

1990 R/Up



By 1990 Avoca was starting to be respected as a very professionally run football club.

Seeds sown in the late 1980's were now starting to blossom, and it was just a matter of time before the rewards would be reaped.

The club was securing lucrative sponsorships and attracting influential supporters.

The confident, professional atmosphere was contagious, and soon it would spread to the players, who were now coached by Michael Meade, who once worked as a printer for the great Tommy Hafey.

A former Richmond Reserves player, Michael was a top footballer with St Arnaud, in the North Central League.

In fact, his appointment at Avoca gave the club one of its best coaching panels ever with Garry Nelson, the local policeman, as Reserves Coach and Geoff Calder in charge of the Under 16's.

The senior and reserves list was:

Michael Meade, Ian Fraser, Shane Jackson, Scott Howell, Tony James, Trevor Field, John Hind, Robert Redpath, Dale Cole, Paul Wardlaw, Craig Lallard, Steven Beavis, Peter Jolly, Scott Lewis, Mick Lynch, Michael Coghlan, Robert Fraser, Greg Wardlaw, Mick Arrowsmith, Gary Wardlaw, Nathan Gane, Ashley Howell, Dean Jolly, Anthony Cudmore, Robert Webb, Russell Wardlaw, John Webb, Gerard Best, Brendan Jolly, Paul and David Wardlaw, Paul Cocking, Neil McKechnie, Warren Howell, Chris Field, Jim Beavis, Phillip Dunne, Rodney James, Kris Sutton, Ron Beavis, Brett Cole, Matthew Powers, John Redpath, Aaron McHoul, Dale Harrison, Danny Stone, Stephen Bott, Doug Summers, Adrian Wren and Nick Farnsworth.

Besides being a highly respected footballer, Michael Meade was a person of great character.

Together with fellow coach's Garry Nelson and Geoff Calder, Meade was responsible for lifting Avoca seniors, reserves and thirds to finish the season second on the ladder.

However the one stumbling block for the seniors had been Navarre, and it was a similar story in the second semi final.

SECOND SEMI FINAL

Avoca	2.3	6.5	7.5	9.8.62
Navarre	2.1	10.4	17.8	21.11.137

Avoca Goals: Robert Fraser 2, Neil McKechnie 2, Greg Wardlaw 1, John Hind 1, Phillip Dunne 1, Shane Jackson 1, Robert Redpath 1.

Avoca Best: Scott Howell, Ashley Howell, Robert Fraser, Michael Meade, Peter Jolly, Ian Fraser.

Avoca quickly regrouped and convincingly defeated Marnoo by 44 points in the preliminary final.

PRELIMINARY FINAL

Avoca	5.7	8.12	10.16	14.21.105
Marnoo	1.1	3.1	5.4	9.7.61

Avoca Goals: Michael Meade 4, John Hind 3, Robert Redpath 2, Phillip Dunne 1, Craig Lallard 1, Brendan Jolly 1, Mick Arrowsmith 1, Shane Jackson 1.

Avoca Best: Scott Howell, Ian Fraser, Brendan Jolly, Dean Jolly, Shane Jackson, Michael Meade.

Avoca suffered a major setback when a groin injury forced coach Michael Meade out of contention for the Grand Final.

Although the undermanned Bulldogs still played gallantly, Navarre was simply a far superior combination, winning by 82 points.

GRAND FINAL

Avoca 1.1 6.6 7.7 9.12.66

Navarre 5.5 5.7 15.9 24.21.165

Avoca Goals: Robert Redpath 2, John Hind 2, Phillip Dunne 1, Trevor Field 1, Michael Coghlan 1, Steven Beavis 1, Robert Fraser 1.

Avoca Best: Shane Jackson, Dean Jolly, Michael Coghlan, Kris Sutton, Brendan Jolly, Trevor Field.

Avoca's Seniors Grand Final team was:

B: Steve Beavis Ian Fraser Ashley Howell

HB: Peter Jolly Shane Jackson Kris Sutton

C: Trevor Field Robert Fraser Dale Cole

HF: Michael Coghlan Craig Lallard Phillip Dunne

F: Tony James Robert Redpath Scott Howell

R/R Dean Jolly Brendan Jolly John Hind

Int: Scott Lewis Greg Wardlaw

Navarre also had an exceptionally strong reserves side, and the reserves grand final was almost a carbon copy of the senior's grand final with Avoca losing by 73 points.

RESERVES GRAND FINAL

Avoca 6.1.37 to Navarre 15.20.110

Avoca Goals: Neil McKechnie 2, Brett Cole 1, Stephen Bott 1, Jim Beavis 1, Dale Harrison 1.

Avoca Best: Chris Field, Russell Wardlaw, Paul Wardlaw, Gerard Best, Rod James, Gary Wardlaw.

Avoca's Reserves Grand Final team was:

B:	John Redpath	Russell Wardlaw	Rod James
HB:	John Webb	Anthony Cudmore	Jim Beavis
C:	Ron Beavis	Robert Webb	Paul Cocking
HF:	Adrian Wren	Gerard Best	Warren Howell
F:	Dale Harrison	Neil McKechnie	Brett Cole
R/R	Chris Field	Paul Wardlaw	Gary Wardlaw
Int:	Aaron McHoul	Nick Farnsworth	Matt Powers
Int:	Stephen Bott		
Coach:	Garry Nelson		

Although both Grand Finals' were one sided, it was a very encouraging year for Avoca.

Thus the revolutionary blueprint unveiled in the late 1980's was now being acknowledged as worthwhile.

At last the club had a solid foundation on which to build.

With responsible administrators, there seemed to be no reason why the Avoca Football Club could not remain a force forever.

During the season, Craig Lallard, John Hind and Trevor Field were selected in the Lexton league team.

Craig Jolly and Brad Wardlaw were selected in the Under 15 Ballarat All Star Team.

Unfortunately, Mark Blair injured his knee on a sprinkler at Ararat whilst playing with the Lexton league Under 17's and later underwent a knee reconstruction.

Prior to the injury Carlton Football Club had extended mark an invitation to attend a special training camp.

The Senior's Best & Fairest award was won by Michael Meade, with Ian Fraser Runner Up.

Ashley Howell won the Reserves B & F, whilst Craig Jolly was voted Best & Fairest for the Under 16's.

Robert Redpath topped the goalkicking with 55 goals.

The Best Clubman award was presented to Alan Burge.

Ken Beavis, Geoff Calder and David Veitch who had all given the club outstanding service on and off the field, were honoured with Life Membership.

Despite the great progress made by the club in 1990, it was also a sad year with the passing of Life Member, Reg Pora.

Although Reg only played football for one season in 1936, he was a dedicated supporter who loved the club and gave generously of himself.

[go to 1991](#)

1991



The sniff of success experienced the previous year made the club optimistic as the 1991 season approached.

The committee had no hesitation in re-appointing Michael Meade as coach.

Not only was he an outstanding footballer, but he was highly for his character and coaching ability.

Garry Nelson was also re-appointed as reserves coach, and John Veugelers took control of the Under 16's.

The seniors and reserves players list was:

Michael Meade (Coach), Shane Jackson, Brendan Jolly, David Edwards, Trevor Field, Paul and David Wardlaw, Mick Arrowsmith, Geoff Waldron, Scott Howell, Peter Jolly, Tony James, Dean Jolly, Michael Coghlan, John Roberts, Robert Redpath, Warren Howell, Ian Fraser, Glenn Joynson, Gary Wardlaw, Michael Wardlaw, Dale Cole, Craig Jolly, David Field, Chris Field, Clinton Wilson, Russell Wardlaw, Robert Webb, Aaron McHoul, Lee Beavis, Brett Cole, Ron Beavis, Ashley Howell, Greg Brown, John Redpath, Doug Summers, Steven Beavis, Craig Drummond, Steve Carey, Danny Stone, Nathan Gane, Jim Beavis, Adrian Wren, Garry Williams, Phillip Dunne, Matthew Powers, Kris Sutton, Garry Nelson, Gerard Best, Paul Cocking, Scott Britnell and Brad Wardlaw.

To focus attention on an individual player who leaves the club often proves to be an open invitation for ridicule. However, few would dispute the exit of Craig Lallard was a severe blow.

Because of his employment, Craig, a painter, was forced to move interstate, but there is no doubt his heart and thoughts remain with Avoca.

Craig Lallard wil always be an "Avoca Boy"!

As he watched from afar in 1991, he would have been envious but pleased to see the Bulldogs chalk up, overall, one of the club's best home and away season's ever.

The Senior's, Reserves and Under 16's all finished second on the ladder.

It is easy to make excuses, but there is little doubt in normal circumstances, Avoca would have won the senior premiership.

The truth is that this year, Navarre was a ten goal better side and thoroughly deserved their success.

In fact, in the second semi final, Navarre defeated Avoca by 16 goals.

SECOND SEMI FINAL

Avoca	3.2	3.2	3.3	5.6.36
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Navarre 4.3 7.5 13.14 19.19.133

Avoca Goals: Glenn Joynson 3, Michael Coghlan 1, Robert Redpath 1.

Avoca Best: Glenn Joynson, Peter Jolly, Michael Meade, Paul Wardlaw, Warren Howell, David Edwards.

Despite the thrashing handed out in the second semi final, based on their form during the season Avoca was entitled to be confident about the Preliminary Final.

However, the match was simply disastrous.

After leading by 25 points at three quarter time, Avoca was then completely overrun by Lexton, who kicked eight goals and nine behinds in the last term, to win by 25 points.

PRELIMINARY FINAL

Avoca 6.1 9.2 14.4 15.9.99

Lexton 4.4 7.11 9.13 17.22.124

Avoca Goals: Robert Redpath 5, Shane Jackson 2, Mick Arrowsmith 2, Glenn Joynson 2, Dale Cole 2, David Edwards 1, Scott Howell 1.

Avoca Best: Michael Meade, Geoff Waldron, Gary Wardlaw. Paul Wardlaw, David Edwards, Tony James.

Remarkably, the saga was similar for the Reserves, losing the second semi final to Navarre by 10 points and then the Preliminary Final to Natte-Bealiba with a 15 point margin.

RESERVES PRELIMINARY FINAL

Avoca 8.6.54 to Natte-Bealiba 8.15.69

Avoca Goals: Brendan Jolly 4, Russell Wardlaw 1, David Field 1, Steve Carey 1, Colin Jackson 1.

Avoca Best: Greg Brown, Brendan Jolly, Steve Carey, David Field, Kris Sutton, Aaron McHoul.

When the Under 16's defeated Natte-Bealiba by 24 points on the second semi final, they were entitled to be confident for their Grand final encounter.

But on the day, Natte-Bealiba proved the better side, winning the premiership by 26 points

GRAND FINAL

Avoca 12.6.78 to Natte-Bealiba 16.8.104

Avoca Goals: Craig Jolly 6, Clint Latch 2, Paul Field 1, Sam Beavis 1, Julian Field 1, Glenn Claridge 1, Michael Wardlaw 1.

Avoca Best: Michael Wardlaw, Julian Field, Justin Impey, Wayne Crooks, Glenn Claridge, Craig Jolly.

Avoca also appeared out of luck in the Lexton League Best & Fairest Awards.

After missing six games with a broken ankle, Brendan Jolly was runner up in the Peter Smith Medal, just two votes behind the winner. Paul Campigli from Landsborough.

Brendan was also Runner Up in the club Best & Fairest, which was won by Shane Jackson.

Shane had his share of bad luck, finishing second by a margin of four votes in the Maffescioni Award.

However, Shane did win Avoca's goal kicking award with 69 goals.

During the season, he kicked 12 goals against Dunolly, whilst Mick Arrowsmith kicked 10 in a match with Landsborough.

Shane also represented Avoca in the Lexton League side, together with Michael Meade, Trevor Field, Brendan Jolly and John Roberts.

Shane Jackson and Brendan Jolly were both amongst the best players in the Lexton Leagues win over Ararat & District Football Association.

Brad Wardlaw had the honour of being selected in the combined country Under 17 All Stars Side, whilst Michael Wardlaw, Julian Field and Craig Jolly were named for the Ballarat District in the Victorian Schoolboys Championships.

The Club Reserves Best & Fairest award was won by Chris Field, and the Under 16's by Michael Wardlaw.

Twice during the season Craig Jolly booted bags of 10 goals, to finish the season with 50 goals in the Under 16's.

A feature of the year was that a number of brothers played together in the senior side including:

Jolly: Brendan, Craig and Dean.

Wardlaw: Russell, Gary, Brad and Michael.

Field: Trevor & David

Howell: Scott and Warren

Beavis: Steve and Leigh

Meanwhile, Brendan Jolly's distinguished service on and off the field was recognised when he was named Best Clubman.

[go to 1992](#)

1992



Although the club cleared Brendan Jolly and Glenn Joynson, the Bulldogs were optimistic about the 1992 prospects.

The senior and Reserves playing list was:

Michael Meade (Coach), Scott Howell, Trevor Field, Michael Coghlan, Mark Blair, Robert Redpath, Dean Jolly, Gary Wardlaw, Brett Cole, Paul and David Wardlaw, Michael Wardlaw, Craig Jolly, Dale Cole, Brad Wardlaw, Russell Wardlaw, Warren Howell, Geoff

Waldron, Steve Beavis, Mick Arrowsmith, Bryan Walkley, Robert Webb, Aaron McHoul, Steve Carey, Anthony Cudmore, Ricky Dixon, Clinton Wilson, John Webb, Matthew Powers, Nathan Gane, Trevor Hamilton, Aaron Burge, Scott Britnell, Mitch Walton, Craig Carter, Glenn Claridge, Stephen Bott, Paul Cocking, David Crooks, Stephen King, Peter Redpath, Kris Sutton, Julian Field, Leigh Beavis, Ron Beavis, Darby Harrison, Doug Summers and Ian Owen.

Surprisingly, the senior and reserves sides both finished fourth on the ladder which must have been bitterly disappointing for Coach's Michael Meade and Bryan Walkley.

The seniors aspirations ended abruptly in the first semi final, when Natte-Bealiba handed out a 96 point hiding.

FIRST SEMI FINAL

Avoca 11.4.70 to Natte-Bealiba 24.22.166

Avoca Goals: Brett Cole 3, Mick Arrowsmith 2, Warren Howell 2, Dale Cole 2, Scott Howell 1, Craig Jolly 1.

Avoca Best: Scott Howell, Warren Howell, Michael Coghlan, Steve Beavis, Trevor Field.

The Reserves were also beaten in the first semi final, losing to Lexton by 66 points.

However, it was a marvelous season for the Under 16's.

Coached by John Veugelers, the Bulldog pups lost the second semi final to Landsborough by 18 points, but recovered brilliantly to win the Grand Final by 29 points.

UNDER 16 GRAND FINAL

Avoca 7.6.48 to Landsborough 2.7.19

Avoca Goals: Craig Jolly 2, Trevor Hamilton 1, Corey Wilson 1, Michael Wardlaw 1, Marcus Cassells 1, Jamie Pora 1.

Avoca Best: Adam Humphrey, Trevor Hamilton, Craig Jolly, Julian Field, Justin Impey, Paul Field.

The Under 16 premiership Team was:

B:	Chris Barker	Paul Field	Anthony Gollop
HB:	Adam Currie	Shane Barber	Adam Humphrey

C:	Nathan Cassells	Julian Field (C)	Stanley Carter
HF:	Frank Barber	Michael Wardlaw	Marcus Cassells
F:	Corey Wilson	Craig Jolly	Jamie Pora
R/R	Justin Impey	Aaron Calder	Trevor Hamilton
Int:	Sam Beavis	Scott Wardlaw	Clint Latch
Int:	Lyndon Saunders		
Coach:	John Veugelers		
EMG:	Anthony Streeter	Jeff Claridge	Darren Carbis
	Ben Howell	Ross Howell	Shane Field
	Vernon Svilicic	Mark Jackson	

It was a remarkable season for 15 year old Craig Jolly, (pictured) who topped the club's goalkicking in all three grades:

Seniors: 44 goals

Reserves: 20 goals

Under 16: 29 goals

Playing against Navarre on July 18, 1992, Craig Booted 10 goals. Seven in the last quarter.

The senior Best & Fairest award was won by Scott Howell, who also won the prestigious Maffescioni Award.

In other club awards, Trevor Field was Runner Up and Mark Blair was voted best under 20.

Aaron McHoul took out the Reserves Best & Fairest from Bryan Walkley.

The Under 16's Best & Fairest was won by team captain Julian Field, who was also voted best in finals.

After missing six games because of commitments to the senior team, Julian could be considered very unlucky not to have won the Lexton League Under 16 B & F. He polled 18 votes. 5 behind the winner.

Trevor Hamilton was Runner Up in the club Under 16 Best & Fairest, whilst Adam Humphrey was presented with a trophy for best player in the grand final.

During the season Paul Wardlaw, Gary Wardlaw, Scott Howell and Mark Blair were all selected in the Lexton Football League side.

Julian Field played for Ballarat in the Victorian Schoolboys Championship side and appears to have a wonderful future.

Appropriately, Under 16 coach John Veugelers was voted the Best Clubman.

The club was deeply saddened by the passing of [Bill Harris](#) who will always be remembered as one of Avoca's best sportsman, and is named as one of the club's greatest players.

The club was also saddened by the passing of Laurence "Pud" Curtis.

"Pud" had been the caretaker of the Avoca Public Park for many years and was extremely popular.

[go to 1993](#)

1993 Premiers





Although Jim Jess's distinguished career with Richmond ended in 1988, he continued to play excellent football in prominent leagues.

In 1992 he played in Tasmania and played a big part in a premiership with Burnie.

But during the summer of 1992, and 1993, Jim decided he wanted to return home to Avoca, where he started his football.

When the locals read the news in the Avoca paper, some thought it must have been the first of April, but the doubt disappeared when the story broke in the Herald Sun, Age and Maryborough Newspapers.

Interest in football throughout the district received a huge injection of enthusiasm.

Although Avoca was bubbling with excitement, rival clubs determined to counter Avoca's good fortune were also thrust into action.

As the news spread, emotions began to stir, and in a matter of days, voluntary labour had constructed impressive new social club facilities for the club at the Avoca Public Park.

After scaling down and streamlining its administration just five years ago, the club now had one of the largest and most enthusiastic committee's ever.

The Office Bearers were:

President: Terry Howell

Vice-President: Geoff Calder

Secretary: Ross Dawson

Treasurer: Alan Burge

Committee: John Field, Max Robertson, George Wood, Kevin Matthews, Pat Harrison, John Evans, Ron & Glenda Jackson, Rod Adams, Aaron McHoul, Doug Saunders, Bryan Walkley, Robert Rayner, Robert Webb, Mick Arrowsmith, Michael Coghlan.

It was not surprising to find that many former Avoca boys were keen to return home for the 1993 season.

On May 22, 1993, the seniors and reserves playing list for 1993 was:

Jim Jess (C/C), Gary Wardlaw, Michael Meade, Kris Sutton, Julian Field, Ron Beavis, Robert Webb, Michael Coghlan, Paul Wardlaw, Darby Harrison, Lee Beavis, David Edwards, Doug Summers, Bryan Walkley, John Jess, Steve Beavis, Nathan Gane, Geoff Waldron, Mick Arrowsmith, Scott Howell, Steve Carey, Dale Cole, Danny Walsh, Brad Wardlaw, Warren Howell, Matthew Jess, Craig Jolly, Mark Blair, Brendan Jolly, Aaron McHoul, Trevor Field, Brett Cole, Michael Wardlaw, Craig Carter, Aaron Burge, Shane Fewings, Aaron Calder, John Webb, Brett Kallio, Ricky Dixon, Danny Stone, Russell Wardlaw, Jim Beavis, Darren Edwards, Greg Wardlaw, Ian Fraser, Anthony Cudmore, Scott Lewis.

Former Richmond player, Graeme Robertson, gave the club valuable injection of experience as an advisor to the coach. His assistance in the production of Bush Heroes was also invaluable.

“Bush Heroes” has revealed many instances of personal tragedy and triumph and even as we close this final chapter on the Avoca Football Club, an interesting example is unfolding for all to witness.

It concerns Danny “Woosha” Walsh, a very popular player, recruited from Diggers Rest, where he won the Best & Fairest award in 1992.

Twenty six year old Danny had been amongst the best players every week until he suffered a broken ankle against Navarre in the fourth match of the season.

It was a bad break, and renowned Melbourne surgeon Mr. Ian Henderson told Danny his leg would be in plaster for at least eight weeks, and that he should forget about football for the rest of the year.

But Danny had other plans and although the club has wrapped his jumper in mothballs, if number 24 does appear with the Avoca team on Grand Final day, it will indeed be a marvelous personal triumph and an inspiration to all. (*Danny did play in the 1993 Grand Final*)

But for now, Avoca's immediate goal is to qualify for the finals.

And whilst Jim Jess is entitled to receive the credit for any success realized in September, please spare a thought for the previous coach, Michael Meade.

Although replaced by Jim, Michael has remained with the club, and if nothing else will always be remembered for the magnificent way he prepared the team leading up to the 1990 Grand final.

Michael Meade was devastated when he was ruled out of the match by injury.

He also realized Navarre was virtually unbeatable, but the positive attitude he adopted was pure inspiration at its best.

Prior to the Grand Final, each player received the following hand-written letter, which on reflection is timeless;

"We have won the right to play a game of football to decide who is the best side this year.

No one gave us a free ticket to be here, we have earned it ourselves. Performances during the year account for nothing now. One game will tell who the best side is.

For about 30 weeks we have worked hard in the heat, cold, rain and mud. We've been tired, sore and at times sick. But we never gave up. We set ourselves a goal and now with 120 minutes of football we can achieve that goal.

Navarre stand between the effort we have put in and the goal we want to achieve. They have no right to do so. They don't *want* or *need* to win as much as we do.

To win this game we must believe in our own ability, the ability of our team mates and the ability of the team as a whole. If we have any doubts at all then we're gone. I personally have no doubts whatsoever and with our aggressive approach to the ball, together with our tight team work, I am confident we will win.

An opportunity to win a premiership may *never* present itself again. This is the chance of lifetime, the ultimate in a footballer's career. It has been a long time between drinks for the Avoca Football Club and now we have the chance to create history and bring success to the

club and the town. We have the chance to become heroes and receive that pat on the back we deserve, This will be *our* day of glory.

Having been a part of a senior premiership side before, I know what it is like. It is impossible to explain the feeling of winning. It's a feeling of excitement, achievement, mateship and much, much more. It has to be experienced.

I personally am desperate to experience that feeling again but more than anything else, I want every one of you to experience it.

You are the ones that have worked for it.

You are the ones that deserve it.

Good Luck.”

The senior team finished the 1993 season of with a great come from behind win in the Grand Final.

Natte were in front by 9 points at 3/4 time, Avoca over run Natte to win by 9 points.

Captain Coach Jim Jess, was unable to play in the Grand Final due to a knee injury that he suffered in the 2nd semi final at Marnoo.

The Grand Final was played at Landsborough.

Unfortunately Marnoo and Landsborough are no longer in existence.

Outstanding centreman, David Edwards won the League Best & Fairest award.

Seniors - Premiers

Reserves - Runners Up

Under 16 - 3rd

[go to 1994](#)

1994 R/Up



Natte extracted revenge in the 1994 Grand Final, when they defeated Avoca by 4 goals.

Avoca players scored the trifecta in the L.F.L goalkicking award.

Warren Howell was the winner with 70 goals.

Matt Jess was runner up with 65 goals.

Mick Arrowsmith was 3rd with 56 goals.

Matt Jess kicked 16 goals for the L.F.L interleague team in the game against Western Plains Football League.

Wayne Lawes won the Reserves L.F.L Best & Fairest award.

Seniors - Runner Up

Reserves - 3rd

Under 16 - 3rd

[go to 1995](#)

1995



With Jim and Matthew Jess fulfilling a promise to the Port Fairy Fc, that Jim had made some years earlier, that they would play one season with them before Jim retired, Avoca started of the season very slowly, but stormed home to win 9 games in a row before being knocked off in the Preliminary final by Navarre.

When these two teams met during the season. a total of 50 goals was scored with Navarre kicking 30.13.193 to Avoca 20.11.131.

Jarrod Simpson was Runner Up in the L.F.L B & F to Navarre's Craig Evans, who was an outstanding footballer.

Jarrod Simpson and Chris Brennan were appointed senior coach's after a chance meeting. Chris had approached Ross Dawson to ask if he could borrow his race book at the Ballarat Cup , a discussion then developed in which Ross had asked Chris if he played football. This led to further discussion and then the club later appointed both Chris and Jarrod to the position of joint senior grade coach.

This proved to be a fruitful appointment as Chris would coach the seniors to the premiership in the following season, 1996 and he also played in the 1997,98 senior premiership teams.

Seniors - 3rd

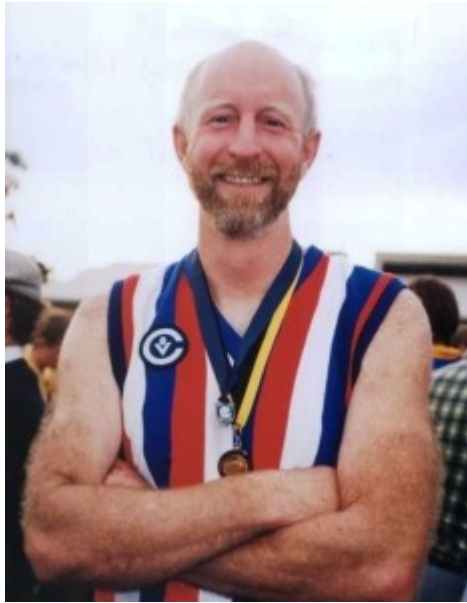
Reserves - 3rd

Under 16 - Runner Up

[go to 1996](#)

1996 Premiers





AVOCA FOOTBALL CLUB
LIXTON FOOTBALL LEAGUE
LEADING GOALKICKER - 1986
84 GOALS



MALCOLM SCOTT

Unfortunately Jarrod Simpson moved to Kalgoorlie for employment and was a big loss, but Jim Jess returned and a number of John Jess's, friends (Jim's brother) would join the club.

John, a detective at Ballarat had many contacts, and a number of the players who joined our club were ex Ballarat League stars. Phil and Dave Canny, Andrew Panther, Carl Symons, who was a former Henderson medalist, Malcolm Scott, who was a former AFL player with Fitzroy and Ballarat legend, Jim Jess also enticed Terry Smith who was a member of the 1980 Richmond Premiership team with Jim.

A recruiting coup was scored when Les Brennan was approached to join the club.

Les was approached a couple of years earlier, but could not be enticed to join on that occasion, but was successful this time around.

Les would win the L.F.L Best & Fairest award for the next 2 seasons, 1996,1997.

The 1996 team was an outstanding team, and the best part of it, was that all of the recruits played for next to nothing as they had all come out of retirement to have a bit of fun in a minor league and to help out a mate.

Some of these players played for the odd load of wood, which there was plenty of in the Avoca area.

Needless to say the L.F.L interleague team was made up of the majority of these players and the L.F.L thrashed the M.C.D.F.L by 15 goals.

Avoca defeated Natte in the Senior grade Grand Final by 26 points.

Malcolm Scott won the L.F.L goalkicking with 96 goals.

Les Brennan won the L.F.L Best & Fairest.

Avoca defeated Marnoo in the Reserves Grand Final by 14 points.

Wayne Lawes won the Reserves L.F.L Best & Fairest award for the 2nd time.

Seniors - Premiers

Reserves - Premiers

Under 16 - Runner Up

[go to 1997](#)

1997 Premiers



The 1997 season was much the same as 1996 but this time the under 16's would also salute, and the club would take out all three premierships.

Les Brennan would once again win the L.F.L Best & Fairest award.

Robert Redpath was the winner of the L.F.L goal kicking with 79 goals.

Avoca defeated Dunolly in the Senior grade Grand Final by 16 points with Jim Jess being awarded the V.C.F.L Medal for being best player on the ground, but Chris Brennan was also very close to taking out the medal.

As it was in 1993, The game was once again played at Landsborough. A lucky ground for Avoca.

The reserves defeated Natte in the Grand Final by 40 points under the coaching of John Jess.

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The Under 16's defeated Dunolly by 17 points in the Grand Final to reverse the result of the 1996 Grand final.

Seniors - Premiers

Reserves - Premiers

Under 16 - Premiers.

Finals

Seniors

2nd semi final

Avoca	6.4	9.4	16.8	18.8.116	Avoca won by 70 points
Navarre	0.1	0.4	4.6	6.10.46	

Goals: Matt Jess 5, Jim Jess 4, Andrew Panther 3, Robert Redpath 2, Jamie Pora 1, Trevor Field 1, Mick Wardlaw 1, Joel Selleck 1.

Best: Shane Brennan, Anton Roche, Terry Smith, Phil Canny, Mick Wardlaw,

Jim Jess, Robert Redpath.

Grand Final

Backs:	Brad Wardlaw	Warren Howell	Shane Brennan
H-Backs:	David Canny	Anton Roche	Les Brennan

Centres:	Gary Wardlaw (Cpt)	Terry Smith	Chris Brennan
H=Fwds:	Scott Howell	Andrew Panther	Matt Jess
Forwards:	Joel Selleck	Robert Redpath	Jim Jess
Ruck/Rover:	Trevor Field	Phil Canny	Mick Wardlaw
Interchange:	Shane Taggart	Jamie Pora	

Grand Final Scores

Avoca	3.4	8.5	13.7	17.8.110	Avoca won by 16 points
Dunolly	2.0	6.3	10.6	14.10.94	

Goals: Jim Jess 5, Andrew Panther 4, Phil Canny 2, Chris Brennan 1, Shane Taggart 1, Terry Smith 1, Trevor Field 1, Mick Wardlaw 1, Matt Jess 1.

Best: Jim Jess, Chris Brennan, Phil Canny, Terry Smith, Andrew Panther, Shane Brennan, Shane Taggart, Scott Howell.

Jim Jess was awarded the VCFL Medal for Best on Ground in Grand Final.

Finals

Reserves

2nd semi final

Avoca	4.2	4.5	10.7	12.11.83	Avoca won by 53 points
Navarre	0.0	1.3	2.4	4.6.30	

Goals: Paul Randall 3, Lee Beavis 2, Ben Jess 2, Steve Hamilton 2, Phillip Dunne 1, John Jess 1, Wayne Lawes 1.

Best: Lee Beavis, Aaron Burge, Steve Hamilton, Phillip Dunne, Wayne Lawes,

John Jess.

Reserves Grand Final

Backs:	Anthony Gollop	Anthony Neil	Aaron Calder
H-Backs:	Kris Sutton (Cpt)	Aaron Burge	Russell Wardlaw
Centres:	Robert Webb (Cpt)	Wayne Lawes	Scott Wardlaw
H=Fwds:	Lee Beavis	Ben Jess	Clint Latch
Forwards:	Phillip Dunne	Paul Randall	Brett Kallio
Ruck/Rover:	Adam Currie	John Jess	Steve Hamilton
Interchange:	Chris Field/Jim Beavis	Ben Howell	Sam Beavis

Reserves Grand Final Scores

Avoca	3.5	6.8	9.9	10.11.71	Avoca won by 40 points
Natte-Bealiba	2.2	2.4	3.7	4.7.31	

Goals: Steve Hamilton 2, Phillip Dunne 2, Brett Kallio 2, Paul Randall 1, Ben Jess 1,

Clint Latch 1, Wayne Lawes 1.

Best: Phillip Dunne, Scott Wardlaw, Aaron Calder, Wayne Lawes, Steve Hamilton.

Finals

Under 16

2nd semi final

Avoca	2.5	4.5	6.9	7.15.57	Avoca lost by 6 points
Dunolly	1.3	5.6	6.6	9.9.63	

Goals: Davin Roche 2, Ben Coghlan 2, Justin Tapner 1, Mick Jarvis 1, Braxton Hassett 1.

Best: Matt Zeuschner, Jordan Churches, Luke Robinson, Will Farnsworth, Paul Hamilton, Davin Roche.

Preliminary Final

Avoca	6.4	10.6	13.7	15.8.98	Avoca won by 76 points.
Marnoo	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.4.22	

Goals: Ben Coghlan 5, Tim Currie 3, Will Farnsworth 2, Luke Robinson 1, Davin Roche 1, Jordan Churches 1, Adam Cooper 1, Mick Jarvis 1,

Best: Mick Jarvis, Davin Roche, Ben Coghlan, Matt Zeuschner, Will Farnsworth,

Rod Wardlaw.

Under 16 Grand Final

Backs:	Nathan Porter	Luke Calder	Julian Charlesworth
H-Backs:	Mick Jarvis	Braxton Hassett	Jordan Churches
Centres:	Luke	Matt	Lincoln Svilicic

	Robinson	Zeuschner	
H=Fwds:	Tom Elliott	Davin Roche (Cpt)	Will Farnsworth
Forwards:	Tim Currie	Ben Coghlan	Justin Tapner
Ruck/Rover:	Paul Hamilton	Terry Wardlaw	Rod Wardlaw
Interchange:	Nick Robinson Adam Cooper	Ted Wardlaw	Ash Robinson

Under 16 Grand Final Scores

Avoca	2.2	4.6	5.7	7.8.50	Avoca won by 17 points.
Dunolly	2.2	3.3	4.7	4.9.33	

Goals: Ben Coghlan 3, Davin Roche 2, Will Farnsworth 1, Matt Zeuschner 1.

Best: Paul Hamilton, Matt Zeuschner, Braxton Hassett, Rod Wardlaw,
Jordan Churches, Julian Charlesworth, Nathan Porter.

[go to 1998](#)

1998 Premiers



AVOCA FOOTBALL CLUB
1998 SENIOR'S PREMIERS



AVOCA 47.11.17 DeLisle LEXTON 8.10.41

AVOCA FOOTBALL CLUB
1998 RESERVES PREMIERS



AVOCA 12.9.81 DeLisle LEXTON 7.10.80

1998 would see the club once again win the senior & reserves premiership, but it also saw the under 16's dropping out of the finals for the first time in 14 years.

A large number of the 1997 Under 16 premiership team would advance to the reserves and senior teams and the experience they gained from playing in these star studded sides should make them players of the future.

Unfortunately a large number of these players are now playing for teams in the Maryborough area.

The club was fortunate to have the services of Michael Heeps for the 1998 season.

Michael came up from Ballarat to join some of his mates, and played for the love of it and helped us to achieve our 3rd premiership in a row.

He played with Lexton back in 1983 when he kicked over 100 goals as a 17 year old kid. 24 in one game.

The reserves also won their 3rd premiership in a row defeating Lexton by 31 points in the Grand Final.

Seniors - Premiership

Reserves - Premiership

Under 16 - 6th

Senior Grand Final

Avoca 17.15.117 defeated Lexton 5.11.41

Best: David Canny, Terry Smith, Joel Selleck, Phil Canny, Michael Heeps,
Brad Wardlaw.

Goals: Michael Heeps 5, Andrew Panther 3, Mick Wardlaw, 3, Phil Canny 2,
Gary Wardlaw 1, Scott Howell 1, Jim Jess 1.

Phil Canny was awarded the VCFL Medal for Best on Ground in Grand Final.

Reserves Grand Final

Avoca 12.9.81 defeated Lexton 7.8.50

Best: Matt Powers, Scott Wardlaw, Luke Robinson, Wayne Lawes, Frank Barber,
Ron Beavis, Aaron Caler, Nathan Gane.

Goals: Frank Barber 5, Steve Hamilton 2, Wayne Lawes 2, Nick Robinson 1,
Lee Beavis 1, Ron Beavis 1, Ben Howell 1.

Senior Best and Fairest was Scott Howell, Runner Up was Phil Canny

Reserves Best & fairest was Wayne Lawes. Runner Up was Frank Barber

Under 16 Best & fairest was Nick Robinson. Runner Up was Will Farnsworth.

Trevor Field played his 200th game during the 1998 season.

Scott Howell played his 150th game.

[go to 1999](#)

1999 LPFL Formed



1999 was the inaugural season of the Lexton Plains Football League.

This was a merger between the Lexton Football League and the Western Plains Football League.

This was to spell the demise of Avoca's recent success in the L.F.L.

Those people who have won a premiership would know that it is hard to win one, but to win 3 in a row and play in 5 grand finals in 6 years, it is very difficult for people to keep their momentum and focus.

A number of players left the club as they were not willing to travel.

The Avoca Football Club teams all finished in the finals, but were knocked out in the early rounds.

Seniors - 4th

Reserves 5th

Under 16 - 5th

[go to 2000](#)