



LIFE MEMBER

Peter Stanley Menzies

1 July 1941—

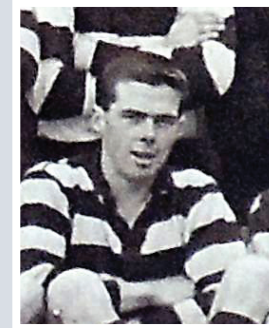
Peter Menzies was born in Colac. His grandfather was a dairy farmer who formed a partnership with Reg Amezdroz as Amezdroz and Menzies Carriers transporting milk to Melbourne. The firm later became Amezdroz and Son and in 2005 purchased Renfrey Transport.¹

Peter's family moved to Geelong when he was two. His father worked at International Harvester. Peter attended Swanston Street Primary School and Geelong Technical School. The family lived in Norlane when it was first established and Corio did not yet exist. There were no schools or shops. Norlane Post Office did not open until 1945 and the government housing program did not begin until 1947. The tram stopped at Pilkingtons Glass. The Goggins also lived in Norlane. Peter and the Goggin boys played football for North Geelong.

Peter first played for Geelong at Kardinia Park

in the thirds (Under-19s) in 1957, aged 15, when they played as a curtain raiser to the firsts. He did not play for them the following year but returned to the team in 1959. Doug Brown was the coach and Russ Middlemiss was a selector. Peter played for the thirds in 1960 when they were runners-up to Collingwood in the Grand Final. He played on the wing and recalls that Geelong was leading with two minutes to go when Collingwood kicked a goal, edging ahead by one point. The ball was in Geelong's goal square when the siren went.² [Photo of Peter in Geelong Under 19 runners-up 1960]

After the Under-19s, Peter played football with Barwon Heads/Ocean Grove for three years. He won the Best and Fairest and the Woolworth Cup award in 1963, and won the club award again in 1964.



Peter Menzies, GFC Under 19s, 1960

Peter completed his plumbing apprenticeship with Roy Gorell in Moorabool Street, then worked for J.C. Taylor builders.

He met his future wife Coral Woods when they were at school. As teenagers, they would meet at the Palais. Coral says it was the only place to go in Geelong at that time.³ Later, the footballers' wives and girlfriends would meet the players at the Palais after away matches when the bus got back to Geelong.

Peter and Coral were married on 16 February 1963. They have four children: Glen, Russell, Dale and Rebecca. Another son, Gavin, died a few hours after he was born.

In 1966 Peter went to play at Rokewood where players were paid £10 a game. At that time the weekly wage was £10 and mortgage repayments for their home in Geelong were £20 a month, so the extra money for playing football was a big help to a young couple. Several ex-Geelong boys played there at the time and trained at Geelong West during the week.

Peter finished playing football at St Bernards in Belmont aged 28.

From 1977 to 1980 Peter and his family lived in Esperance in Western Australia where Peter worked as a plumber. While there, Peter coached the Under-15 football team for two years when his

sons were playing. He then coached the seniors. After returning to Geelong, Peter's sons played at Grovedale and he coached the Little League.

Peter again worked for J.C. Taylor and was plumbing foreman during the construction of Market Square and Bay City shopping centres. After a heart attack forced him to seek employment outside the building industry, Peter worked at Barwon Prison, first installing plumbing, and later as Technical Officer looking after the security system. He worked there for twenty years.

In the 1980s, Peter was asked by Gordon Alldis, who lived nearby, to come to the Past Players and Officials Club. Peter and Coral used to stand in the outer to watch the football, so one day they went down to see the past players. Peter became a member and was later asked by Roy Foster and Gordon Baker to join the committee. He was elected to the committee in February 1988, was Assistant Secretary (1991–2000) and has been Secretary since 2001. He started the newsletter in 1994 and has continued to produce it since that time.

In addition to the considerable work involved in being Secretary, Peter has helped out with whatever has needed to be done at the club for the past 25 years, giving his time to make everything run smoothly on game days, organising events and liaising with people within and outside the club. He was elected a life member at the annual meeting on 10 February 2003.⁴



BHOG Best and Fairest 1963



GFC Under-19 team 1960, runners-up

Back row: N. Southern, I. Sherwell, J. Russell, J. Simpson, B. Cox, K. Kirkpatrick, O. Johnston, T. Tate

Second row: R. Jennings (trainer), J. Sillitoe, D. Stephens, R. Summers, D. Edge, K. Symes, B. Browning, G. Pigdon, E. Van't Hag, A. Johnson, L. Southern (property steward)

Third row: J. Sykes (timekeeper), P. Whelan (head trainer), B. Lever, D. Brown (coach), I. Williams (capt), B. Abbott (vc), J. Batty (mgr), T. Hedt, C. Sheahan, R. Middlemiss (selector), W. Johns (trainer)

Front row: B. Rhodes, R. Allen, A. Jenkin, P. Hughs, B. Southern, J. Abbott, R. Sayers, P. Menzies, B. Murray



Sources

- 1 Wettenhalls Group website www.wettenhalls.com.au
- 2 Peter Menzies, talking to Susan Kruss, May 2013
- 3 Coral Menzies, talking to Susan Kruss, April 2013
- 4 Minutes, 10 Feb. 2003