

# **BENDIGO VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION**



**THIS IS YOUR LIFE  
1964 - 2014**



The Association was created in 1964.

Some describe this time as the 'Swinging Sixties'. During this period the birth control pill was approved, troops were sent to Vietnam, Harold Holt disappeared, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, the first heart transplant was performed, Medicare was born and the DNA genetic code was broken.

On a lighter side, the mini skirt appeared, Dr Who and Star Trek aired, the 'personal computer' appeared and the invention of pantyhose added a new challenge to the Drive-in movies. The Beatles became popular, Elvis married Priscilla, Woodstock happened, pull-tabs on cans were invented, and oh, postage stamps cost six cents.

## **BENDIGO VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION,**

### **THIS IS YOUR LIFE!!!!**

The first meeting of the Bendigo YMCA Volleyball Association was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, 1964. The game was originally played on the dance floor upstairs at the old YMCA building. Two hooks in the wall held up a tennis net. Do you remember this voice?

#### ***Tom Stevens talks about the beginning of volleyball in Bendigo.***

Tom was President in 1964. There was a total of forty-four pounds in the bank and eight teams competed for a Major and a Minor Championship trophy. Teams playing at that time were Technical College, Y's Men, Vikings, Swimming Club, Lansell Club, Bendigo Teachers College, Fortuna and Beavers. The teams paid a fee of three pound and ten shillings for the year. The score cards and one volleyball were kept at the Mobil Garage across the road from the YMCA and picked up by the team on duty for the first match. A social game was played prior to the season commencing in May to familiarize teams with the rules.

The following year Myers, Bradford Cotton Mills, John Brown, Hanro, the Police and Fire Brigade were approached to join the competition.

In 1966 a lot happened: matches moved to the new YMCA stadium, and an invitation from the Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association to play in the first State wide event at Monash University was accepted. This was your players' first exposure to 'international rules' and was a rude awakening for the players. Soon after, International Rules were adopted and the association became affiliated with the V.A.V.A.

This person was a member of the team that played in that first state wide event. Do you know this voice?

***Murray Mansfield shares some of his memories of the early days.***

In 1967, after decimal currency was introduced, fees went up to \$1.20 per night and 20 cents more for any player over six in a team. Just like today, part of the fee went towards affiliation with the Victorian Body. It was also agreed that players of individual teams be uniformly dressed and a demonstration match was organised between a Melbourne team and Barons, who were league leaders at the time. Also, players and spectators of finals were charged 20 cents for the privilege of playing and watching.

At the Annual General Meeting of 1968, President Peter Frylink reported that an excellent season was enjoyed by all. The first Victorian YMCA Volleyball Championships at Warrnambool saw Bendigo placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of six, the bank balance was \$83.00. It was agreed that the proper umpires stand be built.

## **THE 1970's**

This decade has been labeled as the digital revolution. Intel created the first cheap microprocessor, which gave birth to the first home computers with floppy disks. The microwave was seen in our kitchens and the jumbo jet in our skies. The 70's saw the end of the Vietnam War and it also heralded a growth in women's rights. The Rolling Stones, ACDC and Queen gained popularity and we watched The Benny Hill Show, The Brady Bunch, Charlie's Angels, The Little House on the Prairie and Happy Days on television.

Several female players were already playing in the Men's competition. In December of 1970, a meeting of prospective female players was held and the very first Women's Competition began the following February. Teams included: Aquarians, Jaffas, Blue Wrens, Chikara, YWCA, Teachers College and Bibliobandits.

Do you recognise this voice; the voice of the very first President of the Women's Competition?

### ***Ann Mansfield shares some of her memories of the beginning of Women's volleyball in Bendigo.***

In early 1974, a committee was formed to establish a junior competition, and by July, 5 boys and 6 girls teams were competing at the Kangaroo Flat Technical College.

Volleyball was now being played in three stadiums: the YMCA, the Show Grounds and Kangaroo Flat. By the mid 70's over 40 senior teams were playing two seasons with 55 minute games plus junior teams. Senior teams were graded by a panel and the first Best and Fairest trophies were awarded to Murray Mansfield and Ron Symons.

The Association established a canteen under the stairs in the stadium and Frank Roberts, a true stalwart, became known to every player in the association as the Canteen Manager.

The first Life Membership was awarded to Ted Beattie followed by Tom Stevens and Murray Mansfield and then Frank Roberts.

A panel of Referees was adopted and Diane Brown was appointed as Referees Coach. Referees for finals were selected by team captains and points were deducted for players not in uniform shirts, shorts and socks.

Later on the YMCA stadium was hired on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights. Sunday was practice night and those who practiced paid 10 cents to do so.

Bendigo Men played in tournaments at Geelong, Ballarat, Morwell and in the All Victorian Championship, which included the women. It was at such events that your talent was noticed. We have had a long tradition of members being selected in state teams, the first being in 1970. They were Graham Brown, Jan Nankivell and David Wallace. Later during this decade Kim Perrett and Greg Doyle were selected to train with their age appropriate Australian Squad.

It was also during this time that Bendigo was represented at the Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association Annual General Meeting.

When I mention 'guinness' you probably think of the popular dry Irish stout. But I speak of the Guinness Book of Records. In 1978, teachers and students from Eaglehawk High School, performed an extreme achievement. They played for a continuous 52 hours in an attempt to break the record for the longest game of volleyball ever played.

This is the voice of one of those who worked hard and long in an attempt to make that happen.

***John Pearce shares some of his memories of this period of volleyball in Bendigo.***

## **THE 1980's**

It was a new decade, and 1980 started off with a bang in the form of both natural and man-made disasters – John Lennon was assassinated, we played Pac-Man and the PC was everywhere in our daily lives. NASA launched the first Space Shuttle, triggering our love affair with smart phones and the Internet.

The 80's went off with a bit of a bang for BVA too. In 1983, Australia's first commercially produced television series, The Lightning Spike Cup, was produced. The series, the brain child of Murray Mansfield, further promoted what many believe to be the greatest team sport ever. In 1985 it was still the only televised volleyball series in the country. The series took place annually for five years and became the longest running TV8 sports production.

Our next guest has had a long association with volleyball which began here in Bendigo. He is a player, coach and administrator and has worked at local, state, national and international level. He was one of the referees at the very first Lightning Spike Cup. Do you recognize him?

### ***Dave Berry shares some of his memories of The Lightning Spike Cup.***

In 1986, the Bendigo leg of the Fuji Film Australia series, Australia versus Japan, was also televised by TV8. In 1988 the Panasonic Panthers played Australia in Bendigo and State and National Volleyball League matches were also hosted in Bendigo. All of these events were hugely successful.

At this stage, volleyball was the second largest participation sport in the world. Bendigo was one of the largest associations in Australia with over 600 players taking the court each week. The standard of play was very high and the many players who were selected to play in State and National teams, both juniors and seniors, was testimony of this.

Bendigo player, Phil Roberts, achieved the honour of captaining the Australian Men's team on several occasions.

The voice you are about to hear is the voice of another member who played for Australia, and her father. They are part of a family who you know well due to their three generation association with you.

***Cate Brewin and Frank Roberts share some of their memories of Bendigo Volleyball.***

The growth of country volleyball during this time was also explosive. One of the main benefits of this was the initiation of under-age competitions and the Junior Country Volleyball Championships. Bendigo under 15 and 17 boys teams were State title runners up in '88 and third in 1989. During the 80's, Bendigo teams also competed in the Victorian State League Competition.

Local competition was being played four nights a week at the YMCA. Tuesday and Thursday nights were allocated to the senior competition and the juniors played Monday and Wednesday nights. The junior comp was well represented and most teams were representative of larger clubs but with connections to a number of secondary schools in the area. Club Volleyball was being promoted passionately, none more so than our next guest:.

***Les Simms shares some of his memories of club volleyball and volleyball generally in Bendigo.***

In 1989 the Association chose to transfer to the relatively new West Bendigo Stadium. Court facilities were far superior to the YMCA and modern social facilities existed for clubs and teams to enjoy after matches.

## **THE 1990's**

The 1990's will be remembered for the Macarena, Monica Lewinski, OJ Simpson, the VFL becoming the AFL and the World Wide Web. Your Association just continued to do the great things they had been doing on the local, state and national level.

In 1992, on the national level, Bendigo hosted the Australian U16 Volleyball Championships. This was a huge event for Bendigo Volleyball involving teams from every state and territory of Australia. Furthermore, host families had to be found for every player. Due to the hard work of members, this event was a massive triumph.

Our next guest is one of those who was responsible for finding beds for more than 100 players during that event.

### ***Jenny Brown shares some of their memories of volleyball in Bendigo.***

This period also saw Bendigo host an International Men's Volleyball match between Australia and Brazil.

At State level, the men and women continued to participate in the Victorian State League Competition. Teams trained during the week and then travelled to Melbourne on Sundays to compete.

Locally, in 1994, Murray Mansfield, played a leading role in the establishment of the Bendigo Academy of Sport (BAS). One of its initial sports, of course, was volleyball. The BAS aimed to provide junior athletes from this region with the technical coaching so readily available to metropolitan juniors, backed by a holistic program to develop their personal skills, so essential in becoming an elite athlete.

This person had a lot to do with the Academy Volleyball program from its inception.

### ***Gary Roberts shares some of his memories of BAS volleyball.***

## **THE 2000's**

The 2000's saw blogs on every subject, reality TV, Paris Hilton, Facebook, Twitter, You Tube and 10,000 songs on an i-pod in our pockets.

Disastrously, we saw the Twin Towers fall, terror alerts, the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Hurricane Katrina and most recently the shooting down of MH17.

A major event in our nation's history took place at the very beginning of the 2000's, the Sydney Olympic Games. Four Bendigo members played a part in this event. Murray Mansfield worked for SOCOG in Sydney as Volleyball Referee Manager. Rick McWaters was a Liason Officer for international referees, Gary Roberts was an Equipment Officer and Bronwyn James was a Volleyball Technical Official, working as a scorer. Murray and Bronwyn also worked on the Paralympic Games in the same roles that they did at the Olympics.

~~I am sure this voice has probably chanted the odd 'Aussie, Aussie, Aussie' in his time around volleyball courts.~~

### **~~*Rick McWaters shares some of his memories of Olympic volleyball.*~~**

The very successful annual Dragon City Tournament was joined in 2008 by the Junior Dragon City Tournament. The Mixed Competition, was replaced with the Minis Competition for primary school age children. The Mini teams continue to smash it out here on a Sunday night and after a break of eight years, the Mixed Competition was re-established at the Bendigo Stadium in 2003.

In 2006 the Association hosted an international match between Australia and Argentina. The following year the Association was awarded the AVF Outstanding Volleyball Event for 2006-7.

The establishment of the Victorian Country Volleyball Council and the creation of the Victorian Country Championships saw the demise of the All Victorian Championship.

Since 2000, the event has become one of Australia's best presented tournaments, utilising many of the Sydney 2000 protocols. Bendigo not only successfully hosted the upgraded event in 2005 and again in 2009, the year that the Victorian Country Championships celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but next year will see Bendigo host the event once again.

Bendigo teams, both senior and junior, have enjoyed considerable success in this event over the years, and continue to do so, even though the junior division is no longer offered.

Few clubs, if any, train regularly, but the association provides regular combined training sessions on a Sunday night and conducts annual referee courses. The voluntary Referee Commission was re-formed in 1998, but in 2002 the bar was raised with members required to be officially accredited.

Even though the total number of players are not as high as in the past, many players have achieved milestones in games played. As a direct result of the meticulous record keeping of Tom Stevens, players who have reached 500, 750 and 1000 games are on display for all to see. The Over-1000 Games Club includes Tom Stevens, Murray Mansfield, Ron Symons, John McInerney, John Pearce and Wayne Symons.

These are the voices of a couple who have achieved that great feat.

***Ron Symons and John McInerney share some of their memories of volleyball in Bendigo.***

And whilst we are talking about the more mature members let us acknowledge the members recognised with Life Membership, Distinguished and Outstanding Service Awards. Life Members include Ted Beattie, Murray Mansfield, Tom Stevens and Frank Roberts in the 1970's, John Pearce in the 1980's, Lyn Wingrave, Maureen Stevens, Ann Mansfield, Jenny Brown, Gary Cleaver and Cheryl Elvey in the 1990's, and Scott Ross, Gary Roberts, Ron Symons, John McInerney, Ian Macloy, Bronwyn James and Leonie Roberts since 2000. Murray and Tom have since been made Life Members of Volleyball Victoria and Murray has been recognised for his distinguished service to the Australian Volleyball Federation.

Also over the years Ron Symons, Wayne Symons, John McInerney, Margaret McInerney, Mary Tarquinio, Gavin Fisher, Ian Macloy, John Fox, Gary Roberts, Leonie Roberts, Jim Grant, Cate Brewin, Bronwyn James, Peter Colliccoat, Greg Hilson, Jenny Brown, Leigh Gordon, Jill Scobie, Geraldine Coles, Narelle Waldron, Melissa Zysvelt, Taka Hirashima and Paul Malloy have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to the sport.

Since the beginning there have been many sponsors. On your behalf we thank all of the sponsors which include The Pub and Gavin Fisher, Bendigo Distribution Services and John Parsons, Bendigo Motor Wreckers and Wayne Symons, TEN Victoria, Xerox, City of Greater Bendigo, Telstra Countrywide, 3BO, Dennis Family Homes, WIN TV and Bendigo Pottery.

1964 to 2014 – from a humble beginning where the sport was played on an upstairs dance floor in the YMCA building you have grown to be one of the strongest associations in the state. The Association has produced many state and national team representatives, and members have contributed countless volunteer hours at local, state, national and international level. In addition to all the events at all levels that have been hosted, the association has provided countless hours of enjoyment for members, both on and off the court.

**Bendigo Volleyball Association,**

**THIS IS YOUR LIFE.**

# LIFE MEMBERS

1971 Ted Beattie

1973 Murray Mansfield

Tom Stevens

1979 Frank Roberts

1981 John Pearce

1994 Lyn Wingrave

Maureen Stevens

Ann Mansfield

1997 Jenny Brown

Gary Cleaver

1998 Cheryl Elvey

2006 Gary Roberts

Scott Ross

2010 Ron Symons

John McInerney

Ian Macloy

Bronwyn James

Leonie Roberts

# **DISTINGUISHED & OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Ron Symons

Jill Scobie

Wayne Symons

Geraldine Coles

John McInerney

Narelle Waldron

Margaret McInerney

Melissa Zysvelt

Mary Tarquinio

Taka Hirashima

Gavin Fisher

Paul Malloy

Ian Macloy

John Fox

Gary Roberts

Leonie Roberts

Jim Grant

Cate Brewin

Bronwyn James

Peter Colliccoat

Greg Hilson

Jenny Brown

Leigh Gordon

# AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Megan Boromeo

Anna Watts

Cate Brewin (Roberts)

Lyn Wingrave

Greg Doyle

James Winzar

James Haythorne

Kristen Woodcock

Jason Hughes

Karly Hynes

Rosalie Ervin

Chris Jones

Rhiannon Judd

Murray Mansfield (Manager)

John McInerney Jr.

Lauren McKenzie

Lyn Nankivell

Kim Perrett

Laura Roberts

Phil Roberts

Gary Roberts (also Coach)

Erin Ross

Evan Shelton

David Wallace

# **1000+ SENIOR DOMESTIC GAMES** (Nov, 2013)

Tom Stevens

Ron Symons

John McInerney

Wayne

Symons

John Pearce

Murray Mansfield

# **750+ SENIOR DOMESTIC GAMES** (Nov, 2013)

Gary Cleaver

Leigh Gordon

Jenny Brown

Peter Kuhne

Ian Macloy

Maureen Stevens

Paul Beckwith

David Graham

Leonie Roberts

Jim Grant

# 500+ SENIOR DOMESTIC GAMES (Nov, 2013)

Bronwyn James

Steve McKerrow

Gary Schultz

Madeleine Schoo

Steve Baines

Charlie Parker

Kelli Houlahan

Brian Webster

Peter Little

Mary Tarquinio

Bryan Fitzgerald

Carol McKinstry

Ross Johnson

Rod Skidmore

Tony Brown

Geoff Brown

Andrew Trewartha

Jan Macloy

Hugh Wheeler

Graham Gordon

Jenny Leahy

Lidia Dunn

Kerrie Stanley

Seto Boon Hong

Barry Hogan

Gary Roberts

Cheryl Elvey

Peter Judd

Jill Scobie

Ron Brown-Sarre

Scott Ross

Keith Quinton

Greg Hilson

Col Cuskelly

Vicki Naughton

Gavin Fisher

Alan Cleaver

Greg Goodall

Jeremy Ross

