



FALCONS

Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club

YEARBOOK 2020

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF HOCKEY SUCCESS



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hockey 2020 stands alone as a unique year where Covid-19 brought all of us extraordinary challenges.

But as we joined together to manoeuvre through the strict health measures designed to halt Covid-19, pitches and clubs closed, hockey activities ceased, sanitiser and face masks became compulsory and curfews and social distancing kept us apart as we focused on ensuring the wellbeing of our club, and our members.

Special thanks goes to Gerry Anastasio (MVL1) and Kendall Edens (WVL1), our Head Coaches who enabled senior training within the restricted guidelines during the times it was permitted, Cheryle Bishop for her tireless facilitation of our Juniors, and to those members who donated their 2020 fees; all of which supported the ability of the Club to endure the impact of Covid-19.

MPHC players, parents, coaches, managers, team supporters, volunteers and Committee are all to be commended for their responsiveness, mostly at short notice, and commitment to embracing the change, as we learned to dance on a moving carpet due to the ever fluctuating permissions around training and playing sport.

Closures and lockdown however did not stop the Committee who were active behind the scenes in developing Covid-19 Return to Play guidelines, inclusive of ongoing updates, ensuring pitch and equipment safety, logging and recording attendances and keeping costs to a minimum. We were also successful during 2020 in securing some fundraising grants, maintaining our sponsorships, and running the last Bunnings Barbeque before they too were stopped because of Covid-19.

We maintained activities across our social media platforms and this was instrumental in keeping members up to date and engaged. Special thanks to Harley Freeman and Shae Heddles for all their efforts with keeping the lines of communication open.

The challenge ahead for the incoming 2021 Committee is to ensure that our impressively resilient Club remains financially sustainable into next season and beyond, and that we continue to grow our membership and provide the family friendly and competitive hockey that we have enjoyed as a Club over the last 25 years.

Covid-19 prevented us from celebrating our 25 year Anniversary this year, but If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that sport, and the social interaction of club memberships are a valuable and necessary part of our daily life and community.

We look forward to welcoming you all back for summer hockey and the 2021 season and we massively thank you all for your patience, your positivity and support over the 2020 Hockey playing season that never was.

Jennifer McKee
President



MPHC TURNS 25



MICHAEL EDWARDS

My father and uncles played hockey in the city, with my Dad being one of the founding members of Frankston Hockey club; it was being involved in the social interaction at the club that propelled me into the sport.

I played for Frankston and Essendon Hockey clubs and when I returned from living overseas to Mornington, I noticed there was still no facilities for kids to train at on the Mornington Peninsula. Initially we started at the local TAFE, expanded to set up Mornington Peninsula Hockey for the juniors and it just grew from there.

I remember that we sold a lot of sausages to raise funds, and I coached six days a week, as well as working on the business structure of the club with other committee members. So in the early days of the club, it was loads of sausages and coaching a lot of kids!



GEORGE BRUCE

When my daughter (Jo) came to me and said that the big girls from school (Toorak College) were looking for players for the under 11 team I didn't realise what a life changing experience was about to occur. After winning the grand final and being selected for the State Team Jo joined Frankston Hockey Club. What a disaster. Without going into details the upshot of their Annual General Meeting was a decision to part company and form a new club.

Wow! Within about two weeks we had registered the new incorporated association, decided on club colours and formed 6 or 7 junior teams (a lot of players were completely new to the sport) with coaches and managers in place.

We were up and running. I was in business in Frankston and I thought that I ran it fairly well but honestly the ladies that formed the Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club were much more organised and were very professional in their approach to how everything was done. Over the years I have come to appreciate how the teams were pulled together and the club got off to a flying start with Sausage Sizzles and Bingo being run to create an income flow into the club. So many people put in. It was a very rewarding experience.

I purchased a big bus and had the new logo painted on it and we took teams to the Metro competition. We had a few really wonderful years in those early days and I thank everyone who supported me as the foundation president and made my job so easy.

Founding Members look back



KERRI LAWRY

We saw a need to establish a club that encouraged core moral values and promoted team sport for local players of all ages and skill levels.

I was a member of the first MPHC Committee, taking on the role of Treasurer. We all worked diligently to set up a family oriented club on the Mornington Peninsula.

I also was the team manager for the MPHC U17 Girls premiers in our first year as both my daughters played in this team along with two other foundation families, the Nettleships and Lewis's. This was the beginning of what has become lifelong friendships.

It has been great to watch MPHC develop over the years to become a strong and successful club catering for Juniors, Men, Women and Masters over several different competitions. Both of my daughters stayed involved in hockey, which they loved.

We have served on the Committee, supported the Club for many years and now my eldest and I are proud to say we are life members of Mornington Peninsula Hockey club.



KATH MICALLEF

Hockey means a lot to my family and I have always been active in the sport. Noticing that our more talented junior players were not being catered for, a group of us made the decision to start a new club which we called Mornington Peninsula Hockey.

We focused on creating club that was both family orientated, supportive and affordable for everyone wanting to play hockey.

I was Under 9 coach/manager and assistant secretary to Cheryl Bishop, but we were all a lot more in terms of helping to run the club and grow members.

Fundraising was done with numerous sausage sizzles, requesting goods for raffles, selling those raffle tickets, speaking to families about the new club, learning how to umpire, coach, attending VJHA meetings, then later VHA and VWHA meetings. Attending meetings with schools etc to find suitable training, ground hire and presentation nights.

Lots of effort but well worth it.

I have enjoyed so many highlights. I love seeing the smiles on the kid's faces when they win, I also love to see how, when they lose a game, they still walk off the field with heads held high.

I have been awarded a life membership, and my daughter has been honoured with a Junior champion award, she has obtained her umpiring certificate and was selected to represent Victoria as an Umpire. Another daughter has been nominated as Club Champion.

But I think the best highlight of all for me is the Sunday night after that very first round we played... so many years ago now.

MPHC TURNS 25



MARGARET NETTLESHIP

On May 26th 1971` I disembarked in Melbourne after a £10 pound, month long boat trip from the UK. "Quarantine not required " and within a week was signed up and playing hockey for Pines against Mornington Red at Mornington High school. My OZ hockey adventure and love of the Mornington Peninsula had begun.

In the ensuing years I played for Mount Eliza in the PWHA. Worked as a committee member and coach to develop hockey in both Primary and Secondary schools. A lot of work was done to try and get a turf ground on the Peninsula.

In 1991 my son expressed interest in playing so I took him along to Mornington Men's Club, but they didn't have U15 team so I was invited to coach such a team and they would source players from the High School. What a year, a team full of mainly beginners who actually won the Grand Final coming from fourth position going into the finals.

(A team which included Steve Mc Williams, who in 2019 I got to coach his daughter.)

In 1995 Mornington Men amalgamated with Frankston and a meeting of parents and players advanced the offer of a turf ground at Mordialloc as the home ground base for hockey on the Peninsula. However, there was a group of us who did not think that was in the best interests of Hockey on the Peninsula, and our collective thinking is from whence Mornington Peninsula Falcons was born. Over the 25 years I have been privileged to be a part of this hockey community, to play with and coach many young people and adults and to see them grow as player. I hope that they get as much fun and friendship as I have had from the game.



RHONDA BENNET

My daughters had been coached by Michael Edwards at Frankston Hockey Club and for various reasons, there was a fair bit of dissatisfaction with the way the junior section was being run.

I was impressed by the enthusiasm of Michael and the determination of Cheryle to begin a club that aspired to coaching skills both hockey and life to the highest level.

My memory of the first meetings to investigate the formation of what became Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club were exciting. We were all very aware of the huge task ahead but the remarkable input followed by pure hard work made the dream of building a local ground seem possible.

We chose the colours of navy blue and teal green – blue for the sea and green for the inland of the peninsula and a name that would be inclusive of the whole of the area.

The endless sausage sizzles, bingo, trivia nights and every other fundraiser eventually gave the club a healthy bank balance and with constant lobbying, the new ground became reality. Our juniors were surrounded by the ethic of volunteering and hard work.

I had the privilege of being involved with the first team entered which Michael coached, Kerry managed and Braden or I umpired. Our games were always "away" so Saturday mornings began very early – always arriving on time at 7.30am for 8.30am game. Training was indoors at the old Tafe hall with socks on sticks and even though the training was tough, the girls had fun. It was a credit to Michael and all involved that this inaugural team won the U'17 premiership. It gave the club the credibility to continue to the next level.

My memories of these early days are of hard work, meeting inspiring people who are now life-long friends and having lots of fun.



SALLY LEWIS

My love for hockey started at school, probably had a very biased PE teacher, she did play for England!!

Once Hannah, our daughter started playing, I caught the bug again and played for another twenty years and loved it all. Friendships, fitness, competition, travel, community involvement, tournaments, premierships, medals (all colours!) are some of the things that spring to mind when I think of hockey. At some point in time all of our family played at MPHC!

Our initial involvement came about as very new members of the hockey community and as parents of a junior player. The plans for a family club on the Peninsula were compelling and the personnel driving it were hungry for it, and prepared to work tirelessly to get there, so we signed on.

I rather think my initial role was member of the social committee, but in those early days we all wore many hats. We had always supported whatever our girls were involved with, so MPHC would be no different. I drove car loads of kids to games, managed many teams, remained on the committee in various roles, sold countless sausages, used our horse to bring Santa to one of the Christmas parties and of course Vincent was President for a time too. So yes, we put in plenty of effort, but had plenty in return. I still love the game, when I finally had to hang up the boots and stick I was in mourning. Vincent and I are proud to have been a part of it and of course to be Life Members.



VINCENT LEWIS

Sport is and has always been important to me. I played team sports since I was 14, at school and after leaving school I continued playing rugby at club level until 2002 when I retired.

Hockey became my next challenge having been involved with MPHC as an onlooker, as a Founding Member and a Committee member. I picked up a stick and played a poor but thoroughly enjoyable style of hockey for several years.

I watched my daughter Hannah play hockey at Frankston HC and ran her around as junior for a couple of years.

During that time I, along with Sally, became involved in the early discussions to build a new club from scratch and develop its own facilities. I was supportive of the concept and could see the benefits of a new club forming on the Peninsula.

I was immediately on the steering committee, which later transformed into the MPHC committee. I became Treasurer and was also very proud to be Club President for 2 years and ultimately receive a Life Membership.

During my time on the committee, I acted as the clubs liaison with Monash University as we negotiated the development of the turf ground at the Frankston Campus and later the clubhouse facilities.

There were great social activities and comradeship, in particular in those early years. At a personal level, when Sally set up and managed the Clubs new Vet team we enjoyed great times with like-minded hockey players and had some good success.

I have very fond memories of the good people involved in the club and those who assisted me with improving my play.

MPHC HISTORY 25 YEARS STRONG

"From little acorns great oaks grow."

Written by Cheryle Bishop - Founding Member 25 years strong!

Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club has introduced thousands of players to the game of hockey and all that goes with it. We have been proud to witness big hockey successes, such as our first Junior State player Emily Martin and our first Australian Masters player Marg Nettleship, both of whom reflect one of MPHC aims, to encourage women in sport and the winning of our fair share of awards and Grand Finals over the years.

Founded in 1995, MPHC was built from a collective desire to provide a local base for Mornington Peninsula players and families and especially juniors and girls, which was inclusive and affordable.

The inaugural committee included George Bruce (President in 1995 -1996) , Michael Edwards (Development Officer/Coach), Marg Nettleship (Vice President), Cheryle Bishop (Secretary), Sally and Vincent Lewis, Kathy and David Micallef, Brian Cass, Rhonda Bennett, and Kerri Lawry (Treasurer).

The Committee's skills were key in navigating the registration and compliance requirements of Corporate Affairs and in successfully getting us incorporated in November 1995. It took commitment and dedication to put MPHC on the map and with the falcon being a local native bird to the Peninsula, it was easily agreed as the MPHC logo.

Raising funds was a big task, and the committee were relentless in getting the money needed to enter the teams, buy goalie gear, equipment, and uniforms. Working out of George's business address, anyone recalling those early days will agree. — there were a LOT of sausage sizzles! The Falcon logo could be seen on Mornington Main St, Wednesdays, Frankston Centre, Safeway Seaford and Rosebud, Bunnings and of course always with a MPHC recruitment flyer proudly on show.

Later in 1995 MPHC fortuitously met with Just Hockey to purchase kits for indoor hockey. No one could have foreseen that 25 years later the Just Hockey sponsorship of MPHC would still be in place.

With a proactive presence in schools, MPHC commenced Summer Hockey indoor programs which were run at Chisholm TAFE basketball court. The sessions were held Monday to Thursday nights with the under 9s playing Saturday mornings. None of which would have been achievable without the volunteering of many hours of Foundation Committee members and the many others who came to assist.

It was Cheryle Bishop who contacted the Victorian Junior Hockey Association, utilising every contact possible, to successfully obtain permission for new club late entry into the 1996 Winter Competition. MPHC entered 6 Junior fully kitted teams, gathered from the school program and smart recruiting.

MPHC's first Premiership win came in 1996 for the U17 Girls Pennant team. The significance of this was the realisation of what MPHC had set out to do — encourage young people to play sport and provide opportunity for local families to play affordable hockey.



Early Days

MPHC's first Registration Day was at Eel Race Road Seaford and with no designated home ground, every game was an away game; MPHC used Monash Clayton, Dandenong, Moorabbin, and Mordialloc as the venue for home games. Training was conducted at Frankston TAFE

Fundraising continued to be an endless task and included running the canteen for the PWHA on Saturday afternoons, with many still having fond memories of those fresh cream buns; Trivia nights which were well supported, and still are today, Bingo nights thanks to Meredith and Rob Steel, more sausages, raffles, running the canteen at Belvedere Park grass grounds, Christmas Eve in Mornington, a garage sale at John and Gabby Barry's house. Lion's Club raffle/Box Hill football car raffle, thanks to Gary Gale, we did it all. And then there was those car rallies all over the Peninsula! How could we forget those?

MPHC committee worked tirelessly to further the opportunities for every child and player that came to the club and none more so than Cheryl Bishop who constantly recruited for the junior section (and still does 25 years on!) building the team numbers from Minkey to Seniors.

"Raising funds was a big task, and the committee were relentless in getting the money needed to enter the teams, buy goalie gear, equipment, and uniforms.

Much to the credit of MPHC founders, in 1997, after another successful school-based summer hockey program MPHC entered 8 junior teams, 1 women's (MWAH L4) and 1 men's team (VHA MM4). And as MPHC numbers grew so did the capabilities with the appointment of senior coaches.

MPHC committee had a vision to have a home ground, and on 28 February 1997 MPHC launched the building fund in Bayside Shopping Centre to publicise the club. Jay Stacey, Lachlan Dreyer (international players) and Marika Bazley and Jane Pihan Under 21 internationals were there to help.

MPHC Committee were innovative, they took calculated risks, they worked hard to meet financial obligations, and in the best interests of the club, in 1997 they borrowed money to buy turf from the Frankston Bowling Club to build an MPHC training pitch at Peninsula Grammar.

The enterprising efforts of the Lawrences, Bernie, George Bruce, Michael Edwards for all their hard work and making it possible, is gratefully acknowledged. The input of the many other volunteers who donated to the cause and came together to help us to achieve this, is undoubtedly what makes MPHC the club it is today.

The Peninsula School base, because of the support of Hille and Steve Brennan who allowed us to build on their land, remained our summer and winter training base until 2002.



A Growing Club

Among one of MPHC's first experiences was a rather sobering appearance before the Hockey Tribunal for an incident concerning the U15 girls team. The lesson learned is one all players at some time can relate to — directing inappropriate comments at officials has consequences!

As MPHC grew, we learned to adapt, make changes, and move to the beat of increasing numbers and bigger competitions. A significant change to the uniform coming in 2008, when the ladies moved from hockey skirts to shorts (wide leg shorts).

The MPHC playing shirt has moved with the times, from the original jade green polo shirt to a new sublimated design, kindly produced by Rhonda Smith. The most recent version was introduced in 2010.

"People are what make a club, volunteers are what keep it functioning. Laughter, fun, friendship, and the game of hockey is what keeps us all coming back."

Talk to anyone that has been at the club for a while and they will have a story to tell you. It may be about the time the pennants were mislaid, so Anne Bruce, Jenny Schmidt, Michael Edwards and Cheryl Bishop bought material and made them ready for a rush job at the printers, or maybe it will be about family Christmas parties at Mornington Park especially when the Lewis' horse won the donut eating competition and the tug-of-war, or the ways in which Santa has delightfully arrived by various means of horseback, fire truck and motorbike with side car. No one will forget the sight of Cheryl whizzing along the streets of Mornington in a side car!

The MPHC family have always come together to make it work, whether it was to put up lighting on the mini turf so we could train, or providing office space and storage area for our gear, squeezing in a couple of hours of admin tasks after work or learning about the game purely to help coach, umpire or assist a team.

People are what make a club, volunteers are what keep it functioning and laughter, fun, friendship, and the game of Hockey is what keeps us all coming back.

So many members gave, gave, and gave some more. There are countless people who contributed to the MPHC journey over the last 25 years and such is the strength of MPHC Falcons and the quality of our MPHC juniors who we know and trust to carry the legacy forward.

Strongly supported by committee members, coaches, umpires, and support officials, the Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club has grown to a large and healthy family club with a competitive presence on the field.

Provided by Cheryl Bishop



Opening of new ground at Monash University Frankston, 2002

New club promotes hockey

HOCKEY on the Mornington Peninsula is about to receive a boost with the formation of the Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club.

The club will field teams in the 1996 winter competition in the Junior Metropolitan Competition.

It plans to form representative teams in under-17, under-15 and under-13 boys and girls, under-11 mixed and under-9 mixed.

The club aims to develop a hockey centre on the peninsula and to develop regional hockey.

Fitness training for the winter competition has begun and will continue each Sunday at 10am at the TAFE College oval, Cranbourne Rd, Frankston. Details: Cheryl Bishop 9786 4805.

FRANKSTON Hockey Club is in its 23rd year and is well advanced in planning for the 1996 winter season.

The men's, women's and junior sections have all been engaged in summer competitions which have kept most club members occupied in the off-season and partially fit for the winter.

Anyone interested in joining the club should contact John Crump (men's/veterans) 9787 7222, Wendy Hodges (women's) 9693 4855 or Cassandra Taylor (juniors) 9776 6758.

Hockey wants a home

CROWDS at Quayside gather around their hockey heroes and heroines.

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Hockey girls win flag at first try

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'Hockey One' on new ground

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HOCKEY

Scot recruits boost Falcons

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Bumper season

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Young hockey stars in the making

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Five flags cap off memorable campaign

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Early toil pays off for peninsula hockey

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"In 2020, while the world was put into Covid-19 lockdown, we planned for new lights at the ground, installed a brand new electronic scoreboard and redirected our focus to supporting our hockey community and each other.



Significant Milestones 2000–2020

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- 2001** MPHC financed its entry to the grounds we use today at Monash University, Frankston Campus. All those sausages had paid off!
-
- 2002** Peninsula Hockey Centre was officially MPHC's home ground with the canteen being run from the tin shed we operated out of until the club rooms were erected in 2008.
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- 2008** New club rooms opened for use.
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- 2010** MPHC won five premierships across the Summer and Winter seasons.
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- 2011** MPHC Men promoted State League 3; Junior achieved 5 premierships, Men 3, Women 2.
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- 2012** MPHC attained 10 Premierships — 7 in Winter and 3 from Indoor hockey.
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- 2013** MPHC entered first VL1 and VLR teams. 5 premierships achieved.
-
- 2014** Men's VL2 and VLR win Victorian Premiership — Men's VL2 promoted to Vic League 1.
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- 2015** MPHC celebrated 20 years, 18 Junior representatives in Southern Sharks; 1 in Vic Invitational Indoor Team; Women's section increase to 6 teams; VLW1 finished in top 4.
-
- 2016** Achieved promotion to Men's Vic League 1 and finished 2nd, runners up in the Grand Final.
-
- 2017** WVL1 Runners Up, Reserves and Pennant C semi-finalists. Juniors U16 and U12 girls played GF; U14 and U12 boys reached preliminary and semi-finalists.
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- 2018** WVL1, U12 Mixed Pennant South and U14 Mixed South all semi-finalists. U12 Girls were preliminary finalists, U14 Mixed Pennant South East grand finalists. PWHC Falcons Blue as premiers and Falcons Green as Runners up. Courtney Kersey awarded WVL1 Best and Fairest.
-
- 2019** WVL1R Grand Finalist, MMB Grand Finalist, PW Falcons Premiers, U/16 Girls PSE Grand Finalist, Indoor U/14 Premiers
-

In 2020, while the world was put into Covid-19 lockdown, we planned for new lights at the ground, installed a brand new electronic scoreboard and redirected our focus to supporting our hockey community and each other.

We did not get to celebrate 25 years as we had expected but it will not stop us acknowledging the foundation members, volunteers, supporters, officials, administrators, committees, and players of the last 25 years who with a winning game plan, huge vision, hope, commitment, and a lot of sausage sales, cemented MPHC as the pre-eminent leader of hockey for the Mornington Peninsula.

Happy 25 years MPHC and here is to centuries more!



MPHC.ORG.AU

To provide an inclusive and safe environment for hockey excellence, development, and enjoyment on the Mornington Peninsula.

THANK YOU

Thank you to club members who contributed content and photos for this 2020 year book. Special mention to Cheryle Bishop for collecting the reports.

Year Book Compilation:

Danielle Blyth
Harley Freeman