

16 January

ADVENT OF THE IVIES - UPDATED HISTORY PAGE

Thanks to our wonderful club historian, Phil Skeggs, we have a new addition to our history section on this website.

VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Ivanhoe holds first unisex training session

Phil Skeggs

IVANHOE'S female footballers got their first chance to rub shoulders with male clubmates during a pre-season training session at Ivanhoe Park last weekend.

And, judging by the positive feedback from those involved, it will be happening a lot more this year.

About 55 players, including a dozen women and a handful of under-19s, were put through a series of skills drills and games for 90 minutes under the direction

of Ivanhoe senior coach Leigh Cole.

Cole said the greater size of the combined group enabled the fledgling women's squad to engage in a broader variety of skills (drills and games).

"We will definitely be doing it again," Cole said. "It's good for their skills development and it's great for the club as a whole to work together."

Players said they enjoyed the extra intensity of mixed training. And, while tackling and bumping wasn't permitted, the women

showed plenty of toe in mixed handball games.

The women also met their team patron, former Ivanhoe Junior Football Club president Jan Wright, who is keen to see the women's team provide a pathway for girls after they finish junior football.

Ivanhoe will be fielding a team in the inaugural Victorian Amateur Football Association women's lightning premiership at VAF A Headquarters on April 1-2 with some 24 teams likely to be involved.

Ivanhoe's redeveloped pavilion, which includes women's changing rooms, is scheduled to be completed this month.

In another first, the club will hold a joint player registration day with Ivanhoe Juniors on Sunday, February 26 at Ivanhoe (9.30am-11.30am).

For more information about Ivanhoe's women's team or under-19s football, contact club secretary Peter Marshall on 0417 263 601 or email: iafcsecretary@gmail.com.



Combined training at Ivanhoe last week. Picture: PHILL SKEGGS

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HEIDELBERG LEADER, Tuesday, February 21, 2017 23

Heidelberg Leader feb 21, 2017

The 'Advent of the Ivies' looks at the last two years at Ivanhoe AFC, including the addition of our first female team, the Ivies. Phil hasn't left the men's teams out, this is a complete piece on our club's last two years. Please, take a look, just [click here](#).

5 January

FAREWELL TO A LOYAL TREASURE - BETTY THOMAS (1927-2019)

The Ivanhoe Amateur Football Club community has been saddened by the passing of Betty, a wonderful and kind person, a very loyal supporter of Ivanhoe and the loving wife of the IAFC Icon, the late, revered Harry Thomas. Betty's connection with Ivanhoe Amateurs dates back to its earliest days in the VAFA and was fully engaged upon her marriage to Harry, who not only provided Ivanhoe with his well honed administrative skills, but was a great player over a 10 year period from the mid 1940s to the mid 1950s. Like Harry, Betty understood the purpose, vision and values of our community club, living all of her 91 years not only in Ivanhoe, but in the same Ivanhoe/Eaglemont house. Betty was always that calm person in the background, portraying her own thoughtful, caring and supportive manner. Betty sacrificed untold hours in order that the club was properly led and that everything was in place to cover the infinite needs of a football club which always had player inclusiveness, connectedness and security as its mission. Harry, President of the Team of the Century, VAFA Award winner, Inaugural IAFC Legend, Life Member, talked often of his indebtedness to his quiet-humoured, generous and loving partner and through the decades the vision of the Thomas family, together with other great families and individuals such as the Miles, Blackwoods, Flynns, Bill and Lorraine McWhinnie and Tim Robinson to name just a few, have maintained our great club in the good and turbulent times. Vale Betty Thomas, and our thanks to her children Graham, Anne and Robyn for sharing her with us all over so many years.

Betty's funeral will be held at 10:00am on Thursday 10 January at Le Pines in Ivanhoe. Friends are also invited to celebrate Betty's life afterwards at Sir Henry Barclays Hotel in Heidelberg.

20 December

VALE RON LUCAS, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF IVANHOE JUNIORS

By Phil Skeggs

One of Ivanhoe's great clubmen of the '60s and '70s, **Ron Lucas**, has passed away, aged 81.



Ron Lucas in the 1953 Under 19s Premiership team

In an era when Ivanhoe Amateurs was consistently in A or B grade, Ron was a devoted stalwart whose work on and off the field was recognised with life membership. Ron was a member of the under 19s premiership team in 1953, playing alongside future club greats Rusty Burt, Ian Anderson and John Miles. A brave and skilful player, Ron usually lined up as a small forward and second rover. Anderson recalls that Ron, whom he'd known since he was 14, was "a reasonable player".

"He wasn't a champion, but he was a useful player," he said. And while Ron missed out on the Seniors premierships in 1954 and 1956, he enjoyed success with the reserves when they won a flag in 1958. He went on to coach the reserves, including the 1969 season when the seniors won the B grade flag.

Ron was also active on committee, organising the club's entry into junior football via the Melbourne Boys League. The club fielded under 15s and under 17s teams in the boys league

from 1966 until 1971. At the behest of under 15s coach Tim Robinson, the senior committee formed the Ivanhoe Junior Football Club in late 1971 and entered teams in the Doncaster and Districts Junior Football League in 1972. (The forerunner of today's Yarra Junior Football League, which was formed in 1997). Ron became the Ivanhoe Juniors' first president, with a committee comprising John Miles (treasurer), Robinson, Burt, Don Blackwood, John Burns, Peter Cairns, Euan Logan, and John Benetti.

“He (Lucas) was one of the world's real gentlemen - just a lovely guy,” recalled Robinson. “I played with him a little bit when I was beginning and he was finishing. He was a bloody good player, he wasn't a standout super champion but he was a good little player.” He said after the senior club committee unanimously backed his proposal to form Ivanhoe Junior Football Club, Lucas went about “quietly and efficiently setting up the new club”.

“It was Ron Lucas and John Miles who did all the work in getting it going,” he said.

Ron Lucas died on December 9 and was privately cremated. The club extends its condolences to his wife Jan, and his children and grandchildren Amanda, Melissa and John, Will, Nick and Anna.

5 October

SUPA COACH JOINS IVANHOE FOR 2019

By Phil Skeggs



Mario Bandera. Pic courtesy Herald Sun and Stuart Milligan © must not be reproduced without permission

A Northern league champion is returning to his football roots as senior coach of Ivanhoe Amateurs next season. “Supa” Mario Bandera, 44, was an outstanding junior footballer from 1986-91 at Ivanhoe before he became a household name in the DVFL and NFL for two

decades. Ivanhoe president Rob Pearce said he was delighted that Bandera, whom he coached as a junior, had been chosen for the job. “Mario was very keen to come back to Ivanhoe. He’s a family man and he wants to unite the Ivanhoe family,” said Pearce.



Mario Bandera (left) holding the premiership flag with then Colts coach Rob Pearce at Ivanhoe Juniors in 1991. Pic sourced by Rob Pearce

Bandera said he was pleased to be given the opportunity to coach Ivanhoe, which he considers a “sleeping giant of the VAFA” with a wealth of talent to be developed. “I know it as an iconic football club, with a strong and reputable standing within not only the VAFA, but also, and more importantly within the local community,” he said. “Having attended several games this season, I firmly believe that the current core list of players have the capacity to regroup and create a positive build towards future successes and stability. That same build can create a sustained push to lead the club towards premiership success, and then a deliberate and effective climb up the VAFA divisions.” Bandera said the club’s strong junior program would be a key ingredient in building the foundations for success. Ivanhoe also re-formed its under 19s this year and finished midfield in Division 4.

In accepting the Ivanhoe job, Bandera has an opportunity to restore his reputation as well as the Hoes’ fortunes. Ivanhoe was relegated to VAFA Division 2 after its senior men’s team finished bottom of the ladder with just one win. In 2017, Bandera received a hefty 12-week ban after he was reported for swearing at two female players and disputing an umpire’s decision during an NFL under-14s match.

Bandera was an elite player and coach in the NFL/DVFL for more than 20 years. He played TAC Cup at Preston Knights and under 19s at Collingwood under the tutelage of legendary coach Keith Burns. The 190cm onballer played reserves for Carlton in 1992 before switching to Port Melbourne in 1993. He was at North Heidelberg between 1993-2002, including the 1994 premiership team, and picked up a club and NFL Division 1 best-and-fairest in 2002. He was recruited to NFL club Lower Plenty in 2003 as a playing assistant coach and won two club best-and-fairest awards during a seven-year stint. He also coached Epping for four years

from 2010, taking them to a grand final in 2011 and a Division 2 flag in 2012. He was the Australian Football Coaches Association's northern region senior coach of the year in 2011 and runner-up in the state award. A level 2 AFL accredited coach, he also mentored Eltham between 2014-16, taking them to the finals in 2015.

Bandera is keen to get to know his players and a meeting has been scheduled at the Ivanhoe Park clubrooms on Monday October 8 at 6.30pm. This meeting is open to anyone who is considering playing at Ivanhoe in 2019, including under 19s.

4 October

COLEY WINS THE 'HARRY'

On Wednesday evening the Black & Whites held their annual Harry Dinner, at Vasko Restaurant in Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe. A lovely meal was enjoyed by around 20 loyal Ivanhoe supporters where the 'Harry' was presented to a very worthy winner, 2018 Senior Coach, Leigh Cole. In what was one of the toughest years at the club, Leigh continued to work hard, remain positive and provide leadership for our players. It would have been easy to walk away, but Leigh, a true Ivanhoe person, stuck tough and showed why his such a high quality person. Congratulations Leigh you are such a deserving winner.



Leigh Cole, the 2018 Harry Award Winner. Pic: Ross Toogood

ROB PEARCE RETURNS AS PRESIDENT

By Phil Skeggs



Rob Pearce, president. Pic: Phil Skeggs

Rob Pearce has returned to the club presidency for a record third time and immediately moved to quash rumours of a merger with Old Ivanhoe. “We are not going to have outside people making decisions for our club,” he said. Rob has formed a selection committee with **Ross Toogood** and **Andy Moore** and they are in the throes of choosing a senior coach from applicants. Coaches for seniors, reserves, women’s and under 19s will be introduced to players, members and supporters in the clubrooms on the night of **Friday October 19**. Rob said the club had much to look forward to next season, with new training lights and an electronic scoreboard to be installed as well.

Rob was elected unopposed at a meeting attended by 28 club members in the Ivanhoe clubrooms on Monday October 1. A tireless servant of the club, Rob was president for five years in seasons 2000-2004 and two years in 2010-2011. He is also convenor of the club’s coterie group the Black & Whites, which he established in 2005. Rob is a life member, Hall of Fame member, 2013 Harry Award recipient, and a VAFA Certificate of Merit recipient. Ivanhoe’s Under-19s B&F award is also named after him.

Joining him on committee of management for season 2019 is another past president **Grant Mackenzie**, who held the post from 2012-14. Former coach **Doni Valkanis** has also come on board along with **Dom Mitchell**, **Andy Moore**, **Andy Marks** and **Sue Doman**. Ivies captain **Fiona Tansley** continues her great work as club secretary and **Kate McKendrick** as treasurer.

Outgoing chairman and vice president (football operations) **Bill Emerson** will continue as football director and VFAFA liaison officer. Outgoing vice president **Ben Joyce** (business and finance) will continue in an advisory capacity. Other sub-committee members are: **Tess Vandergriff** (sponsorships), **Phil Skeggs** (media), **Ross Toogood** (website), **Emily Jane Johnson** (merchandise), **Claire Tipping** (fundraising), **Aaron Marks** (social). Other members will be confirmed in coming weeks.

In the annual report, Bill Emerson assured members that the committee had worked tirelessly and even-handedly in its efforts to keep all teams viable. "I urge all members to put aside any private agendas and work to see Ivanhoe Amateurs FC rise again - what a history we have - too good to lose," he wrote.

For a full copy of the 2018 annual report, [see the attached PDF](#).