

On The 2nd May 2022 the family of old boy, Greigory Francis Noonan, celebrated what would've been his 100th birthday.

Here are some of the remarkable stories and pictures they commemorated on the day.

His children Catherine, Leonie & Greigory (Jr) Noonan have endowed a perpetual trophy to the school in his honour.

- Greigory Francis Noonan was born in Birchip on 2 May 1922 and was one of 10 children. His parents Emily & Michael (Jim) bought their family up with a a strong work ethic and their lives revolved around their forms school community and of course their local church.
- Greig started his schooling at the local country school then onto Assumption College and then finally made his way to St Patrick's Ballarat as a boarder. He found his sense of belonging and proved himself academically but also excelled in many of the sports that he set his mind to during his time at St Patrick's College Ballarat during 1938, 1939, 1940 & 1941.
- He was; Captain of the 1st 18 Football 1940
 Captain of the 1st 18 Football 1941
 Captain of the Galvin House Athletics 1941
 Vice Captain of Cricket 1941
 Senior Prefect 1941
 Honour's Class 1941
- He also excelled at cricket, track & field, handball and tennis. He was a senior prefect on the debating team and member of the literary society, 1941 honour class.



GALVIN HOUSE TEAM.
Champions S.P.C. Sports, 1941. G. Noonan (Captain).



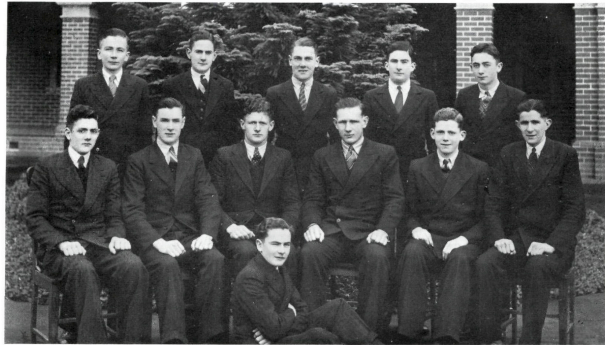
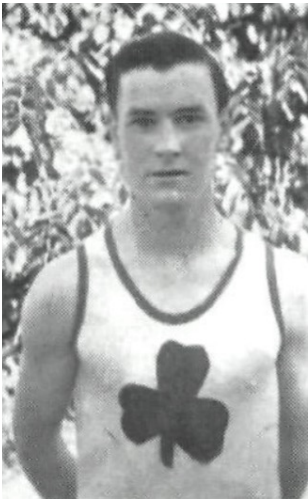
FIRST XI PREMIERS B.P.S.
Standing - D. Powell, B. Mason, M. McGrath, G. Wood, V. Davis.
Seated - V. Brennan, L. Barbera, G. Noonan, W. Scott (Capt), B. Long, I. Pontefract.



1st. XVIII—CHAMPIONS B.P.S. 1940.
Back Row: G. Little, L. Barbera, B. Long, E. Fleming.
Second Row: W. Scott, J. Toohy, W. Kerrison, G. Leonard, D. Toohy.
Third Row: F. Hunter, V. Knowles, J. O'Sullivan, J. Eckel, W. Begg, L. Dunne.
Front Row: B. Scully, P. Cashin, J. Hill (V. Capt), G. Noonan (Capt), L. McFarlane, E. Frith, G. Wilkinson.



FIRST XVIII: CHAMPIONS B.P.S.
Back Row: D. Powell, B. Mason, D. O'Meara, R. Todd, B. Calbert, A. Vaughan, G. O'Sullivan.
Second Row: P. Glennon, V. Brennan, A. Gillett, M. McGrath, K. McConnell, M. Ewing, G. Wood, M. McEvoy.
Front Row: B. Long, B. Hennessy, V. Knowles (Vice-Capt), G. Noonan (Capt), W. Scott, B. Scully, L. Barbera.
In Front: V. Davis.



HONOURS CLASS
Standing: F. Little, E. Ryan, G. Wood, P. Penn, D. O'Hagan.
Seated: I. O'Donnell, G. Noonan, V. Knowles, B. Hennessy, C. Jenkins, W. Scott.
In Front: A. Davis.

- Greig's prowess and ability preceded him, and it was at this stage his uncle Maurice Sheehan (ex St Pat's old boy & retired Richmond Football Club Great) travelled to the family farm in Birchip with his old mate "Captain Blood" Jack Dyer who tried to coerce his parents into letting him sign to the Richmond football club. Both his parents felt he was far too young at that stage to make the commitment. In later years he had a stint at Richmond until the war intervened.
- While he as studying at Melbourne University, Greig needed board. It was suggested he approach North Melbourne Footy Club who then arranged a place for him to stay and also welcomed him into the team and onto the field after becoming aware of his talent.



- Greig's strong sense of obligation and deep love for his country inspired him to enlist at the earliest opportunity. He signed up in Ballarat on 26th June 1941 still in his matriculation year and when his exams were successfully completed he then enlisted on 16th October 1941 into Armoured Corps V 235453 Unit 3 ACTR – Tank Division RAAC.
- On 18th Jan 1943 Greig was discharged from RAAC because of disbandment. He then enlisted for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) on the 29th of January 1943 and was trained then chosen to be apart of the elite RAAF No 87 Squadron and wasn't discharged from there until 27th of March 1947.
- While Serving under the Great American General Douglas MacArthur in the Asia Pacific, Greig partook in air intelligence and arial assults on Japanese forces.

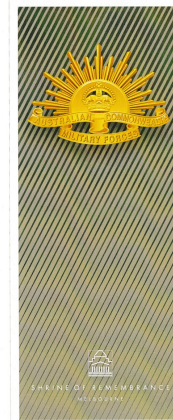
Battle Honours

- Darwin 1942-1944

While stationed in Darwin he witnessed the bombing and destruction of the city from Japanese forces.

- Pacific 1942-1945
- Dutch New Guiniea 1945
- Borneo 1945
- Morota 1945

- Greig was one of the 550 old collegians who fought in WWII



AUSTRALIAN ARMY SECOND WORLD WAR

Private
Gregory Francis Noonan V235453

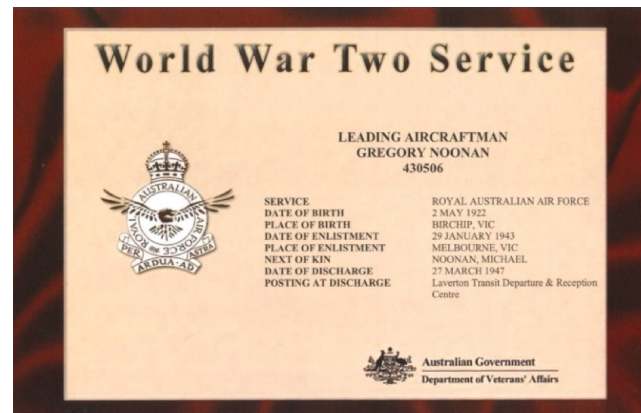
Ballarat, VIC
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT

16 Oct 1941
DATE OF ENLISTMENT

3 A C T R
POSTING AT DISCHARGE

Birchip, VIC
PLACE OF BIRTH

28 Jan 1943
DATE OF DISCHARGE



L.A.C Gregory Francis Noonan

**Armoured
Corps**
26-6-1941
to
28-1-1943



R.A.A.F.
28-1-1943
discharged
27-3-1947

No 87 Squadron R.A.A.F.

Born Birchip - May 2nd 1922

Died Bendigo - October 24th 2000

Posted to Morotoi, Lavuan and Borneo

A gentleman, adored and loved by Carmel and their family.

- Greig was accepted into Melbourne University and studied Commerce. In time, Greig's career path lead him into education which saw him hold principalship for decades. His career took him to all corners of the state but never to Ballarat because he said "it was too cold".
- Along with all these positions, he was a member of the St Vincent's Society and was held in high regard by the whole community as a significant amount of students were from migrant and indigenous backgrounds which required him to take on the role of a social worker for the area. His consideration and empathy were values instilled in him from his days at St Pat's.

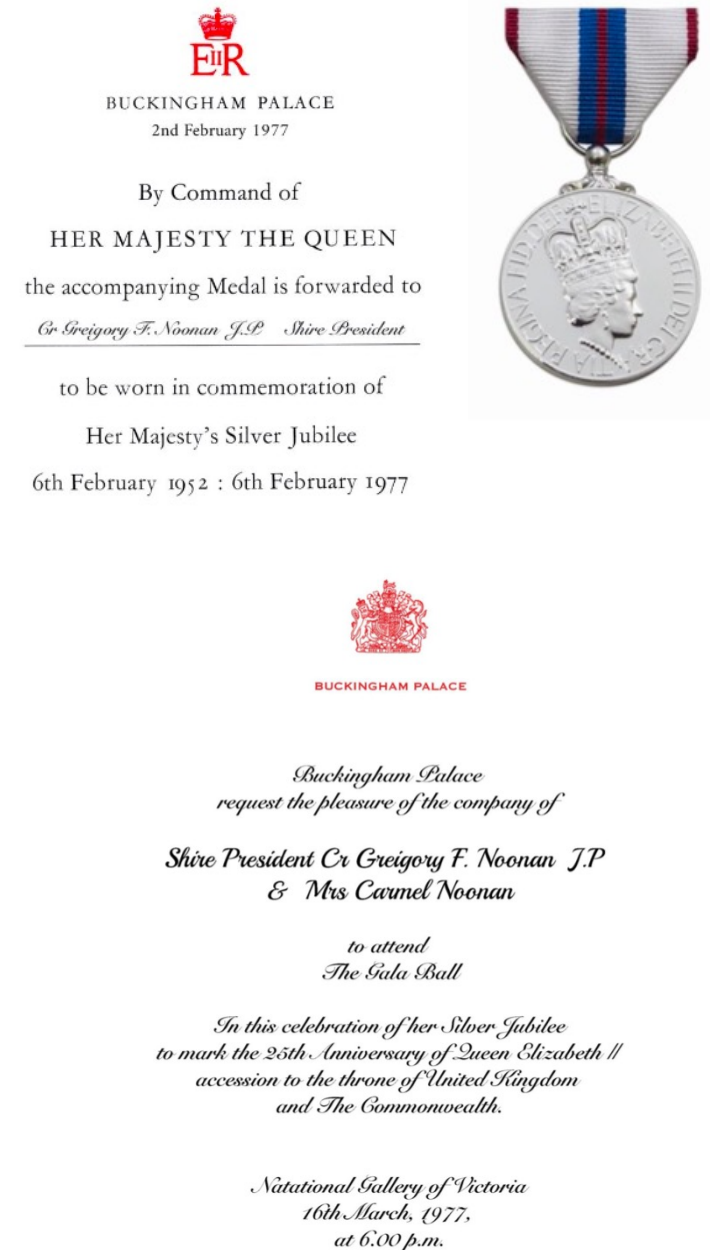
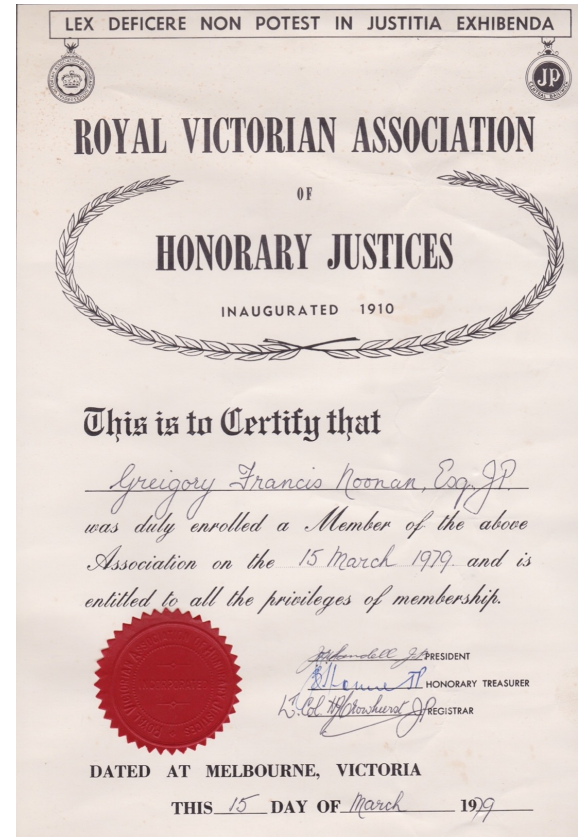


- At one of his appointments at a local school he met his soon to be wife Carmel whom he would go on and raise a family of seven beautiful children who they were immensely proud of.
- Greig was transferred to Bendigo where he was principal at Spring Gully and Specimen Hill state schools.
- Greig decided he wanted to go back to his family roots of farming. He retired from the Victoria Education Department and bought land in Kangaroo Flat and started his passion for farming which led to establishing his 'Forest Park Stud' farm where he breed champion Diary Shorthorn cattle.



Major General Sir Rohan Delacombe;
Governor of Victoria

- In the early 1970's Greig was approached by the local community of Kangaroo Flat to stand for council in the Shire of Marong. At this stage the Marong Shire was the largest council municipality in Victoria. Greig served his ward with gusto and was elected as Shire President. In this role he implemented many major projects; securing and building what is now Bendigo's largest shopping centre, Marong Village (known now as Lansell Plaza).
- It was a family joke that Greig never sat down to a full meal with his family, as the phone rang continuously from ratepayers with their own problems and concerns. He never let a call go unanswered or unresolved. Greig was a firm believer of decentralisation and worked tirelessly in bringing industry and jobs into the shire of Marong.
- Greig's care for the community led him to become a Justice of the Peace and he sat on the bench as a Bail Justice.
- During his time at council he received a silver Jubilee medal from the Queen for outstanding community service, visited Government House on several occasions and attended formal balls when Queen Elizabeth II visited Victoria.
- Anything Greig set his mind to he excelled at.



- Greig had a great business acumen which steered him into being a successful property developer and then into planning. He joined the Loddon Campaspee Regional Planning Authority where he served as Chairman for several years and was called onto to lecture throughout Australia.
- Into his retirement, he bought his large family historical estate 'Fiorenza' in Bendigo which became the jewel in his crown and enabled him to revisit his love of gardening; growing prize winning Camelias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas. He enjoyed gardening until his failing health prevented him from doing too much but he loved sitting in the garden and surveying what he had achieved; something he found great solace until he passed away on 24th October 2000.
- As a tribute at his funeral his casket was adorned with a spectacular wreath made of hundreds of roses from the rose garden at 'Fiorenza'.
- In the most important parts of his life the letter 'F' certainly featured; Faith, Family, Farm & 'Fiorenza'.



Greigory Francis Noonan

Visionary

and

a man before his time

PROUD OLD ST PATS BOY