

1960



Winds of change again swept through the club over the summer.

The publican of the Avoca Hotel, Keith McDonald became President.

McDonald a former handy player, was determined to lift the club.

Backed by an energetic committee, McDonald went out to recruit Max Martin as Coach. (Pictured)

Martin, a Physical Education Teacher at Maryborough, had an unenviable job.

His mission was to boost morale and restore the club's respect. On reflection, Max Martin's influence was remarkable. With a calm, sincere manner, he moulded the players together as a tightly-knot team and taught them how to believe in themselves.

His lessons in positive thinking were a unique experience for most of the older players and left a life time impression on the club's youth.

Avoca also benefited by the demise of Amphitheatre.

Players picked up from the disbanded club included, Cecil Tardrew, who had developed a reputation as one of the leagues best full back's and Jack Jacobs who was a clever and gutsy forward.

The Team list included: Brian & Ken Beavis, Noel Barnes, Bob Crooks, Kelvin Charlesworth, Ian Drummond, Col Evans, Bob Eastman, K Edwards, Bruce Field, John Field, Ron Field, Bill Gollop, Alf Hunter, Norm Harrison, Neil Hamer, Terry Harris, Jon Howell, Geoff Jolly, Maurice Jolly, John Jolly, Doug & Ray Joseph, Jack Jacobs, Barry Morris, Max Martin, Graeme Pora, Max Robertson, Peter Raynor, Cecil Tardrew, Nev Tardrew, Harold Trainor, Les Ward, Len Williams and Bill Wardlaw.

The Reserves Competition was also formed in 1960 and Bill Gollop was Avoca's first coach.

The players included:

Graeme and Ray Astbury, T Barker, Brian Beavis, Ken Beavis, Charlie Brown, Jack Brereton, Ricky Carter, Phil Cocking, Michael Church, Graeme Field, Damian Field, John Field, Paul Gothard, Ian Harvey, Norm Harrison, Neil Hamer, Jon Howell, Laurie Impey, Graeme Joseph, William Johnson, Keith Morris, Michael Wilson and Frank Youren.

Although the seniors just missed a berth in the finals, the reserves stormed into calculations.

Match details are not available, but Avoca defeated Lexton in the First semi final and then lost to Navarre by three points in a thrilling Preliminary final.

Graeme "Tiger" Pora came third in the Lexton League Reserves Best & Fairest.

John Field, the reserves captain, won the club best player award from Doug Joseph. Both players won a trip to the VFL Grand Final, donated by MCC President and local resident, Hans Ebeling.

Max Martin was voted the Senior Best & Fairest.

Other award winners were:

Barry Morris (Most Consistent), Ron Field (Best Under 20), Tony Jolly (Most Determined), Terry Harris and Max Robertson (Coach's Trophies), and Brian Beavis (Best Clubman).

[go to 1961](#)

1961



In just over a year Avoca had transformed from a team in the depths of despair, to potential finalists and no one could deny the architect was Max Martin.

The senior and reserves player list was:

Ray Astbury, George Brown, Noel Barnes, Brian Beavis, Ken Beavis, Michael Carter, Ricky Carter, Michael Church, Bob Coghlan, Brian Coghlan, Brian Daly, Ian Drummond, Bob Crooks, Bob Eastman, Col Evans, Ron Field, Bruce Field, John Field, Damian Field, Graeme Field, Paul Gothard, Bob Humphrey, Neil Hamer, Terry Harris, Alf Hunter, Norm Harrison, Jon Howell, Noel Holland, Barry Hendy, John Jolly, Geoff Jolly, Maurice Jolly, Doug Joseph, Ray Joseph, Geoff Latch, Brian Lindsay, M Mellander, Charlie Marshall, Max Martin, Barry Morris, C Mitchell, Jim McKenzie, Trevor Pryse, N Parker, Peter Rafferty, Max Robertson, Frank Robson, Richard Schmidt, Cecil Tardrew, Harold Trainor, Bill Wardlaw, Trevor Wren, Len Williams, Frank Youren.

Meanwhile, Col Evans, another bloke about the same size as Max Martin, but considerably bigger around the girth, was also exerting his influence in the reserves side.

Despite being 36 years old, Evans was determined to prove that the best was yet to come, both for himself and his beloved team.

The home and away part of the season was a dream for Avoca.

Both the seniors and reserves finished second on the ladder.

However, top side Navarre cut the Bulldogs back to size in the second semi final, winning by 37 points.

SECOND SEMI FINAL

| | | | | |
|---------|-----|------|-------|----------|
| Avoca | 2.2 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 7.11.53 |
| Navarre | 3.5 | 4.11 | 11.17 | 12.18.90 |

Avoca Goals: Bob Eastman 2, Max martin 2, Terry Harris 1, Bob Humphrey 1, Frank Robson 1.

Avoca Best: Ron Field, Len Williams, Bob Crooks, Brian Daly, Cecil Tardrew.

After leading at three quarter time in the Preliminary Final, Waubra's experience proved too much, winning by nine points.

PRELIMINARY FINAL

| | | | | |
|--------|-----|------|------|----------|
| Avoca | 1.4 | 5.6 | 11.9 | 12.11.83 |
| Waubra | 2.5 | 8.10 | 9.10 | 13.14.92 |

Avoca Goals: N/A

Avoca Best: Terry Harris, Ron Field, Bruce Field, Frank Robson.

The reserves lost the second semi final to Beaufort by seven points, but easily accounted for Navarre, winning the preliminary final by 46 points.

The Grand Final is remembered as one of the Reserve's great encounters.

Avoca started poorly and then kicked inaccurately for the second term. Trailing by nine points at the last change, both sides played their heart out in the final term, with Beaufort clinging on for a three point victory.

RESERVES GRAND FINAL

Avoca 0.2 2.8 3.8 6.9.45

Beaufort 4.3 4.3 5.5 7.6.48

Avoca Goals: Doug Joseph 2, Geoff Jolly 2, Neil Hamer 1, Brian Coghlan 1.

Avoca Best: Doug Joseph, Bob Crooks, Neil Hamer, Jim McKenzie, Col Evans, Barry Hendy.

The senior's Best and Fairest was won by Ron Field, and the reserves best player was Col Evans.

Cecil Tardrew was voted Most Consistent in the seniors and Brian Lindsay in the Reserves.

Bruce Field and Alf Hunter received the senior coach's award and Damian Field and Bill Wardlaw won the reserves trip to the VFL Grand Final.

Ray Joseph and Rob Astbury played in the Victorian Schoolboys Championships. Both were named amongst the best players.

[go to 1962](#)

1962



In just two years, Max Martin had worked wonders at Avoca, lifting the club from the depths of despair. But Max was also a realist and, because of his training and career in sport he realized, better than anyone, that the life of a football coach is limited.

Max agreed to coach Avoca for one more year, and during the season, Max, Cecil Tardrew and Max Robertson were all selected in the Lexton League side.

The senior and reserves playing list was:

Rob Astbury, John Baglin, Ken Beavis, Kevin Bourke, Ricky Carter, Michael Church, Bob Crooks, Kelvin Charlesworth, John Chapman, Ian Drummond, Col Evans, Bruce, John and Ken Field, Damian Field, Charlie Field, Brian George, Paul Gothard, Ian Harvey, Norm Harrison, Neil Hamer, Barry Hendy, Jon Howell, Alf Hunter, Bill Innes, Doug and Ray Joseph, Geoff and John Jolly, Maurice Jolly, Bob Iatch, Barry Morris, Brian Lindsay, Max Martin, Charlie Marshall, M McArthur, Jim McKenzie, N Parker, Trevor Pryse, Geoff Powers, Frank Robson, Max Robertson, Cecil Tardrew, Harold Trainor, Bill and George Wardlaw, Len Williams and A Yates.

The Avoca seniors had a relatively good year, but had to be content with fifth spot.

However, the reserves had finished second on the ladder and were right on target for a premiership.

Reserves Coach, Col Evans, asked Max to wait until the Grand Final before announcing his resignation.

The team received a set back when Beaufort won the second semi final by just six points.

RESERVES 2ND SEMI FINAL

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Avoca | 2.5 | 2.5 | 3.6 | 4.7.31 |
| Beaufort | 1.2 | 2.4 | 4.5 | 5.7.37 |

Avoca Goals: N/A

Avoca Best: John Field, Ian Harvey, Neil Hamer, Ray Joseph, Ken Beavis, Col Evans.

Avoca's confidence was restored in the preliminary final, with an effortless 53 point victory over Navarre.

RESERVES PRELIMINARY FINAL

| | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Avoca | 1.0 | 5.5 | 8.6 | 11.9.75 |
| Navarre | 1.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.4.22 |

Avoca Goals: N/A

Avoca Best: Col Evans, Jim Mckenzie, Ken Beavis, Neil Hamer, Ray Joseph, Geoff Powers.

Starting the underdogs in the grand final, Avoca took the first quarter to settle down. By half time they were on top, and remained in control for a 14 point victory.

RESERVES GRAND FINAL

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Avoca | 0.0 | 3.5 | 5.8 | 6.11.47 |
| Beaufort | 2.3 | 2.3 | 3.3 | 5.3.33 |

Avoca Goals: N/A

Avoca Best: Jim McKenzie, Charlie Marshall, Col Evans, Doug Joseph, Michael Church, John Field, Bill Wardlaw.

While no credit can be taken away from reserves coach Col Evans, it should be acknowledged that the historic victory was also a personal triumph from Max Martin.

Bruce Field won the Senior Best & Fairest award, whilst his brother John took out the Reserves best player award.

Ian Drummond was Best Under 20, Frank Robson the Most Determined, and the coach's trophies were won by Brian Lindsay and Bob Humphrey.

In the reserves, Ray Joseph and Brian Coghlan were awarded Best Under 18.

Appropriately, the award for Best Clubman went to Max Martin.

Max remained on as a player in 1963, helping the club out when they were short in either grades.

Over the years, Max who now works with the Maryborough Advertiser, retained a genuine soft spot for Avoca and has followed the fortunes of the Bulldogs with great interest.

[go to 1963](#)

1963



Aggressive recruiting over summer boosted the club's stocks enormously.

Former Maryborough champion centre-man, Ian Goodchild, was appointed coach.

Ron Field returned home from Charlton, whilst Geoff Swann, a tall solid forward and Peter Heenan, a gutsy rover, added to the club's depth of talent.

The player list was:

Ray and Rob Astbury, John Baglin, Brian, Ken and Terry Beavis, Kelvin Bourke, Arthur Butler, Ricky Carter, Michael Church, Brian Coghlan, Bob Crooks, Ian Drummond, Col Evans, Lance Farnsworth, Bruce, John and Ken Field, Damian Field, Charlie Field, Ron and Graeme Field, Ian Goodchild, Brian George, Terry Harris, Ian Harvey, Len Harris, Peter Heenan, Neil Hamer, Norm Harrison, Barry Hendy, Bob Humphrey, Bill Innes, Maurice Jolly, Doug and Ray Joseph, John and Geoff Jolly, Bob Latch, Brian Lindsay, Charlie Marshall, Max Martin, Jim McKenzie, Keith Morris, Trevor Pryse, Ian Pora, Greg Romey, Geoff Powers, Max

1964

Desperate for success, Avoca were convinced that a big name coach would reap dividends.

They set their sights on John Haygarth, a former Geelong player, who was coach of Maryborough.

Winning Haygarth's services was considered a coup, generating tremendous interest and enthusiasm

The senior and reserves players were:

Ray and Rob Astbury, Stan Barker, John Baglin, Ken and Terry Beavis, Russell Blair, Arthur Butler, Geoff & Noel Carter, Brian Coghlan, Bob Crooks, Ian Drummond, Barry Donnellan, Col Evans, , Bruce, John and Ken Field, Damian Field, Charlie Field, Graeme & Neville Field, Brian George, Ian Goodchild, Michael Gothard, Terry Harris, Ian Harvey, Len Harris, Peter Heenan, Neil Hamer, John Haygarth, Bob Humphrey, Alf Hunter, Doug and Ray Joseph, Geoff Jolly, Bob Latch, Geoff Powers, Graeme & Ian Pora, Charlie Marshall, Garry McKenzie, Trevor Pryse, Max Robertson, Lyle Streeter, Russell Summers, Geoff Swann, Harold Trainor, Bill & George Wardlaw, Len Williams, Trevor Wren, Frank Youren and Terry Wyhoon.

John Haygarth and Ian Drummond were selected in the Lexton League side.

The new coach turned out to be quite a character.

Like many of his team mates, Haygarth loved a bet. One Saturday whilst playing at Beaufort, Haygarth and several members of the team, had plunged their hard earned money on a horse racing at Caulfield.

It so happened that the race and the third quarter break coincided.

Following a quick vote, the coach cancelled his pep talk and produced a transistor radio, so he and the players could listen to the race and cheer their nag to the winning post.

Avoca ended the season in third spot and then tackled Waubra in the first semi final at Beaufort.

On this occasion it was strictly football, but sadly Avoca were never in the race, losing by 26 points.

FIRST SEMI FINAL

Avoca 0.4 3.6 4.8 5.11.41

Waubra 2.7 5.10 7.14 8.19.67

Avoca Goals: Ian Goodchild 2, Brian Coghlan 1, Bruce Field 1, Brian George 1.

Avoca Best: Max Robertson, Peter Heenan, Barry Donnellan, Doug Joseph, Bruce Field.

The Reserves side was more successful.

After losing to Beaufort in the second semi final by 28 points, the Bulldogs won the preliminary final against Waubra by 19 points.

In the Grand Final, Beaufort held Avoca goalless in the second quarter and won the premiership by a 14 point margin.

RESERVES GRAND FINAL

Avoca 2.2 2.3 2.5 7.7.49

Beaufort 3.2 5.4 8.4 9.9.63

Avoca Goals: N/A

Avoca Best: Graeme Pora, Brian George, Brian Coghlan, Ray Joseph, Arthur Butler, Neil Hamer.

The club Best & Fairest was won by John Haygarth. Other award winners were John Field (Most Consistent), Barry Donnellan (Most Determined), Ian Drummond (Best Under 20), Bruce Field (LGK 31 goals) and Eddie Gane was Best Clubman.

The Reserves Best & Fairest was Ray Joseph with Arthur Butler the Most Consistent. Brian Coghlan was Best Under 18.

The Under 15 competition was formed in 1964. George Wardlaw was the team's first captain and Best & Fairest winner.

Lance Farnsworth was the Vice-Captain.

Avoca thirds played off in the Grand Final, losing to Beaufort by 55 points. Avoca 2.2.14 to Beaufort 9.15.69

Unfortunately, there are no match details.

Beaufort took out the premiership pennants in all three grades.

[go to 1965](#)

1965



1965 UNDER 15 SIDE – Back: Peter Carter, Mick Lalor, Garry McKenzie, Stan Barker, Michael Gothard, Jeff Latch, Col Evans. Centre: Lloyd Gollop, Russell Blair, Jimmy Vernon, Laurence Vernon, Pat Harrison, Bruce Farnsworth. Front: Eddie Wardlaw, Dale Farnsworth, Tony Pora, Bob Wardlaw, Ken Hall, John Evans.

The exit of John Haygarth, Ian Goodchild, Tony Jolly, Brian George and Barry Donnellan left the club seriously depleted in 1965.

Bill Constable, a Natte Yallock farmer was appointed Coach.

Although he was a good footballer, Bill was also renowned for his rough, tough, no nonsense approach to the game.

In a match against Waubra on 22 May, 1965, Bill was reported, with team mate Graeme Pora, for abusing the umpire.

There are no other details, but the mind boggles!

Whilst he was no umpires man, Bill did catch the eye of club officials, who voted him Avoca's Best & Fairest.

Relying mainly on local youth, the seniors finished in eighth spot.

Max Robertson was one of the team's rising young stars, winning the award for the Most Consistent and the Leading goalkicking award.

Other youngsters who shared club awards included Ian Drummond, Ken Field, Neil Hamer and Alf Benham.

Although the season held little joy for the seniors, it was a triumphant year for the Reserves coach Col Evans, who won the

Lexton League Reserves Best & Fairest with 18 votes. It was a remarkable effort, considering Col was 40 years of age.

Lance Farnsworth won the Club Reserves Best & Fairest award, whilst John Baglin was Most Determined.

Life membership was presented to Keith McDonald.

From a team point of view, it was a much better year for the Under 15's, although they were bitterly disappointed to lose the Grand Final to Natte Bealiba by just one point. Avoca 5.9.39 to Natte 5.10.40

Details are sparse, but better players in the final series included Gary Mckenzie, who also won the club Best & Fairest award, lance Farnsworth, Stan Barker, Jimmy Vernon and Ken Hall.

In a thrilling Grand Final, Beaufort defeated Navarre by 4 points.

[go to 1966](#)

1966



Aged only 24, John Field accepted the huge responsibility of club President in 1966, and also continued to play.

Under coach Bill Constable, the club policy of nurturing local youth continued, with the exception of Des Taggart (Pictured), who was recruited from Maryborough.

Although lightly built, Des was a fearless rover, and topped the club's goal kicking in his first season.

Des, Bill Wardlaw and John Field were all selected in the Lexton League side.

Two of the club's most promising footballers, Doug and Ray Joseph, moved to Maryborough, where they were employed.

On appeal, they won their clearances to Royal Park, where they became top players.

Meanwhile, it was a dismal season for Avoca, who received the wooden spoon.

Max Robertson continued to develop as a fine footballer, and was the club's Best & Fairest player.

Other awards went to George Wardlaw and Neville Field, whilst in the Reserves Gary McKenzie, Lindsay "Gus" Harrison and Noel Carter were trophy winners.

The Under 16's played off in the preliminary final, but were no match for Navarre, who won by 81 points. Avoca 1.1.7 to Navarre 13.10.88

Bruce Farnsworth was Avoca Under 15's Best & fairest player, Jimmy Vernon was Most Consistent, Ken Hall was Most Determined whilst Russell Blair was showing flair as a Full Forward.

Gary McKenzie, Lance Farnsworth and Stan barker were all selected in the Lexton League Under 15 side.

In the Grand Final, Lexton accounted for Natte Bealiba.

[go to 1967](#)

1967



With twelve months of experience as President under his belt, John Field started to exert his influence.

The club wasted no time in deciding that Ray “Bluey” Marshall (pictured) was the man to resurrect the club.

Bluey, a tall, solid redhead, had a long and distinguished career with Maryborough and was regarded as the best ruckman in the Ballarat league.

Two other former Maryborough Players Nev Oliver and Tom Passalick were also enticed to Avoca.

Suddenly the Bulldogs were out of the cold as they rose up the ladder, finishing two games outside the four.

Tom Passalick won the Club Best & Fairest from Bill Wardlaw, with Brian Coghlan and Gary McKenzie winning the Best Under 20 and Best Under 18 respectively.

For the second consecutive year, Des Taggart won the club Goalkicking.

The Reserves Best & Fairest was won by Robert Phieffer, whilst one slender vote cost Col Evans his second Lexton League Reserves Best & Fairest award.

Col was overshadowed by Lexton’s Barry Augustine.

Eddie Wardlaw was Avoca’s Best Player in the Under 15’s, with Laurence “Lonny” Vernon, Pat Harrison and Tony Pora other trophy winners.

Lexton defeated Natte Bealiba to win the premiership by 10 points.

[go to 1968](#)

1968



Avoca pulled off what was regarded as a recruiting coup, when they signed former star Hawthorn rover, Peter O'Shea.

The club also secured the services of Ron Britten from Maryborough.

Both were outstanding acquisitions and played a vital role in Avoca's continued resurgence.

Avoca's senior & reserves list was:

Ray Marshall, Keith Chiswell, Ron Britten, Lance Farnsworth, Des Taggart, Gary McKenzie, John Field, Brian Coghlan, Terry Beavis, Bill Wardlaw, Ian Drummond, Neville Field, Damian Field, Frank Robson, Ken Field, Max Robertson, Ken Donaldson, Bill Constable, George Wardlaw, Brian Craven, Peter O'Shea, Rob Astbury, Bob Tutty, Stan Barker, Barry Burn, Geoff Anderson, Alf Hunter, Ron Verlin, Lindsay Harrison, Robert Crooks, Lyle Streeter, Bruce Farnsworth, Mick Lalor, Eddie Wardlaw, Pat Harrison and Ken Hall.

Controversy raged after the Lexton League vote count.

Although Navarre champion Henry Gunstone won the award by polling 21 votes, three votes to an unknown Avoca player was ruled invalid.

The unknown player carried number one, the same number worn by Avoca's coach, Ray Marshall, who finished runner up with 20 votes, one behind Gunstone.

Whilst no-one would deny Henry Gunstone certainly deserved to win the League's top award, the honour would also have been a fitting tribute to Bluey Marshall.

There is no doubt Marshall was a champion player with Avoca, and will always be remembered as one of football's great bush heroes.

It seemed to be an era for Avoca Champions, with Brian Coghlan winning the Lexton league goal kicking with 74 goals.

Avoca stormed into the final series, taking on Navarre in the first semi final.

It is remembered as one of the toughest encounters ever, with Navarre's Gerry Brennan and Avoca's Bill Constable reported twice and Avoca's Frank Robson booked once.

However, on the day Avoca won the fight and the football by 16 points.

The tribunal cleared Frank Robson, but Bill Constable was suspended, which proved a big loss to Avoca.

Two days before the preliminary final against Natte-Bealiba, injury ruled out Bill Wardlaw.

But the cruelest blow was delivered by the Army on the eve of the match, when they refused leave to rover Peter O'Shea and Full Back,

Ken Field.

Avoca was devastated, but to their credit, lost by only 16 points.

PRELIMINARY FINAL

Avoca 1.2 3.3 7.4 12.5.77

Natte-Bealiba 3.1 9.3 12.3 15.3.93

Avoca Goals: Brian Coghlan 5, John Field 2, Max Robertson 2, Frank Robson 1, Ken Donaldson 1, Des Taggart 1.

Avoca Best: Ron Britten, Neville Field, Frank Robson, Keith Chiswell, Ray Marshall, Brian Craven, Brian Coghlan.

Peter O'Shea won the club Best & Fairest from Bluey Marshall and Brian Coghlan.

The Reserves Best & Fairest winner was Vivian "Mickey" Lalor, from Lindsay and Pat Harrison.

A tall skinny skid with a mop of long blonde hair, called Jimmy Jess, won the Under 15's Best & Fairest award, with Dale Farnsworth Runner Up and Mark Drummond Best Under 13.

For the third consecutive year, Lexton beat Natte-Bealiba in the Grand Final, but the margin was just five points.

Avoca Netball Club

1968 was a significant and extremely memorable year for the Avoca Netball Club, with all sides finishing on top of the ladder after the home and away games, and then taking out all four premierships.

The results of the Grand Finals were:

Seniors: Avoca 23 defeated Natte-Bealiba 19

Reserves: Avoca 31 defeated Natte-Bealiba 13

Thirds: Avoca 16 defeated Natte-Bealiba 5

Fourths: Avoca 8 defeated Amphitheatre 3

The Office Bearers were:

President: Gwen Streeter

Vice-President: Teresa Rafferty

Secretary: Kath Martin

Treasurer: Vida Morton

It is unknown who coached the Seniors and Reserves, whilst Doreen Hunter coached the thirds and the fourths.

Captains were:

Seniors: Gwen Streeter

Reserves: Kath Martin

Thirds: Vicki Grant

Fourths: Kath Verlin

Club Awards

The seniors Best & Fairest winner was Wendy Robertson with her sister Jan Scott being Runner Up.

Kath Martin was the Reserves B & F from Loralie Evans.

The thirds Best and Fairest was Julie Eastman, with Glenda Evans Runner Up, and in the fourths, Kath Verlin was voted the best player from Lorna Pitcher.

Other award winners in arguably the club's most memorable year included:

Julie Eastman: Most Improved

Roslyn Wardlaw: Most Consistent

Kath Martin: Best Club Woman.

[go to 1969](#)

1969

There is an old saying, "You can't help bad luck" but Avoca had more than their share in 1969.

To capitalize on the Ruck dominance of Coach Bluey Marshall, the club set out to poach Greg Wright from Natte-Bealiba.

Greg had won the Lexton League Best & Fairest award, and appeared to be the answer to the Bulldog's roving problems.

However, playing with Avoca he failed to capture the form that made his name part of Lexton league history.

By the end of the season, the club had its back to the wall, and had to beat Amphitheatre in the final home and away match to secure a finals berth.

It is now history that Avoca won the match, but a legitimate protest over a mistake by the timekeepers was upheld.

Amphitheatre won the replay, clinching fourth spot.

The match was also extremely painful for Avoca's Full Forward [Brian Coghlan](#).

He booted eight goals in the original match, taking his season's tally to 100 goals, but kicked seven goals in the replay, which left him one short of the magic century.

Avoca players Brian George and Dale Farnsworth finished Runners up in the Lexton league Reserves and Under 15's Best & Fairest awards. respectively.

The final piece of bad luck occurred when John Field broke his leg whilst playing at Moonambel, ending his career as a player.

However, Brian Coghlan provided some achievements that made 1969 worth remembering.

His disputed tally of 99 goals, set a new club record, eclipsing the 89 goals set by Ian Grant in 1953.

In a match against Moonambel, Brian booted eleven goals.

Ron Britten, a former Maryborough player and a fantastic clubman, won Avoca seniors Best & Fairest award, ahead of Brian Coghlan, with Gary McKenzie Best Under 20, Pat Harrison Best Under 18 and Ian Drummond Best Team Man.

The Reserves Best & Fairest was won by Brian George, with Ken Hall Runner Up.

Dale Farnsworth continued to show great promise by taking out the club's best player trophy for the Under 15's.

Meanwhile, after being beaten in three consecutive Grand Finals, Natte Bealiba were finally rewarded for their perseverance when they defeated Lexton by 10 points to win the 1969 premiership.