

## RAY HAYNES: STUDENT & FOOTBALLER 1960 - 1967



Raymond 'Ray' Haynes was born in Melbourne in 1947 to Keith Edward Haynes and Bessie nee Mellords. The Haynes' local heritage goes back to Geelong in the 1870s and John Edward Haynes who married Agatha Wharlon. Their son George Wharlon Haynes married Mary De Wand and their son was Keith Edward Haynes, born in 1925.

The Mellords' ancestry goes back to 1805 in Yorkshire, England; Joseph Mellords migrated to Horsham, Wimmera, Victoria, in the late 1890s and became the manager of the McKenzie Creek Creamery. He married Annie Miller. Their son John Segleigh Mellords married Bessie Regina Arnold and their daughter was Bessie Mellords, born in 1925.

Keith Edward Haynes married Bessie Mellords in 1946. They raised six children: Ray, Philip, Graham, Bronwyn, Elizabeth, and Geoff. The family came to St Albans about 1953. Their home was in Main Road East near

where the High School was built in 1957.

Raymond (Ray) Haynes was born in 1947 and started at the St Albans Primary School in 1953. At this stage his father Keith was working as a wool hanger and in the following year as a polisher.

Keith Haynes was a very good cricketer and very active in promoting sport around St Albans, particularly through the newly-formed Police Boys Club, later known as the St Albans Community Youth Club. Keith and Bessie Haynes worked at the high school in maintaining the grounds and facilities. Their six children all went to St Albans High.

Keith started as the St Albans High School cleaner in 1957 and later as leading hand cleaner over a period of 22 years, until his unexpected death in 1979. His contribution to the school included care of the grounds and sports coaching, especially in cricket. Many a pie night was held at the Haynes' home while Keith was helping to look after the youth club's footy team and there was always an overlap of players from the high school and the youth club - both were good recruiting avenues for the district's senior team, the St Albans Football Club.

At the High School's silver jubilee in 1981 they named the new sport oval after Keith. It was a grand occasion because they had the governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Winneke and his good wife Lady Winnecke, making the official pronouncements. Laurie Schwab, former St Albans High student, delivered the main speech:

*"We are here to commemorate the opening of the latest of these facilities: the new-look oval named after the school's most faithful servant, Keith Haynes. Keith was our foreman here from the time the school opened. He was a sympathetic guide and friend to many a kid who needed help or merely contact. He was involved with kids through the local cricket, football, and youth clubs. I remember many a pie night at the Haynes' home in Main Road East while Keith was helping to look after the youth club's footy team. Now his wife, Bess, has taken over as foreman here and she too is always ready to extend a helping hand."*

Bess Haynes was one of the inaugural members of the St Albans East State School Mothers' Club which formed in 1956. According to the late Lorna Cameron, a local community leader for six decades, Bess was also active with the St Albans Community Youth Club from its infancy in the early 1950s:

*"Keith and Bess Haynes were the caretakers at the school. They were both educated during the Depression and Keith had gone into the army very young; they'd married when Bess was eighteen. ... At one stage when the hall was used as a child-minding centre, Bess was working with Oriel Jeffries, and Gladys Sands. After Keith passed away, Bess took over as foreman of the High School's cleaning team."*

Lorna's daughter Elaine also remembers the family:

*"We grew up with the Haynes' family. Never heard Mrs Haynes referred to as Bessie, always Bess. Lived a few doors from the H.S. One of them always on one shift or other. Kindest and nicest people ever. Willing to open up the school for all of us who forgot or lost stuff!! Literally across the Main Road from one of the first principals, Mr Barker. Graham was in my grade and I believe died young. We all called him "Guggy." Bonnie was a little younger but we became close when she lived in Washington."*

Ray Haynes (the eldest child) started at the St Albans Primary School in 1953 and started at St Albans High School in 1960 - he was in Form 1B with Broderick Smith and Siegfried Nowak. Ray followed in his father's footsteps by taking up cricket and football, being a member of the school's Jacaranda House. One of his teachers, Barry Rayner, remembers Ray as "a delightful guy, one of the guys who would always have a chat with you; very friendly, very well behaved."

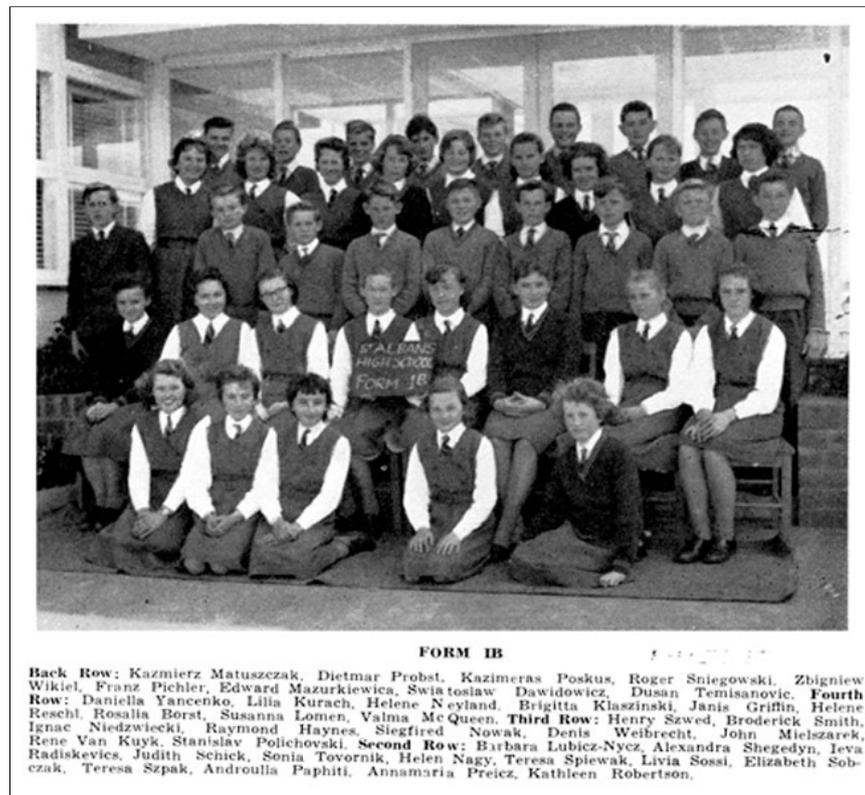
Ray was a member of the St Albans Cricket Club and won a place as wicket-keeper in the Victorian under-21's team in 1965 while at High School, and again in 1966.

He started his football career with the St Albans Community Youth Club and according to the 1967 High School Alba magazine, Ray was a member of the school's senior football team and played his first VFL game for the Footscray Football Club, and thus became the first St Albans boy to play in a Victorian Football League while still at school. His classmates congratulated him for his achievements but gave him a bit of a ribbing in their annual summation: "The School's best non-playing footballer - relegated to the Seconds. Fate: soccer referee."

Fellow student Daryl Keeble later gives a more congenial review:

*"Ray Haynes was a good footballer, a very tough sportsman and probably one of the best footballers who ever came from St Albans High. He also played with the Footscray and Geelong clubs in the Victorian Football League in the late sixties and early seventies. Ray was also a good cricketer for Jacaranda and those house matches were very competitive. Did he play state cricket?"*

In 1965 Ray shared Footscray third's best and fairest awards. He played in the Victorian Football League (VFL) in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He started at age 19 with Footscray (Western Bulldogs), playing 29 games between 1967 and 1970. In 1971 he joined the Geelong club (Geelong Cats) and played at least a couple of games there. He experienced major health problems in the early 1970s when his motorcycle crashed into a shop, leaving him in a coma for a few months and ending his VFL career. He later moved interstate.



Ray Haynes in Form 1B, 1960.

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Ray Haynes and prefects, 1967.

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