

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE 1963 -1991

SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE 1992

The South-East Suburban F.L. was formed on Monday 29th.October 1963. The meeting was held in the Murrumbeena F.C. rooms and was attended by representatives of the clubs listed along with other interested parties.

The Auburn club was also represented and nominated two teams for the coming season however were forced to withdraw prior to the season commencing due to some internal disagreements.

The Age newspaper article of Friday November 2nd. reports of the merger of the Caulfield-Oakleigh District F.L. and the Eastern Suburban F.L. with Mr.W.Jeffreys elected as President and Mr.W.J.Wilde as Secretary of the new League.

Following the merger of the two competitions a number of changes were made to the old format to suit the new competition and the following clubs and grades commenced on the 20th. April 1963:

A Grade: Open Age

Ashburton, Glen Iris, Balwyn, Burwood, Canterbury, North Kew, Tooronga, Burnley, East Brighton, Mt.Waverley, Murrumbeena, Noble Park-Harrisfield, Oakleigh District and Sandown.

Reserve Grade Open: Open Age

Caulfield Amateurs, South Murrumbeena, Glen Iris District, Carnegie, R.A.A.F. Cadets, Dingley, Bennettswood, Chadstone, Hawthorn Amateurs.

B Grade Reserves: Open Age

Ashburton, Balwyn, Burwood, Canterbury, East Brighton, Glen Iris, Mt.Waverley, Murrumbeena, Glen Iris District 'B,' Noble Park-Harrisfield, Oakleigh District, Sandown, Tooronga, and Beaumaris. North Kew did not field a Reserve team.

C Grade Under 17 Division One:

Canterbury, Burwood, East Brighton, Glen Iris, Mt.Waverley, Murrumbeena, Sandown, Noble Park-Harrisfield, Oakleigh District and Ashburton.

C Grade Under 17 Division Two:

East Sandringham, Highett West Youth Club, Dingley, Oakleigh 4ths., Mordialloc Y.C., Murrumbeena District, Beaumaris, and Caulfield Amateurs.

D Grade Under 15:

Beaumaris, Oakleigh District, East Brighton, Mt.Waverley, Mordialloc Y.C., East Sandringham, Noble Park-Harrisfield, Murrumbeena District, Highett West Y.C. and Oakleigh 5ths.

E Grade Under13:

Oakleigh District, East Brighton, East Sandringham, Oakleigh 6ths., Murrumbeena District, Noble Park-Harrisfield, Mordialloc Y.C. and Beaumaris.

The Auburn club was also represented and nominated two teams for the coming season however were forced to withdraw prior to the season commencing due to some internal disagreements.

A browse through the clubs and grades does reveal some anomalies which remained some few years.

The table below may give the reader some idea of the changes during the last seventy years or so to football in the south east of Melbourne.

The Eastern Suburbs Protestant Churches F.A. which eventually merged with the renamed SESFL, the Southern Football League covered an area ranging from Malvern to Box Hill, Canterbury, Camberwell, Hartwell, Surrey Hills, Balwyn, Mont Albert, Ringwood, Mitcham & Bentleigh to as far as Cheltenham and Sandringham. During the 1970's and 80's there were approximately 60 teams/clubs with seniors and reserves plus almost as many spread across its junior grades.

The basis of the competition which commenced in 1923 slowly at first, then rapidly was eroded to a point where it was no longer a 'churches competition' it became just another suburban league and eventually was left with little option but to merge with the SESFL under the SFL banner.

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RECORD

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PREMIERSHIP LADDERS —by Mr F. Horkings

A GRADE

	W	L	F	A	Pc	Pts
MOUNT WAVERLEY	8	1	986	554	178	32
GLEN IRIS	8	1	761	492	155	32
MURRUMBEENA	6	3	676	650	104	24
EAST BRIGHTON	5	4	772	665	116	20
BALWYN	5	4	767	700	110	20
BURWOOD	5	4	735	694	106	20
ASHBURTON	4	5	716	641	112	16
CANTERBURY	3	6	697	676	103	12
NORTH KEW	1	8	522	791	67	4
CAULFIELD AM	-	9	471	1114	42	-

B GRADE

MOUNT WAVERLEY	9	0	961	386	249	36
EAST BRIGHTON	7	2	797	324	246	28
MURRUMBEENA	6	3	815	521	158	24
CANTERBURY	6	3	758	585	130	24
GLEN IRIS	4	5	612	556	110	16
NORTH KEW	4	5	580	593	97	16
BURWOOD	4	5	576	597	96	16
BALWYN	4	5	509	531	95	16
ASHBURTON	1	8	223	927	24	4
CAULFIELD AM	-	9	223	987	22	-

RESERVE OPEN

BEAUMARIS	9	-	1341	244	545	36
HAWTHORN AMS	7	1	999	504		30
CARNEGIE	7	2	821	386	213	28
CHADSTONE	6	3	776	582	133	24
SANDOWN	6	3	675	515	131	24
BENNETTSWOOD	5	4	599	437	137	20
ST KILDA CITY	4	4	587	725	81	18
E MALVERN AMS	3	6	363	637	43	12
GLEN IRIS DIST	2	7	578	804	72	8
DINGLEY	2	7	387	856	45	8
STH MURRUMBEENA	2	7	363	870	42	8
JOLIMONT	-	9	337	1173	12	-

Hawthorn Amateurs and St. Kilda have drawn one match

C GRADE

	P'ship pts
OAKLEIGH 4-18	36
EAST SANDRINGHAM	32
EAST BRIGHTON	28
MURRUMBEENA DIS	28

D GRADE

	P'ship pts
OAKLEIGH 5-18	36
EAST SANDRINGHAM	36
EAST BRIGHTON	32
MURRUMBEENA DIS	28

E GRADE

	P'ship pts
OAKLEIGH 6-18	36
EAST SANDRINGHAM	28
MORDIALLOC RED	28
BEAUMARIS	28

WATCH FOR DETAILS

Sandown boys and girls are asked to look out for details of the Car Trial — it will be on pretty soon.

BEAUMARIS COACH
FRANK READE

Frank Reade has been the coach of Beaumaris since its formation three seasons ago, acting in an honorary capacity and achieving outstanding results.

A confirmed (?) bachelor, Frank is a CMF major and an ex-P.O.W.

Since the early practice matches this season Frank has been full of confidence. His present team has greatly improved since last season and he feels it will take a lot to rob him of his objective—the premiership.

Although he never played senior football, Frank won many best and fairest awards in junior football and coached teams to premierships as playing coach. He came out of retirement to take on the job as coach of Beaumaris.

Hmmm

(We publish the following without comment — apart from the exclamation mark)

Mount Waverley wish to thank the Ladies Committee for the dinner last week. The players were still feeling the affects on Saturday. (!)

Hmmm (again)

(This one comes from East Malvern Amateurs)

Three cheers for Mr Lou Joseph who donated a pair of trousers for East's best player last Saturday. Colin Mason deservedly took off the prize.

DO NOT DISREMEMBER

Mount Waverley will hold a SMOKE NIGHT on Saturday JULY 10.

GOOD SAMARITANS

Tomorrow (Sunday) Murrumbena Club members are helping in the Door-Knock Cancer Appeal. We hope they meet with every success.

JOE FAMULARO SAYS—

You have to be at the Big Dance tonight at the Hawthorn Town Hall. It is in aid of Hawthorn Amateurs. See you there? Orrright!

OFF TO THE BIG TIME

Murrumbena reports that player Ken Jungwirth has signed up with Melbourne. We wish him the best.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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FEDERAL F.L. 1950	FEDERAL F.L. 1964	EAST SUBURBAN F.L. 1950	EAST SUBURBAN F.L. 1960	CAUL-OAK DISTRICT F.L. 1950	CAUL-OAK DISTRICT F.L. 1962	SESFL 1964
Mordialloc	East Malvern	Auburn	East Burwood	Carnegie	Noble Park-Harrisfield	Mt.Waverley
Caulfield District	Glenhuntly	Ringwood	Ashburton	McKinnon	Oakleigh District	Balwyn
Moorabbin	Springvale	Box Hill	Burnley	Murrumbeena	East Brighton	East Brighton
Camden	Black Rock	Tooronga	Doncaster	Glen Waverley	Ashburton	Caulfield Amateurs
Cheltenham	McKinnon	Canterbury	Auburn	Dandenong United	Murrumbeena	Burwood
Edithvale-Aspendale	Parkdale	Mitcham	Blackburn	Bentleigh	Mt.Waverley	Sandown
Chelsea	Mentone	Burnley	Hawthorn Amateurs	Caulfield City	Clayton YCW	Murrumbeena
Mentone	Bentleigh	East Hawthorn	Canterbury	Mt.Waverley	Glen Iris District	Burnley
Heatherton	Noble Park	East Ringwood	Glen Iris	East Malvern	Chadstone	Canterbury
Black Rock	Oakleigh District	Deepdene	Tooronga	Oakleigh District	Dingley	Glen Iris
Highett	Cheltenham	Blackburn	Burwood United	Caulfield District	Caulfield Amateurs	Ashburton
	Highett	Surrey Hills	Balwyn	East Brighton	South Murrumbeena	North Kew
	Clayton	Nunawading	North Kew		Burnley	Hawthorn Amateurs
	Caulfield District	East Burwood	Nunawading		Carnegie	Beaumaris
		Ashburton	Bennettswood		Beaumaris	Carnegie
		Glen Iris	Canterbury		Highett West	Bennettswood
		Glenhuntly	Deepdene		RAAF-DCS	South Murrumbeena
		Vermont	Templestowe		Hawthorn Amateurs	Glen Iris District
		North Kew			Sandown	Dingley
		Doncaster				Chadstone
					ESFL & CODFL	
					Merge 1963	

Defunct

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FED F.L. 1972	SESFL 1974	FED F.L. 1981	SESFL 1982	SOUTHERN F.L. 1992	SOUTHERN F.L. 2002	SOUTHERN F.L. 2012
Oakleigh District	<i>Division One</i>	Oakleigh District	<i>Division One</i>	<i>Division One</i>	<i>Division One</i>	<i>Division One</i>
Highett	Murrumbeena	Clayton	Oakleigh District	Noble Park	Balwyn	East Brighton
Glenhuntly	Canterbury	Moorabbin	Clayton	East Brighton	Chelsea Heights	Chelsea Heights
Cheltenham	Hawthorn District	Highett	Murrumbeena	Parkdale	St.Kilda City	St. Pauls Bentleigh
Clayton	Balwyn	Cheltenham	Ashburton	South Melbourne District	Clayton	Cheltenham
Parkdale	North Kew	Springvale	Noble Park	Oakleigh District	Parkdale	Dingley
Springvale	Burwood	Noble Park	Tooronga-Malvern	Tooronga-Malvern	Cheltenham	St.Kilda City
Noble Park	Mt.Waverley	Mentone	Moorabbin	Mt.Waverley	St. Pauls Bentleigh	Clayton
Doveton	East Brighton	Parkdale	Highett	Beaumaris	Mordialloc	Highett
East Caulfield	Ashburton		Beaumaris	Balwyn	Ashwood	Heatherton
Bentleigh	St.Kilda City		Cheltenham	Canterbury	Oakleigh District	Mordialloc
Mentone			South Melbourne District			
McKinnon	<i>Division Two</i>		Balwyn	<i>Division Two</i>	<i>Division Two</i>	<i>Division Two</i>
East Malvern	Glen Iris		Mt.Waverley	Cheltenham	Murrumbeena	East Malvern
Black Rock	Chadstone		East Brighton	Mordialloc	East Brighton	Oakleigh District
	Tooronga-Malvern		St.Kilda City	Highett District	Lyndale	Skye
	Carnegie		North Kew	St.Kilda City	Springvale Districts	Bentleigh
	Dingley			Ashwood	Caulfield	Murrumbeena
	Beaumaris		<i>Division Two</i>	North Kew	Highett	Springvale Districts
	East Malvern		East Hawthorn	Mentone	Tooronga-Malvern	Hampton
	Essex Heights		Glen Iris	Murrumbeena	Nort Kew	Southern Dragons
	South Melbourne District		Parkdale	Caulfield Kontias	Heatherton	Black Rock
	Highett West		Carnegie		Mt.Waverley Catholics	South Yarra
	East Sandringham		Burwood			
	Sandown		Highett West		<i>Division Three</i>	<i>Division Three</i>
			East Malvern		Hampton	Doveton Eagles
			Essex Heights		Black Rock	Sandown
			Chadstone		Doveton	Moorabbin Kangaroos
			Canterbury		Canterbury	Mt.Waverley Lions
			Hawthorn Citizens		Southern Cobras	Ashwood
			Mentone		Dandenong West	Caulfield
					South Yarra	Dandenong
					Moorabbin Kangaroos	Endeavour Hills
						Hallam
						Lyndale

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1963

Inaugural Premiers, the Murrumbeena Club was a merger of Murrumbeena Rovers, Murrumbeena Juniors, and Murrumbeena (V.A.F.A.) defeating Oakleigh District by one point at the Oakleigh (V.F.A.) ground, 7.9.51 to 6.14.50.

The 'B' Grade was won by Noble Park-Harrisfield defeating Oakleigh District 10.18.78 to 6.7.43, whilst the Reserve Open saw Caulfield Amateurs 8.8.56 defeat Hawthorn Amateurs 6.6.36.

Although Burnley were accepted into the 'A' Grade of the 'new competition' the club had constantly been in 'trouble' with the Eastern Suburban League. This time against Balwyn in round three as many as seven Burnley players and one from Balwyn were reported following an all-in brawl which also involved a number of spectators from both clubs.

The League tribunal handed out severe penalties to all the players and both clubs were advised that this sort of behaviour would not be tolerated in the 'new competition.' At which time the President of the Burnley club let forth with a tirade of abuse and threats against not only the tribunal members but all or any other League and Club officials that were within earshot.

An 'on the spot' meeting of the League executive was rapidly convened which resulted in the Burnley club and all its registered players suspended for the remainder the season which prevented them from registering in any competition aligned with the Victorian Football Union. Any club that ignored these suspensions would face profound consequences.

It was also rumoured the previous season that at the end of a practice game at East Brighton, the home Captain Coach and its Team Manager entered the Burnley rooms with the intention of inviting them into its social rooms for a little refreshment. The Team Manager could not help but notice a large revolver under a seat in a Gladstone bag. The player who owned the bag gave the official a deadly glare upon which the official made a very hasty exit.

The S.E.S.F.L. were advised unofficially of the incident which only added to the Burnley club's demise.

The newly formed Beaumaris club was originally placed in the Reserve Open Grade however prior to the start of the season Burnley withdrew its Reserve team and to avoid a bye Beaumaris were invited and elevated into the 'B' Grade. When Burnley were expelled from the 'A' Grade Beaumaris were offered their spot to negate the bye created on the basis of a no points result for the remaining games. They preferred to remain in 'B' Grade.

To field a team in the 'C' Grade under 17's Division One the senior team was required to be in 'A' Grade. This did not apply to the Under 15 or 13 grades. At the time, the S.E.S.F.L. was by far the largest Melbourne suburban competition catering for both senior and junior grades.

1964

Much to the surprise of many clubs Burnley was readmitted for the 1964 season with only one Senior A grade team as their reserves were again withdrawn prior to the start of the season.

Tooronga were cleared to the V.A.F.A., Noble Park-Harrisfield and Oakleigh District were recruited into the Federal League and Caulfield Amateurs were promoted after winning the Reserve Open Section leaving the 'A' Grade with 12 teams all of whom had 'B' Grade reserves with Burnley the exception.

Mount Waverley won their first Senior premiership by defeating East Brighton by 18 points, 10.6.66 to 6.12.48.

The 'B' Grade was won by East Brighton defeating Murrumbeena 9.9.63 to 5.12.42.

Beaumaris who had returned to the Reserve Open section lost the Grand Final to Hawthorn Amateurs by 38 points, 12.12.85 to 7.5.47. Hawthorn could not be promoted as they could not field as Reserve Grade team.

Others in the R.O. were Carnegie, Bennettswood, South Murrumbeena, Glen Iris District, Dingley, and St.Kilda City who had joined from the Metropolitan F.L.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1965

Nobody was surprised, more so relieved when the Burnley club folded.

A club calling themselves Jolimont entered the Reserve Open section playing at the same ground as Burnley but who were actually the Adult Deaf Jolimont F.C. Sandown were struggling to field two senior teams and opted to drop to the Reserve Open grade leaving a ten team 'A' Grade. The reserves had a full compliment except for Caulfield Amateurs which created a bye in that grade. Into the Reserve Open came East Malvern Amateurs from the V.A.F.A.

Glen Iris dominated the 1965 season losing only two games and comfortably accounted for Murrumbeena by 32 points in the Grand Final, 11.13.79 to 7.5.47

Beamaris demolished Carnegie in the Reserve Open section, 18.10.118 to 4.6.30 and were promoted to A Grade for the 1966 season with Caulfield Amateurs being relegated.

The 'B' Grade provided a surprise when Mt.Waverley who had not been defeated all season lost the Grand Final to Canterbury 10.12.72 to 9.14.68.

The League which includes the Umpires Association was now three years old and was consolidating and organising itself to the satisfaction of most clubs.

With all different divisions, grades, fixturing and new teams' difficulties arose with umpiring and ground allocations. Some Clubs had a problem in that if the ground and facilities being leased from their controlling Council were not being used every Saturday another club could apply for them when vacant. A shortage of umpires made it difficult to the point where occasionally some umpires field, goal and boundary had to manage two games back-to-back.

1966

It was to be East Brighton's year in 1966 as they were premiers in four out of the five grades with only the under 13's missing out. Both the Seniors and Reserves defeated Murrumbeena in their respective Grand Finals by 14 and 17 points.

In its first season in 'A' Grade Beamaris finished two wins short of the four due to a mid season slump on the heavy grounds of Mt.Waverley, Murrumbeena, and Glen Iris. The Reserves finished in fourth place after losing their First Semi.

Kooyong Amateurs (V.A.F.A.) and St.Bedes Mentone Old Collegians had joined the Reserve Open section with Kooyong defeating Carnegie, 12.19.91 to 5.4.34 winning the flag in its first season and were duly promoted for 1967 .

It had been decided that the 'A' Grade would increase to 12 teams for 1967. As Carnegie could not guarantee a Reserves side they were not offered promotion. Although Hawthorn Amateurs finished in third place, they guaranteed to field a Reserves team the following season and were duly promoted.

As a precedent had been set some years earlier by both the Caulfield Amateur and North Kew clubs in not having a Reserves team and remaining in A Grade, Carnegie felt aggrieved at not being offered promotion to the higher grade after being Runners-up two years in succession.

1967

Following its promotion Kooyong made it back-to-back flags by defeating East Brighton by one point at Mordialloc in what was described by many as 'one of the best games of football most had ever watched.' Not so much with highly skilled play, high marking etc. but the intensity and closeness of the play was outstanding.

By three quarter time the scores were Kooyong 8.10.58 to East 8.9.57, the lead having changed six times during the game with the biggest margin 3 points!

In what was an amazing final quarter both sides managed only two points each. With seconds remaining the ball was forced into Easts forward line. Kooyong Captain/Coach Max McColl and East forward Denis Jones were chasing and closing in on the bouncing ball at the edge of the ten yard in Easts goal square then as luck would have it the ball bounced favourably for Max who was able to punch it clear towards the boundary hitting the point post. As the ball was being thrown in the final siren sounded with Kooyong 8.12.60 defeating East Brighton 8.11.59. Insufficient intent I think it's called today.

In the Reserve Open Carnegie, for the third year in succession were runners-up this time to Sandown 11.9.75 to 9.9.63. The disappointment was washed away as both Sandown and Carnegie were promoted to an expanded A Grade for 1968.

In the 'B' Grade Mt.Waverley defeated Murrumbeena 7.17.59 to 8.8.56.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE***1968***

With 'Divisional Football' in mind it was decided that the 'A' Grade would now have fourteen teams, and the draw was shuffled to allow for the bottom four teams, two from 1967 and the two promoted to only play the top four teams from 1967 once. The top four from 1967 were Kooyong Amateurs, East Brighton, Burwood, and Murrumbeena. The bottom two being Ashburton and Hawthorn Amateurs.

The Reserve Open now had eight clubs with two being promoted and Glen Iris District folding. Those clubs being Chadstone, St.Bedes Old Collegians, Dingley, Caulfield Amateurs, East Malvern Amateurs, St.Kilda City, R.A.A.F.-D.C.S. and Jolimont.

East Brighton finished runners-up for the second year in a row this time to Burwood who stormed home in the final quarter kicking five goals to one, 13.9.87 to 8.7.55.

Mt.Waverley won their second Reserves flag in succession by thrashing Balwyn 23.10.148 to 10.6.66. Although within the rules at the time Mt.Waverley had again 'stacked' their Reserves when it became obvious that the Senior team was not going to feature in the Final series.

St.Bedes Old Collegians won the Reserve Open defeating Dingley, 8.25.73 to 8.8.56.

1969

St.Bedes declined to be elevated into A Grade, instead Dingley as runners-up accepted the promotion at Ashburton's expense and with Kooyong folding Chadstone having finished in third place, were also promoted. The Jolimont club also folded which left the Reserve Open with just 6 clubs.

Hawthorn Amateurs had been in some trouble during the 1968 season with a number of its players becoming regular attendees at the Tribunal hearings. A clean out of certain types of players was promised a change of name to Hawthorn Districts, a merger with the Kooyong club would see a 'new' club emerge for 1969.

The drive for a place in the Finals this year was the most competitive since the start of the League in 1963. Burwood finished with 60 premiership points, Canterbury 56, Hawthorn District and Glen Iris both on 52, making up the Final four. Then came Mt.Waverley, East Brighton, and Murrumbeena all on 48 followed by Balwyn and North Kew on 44 points.

The senior grade was won by Canterbury beating Burwood 13.13.91 to 7.13.55.

Mt.Waverley made it three in a row in the Reserves by beating Murrumbeena 11.13.79 to 8.8.56.

East Malvern Amateurs won their first Premiership in the Reserve Open by defeating St.Kilda City, 15.13.103 to 11.6.72. It was the first time that either club had participated in a final's series.

The S.E.S.F.L. along with most member clubs had been keen for a number of seasons to create a first and second division incorporating seniors, reserves and the three junior grades with a promotion and relegation system.

By increasing the number of clubs in A Grade from ten to twelve then fourteen, all clubs were given a reasonable chance to prepare themselves for the 1970 season when the new scheme was scheduled to commence.

All clubs were agreeable to this new 'Divisional Football' and were advised that the scheme should be implemented as soon as possible, that is the League put the clubs on notice that all clubs would need to become 'consolidated' within three to four years.

What it meant was that to compete in the top grade all clubs would initially be required to field as a minimum senior, reserves and under 17 teams. This minimum applied directly to A Grade clubs as there had been some rumblings that the clubs that fielded teams in the five grades, A, B, C, D and E were at a financial disadvantage compared to those that only fielded two open age sides.

The pre-season saw many clubs 'buy' players to ensure that they would stay in the 'First' Division when the new grading system was implemented. It was the Leagues plan to have all clubs equal with teams in all grades. Further, the League was also keen to have those clubs which only fielded juniors grade sides field two senior teams as well. Most clubs agreed with this in principal and a time limit of three to four years was also mooted.

The long-term effect of this was that a number of the junior grade clubs that did not have senior teams found it difficult to instigate or maintain five levels and were not aware that they would not be permitted to stay in the competition if they were not 'consolidated.'

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1969

The Federal Football League were also implementing a similar grading system all be it far more strictly. This would see its competition eventually destroyed by club in fighting and an inability or want to field underage teams.

It should have been a warning sign.

Clubs and gradings at the end of 1969:

'A' Grade:

Hawthorn District, Carnegie, Mt.Waverley, Glen Iris, Murrumbeena, Beaumaris, East Brighton, North Kew, Canterbury, Dingley, Burwood, Sandown, Balwyn, and Chadstone.

'B' Grade:

Same as 'A' Grade.

Open Age Reserve Grade:

East Malvern Amateurs, St.Kilda City, Ashburton, St.Bedes Old Collegians, R.A.A.F-D.C.S., and Caulfield Amateurs.

'C' Grade Under 17 Division One:

East Sandringham, Hawthorn District, Ormond Amateurs, East Brighton, Richmond 4ths., Canterbury, Oakleigh 4ths., Mordialloc Y.C., Mt.Waverley and Balwyn.

'C' Grade Under 17 Division Two:

St.Kilda City, Carnegie, Chadstone, Highett West Y.C., Murrumbeena District, Bennettswood, North Kew, and Balwyn.

'D' Grade Under 15:

Murrumbeena, Sandown, St.Kilda City, Chadstone, Mt.Waverley, Beaumaris, North Kew, Balwyn, East Sandringham, Bennettswood, East Brighton, Ormond Amateurs, Oakleigh 5ths. and Glen Iris.

'E' Grade Under 13:

Oakleigh 6ths., Mt.Waverley Colts, East Sandringham, Murrumbeena District, North Kew, Bennettswood, St.Kilda City, Chadstone, Beaumaris, Mt.Waverley, East Brighton, and Ormond Amateurs.

1970

From 1970 to 1977 the A B C D E system was used to identify each grade. It was not until 1978 that First Division, Second Division and so on was brought in. For example, the system that was used was A1, First Division Seniors, A2, Second Division Seniors, B 1 First Division Reserves, B 2 Second Division Reserves, and this continued down through the C, D and E grades.

To keep this simple I have used First, Second and Third division from 1970. Checking the scores in the newspapers can be all over the place with A1, C2, E1, B2 etc. creating many errors.

The bottom four 'A' grade clubs from 1969 were relegated to Second Division.

The following clubs made up the first year of divisional football, in Premiership order:

First Division Seniors & Reserves:

Burwood, Balwyn, Mt.Waverley, Canterbury.....East Brighton, Chadstone, North Kew, Murrumbeena, Glen Iris, Hawthorn Districts

Second Division Seniors:

Beaumaris, Dingley, Ashburton (no resvs.) St.Kilda City.....Sandown, Carnegie, East Malvern Amateurs (no resvs.), Caulfield Amateurs(no resvs.),

Second Division Reserves:

Carnegie, Beaumaris, Essex Heights, Dingley,.....St.Kilda City, Sandown

Essex Heights had originally entered the Under 17 Grade in 1969 as Richmond 4ths. then under League rules changed to Essex Heights and fielded a Second Division Reserve Grade side.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1970

The Under 17s. was split into two divisions with only first division clubs in the top grade except for Burwood who were replaced by Bennettswood. The under 15s. had fifteen teams and the under 13s. sixteen.

Mt.Waverley finished on top of the ladder in First Division only to be bundled out in straight sets losing the Second semi to Balwyn by 62 points then the Preliminary final to Burwood by 36 points. Burwood and Balwyn 'fought out' the Grand final with Burwood ahead at the bell 14.7.97 to 11.14.80.

Mt.Waverley also went down, literally in the Reserves losing to Hawthorn District 9.13.67 to 10.6.66.

In Second Division Dingley, undefeated all season went into the Grand Final against Beaumaris only to fall at the last hurdle losing 9.8.62 to 7.17.59.

The Reserve Grade was won from fourth place by Carnegie over Beaumaris.

1971

Chadstone had finished on the bottom of the 1970 First Division ladder and were relegated to Second division to be replaced by Beaumaris for the coming year.

Caulfield Amateurs had been struggling to survive for several years and folded at the end of 1970. The gap being filled by Essex Heights who now fielded senior and reserve teams.

The 1971 First Division season turned out to be a competitive year with many 'upsets' coming from the lower rated teams. East Brighton and Mt.Waverley who finished in 3rd. And 4th. had beaten the top two Burwood and Hawthorn District during the season as well. East Brighton were quiet favourites to cause an upset but were overrun by Mt.Waverley in the First semi.

Burwood accounted for Hawthorn in the Second semi then Hawthorn easily beat Mt.Waverley in the Preliminary, setting up an eagerly anticipated Hawthorn District, Burwood Grand final.

In a highly entertaining game at the Oakleigh Ground the scores were all but level at three quarter time. Hawthorn's Captain Coach Max McColl, the former Kooyong Amateurs Premiership coach made according to him five positional changes, one in particular ruckman Jack Gavin into the forward line 'to do as he pleased,' which to any opposition player would have been very intimidating to say the least! All the moves paid off with Hawthorn District winning its first Premiership 17.15.117 to 13.7.85. Jack kicked 5.

In the Reserves Burwood took some consolation by defeating Mt.Waverley. The game had to be played a week after all the other grades had finished due to a drawn Second semi final. Mt.Waverley reserves had now appeared in 6 out of the last seven Grand Finals.

The Second Division Seniors was also an interesting year despite only having seven teams. St.Kilda City and Chadstone were clearly ahead of the pack with the other five sides causing many upsets. Dingley scraped into the four just one win ahead of Carnegie and defeated Ashburton in the First semi 15.13.103 to 12.19.91. The Saints easily beat Chadstone in the Second semi then to everyone's surprise Dingley beat Chadstone by 6 goals in the Preliminary final. A young and enthusiastic St.Kilda City were hot favourites to win their first flag and at the end of a tight and very physical game held out Dingley to win 10.12.72 to 8.8.56.

Ashburton were the top side in the Reserves all season and defeated Carnegie 11.13.79 to 7.15.57 in the Grand Final.

1972

Beaumaris had struggled as a young team at times and were often competitive in First Division but having finished bottom of the ladder were replaced by St.Kilda City for 1972 .

East Malvern Amateurs dropped the 'Amateur' from its name in 1972 following a churlish request from a V.A.F.A. old boy but were able to field a Reserve grade team for the first time.

Canterbury finished on top of the First division ladder ten points clear of the newly promoted St.Kilda City. In a highly entertaining Grand final, the Cobras won by 28 points, 22.11.143 to 17.13.115.

In the Reserve grade, East Brighton with a side full of players that had come through from its underage sections stormed through the finals winning the First semi by 37 points, the Preliminary by 59 points then the Grand final defeating Balwyn 45 points, 17.11.113 to 9.14.68.

Sandown won the Second division flag by defeating Ashburton however neither club was allowed promotion as they were not 'consolidated' and neither Dingley nor Beaumaris were interested in promotion.

As the promotion and relegation system was developing a problem arose in that whatever club was involved it was not only the seniors and reserves who went up or down, their underage side(s) were treated the same. This tended at times to make these grades lopsided in strength.

1973

East Brighton, with fourteen out of its twenty players that took the field in the Grand Final having graduated from its junior ranks defeated Canterbury to win the 1973 Premiership 12.14.86 to 9.13.67. The game was played at the Beach Oval Sandringham which tended to suit the younger and faster East Brighton side more than the older experienced Canterbury. East had beaten Canterbury on three other occasions during the season.

In the Reserve grade Burwood and Balwyn finished in equal top position at the end of the home & away games and fought out a high standard Grand final with Balwyn edging home by 7 points, 11.18.84 to 11.11.77.

Tooronga, from the Eastern Suburban had played for just the one season in 1963, then went to the Amateurs for 1964 combining with Malvern Amateurs to form the 'Combine' Tooronga-Malvern. Having had its tenure with the Amateurs terminated the 'Combine' returned in 1973 to Second Division finishing runners-up to Ashburton, 14.15.99 to 11.17.83.

Beaumaris took out the Reserves Grand final 15.9.99 to Chadstone 8.13.61. Whilst in Second division Beaumaris Reserves played in the Grand final each year from 1972 to 1977 losing only one to East Hawthorn in 1975.

Two of the strongest junior clubs Murrumbeena Districts and East Sandringham as well as Highett West Y.C. were put on notice that if they were to continue in the S.E.S.F.L. they would be required to field senior and reserve grade teams. A number of clubs that had been fielding only junior teams had already been forced to leave amongst them Oakleigh(V.F.A.), Ormond Amateurs, Mordialloc Y.C., Mordialloc (V.F.A.), and Bennettswood who had already gone to the E.D.F.L.

When the decision was made back in 1970 to introduce divisional football and have only 'consolidated' clubs in the League all clubs were in support of the scheme. The Leagues by-laws however were not clear cut. There seemed to be a number of anomalies and clubs were finding 'clever' ways to get around the rules. Hawthorn Districts under 17s was subsidised by the Hawthorn F.C., Essex Heights, Richmond 4ths. plus, other clubs were entering junior teams, particularly in the under 17 sections then withdrawing them early in the season. Promises were also made in regard to fielding Senior teams only to rescind those commitments just prior to the start of the season.

The League tightened its rules and made it noticeably clear that by the end of 1974 all clubs needed to abide by the 'consolidation' rules, or they would not be permitted to stay in the competition. Taking it one step further some clubs would be required to place a surety deposit which would be forfeited should any nominated teams be withdrawn.

There were other associated problems. With not all clubs having a full compliment of teams the draw for each Grade became difficult to organise and its implementation caused further problems for clubs when it came to transport and manpower. It must be remembered that at this stage all clubs that played a home senior game were preceded by the under 17's and prior to that the under 13's. The Reserves played on the opposite ground preceded by the under 15's. It was not until the late 1980's that the Reserves became the 'Curtain raiser' game. This system was brought about in the main by clubs having to use their home ground each week or they could be faced with having to share the facility with the numerous Church based teams playing at the time in the E.S.P.C.F.A., the C.Y.M.S. or the Y.C.W. competitions.

1974

South Melbourne District entered Division two transferring from the struggling Metropolitan F.L. Two of the Junior clubs entered Senior teams into the lower division, East Sandringham and Highett West which was an amalgamation of the Highett Y.C.W. and Highett West Youth Club. Murrumbeena District under teams merged with Murrumbeena. That meant that there were no stand alone 'junior' grade clubs remaining.

Having won the 1973 Second Division Premiership Ashburton were promoted and Glen Iris relegated.

There were now ten teams in first division, twelve in second, fifteen under 17, eighteen under 15 and 18 in the under 13s. The Underage grades were not split into divisions which continued to cause many problems mentioned previously.

In First Division Murrumbeena, who had recruited heavily from the local area finished on top of the ladder with 56 points then came Canterbury 48, Hawthorn District 44, Balwyn 44, North Kew 44, Burwood 36, Mt.Waverley 32, East Brighton 24, Ashburton

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1974

St.Kilda City 8. All the finals were highly contested with over 200 points scored in each game which eventually saw Murrumbeena account for Balwyn 16.12.108 to 14.15.99.

North Kew won its first Premiership in the South-East by defeating Mt.Waverley in the Reserves 8.7.55 to 6.15.51.

Carnegie came from fourth place in Second division to beat an injury depleted Glen Iris 12.15.87 to 11.6.72. Both clubs were promoted to the top grade as that grade was increased to twelve teams. Beaumaris once again won the Reserves defeating Chadstone.

Carnegie had won its first premiership in the C.O.D.F.L. in 1939 then again in 1948. They were then runners-up in 1950,1951,1952 and 1953 in A Grade, then in 1965, 1966 and 1967 in the second division S.E.S.F.L.

Canterbury had run into financial problems during the season and were permitted to go into the lower grade for 1975 with Chadstone being elevated in their place.

1975

The Second division now also consisted of twelve clubs with the entry of Port Melbourne Colts and East Hawthorn from the defunct Metropolitan Football League. East Sandringham could no longer field two Senior teams however its Junior Grade teams were permitted to remain in the competition for the season provided that the Senior teams would return for 1976. That did not eventuate and sadly one of the most successful of Junior clubs was lost to the League.

Hawthorn District changed its name to Hawthorn Citizens. The club advised that its association with the Hawthorn F.C. had ceased and in the interest of promoting junior football in the area had formed an alliance with the Hawthorn Citizens Youth Club. The number of players reported each week from the 'new' club remained the same, plenty!

All three Junior grades were again split into Divisions one and two matching as close as possible with the Senior grades draw. There were now only a handful of clubs that did not have the full quota of teams, five to be 'consolidated.'

Murrumbeena again finished on top of the Premiership ladder but were totally outclassed in the finals leaving the promoted Carnegie to make it back-to-back flags by defeating Mt.Waverley by three points 10.23.83 to 12.8.80.

Carnegie had initially entered junior teams in the three grades for 1975, it turned out however that they would withdraw its under 17 team before the start of the season due to a lack of numbers losing their deposit Bond, \$1,000. The League administration had seen this before and were very keen to stop this practice. As the season progressed a strong rumour was being circulated that no matter how the season panned out Carnegie was going to be relegated. The rumour gained strength as Carnegie were becoming hot favourite to be premiers. All clubs were keen to see just how the League would react especially after they did in fact win the premiership.

As I understand it a League official advised Carnegie almost immediately after their Premiership victory that in accordance with its rules many of the other League executive members wanted to see the club relegated for the 1976 season. This became common knowledge. No formal advice or notification had been given to the club prior to the competition Presentation Night. Upon accepting the Premiers trophy and flag the club's representative proceeded to give the Leagues executive one almighty 'spray' in regard to them being relegated. His timing was poor as the matter had not been formally discussed by the League or at any Club delegates meeting. To make matters worse a later similar outburst from the victorious Coach at the same function really got under the skin of some of the executive. No matter what the club did, said or wrote in an effort to stay in Division one they were dead in the water. Within weeks of the function Carnegie was relegated to Division two. I have no doubt that Carnegie were used as a warning to other clubs not to mess with the Leagues rules or its administration. It was the general feeling from all the clubs (except Murrumbeena) that given the circumstances Carnegie were hard done by as they had been on a number of occasions before.

Murrumbeena took some consolation by winning the Reserves flag beating Hawthorn Citizens 9.9.63 to 6.11.47.

Port Colts belted East Hawthorn in Division two seniors 16.14.110 to 13.11.89 whilst East Hawthorn interrupted Beaumaris' run of flags in the Reserves winning 12.8.80 to 11.12.78.

Having spoken to many past players from both Murrumbeena and Carnegie there was a huge rift between the clubs, but nobody seems to know why. From what I could glean it goes back to the 50's when both clubs were pinching each other players. As both grounds are within a stroll of each other its no wonder.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**1976**

The junior grades now continued with divisions as close as possible to the Senior draw however a lot of effort was put into the gradings to make each Division not only competitive but geographically reasonable for all clubs.

Carnegies place was taken by Port Colts and East Hawthorn replaced Glen Iris who had been relegated.

The season turned out to be one of the closest for many seasons. Hawthorn Citizens finished on top with 56 points followed by East Brighton and Mt.Waverley on 52 then came Port Colts and Ashburton with 44 and Murrumbeena and North Kew on 40. Port took fourth place with a 6% advantage. The First semi was a draw between Port and Mount with Mount winning the replay the following week by 29 points. Hawthorn defeated East Brighton in the Second semi by 35 points giving them a three to zero scoreline at that time. In the Preliminary final East Brighton easily accounted for Mt.Waverley by 33 points setting up a Grand final clash between the top two teams.

The headlines in the local paper read 'UPSET TWO POINT WIN TO EASTS.'

'East Brighton, starting as the underdog, caused the season's biggest upset by defeating Hawthorn Citizens in last Sunday's South-East Suburban Football League Grand Final at Sandringham.'

The article describes the game as a 'great grand final' played with tremendous spirit. The scores remained close all day with Hawthorn's poor kicking for goal a deciding factor. At the start of the time on period in the last quarter Hawthorn came to within one point of East who rallied scoring a point then a goal to take the margin out to eight points. With time ticking away Hawthorn scored another goal bringing the difference back to two points. With nineteen seconds to go the ball came back for the centre bounce where a mad scramble took place to hold possession only to see a second ball up as the siren sounded.

The game was reminiscent of the 1967 Grand final which saw Kooyong Amateurs defeat East Brighton by one point with Max McColl as Captain Coach of Kooyong. Now some ten years later Max as Coach of Hawthorn saw the result reversed in a similar vain.

The Reserves was also won by East Brighton who, led by Captain Coach Rod Dowell with 6 goals from the centre charged home to defeat Chadstone 17.7.109 to 15.17.107.

South Melbourne District earned promotion (in place of Chadstone) by defeating Carnegie in the Second Division Grand Final by 15 points. Beaumaris continued its run of Premierships in the Reserves by thrashing Tooronga-Malvern 24.21.165 to 6.9.45.

1977

Prior to the start of the season Dingley transferred to the South West Gippsland F.L. , Sandown moved to the Eastern District F.L. and Carnegie went into recession with a number of its players going to Chadstone. This left Koornang park vacant and was quickly snapped up by Eastern Suburbs Churches club St.Kevins, Ormond.

Ashburton took all before them remaining undefeated for the season with 17 wins from eighteen rounds. Round 12 was to be played on July 2nd. but due to an enormous amount of rain in the preceding two weeks a number of Council's would not permit clubs usage of its grounds, so the League was forced to cancel the entire round. As it turned out that missing round may have had a huge effect on the premiership ladder

The 1977 Premiership ladder:

Ashburton 68,
Murrumbeena 56,
Balwyn 44 118.2 %
Mt.Waverley 40 121.6%

East Brighton 40 121.5%
Hawthorn Citizens 40 121.2%
Port Colts 28
South Melbourne District 28
North Kew 24
Burwood, 12
St.Kilda City 12
East Hawthorn 12

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1977

The draw for the cancelled round 12:

Murrumbeena v Hawthorn Citizens
Port Colts v St.Kilda City
South Melbourne District v Burwood
North Kew v East Hawthorn
Ashburton v Balwyn
Mt.Waverley v East Brighton

Had the round twelve fixture been played the final ladder would have been quite different at both ends whichever way you want to interpret the results. As the season progressed a number of clubs wanted to have round 12 replayed in an extended season or on a Sunday. An extended season was out of the question, so the matter was put to club delegates to decide. A number of clubs dissected the remaining draw and for selfish reasons voted against the round being replayed. The vote was 6 against, 5 for with one club abstaining, Murrumbeena. Under the League Constitution the League President could have voted for or against the motion. A vote 'for' would have made the for and against a tie and a revote would have been called for. He decided to abstain putting the matter to an end.

At the end of the meeting the East Hawthorn delegate suggested that the clubs 'put in a few dollars' to repair the Presidents fence as by now it must be in need some maintenance because he had been sitting on it for so long!

The Final series was the best seen for many years with all games of a high standard, clean, entertaining, and high scoring. Balwyn defeated Mt.Waverley in the first semi 18.13.121 to 12.14.86, Ashburton beat Murrumbeena 22.21.153 to 19.21.135 in the second then Balwyn won the Preliminary 21.16.142 to Murrumbeena 17.14.116.

As Murrumbeena's 'Mad Monday' was taking shape the news that it had been discovered that Balwyn had played an unqualified player in the Preliminary Final and that the result had been reversed came as quite a shock. Once the barrel was finished the 'Beena' boys got back into training.

Ashburton completed its winning run by defeating Murrumbeena 19.11.125 to 16.18.114. It's fair to say that certain clubs were pretty happy about the result.

The Reserves was also won by Ashburton downing Mt.Waverley 18.13.123 to 14.13.97

In Second Division Beaumaris took the double in winning both the Seniors 17.18.120 to Chadstone 17.10.112 and Reserves 21.20.146 to Chadstone 12.12.84.

1978

It was decided that the 1978 competition was to be divided into two ten team divisions.

St.Kilda City, Port Colts and East Hawthorn were all relegated with Beaumaris being elevated having won the division two flag. Although the promotion and relegation systems were working as far as the senior grades were concerned the junior grades by now virtually had their own system which did not necessarily follow the higher grades which at times caused fixturing problems. For many years, the home club would play under 13s then under 17s then the senior grade. The under 15s would play before the reserves at their opponent's home ground. With there being a system within a system for promotion and relegation some clubs from time to time would only have one senior game being it either home or away.

Ashburton again went through the season undefeated giving them 35 wins in a row. Burwood surprisingly won the second semi final by 37 points. Ashy then beat Murrumbeena in the Preliminary final by 7 points in a nail-biting finish. The Grand final played at the Beach Oval Sandringham was a thrilling game with Ashburton taking the lead by one point in the time one period for the first time in the game, then with only seconds to go kicked another goal to defeat Burwood 11.18.84 to 10.13.73.

Mt.Waverley beat Ashburton by a solitary goal in the Reserves 17.17.119 to 17.11.113.

Tooronga-Malvern also went through the season undefeated and easily accounted for Port Colts in second division winning 19.19.133 to 12.10.82. Chadstone, who had only lost two rounds for the year, both to the 'Combine' were 'knocked out' by the Colts in the Preliminary final but had some success in winning the Reserves against Canterbury 19.11.125 to 8.9.57.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**1978**

Over in the Federal League their member clubs had been reduced from 13 in 1976 to 9 by the end of 1978. Clubs that had folded in that brief period were McKinnon, Doveton (to S.W.G.F.L.), Glenhuntly and East Caulfield (formerly Caulfield) which followed East Malvern end of 1973 and Black Rock end of 1972. Most if not all Federal Clubs were struggling financially but also had great difficulty in fielding the required Seniors, Reserves, Under 18 and Under 16 teams. East Malvern and Glenhuntly, two of its strongest members could not field the under-age teams required, did not have money and were given no choice but to fold.

Would the remaining clubs merge with the South-East or would the Federal attempt to lure clubs to its competition? The rumours were flying thick and fast. It was reported that the then Secretary of the South East was strongly against any talks of a merger and if any of the Federal clubs wanted a lifeline they would have to start in a new Division three created to accommodate such a move. He also threatened to resign if any of this actually came to fruition.

1979

Taking the place of South Melbourne District the promoted Tooronga-Malvern finished top of the ladder with 60 points followed by Ashburton 56, Burwood 48, and Beaumaris 40. Burwood defeated Beaumaris by 64 points and the 'Combine' beat Ashburton by 19 points in the semis. Burwood then accounted for Ashburton in the Preliminary by 14 points.

Tooronga-Malvern were hot favourites to take their initial First Division flag, but Burwood produced their best football for the year arresting the 'Combines' hopes winning easily 22.8.140 to 11.8.74

Mt.Waverley were favourites again to win the Reserves only to fall over in the Finals series which ended with Murrumbeena 12.10.82 defeating Balwyn 10.15.75.

Glen Iris, St.Kilda City, Chadstone and South Melbourne District made up the final four in Second Division. The luckless Chadstone made it into another Grand Final only to go down again to Glen Iris 12.17.89 to 10.9.69. Port Colts thrashed South Melbourne 19.19.133 to 8.19.67 in the Reserve grade.

Back in 1977 the St.Kilda F.C. sponsored a new junior competition open to all clubs in its area called the St.Kilda F.C. Junior F.L. commencing with under 11s. St.Kilda pulled out in 1985, and the name changed to the Chelsea District Junior F.L. with most clubs transferring. In 1989 the Moorabbin Saints Junior F.L. was formed and as before most clubs transferred.

These junior competitions developed rapidly and consisted of age groups from under 9 to under 17 years. The major concern was that eventually most if not all games were being played on Sundays. That in itself put enormous pressure to bear on the Clubs administrators. Having to find more volunteers to work on a Sunday is not easy. The clubs that had a number of junior teams had no choice but to play in these competitions as many new clubs were forming and old clubs were defecting. This in turn eroded the junior grades in the South East.

1980

Following its Premiership success Burwood was forced into recession - financial reasons. Their place was taken by Glen Iris. Hawthorn Citizens were relegated allowing the third placed South Melbourne District to return to division one. As runners-up to Glen Iris, Chadstone were offered promotion initially but declined the offer. The decision caused a major rift within the club as some members wanted to be promoted and others not. As a result the Carnegie club came out of recess and re-formed as Carnegie-Chadstone playing at the East Caulfield Reserve. The Chadstone club continued as before.

Ashburton and Beaumaris were the stand out teams for the year. Beaumaris surprised many by beating Ashburton in the Second semi to go into their first Grand Final in the top grade. Ashy beat the 'Combine' in the Preliminary Final and continued their improved form by downing Beaumaris 15.15.105 to 10.12.72 in the last game which gave them their third flag in four years.

The St.Kilda City vs. Port Colts grand final in second division turned into an embarrassing debacle for both of these clubs and the League. The first quarter took fifty-seven minutes to complete as both sides brawled continually.

City eventually won the game by eight points 19.12.126 to 17.16.118. There were numerous reports and as a result severe suspensions were handed out to players from both sides. St.Kilda City were fined heavily and placed on a bond. Port Colts were also heavily fined which they refused to honour as they believed they were being treated unfairly. Its fine was double that of St.Kilda City's and yet that club had more players reported on far more serious charges. They were then suspended from the League and lost a subsequent appeal to the Victorian Metropolitan F.L. With really nowhere else to go they sought and were granted a clearance to the Western Suburbs F.L. eventually ending up with the Footscray District F.L.

The general consensus amongst the clubs was that the Colts were extremely hard done by and that St.Kilda City should have 'gotten the bullet' as well!!

St.Kilda City and Port Colts also appeared in the Reserves Grand final with the Saints victorious 18.17.125 to 11.8.74.

Overall not a great weekend for the Port Melbourne Colts. Like McArthur they did return.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**1981**

As the 1981 season continued rumours were flying regarding the future of the remaining nine Federal League clubs. Noble Park, Springvale, and Moorabbin (formed out of a Bentleigh-McKinnon merger) were all keen to join the Victorian Football Association. Mentone, Parkdale, Highett, and Cheltenham were financially strapped, Oakleigh Districts and Clayton were going along well enough but as with the others concerned about their futures.

The South-East clubs were anxious about the possibility of some if not all of the Federal clubs transferring. These clubs had a large supporter base; most had far better Licensed Club facilities and most importantly had their grounds externally fully enclosed enabling them to charge entry admission. The then League Secretary along with the President of the South-East were assuring clubs that as far as they were concerned any club, Federal or otherwise who came to our competition would pass through the divisions as required under the Leagues rules. They were very outspoken on this point as they were keen to protect the South-Easts existing clubs from any possibility of a takeover by the Federal, which had also been rumoured. Further should the rules be ignored or changed they would both resign from the League under protest. Assurances were freely given by a number of the South-East executive that its member clubs had nothing to concern themselves about. Off season a subtle change was made to the junior grades. The Under 17, 15 and 13 grades became Under 18, 16, 14 and an added Under 12 grade. The Federal League had under 18 and 16.

St.Kilda City were promoted in place of Glen Iris and Carnegie-Chadstone reverted to the original Carnegie.

Most if not all clubs recruited heavily in anticipation of the Federal League clubs joining.

Ashburton and Tooronga-Malvern in particular outlaid player payments to a level not seen before. The Combine in losing only one home and away game for the season finished on top with Ashburton close behind. In a close and high standard Grand Final Ashburton once again lifted when it counted winning 15.14.104 to 14.12.96.

Mt.Waverley took out their 6th. Premiership in the Reserves downing Beaumaris 10.17.77 to 10.16.76.

East Hawthorn won its first Premiership in the South-East beating Canterbury 11.10.76 to 10.13.73. Burwood in its first year back from recession won the Reserve grade 10.21.81 to East Hawthorn 7.15.57.

S.E.S.F.L.clubs for 1981 were:**First Division, Seniors and Reserves:**

Ashburton
Tooronga-Malvern
Beaumaris
Balwyn
Mt.Waverley
East Brighton
North Kew
Murrumbeena
St.Kilda City
South Melbourne District

Second Division, Seniors and Reserves:

East Hawthorn
Canterbury
Carnegie
Glen Iris
Burwood
Highett West
East Malvern
Essex Heights
Chadstone
Hawthorn Citizens

The under-age grades:

Under 18 two divisions, under 16 two divisions, under 14 two divisions and one division in the under 12s. Most clubs were fully 'consolidated.' It came as no surprise that at the end of 1981 the Federal League was forced into recession. Not disband as many people thought. To this day the competition remains in recess.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**1982**

The entry of the Federal clubs plus the return of some former clubs was no doubt going to improve the standard of the League. What annoyed all the existing S.E.S.F.L. clubs was that despite the promises that had been made six of the eight clubs transferring were going straight into division one. Parkdale and Mentone opted for second division and Springvale had been accepted into the V.F.A. To make matters worse it was not confirmed February of 1982 that First division would consist of sixteen teams and that at the end of the season the bottom six would be relegated to division two making a ten-team competition. Similarly division two would consist of twelve clubs with the bottom eight relegated leaving ten teams also. A new third division would be started with the eight relegated clubs plus two new ones who had already applied for entry into the League. Trying to recruit players a matter of weeks before the start of a season is pretty well a waste of time. That made it almost impossible for clubs to further strengthen their senior team to avoid relegation. The promotion and relegation for 1981 was not used. St.Kilda City who finished last remained in division one and East Hawthorn remained in division two.

Clubs for 1982 were:

First Division, Seniors and Reserves;

Beaumaris, East Brighton, Cheltenham, Ashburton, South Melbourne District, Clayton, Noble Park, Oakleigh Districts, North Kew, Tooronga-Malvern, Highett, Moorabbin, Mt.Waverley, St.Kilda City, Balwyn, Murrumbeena.

Second Division, Seniors and Reserves;

Carnegie, East Hawthorn, Burwood, Highett West, East Malvern, Essex Heights, Glen Iris, Chadstone, Parkdale, Hawthorn Citizens, Canterbury, Mentone.

The under-age grades consisted of : Under 18 two divisions, under 16 two divisions and under 14 one division. The warning signs were clear that the St.Kilda junior league was making serious inroads into the South-East juniors.

First division for 1982 was won by Clayton defeating Ashburton in the seniors and Oakleigh Districts beat Murrumbeena in the reserves. East Hawthorn again won the second division seniors with Hawthorn Citizens taking the reserves flag.

East Hawthorn were not promoted as they were not fully 'consolidated' and for 'behavioural' reasons found themselves in third division for 1983. At the end of the season the following six clubs were relegated to second division: East Brighton, Balwyn, North Kew, South Melbourne District, Mt.Waverley and St.Kilda City. Tooronga-Malvern were in financial trouble, requested and were permitted to go into third division for 1983. When Moorabbin transferred to the V.F.A. the League, instead of asking or simply elevating two out of the lowest six to be relegated the League opted for an eight-team division one for 1983.

All these changes occurred after the resignation of the Leagues Secretary and the President.

The old S.E.S.F.L. clubs were extremely annoyed at what appeared to be a take over by the five Federal clubs in division one. What was causing further problems was privately most of the Federal clubs wanted to re-form the Federal League and clandestine overtures were being made to a selection of South-East Clubs to join them in reforming the League.

Attendance at delegates meetings during the season was highly entertaining to say the least. The issue of paying entry fees into some of the enclosed grounds was taken care of by the clubs that did not have their own enclosed. The players, staff and supporters refused to pay and very politely told the gate people to go peel an apple, or something like that.

Over a brief period of time the leadership of the League had transformed from an easy-going democratic authority to an authoritarian one with the new administration taking a very autocratic stance in regard to all matters. The Executive of the League in particular tended to treat the clubs particularly those in a lower echelon in a patronising manner.

It was the opinion of many clubs that the League was far more interested in its own standing with the then V.M.F.L. and the V.F.L. The clubs were told initially that the reorganisation of the League was good for every club in the long term. Many found that statement to be untrue and were very suspicious of the Federal clubs. Loose lips sink ships they say. It became common knowledge that the Federal was going to attempt to reform. This was reinforced when the 1983 draw was announced.

An attempt was made some years later by the Trustees of the Federal to reform under a new banner with as many as twenty clubs being 'invited'. Following some terse correspondence from the SESFL and the VMFL the whole matter was dropped.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1983

Clubs for 1983 were:

First Division, Seniors and Reserves;

Oakleigh Districts, Highett, Ashburton, Clayton, Cheltenham, Murrumbeena, Beaumaris, Noble Park

Second Division Seniors and Reserves;

Balwyn, East Brighton, Highett West, St.Kilda City, Mt.Waverley, Glen Iris, South Melbourne District, Parkdale, Carnegie, North Kew.

Third Division Seniors and Reserves;

Canterbury, Hawthorn Citizens, Middle Park, Caulfield, Mentone, Tooronga-Malvern, Chadstone, East Hawthorn, Burwood, East Malvern.

The under-age grades lost fifteen teams from the previous year bringing the number down from sixty-four to forty-nine.

Noble Park defeated Clayton in the Division one Grand Final whilst in the reserves Clayton beat Oakleigh Districts. In division two South Melbourne District accounted for North Kew by four points. Hawthorn Citizens defeated East Hawthorn in division three in an entertaining 'slug fest.'

1984

The first division in 1984 was increased to ten teams. Murrumbeena, who were in serious financial trouble opting to go to third division to recover. In came South Melbourne District, Mt.Waverley and Balwyn. North Kew were not promoted as they did not have an under 18 team. Clayton won the seniors in their fifth Grand Final appearance in as many years giving them four out of five flags and their reserves were also premiers. In division two Tooronga-Malvern kicked 7.27.69 to Parkdale 12.11.83 in the seniors. In the reserves the 'Combine' 17.16.118 outlasted Parkdale 18.16.114. Other clubs that year in division two were: Canterbury, Mentone, Hawthorn Citizens plus the 'Combine' all up from division three 1983, Carnegie, Highett West, North Kew, East Brighton, St.Kilda City. Division three was won by East Hawthorn over Murrumbeena in the seniors and Burwood won the reserve grade. Other clubs that year were: Chadstone, Middle Park, Burwood, Caulfield, East Malvern, Dandenong West, Glen Iris.

The junior grades were being further depleted with the loss of another twelve teams bringing the total number now to thirty-seven.

As an example East Brighton fielded seniors, reserves, under 18, 16 and 14 teams in the S.E.S.F.L., the under 12 and under 10 grades in the St.Kilda F.C.J.F.L. and an under 11 Sunday team in the Chelsea District J.F.L.

There were many clubs that were similar to East Brighton with teams in the South-East, Hawthorn J.F.L. and the Waverley J.F.L. with increasingly more playing Sunday games rather than Saturdays.

1985

Prior to the commencement of the 1985 season the S.E.S.F.L. became an incorporated body with a new set of rules and by-laws. The clubs' delegates agreed with the incorporation, as it was put to them. It took a little time, but people soon realised that the new Committee of Management had far more powers than the previous Executive committee and the club delegates powers were void. Delegates meetings were still held but instead of discussing and/or voting on any particular issue they were usually told simply what decisions had been made, full stop.

Flushed with success, Clayton were cleared to the E.D.F.L. and Parkdale were promoted. Noble Park were premiers over Mt.Waverley and its reserves commenced its amazing run of premierships. Division two was won by Tooronga-Malvern over St.Kilda City.

The third division was scrapped making a fifteen team second division. All clubs were put on notice that division two would consist of ten teams in 1986. Those finishing below tenth in 1985 would be relegated into a reformed third division. The S.E.S.F.L. advised that there could be as many as five new teams that would make a ten-team grade in line with the two higher divisions.

Clubs that did not appear in 1985 were: Middle Park, Caulfield & East Malvern. Burwood became Ashwood. Highett and Ashburton were relegated for 1986, Tooronga-Malvern and St.Kilda City taking their places.

The S.E.S.F.L. moved the goal posts again when they announced pre season that division two would now have eight teams and division three seven and no new clubs were entering except Black Rock.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1986

Two of the oldest, strongest and loyal clubs, East Brighton and Murrumbeena were relegated to third division as they had finished in ninth and tenth positions respectively which meant that if the second division had remained at a ten-team section as advised they would remain in that division. The inclusion of Black Rock into second division in its first year was met with fierce opposition from East Brighton in particular as without the new club's inclusion it would have every right to remain in the higher division.

It was almost impossible to plead your case to the Committee of Management. Both clubs were going to third division, and no amount of correspondence was going to alter that decision. Noble Park were again premiers defeating Beaumaris and second division was won by Highett West. In third division Murrumbeena over-ran East Brighton in the seniors as did Ashwood in the reserves.

The three divisions in 1986 were:

First Division; Oakleigh Districts, St.Kilda City, Mt.Waverley, Balwyn, Beaumaris, Cheltenham, Noble Park, South Melbourne District, Tooronga-Malvern, Parkdale.

Second Division; Hawthorn Citizens, Black Rock, Highett West, Highett, East Hawthorn, Mentone, North Kew, Ashburton.

Third Division; Dandenong West, Carnegie, Ashwood, Canterbury, Glen Iris, Murrumbeena, East Brighton.

1987

In 1987 the third division was incorporated into an expanded second division of fifteen teams with a final five. Lyndale took Dandenong West's place. Ashburton won both the seniors and reserves defeating St.Kilda City in both division two grades. Highett West took St.Kilda City's place in first division. Division one was dominated by Noble Park winning both seniors and reserves. The junior grades were almost gone with only a limited number of teams in the under 18 and 16s. To keep these two grades going a handful of teams from the E.S.C.F.A. joined as that competition was facing the same problems.

The League Executive had been negotiating with some of the Junior Leagues to run their competition in conjunction with the South-East but were running into a brick wall at every turn.

1988

Second division in 1988 was reduced to thirteen teams with the loss of two of the oldest clubs East Hawthorn and Glen Iris who were both forced to disband due to a lack of numbers and finances. Parkdale went down from first division with Ashburton being promoted as the newly formed Caulfield-Ashburton, Caulfield having lost its place in the V.F.A. The 'new' club played in the Ashburton colours of green jumper with gold monogram and piping. Mordialloc was forced to leave the V.F.A. four rounds into the season and were invited into the South-Easts second division to negate the bye but to play for no points or percentage. All clubs who played them would receive for points including those who had already had a bye. Caulfield-Ashburton easily won first division and East Brighton won both the seniors with one loss and reserves going through the season undefeated in second division.

The 1988 clubs were:

First Division; Cheltenham, Mt.Waverley, Caulfield-Ashburton, Balwyn, Oakleigh Districts, Tooronga-Malvern, South Melbourne District, Highett West, Noble Park, Beaumaris

Second Division: Hawthorn Citizens, Murrumbeena, Parkdale, Lyndale, Highett, Ashwood, St.Kilda City, Carnegie, Black Rock, Mentone, East Brighton, Canterbury, North Kew, and Mordialloc.

1989

The Caulfield-Ashburton alliance was to last only one season. The committee and in particular the President of the new club were at loggerheads with the League Executives, mostly the secretary on a number of issues. At seasons end the Caulfield-Ashburton President constructed a letter on his company letterhead which was to say the least extremely critical and abusive towards the League and actually singled out the secretary emphasising the term 'blatant incompetence.' The club was given notice to appear before the League Executive to discuss the contents of the letter. They declined to do so. They were then asked and given the opportunity to disassociate themselves from their Presidents personal letter. They again declined to do so. Two full delegates meetings were held to discuss the Clubs future in the League. A motion was put forward at the first meeting to expel the club as it would not detach itself from their Presidents letter and therefore supported same. Some of the clubs at the meeting stated that they had not seen or read the contents of the letter, even though the League had mailed it out to everyone to read. After lengthy discussions it was decided to defer the matter for two weeks to enable clubs to decide where they stood on the matter with their respective committees.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1989

Despite a good deal of lobbying by the club, at the next meeting Ashburton-Caulfield were expelled from the League by two votes twenty-three to twenty-five with two clubs abstaining. A subsequent appeal was lodged by the club to both the League and the V.M.F.L. but as there was no rule to allow for appeals of this type the club was finished. Many clubs were happy to see them go; others were not so sure that the League executive who had been embarrassed by the letter and which after all not written on the clubs' letterhead. In some clubs' opinion they had no case to answer. The fact that the President was injecting large sums of money into the club left them in a situation owing money to the League as well as other normal creditors.

By the time this had sorted itself out East Brighton had been promoted for 1989 with Tooronga-Malvern requesting to go down to second division to regroup financially. Highett West and Highett amalgamated to form Highett District allowing the club to remain in first division. Second division now had twelve teams with Lyndale transferring to the E.S.C.F.A. Balwyn defeated Oakleigh Districts in the first division with Parkdale winning the lower division.

Clubs for 1989:

First Division; Noble Park, South Melbourne District, East Brighton, Oakleigh District, Balwyn, Highett District, Beaumaris, Mt.Waverley, Cheltenham

Second Division; Mentone, Black Rock, Mordialloc, Murrumbeena, North Kew, Hawthorn Citizens, Canterbury, Carnegie, St.Kilda City, Parkdale, Ashwood, Tooronga-Malvern.

1990

Parkdale were promoted for the 1990 season replacing the bye. Two more of the oldest clubs disbanded in Carnegie and Hawthorn Citizens leaving a nine-team competition in second division. Noble Park defeated Oakleigh Districts in both the seniors and reserves, likewise Tooronga-Malvern defeated North Kew in second Division.

East Brighton had won first division premierships in 1966, 1973 and 1976 as well as runners-up 1964,1967 and 1968 but by 1986 found themselves in third division. Three years later they were able to win their way back into first division. By enticing a number of former players, mostly juniors back to the club they were defeated Noble Park in the 1991 Grand Final. Tooronga-Malvern finished fourth and Canterbury defeated in Second Division giving them their first senior premiership since 1972.

1991

Clubs for 1991:

First Division; Balwyn, South Melbourne District, Noble Park, Beaumaris, Cheltenham, Parkdale, Mt.Waverley, Tooronga-Malvern, East Brighton, Oakleigh District.

Second Division; Ashwood, Mordialloc, Black Rock, Canterbury, North Kew, Mentone, Highett District, Murrumbeena, St.Kilda City.

At the end of 1991 there were a number of changes to the Leagues administration out of which came amongst other things a change of name to the Southern Football League.

East Brighton who had been up and down all season scraped into third place by winning the last home and away games against Tooronga-Malvern by 120 points. The two teams met the following week with East victorious again by 21 points. By defeating Beaumaris by 42 points a showdown with Noble Park was very much anticipated. In a high scoring game highlighted by a little bit of vigour, high marking and superb teamwork from both teams East ran over the Bulls 21.17.143 to 16.19.115.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1992

For the 1992 season Cheltenham were placed in second division with Canterbury being elevated. Noble Park won their sixth flag since 1982 downing South Melbourne Districts. The reserves once again was won by Noble Park giving them seven since 1982. Cheltenham were victorious in second division giving the club its first senior flag since 1925.

The 1992 clubs were:

First Division; Noble Park, South Melbourne District, East Brighton, Oakleigh District, Balwyn, Tooronga-Malvern, Beaumaris, Mt.Waverley, Canterbury, Parkdale

Second Division; Mentone, Black Rock, Mordialloc, Murrumbeena, North Kew, Ashwood, Cheltenham, Highett District, St.Kilda City, Caulfield Kontias

The Southern Football League and the Eastern Suburban Churches Football Association merged at the end of the 1992 season to form the 'new' Southern Football League.

1993

The 'new' Southern Football Leagues format was as follows:

Premier Division; Noble Park, Mt.Waverley, South Melbourne District, East Brighton, St. Pauls Bentleigh, Parkdale, Bentleigh, Oakleigh Districts, Hampton United, Mordialloc

First Division; Cheltenham, Collingwood Districts, Tooronga-Malvern, Caulfield, Balwyn, Ashwood, Springvale District, Highett District, Burwood United, Beaumaris

Second Division; Murrumbeena, Chelsea Heights, St.Kilda City, North Kew, Lower Plenty, East Camberwell, Fairfield, Box Hill Pioneers

Third Division; Heatherton, South Yarra, Syndal-Tally Ho, Cheltenham Assumption, Carnegie, Dandenong West, Black Rock, Ashburton-Chadstone

Fourth Division; Moorabbin West, East Bentleigh, Lyndale, Mt.Waverley Catholics, Box Hill North, Box Hill Adelphians, North Blackburn, Eley Park (no reserves)

Senior Grade clubs from 1963 to 1992 were:

Sandown was formed in 1962 and played one season in the C.O.D.F.L. B Grade Reserves then joined the South-East from 1963 to 2023. They wore blue and white stripes and played at the Edinburgh Reserve, North Springvale.

South Murrumbeena was formed in 1958 using Packer Park, Carnegie. In the C.O.D.F.L. they competed in the B Grade Reserves and Reserve Open then transferred to the South-East in the Reserve Open from 1963 to 1965. They wore red and gold striped jumpers. Murrumbeena Districts who played in the junior grades only were an off-shoot of South Murrumbeena.

Caulfield Amateurs joined the new League in 1963 and stayed until 1971.

Glen Iris District joined the Caulfield-Oakleigh in 1959, transferred in 1963 playing in the B Grade Reserves and the Reserves Open until 1967. Club colours were navy, blue and white. Home ground was T.H.King Oval, Glen Iris which they shared with East Malvern Amateurs who transferred from the Amateurs in 1965. They disbanded in 1984 having won one second division premiership in 1969 but were never promoted. The club was formed in 1929 when they joined the Amateurs staying until 1964. Along the way they won two flags, 1929 C grade and 1950 D grade. Club colours were blue and white. The two clubs may have joined forces at some stage.

In 1963 the R.A.A.F. Cadets entered a team formally called D.C.S, R.A.A.F. They played for only one season at Fawcner Park then played in the Amateurs 1964 and 65. They returned in 1966 using Fawcner Park for two seasons before moving to Highfield Park, Camberwell where they played until 1969 before disbanding. Club colours were light blue with dark blue trim.

Highett West Youth Club played for a few seasons in the Caulfield-Oakleigh in the junior grades and the Reserve Open and fielded a senior team in the South-East from 1963 to 1965 before reverting back to junior sides only. They played at the Highett West Reserve and wore a black jumper with a red sash. The Highett West Football Club was formed by a merger of the Highett West Y.C. and the Highett Y.C.W. club. The new club wearing blue and white hoops joined the South-East in 1975 playing at the Peterson St. or Highett West Reserve. In 1989 a merger with the Highett Football Club was engineered to keep both clubs going all be it as one identity the Highett Districts Football club.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

With far better facilities the clubs agreed to use the Turner St. Reserve in Highett and as a trade off the Highett West jumper was retained through to 1992. In 1997 the club dropped the 'District' from their name reverting back to Highett Football Club using the original colours of red, white, and blue plus a Bulldog image. Highett had transferred from the Federal when they went into recess in 1982..

Dingley came over from the Caulfield-Oakleigh in 1963 staying until 1976 when they joined the S.W.G.F.L. eventually returning to the S.F.L. in 2007.

Bennettswood fielded a senior team from 1963 to 1965 then for many years had junior teams only. Joined the E.D.F.L. in 1968 before merging with Blackburn South in 1987 until 1990.

Burnley transferred from the Eastern League in 1963 and were duly suspended then expelled in 1964. Yellow jumper with a black monogram. In 1965 the Jolimont Football Club joined the competition with one senior team in the Reserve Open. Its home ground was the Carter Oval, Burnley. A club of the same name played for many years in the Sub-Districts and Sunday Leagues. Club colours were blue with a white V. Their last year was 1968.

After crossing in 1963 Tooronga moved to the Amateurs in 1964 at which time they merged with Malvern Amateurs to form Tooronga-Malvern. Returning in 1973 playing through to 1992. In 2011 the club changed its name to East Malvern playing in the same strip as the Combine red and dark blue vertical stripes. Known as the Panthers.

Chadstone joined from the Caulfield-Oakleigh in 1963 having commenced in the Reserve Open grade in 1959 and 1960 then into A grade 1961 and 1962. Playing at what is now Percy Trayvard Memorial Park they continued through to 1977 then moved to the vacant East Caulfield Reserve for 1978 and 1979. In 1980 part of the club merged with a reformed Carnegie to form Carnegie-Chadstone playing for one season at East Caulfield. Another section of the club returned to their original ground as Chadstone continuing until 1985 before disbanding. The club did re-appear as Ashburton-Chadstone for 1993 and 1994.

Moorabbin had one season 1982.

Middle Park played only for two seasons 1983 and 1984 at Oval 10 Albert Park. Club colours were Gold guernsey, black motif, collar, and cuffs.

Caulfield also played for two years 1983 and 1984 in Caulfield Park wearing Royal blue and white vertical stripes and were not related to the Caulfield V.F.A. club. Kontias played for two seasons in the Amateurs 1989 and 1991 then joined the Southern F.L. for one season in 1992 as Caulfield Kontias.

Ashburton played from 1963 to 1987 having previously played in both the Caulfield-Oakleigh and Eastern Leagues. Caulfield-Ashburton one season 1988. The Caulfield part of the alliance was to reform in 1993. Bottle green jumper with a gold logo.

Black Rock was formed back in 1908 and played in the Federal League until 1972 before disbanding. Reforming in 1976 into the Y.C.W. Association then the E.S.C.F.A. 1980 then the S.E.S.F.L. 1986. Its colours have always been black with a red stripe. Originally playing at the Beach Oval Sandringham, Tulip Street Reserve and now at Donald MacDonald Reserve in Black Rock.

Essex Heights joined in 1970 as a junior club sponsored by the Richmond F.C. as its fourths. A senior team was fielded in the B Grade Reserves for the first two seasons then into second division with both seniors and reserves by 1972. The under seventeens won Premierships in 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1979. The senior section of the club disbanded at the end of 1982.

Burwood came from the Eastern in 1963. Club colours were black and white, and the home ground was the extremely small West Oval, Burwood Reserve. They easily defeated Tooronga-Malvern for the 1979 premiership then went into recession for 1980 for financial reasons. Restarting in 1981 they eventually merged with the Essex Heights club to form Ashwood in 1985. They also moved to the Essex Heights Reserve. The old Burwood jumper was used for the first two seasons then in 1987 changed to black, gold, and white panels to incorporate the yellow from the Essex Heights jumper. The club remains in the S.F.L. today as Ashwood.

Kooyong Amateurs played in the Amateurs from 1963 to 1965 using a red jumper with royal blue collar, cuffs, and V. Their application for the 1966 season was rejected as their home ground Righetti Oval, Kooyong was deemed unsuitable plus their reserves played separately at the H.A. Smith Reserve, Hawthorn. Entering the South-East in 1966 they won the Reserve Open premiership defeating Carnegie and were promoted the next season and won the A Grade flag by one point over East Brighton. A mass exodus of players at the end of 1968, many of whom chose to follow their Coach to Hawthorn Amateurs created a merger and the start of Hawthorn District in 1969 wearing a brown and gold vertical stripe jumper. Hawthorn Amateurs joined the South-East in 1963 from the Eastern. From 1969 to 1975 they played as Hawthorn District, then from 1976 played as Hawthorn Citizens at the Victoria Road Reserve before folding in 1989.

SOUTH-EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Mordialloc joined in 1988 and continue today in the S.F.L.

Lyndale had three seasons 1987, 1988 and 1989. Wearing a maroon jumper with gold top they played at the Barry Powell Reserve, Noble Park North. A move to the Churches in 1990 saw them return in 1993 when that League was part of the 'new' S.F.L. and continue today.

Dandenong West had three seasons 1984, 1985 and 1986 playing at the Dandenong Showgrounds or Greaves Reserve. In 1987 they moved to the E.S.C.F.A. before joining the S.F.L. in 1993. From 2004 to 2014 played as Dandenong Demons, then 2015 to 2022 as Dandenong Football Netball Club. In 2023 the club returned to its original Dandenong West.

Port Colts entered in 1975 from the Metropolitan F.L. where it had played from 1969 to 1974. Expelled at the end of 1980 they moved to the Western Suburban League then into the Footscray District F.L. A logical return to the S.F.N.L. was made in 2016. Their home ground is the Murphy Reserve, Port Melbourne, and club colours red jumper with blue V.

Commencing in the 1930's in the C.O.D.F.L., Carnegie played in the South-East from 1963 to 1989 except for three seasons 1977,78 and 79 when they were in recession. Playing for one season as Chadstone-Carnegie in 1980 they then reverted back to Carnegie eventually folding in 1989. The clubs' original home was Koornang Park until 1976 then moving to the East Caulfield Reserve in 1980. Dark navy-blue jumper with a red yoke.

St.Bedes Mentone Old Collegians played at Beda Park, Mordialloc from 1966 to 1969 in the reserve Open section. Club colours were a royal blue jumper with a red V.

The South Melbourne District F.C. was founded way back in 1912. Playing continuously in Leagues such as the V.J.F.A., League and Association Sub-Districts and the Metropolitan F.L. Transferring from the latter in 1974 in the main because nearly all the M.F.L. clubs were north of the city they continued through to 1992 before being cleared to the V.A.F.A. in 2000. Playing in a white jumper with a red V originally at the Number one oval, Albert Park Reserve and now at the Lindsay Hassett Oval, Albert Park.

East Hawthorn joined in 1975 also from the M.F.L. staying until 1987 when readmission for 1988 was unlikely the club disbanded.

St.Kilda City was originally founded as Inkerman Rovers in 1946 playing in Alma Park, West St.Kilda. A change of name to Balaclava in 1951 saw the club enter into the V.F.A. Sub-District competition, move to the 'Peanut Farm' in 1952 then transfer to the M.F.L. for 1954 and 1955. In 1956 they moved into the Metropolitan Sunday Amateur F.A. where they remained until 1968 when that Association folded. They wore a dark navy or black jumper with a white V. St.Kilda City was an offshoot of Balaclava, entering the M.F.L. in 1958 with a new jumper of red, white, and black panels and also played at the 'Peanut Farm'. In 1964 they joined the South-East in the Reserve Open grade eventually making their way into A Grade and played through to 1992.

Noble Park-Harrisfield and Oakleigh Districts both played for one season, 1963 then transferred to the Federal returning in 1982 by which time the Harrisfield had been dropped.

Cheltenham, Clayton, Parkdale and Mentone all came from the Federal 1982.

North Kew came from the E.S.F.L. in 1963 playing through to 1992. Originally the seniors played at Victoria Park, Kew and the Reserves at Stradbroke Park, East Kew. Around 1979 both senior and reserves moved to Stradbroke Park. In 1982 whilst that oval was being resurfaced the club played at the McCutcheon Oval Yarra Bend Park for one season. Amalgamated with Kew in 2007 returning to Victoria Park. Club colours were brown jumper with gold sash.

Beaumaris was formed in 1962 joining the South-East in 1963 and playing through to 1992 then joined the V.A.F.A. in 1995. Their home ground was the Banksia Reserve, Beaumaris, and club colours royal blue with gold sash.

Mt.Waverley played in both the Federal and Caulfield-Oakleigh Leagues before joining the South-East in 1963 going through to 1992. Merged with Burwood United playing as Mt.Waverley-Burwood 1994 to 1997 then aligning with Waverley Football Club becoming Waverley Blues F.C. in the E.S.F.L. in 1999.

Following the merger of the three Murrumbeena clubs that shared Murrumbeena Park the current club entered the South-East in 1963 and continue today in the new S.F.L.

East Brighton continued on from the Caulfield-Oakleigh in 1963 and remain in the new S.F.L. today. Since formation in 1948 the club has appeared in the final's series on twenty-six occasions for ten Premierships, eight runners-up, four thirds, three fourths and one fifth.

Balwyn and Burwood were both foundation members of the South-East having transferred from the E.S.F.L. A slight problem arose in that both clubs wore a black jumper with a yellow sash. A simple coin toss solved the problem. As the loser Burwood agreed to change its jumper to black and white stripes. Balwyn transferred to the E.D.F.L in 2007 and Burwood disbanded in the 90's.

Canterbury and Glen Iris were also foundation members of the new League in 1963. The latter disbanding in 1987 and the other playing through to 1992 before going to the Amateurs. Glen Iris wore a blue jumper with a gold monogram.

Welcome to the new Southern Football League where season 1993 sees the emergence of the amalgamation of the 1992 SFL and the ESCFA into one body, which promises a most enthralling challenge to all concerned, Board Members, Administration, Member Clubs and all connected with this merger, to continue to seek ways to enhance the development and future existence of all Member Clubs.

The Southern Football League will operate as a registered company with a Board of ten Directors, and a fulltime Administration of three persons. The President of the new League is Steve Crespín, who will no doubt continue in his role of excellent leadership, with the following nine Directors: Terry O'Shea (ESFCFA) Dennis Malcolm (SFL) Leon McKiernan (ESCFA) Neil Kellett (SFL) John Jerram (ESCFA) Laurie Reynolds (SFL) Phil Cox (ESCFA) . Barry Carter (SFL) Neville Jacobs (ESCFA) The fulltime Administration of Jim Honey (General Manager), Geoff Hunter (Administrator) and Judy Taylor (Administration Assistant) will provide a hands on service to all The Independent Tribunal of the League will be able to operate in a more efficient manner with Tribunal hearings being heard at two venues, these being Princes Park Complex, Beach Street, Caulfield South for Premier Division and First Division, whereas Second, Third and Fourth Division's venue will be at the SFL office in Blackburn South.

The Southern Football League Umpires Association will also operate at two venues, these being at Princes Park Complex and at Camberwell Sports ground. Ian Bennen has been appointed as Umpires Advisor to our new League for season 1993.

The merger of both competitions to form the new Southern Football League will see the profile of Australian Rules in our region of the metropolitan area through the Public and Media reaction continue to make our Member Clubs more prominent. May all of our Member Clubs, their players, officials and supporters have a successful season through their good management and hard work.

