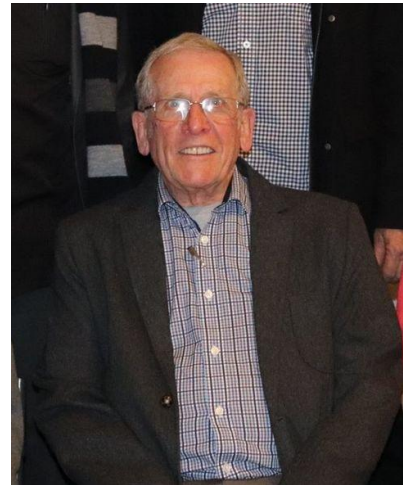


Vale Ian Bishop

The committee, members & supporters of the Eagles Baseball Club are saddened to learn of the passing of SBL legend Ian “Piggy” Bishop.

Piggy’s connection with our sport goes way back to the beginning of the original league in the 1950’s where he first played the game and became an administrator of our great sport. Piggy’s stories about the early days of the league are endless (literally) and when in Geelong for representative baseball I can promise the only way the stories reached their conclusion was either through the bottom of a bottle or the intervention of a sunrise through a cold winter night.



Piggy was immensely proud of his association with our sport right from the very beginning and would talk about his competitors and teammates as if they were gladiators, forging the path for what was to follow. Unfortunately, the “old” league fell into recess in the early 1970’s, with Piggy being one of the few attempting to organise AGM’s and trying to revive the sport during this time.

Eagles association with Piggy started back in 1979 when the league was revived and Piggy became a founding member of our club and one of the original 9 taking the field in our clubs first game. I’m told that despite age starting to catch up with his playing abilities during this time that Piggy played a stoic 2nd base while proving a difficult out down the bottom of the order.

Piggy finished up the playing career after 2 years with Eagles to take up umpiring and in doing so he began a 40-year career that most of the current baseball league fraternity will best remember him for. Piggy was the closest this league has had to a professional, independent umpire and I wouldn’t like to guess the number of grand finals he presided over from behind the dish. The only accurate answer will be he did all of them until he couldn’t do them anymore.

Umpiring is a thankless job and despite Piggy wearing the brunt of many frustrated baseballers over the years he kept fronting up and coming back for more. This author also had the pleasure of being tossed from a game by Piggy but my experience probably sums Piggy up best, after the game it was a hand on the shoulder and a smile and despite me telling myself I was in the right the only thing that came out was a “Sorry

Mr Bishop, I promise it won't happen again". Even in the ultimate heat of battle it was hard not to have respect for a guy who had seen and done so much for our sport. He was well deserving of that level of respect and for the most part that's what he received every week.

In the back end of his 60-year involvement with baseball Piggy took on the challenge of being the administrator of our league. If there is a more thankless job than umpiring,

league administrator is probably the only one yet Piggy filled the role graciously and was always impeccably organised. Piggy's story in baseball is only part of his story and when you see these other sporting and community organisations around town coming out with their own stories about Piggy, only then does the gravity of time and energy that he put into others really hit home.

Piggy is a very well deserving life member of Baseball Victoria and the Sunraysia Baseball League. Our thoughts are with his wife and loving family during this difficult time.

Don't be surprised if, in the near future you're reading about a drop in batting averages in the field of dreams while the hitters adjust to low & away...

Farewell Ian "Piggy" Bishop, rest in peace.

Obit: Luke Gathercole - Life Member Eagles Baseball Club

