



Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club

ABN 95 746 502 322

P. O. BOX 288, BORONIA VIC 3155

THE ALF STEPHENS MEDAL

THE ALF STEPHENS STORY - BACKGROUND

Alf Stephens was born at The Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne on 22 March 1928 and died at Ferntree Gully on 16 February 1999. Alf was a founding member of the then known "Knox Opportunity Youth Club". He would organise team work games, gym work, and excursions for the youth in the area – and formed our football club in 1972 with teams filled with local boys. He was elected our first ever Club President in 1972 of the then known "*Knox Opportunity Youth (Football) Club*" – otherwise known as the "*K.O.Y.C. Eagles*" which played in the Knox Junior Football Association (KJFA).

Alf's association with the community in Ferntree Gully began in 1971 when whilst living in Reservoir he travelled to Ferntree Gully to work with the youth in this area. He would travel to and from Reservoir five (5) days per week until such time that he, together with his wife Nancy and their children Jenny, Gary, Karen and Lyn made the move to live in the area.

Current Members of our club today, as adults, remember Alf as a very active member of the local community. Some have commented that they remember Alf physically making timber trophies by hand to present to players at Football Presentation Days.

Not only was Alf involved in local sporting groups and football in particular, but he also laid the foundations for several local projects including:

- Knox Woodwork Club – was involved for over 21 years and was awarded Life Membership
- K.A.B.A. – Knox Amateur Basketball Association – also awarded Life Membership
- Knox Caravan and Camping Club – awarded Life Membership again
- Knox Council – for 17 years Alf drove the Council Mini Bus around Knox collecting elderly citizens and taking them to their destination. Today, the Mini Bus is named '*Alf*'

Alf was an inspirational person who made a significant contribution to the Knox community that we all continue to enjoy to this day.

Further information on Alf Stephens and the history of our Club can be found in the '*History of The Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club*' document located under the 'documents tab' on our website: www.ferntreegullyeagles.com.au



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THE ALF STEPHENS MEDAL - FUNCTION

It is therefore truly fitting that the *Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club* name the Under 16's Farewell Function each year in his honour - "*The Alf Stephens Medal*".

The Inaugural Alf Stephens Medal (the under 16's farewell function) was held on Friday evening 21 August 2009 at Pickett Reserve – and we had the honour of having Nancy and Gary Stephens present with us throughout the evening.

THE ALF STEPHENS MEDAL - AWARD

Each year, the Coach of the Under 16's will award *The Alf Stephens Medal* to a player deserving of having met the criteria of what Alf valued most in a footballer:

- Team Player
- Positive attitude
- Positive role modelling
- General good / positive conduct
- Gave a little more

CONCLUSION

The *Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club* wishes to acknowledge and thank Nancy Stephens for allowing our Club to name this very important function after her husband; and to Gary Stephens for his contribution on *The Inaugural Alf Stephens Medal* night .

The Executive Committee
October 2009