

## **JOHN MATTHEWS**

Originally a Banyule student and basketballer, and then senior player John took up refereeing and was invited to officiate at Try Youth Club West Heidelberg, when Eltham had their home games there. Soon John was coaching for Eltham as well as providing leadership in refereeing. He made huge contributions as a championship coach of a strong boys' teams which included state players and made finals, and also the pioneering girls' championship teams. John then went on to coach senior division teams (= Big V today) helping them climb up several divisions. John maintained that interest as an organiser for the next twenty years. Leaving employment in the bank, John managed Coburg and Mill Park, before becoming Eltham's first full-time Venue Manager 2000 to 2009. His expertise in venues as well as financial knowledge was crucial in the planning of both Eltham High and Montmorency SC. Many hours were spent at meetings monitoring construction and financial negotiations. After a short period, John resumed financial management of the Club for a further four years as well as being Treasurer of the EDJBA for more than half a decade. John and Barbara's children also made distinctive contributions, Kellie as a venue supervisor and Glen as player and referee. John received life membership in 1982, long before he had finished his distinguished career with Eltham.