clem Hill, Bert Cargill, Jim Astbury, Fred Chapman, Eric Clough, Les Beavis, P Marshall, J Green, Keith Morris, Jim Carey, Isles Rhoda, Albert Rodwell, Ken Gane, J Nugent, Mark Stuart, M McPherson, Wally Hicks, J Thorburn, Ted Field, Con Grant, Roy Hellings, D Westbrook, Fred Coppick, Larry Morvell, Max Bradley, Jim Murphy, Danny Ryan, C.J. Morris, Watty French, Arthur Stuart, and A Gracie,

Les Williamson and Goldy Drummond also left the club mid season to enlist in the Army.

However several players joined Avoca from Amphitheatre including Larry Morvell, Max Bradley and Jim Murphy.

Fred Coppick, a policeman and former Maryborough Coach, proved a valuable acquisition for Avoca.

Avoca finished the season in third position, and played a team known as P & N in the first semi final.

Avoca's first semi final team:

B:	Bert Cargill	Ian Templeton	Jim Astbury
HB:	Fred Chapman	Larry Morvell	Jim Murphy
C:	D Westbrook	Les Beavis	Fred Coppick
HF:	A Gracie	Jack Whitley	Tony Jolly
F:	Ken Gane	Paddy Ryan	Wally Hicks
R/R:	Bill Resuggan	Eric Clough	Mark Stuart

Avoca lost the semi final by 26 points against P & N, who went on to win the premiership.

FIRST SEMI FINAL

P & N 5.5 7.11 9.13 12.17.89

Avoca 2.2 3.4 4.6 9.9.63

Avoca Goals: Fred Coppick 4, Eric Clough 3, Clem Hill 1, Larry Morvell 1.

Avoca Best: Fred Coppick, Ian Templeton, Jim Astbury, Larry Morvell, Bert Cargill, Jack Whitley, Wally Hicks.

Once again, Paddy Ryan headed the goal kicking with 32 goals, but sadly, it was the last time the brilliant 23 year old would play for Avoca.

The Avoca Football Club disbanded at the end of the 1940 season because of the war.

[Go to 1944](#)

1944

Although the war was not over, it was moving further from Australian shores.

Back home, young men were anxious to pull on their football boots and, in 1944, competition football was resurrected with the formation of the "Patriotic Football Club" at Avoca.

The Office Bearers were:

President: George Jolly

Vice-President: Les Pora

Secretary: Ron French

Treasurer: Ron French

Selectors: George Jolly, Jack Groves, Ron French, Tony Jolly.

Gate Keepers: Alf Redpath, Charlie Brown, E.J. Hellings

Boundary Umpire: Reg Harrison

The players list had plenty of new faces from Avoca and Amphitheatre, and many of the surnames were familiar with past glories.

Jack Groves (Captain & Coach), Tony Jolly (Vice-Captain), Laurie Barker, Errol Howell, George Jolly, Danny Blair, Eric Richards, Ron French, Bruce Harrison, Les and Gordon Beavis, Sam Drummond, Alan Pitcher, Ron Driscoll, Pat, George, Joe and Sam Wardlaw, Charles and Frank Impey, Edward Day, Kevin and Pat

Lindsay, Clive Dellar, Arthur Stuart, Des Meagher, Geoff Chapman, Laurie French, Les Pora, Alan Field, Malcolm and Keith Ford, Clarrie Barry, Les Morris, Ivan Redpath, Jack Beddoe, Jack Gee, D.J. Murphy, Doug Varty, Mel Morley, Ron Anderson, M Johnson, R Dridan, Norm Field, Stan Beavis, George Harrison, and Clem Hill.

On Saturday 17th June 1944, an article in the Avoca Free Press reported on the new team's prospects.

"Tony Jolly, who was one of the most consistent men up to the time when the game was abandoned, should be able to give newcomers some useful hints.

Former leading footballer, Laurie Barker, is prepared to help make up a side, but, like former captain and champion Errol Howell, and President George Jolly, he does not want to stand in the way of younger players.

Tuesday night's meeting however, agreed that a sprinkling of more experienced men would tend to give the juniors a lead.

At this year's Easter carnival at Stawell, Dan Blair won the half mile race, and his success as a long distance runner makes it appear that he will be a good stayer on the football field.

Eric Richards and Ron French, who ran second and third to Blair, also come under the same category.

Bruce Harrison, the grocer boy employed by L.G. Barker, comes from a footballing family. His Father, Hec Harrison was one of Avoca's cleverest players. A few years ago, the Harrison's of Waubra could muster a team of their own.

Two other lads who are following in the footsteps of their father are Les and Gordon Beavis, sons of George Beavis, who was a hard man to beat in his day and could mix it with the best of them.

All who have seen Goldy Drummond on the football field will remember his solid work in the ruck. His bumps were hard but fair, and many a match he has helped win for Avoca. Goldy's son, Sam Drummond, is a fine lump of a lad, and no one is keener to have a game.

At the park last weekend, Sam and a few of his cobbles were having a kick, and young Drummond's performance was very impressive.

No doubt in a few years time, he will rank amongst our leading footballers, and when Drummond senior is able to return home from Germany, where he is a prisoner of war he will get a kick out of watching his son carry on the old tradition.

Alan Pitcher has never played before, but is willing to have a try. His brother Peter, now of the AIF was a tough customer and as game as Ned Kelly, and Alan will probably be the same. If he is as good at football as he is on horseback, he'll do.

Pat, George, Joe and Sam Wardlaw are also likely material that has never been tried out. All wiry, hard working lads, and it will be very surprising if they do not make the grade.

The Impey Brothers, Buller and Frank (known as Mick), are anxious to be in it and as ruckmen will be able to toss their weight around.

Kevin, Pat and Brian Lindsay should be hard nuts to crack. These boys, like some of the others mentioned are new to the game, but will no doubt soon pick up what has to be learned. Pat proved this by his exhibition of steer riding at local carnivals.

Les Pora of foot running fame looks like being a slick, cool-headed man on the ball and an aerial artist, who will be hard to beat.

Alan Field is also a solid stamp, who is anxious to have a try out.”

Interestingly, whilst some of those mentioned in that report did not develop as proficient footballers, most became staunch supporters of the club, whilst others are remembered as some of Avoca's best footballers.

Although the seniors stole the limelight, some interesting names appear in the junior team which included:

Laurie Barker (Captain), Ivan Redpath (Vice-Capt), Jack Hardy, Noel Jess, Fred Burns, Peter King, Max Trainer, Fred Barker, Kevin Trainor, Neil Youren, Doug Romey, Charlie Crowley, Alan O'Shea, Len Studd, Don Studd, John Schmidt, and Ron Diamond.

[Go to 1945](#)

1945 LFL Formed

With the war drawing to an end and victory for the allies assured, servicemen were returning home to find a whole new generation of footballers had emerged.

The Lexton Football League was formed, with C.E. Giles elected President and A.E. Herbertson as Secretary.

The competition was comprised of six teams including Avoca, Amphitheatre, Moonambel, Lexton, Talbot and Waubra.

Avoca's Office Bearers were:

President: George Jolly

Secretary: Harold Martin

Treasurer: Harold Martin

Former Ballarat League Player, Les (Pop) Williams, was appointed Coach, with Norm Field as Captain.

The Players list was:

Ron Driscoll, Les Beavis, Danny Blair, Leo Wright, Stan Beavis, Gordon Beavis, Frank Impey, Clarrie Barry, Ern Streeter, Eric Richards, Kevin Lindsay, Ron French, A Leerson, L Shanahan, Laurie French, Jack Groves, R Wright, Robert Reeves, C Wright, Bruce Harrison, Tom Wright, Tony Jolly, Laurie Barker, Les Farnsworth, R Fraser, George Evans, Colin Evans, Jack Joseph and Stan Elliot.

From 15 matches, Avoca won 10, and finished second on the ladder behind Moonambel.

Inaccurate kicking contributed to Avoca losing the second semi final to Moonambel by 29 points.

SECOND SEMI FINAL

Moonambel 11.9.75 to Avoca 5.16.46

Avoca Goals: George Harrison 3, Ron French 1, Les Williams 1.

Avoca Best: Kevin Lindsay, Ron Driscoll, Norm Field, Ern Streeter, Gordon Beavis, Danny Blair, R Fraser.

Lexton handed out a thrashing to Avoca in the Preliminary Final, winning by 82 points, and this time there were no excuses.

PRELIMINARY FINAL

Lexton 18.22.130 to Avoca 5.18.48

Avoca Goals: Les Williams 3, George Harrison 1, Danny Blair 1.

Avoca Best: Col Evans, Norm Field, Leo Wright, Gordon Beavis, Danny Blair and R Fraser.

Lexton defeated Moonambel to win the inaugural premiership.

Les Williams was Avoca's leading goalkicker with 42 goals, but, unfortunately, there is no record of other club awards.

The Junior players list was:

Athol Carey (Captain), Neil Youren, John Bowen, Fred Stoddart, John Schmidt, Arthur O'Shea, Kevin Harrison, John Jolly, Max Ellen, Jack Hutchison, Charlie Crowley, Jim Marshall, Don Studd, John Coghlan, Clive Trickey, and Fred Barker.

[Go to 1946](#)

1946

The highlight of the 1946 season occurred on 16 July, when Avoca beat Lexton by one point in a thrilling cliffhanger.

Remarkably, Ron French virtually won the game of his own boot, as he was Avoca's solitary goal scorer with nine goals.

Ron won the club's Best & Fairest and Goalkicking awards.

After finishing the home and away games in third position, Avoca tackled Moonambel at Lexton in the first semi final.

Avoca's first semi final team:

B:	Alan Wright	Danny Blair	Bob Blair
HB:	Jim Astbury	Les Beavis	Bill Lindsay
C:	Stan Beavis	Tom French	Gordon Beavis
HF:	Col Walkley	Ern Davies	Les Williams
F:	Bill Gollop	Ron French	Charlie Turner
R/R:	Chris Harling	Kevin Lindsay	G Squire
19 th :	Roy French		

Led by Captain and Coach, Chris Harling, Avoca acquitted themselves well, but inaccuracy contributed to the 21 point defeat.

FIRST SEMI FINAL

Moonambel 9.9.63 to Avoca 5.12.42

No match details.

1946 was the year that the Public Booth began operating at football games, and Navarre certainly needed a stiff drink after Waubra beat them by 15 goals in the Preliminary Final.

Needless to say, Waubra also won the premiership, which was played at Avoca before a record crowd, with gate receipts of 76 pounds, or \$152.00.

[Go to 1947](#)

1947

Avoca struggled through the 1947 season, and it must have been heartbreaking for Coach Les “Pop” Williams to watch his side savaged by the opposition for most of the year.

The players list was:

Danny Blair, Charlie Turner, Kevin Lindsay, Laurie French, Bill Lindsay, Ivan Redpath, Bob Lindsay, Bruce Harrison, Chris Harling, Arthur Stuart, Laurie Barker, Alan Wright, Les Beavis, Ern Davies, Roy and Ron French, Leo Wright, Bill Gollop, Les Jolly, Vic Heenan, Reg Harrison, Peter King, Jack Hardy, Arthur Ford, John Bowen, Bernard Brereton, Kevin Harrison, Harry Holland, Neil Youren, Ken Bowen, Ken Gidley, Bill Bruggy, Vic Stewart, Jim Pryse, Don Templeton, E Morrow, Bill Hutchison, Bill Bentley, C Jardine, Col Walkley, Duncan Fraser, J Taylor, Eddie Garrett and Jack Beissert.

Avoca lost several top players during the season including Gordon Beavis, Ron Driscoll, Robert Wright and champion Full Forward Ron French.

The side also missed its star ruckman, Bill Gollop, who played with Maryborough on permit.

Danny Blair had developed into one of the best backmen in the league, and was the only Avoca player selected in the strong Lexton Football League side that easily won the Beaurepaire Shield.

Arguably, this team is regarded as the best ever to represent the Lexton League:

B:	V Wright (Moon)	K Stuchberry (Elm)	D Blair (Av)
HB:	L Dunn (Lan)	M Morley (Amp)	R Egan (Amp)

C: A Briody (Lex) W Meagher (Waub) M Gorman (Waub)
HF: L Hannett (Nav) J Briody (C) (Lex) L Johnson (Amph)
F: W Rattray (Nav) A Grossman (Nav) F Allen (Beauf)
R/R: E O'Brien (Beauf) C Cullinan (Lex) K Morvell (Raglan)
19th: M Bibby (Nav) 20th: J Briody (Lex)

Avoca finished in ninth spot, just avoiding the wooden spoon.

Ern Davies won the Best & Fairest and Ron French the Goalkicking with 22 goals.

As far as team success is concerned, 1947 was a season best forgotten, although it was the year George Walkley started selling hot dogs at football matches!

[Go to 1948](#)

1948

One of Avoca's great stalwarts, Ern Davies took on the huge responsibility of President and Coach in 1948.

Ern had charge of a young bunch of enthusiastic locals who included, Ross Smith, Bill Gollop, Les Williams, Bill Bentley, John Bowen, Reg Harrison, Kevin Harrison, Bill Bruggy, Jack Hardy, Neil Youren, Kevin Lindsay, Bill Lindsay, Danny Blair, Vic Stewart, Ivan Redpath, Noel Jess, Fred Barker, Bob Jolly, J Marshall, Ron Osborne, and Ernie Garret.

Regrettably, Ern Davies had to relocate to Melbourne during the season. Reg Pora took over as President, but it was difficult to replace Ern's experience on the field.

Amazingly, when he was only 13 years of age, he won the Best & fairest for the Lamplough Miners Football club, and apart from his years in the army during the war, Ern was devoted tot eh Avoca Football Club.

He was held in very high esteem by the younger generation.

Despite the handicap of losing its coach midstream, Avoca continued to improve, winning nine games and ending up sixth on the ladder.

For the second year in a row, Waubra scored a runaway win in the Grand Final.

Kevin Lindsay won Avoca's Best & Fairest award and, for the second consecutive season, Danny Blair played in the Lexton League side.

[Go to 1949](#)

1949

Avoca appeared to be in the doldrums for most of 1949.

The club was so short of players on Saturday 23 July that several former players, long retired, were called on.

This probably explains why the club records for 1949 are virtually non-existent.

However, there was some joy when Kevin Harrison and Alan Wright were selected in the highly respected 1949 Lexton League side. Both were named amongst the Best players.

Navarre and Waubra continued to dominate the competition, with Navarre winning the pennant.

[Go to 1950](#)