

**OCR PROGRAMME**

At long last we have begun the work of scanning our extensive library of documents and publications into an OCR programme acquired three years ago.

OCR stands for *Optical Character Recognition*, a programme which reads all material that is scanned into it. The beauty of this type of system is that a search can be made on this digitally preserved material to recover all details on a subject, just by entering a word or series of words into a search field.

This is not only a bonus for the Society but also individuals and other organisations which require particular information, presently hidden in former league documents.

Society officials meet each Tuesday at their Western Suburbs Australian Football Club rooms, Croydon Park and welcome inquiries from members who may be able to lend a hand with this work. On the job training and cups of tea are free!!

**SYDNEY  
NAVAL  
REUNION  
CANCELLED**

The Society has decided to cancel the proposed reunion of the Sydney Naval Club because the number of possible attendees is very limited. We fully intend to go ahead with the reunion of the Newtown Club early next year.

**VALE**

Two of our members have recently passed away. These are Max Stout and former South Sydney and Balmain player, Neal 'Monty' Ellard.

Added to this are two former major influences in Sydney football, St George and league vice president, Syd Felstead and former player, coach, umpire and junior rep official, Joe Armstrong.

We offer our sincere condolences to their families.

**TEAL CUP TALK**

Last month, Society Vice President and *umpires' friend*, Bill Carey, gave an excellent talk on the Teal Cup and NSW involvement, going right back to 1953.

From meagre beginnings, The Teal Cup went on to become a national Under 17 competition and one from which several players started their successful VFL/AFL careers.

**WESTS CLUB AMALGAMATES**

Those of you who may be familiar with the Western Suburbs Australian Football Club Ltd in Hampton Street Croydon Park will be saddened to learn that it has been taken over by another local licensed club. Thankfully though, the amalgamation is one which holds very favourable implications for Wests.

Members have voted to amalgamate with Canterbury Hurlstone Park (CHP) RSL Club, a very successful organisation located only a few kilometres from Wests. It is CHP's intention to rebuild Wests image and again bring it to a successful and viable organisation. They will immediately invest \$500,000 into Wests deteriorating building and reconfigure the facilities in an initial effort to make it inviting and more attractive to patrons.

The alternative to 'amalgamation' was that Wests would have been forced to close their doors, so really, the decision is a win-win for everyone and one that will see Australian football, and in this case, the associated licensed club, still supported in the Western Suburbs of Sydney.

The Society has been assured that their tenure at the club is secure.

**MORE STORAGE**

The Society will reconfigure their rooms at Wests to enable more shelving to be installed to cater for the growing volume of footy articles and material that is being donated. The planned shelving will cost in excess of \$450, so organisers will be launching a new drive to raise funds to pay for the equipment which is expected to be fitted by Christmas.

**MEMBERSHIP**

We are always looking for new members and we urge you to encourage any of your friends who might have an interest in footy history to join.

Details on how to join are on the website and now there are a variety of levels of membership, some of which include a lifetime one-off payment. Check it out.

**REP TEAM DATA BASE**

For some time now we have been banging on about a rep team data base which will be posted online through our website. The designer has finally informed us that he finds the task beyond his ability so we have now given this task to another group who have already made progress in the development of the programme. All of those players who have represented the state in football, regardless of grade, will be featured on it.

**RECOGNIZING OUR MEMBERS**

We now have several categories of membership and recently, Ian Spiers signed on in the *Benefactor Class* which, at \$250, includes various benefits and does away with the need to renew each year. Find these levels of membership and benefits on our website under *JOIN HERE*.

**SOCIETY OFFICIALS TO ATTEND RAHS CONFERENCE**

Earlier this year the Society affiliated with the *Royal Australian Historical Society* in an attempt to further expand their understanding of the mechanics of history gathering. To put it simply, we wanted to do it better and because none of the members have a real background of how to do 'it', the concept of affiliation was considered a good idea.

Now, some of the committee, at their own cost, are attending the *RAHS* Annual Conference in mid-October at the Cooks River Rowers Club – ironically a club where former East Sydney FC icon, Kevin Little was secretary-manager.

The conference includes a number of workshops and other classes on various subjects which will prove a considerable benefit to the Society.

Separately, but over the same period, the *RAHS* is sponsoring a number of other courses which should also prove an advantage to the Society. These include:

- Capturing Memories – Oral History in the Digital Age
- How to write an interesting family history, and
- Managing Your Collection Workshops

Recently the Society purchased some state-of-the-art digital recording equipment but officials found the task of working out how to use it rather daunting. They have since undergone a brief demonstration on its operation and are now thrilled at the opportunity to undertake the course in *Capturing Memories – Oral History in the Digital Age*.

The course in *How to write an interesting family history* is one in which officials feel they might pick up some pointers in writing articles such as those under the *SALE* option on the website.

Finally, the opportunity to complete the *Managing Your Collection Workshops* course came like a bolt from the blue. The course programme encapsulates exactly what the committee undertake at their Western Suburbs Football Club offices at their working bees. This includes:

- Compiling and managing databases
- Digitising records and photographs
- Paper collection indexing, housing, storage and temperature control
- Providing access to records
- Arranging and describing collections
- Accessioning procedures
- Do's and Don'ts of storage

This half day course is conducted on partnership with the State Records of NSW.

**BOOK ON TEAL CUP LECTURE NOW AVAILABLE**

The Society has reproduced Bill Carey's talk on NSW's involvement in the Teal Cup from 1953-1995. It is a fascinating read which includes the origin of the name of the trophy along with a detailed list all officials from the various years and as a bonus also contains a table of those players who went on to play in the VFL/AFL.

The cost of the publication is \$12 and can either be obtained through the Society's website under the *SALES* tab using online payment system or by sending a cheque to the Society at P O Box 98 Croydon Park NSW 2133.

**COLLABORATION WITH SCG TRUST**

**The Society has acquired two historic photographs, one of the 1886 NSW State Team and the other of the 1882 Geelong FC team both of which were taken at the front of the former Members Stand at the SCG.**

**These two photographs have been forwarded to the SCG Trust Curator who has showed some considerable interest in the activities of Australian Football pre 1900.**

**It was during this period when the SCG was utilised by the then NSW Football Association for a number of games, in particular, representative matches.**

**Also of particular interest is a paper on Australian Football in Sydney between 1866-1895 by the Society President, Ian Granland OAM, which will be published shortly.**

**This paper outlines in some detail the football activities at the SCG and on the adjacent Moore Park.**

**A little known fact is that Australian Football was the first football to be played on the SCG on 18 June 1881. This was a match between the burgeoning Sydney and East Sydney clubs.**

**VACANCIES**

The Society has two vacancies on its committee. If you would like to join contact the President Ian Granland, on 0412798521.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month with non-obligatory working bees at the offices every other Tuesday. *There is even free tea and cake available!!!!*

**ANOTHER BAR-B-QUE AT BUNNINGS**

The Society has organised to hold another bar-b-que at Bunnings Ashfield Store on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

We were very pleased with the result from a similar fund raising event earlier in the year. Considering the activity at this store, one of the busiest in the state, we are hoping for a similar outcome.

*Don't Chuck It Out!*

This has become the catch-cry of organisations like ours. Far too often when people die, the kids go in to clean the place out and in many, many cases, out goes things like their footy treasurers. How many times has this occurred and how often for NSW football? We make a sincere request that if and when you or the friends you might know, find yourself in this position that you think of groups like us first. What you consider is Dad's or Grandad's junk may well prove invaluable to us. So please, contact us before the stuff is sent to the tip.