

I first started playing hockey in 1963 at high school and also played with a Tallangatta team in Albury winning the A grade premiership in 1967.
I joined Falcons Hockey Club as I had met some players from Falcons and also liked the name and black and orange colours!

I then played hockey through to 2009 and only finished when I injured my knee. I was acutely disappointed & depressed at having to give up as I had hoped to play on like Dotty Bates.

I became a Life Member of Falcons Hockey Club in 2000 with Keith Russell which was a great honour. Prior to being awarded Life Membership I served on the committee for many years as a general committee member and at around 1985 I commenced coaching Falcons Juniors starting with U12 & U14 girls, finishing up with U16 girls who won the premiership in 1997 and were runners up in 1998.



Jenny at the 2017 Senior Presentation Night (centre) with Caroline Wallace (left) & fellow life member Sue Russell (right)

Over the years there has been lots of wonderful memories. It is really hard to pick a favourite, however, I think that winning the first division grand final in 1981 would have to be the stand out. We finished in 4th position so weren't expected to win. Dick Inwood was our coach at the time & he used to make us push bricks around the perimeters of the hockey field to instill in us to keep our sticks on the ground, quite hard work! However, he really believed that we could win. We played on a lovely sunny Saturday and the game was a draw at the end of extra time so we had to return and play on the Sunday which was wet and cold. I think that the conditions suited us better and we won. Great celebrations followed at the Newmarket and Gayle Taylor (Vicki Bardy's sister) & I were smoking a cigar and dancing on the tables in the Pub, eating CC's which were very popular being new!

I did a lot of recruiting over the years, I wouldn't know how many people I recruited, but, I was very passionate and recruited lots of juniors including 8 of my nephews and nieces, 3 of which still play. I was also one of the people involved in setting up the Vets Womens teams and again recruited madly, lots of people coming from Albury Base Hospital where I work.

The rules have changed over the years, my favourite rule change was getting rid of offside and full backs being able to run up over the half way line. Also, when we stopped rolling the ball in from the sidelines by hand and were able to hit it.

I think the modern game is great as it flows much more freely.

I played in very few grand finals considering all the years I played so feel that they are very special. The grand finals I played in include

1967 - A Grade with Tallangatta

1981 - First Division

2002 - Second Division

2004 - Vets Women

2005 - Vets Women

I played with the Victorian Womens over 40's team for 3 years, 1993 to 1995 in the Australian Championships and was the only country player.

In 1995 our Albury Women's Vets team played in the NSW Womens Vets competition in Wagga Wagga and I convinced our team that we would be very competitive if we formed teams to play in the Masters Games, based on my experience with the Vic Vets. This led to many years of Masters Tournaments beginning with the World Masters in Melbourne in 1995 where we won bronze.

As well as competing in most states we had 3 trips to New Zealand Masters, twice in Dunedin & once in Whanganui.

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I loved playing hockey but am unfortunately not a good spectator."

Many of you would have seen Jenny's fantastic orange pants over the years that are often brought out on Grand Final Day. I just had to ask how they had come about, were they home made?

"My orange pants which I still have and wear of occasionally I bought at the Victorian Market in Melbourne!"

Pictured is Jenny wearing some new orange and black pants while supporting the Div 3 Men in their semi final on Saturday.