

## 1950



The doom and gloom continued in 1950 and it must have been devastating for Bill Bentley, who had a dual role of coach, and Club President.

Although there are no official club records, it is a fact that Avoca did not win a game for the season and languished at the bottom of the ladder.

Waubra's remarkable run of success continued, and they were again Premiers.

The Lexton League Best & Fairest award was won by Amphitheatre's Mel Morley with 24 votes.

Mel started his football as a Junior with Avoca in 1944.

Tragically, Mel died only a young man. Years later his son Greg, Played with Avoca.

[go to 1951](#)

## 1951

When [Ken Boots](#) was appointed coach in 1951, it soon became obvious that the sleeping Bulldog was beginning to stir at last.

Twenty-eight year old Boots was recruited from Traralgon, but prior to that he was a star footballer with Glenelg in South Australia.

Boots, who was paid 170 pounds, or \$340.00 for the season, came to Avoca with a huge reputation to live up to.

However, he quickly proved he was exactly the tonic the doctor had ordered. His experience, and vast talent, provided inspiration for Avoca's youth, which suddenly blossomed like a wattle tree in the spring.

The players list included some of the club's greatest footballers:

Kevin Harrison (Vice-Captain), Ivan Redpath, Brian Lindsay, Kevin Lindsay, Danny Blair, John Bowen, Trevor Wren, Murray Barker, K.V. (Kevin) Harrison, Noel Jess, Ken Large, Fred Stoddart, Jim McKenzie, John Coghlan, Bob Jolly, Col Walkley, Jack Lind, Fred Barker, Ken Bowen, John Schmidt, Bill Gollop, Frank Crowley, George Marshall, Barney Humphrey, Ern Streeter, Max Trainor, Alby Wright, and John Jolly.

From the bottom of the ladder the previous season, Avoca clawed its way to 12 victories and respectability.

However, the first semi final against Lexton proved the stumbling block for the 1951 season, with Avoca losing by 47 points.

### FIRST SEMI FINAL

Lexton 12.17.89 to Avoca 5.12.42

Avoca Goals: John Bowen 3, Bill Gollop 1, John Schmidt 1.

Avoca Best: Kevin Lindsay, Bill Gollop, John Schmidt, Jim McKenzie, Jack Lind, Ken Boots.

Avoca's first semi final team:

B:	Bob Jolly	Noel Jess	Jack Lind
HB:	Brian Lindsay	Kevin Lindsay	Danny Blair
C:	Trevor Wren	<a href="#">Ken Boots</a>	John Schmidt
HF:	Ivan Redpath	Murray Barker	Col Walkley
F:	Jim McKenzie	John Bowen	John Jolly
R/R:	Bill Gollop	Alby Wright	Kevin Harrison
19 <sup>th</sup> :	Ken Large	20 <sup>th</sup> :	Ern Streeter

Ken Boots won the Best & Fairest Award with 16 votes from Jim McKenzie who polled 10 votes.

Alby Wright kicked 24 goals to win the goal kicking from Noel Jess with 17 goals. And Robert and John Jolly with 16 goals.

Noel Jess was not only developing as a good footballer, he also proved his versatility by winning the quoit competition.

Meanwhile the amazing battle for supremacy between Navarre and Waubra continued, with Navarre scoring a four point victory over its rivals in the Grand Final.

## 1952

With Ken Boots at the helm as Coach, Avoca's bank of talent continued to mature in 1952.

The players list included:

Kevin Harrison, John Coghlan, Noel Jess, Jack Lind, Brian Lindsay, Kevin Lindsay, K.V. (Kevin) Harrison, Reg Harrison, John Schmidt, Ray Turner, John Bowen, Fred Stoddart, Trevor Wren, Jim McKenzie, Bill Gollop, Alex Gyss, Ern Streeter, Ken Bowen, Bill Curtis, Jack Hutchison, John Jolly, J Marshall, Bob Jolly, Peter Byrne, Ian Templeton, and Michael Boots.

Although just one game and percentage separated the four teams at the top of the ladder, Avoca faced up to a strong experienced Moonambel combination for the first semi final.

The opposition was simply far too good on the day, with Avoca losing by 47 points. But the experience would prove invaluable for the young Bulldogs.

Ken Boots edged out Bill Gollop, Noel Jess and Kevin Harrison in the Best & Fairest award. Jim McKenzie topped the goalkicking with 17 goals.

[Go to 1953](#)

## 1953 Premiers



Whilst the Avoca players enjoyed the long hot summer, club officials were taking stock and carefully analyzing the talent available.

The Office Bearers were elected:

President: Leo McColm

Secretary: Bill Simpson

Treasurer: Leo Quirk

Committee: Keith Astbury, Murray Proctor, Jack Coghlan, Eric Hedge, Les Williams, Bill Stewart, Bill Barker.

The committee believed that they had the foundations of a premiership team, but it lacked a couple of top players.

Their sights were set on a coach named [Jock McDougall](#), but the dilemma facing the committee was how to avoid offending the incumbent coach and champion footballer, Ken Boots.

To his enormous credit, Boots not only accepted the demotion but continued to play brilliant football.

John Bowen, John Coghlan, Brian Lindsay, Noel Jess, Jack Lind, Reg Harrison, Bert Cullen, Kevin Harrison, Trevor Wren, Ken Boots, Jim McKenzie, John Jolly, Ian Grant, Kevin Lindsay, Bill Gollop, Vic Kuchell, Ern Streeter, M Shiers, Bob Jolly, Ivan Redpath, John Schmidt, and Jack Hutchison.

Ian Grant was renowned as a gun Full Forward.

Standing just 5 feet 10 inches, and weighing only 12 stone, seven pounds, this remarkable 23 year old immediately set about rewriting the record books, kicking a club record for the season of 89 goals.

His amazing career is covered more by clicking on the following link.

[Ian Grant](#)

Avoca suffered only two defeats for the season and, when they crushed Navarre in the second semi final by 38 points, the premiership pennant was all but hanging from the flag pole in high street.

## SECOND SEMI FINAL

Avoca 3.1 3.5 9.5 16.10.106

Navarre 2.3 6.7 8.11 9.14.68

Avoca Goals: Bill Gollop 5, Jock McDougall 4, Jim McKenzie 3, Ian Grant 2, Bob Jolly 1, Ken Boots 1.

Avoca Best: Jock McDougall, Bill Gollop, Ken Boots, Bert Cullen, Kevin Lindsay. Trevor Wren.

For the two weeks leading up to the Grand final, Avoca was buzzing like never before. It had been more than a quarter of a century since they had seen a premiership pennant.

A large crowd arrived at Lexton for the ultimate showdown.

With Ian Grant performing sheer magic in front of the big sticks, Avoca held a handy five goal lead at half time. Typically, Navarre staged a gutsy comeback in the third term.

With the margin just 19 points, it was still anyone's game as they started the last quarter.

Gradually Navarre pegged back the lead, but the Avoca boys were playing like men possessed.

When the final bell pealed out above the roar of the crowd, the scoreboard showed Avoca was victorious by eight points.

## GRAND FINAL

Avoca 5.3 10.8 13.9 15.10.100

Navarre 2.4 5.8 9.14 12.20.92

Avoca Goals: Ian Grant 8 (record), Jock McDougall 5, Bob Jolly 1, Ken Boots 1.

Avoca Best: Ian Grant, Ken Boots, Don Wilson, Vic Kuchell, Bill Gollop, Brian Lindsay, Jock McDougall.

The celebrations that followed are legendary. But just as remarkable was the sportsmanship displayed by Navarre, who cancelled their after-match plans, so they could join the Avoca players at the Avoca Shire Hall.

Avoca's Premiership team:

B:	Don Wilson	John Bowen	Kevin Lindsay
HB:	Brian Lindsay	Noel Jess	Kevin Harrison (VC)
C:	Trevor Wren	Bert Cullen	Reg Harrison
HF:	Bob Jolly	Ken Boots	Vic Kuchell
F:	John Jolly	Ian Grant	Jim McKenzie
R/R:	Bill Gollop	Jack Lind	<a href="#">Jock McDougall (CC)</a>
19 <sup>th</sup> :	John Coghlan	Ivan Redpath	
Emg:	John Schmidt	Jack Hutchison	

With 15 votes, Bert Cullen won the Best & Fairest award from Noel Jess and Jock McDougall with 12 votes and Bill Gollop polled 9 votes.

[go to 1954](#)

## 1954



Whilst Avoca spent the summer months basking in the sea of glory of its new found success, the symptoms of a premiership hangover began to emerge when the new season opened for business.

The club appointed top Murtoa footballer, Jack Baker, as Captain and Coach.

However, the departure of Ken Boots and Noel Jess proved to be a big handicap. Both had been key players in Avoca's rise to power.

John Bowen (pictured), Mike Cleary and Bill Gollop were all selected in the Lexton League side.

Despite his brilliant form, Ian Grant was named emergency for the representative team, with the full forward spot being filled by Frank Driscoll.

The Navarre spearhead kicked 127 goals for the season, and was instrumental in his side winning the premiership.

Ian Grant still retrained his grip on the limelight, by booting 11 goals in one match and nine on two other occasions.

Grant finished the season with 87 goals, a remarkable effort, considering Avoca failed to make the finals.

He also coached the junior side during the final series.

Avoca's Best & Fairest award was won by Mike Cleary, ahead of Jim McKenzie and John Jolly.

The team list for 1954 was:

Jack Baker, Ian Grant, Trevor Wren, John Jolly, G Warren, Bill Gollop, J Dorward, Mike Cleary, Stan Robson, Alan Pora, Keith Astbury Jnr., Kevin Lindsay, John Bowen, Ken Bowen, Brian Lindsay, Jack Hutchison, Gordon Johnston, Jack Lever, Jim McKenzie, Ross Smith, Jock McDougall, Dennis Lindsay, Bob Hunter, Kevin V Harrison, Vic Kuchell, Bill Prosser, Ivan Redpath, Ern Streeter and Frank Wren.

[Go to 1955](#)

## 1955



Aged just 25 years, Ian Grant was appointed Avoca's coach in 1955.

The season was very much a carbon copy of the previous year, with the Bulldogs finishing in fifth position.

Grant and John Bowen were both selected in the Lexton League side. A bag of six goals ensured Grant was named as on the League's best players.

Mike Cleary and veteran Bill Gollop tied for the club's Best & Fairest award.

Bill finished third in the League count behind Navarre champion Col Bibby, who polled 30 votes to win the coveted award.

Avoca stalwart Kevin Lindsay, received a certificate of appreciation, acknowledging his long and distinguished service to the club, whilst Kevin Harrison was voted Best Clubman and Most Popular Player by the supporters.

The players list was:

Ian Grant, Bill Gollop, Ivan Redpath, John Bowen, Ern Streeter, Keith Astbury Jnr., Jim McKenzie, Kevin V Harrison, Ray Turner, John Jolly, Stan Robson, Len Williams, Gordon Johnson, Jack Hutchison, Mike Cleary, Frank Robson, Jock McDougall, Graeme Joseph, Kevin Lindsay, Trevor Harrison, W Darrington, Bill Prosser, Ray Astbury, Laurence Curtis, Athol Carey, John Coghlan, Geoff Jolly, Noel Joseph, Brian Lindsay, Ross Smith and Trevor Wren.

Traditional rivals, Waubra and Navarre again contested the premiership stakes, with Waubra taking the honours.

[Go to 1956](#)

## 1956







The appointment of [Alan Streeter](#) as coach brought a breath of fresh air to the club.

Paid a salary of 300 pounds, or \$600, he set an intense fitness program and drove himself as hard as he did the players.

Streeter played 45 games with Carlton before transferring to VFA club Oakleigh in 1951.

He won their Best & Fairest award and was also instrumental in their VFA premiership victory. Before joining Avoca, he played with Kyneton, Charlton and Donald.

The enthusiasm generated by Streeter was contagious and suddenly Avoca was back in finals contention.

The Senior players list was:

Alan Streeter, Bill Gollop vc, Geoff Jolly, John Bowen, Noel Joseph, Brian Lindsay, Jim McKenzie, Frank Robson, Ray Astbury, Kevin Harrison, Ray Turner, Trevor Wren, John Schiell, Gordon Johnson, John Holly, Ian Grant, Trevor Harrison, Clive Trickey, Brian Beavis, Laurence Curtis, Len Williams, Fred Barker, Ivan Redpath, Charlie Crowley, Jack Hutchison, Ern Streeter, Jock McDougall, Dave Astbury, Col Evans, Laurence Barker, Bill Prosser.

The junior players were: Charlie Marshall, Doug Wynn, Hugh Ponsford, Tony Jolly, Bill Blair, Bruce Field, Norm Harrison, Greg Romey, Ed Morris, Geoff Field, John Chapman, Peter Chapman, Barry Field, Graeme Astbury, John Field, Des Williams, Brian Squires, Max Robertson, D Tasker.

It seemed as though Ian Grant had found the fountain of youth. Despite his years he turned on several remarkable performances in the goal square.

On 28 April, 1956, he booted 12 goals against Amphitheatre to equal a record set by the great Paddy Ryan Junior 22 years earlier.

On 7 July, 1956, he kicked 10 of Avoca's 12 goals in a match against Beaufort.

For an encore, he then snared bags of nine goals twice, to top the leading goalkicking with 80 goals.

Seven Avoca players were selected in the Lexton League side: Alan Streeter, Jim McKenzie, Bill Gollop, Ian Grant, John Bowen, Kevin Harrison and John Jolly.

After finishing third on the ladder, Avoca faced up to Moonambel in the first semi final, and scored a convincing 26 point victory.

#### FIRST SEMI FINAL

Avoca            1.1   5.6   10.8   12.13.85

Moonambel   3.6   4.7   7.7   8.11.59

Avoca Goals: Ian Grant 7, John Jolly 2, Jock McDougall 2, John Schiell 1.

Avoca Best: Dave Astbury, Bill Gollop, Jim McKenzie, Ian Grant, Alan Streeter, John Bowen, John Jolly.

The preliminary final against Navarre was a remarkable game of football.

Avoca held their opponents goalless until half time.

Navarre then staged a stunning recovery in the third quarter, kicking five goals, and at the last change the margin was just six points.

Incredibly, both sides failed to score a goal in the final quarter, but Navarre booted five behinds compared to Avoca's two behinds, giving Navarre a memorable nine point victory.

#### PRELIMINARY FINAL

Avoca            1.3   3.8   5.9   5.11.41

Navarre        0.3   0.9   5.15   5.20.50

Avoca Goals: Ian Grant 1, Geoff Jolly 1, Noel Joseph 1, John Schiell 1, Jock McDougall 1.

Avoca Best: Dave Astbury, John Bowen, Kevin Harrison, Ray Turner, Trevor Wren, Noel Joseph, Frank Robson.

As a footnote, it can also be revealed that one of Avoca's best players, Brian Lindsay, missed the crucial match because it clashed with a wedding.

The popular backman wanted to take his place in the side after the wedding, but was threatened with divorce.

Avoca's Preliminary Final team:

B:	Trevor Wren	Dave Astbury	Frank Robson
HB:	Charlie Crowley	John Bowen	Col Evans
C:	Ray Astbury	Kevin Harrison	Ray Turner
HF:	Jim Mckenzie	John Schiell	John Jolly
F:	Geoff Jolly	Ian Grant	Jock McDougall
R/R:	Bill Gollop	Noel Joseph	Alan Streeter
19 <sup>th</sup> :	Brian Beavis		
20 <sup>th</sup> :	Len Williams		

Veteran Ruckman, Bill Gollop, just pipped 21 year old John Jolly for the Best & Fairest Award, whilst Noel Joseph and Trevor Wren shared the trophy for best player in the finals.

Waubra won the premiership defeating Navarre by 10 points.

[go to 1957](#)

## 1957



The mercurial [Bill Gollop](#) was appointed Coach in 1957. Although the big ruckman was nearing the twilight of his career, the appointment was fitting reward for 12 years of dedicated service.

Free of the pressures of coaching, [Alan Streeter](#) became an even better player.

The 27 year old was simply breathtaking, and an automatic selection in the Lexton League side.

Streeter became such a hot favourite to win the League's Best player award, that SP bookmakers stopped taking bets before the season was half over.

Standing just five feet eight inches, the gutsy little rover was true to form and polled 29 ½ votes from 14 games, to create history by becoming the first Avoca footballer to win the Lexton league Best & Fairest award.

Unfortunately the season ended for Alan and Avoca the following week, when they lost the first semi final to Moonambel by 29 points.

#### FIRST SEMI FINAL

Avoca            3.3    4.5    6.5    8.10.58

Moonambel    1.10   2.16   5.20   10.27.87

Avoca Goals: Ian Grant 3, John Bowen 2, Len Williams 1, Kevin Ryan 1, Geoff Jolly 1.

Avoca's Best: Bill Gollop, Bob Crooks, John Bowen, Alan Streeter, Dave Astbury, Ray Turner.

The Players List was: Bill Gollop, Alan Streeter, Geoff Jolly, Bob Crooks, John Bowen, Bob Currier, Charlie Marshall, Noel Joseph, Les Smith, Brian Beavis, Ray Turner, Kevin Harrison, Kevin Ryan, Ian Grant, Jack Hutchison, Frank Robson, Keith Atkinson, Len Williams, John Jolly, Alf Hunter, Barry Morris, Bill Prosser, Max Robertson, John Coghlan, P Ryan, Ern Streeter, Bruce Field, Col Evans, Kevin Lindsay, Norm Harrison, Keith Astbury Jnr, Gordon Johnson and Trevor Wren.

Alan Streeter easily won the club Best & Fairest award.

Ian Grant topped the goalkicking with 63 goals, whilst Noel Joseph and Dave Astbury were voted best in finals.

Charlie Marshall received the award for Best Under 20 and John Bowen for Most Consistent.

Jack Coghlan, who did everything from cooking hot dogs to rubbing players down, was voted Best Clubman.

Waubra enhanced their amazing finals record by winning the premiership.

[go to 1958](#)

## 1958

The lack of patriotism of the local paper was hard to ignore. When Avoca was successful, the pages were crammed with local football news.

However, when the Bulldogs were struggling, exposure in the Avoca mail was almost non-existent, and 1958 was one of those years.

Coach Bob Eastman came to town with a proud reputation and watching Avoca finish the year on the bottom of the ladder with only one victory must have been enormously frustrating.

Despite his 33 years, Bill Gollop won the club Best & Fairest award and finished third to Navarre's Jack Bibby in the Lexton League Best player award.

Once again Navarre and Waubra fought out the grand final, with Navarre winning easily.

[go to 1959](#)

## 1959



With morale at an all-time low, the presentation night for the previous season attracting a disappointing crowd of only 25 people.

And even before the 1959 season kicked off, the football club was again struggling desperately.

Typical to his nature, [Bill Gollop](#) agreed to coach the side in an honorary capacity.

Undoubtedly the club would have folded, if not for Bill's gesture.

Needless to say, the season held little joy.

The club hit rock bottom on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1959, when it kicked a record low score against Beaufort.

Avoca 1.0.6 to Beaufort 15.20.110

The club could take little satisfaction in that the players list included some very young and promising footballers:

Ern Barker, Brian Beavis, John Bowen, Charlie Brown, Ken Beavis, Bob Crooks, Laurence Curtis, John Chapman, Col Evans, Bob Eastman, Bruce Field, Ron Field, Eddie Gane, Michael Carter, Bill Gollop, Norm Harrison, Terry Harris, Alf Hunter, Neil Hamer, John Jolly, Geoff Jolly, Morris Jolly, Charlie Marshall, Barry Morris, Graeme Pugh, Max Robertson, Greg Romey, Ian Raeburn, Harold Trainor, Col Walkley, Len Williams, Trevor Wren, and Terry Wyhoon.

Bob Eastman won the Best & Fairest Award.

Barry Morris was leading goalkicker with 25 goals, whilst a young bloke by the name of Ron Field won the Best Under 20 award.

It is now history that Ron carved a marvelous football career, and is remembered as one of Avoca's legends. [Go to Ron Field](#).

Navarre humiliated Beaufort in the Grand Final with a 41 point victory.

[go to 1960](#)