

WHERE THE BLOODY HELL HAVE YOU BEEN? – *you could say*

Where indeed. You will read in this issue just what has been going on in the Society in the past few months. Besides this, president, Ian Granland has been sidelined with a knee replacement then subsequent complications while *the umpires' friend*, Bill Carey, has been on a two month tour of Europe. Treasurer, Ian Wright has embarked on a weight loss programme with our memberships' officer, Jenny Hancock is steadily improving after her devastating Christmas knee injury. Well that's enough about the committee.

**POLICE FOOTBALL CLUB REUNION A BIG HIT**

Although the numbers were not huge, organisers were happy with the 35 turned who turned up at the Alexandria Hotel in May for the Police Football club reunion.

Star attendee was long term participant in the team and former Eastern Suburbs player, Neil Stevens, (pictured). At 95, Neil was brought to the event by his son from his Bexley Nursing home residence. Other familiar former Sydney football faces included Ellis Noack, Peter Burgess and Keith Claxton – all of whom incidentally are members of the Society. The attendees received an abridged version of the history of the police football club. Copies are available from our Sales Section.

OUR NEXT REUNION

We are holding a reunion of the Sydney Naval FC on 14 October at the same venue. Arrangements are currently under way to make this event as successful as our previous get-togethers and are now searching out previous members of this very successful club which, incidentally was started in 1881 and folded in 1970.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Our membership has recently reached 62, which is the highest since the Society was established. Another six were recruited at the Police FC reunion. The aim is to reach 100 and spread the news about the Society's goals and activities then begin some interaction with members.

SOME DID NOT RENEW

Its not all beer and skittles with our membership with a number not renewing for 2012. This is disappointing but members come and go with groups and ours is no different. Nevertheless we hope our limited resources can help recruit and keep our members happy.

PLEASE HAVE FAITH IN US

For a number of months now we have reported that we are having a computer programme written which will allow us to display **all** NSW representative players, games, scores, goalkickers, best players, and the list goes on. We have **continually** been assured that this ground breaking programme "*is only a week away from being finished*", and this response from our programmer has been ongoing since late last year.

We have looked at other computer programmers take over the project but were continually assured that the database is in its final stages and we would have access to it "shortly". This whole saga has been extremely frustrating for us because we have been gathering an incredible amount of information to be loaded into the programme. If you have access to our website: www.nswfootballhistory.com.au then you will see a box where this information can be accessed. As soon as the programme is released to us and we have loaded data on it you will be able to view this very sophisticated programme. At this stage we are contemplating allowing members only this access privilege. What do you think? Let us know.

When we are ready to go with this we will need volunteers to help access the respective state and representative matches and then document this information prior to it being loaded into the programme. Usually we are at the Society's Western Suburbs Football Club Offices for our weekly working bee each Tuesday where we will begin our project. If you can attend to lend a hand we would be eternally thankful. There is always plenty of coffee, eats and footy talk to help fill your day.

EXPANDED SALES SECTION

We have a sales section on the website where you can purchase anything from our polo shirts, DVDs of various games from the past, publications and now we are working on a CD of the 1975 grand final between Western Suburbs and East Sydney at Trumper Park.

STORIES ON THE WEBSITE

We have received a number of comments on the lack of advancement with data on our website. The truth is only one person maintains the site because the computer literacy of the people on the committee is very limited. Recently, our treasurer, Ian Wright, wrote a story on the Bob McConnell Club Championship Trophy. If you want to write a story for us on a NSW/Sydney Football subject we welcome your input. Otherwise development on the site is slow, simply because it is slow, exacting and painstaking work.

TEAL CUP TALK

The Teal Cup was a trophy donated by *Ma Teale* in the early 1950s. It was for competition between NSW and Queensland junior teams and remarkably enough, the first match was an under 18 game between the two.

Society Vice President and *umpires' friend*, Billy Carey, has meticulously researched the history of the cup which subsequently turned into a national under 17 competition.

He will give a talk on NSW participation in the cup, the players, coaches and different anecdotal stories on its time as the pinnacle national trophy for Australian Football. The date for the talk is Saturday, 15 Sept at a venue to be advised.

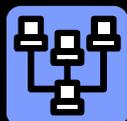
BOOKLET FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Society is looking at producing a publication detailing the history, goals and objects of the organisation which they will give to new members.



This will further explain who and what the organisation is and what it stands for.

Its fine to be a member but a publication like this should answer all the questions new members might have and give them an opportunity to participate.

NEW COMPUTERS

None of us boast about being computer experts and recently we had two second hand desktop computers donated to bring our compliment at our Wests Offices to three. Trouble is, they are old and slow and despite spending a couple of hundred on getting them all networked and working together, they fail to meet our needs. They are not even compatible with one of our new printers. This means we have to be serious about the purchase of three new desktop computers (we have the screens and keyboards), then get them linked so they all work more efficiently. To achieve this we are probably looking at between \$1,800-\$2,000. If we have anyone out there willing to assist us with this much needed purchase we would be eternally grateful.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORY SOCIETY

Our organisation recently affiliated with the Royal Australian History Society.

The Royal Australian Historical Society is a voluntary organization founded in Sydney in 1901 to encourage Australians to understand more about their history. It has a membership throughout Australia and all its activities and facilities are funded by contributions from its members and benefactors.

The Royal Australian Historical Society is a cultural organization that works for the benefit of its members and the broader community to:

- promote interest in Australian history
- advance the study of Australian history, and
- broaden opportunities for participation in historical research.

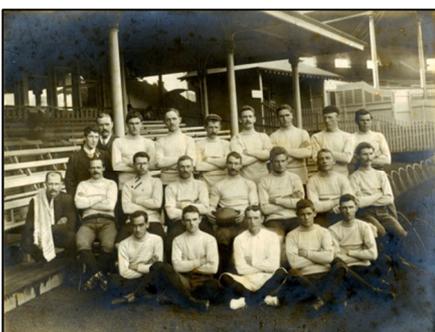
Why did we do this? It will provide our Society with more scope with advice, research and grants opportunities than is currently the case. We look forward to a happy relationship with this group.

**A UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPH**

Recently we were sent a photograph which contained, amongst others, an image of Hector McPhail. The sender was his grandson and wanted to know if we knew what the photo was and where it was taken. All he could provide us was that Hector played with the Paddington club between 1905-11 and had represented NSW against Carlton, North Adelaide, Port Adelaide and Queensland.

This proved a difficult task however we were easily able to identify the picture as a NSW team taken in front of the members' stand at the SCG. We already have a copy of the NSW 1904 state team, including names, so began to compare the faces in one photo to the other, unfortunately there were not many in both. Given that we knew he did play against the opposition listed above and we had a venue plus our newspaper clippings of the day which include the names of the players in all the state teams, through a process of elimination, we thought we might quickly identify the year and the other players.

This task is proving not so easy so we are digging around for more photographs of the time which include more names.

**THOMAS WILLS BOOK**

The Society has been fortunate to obtain a number of books on Thomas Wills, considered the founder of Australian Football. Written by Society member, Greg de Moore, the book is called *Tom Wills, The First Wild Man of Australian Sport*. We have already sold 72 copies and now only have eight left. Our cost to you is \$20 each plus \$5.40 postage. The book is now out of print and our stocks will not last long. If you want a copy please email us at history@afnswact.com.au or call the president, Ian Granland on 0412798521.

