

# The foundation

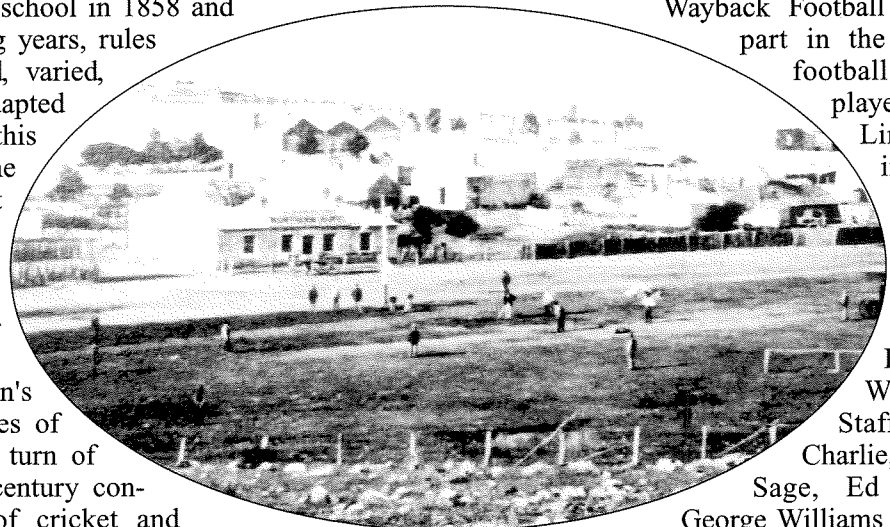
This truly Australian game of "Aussie Rules" football evolved from a match recorded as first played at a Melbourne school in 1858 and over the ensuing years, rules were introduced, varied, changed and adapted as witnessed in this spectacular game we see today. It quickly became popular as a team and spectator game for all Australians.

Port Lincoln's sporting activities of any note at the turn of the nineteenth century consisted mainly of cricket and cycling and a recreation ground situated opposite the Great Northern Hotel boasted a cricket pitch and cycle track to serve these needs. Horse riding was actively pursued but in those early days it was more a mode of transport than a sport.

Football commenced in Port Lincoln in 1903 when young men of the district – the McFarlanes, Sinclairs, Hydies, Sages and others were no doubt encouraged by their elders to take up this game that had so quickly become popular.

A young Muir McFarlane took up the challenge and after a great deal of difficulty and together with Ron Sinclair and Charlie Sage arranged a meeting at a swamp at the back of George Sinclair's property near Coomunga (known as the Race Course). One could imagine they also took the opportunity to kick a football around – maybe the meeting was an excuse for a kick anyway.

The first football practice was eventually held during the early winter of 1903. After the crops were sown these young men and others in the outlying districts saddled their horses, harnessed their buggies and headed along the roads and



Recreation ground situated opposite the Great Northern Hotel, circa 1900.

bush tracks to Port Lincoln.

They were the foundation members of the Wayback Football Club and took part in the first organised football match ever played in Port Lincoln. They included Muir McFarlane, Ron Sinclair, Ken Hambly and Mac Hyde, Rue Hage, Fred Hardy, Andrew Wilkinson, Stafford Cavanagh, Charlie, Ross and Tom Sage, Ed Simmons and

George Williams with Mr Samuel Sage as president and Ron Sinclair as secretary in that founding year.

## Walter Muir McFARLANE 1881 - 1959

Muir McFarlane was born in Port Lincoln in 1881, a son of David Muir McFarlane whose parents were Scottish migrants - Colin Dawson McFarlane and Marion Muir - hence the family name Muir carried down through the generations.

In 1903 aged twenty-one years Muir McFarlane organised the first football match ever played in Port Lincoln and described elsewhere in this book. In 1906 and now married, Muir managed Glen Forrest for his father who had bought same from AH King as a much improved farm.

This property included seventy acres judged by many to be the finest soil in the state, with 15 acres planted to Zante currant vines. Today Glen Forrest again carries an extensive planting of grapevines and is a popular tourist park of the same name and owned by the Turvey family.

Muir McFarlane managed, acquired and sold many properties eventually becoming well known in the district as an auctioneer and valuator with varied farming and business interests and revered as one of Port Lincoln's leading citizens.

Besides captaining Waybacks from 1903 to 1909 and again in 1920, he served the club as a delegate to the association, was patron from 1921 and assisted Waybacks in many other ways and could also be described as the 'father of football' in Port Lincoln.

Life membership of the Wayback Football Club was conferred on Muir McFarlane in 1953. The club and district suffered a great loss when he died in 1959 aged seventy-seven years after giving fifty six years of service to the Wayback Football Club and the Port Lincoln Football Association/League.



1905 - First known Wayback photo - Back Row : A Wilkinson, J Sage, S Cavanagh, M Hyde, G Hobbs, E Scruby. Middle Row : W Sawyer, WM McFarlane, (unknown), R Sage, D O'Malley, D Sampson. Front Row : A Sampson, C Sage, K Hyde, JJ Handberg (Umpire), R Sinclair, F Hardy, W Sampson.

As these foundation players mainly came from beyond the hills surrounding Port Lincoln – beyond Winter's Hill, North Side Hill and out as far as the Marble Ranges and Koppio Hills – way back out of the town – they called themselves Waybacks.

Muir McFarlane was the organiser of this first match, captain of the Wayback team and therefore founder of the Wayback Football Club. The game was played against Port Lincoln captained by Muir McFarlane's cousin – Jim McFarlane and played on the Recreation ground. A small but eager crowd had gathered, women turned out in their frilly, ankle length frocks with leg of mutton sleeves and wearing hats decorated with ostrich feathers. Men wore their best pair of snake proofs with light coloured waistcoats and straw boaters – this type of headgear being then currently fashionable.

The spectators waited expectantly. There were not many of them as the town was still quite small, but what they lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm.

A shock went through the spectators and some of the players as well, when they took up their positions wearing an odd assortment of guernseys, head gear, both long and short trousers and bore little resemblance to the neatly attired players of today.

Dungarees were cut down into shorts and a number of players wore hats, caps and berets, either to keep

the hair out of their eyes or to cover a bald patch. So, wearing all kinds of attire – Muir McFarlane appears to have worn a knitted cap on his head – but with determined expressions, the Waybacks and the Lincolmites took up their positions, trying not to feel too embarrassed before the critical gaze of the somewhat amused onlookers.

The whistle blew, the ball was bounced and the Waybacks and Lincolmites were fighting the first of many battles for honour and glory on the field. Although only a few matches were played in 1903 the game was off to a flying start and it was soon apparent it had many merits.

The rules were puzzling at first, but the spectators were not alone in this respect for fully half the players on the field had to be taught the rules of the game as the match progressed. Muir McFarlane had the benefit of prior experience with the Sturt Football Club, and others, doubtless, had acquired some football knowledge and skills.

The finer points of the game were soon grasped and keenness and rivalry grew rapidly among players and spectators alike.

Later the Recreation ground was transferred to where Centenary Oval now stands. There were no dressing sheds but change rooms were rented at the Great Northern Hotel, the licensee being Mrs M Puckridge, and also at the Pier Hotel where William

## Samuel SAGE

Samuel Sage was the father of Charlie who, in 1903 along with Muir McFarlane and Ron Sinclair, organised a meeting at a swamp at the back of George Sinclair's property near Coomunga, to arrange a game of football.

Samuel Sage had settled near Port Lincoln in 1903, his nephew Emanuel having earlier settled near Little Swamp.

Samuel was elected the first President of the Wayback Football Club in 1903, a position he held with distinction for many years.

Five Sage boys from the families of Samuel and Emanuel enlisted in the First World War with Samuel's son Thomas and Emanuel's son Jack being killed in action.

As President, Samuel is on record as extolling the team to "always play the ball and not the man."



**Premiers 1911:**  
*Standing: C Page, A Wilkinson, R Sinclair, W Carr, H Wilkinson, K Hyde, J Sage, A Zanker, C Sage, W Tyrell, E Tyrell, P Gore, W Johnston, H Hardy, E Chapman. Sitting: S Merchant, R Thorpe, R King, F Hardy, R Sage, M Hyde, P Sinclair, F Gore.*

Fraser was 'mine host.'

Matches were also played on Waybacks home grounds, the first being a paddock situated at the rear of the Little Swamp Hotel (near the Pines) and at JK Telfer's property at Big Swamp. Other grounds used by Waybacks as their headquarters in those early years were the Wine Shanty paddock near Little Swamp (also called the Aerodrome Paddock), Solly's Paddock near Louth Bay, and also at White's Flat.

Ross J Sage, a member of the 1903 team, remembered in 1963 that the players briefly wore pink and white colors, but were then changed in 1904 to the present red and blue. A brand new set of lace-up guernseys were obtained in that year and the players took on a smarter appearance in their new togs which included 'half master shorts'.

Players paid a subscription of 5/- and bought all their own gear, including guernseys. The subs went to the cost of balls.

The ovals in those days were in marked contrast to the level, velvety surfaces we have today. Limestone ridges and clumps of weed abounded and players usually had to rely on the good graces of spectators to render assistance for serious injuries as there were no trainers.

The first newspaper report of a football match in Port Lincoln appeared in the 'West Coast Recorder' of Friday, August 12th 1904...

"A most exciting football match took place on our delightfully situated oval..."

"The teams took their places with fierce determination on every brow..."

"The leaders of the old McFarlane clan would have wept to have seen such fierce combat between members of the clan..."

"The police report shows no arrests and the doctor no cases..."

The game resulted in a victory to Waybacks who defeated the Lincolnites 4-5 to 2-2.

Star players for Waybacks were WM McFarlane, C Sage, S Cavanagh and F Hardy.

Mr JJ Handberg umpired the game as he did many of these early matches.

In 1904 Franklin Harbour Association visited Port Lincoln for the first Football Carnival held here. Franklin Harbour defeated both Waybacks and Port Lincoln but a combined local team turned the

tables on the visitors. The team travelled to Port Lincoln by horse and buggy, taking two days for the journey and camping along the way.

The following year a combined Port Lincoln team



### Ronald Lincoln Clemens SINCLAIR

*Ron Sinclair was a grandson of James Sinclair, Eyre Peninsula pioneer of Green Patch who at one time employed the famous Australian explorer John McDowall Stuart in the dual role of shepherd and tutor.*

*Ron served in the Boer War of 1899/1902 and on returning to the district from South Africa helped found the Wayback Football Club in 1903 along with his contemporaries Muir McFarlane and Samuel Sage.*

*He was Waybacks foundation secretary from 1903 to 1912 and a player from 1903 to 1921. He was tough as a greyhound dog, could run all day and was a great utility player.*

*Ron Sinclair assisted the Wayback Football Club in many ways for fifty years and life membership was conferred on him in 1953. The club was saddened at his death in 1955.*

returned the visit. The players voyaged to Cowell on the S.S. Ferret and were away for ten days. Matches were played against Carpa, Utera, Cowell and a combined Franklin Harbour Association team.

Mr JJ Handberg managed the Port Lincoln side which comprised WM McFarlane as captain, and P Mundy, H Saunders, A Heath, P. Oliphant, J Clark, W Laphorne, B Mundy, P. Black, A Dabovich, R Sinclair, C Sage, F Hardy, K Hyde, D Sampson, H Ireland, A Maley, W Sawyer, H DuBois, G Johnson, with G Baker, A Woods, A Dorward, T Bascombe and C Heath as emergencies.

On April 8th 1905, Waybacks held their Annual General Meeting in the Little Swamp hall. Officers elected were ... Patron - C Ridgway., President - S Sage., Vice Presidents - AG Beale, James Sinclair, T Heath, JJ Hyde, E Chapman, W Gavin, G Sinclair., Captain - WM McFarlane., Vice Captain - S Cavanagh., Committee - C Sage, K Hyde.

The President, Mr Samuel Sage complimented the players on their success of the past two seasons. He cautioned them in coming matches to always "play the ball and not the man".

Some of Waybacks best players in 1905 and 1906 were ... F Hardy, R Sinclair, K & M Hyde, WM McFarlane, A Wilkinson, E Scruby, W Sawyer, S Cavanagh, A & W Sampson, D. O'Malley, J, R & C Sage, G Hobbs, Curly and Abel. Also WR (Darkie) Miller, who had come from Norwood in 1905 where he had been the Norwood Club Champion, leading goal-kicker, brilliant forward and State representative.

Mr Samuel Sage was again President in 1907, with Vice Presidents ... Messrs E Chapman, C Whillas, JC Noble, JJ Hanberg (the umpire) and E Simmons. WM McFarlane was again captain with WR Miller vice captain. The committee

### W R (Darkie) MILLER 1906 - 1910

*Much has been written in the annals of the Norwood Football Club about the goal kicking skills and exploits of their champion forward - Billy Miller- between 1899 and 1905. In those seven years Billy Miller was Norwood's leading goal kicker and indeed in 1901 and 1904 the Ken Farmer medallist as the SANFL leading goalkicker.*

*In 1904 Miller was instrumental in Norwood winning the premiership - a game in which Norwood were deemed to have very little chance of beating Port Adelaide in the final. Miller kicked two goals in the last quarter to help overcome a thirty-five-point deficit at three quarter time to give Norwood a remarkable victory.*

*No one was more excited than Miller, an inveterate gambler, who had obtained most attractive odds about a Norwood victory. Unable to conceal his delight, Miller ran to the nearest supporter, borrowed his hat, and moved among the crowd to collect his winnings. It is said "seventy sovereigns" were dropped into the hat. Harold, his brother, who had played on the wing was also a compulsive gambler and the brothers were known to speculate on which direction a passing cyclist or horseman would turn. Billy was Norwood Club Champion in 1905.*

*Billy Miller, or Darkie, as he was to become known in Port Lincoln, came to the district at the end of 1905, taking up the lease of 17,000 acre Uley Station where he spent heavily on fencing, breeding remounts and quality horses for export. The exercise appears to have cost him dearly and he returned to Adelaide at the end of 1910.*

*Between 1906 and 1910, Darkie Miller played for Waybacks, was captain in 1910 and was judged to be the giant of football in Port Lincoln. During that time he proved to be a marvellous foot pass who could kick either foot whilst running at top speed. It was said that a stab pass from Darkie travelled like a cannonball and with great accuracy. Always on the move, he handled the ball at top speed and kicked most of Waybacks goals.*

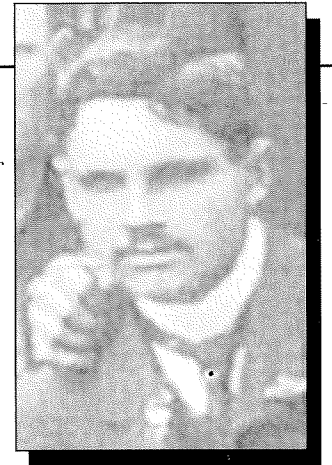
*During one of his seasons with Waybacks he gained a place in a South Australian interstate side. Adelaide sports writers were loud in their criticism of his selection, but Darkie Miller made them swallow their words by kicking eight goals.*

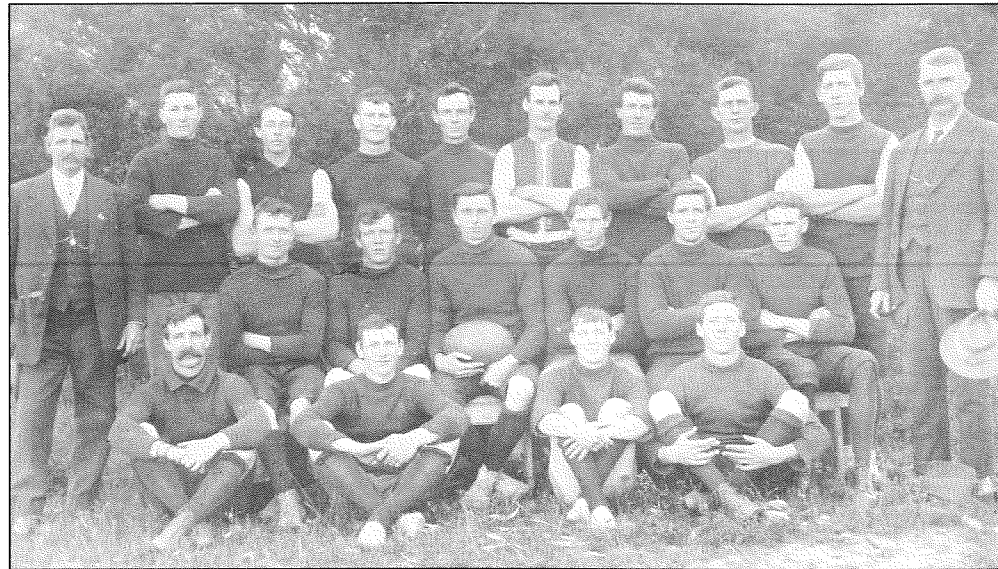
*Miller travelled to Adelaide during each season while with Waybacks to play a few games with Norwood. He was a member of the team in 1907 when Norwoods were the champions of the Commonwealth.*

*After nearly one hundred years, much speculation still exists surrounding Miller leaving the Norwood district, where he was a furniture maker and a champion footballer, for the isolation of Uley Station south of Port Lincoln. Darkie Miller brought football skills to Port Lincoln hitherto unseen here before.*

*Norwood's Annual Report of 1912 records the death of W R Miller ... "His football career began at St Peter's College. There he acquired the art of kicking goals, coupled with great ability to get the ball himself. With these gifts it is little wonder that he was considered the finest forward of his day".*

*Maybe he was also the finest footballer ever to play for Waybacks in its one hundred-year history - just maybe!*





**Premiers 1915:** Back Row : C Russell (President), PL Puckridge, C Carrick, J Sage, G Whillas, M Hyde, E Scruby, F Hardy, P Gore, W Forbes (Secretary) Centre Row : C Woods, W Johnson, H Wilkinson, E Sampson, C Thompson, S Regan. Front Row : P Cochrane, P Woods, R King, L Hardy.

comprised ... Messrs C Sage and K Hyde with Mr R Sinclair as secretary.

On April 27th 1907, Lincoln visited the Wayback home grounds for a match, but owing to difficulty in getting conveyances, the match did not start until 4.30 pm.

Reports in the West Coast Recorder of 1907 show the social side of football beginning to develop when a concert was held in the Institute on 30th June to raise funds on behalf of the Wayback and Lincoln clubs. Performers included Misses Scruby, Bishop, Marta West, and Messrs Lewis, W Bridges, Parkes, McKenzie, Chilman and Muir McFarlane. A fancy dress football match was also played in 1907 in aid of the mother of a player who had died.

Besides regular matches between Waybacks and Port Lincoln in these early years, scratch matches were frequently played against other teams. These included Pigtown Juniors, comprising players living south of the Methodist Church and who later called themselves 'New Town Boys.' Mr Heath's men, a local builder and contractor, 'Kirton Jetty-Ites' who were building the Kirton Point Jetty and also the Dynamites whose origin as a football team is uncertain.

A newspaper report of a match in 1908 shows Waybacks defeated Wangary at Big Swamp 20-17 to 0-1. Captain Muir McFarlane was forced to retire in 1909 through injury resulting from a kick by a horse, but returned again in 1920 to briefly lead Waybacks. He never played in a match on the West Coast in which he was not captain of the team - a record that would be hard to equal in our National game.

The ex Norwood player, Darkie Miller, was captain of Waybacks in 1910 when it appears that although no definite records are available, the Port Lincoln Football Association was formed comprising Waybacks, Boston Bay and Port Lincoln. Waybacks won their first official premiership in this year and a newspaper report of the match states...

"The otherwise good game was marred by the

encroaching of spectators on the playing space and the unseemly fracas between a few players, which although appreciated by the male spectators, proved disastrous to the facial organs of the contestants".

Darkie Miller was in his last season with Waybacks in 1910 and returned to Adelaide and Norwood. His five years with Waybacks (1906 - 1910) were history making, bringing football skills not seen here to that time.

In 1911 the Annual General Meeting was held at the Little Swamp Hotel with the Balance sheet showing cash-in-hand of £1.11.9

Waybacks won their second successive Grand Final in 1911, defeating Lincoln 3-4 to 0-3. Players who helped bring premiership honours in 1910 and 1911 included WR Miller-(captain 1910), Fred Hardy (captain 1911), C Sage, R Sage, B Hardy, K Hyde, M Hyde, P Sinclair, G. Johnson, H Wilkinson, T Sampson, S Merchant, R Thorpe, T & J Morgan, C Shepperd, C Thompson, P Roberts, J Danzic, F Gore, A Zanker, J & T Sage, W Carr, W Sellen, F Smith, R Mills, D Sampson, R King, G Hobbs, R Sinclair, Walding, N Hyde and T Simpson.

Fred (Friday) Smith (1909-1910-1911) in a letter to the Wayback Football Club in 1963, wrote - "Charlie Sage was one of the best players in the Wayback team. When kicking for goal he nearly always used the place kick and was accurate too".

In 1912 for the first time in the history of football in Port Lincoln, a gold medal was awarded by the 'West Coast Recorder' to the cleanest and best all-round player and to be decided by public vote.

The honour went to HW Shillabeer of the Lincoln team, who was thus the first medal winner in the Port Lincoln Football Association, the competition about this time comprising Waybacks, Lincolns and Railway, who were premiers.

Waybacks and the district were saddened to learn W.R. (Darkie) Miller had died in Adelaide during the year at a relatively young age.

That year also saw fourteen year old Percival

## Barney WOODS

In 1912, a fourteen-year old boy ran onto one of Waybacks home grounds called the Wine Shanty Paddock at the bottom of the Golf Links to play his first game for the Wayback Football Club. He started in a forward pocket and thus commenced an association with the Club which would extend for a record twenty-seven years - as a player until his retirement in 1939 and in an administrative capacity until 1955, in which year he was president of the Club.

On the day Barney Woods played his first game of football, he had in the same team with him his school teacher, Roy Larwood - a wonderful all-round sportsman, who was school master at the Little Swamp school.

From that beginning Barney went on to become a legend in the Wayback Football Club and in football circles in Port Lincoln and the West Coast. Such was Barney's fame as a champion footballer and personality, it was said that whenever former residents visited the town and met the 'Lincolnites' the question would eventually be asked. "How is Barney Woods? Is he still playing?"

During the first year of Barney's football days in 1912, he played under Ken Hyde who was captain, and with other well-known Waybacks of those early years in Ron Sinclair, Fred Hardy, Charlie Sage, Herbert Wilkinson, Stan Merchant, Ted Scruby and Roy Larwood.

On leaving school, he worked at Coffin Bay on JT Mortlock's sheep, cattle and horse station along with his brother Chris, also an early Wayback player. In 1914 Barney worked on the dog fence out from Buckleboo Station with Wilf Simmons and Darcy Morrison. After a period of time working there, he carried his swag from Buckleboo Station near the Gawler Ranges to Kimba and then travelled to Port Lincoln by train.

He played in the 1915 Wayback Premiership side, which went top for the third time since the formation of the Association, thus winning outright the Association Shield, now displayed in the Wayback Football Clubrooms. During 1915 Barney played in many positions, but mainly as a rover. In 1916 he enlisted in the army and saw active service in France. He played football for his battalion team in France against the Victorian 46th Battalion, who were noted for the number of League and interstate players in their ranks.

In England at the end of the War, a Championship of Camps football competition was organised and the Camp team in which Barney played, won the Premiership. A YMCA Medal was

presented to each member of the Championship team.

He returned from active service in 1919 and in 1920 won the Port Lincoln Football Association Davies medal for the best all-round player.

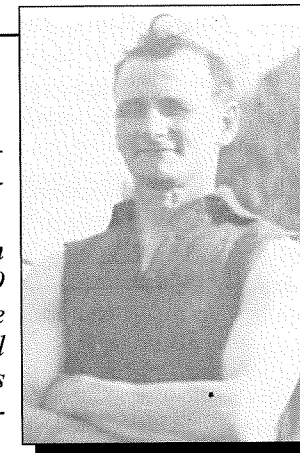
On one occasion in 1925, when Barney was camped at Black Springs with his father, hunting kangaroos to help make a living during those hard days of the 1920's, he got up at 3 am on a Saturday to leave for Port Lincoln to play football. Black Springs of course, is approximately fifteen kilometres from Coffin Bay down on the Coffin Bay Peninsula.

He left at 4 am riding a draught horse to Coffin Bay homestead, rode a bicycle to his home at Big Swamp, then put a horse in the sulky and drove it to Port Lincoln in time to take the field with Waybacks, much to the surprise of the opposition. They mistakenly thought they wouldn't have to worry about Barney playing as he was so far from the town.

Barney Woods played in all positions on the field and in later years mainly as a ruck rover. He had unlimited stamina, was one of the best ground players of his era, an extremely safe mark and in his approach to the game he would never give in and was prepared to run all day. He could play anywhere and would be a present day coach's dream. He won several Best Player awards for Waybacks as well as Association Best Player Awards in his long career of twenty-seven years, and was in nine Wayback Premiership teams.

In 1938, along with Mr CI Sharp, he became one of the first Life Members of the Wayback Football Club. In 1950 he presented the P. Woods medal for the Fairest and Most Brilliant Player of the Wayback Football Club. In that year also, approximately 500 people gathered at Barney's Big Swamp property to witness a game between old Central and old Wayback players in which Barney won the trophy for the Best Player although then past fifty-years of age.

In 1954 and 1955 he was President of the Wayback Football Club during which years Waybacks were runners-up to Souths in 1954 and Premiers in 1955. Barney's three sons - Ray, Bill and Dave - played for Waybacks and each in his own way was a 'chip off the old block.'



(Barney) Woods run onto one of Waybacks home grounds, 'The Wine Shanty paddock' to play his first game for the Wayback Football Club. Thus commenced a playing association that lasted for twenty-seven years.

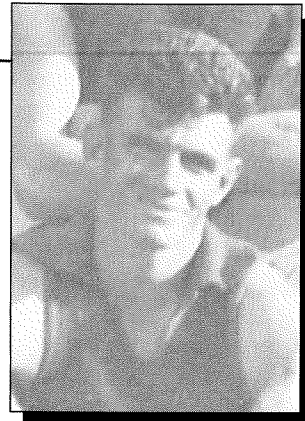
Tumby Bay had briefly joined the Port Lincoln Football Association in 1911 and were Premiers in 1913, but due to the distance travelled eventually withdrew from the competition.

In 1914 it was the Lincoln team's turn to win a premiership-their first in the history of the association, but sadly their last year in the competition.

It appears that the method of deciding the premiership in those days differed from the system of today. The team on top halfway through the season was deemed to be Minor Premiers. If another team gained top position by the end of the season, a final was played between that team and the minor premiers. If the minor premiers stayed on top for the remainder of the season, it automatically became the premiership side.

## Winning the Association Shield

In 1915 Rovers replaced Port Lincoln in the competition which then comprised Railways, Waybacks and Rovers. Herbert Wilkinson was captain of Waybacks and led the team to its third premiership since the formation of the association, the club thus winning outright the shield that now takes pride of place in the Wayback Club Rooms.



### Jack FULWOOD

*Jack Fulwood played his first game of football for Waybacks in 1923 whilst still at high school and commenced a playing career that would extend for twenty six years to 1949 and included nine premierships.*

*He was a fitness fanatic and a fine all round sportsman, being proficient at cycling, swimming, running, table tennis and golf to name just a few, but it was football at which he was outstanding as a ruckman/forward - a game that he loved dearly.*

*Jack held the club and league goal kicking record of sixty five goals in ten matches from 1929 to 1958, when it was eventually equalled by 'Chook' Weber of Waybacks and broken by the great Georgie Burgoyne of Tasmans with seventy seven goals in 1959.*

*At the age of thirty-three years he played league football with Port Adelaide for two seasons and also represented Port Lincoln and Eyre Peninsula on many occasions. He coached Waybacks in 1947 and 1948 - the latter being the club's first premiership since 1934 and a time for great celebrations.*

*Jack was made a life member of the Wayback Football Club in 1949 and of the Port Lincoln Football League in 1950.*

Other players in that premiership team were, C Thompson, P Cockrane, K Warren, PL Puckridge, E Scruby, M Hyde, F Hardy, B Hardy, L Hardy, W Johnson, R Thorpe, A Walding, P Woods, F Gore, G Whillas, J Sage, C Woods, H Merchant, P Gore, F Lawson, E Woods, C Carrick, S Regan, S Woods, E Sampson and R King.

A great number of Wayback players, including five Sage boys, enlisted for service in the 1914-1918

World War and several were killed in action. Among them were B Fraser, PJ Gore, LN Hyde, GH King, RJ (Jack) Sage, HV Woods and TR (Tom) Sage. Peter Sinclair, Roly King and Uley Johnson were severely wounded in action and unable to resume their careers.

Football went into recession for the three years 1916-1918 due to the War, but resumed again in 1919. Muir McFarlane made a brief comeback in 1920 for one year as captain. Barney Woods, who had served his country in France, won the Davies medal for the best allround player in the association.

In 1922 Waybacks held a fancy dress ball in aid of an injured player, A Blackman, who received £20 from the proceeds. On May 21st 1923, a 'tin-kettling' was held at the home of Mr and Mrs Barney Woods who were recently married. Mr H Merchant spoke on behalf of the club and presented the couple with a silver cake dish. Barney Woods was the best allround player for Waybacks in 1923.

Records show Waybacks to be premiers again in 1924 with former Sturt player CI Sharpe as captain. Barney Woods, Perce Puckridge, and the Schramm and Merchant brothers were prominent. A young Jack Fulwood, although still at high school, was starting to make his presence felt and the courageous Billy Dobbins also.

Waybacks repeated the success in 1925 but not before considerable controversy on the field in the Grand Final. The match had been in progress for about 20 minutes when it was discovered Waybacks had 19 players on the field. One was taken off and

Waybacks score reduced to nil, however as the opposing team Bostons had only scored one point, Waybacks went on to win 7-5 to 3-6.



### Eric LOW

*At nineteen years of age, Eric Low came from the Bordertown District in 1926 with his parents and family to take up farming in the White Flat area. Interestingly, Eric's grandfather had married the widow of the famous South East horseman and poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon.*

*As well as brothers, Colin and Max, and later their cousins, Ken and Trevor Low, Eric was to serve the Wayback Football Club well as a rover and wingman for thirteen years.*

*Whilst playing for Mundulla as a teenager, Eric worked long and hard to make himself as complete a footballer as he could be. He trained at every opportunity and like all good players put the work into improving his football skills, which were to stand him in good stead during his long association with Waybacks.*

*His brilliant career was highlighted by six premierships in a row from 1929 to 1934, being captain for the last two and winner of the R.F. Poole medal in 1931 for the 'fairest and most brilliant' player in the Port Lincoln Football Association.*

*Eric is credited with giving another brilliant Wayback player, 'Snow' Goodwin, his first start in "A" grade. The team was ready to run onto the field one player short when Eric asked a very young 'Snow' Goodwin did he want a game? "Yes" came the quick reply, and so borrowing shorts and boots 'Snow' raced onto the field and asked his captain "Where do you want me to play, Mr Low?" The rest is history!*

*With the rural section undergoing tough times in the twenties, Eric obtained work with the E. & W.S. Dept., working on the Todd River scheme and eventually enlisting in the Air Force. He did not return to Port Lincoln but was self-employed in Adelaide, retiring to live at Barmera. He now lives in Brisbane - nearer his family and was ninety-six years of age of November 4th 2002 - the club's oldest living ex-player.*

C.I. Sharpe and M.G. Dobson, who both had league experience in Adelaide, captained Waybacks during 1925 and other players included W. Dobbins, D. Dollard, J. Fulwood, C. Grundy, B. Fraser, T. King, H. Merchant, V.H. Matthews, F. Page, P. Puckridge, C. Schramm, J.E. Sullivan, F.A.E. Raven, S. Wilson, P. Woods, F. Wilson, G. Dobbins, R. Hurrell, A.C. Page, F. Arbon, D. Morrison, P. Watherston, W. Ancell and L. Dorward.

Waybacks contested the 1926 and 1927 Grand Finals but lost to Rovers and Bostons respectively but young players, Eric and Colin Low, and Carl Hage were blooded.

Injuries dogged Waybacks in 1928 and at one stage three players were out of action with broken bones - J. Fogden (broken leg), C. Low (broken rib) and H. Shepherd (broken collar bone).

The Association at this time consisted of Waybacks (red and blue) Rovers (gold and blue) and Bostons (red and white).

A "B" Grade competition was being mooted for a large body of players not able to regularly obtain a game but this did not eventuate until 1930.

## Six triumphant years

From 1929 to 1934 Waybacks won 6 premierships in a row - a record that has not been surpassed since. Waybacks won the 1929 Premiership after losing

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**Premiers 1924:** Back Row : F Hardy, R King, P Woods, A Biddle, P Puckridge, F Page, R Dollard, F Wilson, O Bascombe, S Laube. Middle Row : T King, S Merchant, P Watherston, C Sharp, B Fraser, W Dobbins. Front Row : J Fulwood, C Schramm, A Cartwright (Umpire), J Dunn, HE Merchant, D Morrison.

only two matches during the year, fielding strong teams which included interstate ruckman R. Wayne (Captain), D. Fogden, Eric and Colin Low, Barney Woods, Jack & Jim Fulwood, A Barton, S. Creaser, N. Harris, E. Hage, Carl Hage, Frank and Cliff Schramm, Wally and Frank Byles, M. Tripney, W. Dobbins, F. Johnson, E. Davies, F. & R. Wilson, H. Ellis, G. Graham, M. Ninness, G. Barton and A. Barrett with Frank (Tiny) Miller at full-back, the 6'6" police constable later to become a post war club stalwart.

In 1929 Waybacks had to survive two protests in the minor round, both for allegedly playing unregistered players. The first protest was dismissed when the player was proved fully qualified. The second protest was withdrawn when found the offending player left the field when directed to do so. Jack Fulwood kicked 65 goals during the season to establish a new goal kicking record that stood until equalled by Chook Weber in 1958 but broken again by Lawrie Richardson with 69 goals in 1974.

In 1930, Waybacks were minor premiers

but were beaten by Rovers in the Final, but, having the right to challenge, they again played Rovers to take out the premiership.

### Ronald Baxter Stuart SINCLAIR

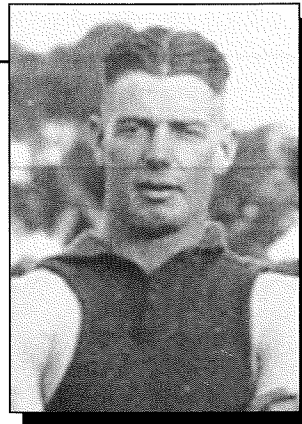
*For nearly all of Stuart Sinclair's life, he was involved in the affairs of the Wayback Football Club. His father Ron, being Foundation Secretary in 1903, was a player from 1903 to 1921 and made a Life Member in 1951.*

*Stuart's playing career, which commenced in 1929, ended by being Club Captain from 1935 to 1940 and goes down in history as the club's most astute captain, being able to get the best out of his team even under the most adverse circumstances. His captaincy has been eulogised by fellow team members and opponents alike and as a person it would be hard to find anyone as genuinely interested in the welfare of others. He was Chairman of the District Council of Lincoln for many years, a member of many other committees, including Port Lincoln and North Shields Racing Club and a Justice of the Peace.*

*He was patron of the Wayback Football Club from 1960 to 1981, was made a Life Member in 1966 and has assisted the club in many ways.*

*Ill health in later years curtailed Stuart's direct involvement with Waybacks, but he followed their fortunes closely - first through his son Peter's association as a player for many years and in contact with players and officials.*

*The name of Stuart Sinclair, along with Muir McFarlane, Barney Woods and Jack Fulwood has been immortalised forever in the history of the Wayback Football Club.*



The outstanding player for Waybacks in the final was Wilf O'Dea, a young school-teacher at Charlton School who boarded with Ron and Stuart Sinclair at "Woolga", and travelled to school by horse and buggy. He also won the Hopping Medal for the fairest and best player in the Association.

Waybacks won their first game in the newly formed "B" Grade competition when they defeated Bostons by 4 points. In the Senior competition of 1931, Waybacks defeated Bostons 12-13 to 11-3 to take out the premiership with Eric Low of Waybacks winning the R.F. Poole Medal for the fairest and most brilliant player in the Association. District Football was introduced in 1932 in an effort to make the competition more even. Waybacks were allotted the area outside the town boundary and within the confines of the District Council.

**Premiers 1930:** Back Row : H. Merchant (President), F. Wilson, A. Barton, P. Woods, E. Low, N. Harris, C. Low, W. Goulter, M. McFarlane. Middle Row: A Byles, S. Creaser (Captain), F. Miller, D. Fogden, J. Fulwood. Front Row: A. Wayne, A. Barrett, F. Byles, R. Wayne, C. Hage, R. Wilson.



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They were allowed to retain players living in the town who were already members of the team, but despite the zoning, continued on their winning way defeating Kirtons 13-20 to 10-6 in the Grand Final. Also in 1932, a new star was on the horizon for Waybacks - a very young "Snow" Goodwin who won the "B" Grade medal for the fairest and best player.

The club made it five premierships in a row in 1933 and celebrated with a victory dance at White Flat, also a victory dinner at the Boston Hotel courtesy of the Licensee, Brown Bros.

Waybacks completed their run of six premierships by again winning in 1934 and again celebrated with a victory dinner at the Hotel Boston. The season climaxed with a Victory Ball in the Port Lincoln Memorial Hall. Captain Eric Low was in grand form in the final and was Waybacks best player.

Times were hard in the 1930's with the country in deep depression. It was strongly rumoured one star Wayback player was offered £50.00 to throw the 1934 Grand Final - an offer that was pursued right up to the time the players ran onto the field. The bribe was not accepted and surely Brown Brothers of the Boston

Hotel were not expecting Waybacks to be their victory guests yet again!

Although the Club won six premierships in a row from 1929 to 1934, their performances throughout the season were not consistent with the end result. In some years, the Club hardly won a game in the minor round.

Most of the players lived and worked on farms and involved in seeding and shearing right up to mid September. As farm work was completed, more and more players would make themselves available and so the team grew in strength as the finals approached.

Teams were not required to gain a specific number of points to participate in the finals. As a consequence, Waybacks at full strength were able to contest the major round with success.

Club affairs in those times were left in the hands of a few supporters and players and meetings were few. Finance as always was a problem and during depression years non-existent. Oranges were sometimes a luxury and footballs had to last.

At the start of the 1935 season only eight

### C L (Snow) GOODWIN

*Snow Goodwin commenced with the then recently formed "B" competition in 1932 whilst still at school.*

*Opportunistically promoted to "A" grade in 1933 by captain, Eric Low, Snow went on to become one of the great players and office bearers of the Wayback Football Club. 1933 and 1934 were premiership years for Snow, playing in many positions and winning the "R F Poole" medal in 1934 for the association's best player.*

*After a couple of league games with Norwood in 1936, Snow won the Mail Medal in 1937 for fairest and most brilliant player in the association. He captained Waybacks in 1942 and 1947, with his best playing years being lost due to the war.*

*He was awarded Life Membership of the Wayback Football Club in 1949, was club secretary in 1950 and 1953, and served as Treasurer, Committeeman and Association delegate.*

*Snow Goodwin was a brilliant player either across centre, in the forward lines or on the ball. His brother, Alfred, served the club well as player and "B" grade captain and Alf's five talented sons continued the Wayback tradition, particularly Andrew, who has been six times "A" grade captain and the "A" grade Club medal winner four times.*

*The Goodwins' are indeed a truly Wayback Family, covering seventy years of its history.*



**Premiers 1933:** Back Row : W. Roe, C. Schramm, C. Whillas, M. Low, F. Byles, R. Smith, S. Sinclair, A. Byles, P. Woods. Middle Row : F. Johnson, W. Dobbins, G. Whillas, F. Schramm, R. Paynter, H. Douady. Front Row : S. McFarlane, E. Low, P. Bampton (Umpire), C. Goodwin, J. Fulwood.



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**Premiers 1934:** Back Row : F Hardy, F Blackman, A Byles, K Moyse, S Sinclair, R Mitchell, C Low, W Simmons, M McKenzie, J Liddy, F Schramm, C Schramm, S McFarlane, R Sinclair. Middle Row : C Goodwin, P Woods, M Low, G Whillas, C Whillas, E Blackshaw. Front Row : J Fulwood, F Byles, P Bampton (Umpire), E Low, W Dobbins.

Wayback players took the field for the first match. A hasty last minute search found another five so the game started with 13 on the field. By the time the minor round was completed, regular players became available and the club finished the season by losing to Centrals in the Grand Final by six points.

The Inaugural Mortlock Shield Championship Carnival was played at Port Lincoln in 1936. Wayback players Snow Goodwin and Jack Fulwood

were prominent, being rewarded with selection in the Eyre Peninsula combined team that played as a curtain raiser to a South Australian/Victorian game at Adelaide Oval

In 1936 Waybacks failed to make the finals so Captain Stuart Sinclair umpired the grand final between Centrals and Kirtons. During the season, Clive (Snow) Goodwin played his first league match

### Darcy Lloyd HARVEY

Darcy Harvey commenced his official association with the Wayback Football Club in 1937 as a member of the "B" grade team at the age of 15 years.

Over these past sixty-six years he has given outstanding service in nearly every official capacity and has offered unselfishly his skills and time in hundreds of other ways.

A random check of Club records reveals an amazing contribution to football by Darcy in 1953 - the Club's Jubilee year - which was typical of his total commitment to Waybacks and football. It reads as follows:

Management Committee Member; Social Committee member; Trustee of building block along with RJ Harvey and RF Aveling; Colts Committee member; "A" Grade Coach - Premiers; "A" Grade Captain - Premiers; Colts Coach - Premiers; Magazine Committee Member; Outstanding player in successful Mortlock Shield Team; Member of Eyre Peninsula Team - runners up first Country Carnival in Adelaide.

Other highlights in Darcy's illustrious career include winner of the Gynell medal for the League Fairest and Most Brilliant Player in 1946, and Wayback Club medal winner that same year; Coach in 1953 and 1959 - both Premiership years; Senior Colts Coach 1955 and 1956. Reserves Coach 1961; Joint Secretary 1954 and 1955 with RF Aveling and along with RF Aveling was made Life

member of the Club in 1956 - an honor richly deserved and accepted with a great deal of emotion.

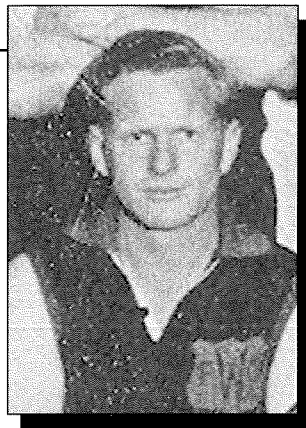
The above is virtually the official record of Darcy Lloyd Harvey's association with the Wayback Football Club.

It does not show his contribution in restoring the Club's change rooms at Centenary Oval in 1946, his drive and energy in ensuring the Wayback Football Club had its own Clubrooms opened at Verran Terrace in 1958. His foresight and the voluntary contribution of his time and skills in the building of our present magnificent Clubrooms in Windsor Avenue opened in 1967.

He was a tireless worker during the Clubs bingo days - instrumental in the formation of Wayback Colts in 1953 and as coach took the team to a premiership.

Darcy Harvey is a living legend of the Wayback Football Club and in 1993 was awarded the "Phil Bascombe Memorial Trophy" for outstanding service to the club.

In 2002 he was recognised by the Australian Football League with a fifty-year service award for voluntary contribution to Australian Rules Football.



with Norwood against Glenelg and the next year, 1937, won the Mail Medal in the Port Lincoln Football Association for the Best and Fairest player.

Centrals defeated Waybacks in the 1937 Grand Final, but again in 1938 Waybacks were runners up to Centrals. That year also, the club held its annual general meeting in the 'Plaza Café', the first for many years. Officials elected being: Chairman - H. Merchant (as he had been for many years); Secretary - E. Blackshaw; Delegates - C. Goodwin and C. Flint; Captain - Stuart Sinclair; Vice-Captain - Eric Low. The Rev. C.J. (Redwing) Perry, Methodist Minister and former champion Norwood utility player (1909 to 1920) was appointed coach. Club Life membership was also instituted in this year and awarded to P. (Barney) Woods and C.I. Sharpe for services rendered.

As well as playing Wharminda on their home ground, Waybacks also travelled to Minnipa by special rail car to play the local team - Barney Woods starring for the visitors both on and off the field.

A young Wayback player, living out over the hills and well sheltered by a doting mother - was horrified to find that when Mother unpacked his bag on returning from Minnipa, it had been well furnished with ladies unmentionables as they

## Waybacks at war

Much will be made in this book of more than two hundred players who saw war service and the many who paid the supreme sacrifice in all theatres of war during the club's one hundred year history.

The first secretary of the Wayback Football Club, Ronald Lincoln Clemens Sinclair volunteered for service in the 1899-1902 Boer War in South Africa. In 1903, along with Muir McFarlane as captain and Samuel Sage as president, Ron Sinclair helped found the Wayback Football Club and became its first secretary.

In the First World War of 1914-1918, fifty-six Waybacks who had played or were playing, enlisted for service. Sadly, seven were killed in action - B. Fraser, P.J. Gore, L.N.

Hyde, G. H. King, H. V. Woods, and cousins R. J. Sage and T. R. Sage. At least three were severely wounded resulting in loss of limbs - Rolly King, Peter Sinclair and Uley Johnson.

Inevitably it was a sad time for the district when advice was received of loss of life and wounding of former teammates. For ten players out of fifty-six to have been killed or seriously wounded was incredibly high for such a small community and a relatively young football club.

But more was to follow ... During the Second World War, 1939-1945, at least one hundred and thirty Waybacks enlisted for service and nine were killed in action - T. R. Page, N. Owen, G. Walmsley, M. Wilton, W. Jensen, E. Wyatt, C. B. Anderson, P. Sinclair and G. Cotton.

Three died in Prisoner of War camps in Changi - Ron Dry, Max Blackman and Billy Dobbins - Verdun Curnow survived incarceration in a prisoner of war camp in Japan.

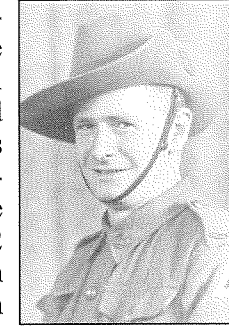
Again there were sad times in the club and town when twelve Waybacks died in the service of their country.

In the Vietnam War, the first National Serviceman killed in action - Errol Wayne Noack had been a member of the Wayback junior teams. Kevin Mitchinson and Douglas Baker, whilst still playing, joined the Australian Regular Army and were killed in action. At least

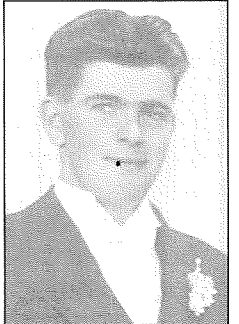
three other players saw war service as National Servicemen in this theatre of war - B. Brady, K. Chester and S. Spencer. Waybacks had also served in Korea and Malaysia.

Following the Second World War, the Wayback Football Club placed a memorial window in the Returned and Service League clubrooms to commemorate their players and officials who served and died in the 1939-1945 war.

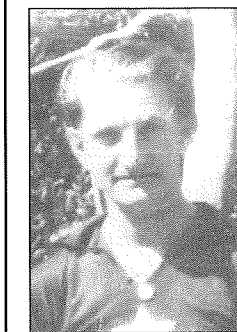
Wayback players, officials and supporters were instrumental in assisting in the building of the present R.S.L. clubrooms in Hallett Place by way of voluntary tradesmen and labour, and undertook considerable fundraising activities to offset costs.



Billy Dobbins



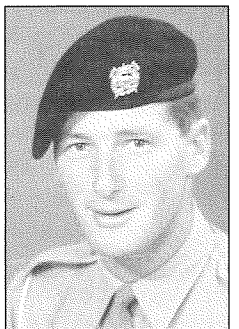
Ron Dry



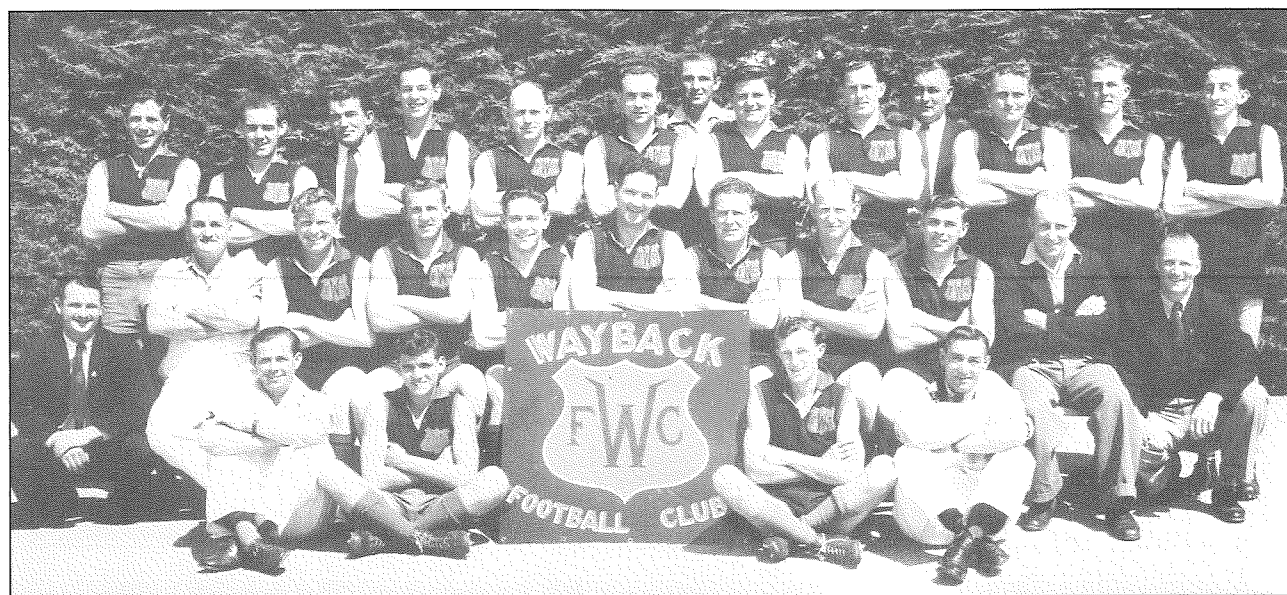
Max Blackman



Doug Baker



Kevin Mitchinson



**Premiers 1951:** Back Row : J Dowd, K Hegarty, V Bryant, M Buddle, K Bertram, W Teagle, W Blucher, J Testrow, W Woods, R Harvey, F Pritchard, L Packer, T Maxwell. Middle Row : R Aveling, J Anderson, D Harvey, D Woods, K Hoobin, D Lawrence (Captain), J Duffy (Vice Capt), R Chilman, D Curnow, M Gage, K Mitchinson. Front Row : H Curnow (Trainer), I Fulwood, R Woods, K Blackwood (Trainer).

were referred to in those days. It was not recorded how young Hurtle convinced Mother he knew nothing of the lark perpetrated by his teammates.

In 1939, Barney Woods hung up his boots for the last time, ending an illustrious career that commenced in 1912 and spanned 27 years, during which time his name was to become a household name in football circles well beyond Port Lincoln and Eyre Peninsula.

That year also, the team fielded established champions in Eric Low, Jack Fulwood, Stuart Sinclair, Snow Goodwin, and up and coming youngsters in Phil Bascombe, Roy Mathews, Bill Standing, Darcy Harvey, Darcy Curnow and Bill Teagle.

About this time a young Tom Ryan was making his presence felt, and with Darcy Harvey went to Adelaide played for Norwood Union and then South Adelaide. The same Tom Ryan at twenty four years of age, five foot eight inches and twelve stone, in 1948 transferred to South Melbourne heralding a great career in the Victorian Football League.

Waybacks were runners up to Kirtons in 1940. Marble Range was admitted to the Association, being premiers in 1940 and again in 1941, beating Waybacks in the latter Grand Final by five points in a close encounter.

With the advent of the Second World War, the Port Lincoln Football Association suspended football for the duration of the war, resuming again in 1946.

During the years 1942 – 1945, patriotic football was played consisting of red, white and blue teams organised by Max Harvey, Ted Blackshaw and Bill Taylor; then replaced by Railways, Freezers and Tasmans who were organised by Mick Hegarty Sr, Archie Patterson and Max Harvey. This provided sport and recreation for those not in the services or too young to be involved and gave opportunity for

towns people to take their minds off the dark days of war. Regretfully at the end of the war it was recorded that nine former Wayback players were killed in action and three died in prisoner of war camps.

Following the end of World War Two, football was again on the agenda with hundreds of returned servicemen back in civvies and more than keen to resume the game. Servicemen, having experienced the comradeship, mateship and loyalty of living and fighting together, still sought this kindred spirit that had held them together in difficult times.

They brought this bonding to their football and to their club and never more so than that experienced in the Wayback Football Club following both World Wars.

Along with the Returned Services League, a long established club like Waybacks was on hand to assist transition back into the quite often-difficult process of civilian life again.

Through the efforts of 1938 "Mail Medal" runner-up, Ray Porter, and former player and primary school teacher, Claude Flint, the club was reformed and the following decisions made at the 1946 AGM held at Red Cross House situated in Lewis Street.

Prior to commencement of business, the Chairman – Mr Harold Merchant called on all present for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for former players who had given their lives for their country.

Officials elected – Patron WM McFarlane; President H Merchant; Secretary E Blackshaw (later R Porter); Assistant Secretary C Flint; Delegates R Porter and C Flint; Proxy delegates R King & E Blackshaw; Trainers W Fulwood, H Curnow and C Schramm, Colour Steward R Aveling.

The season also saw the formation of the first Wayback Social Committee, comprising B

Ravenscroft, R Matthews, C Wiseman, M Gage and E Blackshaw. It was unanimously decided to retain the club colours of red and blue.

Former pre-war Central player and "Mail Medallist," Bert Ravenscroft, was appointed Captain-Coach. Waybacks did not contest the final, which was won by Tasmans. Utility player, Darcy Harvey, won the "Gynell Medal," for the 'fairest and most brilliant player' in the association. He also won the club medal, heralding a great playing career and becoming a club legend in his own time.

The club held only two meetings in this reformation year. The first being the AGM and the other to open the renovated change shed, now to be the 'Clubroom.' The opening also acknowledged the great work undertaken by Darcy Harvey and Reg Aveling in the renovation project where they begged, borrowed and stole to complete the work at no cost to the club. Waybacks had obtained quite a few members of the former Centrals club – Centrals and Kirton not having reformed on resumption of football.

In 1947 Gerald Blackshaw was appointed 'wood boy' – woodfired chip heaters being the norm for hot showers.

Waybacks had commenced the 1947 season with

£15.12.9 in general club funds. On April 8th former player Carl Hage handed over to the club twenty pairs of socks which he had personally knitted free of charge – football socks being unprocurable at that time. He had also made up and fitted clubroom cupboards to add to the already splendid improvements.

With only three teams in the competition, Waybacks, Souths and Tasmans – the club had a bye every third week and every opportunity was taken to play other teams/associations on Eyre Peninsula.

The first trip to Wudinna by special railcar in 1947 was a huge success and many life-long friendships made. Waybacks contested the challenge final in 1947 but lost to Tasmans by twelve points.

Waybacks also journeyed to Elliston by 'Merchants Tour Bus' narrowly beating the local side and being right royally entertained at a dinner that night in the local hall.

The weekend hospitality from the locals was much appreciated with Neil and Kath Bascombe well to the fore – an endless supply of West End long necks always on hand.

In 1947 the "B" grade, under Captain King Cullum took out their second successive premiership.

### John "Skeet" McGEEVER

*Skeet's active involvement with the Club is approaching the sixty-year mark. He commenced playing in 1946 at the age of sixteen when he played the first four games in "B" grade. The Wayback coaching staff then approached Skeet's father for permission for him to play the remainder of that year in "A" grade. This he did and his football career had begun in earnest, although he dropped back to the "B" grade for the finals that year and duly played in a Premiership.*

*From this time on Skeet played only "A" grade and, despite two lengthy absences due to serious injuries, achieved an excellent career. After being a member of Waybacks first Premiership for fourteen years under playing coach Jack Fulwood in 1948, he played in four more - 1953; '58; '59 and '60.*

*Another highlight was representing the South Australian Railways in a National Carnival held in Hobart in 1949, which South Australia duly won.*

*Early in his football career Skeet had little difficulty in getting the ball but a lot of trouble disposing of it accurately, especially in front of goal - one year his points tally tripled his goal tally. But as with anything he does, he overcame this to go on to become the complete footballer and received many awards along the way. He won the club's 'Best and Fairest' in 1950; '53; '58 and '59, the 'Gynell Medal' in 1950; '53 and '59 and two 'Mail Medals' in 1950 and 1959. During this time Skeet played in*

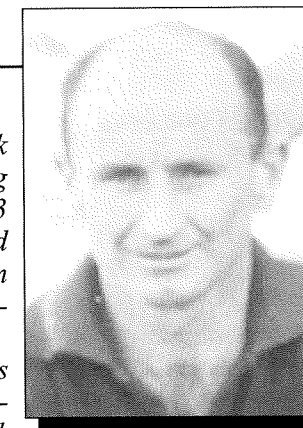
*thirteen Mortlock Shields, representing Eyre Peninsula in 1953 when it finished second in the South Australian Country Football Carnival.*

*John McGeever was awarded Life Membership of the Wayback Football Club in 1963, the youngest member to that time to receive this honour.*

*During and since his playing career he has served on Management and Social Committees, the latter as Secretary for a period, has been Chairman of Selectors and sat on the 'Ten Year' Players Certificate And Life Member Selection Committees. He also played a very major role in the preparation of the 75th Anniversary Book and was Senior Colts Coach in his post playing days.*

*More recently Skeet was the major instigator in the formation of the Supporters Committee in 2001 to help prepare for our 100th Anniversary and has been Chairperson of that Committee in addition to making a huge individual contribution to the 'One Hundred Year Book.'*

*"Skeet" McGeever has never turned his back when there is work to be done and is a wonderful role model for any budding young footballer in both on and off field activities.*



## Another premiership

In 1948 Waybacks adopted a club blazer and club badge – the original design being retained to this day!

Former Norwood player Don Lawrence was appointed captain with Snow Hicks vice captain. Jack Fulwood in his 25th year as a player was appointed coach in a season which was to prove momentous – Waybacks took out the "A" grade premiership – the first for 14 years.

Celebrations were on in earnest and went on for weeks. Stars of this long-awaited premiership season were: Bill Teagle, Darcy Harvey, Phil Bascombe, Max Gage, Don Lawrence, Snow Hicks, Verdun Curnow, Bill Woods, Bruce Baker, Vern Cotton, Moss Footer, Skeet McGeever, Snow Goodwin, Jack Testrow, Roy Matthews, John Dowd, Ken Bertram, Keith Hegarty, Snow Millard and the great Jack Fulwood at 38 years of age and still a remarkable player.

Wayback "B" grade won their third successive premiership under Reg Germein as captain and Allan Baker as vice captain.

With the success of 1948, the prospect of the club building its own permanent clubrooms was being seriously canvassed.

Waybacks journeyed to Streaky Bay in July 1949 for a memorable time where the "A" grade won by a point and the "B's" lost by a large margin. Among the many highlights of the trip was Sunday hospitality spent at Smooth Pool.

The "B" grade won their fourth successive premiership in 1949 but the "A" grade, under Don Lawrence as captain and Ross Chilman as vice captain, were not successful in the grand final.

Bill Woods won the club's fairest and most brilliant award, John McGeever best utility, L. Walters best forward and R. Hicks best backman.

The great Jack Fulwood after twenty-six years of playing service retired, exactly ten years after his contemporary – Barney Woods

In 1950 the club took the first step towards building their own clubrooms by purchasing a block of land in Verran Terrace, with President RJ Harvey, DL Harvey and Reg Aveling appointed trustees of the land. A generous loan of £400.00 by club founder and patron, Mr WM McFarlane made the purchase possible.

Waybacks did not contest the grand final but John (Skeet) McGeever won the Mail Medal, the club's first since Snow Goodwin in 1937, also the Gynell medal for the most outstanding player in the association.

### Philip Heath BASCOMBE

*Phil Bascombe, better known as 'McKackie' commenced playing for the Wayback Football Club in 1939 and played until 1955 with interruptions for war service in the Middle East and New Guinea, and again for a two year period when employment took him to Mt Gambier.*

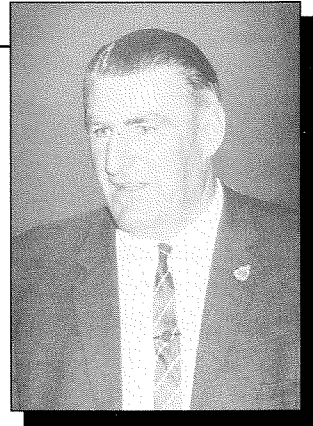
*He was an outstanding ruckman in post-war years, not only with Waybacks but Port Lincoln teams as well. Towards the end of his career at aged 32 years, he became playing coach of the seconds.*

*Phil was already on the Management Committee and helping to develop the very important social administration side of the club so necessary to keep players, officials and supporters together. In fact for twenty-three years he served as joint secretary and treasurer of the Social Committee.*

*No better tribute could be given than to commence the Wayback Football Club's 100-year history in the Centenary book by describing "Building a Tradition" through the magnificent work and dedication of Philip Heath Bascombe!*

*Phil was made a Life member of the Wayback Football Club in 1960, Port Lincoln Football League in 1966 and the Mortlock Shield in 1978.*

*In 1980, the Bascombe Family in conjunction with the Wayback Football Club, instituted the "Phil Bascombe Memorial Trophy" to be awarded for outstanding service to the Club - a most prestigious award.*



a constitution was drawn up. This was a strong indication of the professionalism showing through in the various committees and the building of clubrooms envisaged.

The compiling of the constitution was in the capable hands of Bill Burke, with help from Bob Harvey, Reg Aveling, Viv Bryant, Darcy Harvey, Phil Bascombe and Bill Teagle.

1952 saw the club miss out on a premiership under Don Lawrence in his last year as captain/coach and

having handed the captaincy over to Keith Hegarty during the season, with Keith winning the club medal for the season's fairest and best.

The next year, 1953, Don Lawrence became president of the Port Lincoln Football League and the Mortlock Shield Organising Committee. His presidency was to last a record seventeen years and he

proved to be an outstanding administrator.

With Waybacks Jubilee year coming up, a magazine committee comprising Darcy Harvey, Snow Goodwin, Reg Aveling and Phil Bascombe was formed to record the club's fifty year history as part of the Jubilee Celebrations to be held in October, 1953.

Commonwealth Jubilee year in 1951 presented an extra challenge for Waybacks – they seemed to thrive on anniversaries. The club took out the premiership in both grades, beating Tasmanians by six points in a hard fought grand final under captain/coach Don Lawrence with Bill Woods again winning the club medal. Club trainers received special tribute for getting at least half the "A" grade team fit to take the field due to injuries, and their dedication, hard work and perseverance paid off.

A victory dinner was held at the North Shields Hotel for both grades. Other celebrations followed with a smoke social and also a victory ball in the Civic Hall to celebrate the club's thirteenth premiership, the "B" grade having also been successful, now five times in the past six years.

For the first time in the history of the club,