

Mark Winchester

Mark has made an outstanding contribution to the Marist Australian Football Club.

He became coach of the senior team – then the under 17s – in his first year of teaching at the school in 1979, only six years after the club had formed. Soon after starting, Mark approached then-headmaster, Brother Joseph McMahon, to say we needed proper Australian Rules jumpers – until then, we'd been playing in rugby jumpers. And so the royal blue with sky blue sash jumpers appeared in the under 17s the next season, and were being worn by all age groups within a couple of years. Mark also put to bed a perception among senior boys that they could only play Australian Rules until year 10, after which rugby was the only option.

Mark coached the under 17s until the late 1980s, coaching the 1981 side to a premiership in the Division 2 competition; runners up in 1983 in Division 1, and breaking through for the club's first under 17 Division 1 premiership in 1986.

Mark then coached at Eastlake for several years, before returning to coach the under 10s in the early 2000s, moving through the age groups until he coached the First XVIII to consecutive premierships in 2008 and 2009.

Not finished though, Mark then coached for another three years from 2012 until 2014, when he co-coached the under 12s to an outstanding premiership win in a low scoring match at Stirling Oval.

Mark was made a MAFC life member in 1998. He retired as a teacher at Marist College in 2018 after a long and distinguished career. His coaching record is set out below:

Under 17s, Division One (unless otherwise specified)

1979	Div 2 (took over midseason)
1980	Div 1, Runners Up
1981	Div 2, Premiers
1982	
1983	Runners Up
1984	
1985	
1986	Premiers
1988	
2001	Under 10s
2002	Under 11s
2003	Under 12s, Premiers
2004	Under 13s
2005	Under 14s, Runners Up
2006	Under 15s, Runners Up
2008	First XVIII, premiers
2009	First XVIII, premiers
2012	Under 10s (Assistant Coach)
2013	Under 11s (Assistant Coach)
2014	Under 12s, premiers (Co-coach)