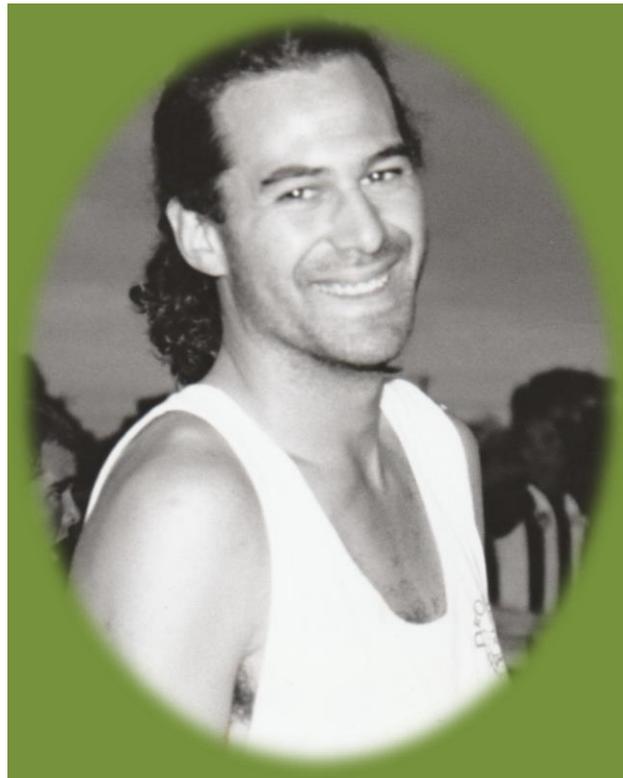


AN INSPIRING CHAMPION

AARON HURA

1999-2002

(Ref: 2018/14)



Aaron Hura deserves recognition for the substantial role he played in steering the club through the darkest period of its history.

Aaron (b:1976) is the youngest of five sons of Anthony and Mary Hura. Aaron was the only son born in Australia while his brothers (Pat, Guy, Brent (dec) and Anton) were born in New Zealand.

Aaron's early years of football were with **Frankston YCW** where he began playing competitively at the young age of seven. Aaron loved football; and, during his formative years, he won selection in the St Kilda zone combined team in the **National Teal Cup** championships. He was also selected in the training squad for the Victorian team; and remembers meeting future ALF footballers, **Justin Murphy** and **Tyson Lane**, in that series.

In 1992 Aaron 'took out the double' when he won the YCW Under: 17's Best and Fairest award; and he also won the goal kicking trophy with a total of 50 goals in the same season.

LEADING GOALKICKERS		
Seniors	Division One	Under 17's
92 – Richard Whitfield (Y.C.W.)	Reserves	36 – Aaron Hura (YCW)
55 – Anthony Aguis (Rye)	36 – Stephen Avent (Edi/Asp)	35 – Adam White (Edi-Asp)
51 – Ashley Walker (Seaford)	35 – Kristian Plummer (Y.C.W.)	33 – Benet Irish (Chelsea)
48 – Russell Shields (Frankston)	35 – Christopher Hutchinson (Seaford)	31 – Shane Batty (M'ton)
46 – Glen Huggan (Red Hill)	29 – Stephen Nicholls (Pines)	30 – Laurence Knott (Mornington)
42 – Anthony Morwood (Rye)	28 – Reade Chandler (Mornington)	28 – Tony Bray (Seaford)
40 – Wayne Williams (Mornington)	24 – Darren Tait (Mornington)	23 – Andrew Stark (Red Hill)
40 – Damian Hibbert (Seaford)	21 – Craig McPherson (Pines)	22 – Chris Brancatisano (YCW)
35 – Scott Bingley (Y.C.W.)	19 – Kevin Sutton (Pines)	21 – Thomas Wilson (Rye)
34 – Grant O'Riley (Chelsea)	19 – Craig Bartley (Seaford)	18 – Robert Arnold (Rye)
34 – Shane Halas (Y.C.W.)		
33 – Joseph Lane (Y.C.W.)		

Source: MPNFL Record August 8th 1992.

Aaron Hura (YCW) heads the Under:17's list at Round:16-1992

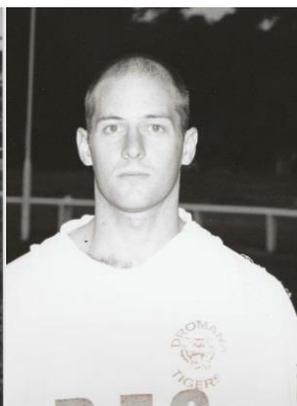
Aaron played about 45 games for YCW; and, in 1999 following his move to the Southern Peninsula, he signed to play football with Dromana. It was a recruiting coup for the struggling Tigers; and he was regarded as a 'boom recruit' for DFNC.

When the club received his clearance papers, officials and supporters knew they had secured a 'blue ribbon' footballer and things were 'looking up'.

PLAYERS FROM THE 1999 SEASON



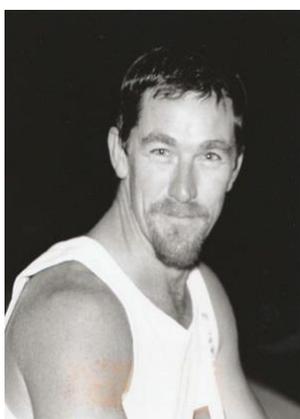
David Labbozetta



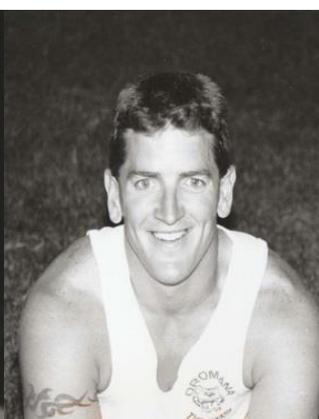
Dustin Douglas



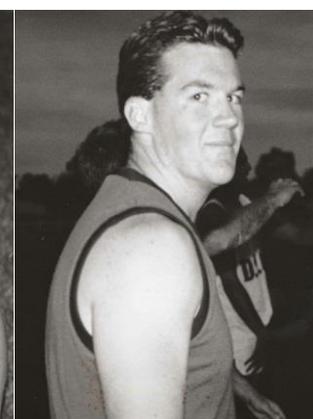
Adam Garry



Andrew Rowler



Brett Dunn



Andrew Neville

Listed players who played Senior Grade football with Dromana FC in 1999 included: **Andrew Neville, Andrew Rowler, Craig Compton, David Labbozetta, Brett Dunn, Adam Garry, Brett King, Dustin Douglas, David Jordan, Glen Benetti, Michael Compton, Dale Minchington, John Walker, Noel Ormesher, Jarret Leah, Dan Nicholle, Glen Clarke, Tim Hepner, David Jordan, John Walker, Anthony Matthews, Ben Boyd, James Osborne, Casey Landrigan** and **Shannon Secker**.

Note:1 Glen Benetti was the son of former Carlton star defender John Benetti who played 88 games with the Blues (1958-65).

Note: 2 David Labbozetta (ex-YCW) was listed with St Kilda but never played a game at AFL level. David was one of the stars in YCWs' thrilling three point victory over Mornington in the **1997 MPNFL Grand Final**.

Note: 3 Tim Hepner, David Jordan and **Andrew Rowler** were all recipients of the **Senior XVIII Best & Fairest** awards during their years at Dromana. David Jordan won three trophies (1994-1999-2000) .

Note: 4 Jarret Leah (Thirds) and **Noel Ormesher**(Reserves) won **Best & Fairest** awards at league level during their careers with DFNC.

1.	BRADFORD Merrick
2.	COUGLAN Brendon
3.	HANDLEY Adam
4.	O'KANE Dean
5.	MATTHEWS Anthony
6.	HASKETT Doug
7.	HOOPER Daniel
8.	WILLIAMS Ashley
9.	JORDAN David (C)
10.	GALLAGHER Darren
11.	MINCHINGTON Dale
12.	HURA Aaron
13.	HILTON Greg
14.	GARRY Adam
15.	FOWLER Garry (RVC)
16.	ROBERTSON Sam
17.	GOWER Stephen
18.	SULLIVAN Jason
19.	FOWLER Mark (RC)
20.	KING Brett
21.	BASILE Paul
22.	CORLEY Noel
23.	BARNES David
24.	BOWMAN Mark
25.	JARMAN Aaron
26.	RAMSAY Marcus
27.	MULQUINNEY Mark
28.	LUKE Martin
29.	STONE Brian
30.	HUNTER Adam
31.	VEALE Chris (RVC)
32.	LAUBE Heath
33.	GOWER Michael
34.	MAKEPEACE Murray
35.	DOUGLAS Dustin
36.	BOYD Ben
37.	NEVILLE Andrew

Part of the DFC list for Season 2000.

Aaron Hura was tall (193cm) fast, agile and skilful; and he played as a midfielder, ruckman, key forward and sometimes, when necessary, as a defender. Within a short time of his arrival at Dromana, he became a reliable 'Jack-of-all trades' and never once shirked an issue despite the odds presented during a game.

It is not an overstatement to say that Aaron played in every position on the field (except rover) during his time with Dromana FC. Wherever he played, he was rarely beaten and, even against the most powerful combinations, he never gave 'an inch.'

The Melbourne Trading Post					NEPEAN DIVISION	
A Tradecom Company					PLAYER OF THE YEAR	
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP					BONBEACH V PEARCE DALE	
Club	Snr	Res	U18	Tot	Daneil Casset (Bonbeach)	3
Langwarrin	9	6	1	16	George Gorozidis (Boonbeach)	2
Crib Point	6	6	3	15	Travis Reints (Pearcedale)	1
Bonbeach	9	2	1	12	LANGWARRIN V CARRUM DOWNS	
Somerville	6	4	2	12	Ash Moore (Langwarrin)	3
Sorrento	6	4	2	12	Beau Dew (Langwarrin)	2
Pearcedale	3	4	0	7	Lee Palmer (Langwarrin)	1
Carrum Downs	3	2	0	5	RED HILL V CRIB POINT	
Dingley	3	2	0	5	Duane Annable (Crib Point)	3
Dromana	0	0	0	0	Phil Watson (Red Hill)	2
Red Hill	0	0	0	0	Ben Thurstans (Crib Point)	1
GOAL CHAMPIONSHIP					SOMERVILLE V DROMANA	
					Adam Cross (Somerville)	3
					Adrian Ridout (Somerville)	2
					Aaron Hura (Dromana)	1
					SORRENTO V DINGLEY	

Source: MPNFL Record 5th May 2001.

In Round: 3 in 2001, Somerville 31.17 (203) defeated Dromana 9.7 (61). Aaron Hura received one vote for his 'never-say-die' performance that day in the Nepean Division Player of the Year Award.

Aaron's personal motto was: 'To put his best foot forward in whatever he did' and he lived to that ideal; and his team mates and club officials regarded him as a champion 'on and off' the field.

DROMANA

As you will be aware we are currently in the process of seeking a replacement senior coach for the remainder of the 2001 season following Greg's decision to step down from the position for family and work reasons. Pleasingly there has been a great response to our advertisements and the Club will already have conducted interviews by the time these notes will be read. The Club will not be hasty in making this decision - and it has this luxury given the great work currently being carried out by our temporary coaches in Dave Jordan, Aaron Hura and Dean O'Kane.

Source: 'MPNFL Record' 5th May 2001 Page : 48

The role he played, with **Dean O'Kane** and **David Jordan**, in leading the club when it was without a coach, for some weeks in 2001, was central to the club's survival in that problematic period of DFNC history. Aaron played 49 games (1999-2002) with Dromana FC; and while not qualifying to be selected in a 'Team of the Decade', he was presented with a **DFNC Service Award** in recognition of his meaningful contribution to the club.

In 1999, Aaron's highly talented brothers **Guy** and **Pat** played with Dromana; but, unfortunately, both suffered career ending injuries. Guy,

who was a star at **Assumption College**, also played for **Seaford, YCW** and **Sandringham** (VFA).



The Hura Brothers at YCW in 1994
Aaron No: 15 and Guy No: 19

Aaron’s leadership on match days was ‘second to none’; and his positive and supportive attitude helped many younger players through those tough and testing times at Pier Street.

<i>Round 6</i> 6/4/00 Dingley vs Dromana					
<i>Scores</i>					
Dingley	1.0	4.13	10.19	18.24	(132)
Dromana	3.3	3.3	4.5	4.6	(30)
<i>Goal Kickers:</i> D.O’Kane 2, Hura, Coughlan.					
<i>Best on ground awards</i>					
1 st Best	Andrew Rowler	3 rd Best	Aaron Hura		
2 nd Best	Greg Hilton	4 th Best	Dale Minchington		

Source: DFNC Archives 2000
Award winners –Dromana v Dingley in Season 2000

Supporters, who watched the Tigers in that era, agree that Aaron was one of the best in the ‘heat of battle.’ Aaron won the **Coaches Award** in 2000; and in 2001 Aaron was the Runner-up in the **John Coleman** trophy. That year his great friend and team mate **Dean O’Kane** won the award. Other major award winners in 2002 , as can be seen below, were : **David Marsden, Brett Dunn** (**Nick McGrath** award) **Doug Haskett** (**George Plunket Trophy**) **Luke Popov** , **Joel Norford, Andrew Fallon**; and a highly talented youngster named **Dean Ipaviz** won an award entitled ‘Most Potential’

Seniors

Dean O’Kane	Best & Fairest-	John Coleman Award
Aaron Hura	Runner Up	
Brett Dunn	Most Consistent	Nick McGrath Award
Doug Haskett	Most Determined	George Plunkett Award
Luke Popov	Coaches Award	
David Marsden	Goal Kicking	
Joel Norford	Best Team Man	
& Andrew Fallon		
Dean Ipavitz	Most Potential	

Source: ‘Tiger Talk’- April 2002

Aaron never played football again after stepping down in 2002 (at the age of 26 years) and, he recalls, despite the testing times and the severe defeats that the club suffered, he thoroughly enjoyed his time at DFC.

In later years, Aaron again displayed his fighting qualities in his battle to overcome a most serious health scare.

Aaron is married to **Rachael** and they have three daughters **Yolunda** (15), **Scarlett** (12) and **Jasmine** who is nine years of age.

Aaron’s father (**Anthony**) was a highly respected Medical Practitioner in **Frankston -Seaford** area for many years. Originally from **Waihi**, on the North Island of NZ, Dr. Anthony Hura served the **Pines-Seaford** area for some thirty years with great distinction and was regarded as a ‘local hero.’

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: DFNC archives -MPNFL publications-personal files - Interview with Aaron Hura - National Library of Australia.

Photographs: Sourced from DFNC and personal files.

Researched and written for the DFNC History Page by Roger Spaul in June 2018.

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