

Wednesday 21 May

Colin Green Tribute

Introduction

As we prepare to celebrate the centenary of Melbourne High School back there in South Yarra, it is appropriate to reflect on the actions of those key personnel who contributed so much time and energy to the School since 1927.

We have heard from Dr Mordini about Colin's time as a student and staff member at MHS and there is a further, very significant chapter to that story.

It has 3 parts.....

MHSOBA

Colin Green made an exceptional contribution to our wider School community. His tenure as President of the MHSOBA was from 1985 through to 1991 and that will always be remembered as a period of enormous activity, increased engagement with Old Boys and growth. His enthusiasm, passion and firm, actually very firm handshake will never be forgotten!

Alan Gregory in Strong Like It's Pillars noted that the MHSOBA celebrated its 80th year with a special Dinner in 1987 and that thanks to the very active and inspiring leadership provided by Colin Green the membership increased from 1700 in 1987 to around 3500 in 1991.

It was a time of enormous activity and engagement with former students. Highlights included the Monthly Luncheons (some very long ones!) and Annual Dinners with guest speakers such as Lou Barberis, Bruce Woodley and Simon Crean. There was also an extension of the South Pavilion complex along with annual golf days and Lawn Bowls tournaments.

Colin's contribution during those years was recognised with his induction as an Honorary Life Member of the MHSOBA and he was also the inaugural recipient of the John Elden medal for distinguished service to the Association.

But there is more in this chapter

MHSOBFC

As a talented schoolboy footballer, then inspiring coach of the School 1st XVIII and following on from a great career at Full Forward with the MHSOBFC it was a natural progression into the role of Football Club President.

His tenure commenced in 1997 where his quality leadership and strategic approach had an immediate impact. The senior team had struggled to survive in B Grade prior to 1997 but by 2000 they had been promoted to A Grade.

He could be very persuasive at times. There were supporters who had absolutely no concept of volunteering but suddenly found themselves waving goal flags, boundary umpiring or serving in the canteen!

Colin could never understand why we tended to handball rather than kick and is also remembered as someone who was always very keen to provide some constructive advice to the VAFA field umpires!

His fine contribution during those 11 years as President of MHSOBFC was duly recognised with Honorary Life Membership. Last Saturday all 4 teams wore black arm bands as a tribute to his service and Colin would be pleased to know that we won each of the 3 games played in our triple header at MHS.

And there is one final part to this chapter...

GM&B

The Green Maroon & Black Patron's Club is a coterie group that was established in 1994 to promote and support the School and its student development programs.

Colin made a superb contribution to the GM&B over many years in his role as the Executive Officer from 1995 through to 2022. Melbourne High School students benefitted back in the 1990s and still benefit now from Leadership, Mentoring, Heritage and Transition programs that have been staffed and facilitated by members of the GM&B over the last 31 years.

FAREWELL

Few if any of those young boys who join this great institution each year have ever and probably will ever match the contribution that Colin Green made from 1959 through to last Wednesday.

Former MHS Registrar and Senior Teacher Fred Kok suggested to me on the weekend that Colin Green had MHS DNA in his blood!

That's not a bad way of describing his love of and dedication to the School.

RIP Colin

Thank you for Honouring the Work with a lifetime of service.

Warren Fall, Vice President, MHSOBA