



NSW AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HISTORY SOCIETY INC

# NEWSLETTER

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## MAJOR ISSUE STUFFS OUR MAIN MEDIA OUTLET

A technical issue with the Society's website has almost put the organisation's *voice to the world* into hibernation for past three months.

*John Addison* "Somehow, we lost our security certificate for the website" Society treasurer, John Addison said during the week. "That means the little "httpS" ('S' for security) at the front of the website address has been removed or not renewed and as a result the front page of our website is replaced with a warning that the website could be malicious."

"At first sight we thought that this could be the result of changing the Internet Service Providers late last year but there has been a suggestion that it could have been as a result of hacking from an anonymous and malicious source. In the mean time we have been working extremely hard to get the entire site back on line"

"This all happened when our president Ian Granland was in Western Australia together with the secretary and Jenny Hancock was on leave, so all this was left to us at the office to sort things out. Whichever way I turned was met with a brick wall; I have been going from one person to another with NO success.

"The people who control this want a letter from a solicitor or an accountant (why that profession, I don't know) to indicate that we are a real and authentic organization. This whole business has been driving me crazy and as this newsletter goes out, we are still no further advanced."

"It is a pity because we have a lot more data to add to our website including several audio interviews featuring: Jack Hammond, Bob Henry (1934 Sanders Medal Winner), Madge Smith (sister of Jimmy Stiff), Doug Bouch, Kevin Ryan and Bob Neate.

Rest assured though, we are working on it.

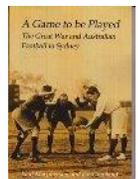
### SYDNEY AFL NAMES NEW B & F MEDAL AFTER OUR PRESIDENT

This year the Sydney AFL introduced a new grade: **Men's Division Three** and the league sought suggestions for the name of the medal for that grade. The History Society suggested former committeeman and Sydney Hall of Fame Member, Jack Dean as a possible candidate. Instead, and much to the surprise of Ian, they named the medal after him in recognition of the commitment he has given to the game since his initial involvement in the early 1960s. He was quite chuffed with the honour, considering another medal also holds his name in the Black Diamond Football League, north of Sydney.



### OUR WORLD WAR BOOK WELL RECEIVED

In our last Newsletter we told you that we intended to send a copy of the book we published in 2014: **A Game To Be Played** – *The Great War and Australian Football in Sydney* to all public libraries in NSW. Well, we did. It cost well over \$600 to get these issues out and as a result we received many positive responses from library authorities throughout the state.



The simple fact is that we had a number of copies over and rather than let them gather dust on our shelves we decided to make them available to all people throughout NSW. So if you haven't read the book, pop up to your local library and see if they have a copy and take it out for your read. We are now looking to place more copies at the bookshop in the National Anzac Centre in Albany, WA – Australia's foremost museum honouring the Anzacs.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

Memberships officer, Jenny Hancock, has notified the committee that quite a number of members will be up for renewal at the end of the year.

We really do cherish our members, particularly you so if you receive notice of renewal, please attend to it. You can even do it online now or we still receive cheques etc. or a direct deposit into the Society's account.

On another point, if you would like to see us mention in our newsletter or on our website etc. just let us know. You can contact us at our email address: [history.nsw@afl.com.au](mailto:history.nsw@afl.com.au)

## ITS CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN

Yes, its that time of the year and again we are holding our annual Christmas Party at Magpie Sports Club (the old Western Suburbs Aussie Rules Club) at 40 Hampton Street Croydon Park.

It will be held on Tuesday 11 December commencing at 12 noon. We are trying to talk Santa in attending who will be carrying some good will and Chrissy items for all those attending.

Here is your invitation to attend. Just let us know if you can make it by emailing us at: [history.nsw@afl.com.au](mailto:history.nsw@afl.com.au) or you can contact our Memberships Officer, Jenny on 0439008343 by 3 December. Do it now so you don't forget!!

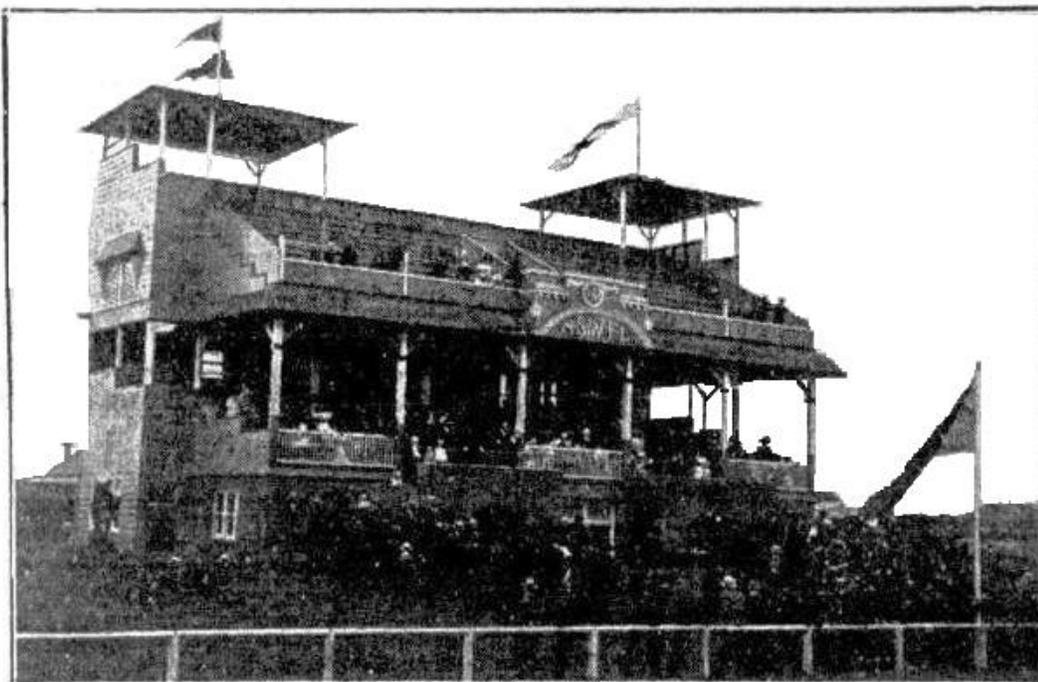
## ITEMS STILL ROLLING IN

Half of our main table area in our rooms at the Magpie Sports Club is filled with items donated by various people who were either involved with the game or had a relative involved with the game somewhere in NSW. A couple of the committee are looking at ways we might temporarily store this material before it swallows us us.

We have asked the club for a bit more room, wanting to moved a wall out about three metres, at our cost, we are not holding our breath but eventually room will run out.

## WORK ON THE BOOK

You might remember also in our last newsletter we mentioned a paper or book is being written by our president on the Australian Football Ground. This ground was built on part of an old racecourse on the north-west corner of Botany and Gardeners Road, Alexandria. It was owned by the league between 1911-1915. WWI and poor management forced the sale of the ground which then had several occupants including Sydney Rugby Union, YMCA, the Greyhound Racing Organisation, amongst others. It was such a pity this great asset was lost to the sport. But was it ever destined to succeed? In those days the league even had a fulltime secretary. Photo of the NSWAFU grandstand there below.



The Fine Grandstand of the Australian Football Ground at Alexandria opened on 20 April 1912

## THIS UNIQUE

image of the grandstand at the Australian Football Ground taken at the opening of the facility in 1912. The match was played there that day was between Sydney and East Sydney Clubs. Games against VFL clubs followed at the ground in the next few years featuring Geelong, Fitzroy etc.