

2000



It was clear that the 2000 season was not going to be a successful one for the Avoca Football Club, when a large number of players had expressed an interest in playing for Maryborough clubs.

They felt that they have no affinity to the clubs surrounding the Ballarat area, and with the news of Marnoo's demise and talk of Landsborough going the same way soon, there was an air of despondency around the club.

There was a mass exodus of players from the club, which included a large number of locals losing their desire to play any more and retiring from the game altogether.

The senior team would finish in its lowest place on the ladder for 26 years, and the reserves was a similar story.

The Under 16 team did have some success, but were defeated in the Grand Final by Carngham-Linton by 48 points.

There was some individual success with Lincoln Svilicic won the L.P.F.L Under 16 Best & Fairest.

It was felt that season 2000 was the lowest point ever. Players and supporters just did not want to go down to the Ballarat area to play football.

It seemed that players from the Ballarat area did not want to play for the northern based teams any more as they only had to duck out the road to train and play with the Ballarat based clubs.

It was obvious though, that the Ballarat teams were becoming stronger and the L.F.L teams were becoming weaker.

Seniors - 9th

Reserves - 9th

Under 16 - Runner Up

[go to 2001](#)

2001



Things just seemed to be getting worse, when Avoca suffered huge defeats once again, but the ultimate low came when Carngham-Linton kicked the massive score of 52.26.338 to Avoca's 3.4.22 in the 2nd last game of the season.

To say that this defeat was totally devastating is an understatement.

If anyone had said back in 1998 that Avoca would have such a score kicked against them in 2001, No one would ever have believed it.

The reserves were copping much the same with a record high score of 27.17.179 scored against them by Rokewood.

Our Under 16's were still winning games, but were defeated in the grand final by Natte after being favourites to take out the flag.

At least some individual success was achieved by club stalwart, Trevor Field.

Trevor was judged the L.P.F.L Best & Fairest award.

He was also judged the Player of the year and was Runner up in the Maffescioni award.

Seniors - 8th

Reserves - 7th

Under 16 - Runner Up

[go to 2002](#)

2002



Landsborough folded before the season started and this started many Avoca people thinking that we could be next.

The L.P.F.L was not working for our club!

Moves were put in place about transferring to Maryborough Castlemaine DFL in season 2003.

This was also the season that Avoca would suffer record defeats at the hands of the Ballarat based clubs, with the 2nd 3rd and 4th highest scores ever being recorded against us.

It was also the first time that Avoca had been held goal less in a game since the club was reformed after the 2nd world war, when Rokewood held our seniors to 0.2.2.

Our lowest score since Beaufort held us to 1.0.6 in 1959.

The reserves were also being flogged once again by the Ballarat based clubs with the ultimate low of being held scoreless on 2 occasions during the season.

Rokewood Reserves also kicked a record high score of 27.26.188 to 0.0.0.

The Under 16's once again made the Grand Final for the 3rd year in a row, and after leading by 3 goals at 3/4 time, would be over run by Carngham-Linton in the final quarter, to once again finish runner up.

Dan Feery had an outstanding season. He won the Under 16 L.P.F.L Best & Fairest, and has been accepted by the Rebels for season 2003.

Seniors - 8th

Reserves - 8th

Under 16 - Runner Up

Our under 16's have been keeping our hopes up for the future for the past 3 season's, but they are all expressing interest in joining teams from Maryborough and we are finding it increasingly difficult to convince them to stay.

It is not fair on them to be playing 2 or 3 games each week and being belted around by grown men in the open age competitions. It is understandable that they want to play for a club that they do not have to suffer this fate each week.

[go to 2003](#)

2003



Seasons 2000 to 2002 had not been enjoyable for the Avoca Football Club, but with an extensive Sponsorship and Player recruiting program over the summer, there was an air of expectancy around the club for season 2003

We had recruited approximately 120 businesses to our sponsorship program, which was an amazing show of support for a minor league Football & Netball Club.

We also recruited approximately 13 new players to the club and only lost one player.

Our on field performance did improve but we were still a long way of the mark as our 7th position would indicate a rise of only one rung up the ladder.

We tried very hard, but still were a long way of being competitive with the southern teams closer to Ballarat.

Seniors – 7th

Reserves - 6th

Under 16's - Runners Up

[go 2004](#)

2004



With our hopes resting on a move to the MCDFL for the 2004 season, once again the club suffered a deflating blow when the LPFL refused our clearance and our appeal to the VCFL was once again knocked back.

The uncertainty had not helped and 2004 season saw the senior football team drop to the bottom of the ladder and take out the wooden spoon for the first time since 1973. This was very disappointing as we believed that we had taken steps to improve our club in 2003 and the hard work had been all undone because of our failure to be cleared to the Maryborough Castlemaine DFL.

The LPFL introduced an Under 14 comp in 2004 and Robert Setori was the winner of the LPFL Best & Fairest for that grade.

Seniors 9th

Reserves 8th

Under 17's 3rd

Under 14's 3rd

[go to 2005](#)

2005



The atmosphere was electric at the Avoca FNC after receiving the news that our appeal to the VCFL was finally upheld.

Avoca was playing in the MCDFL in 2005, and with the early appointment of Brett Pollard as coach and the news that a number of key players were to join him, created a lot of interest in our new venture in the MCDFL.

Season 2005 saw a big improvement in our on field performances in all grades of football and netball and our club finished Runner Up in the Champion club of the MCDFL Award.

Seniors – 5th

Reserves – 6th

Under 17 – 4th

Under 14 – (No comp) Winner of Round Robin in final series.

Netball

A Grade – R/Up

B Grade – 4th

U17 – 3rd

U14 – Premiers

Nick Robinson won the Senior Football MCDFL Best & Fairest.

This was a great achievement for Nick and for the club.

Stacey Blair won the A Grade Netball Best & Fairest.

Ron Beavis played his 300th game.

Mick Arrowsmith, Aaron Burge and Ben Howell played their 200th games.

[go to 2006](#)

2006





After a promising 2005 season, the loss of a number of players in 2006 and the changeover of committee personell saw the senior team drop to 7th place.

The Reserves and Under 17 team both played finals so the development of players was promising for for the future.

Avoca did have a win though when they defeated Carisbrook in the VCFL Worksafe game of the month in which Ron Barassi presented the cup. This was a great win as Carisbrook led by five goals at the first change and Avoca eventually won by 6 goals.

Trevor Field played his 400th game.

Tom Elliott and Paul Hamilton played their 150th game.

Seniors – 7th

Reserves – 5th

Under 17 – 5th

[go to 2007](#)

2007



A strong recruiting campaign over the summer period saw the appointment of Tony Bellenger as Senior Football Coach and the atmosphere around pre season was enormous.

There was a marked improvement throughout the club and especially in the senior football team which was bolstered by the inclusion of some of our promising youngsters into the senior team and led by Tony Bellenger who won the MCDFL Best & Fairest with 33 votes.

The senior team played in its first Grand Final since 1998 and its first in the MCDFL.

Youngster and High Flyer Nick Coghlan kicked 79 goals for the season.

(Coghlan kicked 100 goals for Irymple in 2009 and represented the VCFL team and also played in the 2011 premiership with Irymple.)

Unfortunately Avoca was soundly defeated by Harcourt in the 2007 Grand Final.

9.14.68 to 21.7.133.

Mick Wardlaw played his 300th game.

Sam Beavis and Andrew Wardlaw played their 200th games.

Justin Tapner, Cliff Harrison, Matt Veitch and Angus Collins played their 150th games.

Seniors – R/Up

Reserves – 6th

Under 17 – 4th

[go to 2008](#)

2008






Avoca Football Netball Club

Best & Fairest - 2008



Under 17 Senior Reserves
 Mitch Etherton Chris Lakey Gary Wardlaw

After a promising 2007 season the club was optimistic in 2008 and although the club had a consistent season they did not reach the heights of the previous year with the senior team losing the 1st semi final by 42 points to Maldon.

Late season injuries to key players did not help, but complacency also played a key role in the decline.

Adrian Pilgrim kicked 83 goals for the season.
 Jason Hunt won the U17 MCDFL Goalkicking with 91 goals.

Gary Wardlaw won the MCDFL Reserves Best & Fairest with 21 votes.
 Mitch Etherton was R/Up by one vote in the Under 17 MCDFL B & F with 28 votes.
 Ron Beavis played his 350th game.
 Brad Wardlaw and Ben Howell played their 250th games.
 Vernon Svilicic and Aaron Calder played their 200th game.
 Braxton Hassett, David Miles and Brendan Veitch played their 150th game.

Seniors – 4th
 Reserves – 6th
 Under 17 – 3rd

[go to 2009](#)

2009



The 2009 season promised big things with the return of former VFL Liston Medalist Julian Field to the team.

The seniors finished the home and away season as minor premiers and looked to be a big chance of winning the first premiership since 1998.

However it did not work out as Dunolly rolled Avoca by one point in the preliminary final and Newstead eventually defeated Dunolly in the Grand Final.

Dunolly recruited a number of indigenous players in 2009 from Darwin including Shannon Motlop who eventually won the medal for best player in the Grand final.

Julian Field won Avoca's Best & Fairest and was third by three votes in the MCDFNL equivalent which was an outstanding achievement considering he missed four games for the season.

Avoca won the Carlton Trophy for the Champion Club of the MCDFNL.

Gary Wardlaw played his 300th game.
Anthony Neil played his 250th game.
Luke Calder played his 150th game.

Seniors – R/Up
Reserves – 5th
Under 17 – 5th

[go to 2010](#)