

● ABOVE: Raywood butcher Ron Thompson describes the township community as a 'close-knit bunch'

Bendigo side, there's a sign which announces that the great Northern United won four premierships in a row.

That fact is now recalled with some bitterness by some who believe that smart operators from Bendigo virtually bought the flags by paying top dollar for players.

At the end, when the money gave out, the hungry players left, leaving Raywood with nothing.

It had no new players coming up through the ranks, no good, solid reliable and cheap players who are the backbone of every club.

Then the drought hit and Northern United went for

two years without a win. Just last weekend, Northern United won just its second game in two-and-a-half years, this time it was a 10-point victory over Kennington.

Much to the delight of the O'Gormans.

They still talk about the winning nights in the pub.

The town treasures those wins now more than the expensive four premierships.

And, somehow, that seems to sum up the spirit of Raywood.