

FRANKSTON BASEBALL CLUB



The First 50 Years

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By
Ian Purchase

The purpose for which the Frankston Baseball Club has been established is:

'To promote, represent and encourage the game of baseball and to provide recreational activities for the benefit of its members and the community'

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ian Purchase was born in Richmond and educated at CBC Parade, Monash and Deakin Universities. He is married to Ann (a Secondary teacher) and they have three children - Gabrielle, Andrew and Stuart, the latter two have been members of the Frankston Baseball Club for many years.

After 34 years as a primary school teacher/administrator, he retired in 1993 and in 1994 proposed the idea of a written history of the Club to coincide with its 50th Anniversary. His main interests are his grandchildren, tennis, the Geelong Football Club, baseball, wine collecting (and drinking it!), music, reading and socialising.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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John O'Brien	Former player/committee member - Frankston Baseball Club, Dandenong Baseball Association, Victorian Provincial Baseball League
Mark O'Brien	Current President - Frankston Baseball Club
Paul O'Brien	Former player/committee member - Frankston Baseball Club
Peter Darbyshire	Victorian Provincial Baseball League
Michael & Julie Stephens	Dandenong Baseball Association
George Dicker	Former player - Dandenong Imperials
Committee	Frankston Baseball Club
Joffre Metcher BEM	Former player - Frankston Baseball Club
Rod McClelland	Former player - Frankston Baseball Club
Gordon Jeffs	Former player - Frankston Baseball Club
John Perry	Former player/committee member - Frankston Baseball Club
John Crichton	Former player/umpire - Dandenong Baseball Association
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The author apologizes for any omissions or errors made during the collation of this publication.

President's Message

I suppose that it would be reasonable to say that I was born into and grew up at the Frankston Baseball Club. In the year that I was born the Club's executive comprised my Grandfather as President and my father as Secretary.

Perhaps it was only by coincidence that the Treasurer was presented with the additional responsibility of becoming my Godfather.

To a large extent the Frankston Baseball Club was the backyard for the young O'Brien family much to the delight of my brother and myself.

I have many fond memories of the Club in those days some of which are recorded in this book and others which are revived as a consequence of its publication. In a similar way I am sure that for many of its readers this book will bring back happy memories of their association with the Club.

In this regard I extend on behalf of all past and present members sincere appreciation and congratulations to Ian Purchase as the author of this fine publication. Ian has spent many hours in researching, compiling data and piecing together the material contained in this document which is indeed a fitting tribute to his enormous effort.

The publication of this book also recognises the dedicated effort of Chris Love who was responsible for design and layout, and without whose help it may never have been printed.

As Baseball becomes more popular and enjoys a higher international profile within Australia, this book will assume greater historical significance in recalling the efforts of this Club in assisting to raise that profile.

Whilst the book provides a brief historical account of the Frankston Baseball Club including its earliest beginnings it has been impossible to capture all the events and pay proper tribute to the many people who over the past 50 years helped shape the future of the Club and indeed baseball in general.

To those who have contributed I am sure that their reward will be realised as more and more people are sighted in the park with a glove on one hand and a ball in the other and a Frankston cap on their head.

I recommend this book to you as a fitting tribute to the Club's first 50 years and sincerely thank all those who contributed to its publication.

Mark O'Brien
President



Frankston Baseball Club

Office Bearers 1995

President: Mark O'Brien

Vice Presidents: Peter Gloury
Noel Winther

Secretary: Michele Winther

Treasurer: Paul Adlington

Committee: Geoff Court
Daryl Dicker
Wayne Gould
Brent Hura
Andrew Jones
Michael Klinger
Ian Purchase (50th Year Co-ordinator)

Life Members: John O'Brien
Rod McClelland
Paul O'Brien
Mark O'Brien
Susan Nicolaou
Peter Gloury
Noel Winther
Annette O'Brien
Michele Winther

Premierships: A Grade 1953, 1957, 1962, 1988, 1991
A Reserve 1984
B Grade 1957, 1958, 1975
C Grade 1959
D Grade 1990
Under 17 1983
Under 15 1964, 1965, 1973, 1982, 1987
Under 13 1971, 1979, 1980
Under 12 1995

Earliest Beginnings

Baseball and cricket are closely related sports, both historically and in the range of skills required. It is therefore not too surprising that the Frankston Baseball Club originated from the desire of members of the Frankston Cricket Club (est. 1880) to improve their cricketing skills by establishing a baseball club.

Baseball was played in Victoria as far back as 1856, the participants being Americans, who had migrated here in the rush for gold. The game really began in Australia after A.G. Spalding's "All Americas" tour of December 1888.

The Victorian Baseball League was formed in 1880 with mainly metropolitan clubs as members. In 1931 the Dandenong Baseball Association was established and the Victorian Provincial Baseball League was formed at a meeting in Ballarat in 1938.

The 40's was a decade of extreme disruption throughout the world - even those few nations fortunate enough not to be involved in the global conflict could not escape its secondary effects of food and material shortages as traditional supplies dried up. In Australia, it was a time of grave fear as our troops served overseas.

Yet Australia remained "the lucky country", for no invaders landed. Re-building of the nation commenced in the post-war part of the decade despite industrial unrest, immigration concerns, and the introduction of the 40 hour working week.

Frankston was booming: land was cheap and workers could commute to the new manufacturing areas, especially near Dandenong, while living near the sea. The electric train to Frankston gave the town a major advantage over other parts of the Peninsula served by the far slower, and dirtier, steam trains. As a result of an increase in families, created by record birth rates, Frankston became a favourite suburb for young families desperately wanting suitable housing.

Despite national and local developments, sporting organisations continued to grow and the Frankston Baseball Club was formally established at a meeting on 24 March, 1945. The following office-bearers were elected:

President

J. Beatty

Secretary/Treasurer
Delegate/Publicity Officer
Practice Coach

E. Johnson
N.V.T. Williams
K. Lovitt

As would be expected, pioneering a new sport on the Peninsula was not an easy task for Club officials. Enthusiasm was high but many players were inexperienced in the rudiments of the game. It therefore took some time for the experienced players to 'show the way' to the many youngsters keen to play competitive baseball.

Prior to the inaugural meeting, the Club had successfully applied to be admitted to the Victorian Baseball Association competition. As a newcomer to baseball, the Club was included in "G" Grade and competed against such clubs as Williamstown, Port Melbourne, Hawthorn, Newport and Prestige.

The first practice match was held on 7 April at the Cranbourne Road Reserve against Footscray Technical School Old Boys team. Despite lack of match practice and the fact that FTSOB were a far more experienced team, Frankston did well to score five runs against the opposition's fourteen.

The opening match of the 1945 season was not a successful one for the newly-formed Frankston Club. They were soundly defeated by the highly-experienced Epiphany club at Northcote. *Keith Lovitt*, Captain/Coach of the team, was nevertheless very pleased with the performances of some of the younger members of the team.

History was made on Saturday, 28 April, 1945, when the Cranbourne Road Reserve was the scene of the first competitive baseball game in the Victorian Baseball Association Series. Frankston played Hawthorn in a fast match which resulted in a win for Hawthorn by ten runs to three. Except for a breakaway in Hawthorn's fourth innings, which resulted in six runs, the youthful Frankston side made a very good match for the winners.

During the first season the Club struggled to compete against far more experienced teams. However, players were becoming attracted to the game and a foundation was laid for future development.

Players who "pioneered" the first foray of the Club into competitive baseball included the following:

N.V.T. Williams, N. Tindall, E. Johnson, K. Lovitt, R. Johnson, T. Hamilton, L. Pratt, F. Sloane, B. Johnson, T. Trewartha, E. Siggins, W. Talbot, B. Gray, K. Leyshan, F. McLean, H. Tickle, B. Burnham, F. Gregory, J. Morris, B. Wood, G. Aitken, and Messrs McPherson, Phillips, Newell and Barclay.

It is interesting to note that the "Rudiments of Baseball" were published in the 5 April, 1945 edition of "The Standard" in order to familiarise readers with the basic essentials of the game. As a new sport on the Peninsula, "The Standard's" coverage was on a weekly basis with reports and results of matches, along with best players and outstanding plays. In addition, Radio Station 3DB broadcast the results of the main games. A special "Sports Parade" was put over by 3KZ every Friday evening which covered the highlights of games from the previous week.

As a result of Frankston's geographic location, the Executive of the Victorian Baseball Association provided financial assistance to clubs and umpires making the trip to Frankston's home ground - ten shillings for a club and two shillings and sixpence for each umpire!

In an endeavour to have a headquarters for baseball, the Victorian Baseball Association arranged for the use of Olympic Park for eight Saturdays during the 1945 season. Such a decision proved a disaster as only the receipts from the final round enabled the accounts to be balanced!

FRANKSTON JOINS DANDENONG BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

The Dandenong Baseball Association resumed operations in 1946 after being in recess for four years because of the Second World War. The teams that made up the Association that year were Dandenong, St James (later to become Saints), Dandenong Imperials, Springvale, Oakleigh, Ormond Park, and Frankston.

Frankston's entry into the Dandenong Baseball Association in 1946 proved to be a successful one. Their first match in their new competition was played at Dandenong on 4 May, 1946 and resulted in a 15/1 win against St James. The first match at the Cranbourne Road ground took place the following week - 11 May, 1946 - against Springvale. Players who played in that team included *K. Lovitt (C), R. Johnson, I. Bowes, R. Lockwood, V. Smale, M. Morgan, F. Morris, E. Hamilton, and Major V. Rowe*. The following week saw the team record a

12/8 win against Dandenong Imps - a team that always provided tough opposition to Frankston teams of that era.

As the team developed in team skills, experience and confidence it soon became very competitive. Wins were recorded against far more experienced teams and enthusiasm within the Club increased dramatically.



On Saturday, 17 May 1947, Frankston scored a huge win over Presbyterian at Dandenong - 42/1 - at that time a record score in any one match in the Association. Further improvement resulted in the team contesting the 1947 finals. The first semi-final played against Oakleigh resulted in a 6/3 win for the Frankston team, despite two runs being scored by Oakleigh in the 7th innings. Frankston responded with a further two runs and another in the 8th to clinch the game. Safe hits were recorded by *J. O'Brien (3), K. Lovitt, J. Smale, C. Curwood, J. Bowes, V. Rowe, L. Lockwood (2) L. Eggleston and E. Johnson (1)*.

In the preliminary final against Springvale, Frankston was considered unlucky to lose as a line drive was narrowly missed at left field resulting in 3 runs. In the final innings Frankston left runners on bases and Springvale eventually won 4/1. The Imperials defeated Springvale 11/4 the following week in the grand final.

The 1948 season resulted in Frankston once again reaching the finals after completing some outstanding victories, in particular a 37/0 result against Oakleigh Golds. In a spectacular semi-final game against the Red Imps, scores were tied at 5 all in the 9th innings. Despite outstanding pitching and inspiration from Frankston's captain, *Clarrie Curwood*, the Imperials scored the necessary run in the 11th innings to win the match 6/5.

In the all-important area of administration, the Club was indeed fortunate in having two members of the *O'Brien Family* in executive positions. William was President from 1948-55, whilst John, his son, was Secretary from 1948 until 1961. John's administrative skills proved to be invaluable in attending to the wide range of issues faced by a club in its early stages of development.



Frankston Baseball Club - 1950

Back Row: D. Beardsmore, L. Hyde, G. Strongman, S. Nicholls, J. O'Brien, T. Hunter, I. Beadel, G. Seabrook
Front Row: K. Black, D. Perry, P. Eggleston (scorer), D. Swift, J. Saleeba

In the late 40's, Club membership for senior players was ten shillings (\$1.00), whilst juniors paid five shillings (50c). In March 1948, the Club's bank balance was 11 pounds (\$22.00).

As more players became attracted to the game, the overall strength of the Club increased. The acquisition of some fine players, together with the grooming of younger players for positions in senior teams, resulted in the Club becoming highly respected in baseball circles.

Players who represented the Club in the late 1940's included the following:

J. O'Brien, L. Lockwood, L. Eggleston, K. Lovitt, M. Morgan, J. Smale, V. Rowe, C. Curwood, J. Whyte, R. McLeod, T. Crammer, G. Jeffs, R. Higginbotham, T. Evans, L. Pittard, G. Cox, W. Staff, W. McGillvray, R. Johnson, R. Chipper, R. Yeoman, E. Hamilton, G. Parr, M. Wallace, L. Hart, J. McKenzie, B. Stone, C. Taylor, D. Smith, R. Wildy, J. Bowes, D. Miller and P. O'Brien.

THE 1950's

The 1950's proved to be a very successful era in the history of the Club. Premierships were won by

the A Grade team in 1953 and 1957, the B Grade in 1957-58, and the C Grade in 1959.

In A Grade, Imperials, Saints and Cheltenham consistently provided all teams with strong opposition and Frankston's encounters with such teams generally resulted in matches being of a very high standard.

The Club gradually diversified its activities with visits to other clubs, for example, matches at Ballarat against the Wendouree Club. Such inter-club visits, combined with Victorian Provincial Baseball League carnivals at Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Wangaratta provided players with invaluable experience. The social side of these visits was never overlooked and club members enjoyed themselves at a variety of organised and impromptu activities.

Apart from premiership wins, Frankston A's were runners-up in 1950 (minor premiers for that year), 1951 and 1958, when Cheltenham defeated them 3/1 in a very tight final. As a measure of their overall strength, the Frankston A Grade team competed in every finals series in the 1950's, with the exception of 1955.



Frankston Baseball Club - 1956

Back Row: M. Fletcher, P. O'Brien, E. Metcher, G. Jeffs, G. Drough
Front Row: J. Smale, J. Saleeba, J. Metcher (Captain), W. Metcher

The result of having both the A and B Grade teams in the grand finals of 1958 prompted the Frankston "Standard" 27 August, 1958 to make the following comment:

"It is a credit to the Club that it is able to produce players of high standard year after year, and it is hoped that a third side can be formed next year."

A third side, the C Grade, was entered in 1959 and performed magnificently for the entire season. In the semi-final they annihilated Chelsea 21/1, defeated Saints 10/1 in the preliminary final, and proved far superior to Cheltenham in the grand final by winning 15/3. Apart from excellent fielding and pitching from *Joffre Metcher*, their batting - 46 runs to 5 in the three finals matches - was simply outstanding.

In addition to having strong local talent, the Club acquired the services of such players as *Alf Burridge* and *Joffre Metcher* (both ex-Collingwood), *Cliff Carter* and *Clarrie Curwood* (both ex-Footscray), *Geoff Hawker* (originally from WA) and *Geoff Drough* (Ballarat).

William O'Brien retired as President in 1953 and

Alf Burridge provided very capable leadership for the next four years. During the 1950's, A and B Grade matches were played at the Cranbourne Road ground with Jubilee Park and Bruce Park as extra grounds for C Grade matches.

The Dandenong Baseball Association's affiliation fee was today's equivalent of \$6.30, whilst the ground rental was \$10.50. 1995 charges for these fees are in excess of one thousand dollars!

Transport in those days was a big problem, particularly for away games. *Rod McClelland* has vivid memories of many team members being transported in *Clarrie Curwood's* truck or in *Len Eggleston's* utility. No details are available as to what happened when it rained!

Social matches were played in 1956 against the Diamond Valley and Greensborough Clubs.

Players who represented the Club in the 1950's included the following:

J. O'Brien, J. Smale, C. Curwood, O. Metcher, P. O'Brien, G. Jeffs, G. Stewart, I. James, R. Higginbotham, R. McClelland, I. McClelland, S. McClelland, K. Black, D. Beardsmore, W. Fletcher, D. Beckwith, H. Wilcox, D. O'Neill, B. Nichols, G.

Hawker, S. Stack, C. Davis, G. Seabrook, L. Hyde, G. Drough, W. Souter, J. Saleeba, J. Harvey, B. Harvey, D. Perry, B. Jack, I. Leyshan, I. Beadel, E. Taylor, A. Hardstone, B. Abbott, L. Jondahl, J. Rogerson, G. Keileg, G. Wheeler, P. Botsman, M. Brown, I. James, M. Barker, T. Ryan, R. Mackie and J. Bell.

THE 1960's

The Club rebuilt its squad of players in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Players such as *Geoff Drough, Mick Fletcher, Paul O'Brien, Geoff Hawker, Graeme Seabrook, Peter Leake, and Cliff Davis*, either retired or left the Club. A new group of players including *Jim Saleeba, Bruce and Jim Harvey, Keith Bettles, Les Hyde, Gordon Morton, and Ian Beadel*, joined "veterans" *Rod McClelland*

and *Gordon Jeffs* to form the foundation of yet another powerful team.

In 1962 the Club's policy of developing younger players was vindicated when the A Grade team won the grand final 8/4 against Saints at Bonbeach. In the same year, the Association established an Under 16 competition. Frankston's junior players displayed considerable maturity and determination in winning consecutive premierships in 1964-65. Apart from the A Grade and Under 16's, no other premierships were achieved, however, the A's were runners-up to the Saints in 1963, C Grade in 1969 against Noble Park, and the Under 16's in 1969 against Cheltenham.

Clarrie Curwood, a veteran of many games for Frankston and the Dandenong Baseball Association,



A Grade Premiers - 1962

Back Row: T. Searle, G. Morton, I. Beadel, B. Harvey, J. Harvey, G. Jeffs
Front Row: K. Bettles, R. McClelland, J. Saleeba, L. Hyde



A. Bredin (President DBA) presenting the 1962 Premiership Cup to Rod McClelland

left the Club in 1961 to develop the St Chads Club at Bonbeach. *Joffre Metcher* also left to assist him.

Club Coaches in the 60's were *Joffre Metcher*, *John O'Brien*, *Rod McClelland*, *Norm Wells* and *Ray Chapple*. Club Presidents were *John Smale*, *Paul O'Brien*, *John O'Brien* and *Frank Hill*. *John O'Brien*, after outstanding service as Secretary from 1948-61, retired to assist *Rod McClelland* in coaching duties. He later occupied the position of President in 1966-67.

The 60's will be remembered for some very interesting social activities, in particular when *Ray Chapple* was Coach. Ray, in company with quite a few other members of the team, really enjoyed a few cleansing ales after a game. As a 6.00 p.m. restriction on the sale of alcohol applied in those days, curtains in the club rooms were hastily drawn during social functions, and "lookouts" placed on guard. The tension was usually broken with the arrival of a certain member of the A Grade team on his way home from work as a member of the Police Force. This particular member, never one to let a chance for a few ales to go by, would arrive in his official van, blue lights flashing, and charge through the front door. His entrance was, to say the least, dramatic, and many ales were consumed in order to return one's nerves to an acceptable level!

On another occasion, a barbecue at *Brian Jack's* nursery in Seaford was invaded by a gang of drunken youths. Such individuals stretched their luck just a wee bit too far when they sampled the team's "supplies". After baseball bats were produced, the invaders decided that their luck was about to run out so they left and "gate-crashed" a netball party down the road!

Brian Jack was a colorful character but he had one intense dislike - cats! When the male members of the cat family were crooning sweet nothings to their lady friends, Brian would fetch his trusty slug gun and, according to *Denis Beaumont*, all hell would break loose!

For many players the end of season trip away coincided with a three day lightning premiership at country centres. This event became an endurance test for many players as the off-field activities usually resulted in the Club struggling to field a team on the final day!

In order to combine the best of both worlds - baseball and socialising - the Club visited Bairnsdale for a lightning premiership prior to the start of the 1968 season, and to Wangaratta after the season had concluded. The Club's Annual Report of 1968 regarded these visits of some significance and reported the following:

"The Frankston Baseball Club will long be remembered for their efforts in these two country centres."

Further investigation of the participant's "efforts" was not considered appropriate. Suffice to say that our lads really enjoyed themselves!

An incident from the 1963 grand final between Frankston and Saints is worth mentioning mainly because it concerned the decision-making of an umpire.

Rod McClelland recalls being "flattened" by *Fred Rogers* at 2nd base. In the "get-together" that followed, *Rod*, *Les Hyde*, *Fred Rogers*, *Ian Beadel*, and a few Saints players were sent off by the main umpire, *Don Armstrong*. This exodus resulted in insufficient players being available for the game to continue. After the umpire was gently advised by *Rod* of his error, the umpire consulted with the other umpires and the "offenders" were allowed to return. Crowd participation at this stage reached its peak and the noise was deafening.

Les, *Rod*, *Fred* and a few others were subsequently reported. *Rod* declined the opportunity to attend the tribunal and received a four week "enforced holiday". *Les Hyde* duly attended and

rumour has it that he was "given the benefit of the doubt", a decision that Rod found somewhat mind-boggling!

Players who represented the Club in the 1960's included the following:

N. Wells, G. Morton, J. Harvey, F. Womersley, K. Leveson, B. Lee, R. Abbott, D. Leyshan, L. Hyde, P. Conacher, B. Renwick, G. Allisey, W. O'Brien, N. Gutteridge, A. Forbes, D. Beaumont, P. Clark, A. Addicott, B. Abbott, L. Ruddock, G. Dicketts, G. Coates, M. O'Brien, P. Fancke, P. Richards, G. Wilkens, C. Chipperfield, R. Chapple, N. Welsh, R. Bragg, C. Ferguson, F. Santvoort, E. Santfoort, R. Ferguson, J. Chipperfield, F. Hill, M. Barker, P. Cooper, R. McClelland, W. Burns, J. Richards, P. Reid, I. Sigmont, L. Day, B. Jack, R. Teschendorff, C. McClelland, R. McClelland, B. Crabtree, P. Gloury, J. Dray, P. Adams, T. Burns, R. Wells, G. Allisey, W. O'Brien, J. Saleeba, B. Harvey, J. O'Brien, J. De Vos, K. Bettles, P. Gaylor, P. Jupp, I. Cocking, C. Atkins, R. Harwood, P. Connacher, L. Jondahl, C. Eastwood, B. Rickets, G. Richardson, I. Baker, R. Dungan, K. Black, R. Calder and M. McRoberts.

FIRST LIFE MEMBER

In 1961, John O'Brien was elected the first Life Member of the Club. Such an award was thoroughly deserving considering John's outstanding service as a player, coach, captain and administrator.

THE 1970's

The 1970's was an era that saw Cheltenham a very strong club in terms of premierships wins (7 in A,B and C Grades), Noble Park won flags in the "even" years of '72, '74 and '76, and Bonbeach finally won its first A Grade flag by defeating Frankston in the grand final of 1978.

In 1971 the Association introduced the first Pee Wee League. Lyndale joined the Association in 1970 whilst Dandenong A disbanded in 1971.

Sporting clubs invariably encounter problems that manifest themselves in many areas of a club's operations. In 1971 when Club administrators took drastic action against the behaviour of some junior players, the all-important atmosphere at the club was seriously impaired. As a consequence, on-field performances suffered and, as a result of minimal social activities, the Club experienced financial problems.

A large number of players resigned in 1972 with

the result that there were insufficient numbers of senior players for the various teams. Junior players had their careers "accelerated", and finally the Club was relegated to B Grade from 1973 until 1975. There is no doubt that the events of 1971/72 had a highly undesirable effect on the overall development of the Club. Although the Club recovered, subsequent administrators have been fully aware of the fact that whilst disagreements do occur in clubs from time to time, their resolution requires speedy action before "divisions" are established.

In a highly positive step, Club officials embarked on a long-overdue recruiting campaign with the result that players gradually became attracted to the Club.

The B Grade team, the only team entered in senior competition, was runner-up in 1970 and 1973, whilst the Under 15's finally achieved their first premiership win in 1973. With the exception of 1972 and 1976, finals appearances for the remainder of the 70's were minimal, apart from the all-conquering B Grade premiership of 1975, the A Grade (reinstated in A Grade in 1976) who were runners-up to Bonbeach in 1978, the Under 15's runners-up to Bonbeach in 1970, and the Under 17's who were finalists in 1977 and 1979.

Club Presidents during the 1970's were *Ray Chapple, Rod McClelland and Mick O'Shea*. In 1976, *Mark O'Brien* was elected as President, a position he has held to this day. *Peter Finney, Graham Pill and Mark O'Brien* were Club Coaches.

Two members of the Club were inducted as Life Members - *Rod McClelland* in 1971, and *Paul O'Brien* in 1977.

Rod joined the Club in 1950 when his family moved from Queensland in 1949. A former junior rugby player, Rod quickly adopted the baseball code and as a result of his enthusiasm and competitiveness, played a major role in Frankston winning premierships in 1953, 1957 and 1962. His contribution to the Club was invaluable as over the years he occupied the positions of Team Captain, Senior and Junior Coach, and Club President. He was a player readily suited as a second baseman and he was a very capable batter.

Paul O'Brien commenced at the Club in 1949. He successfully combined the duties of a committee member - President and Treasurer - with the on-field responsibilities of player, Team Captain and Club Coach. Paul will long be remembered for his contribution to the Club winning the 1953 and 1957 premierships, in particular the 1957 grand final when he gave an

inspirational address to his players before the game. As a junior coach, his influence was considerable and many past and present senior players were indeed fortunate to have Paul as their coach in their formative years.

The Under 13 team of 1976 had an exceptional year, being runners-up for the season despite a two week disqualification by the Dandenong Baseball Association Junior Executive.

It was discovered by Association officials that one member of the team was ineligible to play because his date of birth exceeded Association regulations.

Whilst Club officials would normally have accepted such a ruling as being an oversight on their part, in this particular case they were furious as they did not receive the Association notice advising them of a change in policy regarding the age limits of players. Despite varied Club protests, the team suffered the following "penalties":

1. Points were deducted.
2. The entire team was suspended for two matches.

Understandably, the Club was not pleased with such harsh "penalties" being imposed on a team whose only concern was playing the game.

The Under 17's were also involved in a controversial decision towards the end of the 1976 season. This time it concerned the "5 minute rule" that is, an innings cannot be started with less than 5 minutes to go.

Unfortunately, though the Club felt the decision given was the correct one, it did place undue pressure on the team. With a finals berth at stake, both teams had to go back to Cheltenham the following week to play the final innings. Frankston lost the protest innings thereby placing the team just 2 points outside the final four. Despite their disappointment, the team showed great sportsmanship after the match had concluded.

Sue Nicoloau (nee Gloury) was elected as Secretary in 1977, a position she held until 1991.

Efficient and enthusiastic, Sue carried out her wide-ranging duties extremely well and provided invaluable support to *Mark O'Brien* as President and to other members of the Committee.

The Club entered 3 teams - A, B and C Grade - for the 1978 season, the first time this had happened for many years. With the exception of the C Grade - who missed out playing in the finals by one game - the A and B Grade teams made it through to the finals.



Presentation Night 1970

Rod McClelland, Heather Porter, Peter Richards, Margaret Bower and Neil Crabtree



70's youngsters Bill and Mark O'Brien

Lou Postlethwaite, a naturally gifted ball player, Victorian representative and Australian All Star, became the first Frankston player in 1977 to win the "O'Brien Medal" for the best player in A Grade.

Players at the Club during the 1970's included the following:

G. Allisey, D. Beaumont, T. Burns, W. Burns, R. Chapple, N. Crabtree, A. Crouch, C. Chipperfield, B. Dodson, J. Dray, P. Gloury, D. Love, D. Mackie, M. O'Brien, W. O'Brien, P. Richards, L. Ruddock, F. Santvoort, R. Teschendorff, N. Wells, R. Wells, P. Finney, W. Stradher, W. Saunders, W. Maher, T. Lovell, R. Griffiths, N. Welsh, G. Legge, M. Ames, J. Davis, R. Griffin, C. McClelland, R. McClelland, I. Sigmont, B. Crabtree, P. Garner, G. Canning, R. Bechaz, P. Chipperfield, P. Chipperfield, P. McGrath, C. Ferguson, R. Ferguson, N. Shepherd, M. Lacy, W. Davis, L. Postlethwaite, K. Bray, N. Baxter, N. Killian, I. Wilson, M. O'Shea, P. Adlington, J. McComb, T. Halls, G. Perry, C. Love, L. Brackley, G. Court, L. O'Brien, P. Gillard, I. Hatch, J. Osmond, D. Corney, L. Crang and M. Bullock.

THE 1980's

The Frankston Baseball Club reasserted itself at Dandenong Baseball Association and Victorian Provincial Baseball League levels of competition during the highly eventful 1980's

The Club won senior premierships in 1988 (A Grade) and in 1984 (A Reserve), and were runners-up in C Grade in 1982-83, and A Reserve in 1987. At the junior level, premierships were won by the Under 17's in 1983, the Under 15's in 1982 and 1987, and the Under 13's in 1980. The juniors continued their amazing run of grand final appearances by being runners-up ten times - Under 17's in 1980-81, '82, '84 and '86, the Under 15's

in 1980-81 and '86, and the Under 13's in 1981 and '83.

Monash University dominated the A Grade competition by winning six consecutive premierships between 1980 and 1985. Such a record currently appears to be in no danger of being equalled let alone eclipsed.

The A Reserve team of 1984 lost only two games for the season and showed tremendous determination to recover from 0/2 in the 9th innings to defeat Cheltenham 3/2. *Andrew Purchase* capped off a great year for the team by winning the "O'Brien Medal" in the A Reserve section. In winning this medal Andrew became the only player in Club history to have won this award and been a member of that year's premiership team.

A further honour was bestowed upon the Club when it was awarded the "Neil Pendock Trophy" for the Champion Club in 1984.

The A Grade win of 1988 is now part of Dandenong Baseball Association and Club history when Frankston and Bonbeach played the first tie in a grand final. Frankston won the replay 13/3 the following week.

Additional "O'Brien Medal" winners for this period were *Murray Holmes* (A Grade 1989), *Neville Knight* (B Grade 1988), and *Luke O'Brien* (C Grade 1983).

Club Coaches during the 1980's were *Mark O'Brien, Chris Love, Murray Holmes, David Simpson, Daryl Dicker, and Michael Klinger*, a former veteran of many Claxton Shield carnivals.

In 1981 *Mark O'Brien* became the 5th Life Member of the Club. Mark's involvement in all areas of the Club - senior and junior player at Club, Victorian Provincial Baseball League, Dandenong Baseball Association and Australian junior levels of competition, Senior and Junior Coach, Secretary and President of the Club and Association more than justified him receiving this prestigious award.

Off the field, two important changes in the Club's operations took place. Firstly, in 1985 the Club obtained legal status particularly as far as financial matters were concerned, when it became incorporated. Secondly, a Restricted Club Permit was obtained to allow the Club to sell alcohol.

The Dandenong Baseball Association recorded 14 carnival championships during the 1980's. Frankston had representatives in all winning teams - Seniors, Colts, and Under age levels - some of which were multiple winners. It was indeed a highly successful decade for the Association at Victorian Provincial Baseball League level, and of

course the Frankston Club. Unfortunately the only Association team to win a premiership in 1988 - the 50th Anniversary of the Victorian Provincial Baseball League - was the Under 17's at the Ballarat Carnival. This team went through the championships undefeated thereby winning the first Under 17 championship since 1982. The batting ability of this team was quite remarkable in that they scored 81 runs to the opposition's 15! Frankston representatives were *Gareth Finney, David Jones and Shannon Whitehead*. The Coach and Assistant Coach of this prestigious line-up were none other than those two colorful characters, *Peter Gloury and Andrew Jones*.

The C Grade competition of 1983 was particularly interesting. In fact, it could very well have been unique.

The C1 team, captained by *Denis Beaumont*, with *Michele Winther* as Scorer, was comprised of the following players - *M. Barker, P. Gillard, G. Wells, D. Beaumont, M. Liddell, G. Gibney, R. Cheesman, M. Lane, F. Scalzo, N. Winther, R. Smith, P. Ringer and J. Ferron*.

The C2 team, capably managed by *Luke O'Brien*, was affectionately known as the "C Drunks", a label that quickly evaporated when they took the field. Despite being entered five weeks late into the competition, this collection of "fluorescent fireballs" managed to finish the season in third position. The team comprised *T. Halls, M. Bullock, L. O'Brien, D. Archer, M. O'Shea, A. Horne, A. Neal, R. Gates, S. Ross, J. Prokhovnik, P. Garner and J. Perry*.

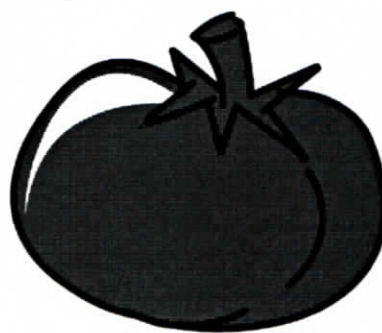
Unfortunately, the best laid plans of having an all-Frankston grand final went sadly astray, despite the fact that both teams won their semi-final matches. C1 defeated Cerberus 3/1 whilst C2 had a good win over Dandenong 7/3. In the preliminary final *Luke O'Brien's* team narrowly lost to Cerberus 10/7 whilst in the grand final *Denis Beaumont's* team were convincingly defeated by the lads from HMAS Cerberus. Denis recalls that Cerberus "recruited" a "gun" pitcher and the rest is history.

There is no doubt that being a member of either of these teams would have been an experience and it is a credit to both "skippers" that law and order was maintained throughout the season. Well, almost.

Players at the Club during the 80's included the following:

C. Love, M. Anderton, M. Saleeba, A. Jones, M. Liddell, G. Ulmer, G. Wells, R. Cheesman, H. Simpson, T. O'Brien, M. Bullock, I. Pollard, P.

Stevens, M. Klinger, N. Winther, L. O'Brien, T. Totaro, Daniel O'Brien, Dominic O'Brien, B. Hura, J. Prokhovnik, N. Saleeba, G. Court, A. Purchase, S. Purchase, D. Walker, M. O'Brien, P. Weston, W. O'Brien, D. Dicker, P. Tardiff, P. Cooper, A. Clarke, J. Ahern, D. Corney, M. Holmes, M. O'Shea, P. Adlington, T. Halls, L. Crang, J. Gulbin, P. Gloury, D. Simpson, P. McGrath, G. Gibney, J. Ferron, R. Wells, M. Lane, P. Garner, D. Shanahan, S. Schneider, G. Perry, D. Burley, P. Gillard, D. Jones, S. McClelland, A. Neal, P. Ringer, G. Finney, J. Lancaster, A. Richards, F. Scalzo, S. Ashley, S. Beaumont, D. Beaumont, G. Evans, R. Hogan, N. Jones, L. Walters, M. Wells, S. Whitehead, P. Hamilton, S. Womersley.



THE 1990's

Before proceeding with an outline of the events and activities of people connected with the Club during the past six years, it is appropriate that some consideration be given to a constant factor in our daily lives - change.

Change for many people can be quite a problem in that it can be threatening and result in a variety of problems for an individual and/or an organisation. On the other hand, there are those people who respond positively to various changes - they realise that there is a need for change, develop an interest in the proposed change, plan their strategies, and subsequently adopt whatever is proposed.

Whilst the Club has been fortunate in retaining many senior players and supporters, invariably the time will come when such players and supporters will either retire or become involved in other recreational and sporting pursuits. Perhaps the time has arrived whereby the Club may need to allocate time to plan for the future.

The 90's has seen the Club maintain its competitive attitude in the senior and junior divisions of the Dandenong Baseball Association competition. Premierships have been restricted to the A Grade in 1991 (its fifth), the first D Grade in 1990 and in the 50th year the first for the Under 12's. The A's

were runners-up in 1990 and 1994, the B's and C's regular finalists, whilst the Under 12's and 14's were runners-up in 1994 and the Under 18's also runners-up in 1990 and 1994.

Bonbeach, arguably Frankston's fiercest rival, won their first A Grade pennant in 1979 but since then have three more in 1990-92-94. In the junior divisions Dandenong and Bonbeach have so far dominated the competition.

At the Victorian Provincial Baseball League level, the Dandenong Baseball Association seniors achieved a "hat trick" of premierships in 1990-1992, whilst the Under 14's, 16's and 18's recorded premierships in 1990, 1991 and 1993. Frankston players were well represented in all of these teams. *Daryl Dicker* and *Leigh Walters* were the Association Batting Champions in 1992 and 1994, whilst Daryl showed his eyesight was operating efficiently by winning the "Home Run King" Award for the 1992 season.

Other award winners were *David Simpson* who achieved an ERA rating of 1.29 in 1991, whilst *Floyd Selleck* in 1991, achieved 10 victories as a result of highly variable pitching.

Club Coaches so far have been *Daryl Dicker*, *Damian Shanahan*, *Chris Love* and *Mark Ander-ton*.

Michele Winther took over as Club Secretary from *Sue Nicolaou* in 1991.

Since 1994 Tee-ball has gained considerable momentum with over 60 youngsters and their parents involved in activities on a Sunday morning. It is to be hoped that many of these youngsters will progress through the junior ranks and become the senior players of tomorrow.

As the 50th Anniversary Year, 1995 has had a special significance. A Luncheon was held at the Club on 25 June and was a great success, the "recollections" of *Rod McClelland*, *John Crichton* and *John O'Brien* were not only interesting but highly entertaining. The Anniversary Dinner on 5 August at the Frankston RSL and the "Old Buffers Match" on 27 August were equally successful in celebrating the Club's "Golden Jubilee."

1995 saw the A Grade once again playing in the finals but the expectation of a flag in the 50th year did not come about with the team going down in the first semi final to the eventual premiers Berwick.



A Grade - 1995

Back Row: F. Selleck, G. Finney, P. Conell, D. Dicker, M. Allanson, D. Stephens, C. Cox, S. Purchase
Front Row: C. Love, M. Klinger, M. Anderton (Captain/Coach), S. Myles, A. Button



John Crighton shows his style (with wood) at the 50th Anniversary Old Buffers Game

Players at the Club during the 90's have included the following:

M. Allanson, P. Adlington, M. Anderton, V. Ardley, S. Beaumont, M. Bowra, R. Brooks, A. Brown, D. Bucca, G. Cininas, G. Clapham, R. Clarke, P. Conell, G. Court, C. Cox, F. Darragh, G. Davis, D. Dicker, G. Douglas, P. Duncan, P. Dunn, R. Davis, S. Ellis, G. Evans, J. Farrell, M. Faulkner, G. Finney, T. Floro, S. Fountain, P. Gloury, T. Goodrich, M. Greasley, T. Hanson, M. Holmes, G. Hunt, B. Hura, R. Hogan, A. Jones, D. Jones, M. Klinger, J. Lancaster, M. Leo, C. Love, P. McGrath, O. Malone, R. Mildenhall, C. Myles, S. Myles, J. Nigri, M. O'Brien, W. O'Brien, P. O'Connor, G. Owens, A. Purchase, S. Purchase, A. Richards, Matthew O'Brien, C. Anderton, R. Anderton, N. Saleeba, M. Saleeba, S. Schneider, D. Scott, F. Selleck, D. Simpson, I. Sigmont, D. Stephens, L. Walters, D. Watson, T. Watson, M. Watts, M. Wells, S. Whitehead, N. Winther.

What's in a Name?

There are many weird and wonderful theories of how Clubs get their nicknames and colors, many of which have changed down through the years.

In the 1940's Essendon Football Club became known as the "Bombers" because of the close proximity of its ground, "Windy Hill", to the Essendon Airport. Tullamarine Airport did not exist at this stage. As far as Essendon's colors are concerned, the Club was recently informed by *Michael Maplestone* (Historian at Essendon Football Club) that red and black were the favourite colors of the *McCracken* Family who lived in the district in the 1870's. Alex, the son of a Scottish immigrant from Ayrshire, later became the first secretary of the Essendon Football Club (then in the VFA) at the tender age of fifteen years!

In the early days the Frankston Football and Cricket Club's adopted the colors red and black. The reason for doing so remains a mystery. As the Frankston Baseball Club originated at the Frankston Cricket Club, one can only presume that the baseball club followed the cricket club's lead and adopted the same colors.



The nickname "Bombers", a term not well known to many members, may have originated as a result of having the same colors as the Essendon Football Club. Of course the "Bombers" is rarely used these days as the "Tomatoes" has taken over - presumably as a result of having red as one of the Club's official colors and the fact that a former player, *Tony Totaro*, became known as "Tommy Tomato", mainly because of his name and the fact that his father grew tomatoes in his backyard!

Uniforms & Equipment

The earliest recorded baseball uniform consisted of straw hats, white flannel shirts and blue woollen trousers as worn by the US "Knickerbockers" team of 1849.

Uniforms have come a long way since the 1840's with brightly colored, natural, or man-made (and of course shrink-proof) fibres featuring prominently in on-and off-field baseball clothing.

When the Club was first established the uniform comprised a white windcheater, black pants and either football or cyclists boots. Cleats were screwed into the sole until the arrival of the boots that are used today.

In 1949 the Club decided the following: No. 1 Frankston team's uniform would consist of a black shirt with red piping and a red "FRANKSTON" across the chest. No. 2 team would wear a white windcheater, black trousers and red socks.

John O'Brien had obtained a shirt, identical to the one worn by today's players, from *Rod Todd's Sports Store*. In the 60's the Club changed its uniform slightly to incorporate a black sleeveless top (large "F" on the left hand side) and changed the windcheater to red.

The early 70's saw a change to an off-white uniform with red and black trim and an embroidered emblem, while the late 70's brought another change to a predominately red top and white pants. This uniform along with other obscure reasons instigated the nickname "Tomatoes" which is still with us today.

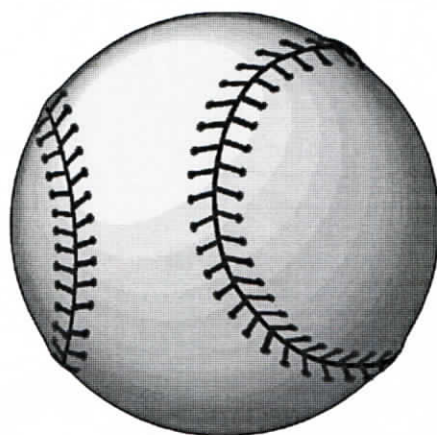
The 50th Anniversary saw the Club turn full circle reverting back to a black top with red piping with "FRANKSTON" across the front in red letters. As for hats - the number of changes to this major part of the uniform are too numerous to detail in this publication.

BASEBALLS

In the early days, baseballs were not that plentiful. They were also expensive. After a game the ball, which was made in Melbourne, would be washed, dried, painted and polished and would often last for two or three games. The balls of days gone by were also quite dead compared to the lively baseballs used in the 70's and 80's and the even livelier balls of the 90's

BATS

The earliest baseball bats were made from English timber - "Webex" brand - and proved highly efficient. Bats imported from the United States were in a minority at this time. Protective head-gear and metal or aluminium bats didn't come along until the 70's.



GLOVES

Modern technology has resulted in some real "works of art" as far as the various gloves of today are concerned. The gloves of years ago were functional, particularly if you placed a piece of steak inside as added protection when catching.

The late *John Smale* pioneered this practice with a fair measure of success. The only problem was that *John* ended up with a very soggy glove at the end of a game. For those who can remember, *Hartley's Sports Store*, adjacent to *Flinders Street Station*, were the main suppliers of gloves and equipment. To *John Montgomery* belongs the courageous innovation - he ignored possible public ridicule of what was a novel fashion - of wearing a glove on the fielding hand!

OTHER EQUIPMENT

The earliest bases were usually of the home-made variety, including the stitching. They were not "fixed" but connected to a peg. The pitcher's plate was made from a car tyre and cut to the required shape.

In the United States a mask was worn for the first time in 1875.

Premierships

A premiership is broadly defined as "the state of being first or foremost." To be a member of a premiership team is therefore the highlight of a player's sporting career. It really doesn't matter what the sport is - baseball, cricket, football or netball - to have survived many weeks of training and competition and to win that final match is without doubt a great achievement.

Baseball finals are not unlike other sporting finals in that the best laid plans can go horribly wrong. For example, your starting pitcher can be despatched to all parts of the park during the first innings, regulation ground balls are not secured when bases are loaded, and a comfortable lead manages to evaporate in the 9th innings! Player-wise, some thrive on finals' pressure and remain "cool" in tight situations. Others simply do things that defy description and experience fear as absolute as staring up at a guillotine!

Frankston Baseball Club is no stranger to finals matches winning nine senior premierships, eleven junior premierships, and being runners-up on more than 40 occasions.

1953 - THE FIRST "BIG ONE"

FRANKSTON WIN PREMIERSHIP

Frankston gained their first premiership pennant on Saturday last when they inflicted a crushing defeat against Dandenong "A" at Dandenong. It was Frankston's fourth grand final in eight years and their first break through the hoodoo.

Frankston Standard

After joining the Dandenong Baseball Association in 1946, the Club took eight years before it secured its first premiership flag - the "A" Grade in 1953. This win was of special significance as it was the Club's fourth grand final in eight years. The lead-up to the final on 19 September resulted in the team defeated Chelsea in the first semi-final 6/5, and Saints 27/2 in the preliminary final, Dandenong A had defeated Saints in the second semi-final 11/10 and proceeded straight into the grand final. It is worth recording that the match against Saints produced some interesting statistics - 57 trips to the

plate, 20 hits, 27 RBI's, 12 walks, and 2 errors! A busy day for the Frankston lads!

The final, preceded by a heavy shower of rain, saw Frankston score five runs in the first innings. From then on, it became a very one-sided match with Frankston running out easy winners 16/3 against Dandenong A.

Safe hits were recorded by *C. Carter (3), A. Burridge, J. Metcher, R. McClelland, P. O'Brien (2), and J. Smale and C. Curwood 1 each.*

Team members for that finals series included *A. Burridge (C), C. Carter, J. Smale, C. Curwood, J. O'Brien, P. O'Brien, I. McClelland, R. McClelland, G. Jeffs, G. Stewart, I. James, D. Beardsmore and J. Metcher.*

1957 - A GREAT DOUBLE

The 1957 season resulted in yet another victory for the A Grade team but this time the Club exceeded expectations by winning the "double" with the B Grade team.

Frankston double premiers

At the High School Oval on Saturday, Frankston's A and B baseball teams both triumphed in close games over Cheltenham and the Magpies respectively.

Frankston Standard

The A's path to glory was not an easy one. After defeating Saints 6/5 in a thriller of a preliminary final, they defeated Cheltenham 10/9 in an absolute "nail-biter" of a final at the Frankston High School ground, currently Samuel Sherlock Park. As outsiders, the team rallied under the inspiring leadership of *Paul O'Brien* to score seven runs in the 8th innings to defeat the highly fancied Cheltenham team.

The Cheltenham team had *Bruce Lines* pitching and five or six left-handed batters. *Graeme Seabrook and Joffre Metcher* played an outstanding game. *Paul O'Brien's* inspirational address to his players before the game will long be remembered.

Members of the team included *P. O'Brien (C), G. Hawker, J. Metcher, G. Seabrook, P. Leake, M. Fletcher, G. Drough, R. McClelland, G. Jeffs, J. Harvey, W. Souter, and J. Saleeba.*

The B Grade win followed a similar path to the A Grade when they lost their last match of season



A Grade Premiers - 1957

Back Row: G. Hawker, P. O'Brien, G. Seabrook, P. Leake, W. Souter

Middle Row: G. Drough, C. Davis, G. Jeffs

Front Row: R. McClelland, J. Metcher, T. Metcher (Scorer), J. Saleeba, J. Harvey

against Saints 25/14, and the semi-final 11/10 against the Cheltenham Magpies. They stormed into the final with a great win over Carrum 17/7 in the preliminary final and went on to win the final against the Magpies 11/8. This match was also played at the Frankston High School ground.

Members of the team included *J. O'Brien (C), T. Hunter, B. Harvey, C. Curwood, K. Black, D. Perry, A. Lowrey, I. Beadel and J. Smale.*

As a result of winning the A and B Grade premierships in 1958, Frankston joined a select band of Clubs - Saints (1956), Cheltenham (1960-65-70-89) and Chelsea (1979) - who have achieved the "double" - A and B Grade premierships in the one year.

1958 - B's DO IT AGAIN

1958 was yet another successful year for the B

Grade team. They had reached the final with only two defeats and therefore had earned the right to be favourites to take out consecutive premierships.

BASEBALL

In the grand finals at the Highett gasworks oval, the Frankston club won the "B" grade premiership, but lost in the "A" grade. It is a credit to the club that it is able to produce players of high calibre year after year, and it is hoped a third side can be formed next year.

Frankston and Carrum were both scoreless after the first three innings but then Frankston's hitting came together. Despite being held scoreless in the 7th, Frankston kept Carrum scoreless in the final two innings to run out victors 6/3

Frankston Standard Team members included *J. O'Brien (C), D. Perry, I. Beadel, K. Black, A. Lourey, D. Swift, J. Smale, L. Hyde, B. Abbott, W. Souter, C. Curwood and P. Richards.*

The after-match celebrations were thoroughly enjoyed by all team members.

1959 - C GRADE SUPREME

The C Grade team joined Cheltenham in the final after convincingly defeating Saints 10/1 in the preliminary final.

The Frankston team opened its innings with a barrage of power hitting led by *L. Jondahl, J. Saleeba and J. Rogerson*, and completely rattled its opposition with a score of five runs.

Despite a brief recovery by Cheltenham, Frankston raced to a long lead in the 6th innings as more runs came from the bats of *Holland, Jondahl, Rogerson and Metcher*. *Brian Jack* was outstanding at left field.

Safe hits: *L. Jondahl, J. Rogerson (3), J. Metcher, T. Holland, J. Saleeba (2), R. McClelland, B. Jack, C. Curwood and P. Curwood 1 each.*

1962 - A GOOD YEAR FOR A GRADE

1962 once again saw Frankston with two teams in the grand final - the A and B Grade. The A's had reached the final by defeating Dandenong 5/4 in the semi-final and Cheltenham 4/3 in the preliminary final. This match proved to be a thriller as Frankston equalised in the 5th innings, and both teams were scoreless for eight innings. In the 11th innings a long fly by *T. Searle* enabled *R. McClelland* to score from third base.

The final against Saints at the Bonbeach ground was a high standard game with scores level at three-all after six innings. The hitting power of Frankston suddenly emerged. A home run by *J. Harvey*, and hits by *L. Hyde, I. Beadel and R. McClelland* resulted in five runs. The final run was the result of a high fly by *T. "Snowy" Searle* to left field which resulted in *Rod McClelland* (on 3rd) just making it home. Saints scored one more run but Frankston had the flag 8/4.



B Grade Premiers - 1958

Back Row: *W. Souter, D. Perry, J. O'Brien, G. Strongman, K. Black, I. Beadel*
 Front Row: *T. Searle, I. Leyshan, P. O'Brien, T. Hunter, J. Smale*



A Grade Premiers - 1962

Back Row: L. Hyde, B. Harvey, K. Bettles, G. Morton, M. Price
 Front Row: J. Saleeba, R. McClelland (Captain/Coach), J. Harvey, T. Searle
 Absent: G. Jeffs, I. Beadel, R. Bragge

Team members included *R. McClelland (C)*, *I. Beadel*, *B. Harvey*, *J. Harvey*, *G. Jeffs*, *K. Bettles*, *J. Saleeba*, *L. Hyde*, *T. Searle*, *R. Bragge* and *G. Morton*.

Twenty-six years later (1988), Frankston was to win its next A Grade premiership. One could safely say that it took a long time in coming. But more about the 1988 win later on.

1964 - UNDER 16 THE FIRST JUNIOR PREMIERSHIP

1965 - UNDER 16 A REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Unfortunately, very few details concerning this

premiership win are available at either Club or Association level. Fortunately the Frankston "Standard" carried a brief report on the final which saw the Frankston lads, after trailing early in the game, fight back to defeat a determined Springvale 9/3

The team comprised:

G. Allisey (C), *W. O'Brien*, *M. O'Brien*, *P. Cozens*, *A. Addicott*, *G. Coates*, *C. Ferguson*, *J. Davies*, *C. Wilkins*, *B. Davis*, *S. McCormick*, *D. Bradfield (Coach)*, *N. Wells (Asst Coach)*, and *P. Richards (Scorer)*. *P. Cozens* won the Best Player Trophy.

1971 - PEEWEE'S VICTORIOUS

Frankston won the premiership in the first season

of the Dandenong Baseball Association Pee wee League. Frankston dismissed Bonbeach St Chads for no score in the first innings, then got two runners home to lead 2/0. After St Chads scored one run, Frankston's strong battery of *Peter Garner* (ten strike outs) and *Trafford Halls* pinned St Chads down and, with good fielding support, held it scoreless for the remainder of the game. The stronger Frankston batting line-up went on to add eight more runs over three innings.

The premiership team comprised:

B. Jack (Coach), P. Garner (C), P. McGrath, T. Halls, S. Reid, P. Chipperfield, C. Love, N. Smith, C. Stephenson, G. Erfurth and B. Bretherton.

Pee wee baseball flag to Bombers

Frankston Bombers last Saturday won the premiership in the first season of the Dandenong Baseball Association's Pee wee League.

Frankston Standard

1973 - UNDER 15

1975 - ANOTHER GOOD YEAR FOR B GRADE

This team, a powerful side particularly in defence, finished on top of the ladder. After easily accounting for Chelsea 10/0 in the second semi-final, they met Mornington in the final.

The Frankston team once again showed their superiority in the grand final by thrashing Mornington 10/0 at the Bonbeach ground.

Team members included :

M. O'Brien, N. Baxter, P. Gloury, J. Davis, T. Burns, W. Johnson, W. Stradher, I. Sigmont, I. Hatch, J. Osmond and M. O'Shea.

1979 - UNDER 13's ON THE MOVE

The Under 13's, coached by *Paul O'Brien* and with *Geoff Saleeba* as Manager, defeated Bonbeach in the grand final, thereby giving the Club its first Under 13 flag since 1971. No further details are available except that *P. Bray, T. O'Brien and R. Smith* were members of that team.

1980 - UNDER 13's DO IT AGAIN

Coached by *Paul O'Brien* with *Geoff Saleeba* as Manager, this team defeated Dingley in the grand final.

Team members included:

N. Saleeba, T. O'Brien, B. Delaney, S. Purchase, H. Simpson, J. Baker, G. Finney, G. Lancaster, D. Thomas, S. Noble and A. Noble.

1982 - UNDER 15's TAKE FLAG

This team was known as the "glamour team" because they played some exciting baseball and capped off a great home and away series by winning the Club's first Under 15 flag since 1973.

Frankston headed the list at the end of the minor rounds with Dingley, Lyndale and Oakleigh making up the final four. Frankston defeated Dingley 10/1 in the second semi-final, whilst Lyndale defeated Oakleigh 14/7 in the first semi-final and Dingley 8/4 in the preliminary final.

In the grand final Frankston easily accounted for Lyndale 7/0. It is rumoured that *John Perry (Coach)* and *Geoff Saleeba (Manager)* had a "permanent" smile on their faces for some time!

Team members were:

N. Saleeba, P. Conell, S. Purchase, H. Simpson, A. Chynoweth, B. Delaney, G. Pearson, C. Arnall, T. O'Brien, K. Moss and J. Lane.

1983 - FIFTH TIME LUCKY FOR UNDER 17's

After finishing on top of the ladder with two losses and a draw, the Under 17's powered their way to the first flag for this age group in fifteen years. In the two games Frankston competed in on its way to the premiership the team scored 23 runs to 5!

Frankston easily defeated Lyndale 10/4 in the second semi-final and went straight into the grand final. Chelsea defeated Bonbeach 5/4 in the first semi-final but was defeated by Lyndale 8/2 in the preliminary final. The grand final saw Frankston's overall skill and power completely demolish Lyndale 13/1.

Team members were:

A. Barker, P. Conell, J. Gulbin, T. Grayson, P. Newton, T. O'Brien, D. Patterson, G. Pearson, M. Rigby, B. Seedsman, N. Saleeba, D. Tainsh and S. Womersley.

This win was a great triumph for *Peter Gloury* as Coach (5th time lucky) , who received tremendous support from *Andrew Jones (Asst Coach)* and *Elaine Pearson (Scorer)*.

1984 - A RESERVE PREMIERSHIP & O'BRIEN MEDAL WINNER

This team showed very early in the season that they were potential finalists. After losing their opening



A Reserve Premiers - 1984

Front Row: M. Bullock, R. Wells, Dom O'Brien, Dan O'Brien, B. Hura, A. Purchase

Back Row: K. Stephens, H. Simpson, G. Court, M. Saleeba, D. Burley, A. Jones, D. Walker, P. McGrath (C/C)

match, they only lost two games for the remainder of the season to finish on top going into the finals. The second semi-final saw Frankston behind Cheltenham until the 6th innings when some fine hitting coupled with some errors by Cheltenham put them one run ahead. Runs scored in the next two innings clinched the game 12/7. Monash, having defeated Dingley in the first semi-final 10/1, was defeated by Cheltenham 7/3 in the preliminary final. The scene was therefore set for a "nail-biting" grand final.

With pitchers well in control, both sides were scoreless until the 4th innings when Cheltenham gained the first run. This was followed by another in the 6th and the score remained 2/0 going into the bottom of the 9th. Showing strong, determined batting, Frankston recovered magnificently with five hits later in the game to secure the flag 3/2. *Keith Stephens* made the winning hit through right field!

Teams members were:

P. McGrath (C/C), M. Bullock, A. Purchase, G. Court, D. Burley, A. Jones, M. Saleeba, B. Hura, Dom O'Brien, R. Wells, K. Stephens, M. O'Brien, H. Simpson, A. Walker and Dan O'Brien.

Andrew Purchase capped off a great year by winning the O'Brien Medal for the Best and Fairest in A Reserve.

1987 - UNDER 15 ELEVEN YEAR DROUGHT BROKEN

After a slow start to the season, the team moulded themselves into a real force and finished the home and away games in second position.

The team defeated Lyndale 16/9 in the second semi-final, whilst Dingley defeated Bonbeach 8/0 and Lyndale 12/6. The grand final proved to be a tense struggle. After taking an early lead, Dingley managed to peg Frankston back to a one run advantage. Both teams continued to score freely but Frankston maintained a one run lead. The boys kept their "cool" in moments of crisis - unlike some spectators - and finally achieved success with an 8/7 victory.

Team members were:

A. Richards, S. Whitehead, B. Holton, S. Beaumont, M. Watts, T. Ardley, R. Henry, G. Lang, N. Woodley, T. Longmuir, W. Bastek, T. Trenwith, M. Wells. Peter Finney (Coach) and Graeme Wells (Asst Coach).

1988 - A GRADE ANOTHER DROUGHT BROKEN

The A Grade team, now known to all as "The Tomatoes", went through the season with only one loss - to Bonbeach in round one. After finishing the



A Grade Premiers - 1988

Back Row: D. Dicker (Captain/Coach), D. Simpson, P. Shirley, S. Purchase, N. Saleeba
Front Row: M. Anderton, D. Jones, A. Purchase, M. Holmes, A. Walker, D. Shanahan

season in top position, they defeated Cheltenham 4/1 in the second semi-final. Bonbeach defeated Dingley 8/5 in the first semi-final, and Cheltenham 9/5 in the preliminary final.

What took place the following week is now part of Dandenong Baseball Association history. At 6.13pm, after twelve innings and 3 hours 43 minutes of play, Frankston and Bonbeach were tied at five-all. The decision to stop play was made thereby resulting in the first A Grade grand final draw in Dandenong Baseball Association history.

The re-play the following week at Dingley ground proved to be somewhat of an anti-climax as Frankston easily defeated Bonbeach 13/3 in the 7th innings.

The victorious team comprised:

D. Dicker (C/C), A. Purchase, S. Purchase, R. Hogan, M. Wells, D. Shanahan, M. Holmes, D. Simpson, N. Saleeba, M. Anderton, A. Walker, P. Shirley, P. Gloury, A. Jones, D. Jones and J. Lancaster.

1990 - A FIRST IN D GRADE

Junior players combined with the six senior players

to finish the season with a 15/3 win/loss record. The D's were therefore well qualified to compete against other finalists.

The second semi-final against Ormond-Glenhantly (at OGH) resulted in a win for the Frankston team 11/5. Oakleigh made it through to the grand final by defeating Mornington 9/3 and OGH 16/5. An excellent pitching performance by *Roger Henry* (an Under 15 in 1987) with eight innings pitched, nine hits and five k's, backed up by sound fielding and good batting, resulted in Frankston recording an outstanding win 19/8.

Players in that team were:

N. Winther (C), P. Conell, S. Schneider, S. Ellis, G. Cininas, C. Myles, D. Sanders, R. Henry, S. Beaumont and W. Bastek.

1991 - "TOMATOES" TRIUMPH

After finishing on top with only two defeats for the season, "The Tomatoes" were defeated 5/3 by Cheltenham in the second semi-final. A convincing 11/3 preliminary final win against Bonbeach resulted in yet another grand final appearance.

Floyd Selleck was the starting pitcher and he



D Grade Premiers - 1990

Back Row: W. Bastek, R. Henry, S. Beaumont, C. Myles, N. Winther, S. Schneider
 Front Row: P. Conell, G. Clapham, S. Ellis, S. Myles, D. Sanders



A Grade Premiers - 1991

Back Row: F. Selleck, D. Dicker, L. Walters, M. Klinger, D. Simpson, M. Wells, G. Finney, M. Anderton, S. Ellis,
 S. Purchase
 Front Row: A. Purchase, D. Shanahan (Captain/Coach), M. O'Brien (Batboy), R. Hogan, M. Holmes, D. Sanders

obtained good support from the batters with four runs scored in the first innings. After having two out and no one on base, *Murray Holmes, Michael Klinger, Daryl Dicker and Mark Anderton* scored on an error and a clutch hit from *Stuart Purchase*.

Cheltenham scored three runs in the third and the score was still 4/3 after five innings when *Robert Hogan* replaced *Floyd Selleck* on the mound. *Leigh Walters* scored a vital run on *Mark Anderton's* ground ball in the 8th. Frankston's tight defence held off a late challenge from Cheltenham who left bases loaded in the 9th innings.

Coach *Damian Shanahan* was ecstatic with the 5/3 win as he was unable to play because of injury. The highlight of the day was the antics of Cheltenham catcher, *Craig Kernick*, who kept producing the odd tune from behind the plate! The team later found out that Craig was wearing "musical boxer shorts"!

Safe hits: *L. Walters, M. Holmes, A. Purchase, S. Purchase, D. Simpson and M. Anderton - 1 each.*

Team members were:

D. Shanahan (C/C), F. Selleck, R. Hogan, S. Purchase, L. Walters, M. Holmes, D. Dicker, M. Wells, G. Finney, M. Anderton, D. Simpson, A. Purchase, M. Klinger, D. Sanders and S. Ellis.

1995 - UNDER 12's DO IT IN THE 50TH

There could be no better way to celebrate the Club's Golden Jubilee than to win a premiership. Despite the efforts of the senior teams and other junior sides the privilege was left to the "Tiny Tomatoes" (Under 12's).

A talented team capably led by Matthew O'Brien and the Anderton twins improved beyond the calibre of the competition as the season progressed and thoroughly deserved their premiership honour.

Capitalising on their continually improving performance throughout the season the "Tiny Tomatoes" managed to defeat Chelsea 5/3 in the 2nd semi-final to enjoy a rest the following week. The week's break seemed to increase the competitive aspirations of the team as they easily defeated Chelsea 9/3 in the grand final.

Perhaps the most significant factor in this premiership win was that each and every player contributed in a manner which demonstrated quality sportsmanship and a commitment to the team and its endeavours.

The support of parents was also significant and certainly played a formidable role in the team's success.



Under 12 Premiers - 1995

Back Row: *M. Anderton (Manager), M. O'Brien (Coach)*

Middle Row: *L. Carlile, R. Pelzer, C. Anderton, M. O'Brien, R. Anderton, B. Garvey, M. Anderson, D. Feltham*

Front Row: *B. Birt, T. Mason, D. Burt, D. Isaacs*

Social Functions

It is difficult, if not impossible, to imagine coming off the ground after an afternoon's toil in the sun or otherwise, hopping in your car and going straight home. What a terrible thought! Definitely not cricket, sorry baseball!

There are clubs that place so much emphasis on socialising that whatever sport they are involved in plays second-fiddle to enjoying the company of the opposition and their team mates. Conversely, there are also clubs where the game result is everything and social activities are at a premium. Fortunately, such clubs are in a minority. The lads at Frankston Baseball Club have always accepted a play-to-win policy whilst on the ground, yet somehow seem to muster their extraordinary reserves of energy to enjoy themselves afterwards. Their rule seems to be: if the opposition can't last the distance, we certainly will!

In the early days, facilities at the Club were not as developed as they are today. Six o'clock closing resulted in players rushing down to the nearest "Watering Hole" in order to enjoy a few drinks with the opposition and team mates.

As Club facilities developed, the Club was the spot, despite the likelihood of a visit from the district Police Inspector. Players would assemble, with minimum lighting and despite water dripping through the roof, would enjoy a few "samples" of the "good drop." In order to ensure that the Club was not visited by a member of the law, a "Cock-atoo" (a lookout) was posted at an appropriate position.

House Parties were very popular in the early and mid 1950's, and gatherings in excess of 60 people regularly assembled at the homes of *Rod McClelland*, *Clarrie Curwood*, *Mrs. McDonald*, *Geoff Drough*, *Gordon Jeffs*, *Ray Chapple* and *Brian Jack*, in order to dance the night away.

Bill O'Brien, the father of John and Paul, had eagerly awaited the first A Grade premiership flag. When the team won the 1953 pennant, they celebrated at the now-closed "Cloverleigh." Celebrations for the 1957 and 1962 flags were held at the Pier and Grand hotels respectively.

Barbeques were held on Field Game Days and teams from Richmond and Collingwood were invited to join in the festivities. *Brian Jack* built a

large barbecue for the Club which proved to be an asset as far as team gatherings were concerned.

In the early days trips away to Bendigo and Geelong were arranged by such senior players as *Clarrie Curwood*, *Alf Burrige* and *John O'Brien*. Apart from social games between the various clubs, these trips provided an opportunity for families to pack the picnic basket and enjoy themselves.



Today, not a great deal seems to have changed as far as the post-match activities are concerned. After the traditional shower and something to eat, the lads congregate at "The Patch" (the bar), and it is on! Baseball, football, politics (sometimes), the working week and its problems and successes, are topics that are discussed with enthusiasm. If there was nothing organised at an alternative venue, the lads would generally outlast the opposition at their favourite pastime - chatting and drinking.

Thursday night is traditionally "Selection Night" where the "Selectors" perform all sorts of miracles in ensuring that each senior team has a full list of players for the following Saturday's round of matches.

The range of social activities held at the Club over the years has been extensive - dances in the Mechanic's Hall (with Cook's Orchestra), BBQ's, dinners, fancy dress nights, car rallies, trips away, disco's, fashion parades, player auctions, talent quests, beer and wine tastings, trivia nights, cocktail parties, a bad taste night, and smoke nights - and have either originated at a Committee level or on an impromptu basis. On many occasions, the morning-after-the-night-before was not looked upon with a great deal of enthusiasm by many of



1962 Presentation Dinner, Pier Hotel, Frankston

the participants, particularly if a Sunday game had been scheduled.

The lads from the Frankston Baseball Club have over the years seriously challenged the law relating to mixing baseball with the consumption of various forms of alcohol. Whilst there are players who would never touch a drop before a game, there are quite a few who have arrived at a venue resplendent in their uniform, but "suffering" from a variety of maladies usually associated with a wee dash of over-indulgence!

Provincial Carnival trips have provided yet another opportunity for Frankston representatives to "enjoy themselves." Some of the "exploits" of Dandenong Baseball Association representatives border on the lines of unprintable. The fact that the Dandenong Baseball Association were Senior Champions from 1990-92 is something that defies description.

The annual Presentation Night is generally the

final activity in the Club's social calendar for the year. Over the years it has been held at the Club, various hotels, the Long Island Golf Club, and more recently, the Peninsula Estate Winery at Red Hill. In the case of the last venue, participants have travelled by double-decker bus, an imminently sensible idea. The return trip to Frankston was a fun time, particularly after a night of wining, dining, dancing, and presentations.

Frankston Baseball Club has always been a very social Club and one where visitors are made welcome. Apart from a variety of senior team activities, the Junior Teams have attracted a large number of parents and friends to their activities, in particular Presentation Nights. The Club has actively promoted the involvement of family members with the result that many players and their families have maintained their association with the Club for many years.



DBA Finals - a lighthearted view

The Dandenong Baseball Association finals are a major event in baseball in this part of the State. For some it is THE event of the year and one that is physically and emotionally demanding - that is of course if you are a participant.

The players from the respective clubs generally arrive in separate vehicles, mumble unintelligible expressions to one another, look for divine intervention if the umpire calls a "strike" instead of a "ball", propel themselves around the diamond and surrounds in a state of glazed concentration, look somewhat mystified if their hit has not pierced the infield, grunt and groan, question the umpire's ancestry (silently of course), and try to remain "cool" in times of crisis!

For the non-competitors, it is a case of align yourself with a particular team, and then watch both teams go through what can only be described as unadulterated torture!

At the end of the day when all has been won or lost, it is time to relax, chat, analyse the game to the 'nth degree, relive those "magic moments", criticise "unmercifully" what should have been done by the losing team (such a task is easy mainly because you were not playing), and then have a few cleansing ales.

What better way to spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon! Certainly beats mowing the lawns! For the victors, it is a case of celebrating - it really doesn't matter where or with whom, the important thing is to live it up! Relive those special hits, pitches, double plays, outfield catches, home runs (if they happened to take place), run-down plays, and 101 other things that took place before that well-dressed umpire called "TIME AND GAME!" It doesn't really matter when the final is played - Saturday or Sunday - mainly because the next day is not likely to be remembered.

Productivity is likely to be down at one's place of employment, mainly because members of the winning team are not likely to be present. Celebrations are therefore likely to continue well into the week following the final.

For the losers, it is a case of what "could/should have been." If it was close, for example 5/4, certain questions will be asked. If it was a "whipping", for example 7/2 or worse, the less said the better. There is always next season. In the meantime, have another ale, bourbon, or whatever, generally at the losing club's home base. At the work site things are likely to be somewhat subdued and baseball a topic not to be discussed.



Sunday Training

A feature of winter baseball, particularly in the 60's and 70's, was the organisation of training sessions - on a Sunday morning!

You may well ask who in their right mind would dare to ask, correction demand, that players present themselves for a training session the "morning after the night before."

Well, at Frankston it really happened, and it was a case of "no training, no play on a Saturday," as teams for the following round of matches were selected AFTER training on a Sunday morning. To add insult to injury, an Attendance Book was required to be signed by all players. Despite the fact that many players attended in varying degrees of sobriety, they did attend and participated in a



variety of training routines. Sliding practice in the black, Merri Creek soil was a feature of these training sessions and guaranteed a very quick recovery from the previous night's outing.

The First Mound

A mound has been broadly defined as a "heap of earth, sand or stones." When a pitcher steps onto that elevated piece of ground he enters another world, and assumes huge responsibility for the outcome of a particular game.

The first mound at Frankston Baseball Club was constructed in 1974. A load of crushed rock from a quarry in Seaford was deposited near the existing 3rd base line and from there it was transported by an antiquated steel-wheeled barrow to the correct position, that is sixty foot, six inches (18.44 m) from home plate.

Unfortunately, the "Chief Laborer" - *Mark O'Brien* - overshot the designated spot by two feet, and the entire diamond had to be re-aligned!

This now infamous mound was comprised of 80% soil with a liberal topping of crushed rock.

The remainder of the load was deposited at the other bases. It is to be hoped that when a pitcher "lets go" from the mound, he will reflect on the fact that this mound was constructed mainly at night with car lights, and that the error in its placement was purely unintentional on the part of the above-mentioned.

Home Base

Over the years a permanent club base has been of great importance to a variety of sporting and non-sporting organisations. Ones that readily come to mind include Victoria Park, Kardinia Park, the Western Oval, and the world famous Melbourne

Cricket Ground. The importance of having permanent club rooms should not be underestimated as such a "base" provides a meeting place for players, a venue for committee and social activities, and of course the site for the home/away competition.

The history and development of Frankston Baseball Club's present club rooms is particularly interesting. Not surprisingly, players of the mid 1940's would regard present day facilities as extravagant when compared to what was available in their playing days. Players were required to change in a dark and dingy room under the grandstand that had no lighting, one tap, and of course no shower facilities.

CRANBOURNE ROAD RESERVE - EARLY DAYS

Around the late 20's early 30's the ground was used as a racetrack for midget cars - a sport which was popular at the time. As a race-track it could not have rivalled the proposed Albert Park Grand Prix, but was not, presumably, the subject of such controversy as surrounds the GP circuit.

At that stage the oval was surrounded by a low (two plank high) fence which was a precursor of the modern day car race circuit's crash barriers. Whatever the success or otherwise of the car racing enterprise, it did not continue far into the 30's. At the time of the opening of the High School in Quality Street, the ground was used as a sports field for the school. Interschool cricket matches were played there and the girls played hockey at the northern end of the ground. This area was later used by the Frankston Soccer Club.

Around 1939 the concrete cricket wicket was removed and the Council replaced it with two turf wickets. A third turf wicket was subsequently laid between the original two, the work being carried out largely by the voluntary efforts of *Eric Johnston* and another well known sporting identity - *Bill Prendergast*. *Eric Johnston* was the same *Eric Johnston* who was largely responsible for the founding of the Frankston Baseball Club.

In 1934 a Scout Jamboree was held in Frankston. For this Jamboree, several timber grandstands were built at the Jamboree site which was in the area approximately bounded by Yuille Street in the east, Baden Powell Drive in the west, Woodlands Grove in the north and Humphries Road to the south. When the Jamboree was finished, these stands were relocated at various sporting sites within the Shire. One of them was relocated at the then Cranbourne Road Reserve. This stand performed a useful purpose for some years but was unfortunately burnt down around 1948.

The present club rooms were built early in the war years and were used as a Drill Hall for the Army and the Volunteer Defence Corps. It also

provided some sort of gymnasium for the High School. Part of it was taken over by the Baseball Club and the Cricket Club after the fire which destroyed the grandstand. At one stage it was proposed to demolish the building but the Council was prevailed upon to retract their decision and the start of renovating the buildings was made using voluntary labour from the two clubs. Further renovations were carried out over the years and the rear end of the building was taken over by the Baseball Club when the former tenant - the Junior Library - was relocated.

The Frankston Cricket Club vacated the ground in 1971 and was replaced by the YCW Cricket Club, which still shares the ground and buildings with the Baseball Club.

The ground at present is little changed since 1950. The corrugated iron fence which once fenced the Cranbourne Road and Olive Grove frontages has been removed as has the fence around the oval itself, which had provided the crash barrier for the midget cars, but the rest remains substantially unaltered.

In the early days of the war the Army established a Physical Training Camp at the site of the old CEBS Camp in Overton Road. Top sportsman from all over Australia were stationed at this camp, the most famous of which was *Donald George Bradman*. Other Test cricketers were *L.O'B "Chuck" Fleetwood-Smith*, a highly gifted spin bowler for Victoria and Australia in the 1930's, *Barry Scott*, a Victorian fast bowler, and *Len Darling*, a Victorian and Australian batsman who also played in the same era. The camp arranged matches with local teams and at least one inter-service match was played on the oval.

Bradman played in most of the games. On one occasion they played a match against the High School and one of the students is unlikely to forget the line in the score book which read:

Bradman D.G caught Allen bowled Sheeran 87

Tim Gloury and *John O'Brien* were members of the High School team.

Around 1970 the ground which hitherto was known as the Cranbourne Road Reserve or Cranny Club", was renamed the "Samuel Sherlock Reserve" in honour of the former Shire President.

THE PURPLE PAINT CAPER

The interior of the present club rooms has undergone innumerable structural and other changes. One of those "other" changes took place in the late 1960's.

At that time the hippie movement was in vogue and such a movement featured brightly colored posters with strange designs. Long hair was definitely in! A few of the players thought it would be a good idea to do some "interior decorating" and the club rooms duly suffered! *Brian Jack* provided a large quantity of psychedelic purple paint and it would not take too much imagination to visualise what the rooms looked like when the lads had finished their artistic endeavours. In short, they were something else! Somehow the remaining club members accepted such vivid decor until about 1973 when re-painting with a somewhat neutral color took place.

THE ROOF-PLUGGING CAPER

As would be expected, additional "interior designing" of the club rooms was not completely overlooked, thanks to the enterprising efforts of certain members. One particular problem that needed to be solved was that of the roof - it leaked like a sieve!

Our illustrious present-day "Chief Executive", *Mark O'Brien*, had somehow acquired several cans of malthoid, a substance that is used in surfacing cricket pitches and other outside surfaces. Mark, and two enthusiastic helpers in *Peter Gloury* and *Peter Richards*, proceeded to apply this black, yucky substance to the INSIDE of the roofed area. Originally it was thought that two or three nights work would see the job completed. Not so as it turned out. Six weeks later the malthoid had been applied to every visible (and some invisible) part of the roof. Apart from *Peter Richards* falling off some supporting planks and having a can of malthoid cover most of him, no real problems were encountered by this trio's efforts to protect their fellow members from the elements.

Alas, our "three artists" work did not survive for too long as the Council thought "enough is enough" and completely re-roofed the building.

ANYONE FOR SOME CREOSOTE?

In order to improve the overall appearance of the floor in the pre-carpet days, *Gary Jones*, a friend of *Ian Sigmont*, generously provided 40 gallons of creosote - a dark, oily liquid which is obtained by distilling tar and used for preserving wood. Some of the lads - *Mark O'Brien* was naturally one of them - added a few glugs of sump oil and a few packets of red ochre from the local McEwan's store. After the floor was swept and rough-sanded,

the creosote was applied with old sheets and blankets. Unfortunately in time the red ochre faded, but the floor was thoroughly "preserved", in more ways than one. No self-respected termite would come within a ten-mile radius of the place as the creosote had penetrated not only the floor boards but many other unseen places!

LINOLEUM AT LAST!

Linoleum had a very short stay at the Club - one season! Six rolls of very inferior quality linoleum (that did actually fall off the back of a truck in Mordiallic) was laid in the late 60's or 70's. Due to the fact that it was not cleat or sprig-proof, its life at the Club was a very short one.

THE FIRST CARPET

The first carpet that was laid in the club rooms was generously provided by *Mick O'Shea's* brother. It did not "fall off a truck" but came from a home that was being renovated.

Trevor Lowe, Mick O'Shea and Mark O'Brien, loaded the carpet into Trevor's station-wagon, transported it to the club rooms where it was duly laid. Unfortunately, a major problem arose on windy nights - the carpet would regularly "rise up" as a result of wind action underneath the flooring boards!

THE SECOND ATTEMPT

The second attempt at carpeting the rooms was highly successful mainly because it was laid in accordance with current procedures. After the Council had re-stumped the main area, the carpet - a yellow, red and orange high shagpile variety (courtesy of the CBA Bank in Frankston) - finally came to rest. On windy nights it would stay put - a great improvement on its predecessor! (For those interested in seeing probably the last sample of this illustrious floor covering, we believe that *Geoff Saleeba* still has a piece in his Land Cruiser.)

THE SALAMANDER BURNER

The "Salamander Burner" was a portable oil-fired pot-bellied stove that resided in the Club Rooms in the early 1970's. Unfortunately, this impressive-looking piece of heating apparatus did have one major problem - when it really 'fired up' those present inside had to open both doors or go outside to escape the intense heat it generated. Needless to say, the Salamander Burner did not have too long a career at Cranbourne Road.

HOT WATER AT LAST

In 1960 a shower facility was installed in the now front store room, courtesy of *Geoff Saleeba* who provided the labour, and the Frankston and Hastings Shire who provided a one pound loan (\$2.00) for the club to obtain the necessary materials.

Other renovations included relining of the walls, carpeting, painting, improved lighting and seating facilities. External cladding was carried out in 1981. The entire club rooms were re-carpeted in 1995 as a result of the generous efforts of the *Jones Family*.

Pitchball

Frankston baseballers proved themselves masters of the locally-devised game of pitchball in the late 1970's, early 1980's.

In many ways this game was the forerunner of the now very popular indoor cricket. As the game was played outside, the batsman and stumps 'resided' on a short strip of five-ply timber. Nine players were in a team, the fielders wore gloves if required, and each batting pair was allocated a set number of overs to make as many runs as possible. Penalties applied for "dismissals" e.g. minus five runs if you were bowled, caught or run out. Both batsmen could be run out off the one ball. The ball used was not unlike the practice variety used in baseball.

Unlike the normal rules of outdoor/indoor cricket, the ball was not bowled, but thrown ! It was in this area that the lads from the Frankston Baseball Club really excelled themselves in that they defeated the Mornington Council "Nargers" by twenty-five runs in the grand final which was played at Frankston VFA Park. Frankston's team comprised *Mark O'Brien (Captain/Coach)*, *Luke O'Brien*, *Bill O'Brien*, *Geoff Court*, *Peter Gloury*,

Mark Bullock, *John Perry* and *Paul McGrath*. The Umpires were *Campbell Reid* and *Darrell Smith*.

Two innovations were introduced to the final. Umpires used a walkie-talkie and conveyed the scores and points of interest to the compere of the show, Frankston Cricket Club captain and coach *Dennis Prendergast*, who in turn explained and called the game to the spectators. Kentucky Fried Chicken donated a magnum of champagne to each of the winning players. Frankston Marching Girls paraded at half time and the KFC "Super Chook" entertained the children.

Pitchball was featured at a Sports Expo in 1980 which was held at the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings. *Peter Gloury* thoroughly enjoyed himself at this "Expo" as the Big M Girls were present to provide just a wee touch of glamour to this innovative sport. *Darrell Smith*, the organiser, also attended this "Expo" but unfortunately was "felled" by a *Mark O'Brien* fast ball when demonstrating how the game was played! Notable spectators at the Exhibition included *Vivian Richards* and *Clive Lloyd* both of whom declined a turn at bat!

Tee Ball

Tee ball, a modified form of baseball, is a sport that has increased in popularity over the past few years. As part of the Club's overall development program, the 1995 tee ball competition resulted in over forty children between the ages of six to ten years actively involved in this game on a Sunday morning at the Club's headquarters on Cranbourne Road

The competition has proved highly popular with

the children as well as their parents who provided enthusiastic support.

As a result of government funding it was possible to obtain uniforms and other essential equipment.

The Club is confident that the tee ball competition will continue to develop thereby providing the Club with a sound base for the future.



The "G.O.B." Award

Sportsmen and women all agree that crowds are a vital ingredient at any sporting event. Spectators create atmosphere and at times urge on great sporting feats. There are the intellectuals, the serious, the astute, and at the other end of the scale, the rowdy, and of course, the yobbo.

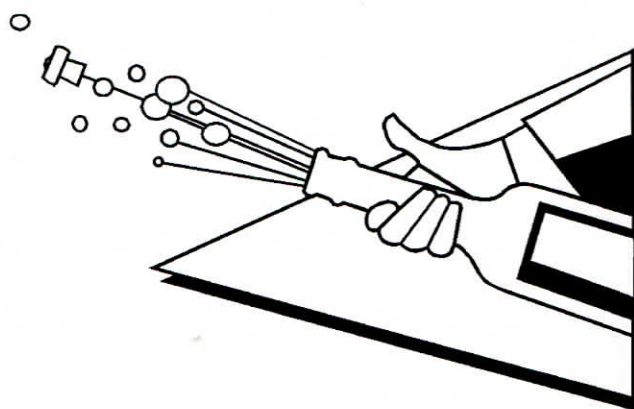
Many will marvel at the wizardry of Shane Warne, be awe-struck at the awesome power of a Greg Norman drive off the tee or a Goran Ivanisevic serve, or be bedazzled by the brilliance of an Allan Border cover drive or the overall agility of Andre Agassi.

There is however a certain breed of spectator who at times stands out over the rest. They may have themselves failed to play sport but their presence is more or less obligatory. You may find them in Bay 13 or on the Sydney Hill and they can be heard behind home plate in any baseball park in the world. They are a strong and traditional link between sport and the stage. I refer to those gifted gabs, the Mouths from the South, they are of course, with beer can in hand, the masters of the one liner.

In recognition of these warriors of wit, the purveyors of pun, the Frankston Baseball Club "GOB" AWARD was born. The name of the award is an acronym of its inventors, "*Gloury*" (Peter) and "*O'Brien*" (Mark). It was decided that this award be a bottle of champagne, a demijohn at that, the contents of which would enhance the acidic tongues of the winners!

It has not been possible to recall every comment made by every winner but since 1975 when the inaugural winner - Neil Killian - uttered, "*Who shook the pig trough!*" to Mornington's Steve "*Piggy*" Bowen, subsequent winners have brought their own brand of humour and notoriety to the award.

One worthy winner of wit who readily comes to mind is Paul "*Macca*" McGrath. Paul's mouth came into play at a match against Noble Park. The Orioles have produced some aggressive players but none more so than the late Tommy Shanks. Tommy had a passion for playing hard and if there was a fight to be had, Tommy was there. You see, Tommy's philosophy was that if you can't win the game, at least win the fight! Nothing, we thought,



could hurt Tommy. Unfortunately for Tommy that day, he received a nasty fast-ball to the face. It may have been age creeping up or a long day in the field, but Tommy went down.

Now Paul, being the gentleman he is, never fully shared Tommy's beliefs and with Tommy down and thoughts of calling for an ambulance, Paul cried out, "*Has anyone called the panel beater yet?*" I should point out that Tommy survived and went on to fight another day.

Another winner was Jim "*Smithy*" Prokhovnik. Jim's famous "mouthing" was made in a game against Chelsea. The umpire was Warren "*Noddy*" Harding. Now Warren was not of slim build. You could safely describe his girth as expansive, huge, whatever.

On this particular day Warren became worried about the failing light and promptly ordered, "*Hustle on the field, the light's getting worse!*" To which Jim replied, "*If you moved away from the sun the light wouldn't be a problem!*"

In case you are thinking that the award was only awarded to males, females also got into the act. One in particular was Lorraine "I want to be a Coach" Court. Lorraine's one-liner was due to the inspirational affect it had on a certain player.

Lorraine's day in the sun came at a match against Bonbeach. Frankston was having a bad day but none worse than Ian "*Polly*" Pollard. "Polly's" batting stats for 8 innings was none for nine i.e. no hits for 9 consecutive fresh-air swings. With 2 out, and bases loaded, guess who's time it was to bat? You guessed it, "Polly".

Now we have all heard the story of Babe Ruth taking 2 strikes before powering the ball out of the

park. Well "Polly", never one for taking a pitch, swung at the first two, and yes you guessed right again, "Polly" missed! At that stage Lorraine yelled out to the Coach. *"Take him off. I can swing better than that on the dance floor!"*

Lorraine's comment must have had a profound effect on "Polly" and I rather suspect that when he faced the third pitch he saw Lorraine's face painted all over the ball. With one mighty swing, "Polly" powered the ball over centre-right field fence! One win for Frankston, and a permanent place in the history books for "Polly".

But the criterion to win the award is not for outlandish comments solely directed at players and umpires.

Robert Davis for example, received the award for his remarkable impersonations of players, officials and spectators at a Talent Night held at the Club.

Another winner was *Rob "Brutus Beefcake" Wells*. Rob always spoke his mind and told it how he saw it, often brutally! He would always have the last word and was as subtle as a *Paul Keating* tirade in the Lower House. Subtlety and diplomacy were never Rob's strong points. Rob would have been an earlier recipient of the award except the judging panel was duty bound (forced) to delete most of Rob's expletives.

The year Rob did win the award was one when not a single "GOB" nominee could be found right up to Presentation Night. Clearly, a miracle was needed. On this auspicious occasion, the unthinkable occurred, the thing most of us dreaded - "Wellsie" won his first on-field Senior Trophy - Best Team Man!

It wasn't so much Rob winning the trophy that worried the audience, it was the speech that he was likely to make. It may have been asking too much, but would we hear a speech synonymous of a *Winston Churchill* oration or perhaps, just perhaps, one imbued with due humility? Alas no. Rob's speech began and ended with one single, solitary word - "S...!" Enough said, Rob. The award was yours!

As was the custom, "Wellsie" handed back the

award at the end of the following season. But egad! What was this? The cork in the magnum had actually risen to the point where it wanted to pop! Could this be an omen? Was the award trying to have the last word? "No way," explained "Wellsie", "it must have happened when I left the magnum near the fire place over the winter. The heat must have broken the wire seal and expanded the glass causing the cork to rise." "Wellsie" should have been a physicist!

It soon became apparent that the "GOB" Award had met an untimely demise. After a mere 12 years it was decided that after the 1988 Premiership win the essence of the award's life be drained into anyone brave enough to sample its rather acrid contents and so it came to pass, the "GOB" Award was no more.

The one-liners have of course kept flowing over the years but alas, the "GOB" Award was never revived.

"GOB" AWARD WINNERS

1975	Neil Killian
1976	Bill O'Brien
1977	Neil Baxter
1978	Ken Bray
1979	Lorraine Court
1980	Paul McGrath
1981	Peter Cooper
1982	Garry Gibney
1983	Robert Davis
1984	Jim Prokhovink
1985	Robert Wells
1986	Gary Douglas

Just in case you are incapable of reading the inscription on the "GOB" Award, now safe and secure in the Club's trophy cabinet, it reads as follows:

This magnificently aged Champagne is the product of "Chateau Baseball."

"Matured in genuine old leather gloves, and carefully filtered through the finest pure wool sweat shirts, it has body, a full nose, tantalising acidity, without having lost its original impudence."



The O'Brien Influence

"Football has its legends,
Other sports too, and that's fine,
Down here at Frankston Baseball Club
We've always had an O'Brien."

The final line of the above verse is particularly appropriate in this the 50th Anniversary of the Club. It is highly unlikely that any other family could match the quality of service so generously provided by various members of the O'Brien Family.

Over the years many sporting identities have provided outstanding service to their respective sports. Names that readily come to mind include *"Jock" McHale*, the legendary Coach at Collingwood (714 games), *Allan Jeans*, *Tom Hafey*, and *Ron Casey*. Whilst the O'Brien Family may dispute being compared to such "legends", there is a comparison than can be made as such identities gave long and valued service to their particular sport.

As one can see from the details listed below, the O'Brien Family has a most impressive record.

WILLIAM O'BRIEN (father of John and Paul):
1948 -1954 President Frankston Baseball Club
1952-1961 Vice President Dandenong Baseball Association
1958-1961 President Dandenong Baseball Association

JOHN O'BRIEN:

1948-1961 Secretary Frankston Baseball Club
1958-1961 Vice President Dandenong Baseball Association
1975-1981 Vice President Dandenong Baseball Association
1962-1974 Secretary Dandenong Baseball Association
1961-1962 Coach Frankston Baseball Club
1966-1967 President Frankston Baseball Club
1974-1988 Secretary/Treasurer Victorian Provincial Baseball League
1979-1988 Councillor Victorian Baseball Association
Life Member - Frankston Baseball Club, Dandenong Baseball Association, and Victorian Provincial Baseball League

PAUL O'BRIEN:

1958-1959 Coach Frankston Baseball Club
1961 Coach Frankston Baseball Club
1950-1951 Treasurer Frankston Baseball Club
1963-1965 President Frankston Baseball Club
Life Member - Frankston Baseball Club

MARK O'BRIEN:

1973-1975 Secretary Frankston Baseball Club
1973-1976 Coach Frankston Baseball Club
1975-1977 Assistant Secretary Dandenong Baseball Association
1978-1981 Vice President Dandenong Baseball Association
1979-1983 Coach Frankston Baseball Club
1981-1989 President Dandenong Baseball Association
1976-1995 President Frankston Baseball Club
Life Member - Frankston Baseball Club
Life Member - Dandenong Baseball Association

WILLIAM (Bill) O'BRIEN:

1977-1978 Coach Frankston Baseball Club
Member of the Committee at various times

In addition to the above, the sons of Paul - Luke, Tim, Daniel, Dominic, Simon, and Mark - Matthew - have all represented the Club and in some cases the Dandenong Baseball Association.

The reasons for the O'Brien Family maintaining an interest in the game - in some cases long after their playing days were over - appear to be quite simple. They enjoyed the game - its highs and lows, wins and losses, trips away, the many characters the game has produced, the company of their teammates, the social activities, and the Club atmosphere wherein other members of their family were made welcome. As coaches, they attempted to pass on to others a variety of skills, and as administrators, they fully appreciated the need for sound, flexible, and co-operative management.

Apart from the O'Brien Family, two other members of the Club (co-incidentally related to the O'Brien Family) deserve special mention - *Sue Nicolaou (nee Gloury)* and *Peter Gloury*.

Over the years Sue and Peter have also given

valuable service - Sue in off-the-field activities; Peter as a player, coach, and member of the Committee.

SUE NICOLOU:

1977-1991 Secretary Frankston Baseball Club
1987-1989 Secretary Dandenong Baseball Association
1981 Manager Dandenong Baseball Association (Under 17's)
1983 Scorer Dandenong Baseball Association (Colts)
Life Member - Frankston Baseball Club
Best Club Member 1986

PETER GLOURY:

1979 Coach Dandenong Baseball Association (Under 13's)
1988 Coach Dandenong Baseball Association (Under 17's) Undefeated premiers
Life Member - Frankston Baseball Club
Best Club Man 1985

Peter has also coached many junior Frankston teams and has been a hard-working member of the Committee for many years.

To the members of the O'Brien and Gloury Families I believe it is appropriate that we extend a very sincere THANK YOU for their care, concern, and dedication over the years.

A Trip To Remember - Ballarat 1981

Twas the year of '81 and off to Ballarat we did go,
To see our Dandenong Baseball Association Under 13's put on a real good show,
It rained, it blew, and rained some more - the weather wasn't fine,
But us adults had in just four words, a jolly super time!

And that we did. There is a fair chance that if you took off anywhere in the company of *Paul O'Brien* (Assistant Coach), *Ann Delaney*, *Vin Webster*, *Judy and Max Simpson*, *Ann Purchase*, and the author, regardless of what Ballarat could provide in the weather department, things would warm up!

And so they did.

After a thoroughly miserable Saturday in which our lads won both of their matches, the adults, after ensuring that the lads were settled - the late *Bill Blanden* had chained the entire team to their bedposts! - decided to sample the local cuisine.

Judy Simpson decided that she would drive all of us into Ballarat in Max's "great white petrol-guzzling Fairlane", mainly because Max didn't think he could for some peculiar reason. Along the way Judy came to a roundabout, in fact a very big roundabout, and proceeded to drive round it at least four or five times! When asked by Max where we were going, Judy answered in all innocence, "I don't really know Max, but we don't seem to be going too far."

By more luck than management, Judy delivered us safe and sound to the "Pancake Parlour" and it



"Did you know that the next strikeout I call will be my 2000th?"

was here that the fun started. With *Paul O'Brien* in full flight with his impersonations of a certain member of the clergy and *Joe "Fingers" Carr* (a popular pianist of that time), the place was in uproar. Definitely not the place to reflect on the editorial in the "Ballarat Courier."

The meal duly arrived and *Max Simpson* was in the process of putting his knife to work when an egg jumped off his plate. *Vin Webster*, showing a degree of skill that *Messrs Mallett, Simpson and Stackpole* would have admired, promptly reached out and caught it, inches from the turf, sorry carpet!

After a great night and a few hours of sleep, we

rejoined our lads as they matched their skills against their opponents and of course the weather. The game before the final (against Colac), was played in wind, rain, wind and more rain. The lads went back to the motel and we relieved them of their uniforms and set off for the local laundry in order to prepare their uniforms for the final against Diamond Valley.

The teams had no sooner run onto the ground when the rain came again - this time in bucketfuls. Fortunately it eased and the game proceeded. With

the Dandenong Baseball Association leading, Diamond Valley came up to bat. The lead-off walked and then they scored on an error, bunt, bunt, another error, a hit, and the game was tied. Spectators rushed onto the ground and in the confusion the winning run crossed the plate. A 6/5 win to Diamond Valley.

Our lads were disappointed but they had played very well and behaved themselves at all times - we were proud of them. As for the adults, this was a weekend never to be forgotten.

Ladies

When the bases are loaded, who pitches in?

In most sporting organisations there are those whose behind the scene support and involvement form a vital part of the whole.

Over the years, particularly from the 1970's onwards, female members of the Club have made a very significant contribution to its overall development. Ever adaptable, and always capable, they have performed many tasks: come rain, hail or shine one at least was always out there with the team scoring the game, while others were preparing meals, cleaning the rooms, or organising social events. Women have also played their part on the committee both in secretarial and decision-making roles.

After a game when the post mortems are held, there is the all-important sympathy and understanding that is willingly provided when you have struck out for the 'umpteenth time, been outed in a run-down play, or when you have had your best curve ball put out of the park!

Every group has its "pioneers" and special

thanks must surely go to *Annette O'Brien, Monica O'Brien and Pat Gloury* who in those early days had to contend with not just restrictive surroundings, such as having a bar in your kitchen or a kitchen in your bar, but also a lack of heat - alcohol did it for the lads - and "outback" cooking facilities. Manys a time the race was on between these three stalwarts to get nearest the pie warmer (the oven) for heat!

The Club is indeed fortunate to have had the involvement of *Annette, Monica and Pat* as well as *Sue Nicolaou, Jenny Gloury, Elaine Anderton, Shirley Perry, Jenny McGrath, Michele Winther, Kate Dunkley, Barbara O'Brien and Lorraine Court*, to mention but a few of the many women who have provided valuable off-field assistance to members and guests and which is often overlooked.

One pleasing development is that over the years the Club has developed an atmosphere for women to consider themselves part of the organisation.

The Bayside Club

An event that provided more than a modicum of interest in baseball circles was the establishment of the Bayside Club in the summer of 1981/82.

The idea for this Club originated at a meeting

between *Mark O'Brien* and the then President of Bonbeach Baseball Club, *Paul Eddy*. The basis for starting the Club was quite simple - there was no summer baseball club in the area. Frankston and Bonbeach players who wished to play summer ball

were required to travel long distances, and so two senior and two junior teams were entered in the Victorian Baseball Association competition.

A limited 'catchment area' proved to be a major problem in fund-raising. Despite the VBA's acceptance of the Club, no assistance was provided to

the fledgling Club by the VBA, and financial problems, in particular costs of equipment and uniforms, became major concerns for Club officials. *Paul Eddy* left to work interstate halfway through the season and, despite the best efforts of those remaining, the Club slowly declined.

Victorian Provincial Baseball League



The Victorian Provincial Baseball League was established at a meeting in Ballarat on 11 June, 1938, between officials of the Victorian Baseball Association, and representatives of teams from Ballarat, Bendigo, Colac, Gippsland, and Northcote and Preston Churches. Due to the drastic fall in membership during World War 11, the League went into recess in 1940. The first post-war championships were held in Geelong in 1947, where four affiliates - Bendigo, Ballarat, Dandenong and Geelong - competed in a senior and junior competition.

Frankston Baseball Club has had many representatives in Dandenong Baseball Association teams. Apart from the "serious" side of baseball, representatives from Frankston have also enjoyed the "less serious" aspects of a long week-end at a provincial centre!

Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong in particular, dominated senior competition from 1939 until 1955. In 1956, the breakthrough came with the Dandenong Baseball Association's defeat of Bendigo 7/6 in the final. The games of that series were played at Osborne Park, Herne Hill, Manifold Heights and St. Augustine's.

The Dandenong Baseball Association team of 1956 was highly skilled in all facets of the game, in particular batting. Not only were they undefeated during the carnival, but scored a mammoth 42 runs to their opposition's 7!

As a result of *Ron Palmer's* winning hit in the final, the team had a "Celebration Dinner" at "The Windsor" in Dandenong. There is no doubt that the Frankston representatives - *Joffre Metcher (C/C)*, *Clarrie Curwood*, *Paul O'Brien* and *Gordon Jeffs* - would have enjoyed themselves.

Since 1956, the Dandenong Baseball Association has won the championships 12 times, which included a 'triple' in 1990-92 and the "double" - Seniors and Colts - in 1956-57 and 1977-78.

The Colts team, not to be outdone by the seniors, also won the championship in 1956. Their overall superiority in Victorian Provincial Baseball League competition showed that with the exception of 1958, 1962, 1970 and 1976, they won the championship from 1954 to 1981. In 1976 Ballarat narrowly defeated them 9/8 in a thrilling final which was decided by one of the Dandenong Baseball Association batters being thrown out at 3rd base. Such a defeat prevented the Colts from recording a record of ten straight wins, nevertheless, nineteen championship wins was indeed a remarkable achievement.

As a result of a change in Victorian Provincial Baseball League policy, the Colts competition ceased in 1988 and was replaced in 1989 by an Under 18 division.

It is interesting to note that with the exception of the Under 12's, many players in other age groups - Under 13's to Colts - have subsequently represented the Club in senior Dandenong Baseball Association carnival teams.

VPBL Field Games

The Field Games were a highlight of Victorian Provincial Baseball League Carnivals for many years until they finally ceased in 1969.

The four events - fungo hit, relay, infield play (pitcher to catcher, to 2nd, to 3rd, to 1st to home plate), and diamond run - saw some of the fastest players (in leg and arm speed) and the biggest hitters in action. To gain a place in either of the 4 events indicated that you could certainly run, throw or hit!

Records established over the years included the following:

Fungo hit	1961	A. Jack (Bendigo)	384' 11"
Relay	1966	Bendigo	24.4 sec
Infield Play	1976	Ballarat	8.0 sec
Diamond Run	1939	L. Sprague (Ballarat)	14.0 sec

Whilst Victorian Provincial Baseball League records do not include the names of players in team events, former players have reported that Frankston

players achieved some fine results against some very keen opposition.

The "Dandenong Cup" (C.W.L. Olssen Trophy) Field Games was conducted by the Dandenong Baseball Association. In 1967 at Bonbeach, G. Allisey from Frankston was third in the Fungo hit with 234' 4", whilst A. Abbott won the diamond run with a time of 15.0 sec.

At Highett in 1968, Frankston was equal first in the team events, first in the infield play in 10.0 sec, R. Abbott third in the diamond run in 15.5 secs, and W. O'Brien third in the fungo hit.

As a result of the tight scheduling of matches in Victorian Provincial Baseball League Carnivals, the Field Games have all but disappeared in recent times. One wonders how fungo hitters of today would go in attempting to break the record set in 1938 by the legendry *Wally Driver* at 504' 7"!



Best Club Person Award

1977 J. Perry
1979 P. O'Brien
1980 A. O'Brien
1981 D. Beaumont
1982 G. Saleeba
1983 N. & M. Winther
1984 N. & M. Winther
1985 P. Gloury
1986 S. Nicolaou

1987 G. & L. Court
1988 G. & L. Court
1989 M. Winther
1990 A. Jones
1991 P. Adlington
1992 A. O'Brien
1993 B. Hura
1994 D. Dicker
1995 I. Purchase

1945

1995

Honour Roll

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	CLUB COACH
1945	J. Beatty	E. Johnson	E. Johnson	K. Lovitt
1946	J. Beatty	E. Johnson	E. Johnson	K. Lovitt
1947	J. Beatty	E. Johnson	E. Johnson	K. Lovitt
1948	W. O'Brien	J. O'Brien	J. Whyte	C. Curwood
1949	W. O'Brien	J. O'Brien	J. Smale	C. Curwood
1950	W. O'Brien	J. O'Brien	P. O'Brien	C. Curwood
1951	W. O'Brien	J. O'Brien	P. O'Brien	A. Burridge
1952	W. O'Brien	J. O'Brien	J. Smale	A. Burridge
1953	W. O'Brien	J. O'Brien	J. Smale	A. Burridge
1954	W. O'Brien	J. O'Brien	J. Smale	A. Burridge
1955	W. O'Brien	J. O'Brien	D. Perry	A. Burridge
1956	A. Burridge	J. O'Brien	D. Perry	O. Metcher
1957	A. Burridge	J. O'Brien	D. Perry	O. Metcher
1958	A. Burridge	J. O'Brien	D. Perry	P. O'Brien
1959	J. Smale	J. O'Brien	D. Perry	P. O'Brien
1960	J. Smale	J. O'Brien	G. Seabrook	O. Metcher
1961	J. Smale	J. O'Brien	J. Harvey	J. O'Brien
1962	J. Smale	J. Harvey	M. Price	J. O'Brien
1963	P. O'Brien	J. Harvey	M. Price	R. McClelland
1964	P. O'Brien	J. Harvey	M. Price	R. McClelland
1965	P. O'Brien	B. Lee	L. Jondahl	N. Wells
1966	J. O'Brien	B. Lee	L. Jondahl	N. Wells
1967	J. O'Brien	B. Abbott	C. Chipperfield	R. Chapple
1968	F. Hill	B. Jack	C. Chipperfield	R. Chapple
1969	F. Hill	B. Jack	B. Jack	R. Chapple
1970	F. Hill	B. Jack	B. Jack	P. Finney
1971	R. Chapple	B. Jack	B. Jack	G. Pill
1972	R. Chapple	B. Jack	B. Jack	G. Pill
1973	R. McClelland	M. O'Brien	L. Duncan	M. O'Brien
1974	R. McClelland	M. O'Brien	L. Duncan	M. O'Brien
1975	M. O'Shea	M. O'Brien	L. Duncan	M. O'Brien
1976	M. O'Brien	P. Richards	M. O'Shea	M. O'Brien
1977	M. O'Brien	S. Gloury	I. Hatch	W. O'Brien
1978	M. O'Brien	S. Gloury	I. Hatch	W. O'Brien
1979	M. O'Brien	S. Gloury	I. Hatch	M. O'Brien
1980	M. O'Brien	S. Gloury	I. Hatch	M. O'Brien
1981	M. O'Brien	S. Gloury	J. Perry	M. O'Brien
1982	M. O'Brien	S. Gloury	J. Perry	M. O'Brien
1983	M. O'Brien	S. Nicolaou	J. Perry	M. O'Brien
1984	M. O'Brien	S. Nicolaou	J. Perry	C. Love
1985	M. O'Brien	S. Nicolaou	J. Perry	M. Holmes
1986	M. O'Brien	S. Nicolaou	J. Perry	M. O'Brien
1987	M. O'Brien	S. Nicolaou	G. Court	D. Simpson
1988	M. O'Brien	S. Nicolaou	G. Court	D. Dicker
1989	M. O'Brien	S. Nicolaou	G. Court	M. Klinger
1990	M. O'Brien	S. Nicolaou	M. Winther	D. Dicker
1991	M. O'Brien	S. Nicolaou	M. Winther	D. Shanahan
1992	M. O'Brien	M. Winther	A. Jones	C. Love
1993	M. O'Brien	M. Winther	P. Adlington	M. Anderton
1994	M. O'Brien	M. Winther	P. Adlington	M. Anderton
1995	M. O'Brien	M. Winther	P. Adlington	M. Anderton

Committee

B. Abbott	R. Abbott	P. Adlington	B. Lee	K. Leveson	D. Leyshan
V. Ardley	S. Ashley	C. Atkins	L. Lockwood	P. Logan	C. Love
M. Barker	N. Baxter	I. Beadel	K. Lucas	C. Marlin	R. McClelland
J. Beatty	D. Beaumont	K. Bettles	W. McGilvray	P. McGrath	O. Metcher
R. Bragg	K. Bray	A. Burridge	J. Mitchell	G. Morton	R. Nicholls
R. Chapple	C. Chipperfield	P. Connacher	S. Nicolaou	J. Nigri	D. O'Brien
P. Cooper	D. Corney	G. Court	J. O'Brien	L. O'Brien	M. O'Brien
L. Court	C. Davis	D. Dicker	P. O'Brien	M. O'Shea	J. Osmond
B. Dodson	A. Eadie	L. Eggleston	D. Perry	I. Perry	J. Perry
C. Ferguson	P. Finney	M. Fletcher	M. Price	R. Price	J. Prokhovnik
A. Forbes	P. Garner	G. Gibney	A. Purchase	I. Purchase	S. Ross
F. Gillard	P. Gloury	W. Gould	V. Rowe	L. Ruddock	G. Saleeba
B. Harvey	J. Harvey	I. Hatch	N. Saleeba	F. Sanders	S. Schneider
G. Hawker	C. Higginbotham	F. Hill	G. Seabrook	T. Searle	D. Simpson
M. Holmes	Rev Humphrey	B. Hura	J. Smale	G. Stewart	L. Walters
L. Hyde	B. Jack	G. Jeffs	D. Watson	R. Wells	N. Welsh
E. Johnson	L. Jondahl	A. Jones	J. Whyte	B. Wilson	M. Winther
N. Killian	M. Klinger	M. Lane	N. Winther	F. Womersley	

DBA Best Player Awards



O'BRIEN MEDAL VOTE COUNT

A GRADE (O'Brien Medal)

1977 L. Postlethwaite
1989 M. Holmes (equal first with D. Clarkson - Cheltenham)

A RESERVE

1984 A. Purchase

B GRADE

1988 N. Knight

C GRADE

1983 L. O'Brien

BATTING CHAMPION

1992 D. Dicker (.546)
1994 L. Walters (.539)

HOME RUN KING

1993 D. Dicker (4)

VICTORIAN PROVINCIAL BASEBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

ROSS McKENDRY AWARD

(Best Player Seniors - VPBL Series)

1983 C. Love
1985 D. Shanahan (equal first with D. Kettle)
1989 D. Dicker
1990 L. Walters
1991 D. Shanahan
1993 M. Wells

KEN FOSTER AWARD

(Best Player Colts - VPBL Series)

1979 C. Love

KEN LOVE MEMORIAL AWARD
(Best Player Under 17 - VPBL Series)

1985 H. Simpson
1987 G. Finney
1992 S. Ellis

GOLDEN ARM AWARD
(Best Pitcher - VPBL Series)

1987 D. Simpson

1988 D. Simpson
1989 R. Hogan
1990 D. Simpson

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
(Best First Year Player - VPBL Series)

1991 M. Wells
1995 G. Finney

DBA & VPBL Office Bearers

DANDENONG BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

1981-89 M. O'Brien

VICE PRESIDENT

1948-51 V. Rowe
1952-58 W. O'Brien
1958-61 J. O'Brien
1969-72 F. Hill
1978-81 M. O'Brien
1980 J. Perry
1993-94 M. Winther

SECRETARY

1962-74 J. O'Brien
1983-86 J. Perry
1987-89 S. Nicolaou

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1975-77 M. O'Brien
1981-82 J. Perry
1983-86 S. Perry

LIFE MEMBERS

J. O'Brien
M. O'Brien
O. J. Metcher

VICTORIAN PROVINCIAL BASEBALL LEAGUE

SECRETARY

1977-88 J. O'Brien

TREASURER

1974-76 J. O'Brien
1985-88 J. Perry
1989-93 J. O'Brien

DBA Representatives

UNDER 12

1994 C. Anderton
1995 M. O'Brien R. Anderton

UNDER 13

1979* T. O'Brien P. Bray
1980 N. Saleeba T. O'Brien
1981 S. Purchase (All Star) H. Simpson (All Star)
1982* G. Finney G. Lancaster G. Reid
1983 G. Finney
1984 M. Wells A. Walker
1985 No Reps
1986 M. Wells

1988 D. Sanders

UNDER 14:

1989* S. Ellis D. Sanders
1992 M. Richards
1994 G. Clapham S. Stephens

UNDER 15

1978 N. Saleeba
1979* P. Adlington (All Star)
1980 D. O'Brien M. Saleeba
1981* N. Saleeba (All Star)

1982 S. Purchase N. Saleeba (All Star) B. Delaney
P. Connell H. Simpson
1983 S. Purchase M. Leo H. Simpson
1984* A. Walker
1985* G. Finney
1986 G. Finney D. Jones
1987 P. Dent M. Wells
1988 M. Wells

UNDER 16

1989 A. Richard M. Wells
1990 W. Bastek D. Sanders
1991* S. Ellis (MVP) D. Sanders
1992 S. Myles D. Stephens
1993 P. Saleeba

UNDER 17

1977 P. McGrath (All Star)
1979 B. Thompson
1980* P. Adlington
1981* P. Adlington (All Star)
1982* A. Purchase R. Davis D. Rigby
M. Saleeba (All Star)
1983 S. Womersley
1985 S. Purchase H. Simpson (All Star - MVP)
1986 T. Goodridge A. Walker
1987 J. Lancaster G. Finney (MVP)
1988* S. Whitehead G. Finney D. Jones (All Star)
1989 S. Whitehead

UNDER 18

1989* G. Finney M. Wells S. Whitehead
1990 S. Whitehead M. Wells
1991 W. Bastek S. Beaumont M. Wells (MVP)
1992 D. Sanders A. Brown S. Ellis (MVP)
1993* A. Brown S. Ellis D. Sanders S. Myles
1994 S. Myles D. Stephenson
1995 A. Button

COLTS (UNDER 19)

1948 Geelong I. Duncan R. O'Brien
1950 Dandenong G. Hawker
1951 Ballarat R. McClelland
1953 Bendigo I. Beadel I. James G. Stewart
1954* Dandenong L. Hyde
1955* Ballarat L. Hyde Beadel
1956* Geelong G. Seabrook T. Hunter
S. Nichols J. Smale (C)
1957* Bendigo G. Seabrook
1958 Wangaratta J. Harvey
1959* Geelong L. Jondahl J. Harvey W. Souter
1960* Mt. Gambier P. Curwood
1961* Ballarat P. Curwood R. Teschendorff
1962 Geelong B. Abbott B. Harvey M. Price
R. Teschendorff
1963* Wangaratta C. Atkins M. Barker
1964 Dia. Valley C. Atkins P. Connacher
P. Curwood

1967 Ballarat C. Ferguson J. Chipperfield
G. Allisey R. Chapple (C/C)
1968 Geelong M. O'Brien W. O'Brien (All Star)
1969 Bendigo M. O'Brien (All Star) W. O'Brien
(All Star) W. Burns P. Cooper
M. O'Brien W. O'Brien
N. Crabtree
1970* Lat. Valley J. Dray W. Stradher I. Sigmont
1971 Wangaratta I. Sigmont A. Lang
1972* Mt Gambier J. Dray P. Gloury
1973* Geelong T. Halls
1976 Geelong T. Halls
1977* Dandenong T. Halls
1978* Mt Gambier P. McGrath
1979* Bendigo C. Love (All Star-MVP) P. McGrath
1982 Geelong P. Adlington M. Saleeba
T. Totaro
1983 Mt Gambier A. Purchase M. Saleeba (All Star)
N. Saleeba (All Star)
M. Saleeba N. Saleeba
D. Walker
1986 Ballarat S. Purchase H. Simpson
1987 Geelong A. Walker
1988 Mildura P. Shirley A. Walker

SENIORS

1946 Bendigo E. Johnson V. Rowe R. Johnson
1947 Ballarat C. Curwood J. Bowes
L. Lockwood V. Rowe J. Smale
1948 Geelong C. Curwood J. O'Brien G. Parr
V. Rowe
1949 Bendigo C. Curwood J. O'Brien P. O'Brien
V. Rowe J. Smale
1950 Dandenong C. Curwood J. O'Brien P. O'Brien
V. Rowe
1951 Ballarat C. Curwood P. O'Brien J. O'Brien
A. Burridge (All Star)
1952 Geelong A. Burridge (C/C-All Star)
C. Curwood J. O'Brien
R. McClelland
1953 Bendigo A. Burridge (C) R. McClelland
1954 Dandenong A. Burridge (C-All Star) P. O'Brien
1955 Ballarat A. Burridge (C) R. McClelland
1956* Geelong C. Curwood G. Jeffs
J. Metcher (C/C) P. O'Brien
1957* Bendigo M. Fletcher G. Jeffs P. Leake
J. Metcher (C/C)
1958 Wangaratta G. Drough M. Fletcher L. Hyde
P. O'Brien G. Seabrook
1959* Dandenong G. Drough (All Star) G. Hawker
J. Metcher (C/C-All Star)
G. Seabrook
1960 Mt Gambier J. Metcher (C/C) D. Minter
W. Souter
1961 Ballarat J. Harvey
1963 Bendigo R. Chapple J. Harvey
1964 Dia. Valley B. Harvey J. Harvey
1966 Mt Gambier R. Abbott
1967 Ballarat R. Abbott
1968 Geelong R. Chapple C. Ferguson
1971 Wangaratta M. Barker M. O'Brien W. O'Brien



DBA Senior Team - 1949

Back Row: V. Rowe, J. O'Brien, G. Dicker, J. Ellis, I. Campbell, W. Campbell, P. O'Brien, A. Avery
Front Row: C. Curwood, E. Crabtree, R. Garnar, J. Smale, D. Hall, L. Garnar

1972	Mt Gambier	M. O'Brien	(All Star-MVP) M. Klinger
1973	Geelong	M. O'Brien	M. Anderton
1974	Wangaratta	M. O'Brien	1991* Dandenong
1975	Bendigo	M. O'Brien	D. Dicker S. Purchase M. Wells
1976	Geelong	M. O'Brien W. O'Brien (All Star)	(All Star) D. Shanahan
1977*	Dandenong	M. O'Brien J. Johnson W. O'Brien	(All Star-MVP) A. Purchase
		(All Star) L. Postlethwaite	M. Holmes D. Simpson
1980	Ballarat	C. Love	1992* Ballarat
1982	Geeong	C. Love	D. Dicker S. Purchase (All Star)
1983	Mt Gambier	C. Love (MVP) D. Simpson	C. Love D. Simpson M. Anderton
1984	Albury	C. Love (All Star) M. Anderton	M. Wells
		M. Holmes D. Simpson T. Totaro	1993 Mildura
		(All Star)	S. Purchase (All Star) M. Anderton
1985*	Bendigo	M. Anderton M. Holmes	D. Dicker (All Star) C. Love
		J. McIntyre D. Shanahan (All Star)	D. Simpson M. Wells (MVP)
		D. Simpson T. Totaro	1994 Geelong
1986*	Ballarat	M. Anderton D. Dicker D. Simpson	D. Dicker S. Purchase M. Anderton
		N. Saleeba M. Holmes (All Star)	L. Walters S. Myles
1987	Geelong	M. Anderton D. Dicker N. Saleeba	1995 Albury
		D. Shanahan (All Star) R. Hogan	D. Dicker S. Purchase C. Love
		D. Simpson	M. Anderton (C/C) S. Myles
1988	Mildura	D. Dicker R. Hogan D. Shanahan	G. Finney
		M. Holmes N. Saleeba	
		D. Simpson	
1989	Sale	S. Purchase M. Anderton	
		D. Dicker (MVP) A. Purchase	
		R. Hogan M. Holmes D. Simpson	
		L. Walters	
1990*	Albury	D. Dicker S. Purchase	
		D. Shanahan (All Star) L. Walters	

* Championship winners

ADMINISTRATORS - COACHES, CAPTAINS, MANAGERS AND SCORERS

SENIORS:

1952	A. Burrige (Captain/Coach)
1953	A. Burrige (Captain)
1954	A. Burrige (Captain/Coach)
1955	A. Burrige (Captain)
1956*	O.J. Metcher (Captain/Coach)

1957* O.J. Metcher (Captain/Coach)
 1958 O.J. Metcher (Captain/Coach)
 1959* O.J. Metcher (Captain/Coach)
 1960 O.J. Metcher (Captain/Coach)
 1983 J. McIntyre (Coach)
 1984 J. McIntyre (Coach) D. Dicker (Asst Coach)
 S. Nicolaou (Scorer)
 1985* J. McIntyre (Coach)
 1986* M. Holmes (Asst Coach)
 1989 M. Holmes (Coach) D. Dicker (Asst Coach)
 1991* P. O'Connor (Coach)
 1992* P. O'Connor (Coach)
 1993 P. O'Connor (Coach)
 1994 M. Winther (Scorer)
 1995 M. Anderton (Coach) M. Winther (Scorer)

COLTS

1954* J. Smale (Coach)
 1955* J. Smale (Coach) J. O'Brien (Manager)
 1956* J. Smale (Coach) J. O'Brien (Manager)
 Ms P Eggleston (Scorer)
 1957* J. Smale (Coach) J. O'Brien (Manager)
 Ms P Eggleston (Scorer)
 1958 J. Smale (Coach) J. O'Brien (Manager)
 1961* C. Curwood (Manager)
 1966 J. Smale (Scorer)
 1970 K. Love (Manager)
 1971 K. Love (Manager-All Star)

1983 S. Nicolaou (Scorer)
 1986 M. Simpson (Manager)

UNDER 18

1991 M. Winther (Scorer)
 1994 C. Myles (Manager)

UNDER 17

1981* S. Gloury (Manager)
 1982* L. O'Brien (Asst Manager)
 1988* P. Gloury (Coach) A. Jones (Asst Coach)

UNDER 16

1992 M. Winther (Scorer)

UNDER 15

1981* J. Perry (Coach)
 1982 J. Perry (Coach)
 1983 J. Perry (Coach)
 1987 G. Wells (Asst Coach)

UNDER 13

1979* P. Gloury (Coach)
 1981 P. O'Brien (Asst Coach)
 1984 G. Wells (Asst Coach)

* Championship winners

VPBL Representatives

1969	M. O'Brien W. O'Brien (VBA v VPBL Juniors - Geelong)	1990	M. Anderton A. Purchase P. O'Connor (Commonwealth Cup - Pt Macquarie)
1983	M. Saleeba N. Saleeba (VPBL Colts Team - Albury)	1991	M. Anderton P. O'Connor (Commonwealth Cup - Adelaide)
1985	C. Love T. Totaro D. Simpson (VPBL Minor Series - Hobart)	1993	M. Anderton (Commonwealth Cup - Ballarat)
1985	D. Simpson (All Star - National Minor Series)	1995	D. Dicker M. Anderton (Commonwealth and Webb Cup - Darwin)
1987	D. Simpson (Commonwealth Cup - Lismore)	1995	C. Anderton (Victorian Rep - IBA Boys Championships - Tokyo)



Victorian Representatives



UNDER 13

1979 P. Bray
1981 N. Saleeba
1982 S. Purchase

UNDER 15

1982 P. Bray
1983 S. Purchase N. Saleeba
1984 S. Purchase H. Simpson

UNDER 16

1968 W. O'Brien
1969 M. O'Brien
1989 M. Wells

UNDER 18

1969 W. O'Brien
1986 S. Purchase H. Simpson
1987 H. Simpson
1988 P. Shirley
1990 M. Wells
1991 M. Wells

SENIORS (Claxton Shield)

1983/4 D. Dicker (Northern Territory representative)
1984/5 D. Dicker (Northern Territory representative)
1987/8 D. Simpson D. Shanahan
1988/9 R. Hogan D. Shanahan D. Simpson

Australian Representatives



UNDER 16

1969 M. O'Brien
1991 M. Wells

UNDER 18

1988 P. Shirley
1990 M. Wells

SENIORS

1990 D. Shanahan R. Hogan (Australian National Team representatives-Perth.)
1994 M. Anderton (APBL representative-Micronesian Games,Guam)

ABL Representatives

MELBOURNE MONARCHS

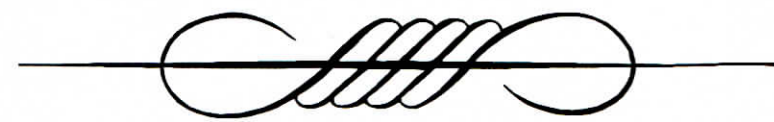
D. Shanahan M. Klinger

WAVERLEY REDS

R. Hogan M. Wells D.Simpson

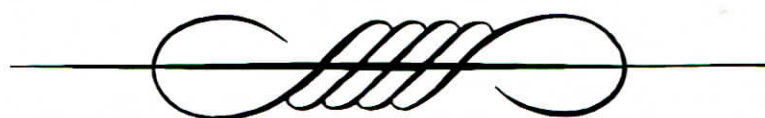
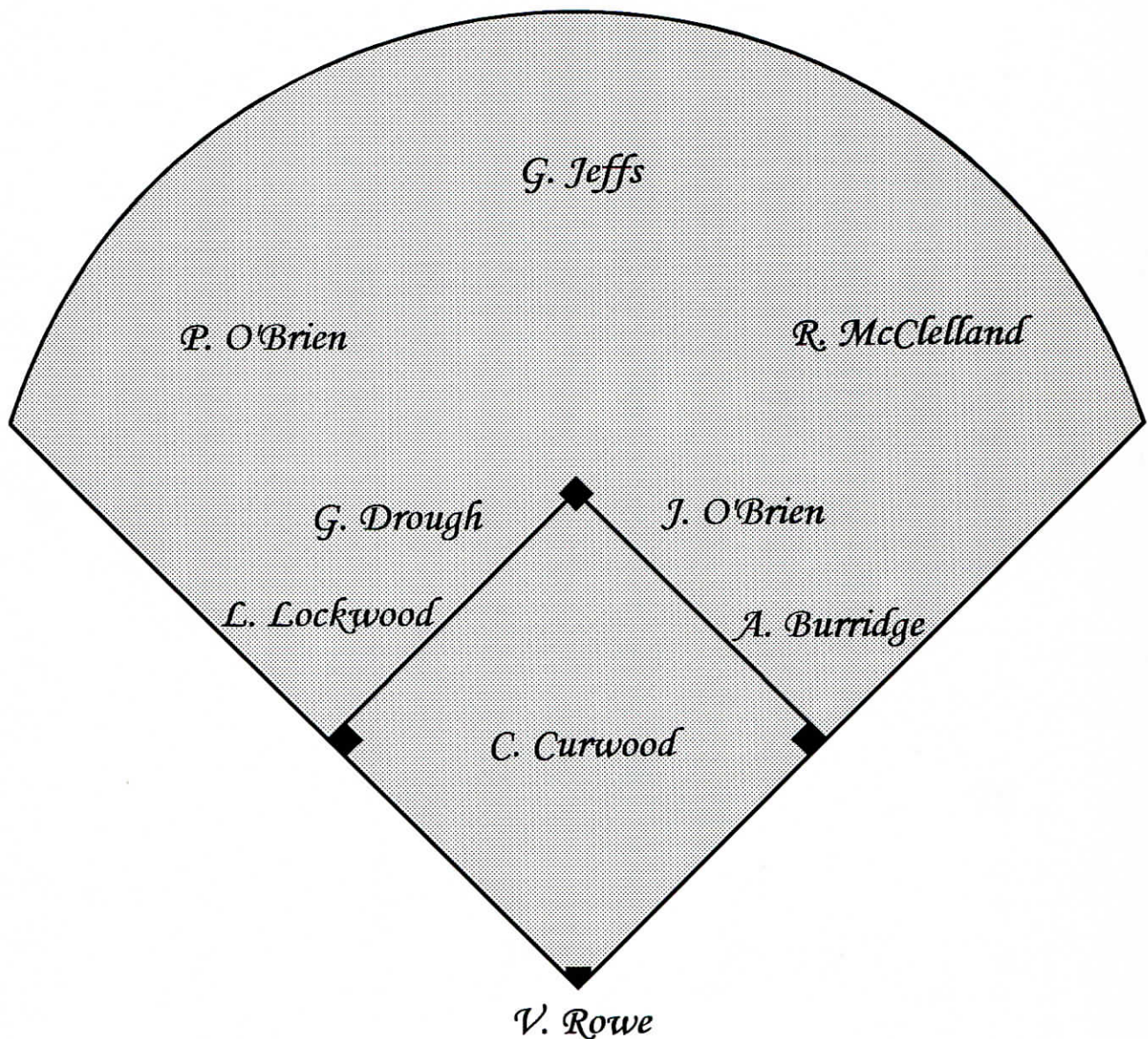
MELBOURNE/CANBERRA BUSHRANGERS

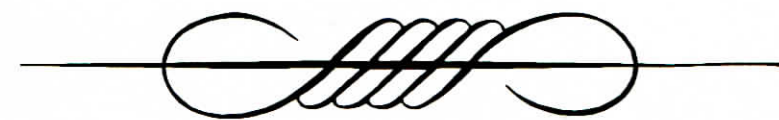
D. Dicker D. Simpson L. Walters M. Wells M. Klinger
S. Purchase



Frankston Baseball Club
50th Anniversary

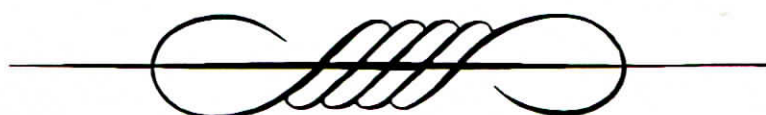
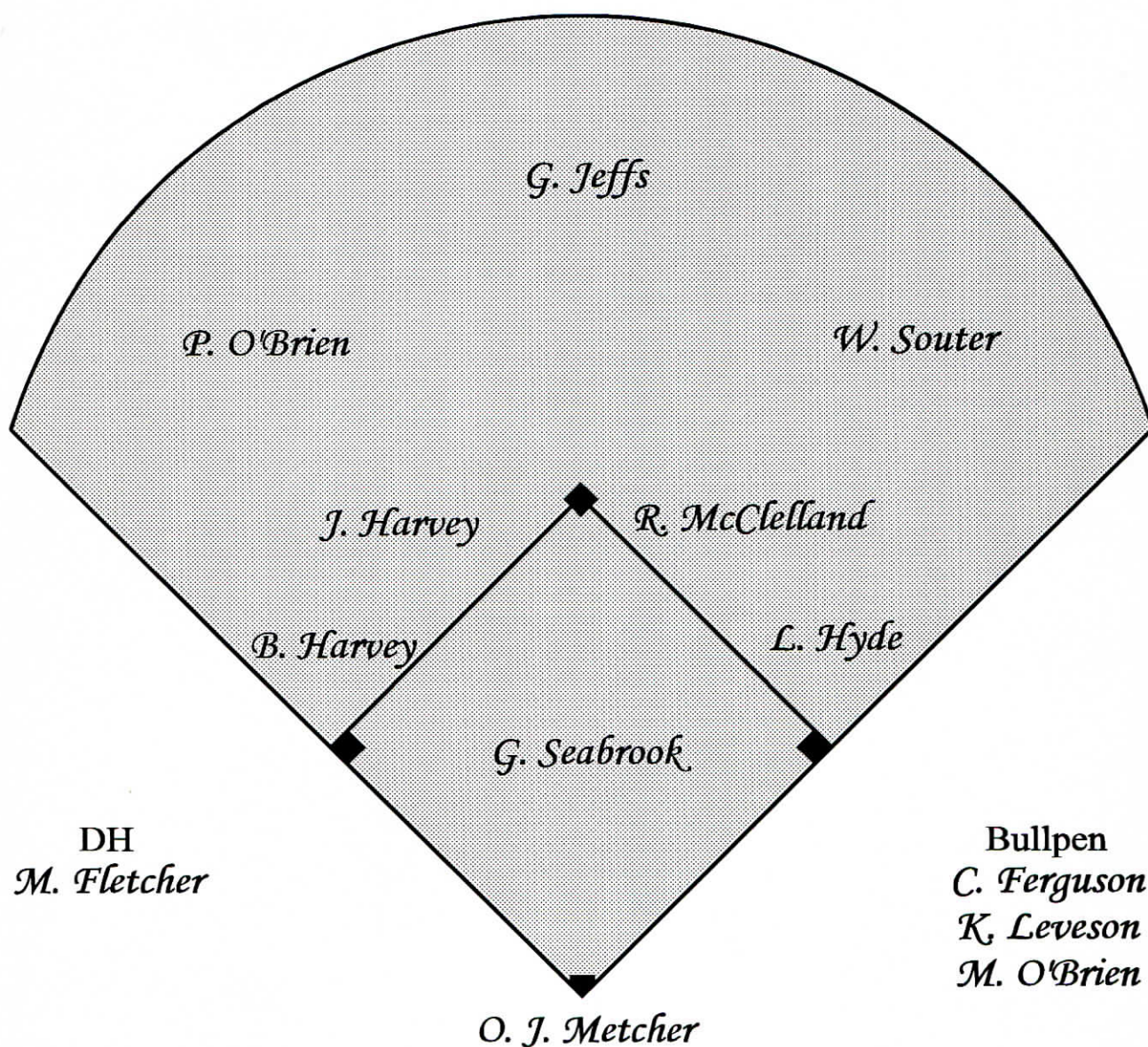
All Star Team
1945-1955

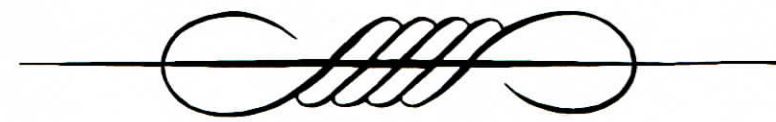




Frankston Baseball Club
50th Anniversary

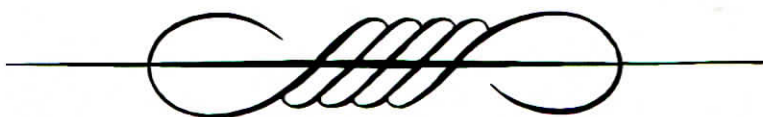
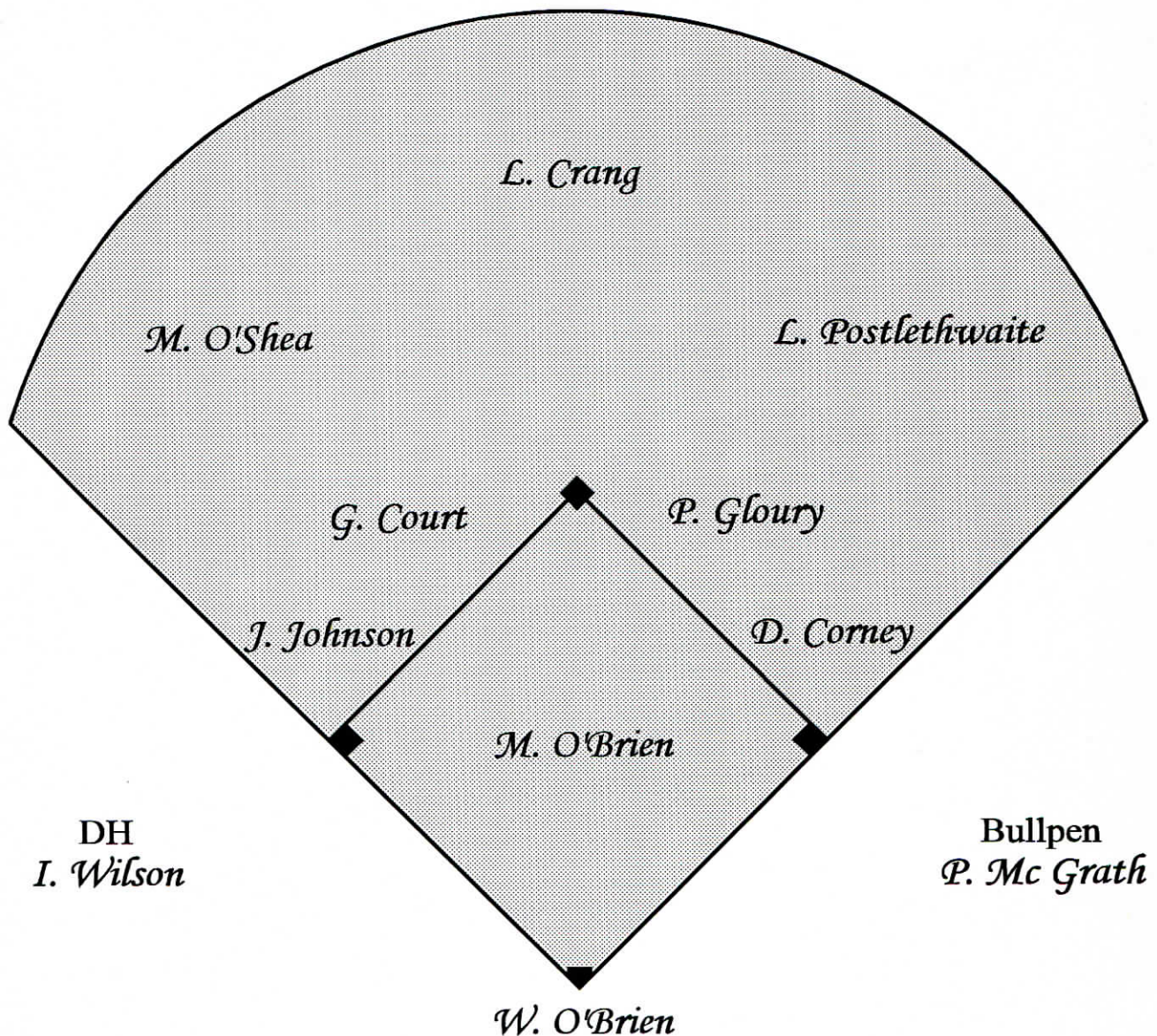
All Star Team
1956-1970

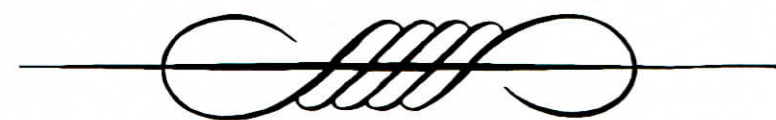




Frankston Baseball Club
50th Anniversary

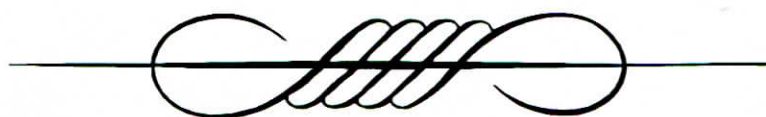
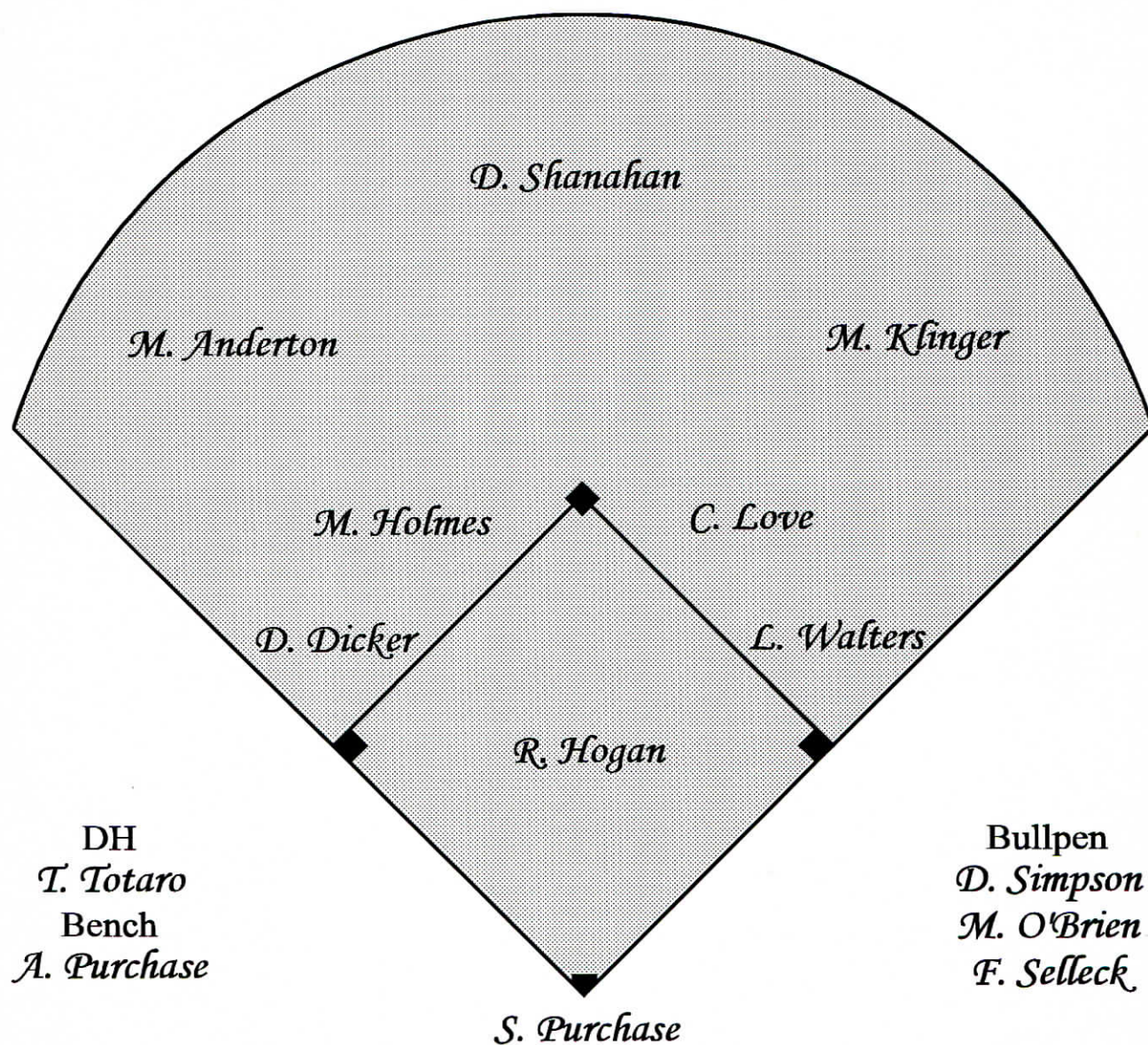
All Star Team
1971-1980





Frankston Baseball Club
50th Anniversary

All Star Team
1981-1995



Of General Interest

... Ray Chapple insisted on an Attendance Book being signed after each practice session.

... During February 1969, a "Mystery Beach Picnic" was held as a social activity.

... "Little Tatts" was used as a fund-raiser.

... A practice match was held against the South Melbourne Baseball Club at the Cranbourne Road ground.

... The ABC televised the 1964 VPBL final between the DBA and Ballarat. Ballarat won 1/0.

... Peter Finney (Club Coach in 1970 and Under 15 premiership Coach in 1987) played in the 1966 Chrysler Cup in Adelaide in company with such players as Rod Owen, Ross Straw, Alan Tanner, Keith Whitford and John Wadsworth Jnr.

... The DBA was so highly organised in 1964 that the "Standard" published the Duty Roster for clubs required to assist in organising the carnival matches at the Bonbeach ground.

... On 27 June, 1965, the Club played a Sunday inter-club match against the St Kilda club. The A's lost 4/8, but the B's had a comfortable 7/2 win. Fred Womersley was captain of the B Grade team.

... Social membership of the Club commenced in 1967. Subscription? \$2.00

... Mick Fletcher, a former player, was a former Olympian (Yachting), and America's Cup Advisor and is now a Commentator on the Sydney to Hobart Yachting Classic.

... Joffre Metcher, was one of Freddie Dawson's (former world lightweight boxer) chief sparring partners.

... Bob Nichols, a former player and now an American citizen, was Advisor to Presidents Ford and Carter on Nuclear Physics.

... Vietnam Veterans were Chris Atkins, Geoff Hawker & Ross Teschendorff, players of the 60's.

... Junior Victorian representatives (years not available) were Stewart Nichols, Bill Souter and Jim Harvey.

... Bill Souter was also a cricketer of note, being a member of the Victorian Sheffield Shield Second XI.

... Daryl Dicker hit a home run at Parry Field in a 1991/92 ABL game.

... Cr and Mrs Henry Woodley (Frankston's Mayor and Mayoress) attended the 1968 Presentation Night.

... During the 1994 season Anthony Richards and Dean Stephens hit their first home run!

... 1970 - Senior team attended TV Ringside at Channel O.

... 1978 - Chris Love (now a fully-matured "Tomato") was the youngest player to ever win the A Grade O'Brien Medal. Chris was a member of the Dandenong club at the time.

... Early VBA teams included "The Argus" (a former Melbourne newspaper), YMCA, and the Melbourne Cricket Club.

... The O'Brien Medal was named after former Frankston player/official - John O'Brien.

... Paul O'Brien was Club scribe to the "Frankston News" in 1969.

... Peter Gloury became the first Property Steward in 1973.

... Cost of a full uniform in 1974 was \$15.00 Subscriptions for senior players was \$20.00 (plus a match fee of 40 cents) and juniors \$10.00.

... John O'Brien, when umpiring, would break up fights by swinging his umpires mask around his head!

... In 1979, former umpire, John Crichton, was presented with a pair of spectacles - for a variety of reasons!

... 1985 Special Award Winners - Jim Prokhovink (Most Irregular Player), and Jim Ferron (Special K Award).

... Stewart McClelland (younger brother of Rod) was nicknamed "Steamboat" as he regularly enjoyed a quiet smoke in the outfield.

... The late David Smith could not be accommodated in Clarrie Curwood's truck one day, so he rode his bicycle all the way to the Springvale ground for a game.

... In 1955 Rod McClelland rolled his father's car on his way home. Unfortunately, it also crashed through the front fence of the local member of the Police Force!

... The late Clarrie Curwood's truck had two red gum posts installed to support the suspension!

... Gordon Jeffs was an accomplished base runner due to his speed around the diamond.

... Norm Tindall, one of the original players at the Club and still living in Frankston, was Captain of the VFA team that competed in the 1953 Carnival Series.

... Les Hyde was known as "The Pocket Snatcher" as he often (accidentally?) held runners on first base by grabbing their pocket!

... Harley Simpson, as a result of errors by the opposition, scored a home run in an Under 12 match at Baden Powell ground by hitting not a home run, but a BUNT! (Think about it, it is quite possible to do so!)

... Paul Duncan had thirteen consecutive safe hits in C grade games against Monash and Dandenong Valley during the 1992 season.



Final Word

Frankston Baseball Club can be quite proud of the fact that it has achieved its "Golden Jubilee" as a sporting organisation.

Over the years it has experienced its highs and lows both on and off the field, but the achievements of its past and present players and administrators has resulted in the Club earning a very high reputation in the district baseball fraternity.

Sporting clubs have generally followed a cyclic process of development insofar as the older, more experienced players have given way to younger players. The tee-ballers and Under 12's of today will hopefully be the senior players in the new century. They will go away on Carnival trips, win or lose close matches, enjoy the Club's social activities, and again, hopefully, develop into people that the Club will be proud to have as members.

The history of a sporting club is never really contained in its facilities. It is made up of people and events and their interaction on each other. There is no doubt that the Club has developed a tradition and personality all of its own.

Like so many other sports, baseball has its rituals, plays, vocabulary, and of course its players. That such a game - a nine-a-side team game played

with a bat, ball and gloves - has endured, is evidence of the commitment of those who have firstly played the game, and then assisted in its administration.

To conclude this brief history of the Frankston Baseball Club, it is appropriate that some consideration be given to the future of the Club. It is anticipated that the next few years may not be as predictable as the past fifty mainly because the broad areas of sport and recreation are constantly changing.

At present there is a very comfortable, easy-going attitude within the Club and long may that continue (to a degree). There is, however, a wide variety of choices for today's young people in the sport and recreational area. It would therefore appear that some measure of medium to long-range planning is required.

This applies particularly in the area of player recruitment. There is sufficient expertise within the Club to develop strategies for future development, and accordingly such a task should be a priority in order that the Club can continue to do what it has excelled in over the years - participating in a great game and enjoying each other's company thereafter.





Hope to see you all at the 75th in 2020