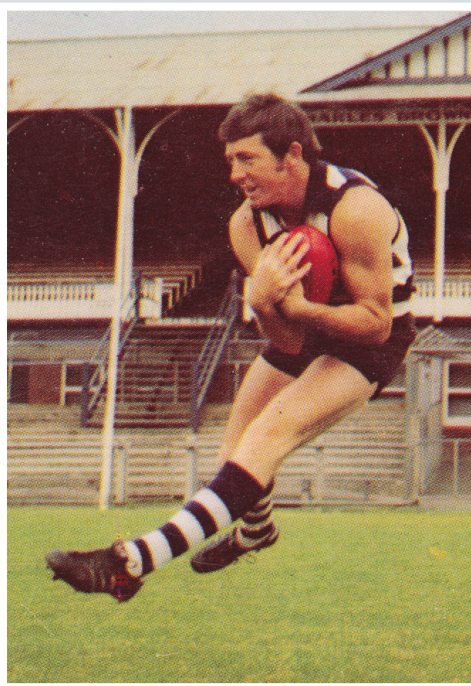




LIFE MEMBER

Wayne Closter

26 February 1945—



Wayne Closter grew up in Bacchus Marsh. He came to Geelong in September 1962, aged 17, to play football. Geelong Football Club found him a job and a place to board.

He played a year in the reserves in 1963 and was part of the reserves premiership team that year. Neil Trezise was the reserves coach.

Round 1, 1964, was Wayne's first senior game under coach Bob Davis, and he outplayed his opponent, Melbourne's Frank ("Bluey") Adams. Col Hutchinson writes:

Features of his play were strong marking, good ball control and excellent kicking. He became one of the greatest ever exponents of kicking ambidextrously, and it became difficult to judge which was his natural kicking foot. [It was the right foot.]'

Geelong played in the finals each year between 1964 and 1968. Wayne says:

We were pretty successful. We just didn't win the flag. We went close in 1967. We got beaten in the Grand Final by nine points by Richmond. In 1968

we made the preliminary finals. So we had a very good run.²

Wayne's football career was interrupted by army training in 1968 and war service in Vietnam in 1969 (see Chapter 10). He married early in 1969. He and his wife Jenny have two children, Travis and Kelly. After Wayne returned from Vietnam he took his place again in the senior team:

I came back 12 February 1970. I was totally unfit and not particularly well. You have a week before you come home, they give you these tablets that clean you all out, of malaria tablets and whatever else you were taking. So you have a clean out week.

I got home and I had seven or eight weeks to get fit for the footy season. It was pretty difficult because I'd been away for two years. I'd played a few games in that two years, but I hadn't trained with a club, or trained with anyone for two years. So it was a bit of a battle.

The fourth game after he came back from Vietnam, Wayne dislocated his shoulder. He damaged cartilage in his knee in 1972. He played seniors until 1975, then a few reserves games in 1976, but says 'I was over the hill and I retired.' In his career with Geelong, Wayne played 191 day games and two night games and kicked 71 goals.

Wayne says in the 1960s those who didn't take part in running or cricket often didn't do any sport or training in the off-season. In the 1970s, he explains, 'you were expected to run every day—from home around the streets'.

Wayne says GFC paid out his contract for 1976 and he was skills coach for that year 'so the footy club was very good to me'. For the next three years he was assistant coach and reserves coach under Rod Olsson. Then he had a year off and played a bit of golf.

Wayne was players' representative on the GFC general committee in 1971–72 and was a member of the match committee 1977–79. In 1971 he was made a life member of GFC.

After football, Wayne was a part-time radio broadcaster on 3GL and K-Rock for three years, including 'special comments' with Teddy Whitten. 'So that took me through to the age of 40. I enjoyed working with Teddy.' Wayne also worked in the footwear industry for 38 years and became the manager of Clark's Shoes. He retired aged 55.

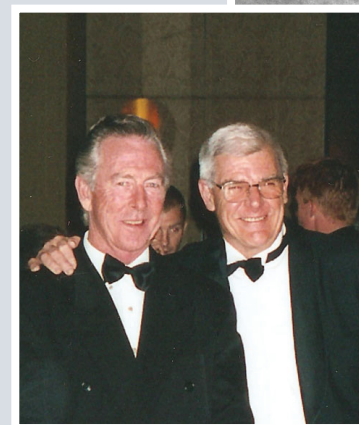
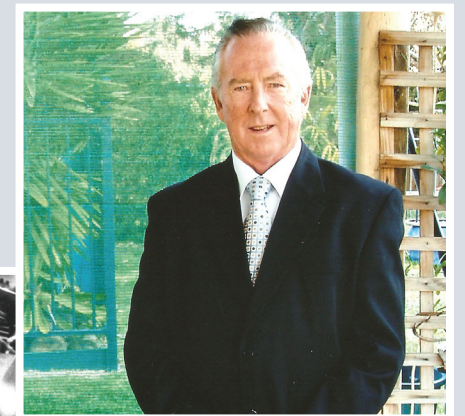
Wayne joined the Past Players and Officials Club after he finished radio broadcasting in the early 1980s. He was a committee member from 1991 and Vice-President from 1998 to 2009.

Wayne has played in the Geelong Past Players'

golf days each year since they began. In earlier years he organised the Geelong team in the League Past Players' Association golf days, playing in pairs against footballers from other League teams including Michael Tuck, Kevin O'Keefe, Ken Fraser, Barry Davis and Des Tuddenham.

Wayne was made a life member of the Past Players and Officials Club in 2006. He says:

...the Footy Club's very good to the past players. You've got to give the Footy Club a lot of credit. They've bent over backwards to help [the past players]. Geelong's unique actually.



Wayne Closter and Peter Walker

Sources

- 1 Hutchinson, C. 1984, *Cat's Tales*, Geelong Advertiser Pty Ltd, p.139
- 2 Wayne Closter, interviewed by Susan Kruss, 4 Dec. 2012