

Marist College Canberra

Australian Football Club



Silver Jubilee
1973-1998

Editorial

It has been a great honour for both Maureen and I to research the history of the Marist Football Club in this their 25th year in the ACT Australian Junior Football League Competition. A little bit of history about Maureen and I. My family have been associated with Marist Brothers since 1968, when my brother Michael was one of the first students enrolled at Marist Brothers at the Forrestry school. Our involvement with the Football Club began in 1979 when, after returning from Melbourne, my brother John and I commenced playing Aussie Rules for the school. My brother John finished school football in 1982, whilst I finished in 1986 when our team won the premiership. However our involvement stopped in 1987. It was David Jess who encouraged me back into Marist football in 1995. Marist were looking for a coach of its Under 16 team and together with ex old boys Nevin Morrison and Paul Wylks we coached this team. John recommenced with the Club in 1997 when he coached his son Peter's team. We are both coaching the current Marist Under 13 team.

Maureen has been involved with the Marist Football Club since 1989 when her family moved to Canberra from Victoria. The first week she was in Canberra the boys commenced playing football, at the time the younger teams were struggling for numbers, so even though the boys were not attending Marist they started playing due to the influence of their cousin Peter Verdon who at the time was President of the Club. Over the years all six boys have played with the Club, one of the highlights being when eldest son, Sean was part of the premiership team in 1993, another being in 1997 when Casey played in the grandfinal team which was narrowly defeated by West Canberra.

When the Committee, last year, asked for volunteers to research the history of the Club, both Maureen and I jumped at the chance. We advertised for contributions in the Valley View, in the school newsletter, in "High Marks" and we wrote personal letters to ex Coaches, players and administrators. Unfortunately very few records were kept (or found) of history prior to season 1982. Hopefully this 25 year book will serve as a catalyst for other people to come forward and provide missing information. We may have a better and a more detailed history of our Club for its 30th year.

And who would imagine the Club would come as far as it has from its early beginnings when a small but dedicated band of parents begged and pleaded with the Brothers for an Australian Rules side to be formed? The Club has come a long way since the early days. 1983 was a high point for the Club with over 170 players participating in the sport spread among 8 teams. Support for the code died gradually in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In fact David Bailey commented that in 1990 people at the Club were even talking about folding. This year we have a fantastic facility in Lindwall Oval - the envy of every other Junior Club in the League. We have over 130 boys playing football for the College, financially we are in a very sound shape and the new uniforms which were bought by the Club are fantastic - we even look professional.

It is a great credit to the Marist Australian Football Community (both past and present) that the Club is celebrating its 25 year history. The Club has produced four AFL footballers in Adrian Barich (West Coast), Matthew Mahoney (Melbourne) and currently Brad Fuller (Collingwood) and Aaron Hamill (Carlton). We have also produced two All Australian representatives, the first being Dario Postai in the Under 17 Teal Cup and this year Craig Bolton in the Under 18 level. Four RAMs players in Brad Fuller, current Vice Captain of the team, Craig Bolton, Luke McLachlan and Michael Monagle. In addition, we have produced many players who have gone on to play in the ACTAFL Senior Competition. Luke Jess is the current Tuggeranong First Grade Captain and at 21 was the youngest skipper in the League.

We hope you enjoy reading the history of the Marist Football Club as much as we enjoyed researching it.

Anthony Sirr

Maureen McGrath.

Date 31 July, 1998



President's Letter

As the present President of the Marist Australian Football Club, I am honoured to be able to contribute to this our 25th Anniversary Book. The Marist Australian Football Club has reached a significant milestone in its history and we the present Committee wished to provide a written account of the Club, since its inception in 1973.

Personally, I have been involved with the Club since 1989 and became a Committee member in 1993. At that time the Club, along with all Marist sports, was undergoing dramatic changes. Each sporting Club within Marist College had to become self-sufficient financially. By encouraging outside sponsorship the Club has been able to grow and is now well placed to head into the next millennium. The Club is sponsored by many businesses, and because of their generosity we have been able to provide incentives and awards for our players. We have also been able to update and re-equip all the football kits, provide high quality first aide kits for all teams, provide our coaching staff, managers and team runners with identifying clothing, provide goal post protectors and buy new training equipment for our coaching staff and players. This year our Silver Jubilee year we have outfitted all teams with a new Marist strip, including a Silver Jubilee cloth badge. Our sponsors have enabled the Club to expand on a good professional basis.

The Club has also received unparalleled support from the Executive of Marist College. Lindwall Oval is regarded as one of the best playing surfaces for Junior Australian Football around Canberra. The line marking and extension of the field in recent years has enabled our Senior Teams to have more home games. The building of the Canteen to assist our weekly fundraising efforts has been very much appreciated.

Marist Australian Football has had its peaks and troughs in regard to successes on the field. However, over recent times its popularity has grown, both within the school and throughout the ACT. It is a credit to the tenacity and hard work of past Committees and others involved with Marist Australian Football that the Marist Australian Football Club has survived and continued to flourish, whilst other school Clubs have folded.

Many thanks go to Anthony Sirr and Maureen McGrath for the work in preparing this book. Many hours have gone into its preparation, and we hope that this book will provide the encouragement for future Committees to continue to record the history of the Marist Australian Football Club.

Paul Sullivan
President.

THE FIRST BOUNCE

It was the start of 1972 when I joined the teaching staff of Marist College. This was my first school without Australian Rules. Because the school year starts well before the footy season, at the time, I did not realise what it really meant to be in a school without 'real footy'.

I remember the first time I produced some of my Essendon 'Red and Black' sports attire. It turned out that the Daramalan connection was as foreign to me as the Bombers connection was to the primary students at the College.

I was 'over-the-moon' in 1973 when my Principal, Brother Mark informed me that the College was introducing Australian Rules and I was invited to coach the first team. At the time it had nothing to do with being first, it was all about kicking a red Sherrin.

By 1973, the College had grown to the point where at each age level in junior Rugby the College was fielding a Royals, Blues, Sky, and Gold team. The College was swamping the local competition and in some cases two Marist teams were playing each other in the finals. It was time to offer some other winter sport.

Once all the Union teams were settled in 1973, we were able to gather together those interested in playing 'real footy'. That year we entered teams in two age groups.

In our rugby jumpers we proudly represented the College and quickly learnt that there was more to the game than winning. In fact, as far as we could see winning wasn't that important. If it was, it was obvious that we weren't going to see much of it for the first couple of years.

When it came to playing we knew the theory - pick up your man - create the loose man etc. The problem was that we often didn't have the numbers to cover each player on the opposing team let alone create the loose one.

We had great fun with our practice matches at training on the Pearce oval. Handpassing and running straight at the ball, without the fear of knocking-on, were skills that requires lots of practice.

Starting games with fewer players or having under age players to make up numbers often meant that our Saturday mornings during winter turned into character building exercises where we learnt that it was more important how you played the game, rather than whether you won or not.

Still it was a start and Aussie Rules had come to Marist.

Jeff Bradley.

Marist Early History 1973 - 1982

The Marist Football Club first entered a team in the Junior ACT Competition in 1973. This was after a number of years where a small band of parents continued to lobby the Brothers at that time for an Australian Rules side to be formed. Brother Mark May was the Headmaster at the time the first Australian Rules team was entered into the Junior League. Brother Mark and the other Brothers were not too keen for an Australian Rules side to be formed, primarily because there were just not enough boys enrolled at the school for more than one winter sport to be offered. "We just weren't big enough in those days." Brother Mark said. Finally he relented to the small band of parents who continued to argue the case for Australian Football to be offered at the school. One of the parents was Merv O'Brien who led the campaign to have Aussie Rules offered at the school. This is Merv's story of the events;

"In 1973 some 25 parents who had boys playing Australian Football in the ACT Junior League met with Brother Mark, the then Principal of Marist College, and sought his approval for the establishment of school teams to represent Marist College in the Saturday morning competition. Initially, Brother Mark maintained that Marist was a Rugby school with a tradition inherited from Marist College, Darlinghurst. It became apparent during the course of the meeting, however, that there was a wide support among the parents for school teams. Mr Bradley, then on the staff of Marist College, offered to take on the coaching duties for two teams, that being the Under 11s and Under 12s. At the end of the meeting Brother Mark gave his approval and two teams with the familiar blue (Rugby) jumpers became a feature in junior Australian Football from that year."

One member of the inaugural Marist Australian Football side was Paul Walshe. These are his early memories and what he has achieved in his later football life.

"I played my first game with Marist when I was 12 years old in the Under 12 Competition. I remember that my first team coach was a bloke by the name of Jack O'Halloran and he was ably assisted by George Kelly who managed our team in those days. Some team members of that first side included Peter O'Halloran, Michael Kelly, Mark Darcy and John Mason. Brother Mark was the Principal at the time the first side was formed and our strip was the Marist Rugby jumper. Other coaches during my time included Brian Walshe (my father) in 1974 and Peter Topp in 1975 & 1976. George Kelly was our manager in all the years I played with the Club. Other team members in addition to the ones mentioned above, and who played with Marist between 1974 and 1976 included Chris Churchill, Michael Flynn, Justin Brown, Paul Felsman and Michael Quinn. I do not recall that there were any award winners during those years. However I can remember being on CTC TV (now Capital Television) Saturday show called "Grandstand" in 1975. I was interviewed and presented with a signed Hawthorn football as the Junior player of the week. I think that Reg Hiscock was the compere at the time. My brother Brian played in the 1993 Under 18 Premiership team. As for myself I am still involved in football. After leaving Marist I played in the Monaro Competition for the Canberra Gallopers, then with the Tuggeranong Lions (still in the Monaro Competition), then for the Tuggeranong Bulldogs between 1983 to 1987 in the ACTAFL. In 1988 I moved to Queanbeyan with whom I have played and coached for 10 years."

John Brown, we believe is the only person ever to receive life membership of the Marist Football Club. We believe that this honour was bestowed upon John in 1981. John had three sons that played for the Club. His youngest son Pierce was part of the 1986 Premiership winning Marist team under the coaching of Mark Winchester. This is John's story of his involvement with the Club;

"In the early 1970s Marist parents keen to see Australian Rules introduced at the College entered a team in one junior competition. As I recall, leading lights at the time were the late Bob Woods and Brian Walshe who acted as coach of the team. I believe it was a short lived experience with the team failing to consolidate beyond one or two seasons. A little while later a strong move was made to form an Australian Rules organisation at the College which lead to a general meeting being held at the Junior College one evening. One outcome of the meeting was the formation of the Club. The official positions were;

President : Mal Flynn (deceased)

Secretary: John Brown

Treasurer: Noel Dennis.

I don't recall any committee being formed. The teams were run by a loose organisation with the co-operation from some of the Brothers. I think we started with three teams and I clearly recall Mary Heyteni offering to "coach" one of the sides, although she admitted not knowing anything about the game (we were always struggling to find coaches). Mary and other keen parents continued to support that particular team right through to the Senior Competition with myself as Coach followed by Peter Curtis. Success with other teams came in the 1980s with Senior teams under the coaching of Peter McDonald and Mark Winchester.

Formal dinner functions were held for a couple of years at the College catered for by our own parents;-

- 1. The first with guest speaker Alan Killigrew.*
- 2. The second with John Kennedy.*
- 3. The third was held at the Southern Cross Club with Phil O'Brien as guest speaker."*

We believe that the Marist Football Club won the first of its nine premierships in 1979, when the Under 12 Division 1 team won the LJ Robbie Trophy. 1979 was the year that Dario Postai became the first player to gain All Australian representation. Dario is still playing Senior football with Weston Creek in the ACTAFL Competition.

In 1980 the successful Under 12 team of the previous year went back to back and won the Under 13 Fred Dorman Shield. 1980 was the year that Adrian Barich won the ACTAJFL Joe McDonald Memorial Trophy for the Fairest and Best player in the Under 17 Competition.

1981 saw Marist capture its 3rd premiership when the Under 17 Division 2 team won the ACTAJFL Transport Trophy.

The Years in detail.....

1982

The goal of the Club as described by then President Lindsay Carroll was

“a non profit, unincorporated association of parents and friends of Marist College students which supports and encourages participation by the students in Australian Football, specifically by organising and managing teams to enable College representation in the ACTAJFL.

In 1982 the Club fielded teams in each age group from Under 10 to Under 15s and two teams in the Under 17 Competition - all in all 8 teams with approximately 160 players. Whilst the season did not bring any premierships to the Club it was however a year of expansion and achievement. The highlight of the year was the opening of an Australian Football Oval - later to be known as Lindwall Oval, at the College. Lindsay Carroll commented in his President’s Report at the time “This culminated in many years of discussion and planning and the Club is now proud to see the College colours flanking goal posts on the magnificent allotment along Athlon Drive. The goal and behind posts were donated by the Sutherland Football Club (now known as the Tuggeranong Football Club) - a very substantial and welcome contribution. The oval will be our home ground in 1983.”

The opening of the oval was featured by CTC 7 and given coverage in “The Canberra Times.”

During 1982 joint clinics were conducted by Sutherland Senior players for Marist and Sutherland junior players. These clinics were followed by social activities such as BBQs for both clubs. It was during 1982 that Mr Tom Hafey, former VFL coach, attended and addressed the players.

1982 was the year that trophies were first presented to winners of the Best and Fairest, Runner Up and Most Improved in each team. Another first was the inaugural presentation to Michael Waddingham of the Under 15 team of the Pola Memorial award. This trophy was donated in memory of the late Pat Pola father of the Club’s legal adviser. Consideration was given to:

- Club Spirit
- leadership on the field
- dedication to training
- willingness to assist the Club.

The Committee:

Patron	Br Joseph, College Principal
President	Lindsay Carroll
Secretary	Richard Pratley
Treasurer	Dennis Heritage
Hon Legal Advisor	Mr John Pola
No. 1 Ticket Holder	Mrs Ros Kelly, Member for Canberra
League Delegate	Chris O'Brien

Teams, Coaches and Managers.

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Peter Verdon	Brian Doyle
Under 11	Chris O'Brien	Tony Doyle
Under 12	Des Bird	John Weber
Under 13	Dennis Heritage	Jim Kennedy
Under 14	John Hird	John McMillan
Under 15	Peter Curtis	Lindsay Carroll
Under 17 Division 1	Mark Winchester	
Under 17 Division 2	Mark Winchester	

The Award Winners

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	MOST IMPROVED
Under 10	Stephen Finnegan	Stuart Doyle	Bradley McCooke
Under 11	William Kilduff	Tony Gibbon	Allan Scollan
Under 12	Ashley Stewart	Chris Maher	John Barry
Under 13	Phillip Walsh	Andrew Bermingham	Anthony Sirr
Under 14	Garry Werch	Danny Fulton	Tim McNevin
Under 15	Michael Waddingham	Julian Fulton	David Sykes
Under 17 Div 1	John Muir	Peter Archer	Michael Weber
Under 17 Div 2	Greg Campbell		

- Scholarships from the Sutherland Club to the value of \$100 each were presented to:

Under 13	Andrew Bermingham
Under 14	Marc Fabris
Under 15	Andrew Larkey and Ben Larkey (shared)
Under 17	Tony Curtis John Muir

ACT Under 13 Representative Players: Phil Walsh, Anthony Sirr, Paul Wylkes

ACT Primary Schools Representatives Chris Maher, Allen Selleck

Clubman of the Year Michael Waddingham, Under 15

1983

1983 was summed up as an encouraging year by Club president Peter Maher. Throughout the age groups it was apparent that we lacked very little compared with teams from the Senior Clubs. Our teams were not only comprised of boys who could hold their own in any competition, but were coached by people whose efforts could only be described as outstanding. From the Senior team coached by Mark Winchester who were slightly disappointing in their Grand final against Belconnen but regrouped to defeat Australia's greatest school football team in Assumption College, to the junior team coached by Martin Nolan and Michael Conway, who with very limited numbers managed to improve the team to such an extent that they won two out of there last three games.

One hundred and seventy seven players (a record number in the history of the Club) turned out for the eight teams Marist fielded. The Under 12 team and the Senior XVIII played off for the Grandfinal but both unfortunately lost.

The Committee:

President	Peter Maher
Secretary	Richard Pratley
Treasurer	Dennis Heritage
League Delegate	Jim Crennan
Fund Raising Officer	Peter Maher

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Martin Nolan Michael Conway (Assistant)	Gary Bunfield
Under 11	Peter Verdon	Brian Doyle
Under 12	Bruce Chandler	
Under 13	Des Bird	John Weber
Under 14	Denis Heritage John Sirr (Assistant)	Peter Kennedy
Under 15	Mick Maher	John McMillan Jim Crennan
Under 17 Division 1	Mark Winchester	Pat Waddingham
Under 17 Division 2	Peter Hurley	Mark Ransom

The Award Winners

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	MOST IMPROVED
Under 10	Chris Fulton	Simon Curtis	Brett Bunfield
Under 11	Daniel Tate	Stephen Finnegan	Evan Meaney
Under 12	Anthony Gibbon	Alvaro Macias	James Wallace
Under 13	Chris Jacka	Chris Maher	Brendan Bird
Under 14	Anthony Sirr	Paul Wylkes	Simon Heritage
Under 15	Danny Fulton	Michael Mowlan	Paul Crennan
Under 17 Div 1	Tony Curtis & Michael Waddingham	Bruce Waterfield	Peter Maher
Under 17 Div 2	Andrew Innes	Sean McDermott	Steven Nolan

1984

The Club fielded 7 teams, 160 players in all with the highlight being 5 out of our 7 teams making the finals and the Under 13's winning the premiership.

The Committee:

President	Peter Maher
Vice President	Des Bird
Secretary	Richard Pratley
Treasurer	Dennis Heritage
Property Officer	Pat Waddington

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Peter Hurley	Lyn Minerds
Under 11	John Sirr	
	John Muir	Kevin Owen
Under 12	Peter Verdon	Bernie Ryan
Under 13	Bruce Chandler	John Muir (senior)
Under 14	Des Bird	John Weber
Under 15	Dennis Heritage	Terry Lynch
Under 17	Mark Winchester	Pat Waddington

The Award Winners

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	COACHES AWARD
Under 10	Michael Burdeu	David Whalen	Nathan Minerds
Under 11	Craig Owen	Tim Dyer	Michael Leiper
Under 12	Matthew Ryan	Stephen Finnegan	Andrew Verdon
Under 13	Julian Bermingham	Alvara Macias	Jamie Wallace
Under 14	Chris Maher	John Verdon	David Porritt
Under 15	Andrew Bermingham	Michael Lynch	Tony Whalen
Under 17	Ben Larkey	Andrew Larkey	Michael Waddington
		Most Improved	John Palesi

• Eastlake Football Scholarship Winners

Under 13	Jamie Wallace
Under 14	John Verdon
Under 15	Dominic Egan
Under 17	Martin Channon
John Palesi	

• **ACT Representative Players**

Woden Primary Team	Tim Spurgin Craig Owen Tim Dyer	Daniel Tait Damien Thornton Andrew Verdon
Under 13	Jamie Wallace Julain Bermingham	Alvara Macias
Under 15 Shell Cup	Andrew Bermingham Paul Wylkes	Anthony Sirr
Under 16	Danny Fulton John Maher	Danny Larkey Justin O'Shannassy
Under 17 Teal Cup	Michael Waddington (Captain) Julian Fulton Andrew Larkey Justin O'Shannassy	Danny Fulton Ben Larkey

The GV Mahoney Memorial Trophy Ben Larkey

The Wangaratta Shield Under 13 Division 2

Highlights 7 Teams 160 players
5 of 7 reached the semi finals



Former Marist Student - Michael Stinziani Umpiring an Under 12 Marist game

1985

The Committee:

President	Peter Maher
Vice President	Des Bird
Secretary	Bernie Ryan
Treasurer	Dennis Heritage
Records Officer	John Sirr
League Delegate	Jim Crennan
Umpire Appointments Officer (ACTAFJL)	John Byrne

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10		
Under 11	John Coy	
Under 12	John Sirr	Steve O'Loughlin
Under 13	Peter Verdon	Bernie Ryan
Under 14	P Woods	John Muir (Senior)
Under 15	Des Bird	Peter Maher
Under 16		
Under 17	Mark Winchester	Dennis Heritage

The Award Winners

TEAM	BEST & FAIREST	RUNNER UP	MOST CONSISTENT	MOST IMPROVED
Under 11	Lyndon Cox	Adam Collins	Michael Jobling	
Under 12	Craig Owen	Tim Spurgin	Matt Elwood Chris Fulton	David Wynack
Under 13	Matthew Ryan	Chris Davis	Tony Davis	
Under 14	Julian Bermingham	Alvara Macias		Jonathon Gabler
Under 15	Chris Maher	Theo Galjaardt	Michael Bott	Chris Jacka
Under 17	Dan Larkey	Matt Maloney		Nev Morrison

• Scholarships were awarded to:

Under 13	Stephen Finnegan
Under 14	William Kilduff
Under 15	Peter Ando
Under 17	Damian Maher and Bernard Mason

Representative players.

Under 17 Teal Cup	Dan Fulton and John Maher
Under 16 Schoolboys	Anthony Sirr, Michael Lynch and Andrew Bermingham
Under 15	Chris Maher and Matthew Ryan

1986

1986 was the year which saw the Senior XVIII win the first ever premiership in the Division One Competition. An ex player of the team Paul Wylks takes up the story;

“The Under 17 team of 1986 was a very talented team, and Mark Winchester saw that early on. We began training in the first week of February and I seem to recall we had 32 players trying out. The squad was cut back to about 28 players as it was impossible to give so many players a game every week. The training was very hard - we had a solid 5 weeks of pure fitness with the dreaded 6 x 400m having to be completed in certain time slots. We were certainly the fittest team in the Competition that year. There was a core of players who had played together since the Under 12s. These players included Dominic Egan, Pierce Brown, Anthony Sirr, Greg McMahon, Simon Gallagher, John Fitzgerald, Andrew Bermingham, Simon Heritage and Matthew Conway. Together we had been through the highs and lows, more often the lows and lows so it was great to go through and win a premiership in our final year of junior football together. Our team only lost one game throughout the home and away season and that was to Ainslie in driving rain at Mawson Oval. In May we travelled down to Victoria where we played and beat the Assumption College Under 16 team. We played Ainslie at Kingston in the second semi final and we had a shocking start trailing by four goals at quarter time. But suddenly we clicked. Coach Winchester was remarkably calm at quarter time and in the second quarter we booted 8 goals in a 15 minute burst. In the Grand final I remember playing Belconnen at Football Park before a large crowd. We easily accounted for the Blues and won that match by 38 points.”

The Committee:

The Committee was led by Peter Maher, President, Tony McInerney, Secretary Des Bird, Dennis Heritage

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Howard Lipscombe	
Under 11	Kevin Owen	Lynne Owen
Under 12	Nev Morrison Anthony Hare	
Under 13	John Sirr Steve O'Loughlin	
Under 14	Peter Verdon	
Under 15	Garry Coy	
Under 17	Mark Winchester	Dennis Heritage

The Award Winners

TEAM	BEST & FAIREST	RUNNER UP	MOST IMPROVED
Under 10	Matt Napier	Craig Dunkeld	Tim Lipscombe M Alexander
Under 11	R Owen	Luke Jess B Muir	D Matthews
Under 12	B Ryan S Dunkeld	M Jobling	M Buckle
Under 13	C Owen	C Fulton G Morfoot	S Curtis
Under 14	C Whalen	S Finnegan D Thornton	M Healy G Healy
Under 15	J Bermingahm	J Wallace M Muir	B Bott
Under 17	D Cronin	G Morfoot	Andrew Bermingham

• Eastlake Football Club Scholarships

Under 13	Glen Morfoot
Under 14	Matthew Ryan
Under 15	J Wallace
Under 17	Andrew Bermingham S Heritage

Representative players.

Under 17 Teal Cup	Paul Wylks T Whalen G Morfoot	C Maher A Bermingham
Under 16	T Galjaardt	A Stewart

Another achievement during 1986 was the win against Assumption College Under 16 team by our Under 17 Team.

1987

1987 saw Marist win another premiership this time in the Under 14 Division 2. At the end of this year Peter Maher retired as President after five dedicated years. The Club fielded 7 teams with 145 players participating.

The Committee:

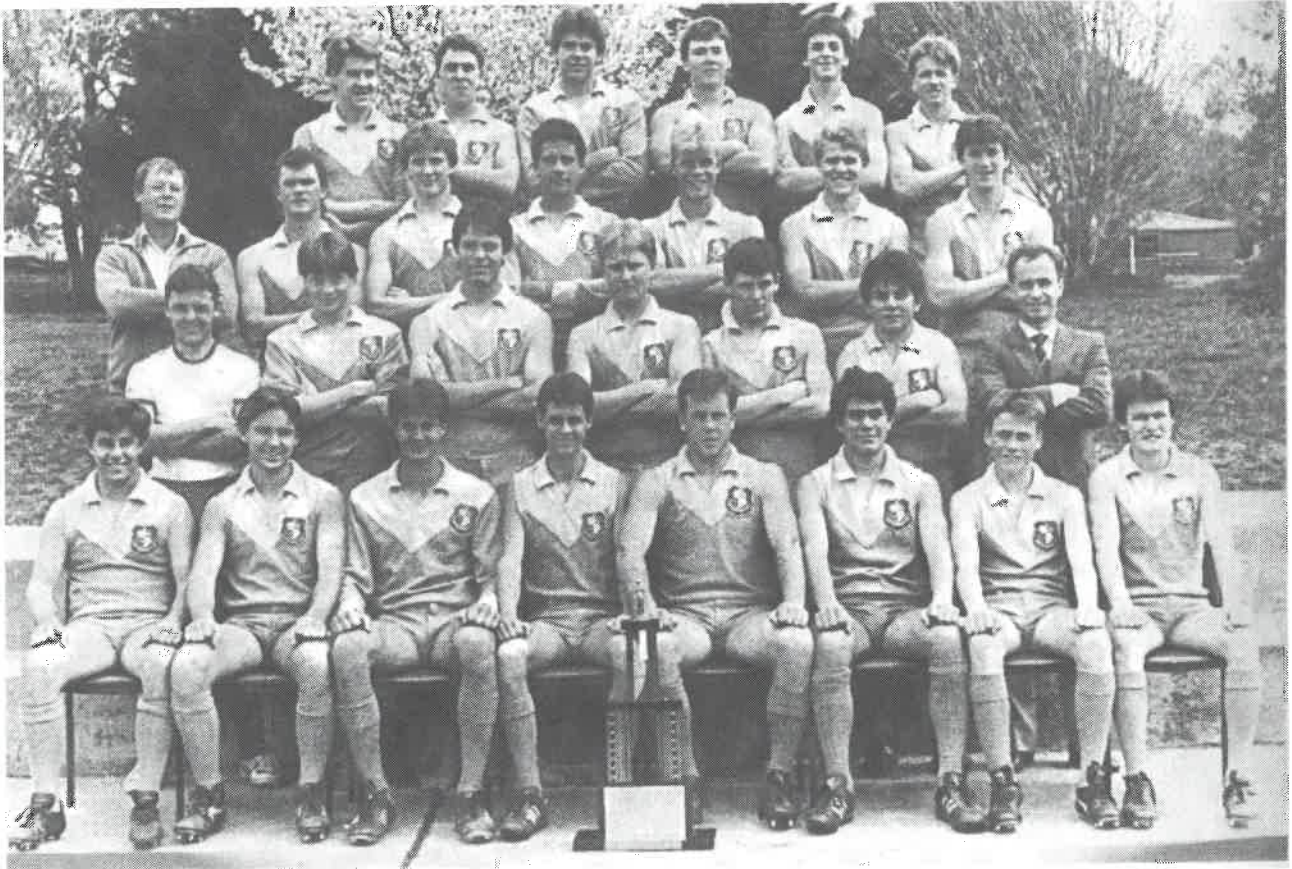
President	Peter Maher
Vice President	Rod Curtis
Secretary	Tony McInerney
Treasurer	Denis Sweeney
Assistant Sec/Treasurer	Wally Morfoot
League Delegate	Peter Maher
Property Manager	Bob Dunkeld
Communication Officer	Paul Hickey
High Marks Editor	Denise McLellan

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Tony Mair	Diane McDonald
Under 11	Howard Lipscombe	Mal Napier
Under 12	David Jess	John Muir
Under 13	Greg Morfoot	Lyn Minerds
	Dominic Egan (Assistant)	
Under 14	Steve Laughlin	Rod Coles
	Anthony Sirr (Assistant)	Rod Curtis (Assistant)
Under 15	Peter Verdon	Bernie Ryan
Under 17	Des Bird	Denis Heritage

The Award Winners

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	MOST CONSISTENT	COACHES AWARD
Under 10	Sean Buckle		Anthony Cuddihy	Matthew Barwick
Under 11	Tim Lipscombe	Mathew Napier	Mark Owen	Daniel McHugh
Under 12	Luke Jess	Robert Owen	David Ammon	Paul Topp
Under 13	Stuart Dunkeld	Michael Burdeu	Michael Jobling	Nicholas Collins
Under 14	Andrew Bull	Craig Owen	Wayne O'Loughlin	Bevan Murphy
Under 15	Greg Healey	Peter Gallagher	Michael Healey	C Steins
Under 17	Chris Maher	Ashley Stuart	Pierce Brown	Nino Divito



1986 U/17 Premiers



1993 U/18 Premiers



1997 U/14 Premiers

1988

Tony McInerney took over from Paul Maher and became President. The Club again fielded 7 teams, with four making the finals and two teams the Under 14's and Under 13's making the Grand final. Five of the seven coaches completed level one coaching certificates adding to the professionalism the Club was trying to adopt. A youngster by the name of Brad Fuller commenced playing football with the Club. Brad would later become the College's third AFL footballer.

The Committee:

President	Tony McInerney
Vice-President	Peter Verdon
Treasurer	Denis Sweeney
Secretary	Wally Morfoot
Assistant Secretary	Bernie Ryan
League Delegate	Bernie Ryan
Property Officer	Bob Dunkeld
Communications Officer	Paul Hickey
High Marks Editor	Sue Dunkeld

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Dave Jess	Stirling Meredith
Under 11	Tony Mair	Dianne McDonald
Under 12	Howard Lipscombe	Mal Napier
Under 13	John Muir (Junior)	John Muir (Senior)
Under 14	Peter Burdeu	John Collins
Under 15	Wally Morfoot	Rod Coles
	Steve O'Loughlin	Phil Parkins
Under 17	Mark Winchester	Dennis Heritage

Best and Fairest Awards

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	COACH'S AWARD
Under 10	All players		
Under 11	Sean Buckle	Simon Thompson	David Knoble
Under 12	Tim Lipscombe	Tim Whitehead	Greg Puniard
Under 13	Bernard Muir	Luke Jess	Stephen Barwick
Under 14	Paul Flack	Mark Birks	Michael Jobling
Under 15	Glenn Morfoot	Danny Quinn	John Guian
Under 17	Brett Russell	Alan Selleck	Peter Nolan

Eastlake Scholarships

Under 13	Luke Jess
Under 14	Lyndon Cox
Under 15	Michael Leiper
Under 17	Brett Russell
	Andrew Verdon



“The long and the short of it”

1989

1989 saw two of our teams make the finals. Peter Verdon took over from Tony McInerney as President whilst arrangements were being made with the College to extend the playing dimensions of Lindwall Oval so that our Senior teams were able to play their home games at the College.

The Committee:

President	Peter Verdon
Vice-President	Tom Wharton
Secretary/Treasurer	Denis Sweeney
League Delegate	Bernie Ryan
College Sports Council Delegate	Tony McInerney
Communications Officer	Paul Hickey
Aussie Footy Delegate	Jim Thompson

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Nicholas Roach John Sirr (Assistant)	Steve Laughlin
Under 11	Tom Wharton	Stirling Meredith
Under 12	Jim Thompson	Di McDonald
Under 13	Conrad Steins John Cousins (Assistant)	Di Richards
Under 14	David Thompson	John Muir
Under 15	Peter Berdeau Ed Smith (Assistant)	John Collins
Under 17	Tony Hodgins	Bernie Ryan

Best and Fairest Awards

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER-UP	COACH'S AWARD
Under 10	All players		
Under 11	All players		
Under 12	All players		
Under 13	Wayne Lacey	Tim Lipscombe	Rohan Sweeney
Under 14	Luke Jess	Paul Topp	John Roberts
Under 15	Nicholas Collins	Paul Flack	Mark Birks
Under 17	Matt Ryan	Brett Russell	Chris Whalen

Eastlake Scholarship Awards

Under 13	Nicholas Archer
Under 14	Matthew Behm
Under 15	Michael Jobling
Under 17	John Gulan
	Daniel McInerney

ACT Representative Players

Under 13 ACT Development Squad	Tim Lipscombe
Under 14 ACT Development Squad	Luke Jess Paul Topp Bernard Muir
Under 17 Commonwealth Bank Teal Cup	Brett Russell



1990

Perhaps (arguably) the best performed team in the Club's history represented the College in 1990. I speak of the Marist Under 16 team coached by John Muir and current ACTAFL General Manager Tony Fraser. The team lost just one game for the season and demolished their Grand final opponents by 117 points. Some of the highlights of 1990 included

- the awarding of the Prime Minister's Trophy for the most outstanding ACTAFJL Club Administration under the astute leadership of Club president Peter Verdon.
- The debut season of a young Aaron Hamill representing the Marist Under 13's

The Committee:

President	Peter Verdon
Vice-President	Tom Wharton
Secretary/Treasurer	Denis Sweeney
League Delegate	Bernie Ryan
Property Officer	Tony Hodgins
Communications Officer	Paul Hickey
Aussie Footy Delegate	Steve Laughlin
College Sports Delegate	Tony McInerney

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	David Thompson	John Collins
Under 11	Steve Laughlin	
	Dennis Dunn (Assistant)	Adrian Plunkett
Under 12	Tom Wharton	David Jess
Under 13	Des Bird	Di McDonald
Under 14	Dennis Puniard	Di Richards
Under 16	John Muir (Junior)	
	Tony Fraser (Assistant)	John Muir (Senior)
Under 18	Tony Hodgins	
	Tony Fraser (Assistant)	Peter Bull

Best and Fairest Awards

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	COACH'S AWARD
Under 13	Matthew Napier	Simon Thompson	Dominic Farrell
Under 14	Derek Foldszin	Tim Lipscombe	John Halmarick
Under 16	Michael Burdeau	Stuart Dunkeld	Nick Collins
Under 18	John Gulan	Daniel Quinn	Charles Duke

Eastlake Scholarship Awards

Under 13	Daniel McGrath
Under 14	Brad O'Mara
Under 16	Michael Jobling
Under 18	Andrew Bull
	Anthony Coles

ACT Representative Teams

Under 12	Brad Fuller	
Under 13	Greg Puniard	
	Wayne Lacey	
Under 14	Derek Foldszin	
	Brad O'Mara	
	Tim Lipscombe	
Under 15	Paul Topp	Shell Cup (Hobart)
Under 17	John Gulan	Teal Cup (Brisbane)

The **Under 16 Team** were **Premiers** winning the **Evan Williams Trophy**

Marist Australian Football Club winners of the Prime Ministers Trophy.

This award is based on

- Quality of administration
- Level of sportsmanship displayed by Coaches, Players, Officials and Supporters
- Support given to the League and its Executive
- Adherence to the aims of Junior Football
- Recruiting and Junior Development Programs and
- On-field performance



1991

This season was somewhat of a struggle for the Marist Football Club. We were only able to field 5 teams (our lowest representation ever). Despite the low numbers, there were a couple of bright spots. Mark Birks won the ACT Under 17 Best and Fairest award, whilst Brad Fuller was judged as the Best and Fairest in the Under 13 ACT Competition. For the first time in the Club's history an Inter House Knockout competition was held. Organised and run by two Senior XVIII members in Mark Birks and Michael Burdeu, the competition did much to raise the profile of Australian Football in the school.

Another highlight of 1991 was the inaugural First XV111 end of season trip to Melbourne to watch the Preliminary Final in the AFL. The boys were billeted with students from Marcellin College, Bulleen. During the weekend the boys also played a game against one of the College teams. This was one of Tom Wharton's highlights as President of the Marist Football Club.

The Committee:

President	Tom Wharton
Vice-President	Neil Rech
Secretary	John Collins
Assistant Secretary	Christine Collins
League Delegate	Denis Sweeney
Aussie Footy Delegate	Steve Laughlin
High Marks Editor	David Bailey
College Sports Delegate	Tony McInerney
Property Officer	Tony Fraser
Skills Co-ordinator	Jim Thompson

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Dan Quinn	Peter Woods Liz Farrell
Under 12	Steve Laughlin Dennis Dunn (Assistant) Chris Carter (Assistant)	David Bolton
Under 13	David Bailey	Tom Wharton
Under 15	Peter Verdon Matthew McInerney (Assistant)	Jim Thompson
Under 17	Peter Burdeau Tony Fraser (Assistant) Ed Smith (Assistant)	John Muir

Best and Fairest

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	COACH'S AWARD
Under 10	Brendan Clowry	David Byrnes	Andrew Cullins
Under 12			
Under 13	Brad Fuller	David Knoble	Matthew Spencer
Under 15	Wayne Lacey	Dominic McInerney	Jeremy Grobben
Under 17	Paul Flack	Mark Birks	Danny Maher

Southern Districts Football Club Scholarship

Under 13	Ben O'Heir
Under 15	Simon Thompson Sean McGrath
Under 17	Nick Collins Paul Flack

ACT Representative Players

Woden/Weston District Primary Schools Australian Football Squad

Under 12	Craig Bolton	Chris Dunn	Anthony Gill	Josh Kilborn
	Stuart Laughlin	Casey McGrath		Tim McGrath
	Simon Rafferty	Phil Schmitzer		Mark Zonneveldt

ACT Primary Schools Australian Football Squad

	Stuart Laughlin	Phil Schmitzer	Mark Zonneveldt
Under 13 Development Squad		Brad Fuller	
Under 14 Development Squad		Marcus Collins Dominic McInerney Greg Puniard	
Under 15		Derek Foldszin Tim Lipscombe	
Under 17		Nicholas Collins	

The John Cahill Trophy (Best and Fairest, and then 1990 Significant Improvement) Award.

Under 13	Brad Fuller
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The G V Mahoney Memorial Medal	Mark Birks
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1992

Highlights included:

Brad Fuller won for the second year in a row the Best and Fairest award for the Competition. Whilst no sides won any premierships, the Senior XVIII finished a creditable third and there was a 25% increase in the number of players from the previous season.

The Committee:

President	Tom Wharton
Vice President	Neil Rech
Secretary	John Collins
League Delegate	Denis Sweeney
Communications Officer	David Bailey
Aussie Footy Delegate	Steve Laughlin
College Sports Delegate	Tony McInerney
Staff Ref Secondary	Joel Harris
Staff Ref Primary	Scott Frazer

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Chris Dorman	Mike Lynch
Under 11	Scott Frazer	Peter Woods
Under 12	Danny Fulton	Dave Bolton
Under 13	Steve Laughlin	Les Cull
Under 14	David Bailey	Tom Wharton
Under 17	Joel Harris	John Muir

Best and Fairest

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER-UP	COACH'S AWARD
Under 13	Philip Schmitzer	Anthony Gill	Stuart Laughlin
Under 14	Brad Fuller	Tony Dempsey	Matthew Jess
Under 17			

Southern District Scholarship Awards

Under 13	Casey McGrath
Under 14	Brett O'Brien
	Matthew Sullivan
Under 17	Marcus Collins
	Luke Howden

Under 14 Commonwealth Bank Premiership

Most Meritorious **Commonwealth Bank Plaque** Brad Fuller

Under 17 Nissan Premiership

G V Mahoney **Best and Fairest (Runner Up)** Luke Jess

ACT Representative Players

Under 17 Teal Cup Squad Luke Jess
Tim Lipscombe

Under 15 Development Squad Marcus Collins
Dominic McInerney
Greg Puniard

Under 14 Development Squad Richard Clune
David Knoble
Brad Fuller
Michael O'Brien
Richard Wharton



Under 14 Team - 1992

1993

Undoubtedly the highlight this year was the magnificent Grand final win by our Senior XV111 over West Canberra - a side who were unbeaten and seemingly unbeatable. But Marist had other ideas.

Other highlights this year included:

- Brian Morton the Senior XVIII full forward who booted 100 goals for the season.
- David Bailey being named as Junior Coach of the year by the ACTAJFL.

The Committee:

President	Tom Wharton
Vice President	Dave Jess
Secretary	David Bailey
Treasurer	Mike Lynch
Junior League Delegate	Jim Thompson
Aussie Footy Delegate	Scot Frazer
Property Officer	Mike Maloney
School Rep Secondary	Joel Harris
School Rep Primary	Scot Frazer
College Sports Delegate	Dave Jess
Special Events	Joel Harris
	Greg Clune
	Tony McInerney
	Peter Verdon
	Jenny Fuller
	Elizabeth Lynch
	Helen Menegazzo
	Denis Sweeney

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Scot Frazer	Peter Woods
Under 11	Pat Hurley	Mike Lynch
Under 12	Dan Fulton	Yvonne Sangster
Under 13	Mike Molony	Christine Skinner
	Dave Bolton (Assistant)	
Under 15	David Bailey	Tom Wharton
	Mark LeFebvre (Assistant)	Andy Finlay (Runner)
Under 17	Joel Harris	Graeme Lacey
	Eileen Dutton (Trainer)	

Best and Fairest

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	COACHES AWARD
Under 10			
Under 11			
Under 13	Michael Monagle	Brendan Scanlon	Phil Brown
Under 15	Brad Fuller	Richard Wharton	Matthew Sullivan
Under 17	Justan Fuller	Brian Walshe	Dominic McInerney

Southern District's Scholarship Awards

Under 15	Ben O'Heir
Under 17	Damien Dempsey Dominic McInerney

Turner Trophy Premiers Under 17 Division 1



1994

David Jess assumed the President's role from Tom Wharton who did such a fine job over the previous 2 years in such difficult circumstances. Old boy Tony Harrington coached the Senior XVIII to a Grand final appearance against the Tuggeranong Lions. Unfortunately, no other Marist teams were able to make the finals but the numbers were slowly increasing.

The Committee:

Patron	Brother Darren Burge
President	David Jess
Vice-President	Yvonne Sangster
	Paul Sullivan
Secretary	David Bailey
Treasurer	Mike Lynch
League Delegate	Mark Ransom
Aussie Footy Delegate	Dan Fulton
Communications Officer	Tom Wharton
High Marks Editor	Sue Sullivan
College Sports Delegate	Brother Darren Burge
Property Officer	Mike Maloney
College Rep Secondary	Brother Darren Burge
College Rep Primary	Dan Fulton
Special Events	Tony McInerney
	Jim Thompson
	Denis Sweeney
	Yvonne Sangster

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	John Nulley	Geoff Uren
Under 12	Dan Fulton	Mike Lynch
	Ian Macaulay (Assistant)	
Under 13	Mark Birks	Yvonne Sangster
	Andrew Goodwin (Assistant)	
Under 16	Anthony Sirr	Dennis O'Brien
	Nevin Morrison	
	Paul Wylks	
Under 18	Tony Harrington	Graham Lacey

Best and Fairest

Team	Best and Fairest	Runner-Up	Coach's Award
Under 10			Jack McGrath Declan Mitchell Antony Lynch
Under 12			Daniel Sallecchia James Sullivan Heath Jess
Under 13	Sean Nihill	Jordan Davies	David Byrnes
Under 16	Ben O'Heir	Brett O'Brien	Marty Leung
Under 18	Brad O'Mara	Dominic McInerney	Damien Dempsey

ACT Representative Players

Under 17	Commonwealth Bank Teal Cup	Wayne Lacey Dominic McInerney
Under 16	ACT Schoolboys	Brad Fuller
Under 14	Michael Monagle Ben O'Brien	

Southern Districts Football Club Scholarships

Under 13	Rowan Sangster
Under 16	Brad Fuller
Under 18	Richard Wharton

Tuggeranong Football Club Best Clubman

Junior School	Darrick O'Heir
Senior School	Ben Daley

Under 14 Ian Grigg Perpetual Trophy

Significant Improvement Award	Michael Monagle
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Under 18 Nissan Premiership

Best and Fairest (Runner Up)	G V Mahoney Medal	Dominic McInerney
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Competition Runners Up

Under 18

1995

For the third successive year running the Senior XVIII made yet another Grand final. In a replay of last years decider, we went down to the strong Tuggeranong Lions outfit. Coach John Byrne (a football fanatic) joined the Club as Coach of the Marist Under 13 team, which he took from being easy beats, to playing off in the finals. A talented junior from South Australia - Peter Johnson began his first year at Marist and although only 12 won the Marist Under 13 Best and Fairest award by a comfortable margin. Richard Wharton became the third Marist player to win the award as Best and Fairest player in the Under 18 Competition, Ben O'Heir was Runner Up in the same Competition. The Under 11 team had the unique honour of playing and beating the Southern Districts side in an exhibition match at the first ever AFL game held for premiership points at Bruce Stadium in front of more than 13,000 fans.

Another significant achievement during 1995 was the commencement of the fund raising BBQs at all home games, which have become a very successful enterprise. Many thanks must go to Mike and Elizabeth Lynch who so diligently organised this event each week.

The Committee:

Patron	Brother Darren Burge
President	David Jess
Vice Presidents	Paul Sullivan Yvonne Sangster Stirling Meredith
Secretary	Ron Robinson
Treasurer	Mike Lynch
League Delegates	Mark Ransom Roger Hancock
High Marks Editor	Sue Sullivan
Property Officer	Anthony Sirr
Senior Master in Charge	Brother Darren Burge
Junior Master in Charge	Dan Fulton
Special Events	Tom Wharton Tony McInerney Jim Thompson David Bailey

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 11	Roger Hancock Wayne Lacey (Ass) Brad O'Mara (Ass) Dan Fulton (Ass) John Nully (Ass)	Trevor Moody
Under 13	John Byrne Sean McGrath (Ass)	Mike Lynch
Under 14	Peter Shore Dominic McInerney (Ass)	Yvonne Sangster
Under 17	Ian Macaulay Steve Evans (Ass)	Tom Wharton

Best and Fairest

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER-UP	COACH'S AWARD
Under 11			Vaughan Liddicoat Jerome Monagle Richard Sullivan
Under 13	Peter Johnson	Mitch Taylforth	Heath Jess
Under 14	Pat McCarthy	Adam Woods	Stephen Wylks
Under 17	Richard Wharton	Ben O'Heir	Matthew Sullivan

ACT Representative Players

Under 17	Commonwealth Bank Teal Cup	Brad Fuller Richard Wharton
Under 15 Development Squad		Craig Bolton Michael Monagle Ben O'Brien
Under 13 Development Squad		Dane Fountain

Southern Districts Football Scholarships

Under 13	Krystian Dziejcz
Under 14	Sean Nihill
Under 17	Dan Komorowski

Competition Runners Up

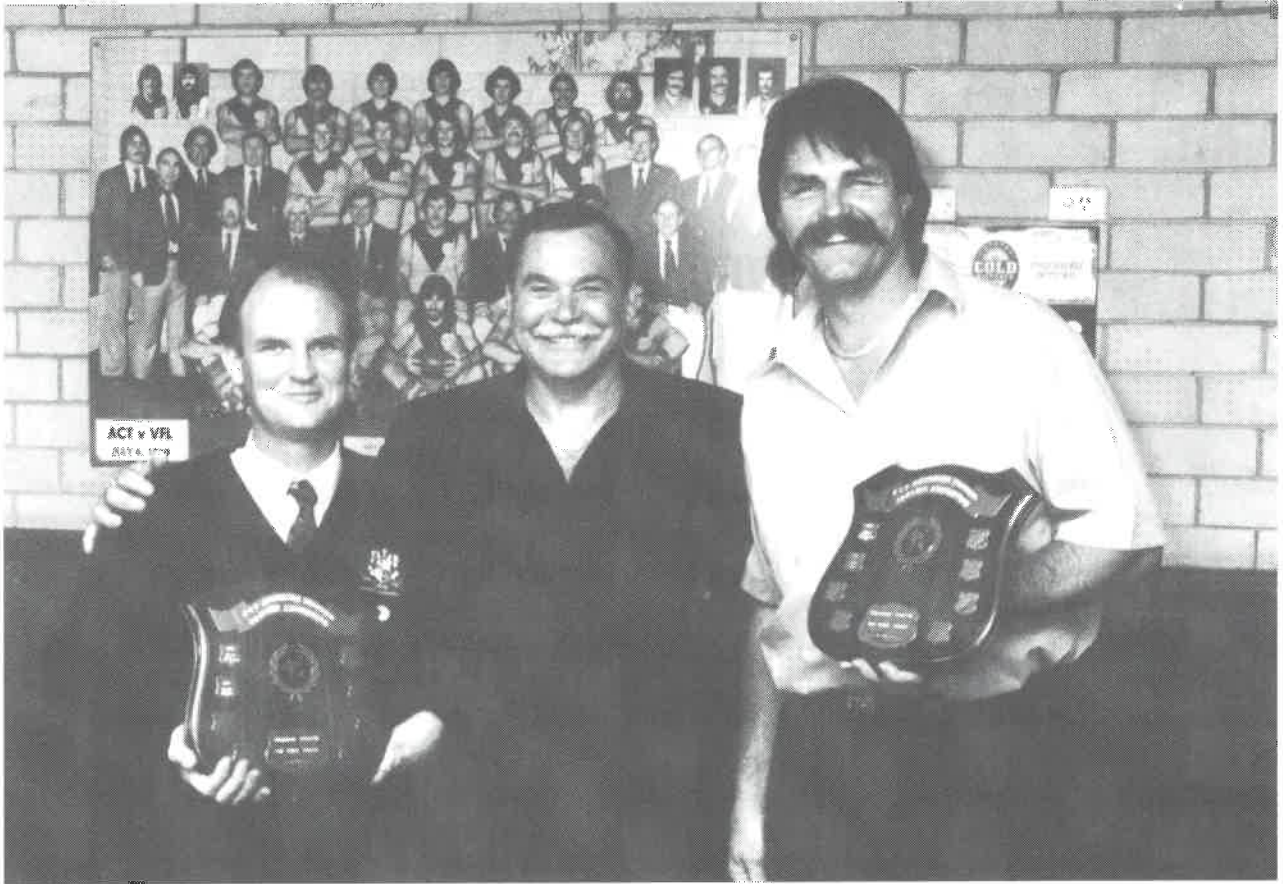
Under 17



James Sullivan, Brendan Lynch, Rowan Sangster, Stephen Wylkes, Craig Francis, David Byrnes, Damian Collins with Ron Barassi after being presented with awards in recognition for games played



Lions and Marist games always lead to great competition



David Bailey after being presented with his Junior Coach's Award with Ron Barassi and David Cloke



John Byrnes encouraging his charges

1996

The 1996 season saw the appearance of the one and only Andy Finlay who began his first year as Senior XVIII Coach. Unfortunately the team was unable to compete in yet another Grand final, however they made the finals losing to Belconnen by a solitary point. A remarkable achievement considering they began the season with only 14 players registered. The Under 13s under second year Coach John Byrne made the Grandfinal and actually led the strong and more experienced Tuggeranong Lions at half time. Peter Johnson, the team Captain, was awarded the Best and Fairest medal for the Under 13 Competition. Paul Sullivan took over the reigns from David Jess who served the Club well in his years as President. Marist achieved an enrollment of 133 in its Auskick programme, by far and away the most successful club in this endeavour in the Junior League. Mike Lynch our Auskick coordinator was awarded a certificate of appreciation by the ACTAJFL for meritorious service to junior football. Two of our players Peter Johnson and Michael Monagle won special awards for the ACT side. Peter joined the likes of Brad Fuller, James Hird and Nathan Buckley as winner of the John Cahill Perpetual Trophy of the Under 13 Development Squad, whilst Michael Monagle was awarded the Peter Battison Shield based on Leadership, Guts and Determination for the Under 16 Schoolboys Team.

The Committee:

Patron	Brother Darren Burge
President	Paul Sullivan
Vice Presidents	Mike Lynch Mark Ransom Peter Woods
Secretary	Ron Robinson
Treasurer	Stirling Meredith
High Marks Editor	Sue Sullivan
Property Officer	Peter Woods
Senior Master in Charge	Brother Darren Burge
Junior Master in Charge	Dan Fulton
League Delegates	Mark Ransom Roger Hancock
College Sports Delegate	Paul Sullivan
Special Events	Tom Wharton David Bailey David Jess Graham Lacey

The Managers and Coaches

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 11	John Sirr	Mary Bayley Les Bayley
Under 12	Roger Hancock	Trevor Moody
Under 13	John Byrne	Paul Stubing
Under 15	Neil Woods	Denis Wylks
Under 17	Andy Finlay	Denis O'Brien
	Mick Molony (Assist)	

Best and Fairest

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	COACH'S AWARD
Under 11			Quinn Romano Jake Bayley Andrew Jones
Under 12	Robert Ayling	Chris Herscovitch Patrick Moody	
Under 13	Peter Johnson	Robbie Sirr James Sullivan	
Under 15	Adam Woods	Sean Nihill	Conor O'Donnell
Under 17	Michael Monagle	Craig Bolton Luke McLachlan	

Eastlake Football Scholarships

Under 13	Brendan Lynch
Under 15	Paul McLachlan
Under 17	Casey McGrath

ACT Representative Players

School's Sports Council Primary School Team	Darrick O'Heir Jerome Monagle Patrick Moody
Under 13 Development Squad	Jacob Buchi Peter Johnson James Sullivan
Under 15 Development Squad	Sean Nihill
Under 16 Schoolboys Team	Leigh Arthurson Craig Bolton Michael Monagle Ben O'Brien
Under 13 Development Squad - John Cahill Perpetual Trophy	Peter Johnson
Under 16 Schoolboys Team Peter Battison Shield	Michael Monagle "Leadership, Guts and Determination"

1997

1997 was the first year that Marist Australian Rules entered the ACT School Championships, entering a Year 9 and 10 combined team under the coaching skills of Mr Mick Molony. The boys performed admirably and were successful in winning the competition. This was the year that the Under 14's had a thrilling win in the Grand final against the Lions and the First XVIII were beaten in the Grand final by only five points by West Canberra who had been undefeated all season.

In other highlights of 1997, Peter Johnson won the best and fairest medal in the Under 14 competition. Brad Fuller was the last Marist player to win back to back medals. The Acton Football Club sponsored a new award called the Clubmen of the year. The inaugural winners were Michael Monagle (Senior Clubman) and Peter Sirr (Junior Clubman). Andy Finlay was named Junior Coach of the Year

The Committee

President	Paul Sullivan
Vice President (Admin)	Peter Woods
(Profile)	Mark Ransom
Secretary/Registrar	Sue Sullivan
Treasurer	Kerry Woods
League Delegate	Trevor Moody
High Marks Editor	Michelle Goldsbrough
Canteen Manager	Kerry Woods

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 10	Malcolm Phipps	Bob Crawshaw
Under 12	John Sirr	Mary and Les Bayley
Under 13	Roger Hancock	Trevor Moody
Under 14	John Bryne	Paul Stubing
	Anthony Sirr (Assistant)	
Under 17	Andy Finlay	Steve Spencer

Best and Fairest Awards

TEAM	BEST AND FAIREST	RUNNER UP	COACHES AWARD
			Aaron Bayley Andrew Nunn Leighton Phipps
Under 12	Nicholas Smith	David Fitzpatrick	Matthew Meredith
Under 13	Daniel Chafton	Matthew Geysen	
	James Francis		
Under 14	Peter Johnson	James Sullivan	Anthony Lord
Under 17	Luke McLachlan	Chris Dunn	Anthony Cutting

Eastlake Scholarships

Under 13	Dean Rawlinson
Under 14	Ben Sheather
Under 17	David Morson

Tuggeranong Scholarships (Rookie of the Year Award)

Senior	Nicholas Stodulka
Junior	Phillip Wild

Representative Players

Under 13 Development Squad

Robbie Ayling
Dan Chafton
Scott Hancock
Jerome Monagle

Under 14 Development Squad

Anthony Baillie
Jacob Buchi
Peter Johnson
Daniel Sallecchia
James Sullivan

Under 16 School Boys Representatives

Jordon Davies
Conor O'Donnell
Sean Nihill

Under 18 National Championships

Craig Bolton
Luke McLachlan

RAMS

Craig Bolton

School Sports Council Primary School Team

Brendan Schmid
Nicholas Smith

1998

Marist enters its 25th year with 6 teams participating in the Junior League. We have 130 boys participating which is yet another increase from last year. John Sirr, John Byrne and Andy Finlay are coaching for their third successive year, whilst for the first time the Club has appointed Mick Molony as the Coaching Director. The Club made a decision at the end of 1997 to buy new uniforms for all the teams, and it is noticeable the comments coming from other Clubs as to how professional the Marist Football Club looks. Michael Monagle became the third Marist player to represent the RAMs, whilst Craig Bolton was chosen as Vice Captain. The future of the Club looks bright. Anyone who has any doubt should go down and watch Malcolm Phipps Under 12 side if they ever need any convincing!!!!

Peter Johnson and James Sullivan were both selected in the Eastern NSW-ACT Conference Squad and will be attending a Development Camp at the AIS in Canberra during the October school holidays.

Craig Bolton has just been named in the All Australian National Under 18's team after competing in the National Under 18 Australian Rules Competition held in Adelaide during July. During this year Craig won selection with the Melbourne Reserves and played a game against the Sydney Swans.

The Committee

President	Paul Sullivan
Vice President	Peter Woods
Secretary	Paul Monagle
Assistant Secretary	Sue Sullivan
Treasurer	Kerry Woods
Registrar	Mark Ransom
League Delegate	Trevor Moody
High Marks	Christine and Terry May
Canteen Manager	Anton Buchi
Senior Fundraisers	Jacinta and Ray O'Donnell
Director of Coaching	Mick Molony

The Coaches and Managers

TEAM	COACH	MANAGER
Under 11	Steve Miller	Joe Box
Under 12	Malcolm and Leighton Phipps	Bob Crawshaw
Under 13	John Sirr/Anthony Sirr	Geoff Peterson
Under 14	John Byrne	Dale Francis
Under 16	Ian Macaulay/Mick Molony	Chris Rule
		Paul Stubing
Under 17	Andy Finlay	Denis O'Brien
	Ian Handberg	
	Richard Wharton	

Representative Players

Under 13 Development Squad

Brendan Schmid

Under 14 Development Squad

Jerome Monagle
Scott Hancock

Under 15 Development Squad

Peter Johnson
James Sullivan
Jacob Buchi
Joe Behm
Anthony Bailie
Daniel Sallecchia
Robbie Sirr

Under 18 Representative Team

Craig Bolton



Craig Bolton playing for Melbourne reserves in action against Sydney Swans in 1998

The Colts of some Regret

The parents who have made up the Marist football club committees over 25 years have always been looking for new ways to support the boys who have chosen Aussie rules as a College commitment during the winter. 1990 was no different.

Against the background of some envy-forming trips for boys playing that other code, the 1990 committee decided to re-introduce an end-of-season trip for the senior Aussie Rules team - the Colts. We considered New Zealand and Bali but there were no teams to take us on; Tassie but it was too cold even for Canberraites, and even Assumption, Kilmore, but wisdom prevailed. We finally settled on a visit to the exciting centre of New South Wales - Marist, Red Bend at Forbes was to be our host. And just to be Irish, we took the end of season trip in the middle of the season !!!

A bus trip from Pearce to Forbes, a visit to the Parkes telescope and a game against the strongly Rugby League orientated Marist Red Bend was the go. Red Bend gets its name from a bend in the river that almost forms a moat around the College. As the weekend progressed the notion of a moat took on some particular relevance.....

So the 25 or so Colts, Tony (1) and Tony (2) the coaches, a devoted parents support team of Peter Ernie, Denis and Tony (3) and our Headmaster Bro Rodg arrived late Friday at Red Bend. Everyone hit the cot and had a good nights beauty sleep in anticipation of an exhilarating day to follow....in the event Im not sure thats the right adjective.

Saturday came and we did the tourist bit before taking on the local Red Bend senior team, which was an ecumenical mix of Aussie Rules and League skills....Pearce did triumph !

We were lucky in that it was the weekend of the Forbes Show. Our devoted parents thought that our city bred colts would enjoy as after match educational experience of a real country show. However, it seemed that some who were nearing the end of their school days could soak up education more quickly than others and soon left the mob in the Agricultural Pavilion and sought refuge in the Tooheys Pavilion. You can be assured that our devoted parents worked tirelessly and kept them out of harms way.

At dusk we drove our tired (and a few thirsty) charges back to the school compound.

A pleasant BBQ tea followed and the Colts headed to the Gymnasium floor with gym mats and sleeping bags about 9.30, exhausted after all the excitement of a day in the mid west. At this point, the supportive parents, coaches and Bro Rodg were invited by the local Bros to have a quiet ale(s) and a nightcap.....

Now it seems that a few of the Colts were less exhausted than the others. In fact about eight of them left the comfort of the gym floor, braved the freezing conditions and trudged the 5 kilometres to town to observe the local Saturday night culture.....

Begosh and begorrah, the alarm was raised!! The names of the missing Colts were taken and two of us supportive parents responded to the demands of a quite animated Headmaster and headed to town in an eight seater Nissan to save these young Colts from themselves. A stop outside the first pub on the left and the Headmaster was in one door, through the bar and out the other door...the missing were still missing. Then the next pub and the next. Finally our Headmaster emerged with eight ashened faced colts in tow. One complained that he had just paid for 4 pots! Our Headmaster was unsympathetic. The 5k return trip to Red Bend with eleven bodies in the eight seater Nissan seemed like 50k. All options were squarely on the table: expulsion, suspension, humiliation, etc, etc. It was as tense as an Alan Killigrew dissertation after a loss, but in a much more confined space.

While this drama unfolded, the remaining members of the supportive parents group continued to enjoy the generous hospitality back at the College.

The next day the sun DID rise and the rebel Colts acknowledged the error of their ways. I am pleased to report that the indiscretions of 1990 passed quickly into history and have not been repeated. End of season trips for the senior team continue to be part of Aussie Rules at Marist.

Supportive Parents of 1990

MARIST COLLEGE AUSTRALIAN RULES FIRST XVIII 'A COACH'S PERSPECTIVE'

I have been the senior coach of the Marist College Australian Rules First XVIII since February 1996. I accepted the position as coach at the invitation and insistence of former Club President David Jess, father of the current senior captain of Tuggeranong, Luke Jess. Being involved at Marist has been a positive experience for me.

I had retired as a player after eighteen years of senior football in 1984, after being captain/coach of the ANU. When I received David's invitation I wondered whether my work commitments as a lawyer would allow me sufficient time to take on another senior coaching role. Whilst my work commitments have not diminished, my decision to return to a senior coaching position of the Marist College First XVIII has been a decision for which I have no regrets.

It has been my great privilege and pleasure to work with a group of outstanding young men over the past three seasons. I have seen players develop their skills as young footballers and evidenced their personal growth and development as young men, one of the positives of being involved in a team sport. One of the greatest rewards a coach of a junior team can hope for is that the athletes under his/her guidance increase their love and commitment for their chosen sport and also develop a respect for and preparedness to support their team mates. Players have been encouraged and rewarded for doing those things which are team orientated, called 'sacrificial acts', for example shepherding, blocking, unrewarded running, etc.

I believe that the caring and concern for others is one of the most enduring qualities and a philosophy which underpins Marist College. This concern for others emanates for the Marist Brothers and also from the dedicated teaching and administrative staff at the College. It has also been reflected in the attitudes and characteristics of the young men who have represented Marist College First XVIII Australian Rules in recent years.

With the continued support of the College, facilities for playing Australian Rules at the college are excellent. The playing surface of Lindwall Oval is second to none. The grandstand, canteen and future improvements planned for the ground, which includes change rooms, will further enhance the already excellent facilities for Australian Rules Football.

Helping young men to develop their skills and enjoy playing the greatest game on earth is reward enough for any Junior Australian Rules coach. As a coach, one hopes that if playing Australian Rules at Marist has been a pleasurable experience for them, players will continue on with their football on leaving the college and go on and play at the highest level in a senior competition of which they are capable.

Whilst Rugby Union traditionally has been a popular winter sport at Marist, it has been gratifying to see the growth in numbers and level of participation in Australian Rules at Marist in recent years. This growth has in no small way been achieved by the excellent work of the Marist Australian Rules Football Club administration and a dedicated group of junior coaches. In particular, I wish to commend Sue and Paul Sullivan, Kerry and Peter Woods, Trevor Moody and the balance of the committee for their excellent work. Michael Molony's contribution to the continued growth of Australian Rules

at Marist cannot be understated. Without his continued presence and support for Australian Rules at the college, the games growth would have been substantially affected.

As senior coach I have received invaluable assistance from assistant coach, Steve Spencer in 1996 and 1997, and from Ian Handberg and Richard Wharton, in 1998. Denis O'Brien has been a very able team manager since 1996.

Marist Australian Rules has a most important role in ensuring that the development of junior football continues in the ACT. With the introduction of the ACT/New South Wales Rams in 1996 excellent opportunities now exist for players to progress through junior ranks at Marist College and ultimately to represent the ACT at the highest possible junior level, playing with the Rams in the elite AFL Under 18 Competition. Craig Bolton and Michael Monagle have represented the Rams during 1998 season. Ben O'Brien and Jordon Davies have also been part of the Rams training squad in 1998. Brad Fuller won the Rams best and fairest in the Rams inaugural year, 1996, and is now playing senior football for Collingwood. Craig Bolton was recently selected to play for Melbourne Reserves, an outstanding effort as Craig has not yet turned eighteen.

I believe the level of professionalism of Marist Australian Rules has continued to grow in recent years. Greater co-ordination between all junior coaches has occurred so that all junior Marist footballers are now given instruction and coaching with the consistent sets of team rules and codes of conduct. This will greatly assist all Marist players in their development as young footballers.

Marist College First XV111 has in recent years continued to gain the respect of other teams in the ACT Junior Under 18 Competition for their tenacity and commitment to their football. In 1996 the senior team was extremely unlucky to lose to Belconnen by one point in the first semi-final. In 1997, after again making the finals we managed a magnificent 25 point win over Bulldogs in the first semi-final and a convincing 57 point win over Ainslie in the preliminary final, Marist then met the strong, undefeated, West Canberra Magpies in the grand final. Marist demonstrated exemplary commitment and courage and were extremely unlucky to lose by 5 points after looming as a serious threat to West Canberra in a tense and exciting last quarter.

The 1998 senior team faces a challenging year with many inexperienced players. However, with enthusiasm, commitment and the maintenance of a high work ethic throughout the season the team can be successful. Failure cannot cope with perseverance. No stone will be left unturned in our quest for success.

The club has achieved much in the past twenty five years. With the continued hard work of the committee and the ongoing support within the college, we can look forward with optimism that the future in the next twenty five years will be even brighter for the Marist Australian Rules Football Club.

Andy Finlay
Senior Coach
Marist College First XVIII.

An observer at the 1993 First XVIII Grand final was Frank OShea, a well respected teacher at the school and Aussie Rules novice, gives his impression of the game;

Up there, Marist!

I have no doubt that some famous coach or highly-paid motivator has written somewhere that if every member of a team plays up to ability and then a little more, you would have an unbeatable combination. That certainly was the case at Football Park, Phillip, on Saturday last. Three times during the season, Marist had lost to West Canberra, on two of these occasions by large margins; what was the betting on the Blues this time?

In the first quarter you could be excused for wondering what all the fuss was about. Playing with a strong wind, Marist was clearly on top; only poor shooting kept their lead to 25 points. Then in the second quarter we knew why Wests were favourites. For some reason, Marist went into their shell. Instead of attacking the ball, they waited for crumbs which rarely came; instead of forcing their opponents into errors, they waited for them to make mistakes. On one occasion, I counted six successive possessions by Wests, without a Marist player touching the ball- the tally could have gone on, except that it finished with a goal. At half-time, Wests were four points ahead. Marist could not manage even one behind during the quarter, surely some kind of record for a team which goes on to win.

I don't know what the coach said to his players at half-time, but if he could put it in a bottle and sell it, he would make a fortune. It was if a different team came on the ground. The uncertainty was gone and although Wests got a soft early goal to stretch their lead in the wind, Marist fought like demons and made some marvellous scores. Still they were only 13 points ahead with that wind to play against.

The fourth quarter was a revelation, Marist harried and hounded, put everything on the line, went into dangers that would have given their mothers heart attacks. They were fitter than the opposition- and smarter. They played the ball along the wings rather than down the centre to their big opponents. They hunted in twos and threes, encouraged each other, ran themselves into the ground, performed with an intensity that was almost frightening. But the wind and the constant pressure would surely tell.

Then with little more than five minutes left, came perhaps the crucial moment of the game. Full-forward Morton made a magnificent fingertip catch in front of bigger opponents. He was twenty-five metres out, on a crucial angle, on his wrong foot and there was an opponent doing an impersonation of a whirling dervish on the mark. Somehow, he managed to squeeze the ball between the main uprights. It was a vital score. After almost twenty minutes use of the wind, Wests were no closer to Marist than at the start of the quarter, and although they scored another goal, time ran out for them. In truth, Marist were on top at the end.

This was a fine advertisement for the game of Australian football for Marist College. The boys did themselves great credit; they deserved a bigger support. The applause at the end came from opponents and neutrals alike for a courageous win, full of character.

I have a limited knowledge of the finer points of the game, but even I could pick out Jess as an outstanding player, particularly when he went to full-back in the last quarter. Not far behind were Foldszin and the stylish Fuller. But the players who particularly caught my untutored eye were the small men: Napier, Walsh, OMara and some others whose identity was lost by the esoteric nature of the jersey-numbering system. In a way, I hesitate to use names; the school can be proud of every one of the players. There were no shirkers, no fancy dancers or shapers, nobody trying to hide.

A special word too for coach Harris; somehow he managed to coax out of eighteen players a display which was greater than the sum of eighteen individual efforts. I hope it is a lesson none of the players ever forgets.

Taken from the Marist College Newsletter 21 September, 1993

What Marist means to me. - by David Bailey.

My name is David Bailey. My wife, Jenny Fuller and I have been involved with the Marist College Australian Rules Football Club since our eldest son Damian moved to Marist from St Thomas in 1987 for Year 7. He was closely followed by Justan in 1988 for Year 7 and Brad the same year for Year 4.

We had been involved with the Tuggeranong Lions since we moved from Adelaide in 1984. Damian and Justan had immediately started playing football when we arrived from Adelaide as they had already played one season there. Brad had not played in Adelaide but the moment the other two started playing we arrived in Canberra he was very keen to join in. With us deciding that the boys should go to Marist, we felt it only right that they should play footy for the College. However, it was never really an issue as the boys wanted to play for the College. In 1987, the year Brad would have played Under 9s, Jenny and I insisted that he take a year off as he was becoming incredibly single-minded and we thought it was a little too much. Most of that year he spent filling in for both Damians and Justans teams but in our minds, if not his, it was still a year off.

1988 was the first year all three boys played for Marist. It was certainly a huge change from playing at Tuggeranong. Instead of winning by 10 goals every week, we were losing by 10 goals. Instead of having a more than full interchange bench every game we seldom took the field with a full quota of players. The boys didnt seem to mind too much; they were with their school mates and they got to play football. What more could you ask for? It was the attitude of the parents that was the difference; if we felt the pain of loss, so did they. We learnt very quickly that the point of Australian Football at the College was fun, participation and doing the best you can (it was also nice to win every now and then).

Although the Lions people were sociable and we met people there who remain our friends to this day, there was a different tighter atmosphere amongst the Marist supporters. The relationships lasted all year round through College functions and other sports like cricket. Supporting a minority code at one of Canberras great rugby union schools seemed to have instilled in the Marist Australian Rules Football Club a fierce independence and passion, and a desire to survive and succeed. It was during that time that Jenny and I met some of the famous Marist footballing stalwarts; the Burdeus, the Joblings, the Muirs, the Jesss, the Whartons, the Merediths, the McInernys, the Napiers, the McGraths, the Collins, the Sweeneys, the Thompsons, etc.

They were difficult times as the Club struggled to remain alive in an environment that seemed to deliver financial support, opportunity and benefit only to the chosen few. Through the junior grades, Damian and Justan played most of the football together as the Club and sometimes the competition struggled to field teams in all age groups. There were also some strict rules which made it difficult for the Club to carry on. The ACTAFJL changed the age groupings seemingly every year which made it difficult to plan; and the other junior clubs in the area poached players from Marist but the College couldnt reciprocate. Nevertheless, the Club survived and at times prospered.

One thing I did notice about the Marist and the St Eddies teams was I think that the College teams played to the best of their ability more often than the Club teams. They didnt always win but, like the South Australian State of Origin Australian Rules players, they seemed to grow an inch in height and a foot in courage when they pulled on the double blue jumpers.

In 1990, when things were looking a little doubtful at the Club and when people were actually talking about folding, Jenny and I turned up at an AGM and became club volunteers. Jenny was involved in a lot of the fund-raising and I was involved as Secretary and editor of the High Marks magazine. The following year Tom Wharton talked me into coaching my son Brads and his son Richards Under 13 team. I was a little overwhelmed by it all but we had a reasonable season with 4 wins. In 1992, the Under 14 team I coached the following year only had 1 win. During those years, we struggled for numbers and often took the ground under strength but the boys gave it their all and I was proud of them every week (except one where we threw away an unbeatable lead against West Canberra). It was wonderful to see boys faces light up when they kicked a goal or took a mark or for some just to get off a reasonable kick. The support given to the coaches by the College, the Club members and the parents was fantastic and made it easier to keep enjoying playing (for the boys) and coaching (for me) despite the lack of on-field success.

In 1993, I coached the Under 15 team in what was a memorable year for the Club. The Under 15s had three magnificent wins and many stirring (but losing) performances; none more satisfying than a 57 point thumping of the old rival (St Eddies) at Hughes and a close encounter against the ultimate premiers, the Tuggeranong Lions, at Mawson. I still have severe back pain every time I think of the St Eddies game; current First XVIII coach Andy Finlay was a my runner at the time. His son, Marcus, took a handpass from Ben Burston and ran into an open goal which demoralised St Eddies when they looked like they might be staging a comeback. Before I had a chance to turn and tell Andy to run out and congratulate Ben and Marcus, Andy climbed over the top of me and by the time I picked my face out of the Hughes Oval dirt, he was already at the other end of the ground back-slapping and hugging the boys. But you all know Andy, dont you! Maybe thats why he married a physiotherapist.

After the St Eddies game, it was amazing to listen to the boys as they unashamedly and proudly burst into Great Man of God in the change rooms after the game. When Jenny and I first heard it, in an Under 16 Grand Final win that both Justan and Damian had participated in, we were a bit embarrassed that they should be singing such a song. But throughout the boys lives at Marist, it symbolised significant moments in their passage through the College right up until the year 12 Mass.

Joel Harris had joined the College as a Sports Master in 1992 and to our delight he was an Australian Football fan and took on the role as coach of the First XVIII. He coached them well and they earned a spot in both the 1992 and 1993 Finals series. in 1993, Marist outplayed first the Bulldogs then the Lions in the semi and preliminary finals but then faced the undefeated West Canberra in the Grand Final; a team which had several players with senior experience.

Hopes were high as this West Canberra age group had made it to several Grand Finals previously after being basically unbeaten all season and had stumbled at the final hurdle. Before the game I joined many Marist supporters in the rooms; the walls were bedecked with HeroGrams from boys throughout the College and balloons and streamers.

The game was close and physical; the boys played well all day but at three quarter time, Marist was only a few points up and kicking against a strong breeze in the last quarter. At the three quarter time huddle, Joel and the band of Marist supporters (as well as Tuggeranong and St Eddies supporters who seemed to delight in barracking for the underdogs) urged the boys on for one final effort but they didnt need much coaching. Joel couldnt get a word in as the senior players took on the coaching role.

The final quarter was tense and nerve-wracking and it wasnt until late in the final quarter when Brian Morton kicked a goal from a tough angle with a tough cross breeze and lots of pressure that the boys looked safe to win. When the siren rang, the supporters went berserk; tears flowed freely from the eyes of players, parents and supporters. It was Captain Dave Oakleys 18th birthday that night; needless to say it was a big night! Frank OShea has written eloquently of this game elsewhere in this book; I urge you all to read it. It was the finest moment for Marist football while I have been involved and is still the finest game of football I have ever watched.

Our sons Damian, Justan and Brad have gone on to other things. Damian was unable to play in his last year at School because he was too old to play in the College Under 17 team; and he has not played since. Justan has gone on to play senior football with Eastlake, win the ACTAFL Rookie of the Year Award in 1994 and had one season in 1996 on the Swans Supplementary List. Brad has gone on to play a major role in the success of the NSW-ACT RAMS in their first year in the VSFL in 1996 and is now playing senior football with Collingwood...

But no game, not even the 1996 VSFL Grand Final when the NSW-ACT RAMS went down by a couple of goals at the MCG on that last Saturday in September, has been as memorable or as uplifting as the 1993 ACTAFJL Under 18 Grand Final when the rank underdogs at Marist pulled off a glorious victory.

Off the field, things started to change with the arrival of Brother Chris Wade in 1993. A concept known as the level playing field was introduced much to the delight of all sporting groups at Marist. All College Clubs were forced to stand on their own two feet and stop bleating about favouritism. All the codes have subsequently got their act together and become more organised or have fallen by the way. The Club owes a debt of gratitude to Brother Chris for many changes that have occurred since his arrival, most notably the many important improvements to the Lindwall Oval which enabled all College Australian Rules teams to play home games at the College.

Anyway, here it is 1998, and by any measure, over the last few years, the Marist College Australian Rules Football Club has been, is and will continue to be successful. Under the leadership of Tom Wharton, David Jess and now Paul Sullivan, the Marist Australian Rules Football Club has changed from being a shaky participant in the ACTAFJL competition to being a force to be reckoned with. First XVIII Grand Final appearances in 1997, 1996, 1995, 1994 and of course 1993 have demonstrated the long term value and importance of having teams from the Colleges of the ACT in the ACTAFJL competition. In 1996, the College had one former player in the NSW-ACT RAMS (Brad Fuller); in 1997, the College had two (Luke McLaughlan and Craig Bolton) and in 1998, the College again has two (Craig Bolton and Michael Monagle). In 1998, the College has 6 teams regularly competing in the ACTAFJL competition compared to 4 just a few years ago. And two former students are playing first grade AFL; Aaron Hamill at Carlton (who is being spoken of as a future leader) and Brad Fuller at Collingwood.

May the Marist College Australian Rules Football Club go on successfully for another 25 years and beyond. And may the camaraderie and friendship that I have experienced continue to be extended to all new members of the Marist College Australian Rules Football Club community. Congratulations!

1997 Under 14s Grand Final Win

If the 1993 win by the Marist Senior XV111 was considered one of the greatest ever victories by a Marist team, then the Under 14s victory over the Tuggeranong Lions wouldnt have been far behind it. Assistant Coach of the Marist Under 14 team, Anthony Sirr, takes up the story;

The Marist Under 14 team under the astute coaching of super coach John Byrne took out the Under 14 title against all odds - beating the Tuggeranong Lions team, (a side they had never tasted success against) by 3 points. John Byrne deserves most of the credit for taking this side to where he did. He started 3 years ago, when no one else wanted to coach them, he took a team half of which comprised Under 12s, and turned them from a team which was regularly beaten to a side which played off in the finals. The following year he made the decision for the team to remain in the Under 13 competition and in doing that, he had to recruit a number of new players so we could field a team. Against all the odds the team had some magnificent victories, particularly against the Bulldogs and Weston Creek teams and astonished all its supporters when it not only made the grand final but led the strong Lions side at half time. In 1997 the team, buoyed by its success the previous year and with some extra recruiting, approached the season with great confidence. The team numbers had increased from 15 at the start of 1996 to 25 at the start of 1997 - a tribute to Byrnesys coaching. We won most of our matches with relative ease. The two teams we struggled against were the Eastlake Under 15s who beat us on both occasions by less than a goal, and for some reason we could never quite beat the Lions. The team entered the grand final following a 93 point thrashing of Ainslie in the preliminary final. No team (the Lions included) had come anywhere near beating Ainslie by that margin. The team played sensational football on preliminary final day, but we knew we had to face our nemesis the Lions the following week. And what a grandfinal it was. The boys chased and harassed their more skillful opponents all day. Coach Byrne was relatively calm when we faced a 10 point deficit at three quarter time. The Lions kicked the first goal of the final quarter to grab what looked like an insurmountable lead. But the boys never dropped their heads and continued to fight. Gradually we got closer. Daniel Sellechia kicked a miracle goal from deep within the forward pocket and all of a sudden we drew within 3 points. The Lions started to panic and a poor kick out resulted in Lachlan ODonnell grabbing an opportunistic goal and putting Marist in front for the first time in the second half. We hit the lead with minutes to go, but the Lions being the great side they are surged forward one more time. Some match saving tackles firstly by Josh Noonan and then Jacob Buchi ensured victory for Marist. Best player on the ground was undoubtedly James Sullivan, whilst Peter Johnson grabbed a squillion kicks despite being closely manned. It was a great team effort and a thorough reward for John Byrne on his 50th birthday!!!!

The Senior XVIII made its fourth appearance in a grand final in 5 years. In a riveting game it was a gallant five point loser to the strong West Canberra side who was unbeaten right throughout the season. Marist had previously suffered some giant defeats to this team, but in the Grandfinal they lifted as only a Marist side can and looked the stronger side throughout the last quarter. Coach Finlay had the boys and even the spectators fired up and it was quite clear from the start the boys were always going to play the match of their lives.

A New Comers Views

Living in the Tuggeranong Valley the heartland of Lions and Bulldogs junior football and with several neighbouring children playing for those clubs it was natural that as a keen Aussie Rules family we would join one of those clubs, in our case the Lions.

At the time my only contact with Marist was driving past Lindwall Oval on the way to work and even then it never occurred to me that school sport would be played there.

In our early days with the Lions Marist football never appeared in the picture as it is impossible for Marist to field teams in the Under 9s or below, but as well as this no follow on games ever involved Marist teams.

As I became more involved with the Lions and attended various meetings etc; it became evident to me that Marist did exist and was a thorn in the side of several clubs particularly those on the South side. Quite a few meetings contained several vocal discussions strongly opposing Marist being in the local competition preferring them to be in a schools weekday comp. To me this seemed strange as the more teams in the comp the better and to be fair not all wanted Marist out however it did ignite an interest in Marist with me.

At the completion of the Under 9 season I was approached by Mike Lynch, the vice president of Marist, to come along to the end of season presentation, have a look, meet some people, see what you think and give some thoughts to joining up with Marist the following year.

I was really impressed in that I was only an Under 9 coach but Marist were obviously looking to the future and wanted to start building where it counts at the youngest age group feasible for the club. Marist followed up this with several calls and a letter to show how serious they felt about the future years of Marist football.

It did not take long to make my mind up to join Marist and after a season and a half I know I have made the right decision.

The club is run by a committee that is not involved in coaching, allowing the coaches to concentrate on their team and not having to worry about the workings of the club. The facilities and equipment provided for the boys are second to none in Canberra and should be an inspiration for all school boys to be part of Marist football.

In my short time with the club all teams are very competitive, look the part and are an emerging force for many years to come.

Malcolm Phipps

MARIST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB

TRIVIA NIGHT

One recent innovation introduced in 1992 by the Committee has been the Trivia Night.

The event has been modeled around similar events of other sporting organisations, but of course, with a MAFC flavour. This night has now become a regular event on the MAFC calendar.

The Committee's objective has always been to make the night a fun evening bringing parents, supporters and friends of the Club together for a great night's entertainment and by the way, just the right mid-season opportunity to make a few of those hard-earned dollars to bolster the Club's coffers.

The inaugural Trivia Night was arranged by Yvonne Sangster and Chris Skinner, both dressed in traditional (goal) Umpires attire to ensure no cheating occurred! What a night it was with David Bailey being hypnotised and making a complete idiot of himself, a game of "Who am I?" and, of course, many prizes and booby prizes passed around. Compere for the evening was Steve Doszpot and some 80 people turned up to make a most memorable evening. One of the great features of the first night, was the initiative of many of the Club's players to come along to join in the fun. This players' tradition has continued with the boys often outperforming their more fancied and allegedly more experienced parents.

Since that first fabulous evening, the Trivia Night has become an annual mid-season event. Organisers who have taken over the mantle from Yvonne and Chris include David Bailey, Tom Wharton and Stirling Meredith. The last three evenings have been compered by Paul Hickey, a former Editor of High Marks. Paul has ensured the evenings are memorable events courtesy of his great sense of humour which becomes more outrageous as the evening extends and the amber fluids flow more freely, his pathetic adherence and frequent reference to his beloved Collingwood and Paul's unique and infamous Auctions of trivia, eg \$ 24 for a torch! It seems that each year the event becomes more riotous and its reputation spreads.

Such has been the success that in 1998, we had over 120 people turn up to overcrowd the School's new Pavilion. The MAFC Trivia Night has become recognised within the College as one of the premier events of Marist sporting calendar with a number of other College codes approaching our organisers with a view to (attempting) their own emulation of our special night.



How these boys have 'grown and matured' under the watchful eye of "Godfather Tom"!!!!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank all those great supporters of Marist Australian Football Club who have contributed to this 'production', as there are too many people to thank individually.

It has been a great pleasure putting this book together. Please excuse any errors or omissions as records were difficult to obtain and had to be collected from many and varied sources. We appreciate peoples efforts in selecting their precious photos and allowing us to publish them.

We hope this will be an incentive for people to keep each years memorabilia for future so that the next production will include as much accurate information and photos as possible.

Anthony and Maureen.