

1980 Premiers



Season 1980

Seniors - Premiers

Reserves - Runners Up

Under 16's – 5th

After two years of careful planning and patient building, the Bulldogs were entitled to be optimistic that 1980 would be the season that broke the drought.

The fruits of plain hard work were starting to appear.

Young players who had been recruited previously remained with the club and combined perfectly with the raw local talent that had been carefully nurtured.

Under the leadership of President Ken Beavis and Geoff Calder, the club was maturing on and off the field.

Although the senior team finished third on the ladder, coach Ron Deledio brought them to their peak with perfect timing, eliminating Navarre by 67 points in the first semi final.

First Semi Final

| | | | | |
|---------|-----|------|-------|-----------|
| Avoca | 5.8 | 8.14 | 16.23 | 24.28.172 |
| Navarre | 3.1 | 11.4 | 13.6 | 16.9.105 |

Best: Wayne Deledio, Tony Haddow, David Veitch, Peter Drummond,

Tony Wines.

Goals: Geoff Drummond 6, Wayne Deledio 3, Tony Haddow 3, Gerard Darcy 3, Gavin Slater 2, Brendan Williams 1, Tony Wines 1, David Edwards 1, John Jess 1, Paul Constable 1, David Veitch 1, Darren Curtis 1.

Avoca's thrust towards the premiership saw them score a massive 80 point victory over Lexton in the Preliminary Final.

Preliminary Final

| | | | | |
|--------|-----|------|-------|-----------|
| Avoca | 6.7 | 9.10 | 16.13 | 22.17.149 |
| Lexton | 3.2 | 5.7 | 7.15 | 9.15.69 |

Best: Peter Drummond, Richard Field, Wayne Deledio, Tony Meade, John Jess.

Goals: Wayne Deledio 4, Brendan Williams 4, Gavin Slater 4, David Veitch 2, Geoff Drummond 2, Paul Constable 2, David Edwards 1, Tony Haddow 1, Gerard Darcy 1, Richard Field 1.

After fasting for 27 years, Avoca was ravenous for the taste of a premiership.

However early in the Grand Final several players appeared nervous, and the team trailed Natte Bealiba at quarter time.

During the short break, coach Ron Deledio took time to calm his charges, and they listened.

After seizing the lead in the second quarter, Avoca methodically took control of the match, running out victorious by 31 points, in what is now known as the first of the drought breaking premierships.

Grand Final

| | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| Avoca | 1.54.98.15 | 11.17.83 |
| Natte-Bealiba | 2.42.73.7 | 7.10.52 |

Best: Peter Drummond, Tony Haddow, Wayne Deledio, John Jess, David Edwards.

Goals: Geoff Drummond 5, Brendan Williams 2, Gerard Darcy 2, Wayne Deledio 1, Paul Constable 1.

1980 Premiership Team

Backs: Leon Bradley Peter Drummond Wallace Constable

H-Backs: Ron Deledio Mick Spencer Tony Meade

Centres: John Jess Tony Haddow David Edwards

H-Forwards: Tony Wines Brendan Williams Paul Constable

Forwards: Geoff Drummond Gavin Slater Gerard Darcy

Rucks/Rover: Richard Field Wayne Deledio David Veitch

Int'change: Tony Falls Frank Simpson

Runner - Peter Jess

Played at Moonambel.

Inaccuracy probably cost Avoca the honour of winning the premiership double, with the Reserves losing to Natte-Bealiba by six points.

Reserves Grand Final

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Avoca | 0.2 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 4.8 | 32 |
| Natte | 3.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 6.2 | 38 |

Best: Greg Morley, Craig Trickey, Mick Hanns, Adrian Coleman, Les Evans

Goals: Gerald Meagher 1, Tony Clancy 1, Greg Jess 1, Jack Wardlaw 1.

It was a jubilant season for Wayne Deledio, who became only the second Avoca player to win consecutive Lexton League Best & Fairest awards.. The other was Eric Stuart in 1937. Wayne also won the club best player award, and was voted best afield in the Beaurepaire Shield match between Lexton and Western Plains Leagues.

Geoff Drummond headed the club's goal kicking with 71 goals, which included bags of ten and fourteen goals against Marnoo and Landsborough respectively.

The Reserves Best & Fairest award went to Adrian "Charlie" Coleman, and the Under 16's to Anthony Cudmore.

[Go to 1981](#)

1981 Premiers





Season 1981

Seniors - Premiers

Reserves - 3rd

Under 16's – 4th

Success breeds success, and Avoca approached the 1981 season convinced they had what it takes to win successive premierships, a feat that had eluded the club for more than half a century.

Despite the departure of Wayne Deledio, it seemed the Bulldogs could do no wrong.

Coach Ron Deledio was appointed to lead the Lexton League team, and Avoca players selected included Peter Drummond, Michael Spencer, Leon Bradley, John Vallance, Brendan Williams, David Edwards, Richard Field, Tony Wines and David Veitch.

L.F.L 6.5, 11.9, 19.14, 24.19.163

defeated Mt Noorat 1.3, 7.9, 7.10, 10.8.68

Dave Edwards & John Vallance both kicked 4 goals for L.F.L.

L.F.L 9.5.59 lost to Geelong.D.F.L 25.11.161_

Ron Deledio, John Vallance, David Veitch and Julian Kaye (Lexton) represented a Victorian Country team in New Zealand.

Avoca finished the season on top of the ladder, but the Bulldogs had to dig deep to overcome a determined Natte Bealiba in the second semi final.

2nd Semi Final

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|------|------|-----------|
| Avoca | 5.5 | 7.10 | 9.12 | 14.17.101 |
| Natte-Bealiba | 4.4 | 7.7 | 11.8 | 14.10.94 |

Best: Brendan Williams, Ron Deledio, Robert Kemp, Gerard Darcy,

Peter Drummond.

Goals: David Edwards 3, Gerard Darcy 2, Adrian Coleman 2, Brendan Williams 2, David Veitch 1, Mark Reeves 1, Tony Falls 1, John Vallance 1, Wayde Thiele 1.

Avoca was never in danger against Lexton in the Grand Final, running out winners by 43 points.

Grand Final

| | | | | |
|--------|-----|------|-------|-----------|
| Avoca | 6.4 | 12.8 | 17.12 | 20.20.140 |
| Lexton | 3.2 | 5.6 | 8.9 | 14.13.97 |

Best: Gerard Darcy, Peter Drummond, Brendan Williams, John Vallance, Tony Wines.

Goals: Tony Wines 5, Brendan Williams 4, Gerard Darcy 3,
John Vallance 3, David Veitch 2, John Jess 1,
Wayde Thiele 1, David Edwards 1.

Avoca's Reserves made it through to the Preliminary Final, but a six point deficit against Lexton cost them the opportunity to play in the Grand Final, whilst in the Under 16's, Marnoo eliminated Avoca in the First semi final.

Reserves 2nd semi

| | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--|----------|
| Avoca | | | | 3.6.24 |
| Natte-Bealiba | | | | 13.10.88 |

Best: Michael Barker, Greg Jess, Jack Wardlaw, Tony Lakey,
Brett Gilbey.

Goals: Daryl Wardlaw, Darren Curtis, Mick Hanns.

Reserves Preliminary Final

| | | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|---------|
| Avoca | | | | 8.7.55 |
| Lexton | | | | 8.13.61 |

Best: Rowan Astbury, Craig Trickey, Greg Jess, Shane Clohesy,
David Reeves.

Goals: David Reeves 2, Tony Lakey 2, Anthony Cudmore 2,
Jack Wardlaw 1, Kim Raven 1.

Under 16's 1st Semi Final

| | | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|---------|
| Avoca | | | | 6.7.43 |
| Marnoo | | | | 10.7.67 |

Best: Peter Jolly, Craig Lallard, Dale Marshall, Steve Carey,
Bill Clohesy.

Goals: Scott Penrice 3, Paul Medwell 1, Peter Jolly 1, Bill Clohesy 1.

David Edwards polled 41 votes to win the club's Best & Fairest Award.

Tony Wines was Runner Up and also won the club's goal kicking award with 59 goals.

Mark Reeves received the Reserves Best Player award, with Rowan Astbury Runner Up.

Peter Jolly polled a massive 107 votes to win the Under 16's Best & Fairest award from Anthony Cudmore, who received the Runner Up award.

For the second year in succession, Ross Dawson was presented with the Best Clubman award.

[Go to 1982](#)

1982





When dual premiership coach Ron Deledio left Avoca, former Maryborough player Adrian Jacobs had big shoes to fill when he accepted the coaching job.

But Adrian, a school teacher, rose to the occasion, and along with Peter Drummond, David Edwards and Gerard Darcy, was selected in the Lexton League team.

Adrian and Peter Drummond were amongst Lexton's best players.

1982 will be remembered as the year long-standing individual records tumbled.

Gerard Darcy became the first Avoca player to kick 100 goals in a season. More info on following link. ([Gerard Darcy](#))

The gutsy Rover's tally of 115 included a new club record of 22 goals in one game.

Earlier in the season, John Jess kicked 16 goals from the half forward flank to equal the club record set by his brother, Jim Jess in 1972.

Playing against Moonambel on May 8, 1982, Avoca kicked a club and league record score of 57.23.365 to 3.3.21

To top of the home and away part of the season, David Edwards won the Maffescioni Award.

But that is where Avoca's good fortune seemed to run out.

After finishing second on the ladder, Avoca received a hiding from Navarre in the second semi final.

SECOND SEMI FINAL

Avoca 3.6 9.13 11.16 11.18.84

Navarre 2.7 8.11 13.16 19.21.135

Avoca Goals: Gerard Darcy 5, David Edwards 3, Adrian Jacobs 3.

Avoca Best: David Edwards, Mark Reeves, Tony Meade, Adrian Jacobs, Brendan Williams.

Avoca's performance in the Preliminary Final was much more creditable, but Natte-Bealiba proved too good on the day, winning by two points.

PRELIMINARY FINAL

| | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|------|----------|
| Avoca | 2.4 | 6.8 | 9.11 | 11.13.79 |
|-------|-----|-----|------|----------|

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|------|----------|
| Natte-Bealiba | 4.4 | 5.8 | 8.12 | 11.15.81 |
|---------------|-----|-----|------|----------|

Avoca Goals: Adrian Coleman 2, Jim Sutherland 2, Norm Jacobsen 2, Davis Edwards 2, Richard Field 1, Mark Pekin 1, David Veitch 1.

Avoca Best: Peter Drummond, Mark Reeves, John Jess, Robert Kemp, Tony Falls.

Playing in the First Semi Final, the Reserves were also eliminated in a thrilling match, losing by one point to Dunolly.

The Under 16 season came to an abrupt end when they were beaten by 51 points in the Preliminary Final against Landsborough.

David Edwards again won the club Best & Fairest from Graeme Alexander.

The Reserves Best player was Michael Coghlan, with Craig Trickey Runner Up.

In the Under 16's, Peter Jolly was voted Best & Fairest and Steve Carey Runner Up.

The Best Clubman Award was presented to Leon Bradley.

1982 is also remembered as the year that the Avoca Grandstand mysteriously caught fire and burned to the ground.

The size of the crowd that turned out in the middle of the night was as big as a grand final attendance.

[go to 1983](#)

1983



Following two of the most successful years in the Bulldog's history, the main office bearers all decided it was time to give others the opportunity to lead the club, and stepped aside at the annual meeting.

Daryl Edwards, a stock and station agent with Elders, was appointed senior coach, Shane Clohesy was reserves coach, and Leon Bradley had charge of the Under 16's.

Although Avoca seniors finished the season a disappointing sixth and the Reserves seventh, there were many memorable performances by individual's during the year.

Playing against Moonambel, Darren Curtis bagged 14 goals, whilst David Veitch kicked 10 in the same match.

John Jess booted tallies of eight goals twice, and nine on one occasion.

Richard Field and Graeme Alexander both kicked eight goals each against Moonambel.

Richard Field, Leon Bradley and David Veitch were all selected in the Lexton league Side.

Richard Field wrote his name in Lexton League History for all time when he polled 21 votes to share the Best & Fairest award with Lexton's Steve Kirby.

Avoca boys also shone in the League's Under 16 Best & Fairest Count.

With a massive 32 votes, Craig (Bill) Drummond, won the award, eight votes clear of Greg Wardlaw, who was equal Runner-Up with Neil Robinson of Natte-Bealiba.

Avoca's Senior Best & Fairest was Richard Field,

Scott Lewis won the Reserves B & F and Greg Wardlaw won the Under 16's.

John Jess topped the club goalkicking with 50 goals.

Shane Clohesy was voted the Best Clubman.

Although the Under 16's team finished on top of the ladder, they were eliminated from the finals when they lost to Dunolly by 16 points in the Preliminary Final.

[go to 1984](#)

1984



Over Summer, Avoca cleared its best player of the previous season, Richard Field, to Montrose, but regained the services of [David Edwards](#), who was now widely regarded as a champion footballer in country ranks.

Joining David were top players in Tony Wines, Peter Drummond and Max Brown.

Under the guidance of Coach Daryl Edwards in his second season with the club, and with David Edwards back in the engine room, Avoca was again back in business.

Individual highlights included nine goals kicked by Norm Jacobsen against Landsborough, whilst David Edwards booted eight goals against Natte-Bealiba and also topped the club tally for the season with 51 goals.

After finishing in fourth spot, Avoca met Marnoo in the first semi final.

In controversial circumstances, Avoca were beaten by five points.

On the siren, David Veitch kicked what would have been the match winning goal, but the umpire penalised him for running too far.

FIRST SEMI FINAL

Avoca 2.2 6.8 10.12 12.16.88

Marnoo 3.7 5.9 9.15 13.15.93

Avoca Goals: David Edwards 4, John Jess 2, Norm Jacobsen 2, Scott Lewis 1, Jack Wardlaw 1, Tony Wines 1, Shane Clohesy 1.

Avoca Best: Peter Drummond, David Veitch, David Edwards, Daryl Edwards, John Jess.

Once again, David Edwards was voted Avoca's Best & Fairest, with Darren Curtis Runner Up.

In the Reserves, Scott Lewis won the Best & Fairest from Steve Carey, whilst the Under 16 Best & Fairest was won by John Chapman, with Neil McKechnie Runner Up.

Dean Jolly and Paul Medwell both played in the Victorian Schoolboys Championships.

The Best Clubman award was shared by Craig Drummond and George Webb, whilst Harold Bradley and Lot Barker were honoured with Life Membership.

[go to 1985](#)

1985





One of Avoca's favourite sons, David Veitch, an Electrician, was appointed Coach for the 1985 season, with Graeme Alexander as Assistant Coach.

Although the club was bitterly disappointed to miss the finals, finishing fifth on the ladder, they took consolation in the depth of the junior talent which was emerging through the ranks of the under 16's.

The thirds, coached by Darren Curtis and captained by Dean Jolly, lost the second semi final by two points to Marnoo.

However, after beating Landsborough convincingly in the Preliminary Final, they secured a berth in the Grand Final.

Although they played gallantly, Avoca lost the match by 17 points.

UNDER 16 GRAND FINAL

Avoca 2.1 2.1 4.1 5.1.31

Marnoo 2.0 3.3 5.4 7.6.48

Avoca Goals: Edward Peck 2, Ashley Howell 1, Trevor Field 1,
Dean Jolly 1.

Avoca Best: Dean Jolly, Trevor Field, Ashley Howell, Darren Edwards, Ashley Howell, Craig Lallard.

Trevor Field and Paul Medwell both played in the combined country side.

The senior Best & Fairest was won by Michael Coghlan, with Graeme Alexander being Runner Up.

Paul Slater topped the goal kicking with 35 goals including bags of eleven and eight.

David Veitch also kicked eleven goals against Dunolly.

The Reserves Best & Fairest player was Jack Wardlaw and the Under 16's was Dean Jolly.

Two of Avoca's most popular identities. Kath and Gerry Clohesy, were honoured with Life Membership.

[go to 1996](#)

1986





When Tom Austin MP, officially opened the \$164,000 sporting complex at the Avoca Public Park, few people could envisage to what extent the facility would benefit the football netball club.

Not only did the Bulldogs have a home base of which they could be proud, they also had a solid foundation on which to generate revenue.

On reflection, it was a brave move by the Public Park Trustees, but one of vision.

Meanwhile back on the field the senior football team was still struggling and finished the season in sixth position.

The Senior and reserves playing list was:

Geoff Waldron, Steve Carey, Michael Coghlan, Graeme Alexander, Peter Jolly, Robert Redpath, David Veitch, Tony Stephenson, Robert Fraser, Darren Curtis, Steven Beavis, Jayson McLeish, Dean Jolly, Darren Edwards, Anthony Cudmore, Mark reeves, Steven Hunter, Mick Arrowsmith, Shane Clohesy, Paul Slater, Ashley Howell, Greg Wardlaw, Craig Lallard, Dale Marshall, Stuart McConachie, Robert Webb, Tony Slater, Damian Best, John Webb, Terry Edwards, David Charlesworth, David reeves, Scott Lewis, Peter Hunter, Rodney White, Gerard Best, John Lever, Kevin Harrison, Robert Rayner, Brendan Jolly, Robert Farnsworth, Dale Harrison and Frank Peck.

The policy of fostering youth was starting to bear fruit, with the Reserves and the Under 16's both making the finals.

But in the First Semi Final, "Lady Luck" seemed to desert the Reserves team when they lost to Dunolly by one point.

RESERVES FIRST SEMI FINAL

Avoca 12.7.79 to Dunolly 11.14.80

Avoca Goals: Craig Lallard 4, Scott Lewis 2, Steven Hunter 2, Robert Webb 1, Darren Curtis 1, David Reeves 1, Robert Farnsworth 1.

Avoca Best: Steven Hunter, David Reeves, Tony Slater, Jayson McLeish.

The Under 16's played off in the Grand Final but lost to Marnoo by 49 points.

UNDER 16 GRAND FINAL

Avoca 2.10.22 to Marnoo 11.5.71

Avoca Goals: Ian Fraser 1, Scott Howell 1.

Avoca Best: Kevin Harrison, Paul Wardlaw, Stephen Cudmore, Darren Edwards, Scott Howell.

Despite a reputation as a tough no nonsense footballer, Geoff Waldron won the senior Best & Fairest award with Steven Carey Runner Up.

Robert Fraser kicked 25 goals to head the goal kicking table.

Tony Slater was voted the Reserves Best & Fairest winner with Jayson McLeish the Runner Up.

Brendan Jolly gave notice of big things to come when he took out the under 16's Best & Fairest award.

Ironically, Brendan just beat Trevor Field, and today have both developed into two of the club's best players.

[go to 1987](#)

1987



Winds of change were again blowing through the club at the beginning of 1987.

For some time it had been obvious that Avoca would have to become more professional, if it were to compete seriously.

The Annual Meeting voted to streamline the club's administration.

The traditional committee was replaced with a Board of Management, which included:

President: John Field

Vice-President: John Farnsworth

Secretary: Ross Dawson

Treasurer: Brian Arrowsmith

Board Members: Doug Pridham, David Veitch, Hugh Edwards.

The plan had plenty of merit in theory, and had been successfully adopted by clubs in other competitions, but it placed enormous pressure on the individuals.

Also, outside AFL ranks, the lifeblood of football clubs is the voluntary worker.

No matter how minor, their contribution can never be underestimated and, if football clubs are to survive and thrive, then they can not afford to alienate anyone.

Whilst other clubs persevered with the new style of administration, Avoca reverted back to office bearers and an open committee in 1990.

However, the seeds had been sown, and it was just a matter of time before the football club would benefit from its endeavors to become more professional and competitive.

Colin Edwards, from Ararat, was appointed Senior Coach, Tony Stephenson took on the Reserves Coaching position and Geoff Calder had charge of the Under 16's.

The Senior and Reserves playing list was:

Col Edwards (Captain and Coach), Peter Jolly, Ian Fraser, Geoff Waldron, Richard Field, Peter Tuohey, Craig Lallard, Tony Stephenson, Brendan Jolly, Greg Jess, Robert Redpath, Adrian McCormick, Trevor Field, David Veitch, Gerard Best, Steven Beavis, Robert Fraser, Steve Carey, Michael Coghlan, Richard

Astbury, Tony Slater, John Webb, Darren Edwards, Jayson McLeish, Dale Marshall, Craig Trickey, Robert Rayner, Greg Wardlaw, Steve Jennings, Greg Corcoran, Wayde Thiele, Greg Morley, Mick Arrowsmith, Scott Lewis, Shane Clohesy, Darren Medwell, Steven Hunter, David Field, Peter Redpath, Frank Peck.

Avoca suffered a severe blow when Craig Lallard broke his leg during round 11 and was sidelined for the season. As a youngster Craig had shown great potential as a forward, and with 37 goals was the leading goal kicker in the Lexton League when misfortune struck.

1987 seemed to be the year the umpires got twitchy.

Incredibly, Greg Corcoran was reported for striking an unknown Marnoo reserves player. Needless to say, the charge was not proved.

In a more serious vein, Richard Field was booked for repeatedly kicking.

He was found not guilty on that charge, but suspended for one week for striking.

Others booked and suspended included Robert Redpath – five matches, Robert Fraser – one match and Tony Stephenson – one match for abusive language.

The year held few performance highlights for the Bulldogs, although Michael Coghlan was selected in the Lexton Football League rep side.

The senior's Best & Fairest award was won by Peter Jolly, with Ian Fraser Runner Up.

Tony Slater won the Reserves Best & Fairest, whilst David Field took out the Under 16's B & F.

For the third time, Ross Dawson was voted Best Clubman.

[go to 1988](#)

1988



The efforts to make a more professional club overall started to reap dividends in 1988.

Peter Tuohey, a stock and station agent with Elders, was appointed coach and, although several good players were cleared, the club offset this with vigorous recruiting.

The Bulldogs stocks were boosted enormously with the return of David Edwards, already recognized as one of Avoca's best post-war footballers.

The senior and reserves players list was:

Peter Tuohey, David Edwards, Adrian McCormick, Trevor Field, Brendan Jolly, Neil Le Nepveu, Peter Jolly, Shane Meade, Geoff Waldron, Shane Jackson, Richard Astbury, Steven Beavis, Robert Redpath, Ian Fraser, Tony James, Steve Carey, Craig Lallard, Michael Coghlan, Robert Fraser, Greg Jess, Scott Lewis, Tony Slater, Greg Wardlaw, Stephen Bott, John Webb, Mick Arrowsmith, Robert Webb, David Veitch, Anthony Cudmore, Peter Palling, Jason Griffiths, Darren Edwards, Grant Baldwinson, Paul Cocking, Scott Howell, Russell Wardlaw, Ashley Howell, Dale Marshall, Jayson McLeish, Greg Corcoran, Wayne Patterson, Nathan Gane, Dean Jolly, Damian Harrison, Danny Stone, Tony Meade.

Four Avoca players were selected in the LFL side, including David Edwards, Shane Meade, Brendan Jolly and Richard Astbury.

Teenagers Matthew Jess and Paul Wardlaw gave notice that they were players of the future when selected in the Under 15 combined country side.

After finishing the season second on the ladder, Avoca were entitled to be confident about its prospects.

However, their aspirations received a huge setback when Shane Meade broke his ankle on the eve of the finals whilst wrestling at home with Collingwood footballer, Mick McGuane.

Navarre dominated the second semi final, winning by 58 points.

SECOND SEMI FINAL

| | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|------|----------|
| Avoca | 2.3 | 3.3 | 4.5 | 4.6.30 |
| Navarre | 4.3 | 9.4 | 11.6 | 13.10.88 |

Avoca Goals: Craig Lallard 2, Michael Coghlan 1, Brendan Jolly 1.

Avoca Best: Neil Le Nepveu, Trevor Field, Steven Beavis, Ian Fraser, Peter Tuohey.

The Preliminary Final was also disappointing, With Lexton leading all day to win by 35 points.

PRELIMINARY FINAL

| | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|------|---------|
| Avoca | 3.1 | 5.5 | 6.8 | 7.9.51 |
| Lexton | 5.3 | 9.5 | 11.6 | 13.8.86 |

Avoca Goals: Craig Lallard 2, Steve Carey 2, Neil Le Nepveu 1, Ian Fraser 1, Robert Redpath 1.

Avoca Best: Peter Tuohey, Steven Beavis, Ian Fraser, Neil Le Nepveu, Tony James.

After finishing third, the Under 16's performed creditably to reach the Preliminary Final where they were eliminated by Navarre.

UNDER 16 PRELIMINARY FINAL

Avoca 3.1.19 to Navarre 9.5.59

Avoca Goals: Gary Wardlaw 1, Mick Wardlaw 1, Matt Jess 1.

Avoca Best: Scott Howell, Gary Wardlaw, Mark Blair, John Redpath, Craig Jolly.

For the fourth time, [David Edwards](#) won the club's Best & Fairest award, with Adrian McCormick Runner Up.

Old timers were ready to concede that David now deserved to be ranked amongst Avoca's all time greats.

Robert Redpath was the club's main goal kicker with 38 goals.

In the Reserves, Steven Beavis was Best & Fairest, a remarkable effort considering he also polled eleven votes in the seniors, and was voted best finals player.

Scott Howell won the Under 16 Best & Fairest award and was Runner Up in the Lexton League equivalent.

Once again Geoff Calder's outstanding service to the club was recognized when he received the Best Clubman Award.

[go to 1989](#)

1989





Over the Summer Avoca cleared several prominent footballers, including Robert Fraser, Shane Meade, Peter Jolly, Greg and Matthew Jess and Richard Astbury.

However, Coach Peter Tuohey and the Avoca players displayed plenty of fortitude to finish the season in fifth spot.

The seniors and reserves players list was:

Peter Tuohey, David Edwards, Brendan Jolly, Craig Lallard, Scott Howell, Shane Jackson, Phillip Dunne, Mick Arrowsmith, Trevor Field, Tony James, Steven Beavis, Robert Redpath, Steven Carey, Gerard Best, Scott Lewis, Dale Cole, Paul Cocking, Ian Fraser, Russell Wardlaw, Nathan Gane, Dean Jolly, Garry Nelson, Greg Wardlaw, Steve Jennings, Danny Stone, Scott Lewis, Dale Harrison, Mark Blair, Paul Wardlaw, Anthony Cudmore, Darren Maclean, Ron Beavis, David Field, Damian Harrison, Robert Webb, Graeme male, Gerard Best, Calvin Gray, Frank Peck, Greg Corcoran, Jim Beavis, Martin Flanagan, Warren Howell and Darren Longridge.

Craig Lallard, Brendan Jolly and Trevor Field represented Avoca in the Lexton League side.

But it was the Bulldog Pups who stole the limelight by winning their first Under 16 premiership since 1977.

It was fitting reward for Geoff Calder, who devoted an enormous amount of time and effort in coaching the juniors.

Geoff's influence on the character and ability of Avoca's youth is starting to show now, not just on the football field but also in the way many of them are maturing as young men.

After disposing of Natte-Bealiba in the second semi final, Avoca, captained by Paul Wardlaw, then crushed Navarre to win the

Grand Final by 66 points and become Premiers and Champions.(undefeated)

UNDER 16 GRAND FINAL

Avoca 12.14.86 to Navarre 3.2.20

Avoca Goals: Warren Howell 3, Lee Beavis 2, Doug Summers 2, Julian Field 2, Mark Blair 1, Gary Wardlaw 1, Mark Wardlaw 1.

Avoca Best: Team Effort.

The Under 16 Premiership players were:

David Crooks, Bradley Lobb, Craig Drummond, Warren Howell, Craig Jolly, Mark Blair, David Wardlaw, Matthew Powers, John Redpath, Brett Cole, Mark Wardlaw, Scot Britnell, Chris Field, Brad Wardlaw, Michael Wardlaw, Doug Summers, Julian Field, Dale Morrison, Paul Wardlaw (Capt), Gary Wardlaw, Paul Neil, Lee Beavis, and Coach, Geoff Calder.

During the season, Scott Howell, Paul Wardlaw and Mark Blair were all selected in the Ballarat Country Side.

Avoca's senior Best & Fairest count saw History created when David Edwards won the award for a record fifth time. (Ron Field won four.)

Runner Up was Brendan Jolly, who was also the leading goal kicker with 38 goals.

The Reserves Best & Fairest was won by Paul Cocking and the Under 16's Best & Fairest was Gary Wardlaw.

In the Lexton League Under 16's Best & Fairest, Brett Cole polled 20 votes, just two short of winning the coveted trophy.

Craig (Bill) Drummond was again recognized for his outstanding service to the Bulldogs when he was named Best Clubman.

Sadly 1989 was the year that Frank Kaye passed away.

Frank was a top footballer with Avoca in the late 1920's and, after many years of devoted service as an official and supporter, he was made a Life member in 1972.

[go to 1990](#)