



# LIFE MEMBER

## Alfred Ronald (“Jack”) Jennings

1 July 1908–10 June 2000



Jack Jennings was a member of the Past Players and Officials Club committee until 1997. He died in 2000 aged 91 years.

Jack Jennings grew up on his family’s farm at Drysdale. He left school aged 11 to help at home. He always loved football—so much that as a teenager he set up a football club at Barwon Heads and was the playing President aged 19.<sup>1</sup> And he was always a keen Geelong supporter. He was at the MCG when Geelong won the 1925 Grand Final and he was present at the 1936 reunion of the 1886 champion team.

His first official role with Geelong Football Club was in 1930 when he was a member of the second-18 committee. He joined the general committee in 1944, became President in 1945 and held this position until 1970, helping to build the team that won two 1950s premierships and fostering the Club’s relationship with Ford.

Jack Jennings was Geelong’s delegate to the VFL for 15 years and a Vice-President of the VFL for six years. In 1970 due to illness of VFL President, Sir Kenneth Luke, Jack was introduced to the Queen and Prince Phillip during their visit to the MCG to watch the Richmond–Fitzroy match. He was made a life member of GFC in 1951 and was also a life member of the VFL and was awarded an ANFC Merit Award for service to football.<sup>2</sup>

As President of Geelong Football Club, Jack Jennings was supportive of the past players and appreciative of their role in supporting the Club. He attended past players’ matches and reunions and other events. At the end of his presidency, he joined the Geelong Past Players and Officials Association and was Vice-President in 1977 and from 1981 to 1983. He was made a life member of the Past Players and Officials Association in 1982. The life membership was presented on 2 October 1982 at a dinner dance for past players, committee members and their wives. Invited guests were John Holt, Ian McKenzie, Terry Hogan and Neil Trezise.<sup>3</sup>

In his life outside football, Jack began a transport business and bought into shops and

hotels in Geelong. He was President of South Barwon Council. He and his wife Anne had two sons.

Greg Wane, in an article about Jack Jennings, says that towards the end of his life people would visit Jack at his home in East Geelong:

He would usually invite his guests into ‘the den’, a room which was like a footy museum. It was a shrine to his beloved Cats. Jack had collected photographs, posters, signed footballs, ornaments, badges, flags, pennants and any other form of memorabilia, which filled every available space.

Perhaps his favourite object was a high-backed armchair—the type one might expect an archbishop to sit in. It was the chair from which Jack led committee meetings during his long and successful presidency of the club from 1945 to 1970. Bearing the letters ‘GFC’, it was eventually presented to him and he loved to sit in it and tell stories of the glory days of Geelong.<sup>4</sup>



### Sources

- 1 Greg Wane, <http://www.barwonheads.net/profiles/jennings.HTM>
- 2 Sharron Dickman, Geelong Football Club, email to Susan Kruss
- 3 Minutes 10 June, 8 July, 22 July, 4 Aug., 2 Sept., 23 Sept. 1982
- 4 Greg Wane, <http://www.barwonheads.net/profiles/jennings.HTM>