

NSW AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NSW Australian

ABN 48 204 892 703

FOUNDATION MEMBER

Ron Jackson



In all probability you haven't heard of this man. He was **Harry Hedger, OBE**, who played football in Sydney with several clubs from 1880-1894.

It was him who kept a VFL meeting open until 2:30am in February 1903 pleading for a marquee match to be played in Sydney as a catalyst to its resurrection after eight years in recess.

He then became president of the North Shore and later YMCA clubs and patron of the League. His sons played with one or two enlisting for WWI.

Harry was awarded an OBE for his work with the blind. He was manager of the Blind Institute in Sydney for many years and worked there until his death, aged 79 years.

He is the subject of this year's Ralph Robertson Talk which will be held in a few months time, venue and exact date to be provided.

This interesting oration will be delivered by Society president, Ian Granland.

Don't miss it!!

Football and World War I in Sydney

Our members would be aware that the Society is publishing a book on the Impact World War I had on Sydney football.

This publication is part of Australia's Anzac Centenary and it is anticipated it will be released prior to Anzac Day 2015.

Two grants have been received to assist with the publication, one from the state government through the agency of the Royal Australian Historical Society and the other from the Australian War Memorial to assist with the purchase of photographs.

These will not cover the production costs of the publication itself nor will the sale from the so far, limited number of 100 copies.

Our production team, headed by Paul Macpherson, has already produced a 30 page proto-type to give the committee some idea of the setup, structure and content of the book. All this is proving very exciting.

An additional benefit of the book is the material research is unearthing.

Never before has anyone attempted to document Australian football in Sydney, regardless of the period.

It reveals names and events that have been well forgotten and yet deserve recognition on a grand scale.

We hope we can do that.

GILLET SAYS LATE SEPTEMBER FOR JOURNAL

Our new editor for our annual journal, Dr Rod Gillett, a former president of the NSW AFL, has identified late September as the finish date for his editing of the 2014 journal.

This will be the second such publication produced by the Society which will feature stories and events on NSW football from years gone by. You will get your copy posted to you when printed.

1917 Photo of Gardeners Road School Team

We recently found a photograph of the 1917 Gardeners Road School Team which was published on our website.

For those of you who might not know, Gardeners Road is in the suburb of Mascot in Sydney and for over 40 years fielded teams in various school teams in the metropolitan area.

Many of the players also went on to play senior football, a number of them representing the state.

Frank Gascoigne



FRANK GASCOIGNE

We recently made contact with the 1952 Phelan Medalist, Frank Gascoigne.

Frank played with the South Sydney club from 1943 through to the mid fifties. Today he resides in Queensland and at 89 years of age is still active.

Frank said when the Under 18 competition fell over because of war enlistments, he was elevated from the Under 16s to play in the firsts when selected servicemen did not turn up. His initial game was against Collingwood captain (and later coach), then playing with St George, Phonsé Kyne.

The 1948 Brownlow Medalist, Billy Morris, was in his team at Souths in 1943.

He also said he didn't get an actual medal when he won the league B & F, just a letter, so the club presented him with a biscuit barrel, which he still has!!!

Frank was a product of the Gardeners Road Public School which turned out many great footballers in Sydney.

Our memberships officer, Jenny Hancock tells us that we have

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Current members of the Society spread right across Australia.

You can upgrade your membership level

Ron J. did!

SOCIETY APPLIES FOR ANOTHER GRANT

In an attempt to gather more funds for the publication of the WWI book, the Society made a late minute application for a Cultural Grant through the NSW Department of Trade, Investment and Art.

"We applied for \$5,000 to help with printing and associated costs" Society President, Ian Granland said.

"This is a big project and will cost a lot of money so we

need every dollar we can get. Granted some of the work will be done gratis but fortunately we are able to factor the time by volunteers into the budgetary process in a dollar amount."

"Nevertheless the end result, as we said on the previous page, will be terrific; well worth the effort."

MORE PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE RESTORED

The committee have selected a further five aging photographs in the Society's collection to be restored.

There is a 1904 Redfern FC image, which is very faded, also a Newtown FC team photo which needs attention.

There are three others also on the list with a budget of around \$2,000 for the lot.

RENEWAL TIME SOON

Some of our members will be receiving new notices at the end of the year. If this is you, please continue with your membership of the Society and we encourage you to find new and additional people to sign on with us.

BRYAN RUSH....

Bryan Rush was one of eight brothers. He was born at Port Fairy, Victoria in 1893 and was part of a family of footballers. Bryan on the other hand, played 17 games for Collingwood prior to the outbreak of WWI and it was probably this conflict that interrupted his football career.

In 1921, Brian was transferred to Sydney in the Commonwealth Public Service following five years service in the 1st war undertaking a medical degree but support for his further education was unfortunately removed.

Upon his move to Sydney Bryan took up with the North Shore Club

— then called North Sydney, and in 1921 he was part of their incredible premiership in the club's first year back from a WWI recess. In 1922 he took over the reigns but could not emulate their previous year's performance; they finished fifth.

After a short period in Newcastle as secretary to the Newcastle Gas Company, Bryan returned to Sydney teaming up with a former army cobbler to set up an accounting firm which would go on to become a major player in Sydney's commercial and financial scene over the succeeding number of years.

He gave up football upon his return however the 32 year old kept an interest in the game serving several seasons as state selector. He had

represented NSW on 10 occasions: once in 1921, four times in 1922 and five in 1924, which included several appearances for the state in the national carnival at Hobart, so he knew his footy.

Rush was often named as one of the best players in these interstate games.

Fortunately for us, Bryan junior, at 81, amongst other things, recently donated his father's 1924 representative certificate along with a quite unique service certificate awarded to his father in 1935 for his contribution to the game in NSW over a fourteen year period. We have never before seen these type of documents.



Besides his football, Bryan Snr played first grade cricket with Manly.

He rarely talked about his sporting experiences, perhaps due to his dislike of attending meetings in Newtown where selection of the NSW teams were discussed. It was here, he maintained, "that he would have his tyres slashed if no Newtown players were chosen in the NSW

team."

At the outbreak of WWII Bryan again served in the army at Victoria Barracks, Paddington where, at the rank of major, he was District Finance Officer.

He died in Melbourne in 1982, aged 89.

1932 NSWANFL LIFE MEMBERS BADGE

An independent collector has made contact with the Society saying that he has the 1932 NSWANFL Life Members Badge awarded to Rupert Browne of Gardeners Road School fame. We made an offer on this solid gold medal but he declined, saying he would eventually donate it to the Society.

