

OUR ROOTS #13



by Gary Bartholomeusz



SEPTEMBER 16, 1958

Royals player **Alan McDougall** (19) received severe head and facial injuries in a wool hoist accident at the nearly-completed Albany Woolstores. The apprentice plumber for Southern Districts Football League president **John 'Jack' Hutchinson** was taken to hospital in Perth and missed the weekend's inaugural league grand final in which Royals beat North Albany and went through the season undefeated.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1962

Royals champions **Jeff Pitts** and **Joe Menegola** ran onto Centennial Oval wearing halos to play in the grand final against North Albany. It was prompted by an article in the 'Albany Advertiser' newspaper written by **Jim 'JC' Cordery** on the preliminary final when Royals beat North Mount Barker. Jim wrote "all of the Royals team, except Jeff Pitts and Joe Menegola, played the man and not the ball."

OCTOBER 28, 1971

Ex-Denmark footballer **Don Dawson** died suddenly at 24 years of age in Collie, where he lived since leaving the Great Southern. A blood clot, while watching television at his home, caused the tragedy. It stemmed from a log-chopping injury he encountered at a recent Harvey Show. Don's parents were early settlers in Walpole and he was the seventh son of the family. The former Walpole Primary School and Denmark Agricultural College student had his attempt to play top level football for Subiaco in the West Australian Football League derailed due to a recurring leg injury.

FEBRUARY 17, 1988

The Great Southern Regional Football Development Trust, formed in August 1987, announced its goals for the region. Chairman **Bob Golding**, co-ordinator **Greg Stocks**, **Ross Luckman** (Claremont Football Club), **Pat Brown** (Southern Districts Football League), **Maurice McLennan** (Ongerup Football Association), **Rod Daw** (Ravensthorpe & Districts Football Association), **Rod Gillies** (Southern Districts Junior Football Association), **Graham Carthew** (Ongerup Junior Football Association), **Ian Dickinson** (Ravensthorpe & Districts Junior Football Association), **Phil Trent** (SDFL Umpires), **Mike Stidwell** (Department of Sport & Recreation, Albany) and **Rob Verboon** (Albany Town Council) formed a committee which encouraged participation in local football with skills development of coaches, umpires, trainers, administrators and players within the area. It was accountable to the WA Football Development Trust which monitored and reported on all aspects of the sport. Its long-term priorities were to...

- * Create an on-going liaison between the junior and senior bodies
- * Redefine zone boundaries
- * A fairer system for player transfers
- * Introduce football to all primary schools within its jurisdiction
- * And instil a fairer system of payment to umpires

OCTOBER 5, 1993

At a meeting with 35 members of the North Mount Barker Football Club, it was decided to approach the South Mount Barker Football Club to discuss amalgamation because of a dwindling supply of players in the town and one club may find it easier to attract and retain sponsors. South Mount Barker agreed to discussions. Club presidents, **Kevin Collins** (North) and **George Szczesny** (South), and an even number of club officials met at the end of October and formed a steering committee headed by independent chairman **Peter Kelsall**, Mount Barker's R&I bank manager. Its aim was to provide compromises and charter a brand new Mount Barker Football Club into the next playing season. But, on December 1, the members of South Mount Barker held a special meeting and rejected the steering committee's plan. A 33 to 33 split-decision resulted when the recommendations were put to the SMBFC vote. George exercised his casting president's right and was against the proposal - stating amalgamation should not take place until 1995! The steering committee then called a public meeting at the Mount Barker Golf Club on December 13 that same year with both clubs invited. At this meeting, the NMBFC was dissolved and Mount Barker Bulls born. Former SMBFC president **Fran Gammon** was voted the inaugural president of the new Club. #

**When initials are used and you know the christian name, please notify me on 0428 514 605 or gj.bartholomeusz@westnet.com.au*

Albany Football Association 1897 - 1941

Recess 1914 - 1918 and 1942 - 1944 due to War



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Southern Districts Football League 1945 - 1990

Great Southern Football League 1991 - current