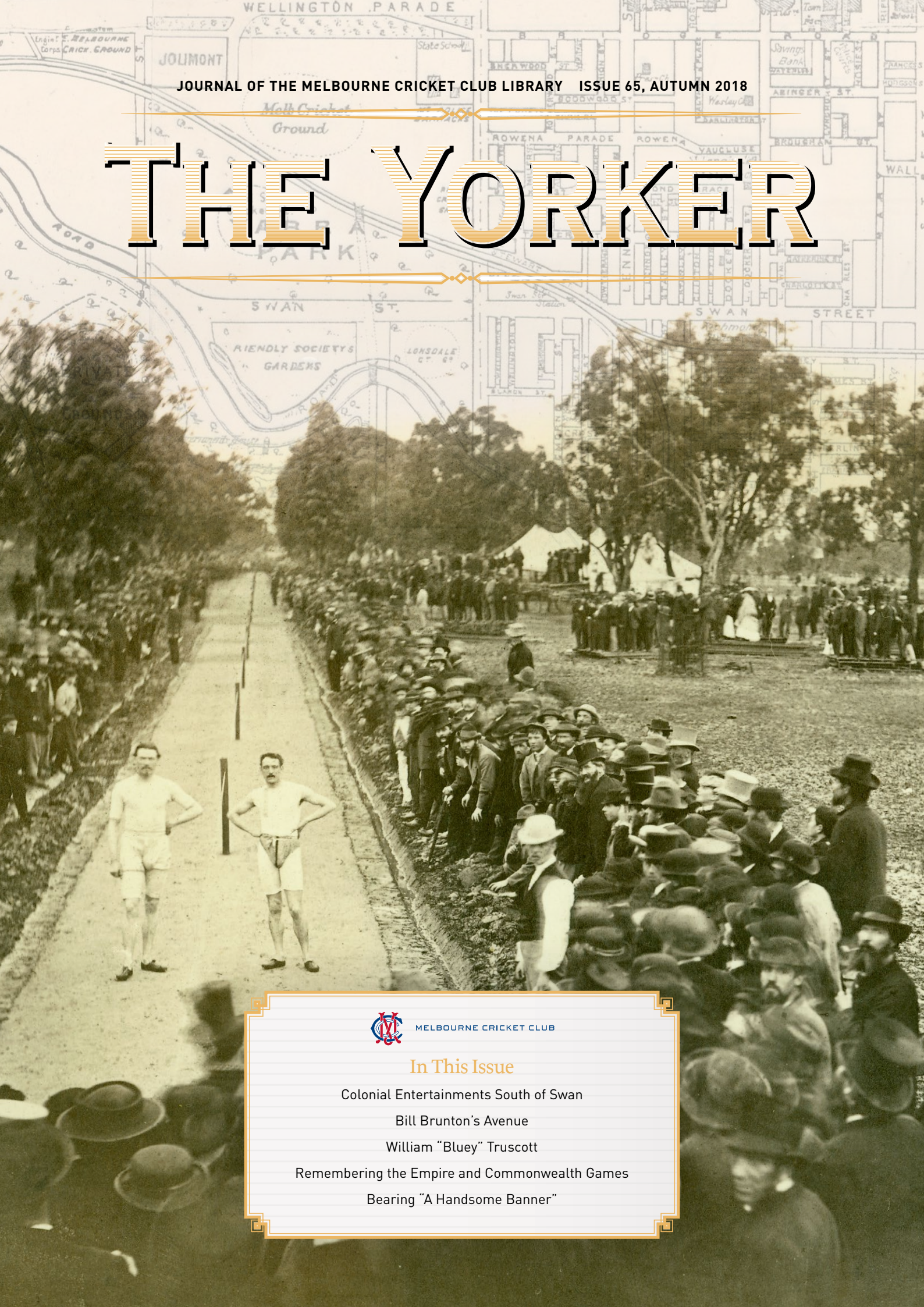


THE YORKER



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

In This Issue

Colonial Entertainments South of Swan

Bill Brunton's Avenue

William "Bluey" Truscott

Remembering the Empire and Commonwealth Games

Bearing "A Handsome Banner"

BREWERY FRESH SINCE 1864



DON'T DRINK
AND DRIVE

THE YORKER

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Front Cover Imagery:

Start of the 300 yard straight track in the Friendly Society Gardens for the 'World Championship' race between Frank Hewitt and John Harris, 1870.

(State Library of Victoria collection).

Back Cover Imagery:

"Fete Day at the Friendly Societies Gardens",
Illustrated Australian News, April 12, 1879.

(State Library of Victoria collection)

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South of Swan

By James Brear and Lesley Smith

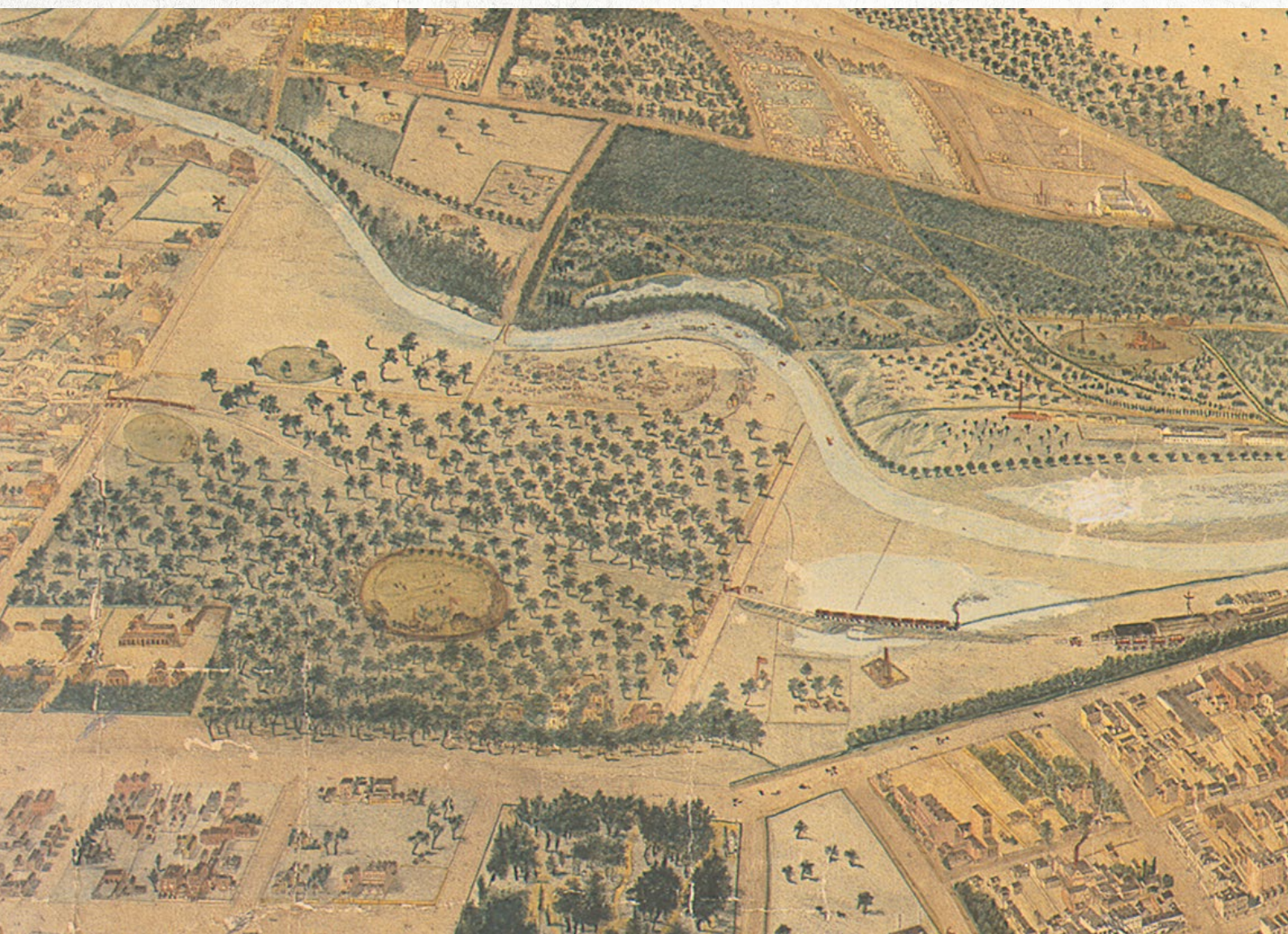
When the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) moved to the variously named Government, Richmond or Police Paddock in 1853, the area was largely devoid of infrastructure. There was no railway line or Swan Street to dissect the area. The ground south of the MCC's chosen site was swampy and included lagoons. The "paddock" was considerably larger than today, extending from Wellington Parade in the North, to the Yarra in the South, and from Punt Road in the East, all the way in to Princes Bridge to the West. Apart from buildings in Jolimont, and the Police Barracks in the north-east corner, there were no other buildings in the entire area.

Today this area, diminished in size, is the principal sporting and entertainment precinct of Melbourne. It boasts the world famous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Melbourne Park, including Rod Laver and Hi-Sense Arenas, AAMI Park, the Holden Centre and Olympic Park, and the Richmond Cricket Ground. Much has been written about the development of the MCG. The Melbourne and Olympic Park Trust has,

on its website, provided an insight into the history of the venues under its management, particularly Rod Laver Arena and Olympic Park, but little has been written of the early recreational use of the land south of present day Olympic Boulevard.

In October 1857, a meeting was held in St. Patrick's Hall for the purpose of forming a Zoological Society. The Government agreed to a grant of thirty acres in the Richmond Paddock and provided 3000 pounds "for the importation, improvement, and domestication of birds and animals of this and other countries, and introduction of mammals, fishes, reptiles, etc."¹ The "National Zoological Gardens", located across the river from the Botanical Gardens, was "connected by a laminated wood arch of great span"² (close to the present Morell Bridge), and extended along the riverbank to the "second ferry" (near the site of the Swan St. Bridge). The gardens included a small lagoon, and "embracing within its limits a deep curvature of the Yarra... is well stocked with fine old forest trees."³

Detail from an isometric drawing of Melbourne including Yarra Park, 1866.
(State Library of Victoria Collection)





A tender for fencing the gardens was immediately let, with gates planned near the "second ferry", (the city entrance), and at the foot of the bridge from the Botanical Gardens, (the Richmond entrance).

"A portion of the gardens... will be set apart in cages, and railings for the more curious and foreign birds and animals, whilst the larger portion will be laid out as a park, more especially for the various animals of this country, and which are so little known."⁴ An early donation of 23 birds and animals was received, with promises of more once the gardens were completed. Prior to completion, these animals were cared for by Dr. Ferdinand Mueller at the Botanical Gardens. Mueller, the first director of the Botanical Gardens, was also the first director of the Zoological Gardens. As conditions were far from ideal in the new gardens, some species struggled to survive. Mueller wrote in a letter to the *Argus* of the issues. Some bird species battled to survive, the last "native bear" "gained his liberty... but died", and "the loss of most of the animals of the kangaroo tribe". Improvements were being made to the aviary and plans were in place to accommodate the angora goats, deer, and "still more important llama-alpacas which will shortly be landed on our shores."⁵ By August, 1859, the alpacas were thriving as were the red deer. The Angora goats and emus were similarly in good condition but the "solitary young kangaroo... requires constant attention", and "sleeps in the tent of the keeper".⁶

The Zoological Gardens by 1863 were "zoological" in name only. The flooding and unsuitability of the ground had taken its toll. The site "was too low to be healthy"⁷, leading the Acclimatisation Society to consider Royal Park as preferable. Not everyone was happy with a move.⁸ "Phelim McManus O'Dowd" wrote a poem of protest in *Punch* bemoaning the planned move. The move happened slowly. Although the Government had previously approved a grant of one thousand pounds for the erection of fences in Royal Park for "zoological purposes", "very serious delays, however, have arisen in the action of the government, but we have every reason to hope that we shall shortly be put in possession of the park."⁹ In October, 1862, the Zoological Gardens opened in Royal Park, administered by the Acclimatisation Society. It followed Dr. Mueller's scientific approach, breeding animals that would be useful in the colony rather than providing exotic animals which would entertain.

The Melbourne and Suburban Railway Company opened the first line from Prince's Bridge to Punt Road on February 8, 1859, a distance of one and a half miles. The line passed through "the centre of the Richmond Paddock" with the journey's duration being five minutes, terminating at a narrow platform and a temporary station. It was expected the half-hourly service "will be a great convenience to the inhabitants."¹⁰ The construction of the railway had been delayed due to the "very unusual height of the Yarra swamp."¹¹ The line left Prince's Bridge along an embankment which finished at Jolimont Road. There, a level crossing enabled the line to traverse the Richmond Paddock. From March 2, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the train stopped at the Botanical Gardens platform "For the Accommodation of Visitors to the Cricket Ground and Botanical Gardens."¹² The platform was built adjacent to the footbridge over the railway line. This footbridge, close to today's old footbridge, led to the Botanical Gardens Bridge across the Yarra. This railway changed forever the dynamic of Richmond Paddock.

The other major change to the paddocks was the continuation of Swan Street west from Punt Road. Gazetted in August, 1859, the Corporation of Melbourne opposed the construction.¹³ An access track had existed for some years, but continued debate between the Melbourne and Richmond Councils, and the Government, as to who would fund the project, delayed construction. By April 1860, Richmond Council had constructed a "road" through the Richmond Paddocks, but according to the *Argus* "were guilty of misappropriation of their funds" as the extension was outside the municipal boundary.¹⁴ The arguments continued, so the City of Melbourne installed gates at Punt Road blocking access. By 1870, the road was open although its condition was "impassable". A public meeting of Richmond residents requested the Government not to issue any grant of Yarra Park land to the City of Melbourne "until the roadway was properly made, kerbed and channelled for traffic."¹⁵

In October, 1859, the Zoological Gardens "laid aside their usual dull and dreary aspect." The Caledonian Society of Victoria held a two-day fete with sporting and other amusements, the gardens "assumed quite a gay and animated appearance." The sports were held on an arena "600 yards in circumference", and a stand in the form of an amphitheatre, "capable of containing over 2000 persons" was erected. By midday more than 5000 people were in attendance, many of whom arrived by train. The Governor arrived, the flags of Great Britain, America and France were flown, national costumes were prevalent, and the highland bagpipes initiated the two days of sporting events.¹⁶

The events, on Friday October 8, included "throwing the heavy hammer", "putting the heavy stone", hurdle and flat races, a difficult sword-dance, the "Gillie Callum", the Highland fling, "running high leap", and the broad sword. In the flat race "some of the competitors had been permitted to run in drawers, which was both indecent and disgraceful, especially

THE RAILWAY PLATFORM IN RICHMOND PARK.

With this triumph of the limner's art we bring our first series of illustrations to a close. Need we describe it? Need we tell of the costly material of which it is constructed, or of the decorative ingenuity expended upon it? No; it speaks for itself, or if not, the party who generally sojourns in the mansion which tops it can speak for it. It is much used of enthusiastic cricketers and botanical garden promenaers, and if it were removed it would leave a hiatus which nothing, save perhaps a broader platform, could competently fill up.

N. B.—None of the above illustrations have been paid for as advertisements.

The Botanical platform in Yarra Park, *Melbourne Punch*, May 26, 1864, p.170.

before such a large concourse of ladies." In the hurdle race, "the stewards most properly interfered and refused to allow any person to run in such an unbecoming costume." The events continued into the evening, *The Age* noting on conclusion, "We may mention, as rather an extraordinary circumstance, and one that speaks well for the character of the persons present on the occasion, that we did not see during the whole day a single instance either of intoxication or of disorderly behaviour."¹⁷

Saturday, October 9, was more successful as "there could not have been less than 10,000 persons on the ground." Standing room around the arena was at a premium, while many others, "combining pleasure with economy, had taken up their station on the bridge over the Yarra, and in that elevated position commanding a good, though rather distant, view of the scene, appeared thoroughly to enjoy themselves." The second day program differed. Included were "hop, step and leap", "running jumps", "running in sacks", "tossing the caber", archery, "standing high leap", "putting the light stone", and "throwing the light hammer", 14lb. as opposed to the heavy hammer at 18lb. The latter event nearly ended in tragedy when a young boy's knee was grazed. "Had it (the light hammer) been propelled but a couple of inches farther, it must have inevitably killed the little fellow."¹⁸

In 1860, the second Caledonian Society Fete and Games was held. This became an annual event, leading to the society requesting land in the Zoological Gardens for the construction of a permanent stand. The City Council rejected the request on the grounds that, unlike cricket clubs, there would not be sufficient use of the land. Following this rejection, the Melbourne Cricket Ground became the venue for the next "Gathering" in 1861. "It is astonishing how little the ground has been injured by the 20,000 persons who have visited it during the three days of the Gathering."¹⁹

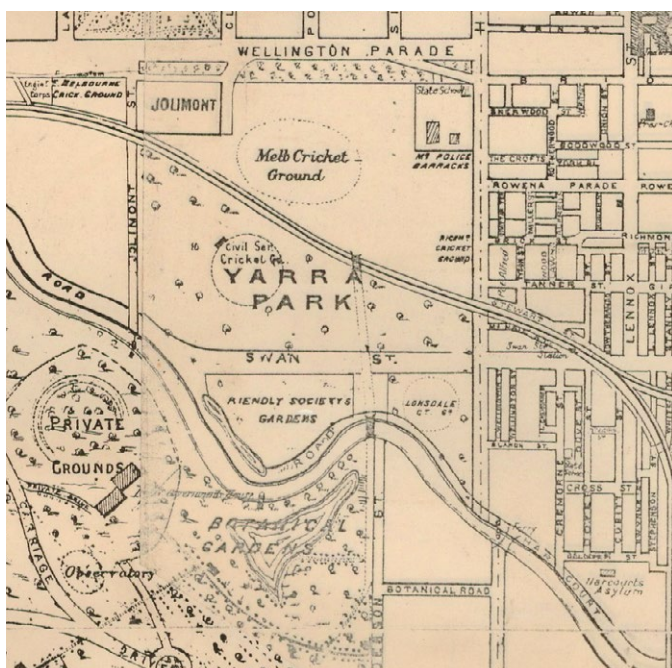
To the east, the Richmond Tradesmen's Cricket Club had begun playing matches on land in the vicinity of today's Gosch's Paddock. Formed in February 1858 at a meeting in the Oxford and Cambridge Hotel in Lennox St., Richmond, the club played limited matches until 1862.²⁰ Possibly their

most significant matches were against the Victorian XI. On January 6, 1859, 22 of the Tradesmen took the field against the Victorian team which included Tom Wills, William Hammersley, Jerry Bryant, and Gid Elliott.²¹ A year later, 18 Tradesmen participated in a similar contest. Although no match for the Victorians, the Tradesmen were commended "for coming forward with a view of giving the Eleven practice."²²

On December 15 1860, the *Victorian Farmers' Journal and Gardeners' Chronicle* reported that the Richmond Tradesmen's ground and surrounding areas were completely submerged by flood waters.²³ In spite of this, ten days later the club hosted a match against Royal Park.²⁴ By 1862, the Richmond Tradesmen's Cricket Club had disappeared, with the ground now occupied by the newly formed Lonsdale Cricket Club, a more substantial club than the former since it funded the fencing and preparation of the ground.²⁵ The Lonsdale Club, like its predecessor, and a few years earlier, the Melbourne Cricket Club at its first home (South of the Yarra), had significant problems with the ground flooding. In December 1863, the *Argus* reported on the "Great Storm and Flood". "The Lonsdale Cricket Ground was a sheet of water. The wooden bridge that spans the Yarra at the entrance to the Botanic Gardens presented a curious aspect, the arch seeming to spring from nothing more substantial than water on either bank. The Zoological gardens were entirely submerged, and the keeper's house and the little cottages near it had to be abandoned by the inmates."²⁶ The following year "The trees, which had been at considerable expense planted in the ground, had been completely destroyed by the late floods, but...the ground, it was hoped, would be in excellent condition for play during the ensuing season."²⁷ At the commencement of the 1864/65 season, the club boasted 55 members.

The Lonsdale Cricket Club played many of its matches against the second tier of cricket clubs. Theatre Royal, Herald, Press, and the second elevens of the MCC and Richmond were amongst Lonsdale's opponents. In 1864, "Although not possessing a single player of any note", the Lonsdale Club "managed to secure itself a name amongst the clubs of the colony - advertising a sensational match for the finale, with sides selected by Grace and Caffyn."²⁸ *The Age* reported the "grand match... attracted more spectators than have been seen on a cricket ground for some time past."²⁹ Many were there to see Grace bat, his last match before sailing for home. They were sadly disappointed, as Grace "was out kangaroo-hunting in the morning, and only arrived on the ground just in time to take the bat in the second innings on his side."³⁰ It was hardly worth his effort as he was bowled by the second ball he faced from Conway. *Bell's Life* was scathing in its report, "The whole affair savours rather of a miserable dodge to prostitute the noble game of cricket" and "The Lonsdale Club sought to gain notoriety; it has simply incurred ridicule."³¹

The Lonsdale Cricket Club seemed to disappear after 1867. The last reference in the papers of the day is in November, 1867. The town clerk advised the conditions of "permissive occupancy" granted to the Lonsdale Cricket Club, "two turnstiles to be placed in the fence, and forty trees to be planted."³² The ground had already seen rabbit-coursing with terriers, courtesy of the proprietor of the Sir Henry Barkly Hotel, in 1866. Then, in 1869, the *Age* reported "Baseball - the



Detail from Whitehead's map of Melbourne and Suburbs, 1880. (State Library of Victoria collection)



first match in the colony (if we mistake not) of this somewhat novel game will be played today on the Lonsdale cricket ground."³³ However, the *Age* made a mistake, as the first recorded baseball game in Melbourne took place a dozen years earlier.³⁴ The Lonsdale Cricket Club made a comeback in the 1870s, playing matches on what was then known as the Lonsdale cricket ground, the Lonsdale ground or the old Lonsdale cricket ground, until the end of the decade. It was not the only team to host matches on the ground. The Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Railway Cricket Club, Richmond Excelsior, South Richmond, and the Early Closing Cricket Clubs all utilized the ground. It was also used for football in the mid 1870s. The Lonsdale, Richmond Standard, and Cremorne Star Football Clubs all played matches here. The ground still appeared on Whitehead's map of Melbourne and Suburbs in 1880, but had disappeared from the Department of Lands and Survey map in 1882.

In October 1868, a deputation representing the various friendly societies approached the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey. The group requested that the "Old Zoological Gardens should be set apart for the use of the friendly societies of the colony."³⁵ The friendly societies provided social, sporting, economic and pastoral support for their members. Some twelve months later, a permissive grant was made, with a grand inauguration fete held on December 27 to celebrate the societies taking possession of the reserve. The day's festivities included "negroic melodies and eccentricities", band, a dancing tent and fairground amusements. In the centre of the reserve, a running track was fenced off, "in the centre a large trapeze was erected for the gymnastic performances."³⁶ This trapeze can be seen in the middle of the oval on the right in the 1874 panoramic photograph.

The Friendly Societies made extensive use of the gardens. The Protestant Alliance Society, Grand United Order of Oddfellows, Foresters, Ancient Order of Druids, and the Trade Union movement were some of the various organizations to celebrate and hold events encompassing fetes and sporting contests. Activities were as diverse as "Bicycle Steeplechase", "Old Buffers Race", riding a bicycle across a wire rope, and "Aunt Sally". Mademoiselle Mazoni Gelubeki "walked a rope 50 ft. in height and 500 ft. across the lagoon with great ease and verve", much to the delight of the crowd.³⁷ Mr. Gale attempted a balloon ascent, his unsuccessful result blamed on the poor quality of gas supplied by the Melbourne Gas Company.

Perhaps the biggest sporting extravaganza to be held in the gardens



was the 300 yard championship of the world in June, 1870. The combatants, Englishman Frank Hewitt, and the Colonial, John Harris, had already competed at the MCG. In a series of five races they had won two races each and controversially dead-heated in the 300 yards. The re-match in the Friendly Societies' Gardens was to determine the winner and 300 yard world champion (as seen on cover). Despite inclement weather which turned the site into a quagmire, the MCG curator, Mr. W.H. Treen, constructed a 300 yard straight track utilizing over 500 tons of gravel over an extended pathway. The course ran from west to east with a line of stakes, joined by rope, separating the two lanes. Many spectators crammed small platforms along the side of the track, while others found refuge in the trees



Top: The Friendly Society Gardens photographed from Government House tower. (State Library of NSW collection)

Right: The grandstand erected for the Caledonian Games in the then Zoological gardens. Published in *Newsletter of Australasia*, No. 39, November, 1859. (State Library of Victoria collection)



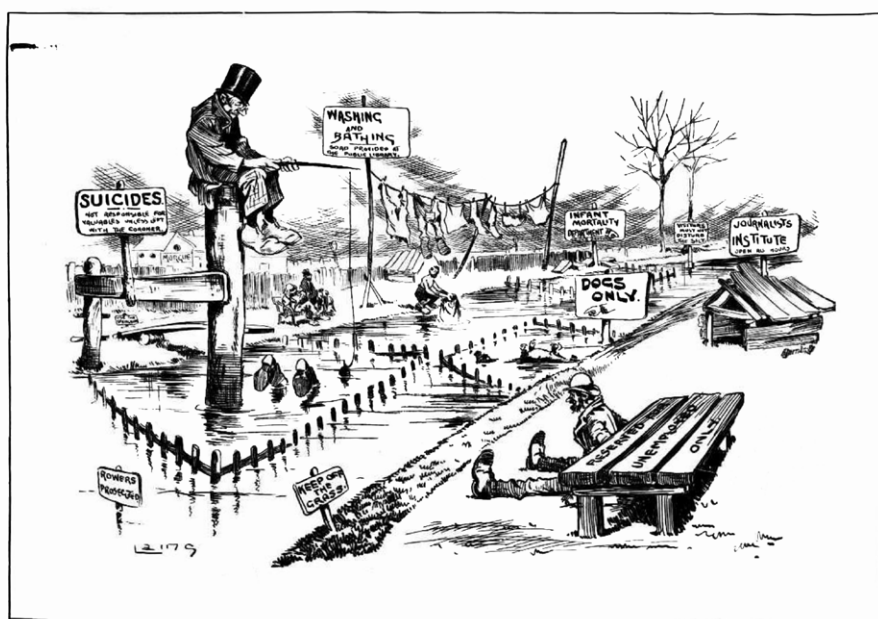
to escape the muddy conditions. As the runners approached the 200 yard mark, "one party of individuals, mounted on an elevated limb of a tree, were so demonstrative in their manifestations of delight, that they brought themselves to ground with an ominous crash."³⁸ Hewitt won the race by a "couple of yards" although the *Argus* reporter thought "towards the close of the race he perceptibly slackened his pace."³⁹ The time recorded by Colden Harrison was 30.5 sec., claimed as a world record, though there was significant doubt as to the accuracy of the timing.

Throughout the 1870s the Friendly Societies' Gardens continued to be one of the major entertainment venues in Melbourne. The *Illustrated Australian News* considered the "principal days on which the... grounds are seen at their best are New Year's day and Easter Monday, St. Patrick's day, Boxing day, and the anniversary of the trades' unions." "Being well situated and within easy walking distance of the city... as many as from twenty to thirty thousand well dressed and well fed men, women and children" often attended.⁴⁰ In 1872, the gardens were judged "the best kept gardens in the city," defeating the Botanical and Carlton gardens in the process.⁴¹

Football became a major attraction in the Friendly Societies' Gardens during the 1880s. Melbourne Football Club was a tenant from 1885 to 1890, predominantly playing its August and September matches there, while the MCG was prepared for cricket. (These were the days when cricket ruled!) One of the earliest football matches in the gardens was the 1868 match between Scotch

College and The Geelong College. The *Argus* reported on the resultant controversy with letters to the editor from both captains. According to The Geelong College captain, "our Geelong youths had to wait for some time outside while the Melbourne gentlemen were taking their lunch." Then, when the teams arrived at the Zoological ground "it was found that the latter (Scotch) had left the football behind." Once retrieved, the ball "turned out to be such a poor state of repair that a few kicks put it completely *hors de combat*." Obtaining another ball wasted further precious minutes, time that the Geelong team was keen to make up after the scheduled finish. The "Melbourne players cried 'time', and refused to respond to the ardour of the Geelongese, who were anxious to play it out... The Melbourne youths being afraid of being beaten by the Geelong collegians."⁴² The Scotch College captain refuted these claims.

The most spectacular extravaganza in Melbourne to date was the pyrotechnic performance of "The Last days of Pompeii", in October, 1887. The arrival of the Governor and his party "was the signal for the illumination of Pompeii by the electric light; and thus irradiated the city which is built up on three planes on the south side of the lagoon...For the sake of effect, the amphitheatre, the Temple of Isis, and the house of Arbaces – not yet discovered – are grouped together near the quay, and this affords a sufficiently large arena for the spectacular display which follows."⁴³ "Amusement and enjoyment are at their height, when a sudden darkness falls on the city... There is almost a smell of sulphur in the air...the first rumbling crack is heard; a building falls, then another and another... Vesuvius has become active... the galleys (on the lagoon) are thronged to sinking."⁴⁴ "The whole spectacle is an impressive one, and constitutes a vivid presentation of one of the most tremendous cataclysms recorded in the history of the world since the Christian era...The pyrotechnic display which followed was enhanced in brilliancy, like the eruption itself, by the gloomy condition of the atmosphere."⁴⁵



THE YARRA IMPROVEMENTS.

Above: Punt Road in flood, 1891. On the left is Shakespeare Terrace, the railway bridge in the centre, and the Richmond Cricket ground on the right. (State Library of Victoria Collection)

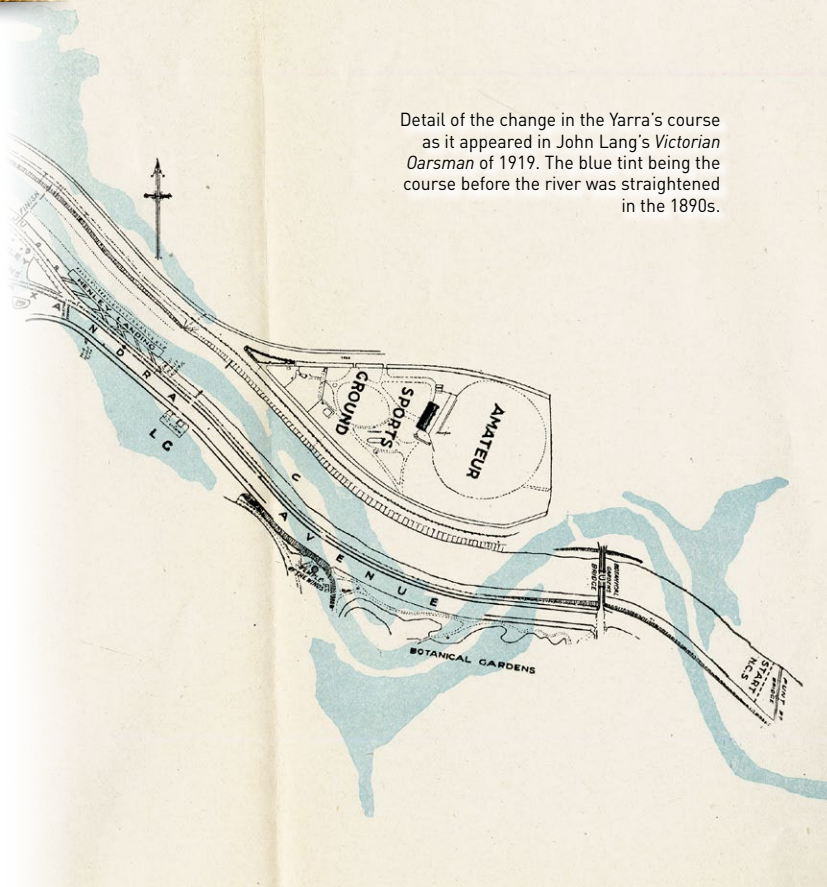
Right: "Yarra Improvements" satirical cartoon, in *Freelance*, July 16, 1896, p.9.



Other activities as diverse as “Wrestling on Horseback”, the United Fire-brigades Tournament, hurling, and cycling, were held in 1887. The latter two sports are well-known, however, “Wrestling on Horseback” requires description. The competitors were the world champion, American Sam Mathews, and Australian rough rider Rafferty. The contest consisted of the best of five “falls”, a “fall” being awarded when any part of the opponent’s body or his two feet touched the ground. One foot was allowed to touch the ground, however, and the protagonists could grapple either man or beast. Mathews easily prevailed, with three “falls” to one.⁴⁶ The United Fire-brigades Tournament, held in conjunction with the United Fire-brigades Jubilee Demonstration, attracted teams from interstate, metropolitan and country brigades. Events included engine practice, hose practice, and the ladder race, and two band contests, brass and fife, and drums. Held over three days, *The Age* estimated 6000 to 7000 were present on the first day,⁴⁷ the *Weekly Times* more conservatively 4500.⁴⁸

The fetes, sports, and entertainments of the friendly societies, and others, continued unabated until work began to straighten the Yarra River. In 1896, plans were put into place to change the course of the river, utilizing the lagoons in the Friendly Societies’ Gardens west of Punt Road. This work was aimed at improving the flow of the river to reduce the level of flooding that had occurred in 1891. Possibly considered one of Melbourne’s worst floods, “a great waste of waters spread itself between Punt Road and Prince’s Bridge, extending from the Botanical Gardens on the one side to the railway line on the other.”⁴⁹ The Friendly Societies’ Gardens were completely inundated, one of many areas to be affected. From 1892, the councils along the river began discussions on improvements to the river. Straightening, widening, deepening were to prevent flooding, and the reduction of effluent flowing into the river would improve sanitation. Talks continued until 1896, when a conference of the Melbourne, Richmond and Prahran Councils, together with the Minister of Public Works, agreed on a definite scheme based on recommendations from The Yarra Floods Board, the estimated cost, 63,000 pounds.⁵⁰ This scheme resulted in a reduction in the area of the Friendly Societies’ Gardens, but an increase in the land area to the east.

Following the re-alignment of the river and the consequent loss of land in the Friendly Societies’ Gardens, in 1897, a new



Detail of the change in the Yarra’s course as it appeared in John Lang’s *Victorian Oarsman* of 1919. The blue tint being the course before the river was straightened in the 1890s.

bicycle track was constructed. Cycling events had been held in the gardens since the early 1880s although the races were simply held on the oval, conditions far from ideal. The new track, purpose-built with soil excavated from the new path of the river, included banked curves and an asphalt surface, “the finest in Australia”. “When The League of Wheelmen, believing the trustees dead... made an effort to secure the gardens for themselves the trustees saw what excellent possibilities were in front of them, and set to work with commendable energy to bring their property up to date... To build the new track the old gardens have been altered almost out of recognition... Round the track ample accommodation has been afforded for 30,000 people, and opposite the finish is a grandstand with seats for 2000.” The gardens were rebuilt, resulting in “as fine pleasure grounds as may be found anywhere.”⁵¹

The realignment of the Yarra left the area south of Swan Street as we know it today, and the new cycling track was the first major piece of infrastructure in what would become a significant part of Melbourne and Olympic Parks.

Endnotes

1. *Age*, June 30, 1858, p.5
2. *Age*, June 15, 1858, p.6
3. *Age*, February 27, 1858, p.5
4. *Age*, February 27, 1858, p.5
5. *Argus*, January 29, 1859, p.5
6. *Argus*, August 24, 1859, p.5
7. *Argus*, May 29, 1861, p.5
8. *Melbourne Punch*, October 4, 1860, p.4.
9. *Geelong Advertiser*, August 9, 1861, p.3.
10. *Age*, February 9, 1859, p.4.
11. *Age*, February 14, 1859, p.6.
12. *Age*, March 11, 1859, p.1.
13. *Argus*, November 1, 1860, p.5.
14. *Argus*, April 19, 1860, p.5.
15. *Age*, may 4, 1870, p.3.
16. *Age*, October 8, 1859, p.5.
17. *Age*, October 8, 1859, p.5.
18. *Age*, October 10, 1859, p.5.
19. *Argus*, December 30, 1861, p.5.
20. *Bell’s Life in Victoria*, February 20, 1858, p.3.
21. *Age*, January 7, 1859, p.5.
22. *Argus*, January 20, 1860, p.5.
23. *Victorian Farmers’ Journal and Gardeners’ Chronicle*, December 15, 1860, p.7.
24. *Age*, December 24, 1860, p.5.
25. *Argus*, September 28, 1863, p.5.
26. *Argus*, December 17, 1863, p.5.
27. *Age*, September 28, 1864, p.5.
28. *Bell’s Life in Victoria*, May 28, 1864, p.2.
29. *Age*, May 25, 1864, p.4.
30. *Argus*, May 25, 1864, p.5.
31. *Bell’s Life in Victoria*, May 28, 1864, p.2.
32. *Argus*, November 11, 1867, p.6.
33. *Age*, Jun 5, 1869, p.3.
34. The first reported game of baseball in Melbourne was 12 years earlier in 1857. *Bell’s Life in Victoria*, March 7, 1857, p.4.
35. *Argus*, October 28, 1868, p.7.
36. *Age*, November 29, 1869, p.3.
37. *Weekly Times*, November 11, 1871, p.11.
38. *Age*, June 27, 1870, p.3.
39. *Argus*, June 27, 1870, p.5.
40. *Illustrated Australian News*, April 12, 1879, p.10.
41. *Melbourne Punch*, January 4, 1872, p.2.
42. *Argus*, September 1, 1868, p.5.
43. *Argus*, October 31, 1887, p.9.
44. *Age*, December 12, 1887, p.8.
45. *Argus*, October 31, 1887, p.9.
46. *Sportsman*, December 21, 1887, p.7.
47. *Age*, February 25, 1887, p.5.
48. *Weekly Times*, February 26, 1887, p.12.
49. *Australasian*, July 18, 1891, p.34.
50. *Prahran Chronicle*, July 11, 1896, p.3.
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Bill Brunton's Avenue

By Trevor Ruddell

Of the streets of East Melbourne and Jolimont, only Brunton Avenue abuts the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). It passes through the tight gap between the Great Southern Stand and the railway lines. From 1992 a portion of the MCG's concourse has partially extended over the road. At 80 years old this year, its passage through Yarra Park was determined by these two much older pre-existing properties and the similarly ancient Punt Road Oval.

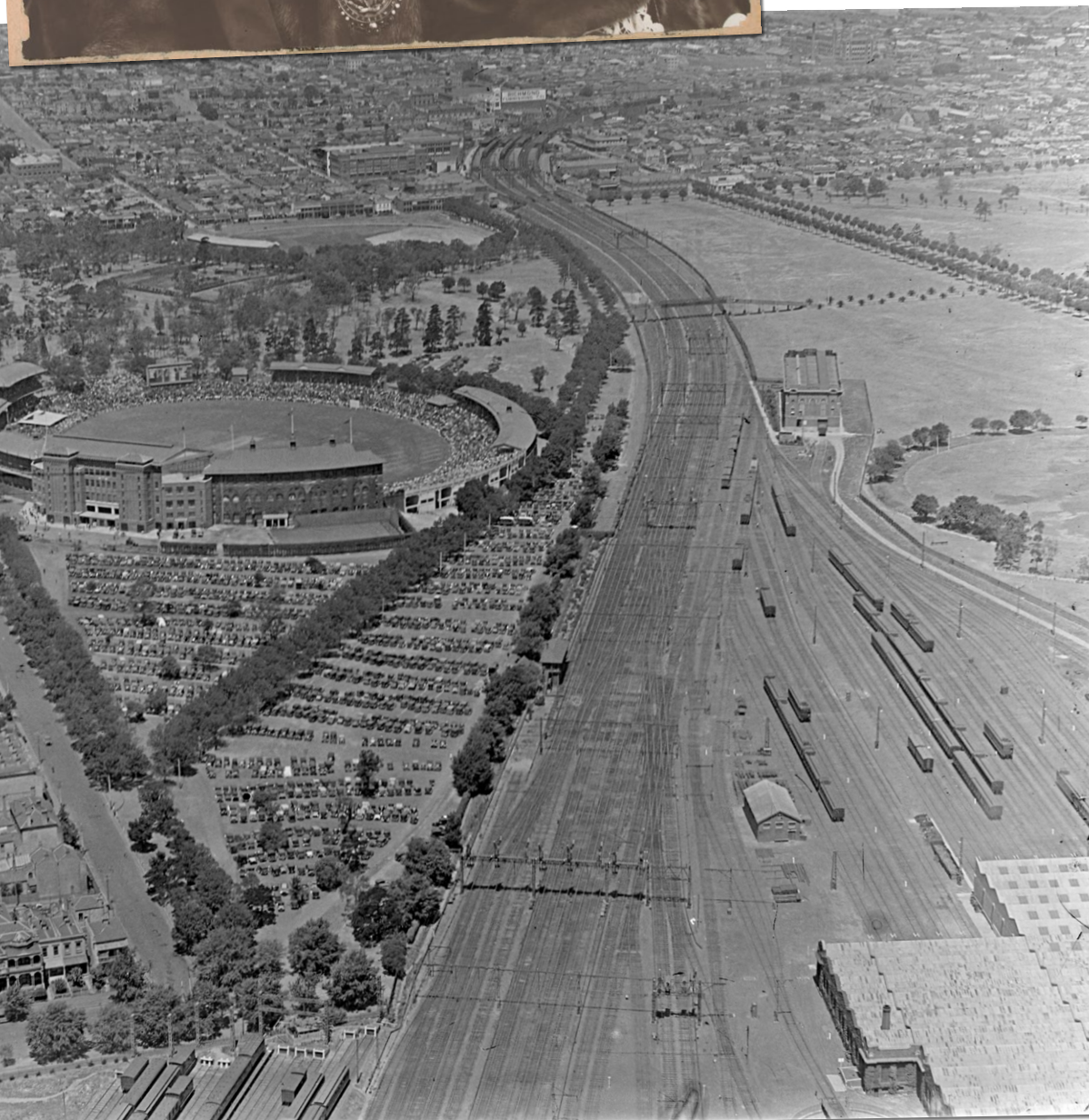
Brunton Avenue was built in 1938 as an arterial route to a proposed Hoddle Bridge (popularly known as the Punt Road Bridge) over the Yarra River. The new bridge would link the Punt Roads in Richmond and South Yarra, and replace a two span steel footbridge that had crossed the river there from 1895. This earlier structure was engineered primarily to carry a 36" water main and, as it

predated automobiles, it was unsuited for the carriage of cars and trucks. Therefore, to facilitate movement across the Yarra, and ease commuter traffic on other bridges, a new four lane "decorative concrete pylon lantern style" bridge was built there in 1938.¹

The Melbourne City Council anticipated that the new bridge would also lead to a greater volume of traffic. Therefore, to alleviate congestion on roads in the city and East Melbourne, an outlet linking the city, via Jolimont Road to Punt Road through Yarra Park was to be constructed simultaneously with Hoddle Bridge.

Top: Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Cr. William Brunton, J.P. c.1923. (State Library of Victoria collection)

Left: MCG showing parked cars west of the MCG in the 1920s. There is no road right of the MCG, where Brunton Avenue would be, just an un-mimed track. (State Library of Victoria collection)





Although an unformed foot track had long existed there, the new four lane road would be built from scratch. Sustenance labour, "the susso", would largely clear, compact, level, grade and asphalt the new road. While the economy was improving in the late 1930s, the ongoing effects of the Great Depression were lingering, and as late as 1938 joblessness was still an issue. Therefore, governments would employ otherwise jobless labourers for public works at a pay rate below the award. Some viewed this as relief work for the armies of the unemployed, but others saw it as the exploitation of the desperate. After the work on the road had been completed, Bartley Deveney, a Melbourne City Council alderman, ignored repeated points of order to proclaim, "that the council should be ashamed of Brunton Avenue because it had been built by sustenance labour."²

On June 14 the council's Public Works Committee recommended that the road be named Brunton Avenue, after the late alderman and Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sir William Brunton. Brunton had died earlier that year on April 13, 1938, in Sydney, where he had married his second wife in 1932. His beginning was humble. He was born in Carlton in 1867 and, after his father's death, he was apprenticed as a carpenter and joiner at 13. When he was 20 years old he joined his uncle's iron working business and rose to a position of management. A capable businessman he would accept directorships at a number of other companies. He was elected to the Melbourne City Council for the North Carlton Ward in 1913, and in 1923 he was elected Lord Mayor, a position he held until he relinquished it in 1926.

His time on the council was productive. Soon after his election as Mayor, Brunton established the ongoing Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund for Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities. However, he first came to wide public prominence in 1923 when he facilitated the recruitment and co-ordination of 5000 special constables to replace striking police. In 1926 he was instrumental in raising £200,000 for bushfire victims in

Top: The Brunton Avenue memorial drinking fountain at the corner of Jolimont Street and Brunton Avenue.

Right: The path of the new road as published in the *Herald*, December 14, 1938, p.10.

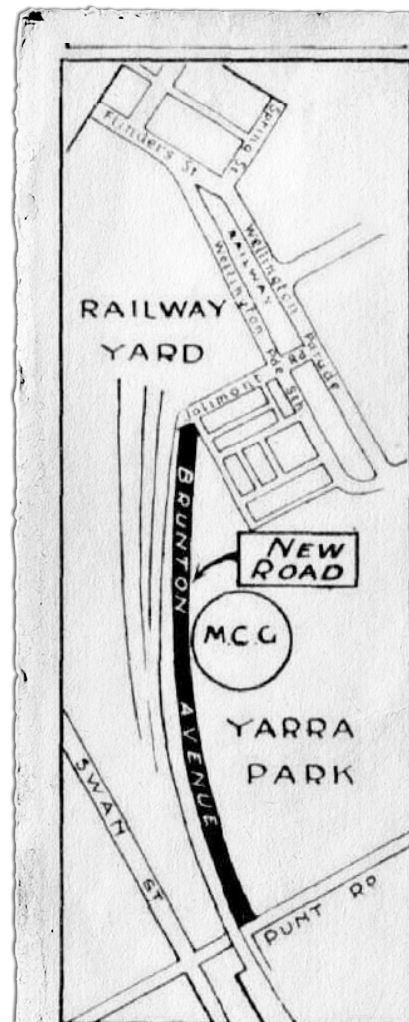
Gippsland, and was knighted that year. Brunton was elected as a city alderman in 1929. He chaired the National War Memorial of Victoria Committee, and was involved in the creation of the Shrine of Remembrance.

Socially he was a member of the Athenaeum Society and was a Freemason, but Brunton also had a passion for sport and was an advocate of parks and gardens for public recreation. He was president of the Victorian Bowling Association from 1925 to 1938, and was associated with the Princes Park, Victoria, Armadale and Carlton lawn bowls clubs, where he was known as "Bill". He was an avid supporter of the Carlton cricket and football teams, and was a Melbourne Cricket Club member from 1906/07 to 1936/37.

Brunton Avenue was largely completed by mid-August, however, it would be some months before it was opened to traffic.³ It was observed that one of

the vertical supports of the footbridge over the railway lines was in the centre of the new road. While some at the Town Hall thought that it would not be hazardous, members of the traffic committee thought otherwise, anticipating that "the road through the park will be a fast thoroughfare, like Alexander avenue, they think that there is a great danger that motor-cars may strike the support, which is surrounded by a graded mound. As the support is not very heavy an accident might cause part of the footbridge to collapse."⁴ The pillar's removal was undertaken by the Railways Department at the Melbourne City Council's expense.

Brunton Avenue was opened to traffic without formality on December 14, 1938. Hoddle Bridge opened six days later on December 20, by the Premier of Victoria, Albert Dunstan. Associated with Brunton Avenue's construction are two granite Art Deco drinking fountains at either end of the road, the western fountain is at the corner of Jolimont Street, and the eastern one is on the corner of AFL Way, a track through



Yarra Park adjacent to the Punt Road Oval. Both are engraved “Brunton Avenue”, and serve the purpose of sign post and memorial. That they are fountains is also fitting as Brunton served as a member for the council on the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works from 1919 to 1930. In the mid to late 1930s the Melbourne City Council honoured recently deceased lord mayors, aldermen, and councillors with public drinking fountains in its parks and gardens. There are near identical fountains inscribed “Stapley Parade” (1936) at Birrarung Marr, and “Hardy Reserve” (1939) in North Carlton, while those engraved “Reynolds Reserve” (c.1935) at Princes Park and “Elliot Avenue” (1936) in Parkville have similar designs too.⁵ The two Brunton Avenue fountains were not the first associated with Brunton. In 1930 a granite and bluestone drinking fountain in Curtain Square, North Carlton, was presented by him to the City of Melbourne.



While the Brunton Avenue fountains serve as memorials to a man, another decorative feature serves as a commemoration of an event. Along the north side of Brunton Avenue, extending from Jolimont Street to the MCG is a line of English oaks. They arrived as acorns with the Great Britain Olympic team in 1956. They were presented to the City of Melbourne, “by British industrialists... and planted on this site to commemorate the Olympic Games of 1956.” The City of Melbourne cast and erected a plaque to acknowledge the gift, which is located near the MCG practice wickets and in the shadow of the footbridge over the railway tracks to the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne Park.

Brunton Avenue, built by people down on their luck, and named after a knight who had a precarious childhood, will always be a part of Yarra Park. Other memorials may in future be added along the road, or a portion of it may even be totally enclosed – as had been proposed. But today it is an intrinsic part of the city’s road network and, as an entry point to the MCG and its carpark, a fundamental part of the MCG’s architecture.

Top: Brunton Avenue’s Olympic Games English oaks, planted in 1956.

Left: The plaque commemorating the Olympic Games English oaks.



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Remembering “Bluey”

Per Ardua Ad Astra – Through Adversity to the Stars

by Lynda Carroll

It has been 75 years this March since Keith William “Bluey” Truscott died in a plane crash over the Bay of Rest, Exmouth Gulf, in Western Australia.

Truscott’s was a life dominated by sport and war. His presence is felt still, with an In Memoriam notice placed in the *Herald Sun* each 28 March – the anniversary of his death – by the family of late teammate, Wally Lock. Every year, too, he is remembered at the Melbourne Football Club’s best and fairest awards. His memory is cherished deeply at Melbourne, being a war hero and a premierships player, who celebrated this win by writing following – but often unsung – verses of the club’s theme song.¹

This abiding affection has arisen because Truscott was a memorable character; one who flew high, lived large, and despite obstacles achieved more in his short life than most could ever expect to experience.²

A product of Melbourne High School, where he led and excelled in both cricket and football,³ Truscott made his senior debut for Melbourne in 1937, playing in two wins in his first two games.⁴ Coach “Checker” Hughes came to hold him in high regard as part of a dynamic forward combination, describing him as “that red-headed bullet, ‘Bluey’ Truscott.”⁵ While not glamorous or soaring, the stocky Truscott was a renowned team player, blessed with a handy sense of on field anticipation. He went on to play in the 1939 and 1940 premierships sides, the latter after enlisting in the RAAF in July 1940.

In 1939, Truscott was named as one of the best players in the premierships win against Collingwood, with Melbourne legend Ivor Warne-Smith writing in his grand final review in the *Argus* that “Every man

in Melbourne’s team was a good player... Truscott... for his great play on the half-forward flank”.⁶ With two goals to his credit, and the club’s first premierships since Warne-Smith himself dominated the competition in 1926, it was completely appropriate that Truscott was one of the most enthusiastic in celebration. In later years, “Checker” Hughes related that, after a celebratory meal, various characters landed at the Collingwood Town Hall, whereupon “ ‘Bluey’ and Wally Lock produced big bunches of flowers and solemnly laid them on the steps of the Town Hall.”⁷

The next season – 1940 – was more of a challenge for Truscott. As well as being seriously knocked out early on, he had to balance the overlap between RAAF enlistment and football.⁸ However, despite missing eleven games during the regular season, he was named as nineteenth man in the second semi-final against Richmond, and kicked four goals – sharing the leading goal kicking honours with Ron Baggott – in the side’s narrow loss to the Tigers, as well as being named as one of the best players.⁹ Despite the loss, the following weeks saw a grand final berth and a second VFL premierships for Truscott, before military service enveloped him.

As he had taken on challenges on the football field, so Truscott then had to face the battles of learning to fly. Training was arduous and nearly too much for the fledgling pilot. However, perseverance won out, and “Bluey” – even in those early days noted for “courage and determination” – took to the skies to cement a legend.¹⁰

Making his way through the Empire Air Training Scheme in Canada, Truscott went on to fly in the Battle of Britain with No. 452 Squadron RAAF, ultimately becoming (Acting) Squadron Leader. He achieved air ace status for shooting down at least eleven German aircraft (as well as three “probables” and three damaged), and was recognised with a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and Bar.¹¹ His popularity and appeal was such that the Marquess of Donegall established a fund to which the “redheads of Britain” donated £500 in order that Truscott could have his “own” Spitfire, fondly captioned by the Marquess as “Gingerbread”.¹²

When Truscott returned to Australia in 1942, he was toughened and tired by his wartime experiences. Upon contacting “Checker” Hughes while on leave, Truscott took the rare and welcome opportunity to play another game in the red and blue. It was one last game for “Bluey”; his 50th senior game for Melbourne. Unfortunately, it would not be on the MCG, which had been commandeered by the Commonwealth for war purposes, but on the Punt Road Oval nearby.¹³

It was a memorable day for all concerned, with Truscott at the heart of the occasion. Instead of his customary No. 5, he wore No. 1, and was named captain for the day. His mother Maude was also invited to unfurl the Demons’ 1941 premierships pennant before the match. The crowd spilled over the boundary line to greet him. There were around 20,000



Left: William “Bluey” Truscott, October 1942. (Australian War Memorial collection)



Above: Truscott and Melbourne coach Frank "Checker" Hughes prepare for the famous 1942 match against Richmond.

spectators there, delighted to see "Bluey" back in action.

It was a welcome struggle for him, lacking training and match fitness, but he still managed to kick a goal.¹⁴ Some believe the Tigers were generous to "Bluey", but Richmond dominated much of the match, running away to a 79-point win, after Melbourne had led by one point at the first break.¹⁵ However, it was not really the outcome of the game that mattered, for it was truly a celebration of "Bluey" Truscott.

Shortly after, Truscott was back in the thick of the action, now with No. 76 Squadron as the Battle of Milne Bay raged in horrendous conditions, heightened by treacherous airstrips and oppressive terrain. The death in action of Peter Turnbull saw Truscott become Squadron Leader,¹⁶ and in 1943, he was Mentioned In Dispatches (MID) for his efforts in repelling the enemy.¹⁷

Far away, Truscott's English fiancée, Margaret, was making plans to join him in Australia.¹⁸

There would be no reunion. On March 28, 1943, Squadron Leader Truscott – by now stationed in Western Australia –

was coming into the Bay of Rest, Exmouth Gulf, as part of a Catalina flying boat escort, flying his Kittyhawk over glassy water; flying too low. He crashed, and was killed on impact.¹⁹

The news reverberated around the world. Keith William Truscott was gone, laid to rest in Karrakatta Military Cemetery in Western Australia, visited in later years by "Checker" Hughes and former Melbourne teammates.²⁰

"Bluey" has never been forgotten. Shortly after his death, Truscott Airfield was established on the Anjo Peninsula in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia.²¹ Now known as Mungululu Truscott Airbase, it is used primarily for transporting oil and gas workers to and from the Timor Sea, as well as for emergency operations.²² With many wartime relics still to be found, the site is also recognised for its heritage value.²³

Fundraising undertaken in Truscott's name across the football and wider community was endowed on Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital, with a plaque commemorating him to this day.²⁴ In an ongoing honour, the Melbourne High School Old Boys' Association offers one or two Bluey Truscott Scholarships each year to Year 10 students who display all round excellence, also recalling "Bluey" for his "sense of humour and practical jokes".²⁵

Truscott is particularly remembered through Melbourne's best and fairest award. In 1943, "Checker" Hughes instituted the Keith "Bluey" Truscott Memorial Shield and Trophy as part of the honour. The Shield is a perpetual one, with the name of Melbourne's winner engraved on a small silver football every year since 1943, Truscott's name at its centre. Donald Corder was the first to be thus recognised.²⁶

The best and fairest winner also receives a trophy with Truscott's name on it.²⁷ It is another lasting reminder of his story and meaning to the Melbourne Football Club, the game and our story.

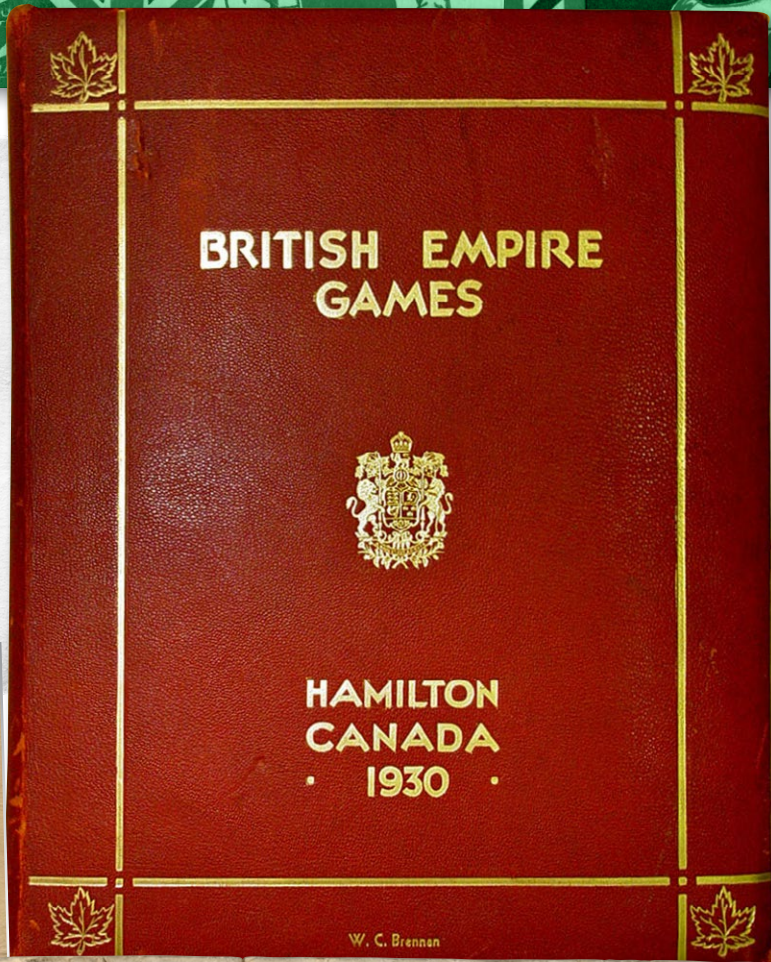
We will always remember "Bluey".

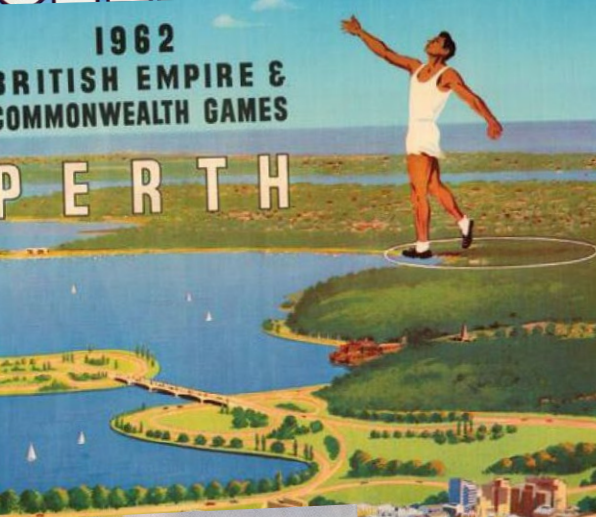
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Remembering Empire and Commonwealth Games

All multi-sport games produce a wealth of literature. To commemorate 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, *The Yorker* presents items from the MCC Library's collection. This page has a number of items from the first Empire Games at Hamilton, Canada. The following pages have an array of publications and ephemera from Empire and Commonwealth Games that were staged in Australia - Sydney 1938, Perth 1962, Brisbane 1982, Melbourne 2006 and Gold Coast 2018.





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BRITISH EMPIRE GAMES

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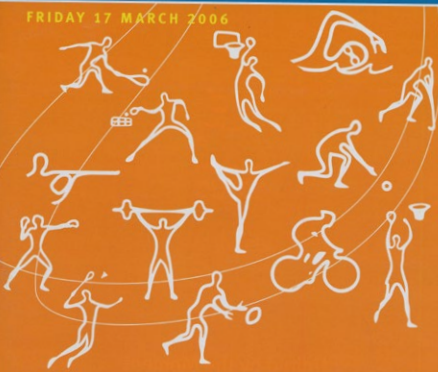
Issue 12 Sunday 26 March 2006



MELBOURNE 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES
DAILY EVENTS

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FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2006



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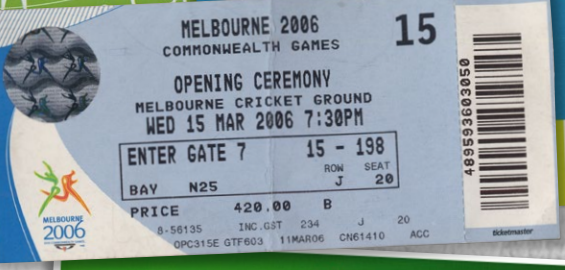
THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2006

Day 4

SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2006



25 March 6:30pm
Ballot

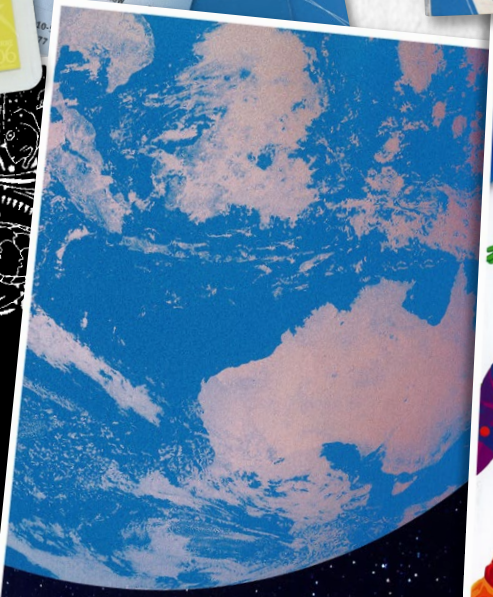


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Bearing “A Handsome Banner”

Australia’s Olympic and Commonwealth Games’ Flags

By Trevor Ruddell

The Australian flag first appeared at the Olympic Games’ parade of nations at London in 1908. However, it was not the flag Australia currently has, the team was not styled Australia but Australasia, and the flag bearer was a New Zealander.

The first parade of nations at the Olympic Games opening ceremony took place in 1908 at Shepherd’s Bush, London. Previously athletes competed as individuals or, for team sports, clubs were styled with the name of the nation from which they hailed. Australia/Australasia was without an Olympic Committee in 1908 and the management of the team fell to amateur sport officials. Following the announcement that there was to be an opening parade reviewed by His Majesty King Edward VII, on Monday July 13, 1908, Queensland’s Charles Campbell and Victoria’s William Hill sent urgent cables to the federal government stressing “the absolute necessity” of a uniform “worthy of the nation”. Campbell wrote, “After some strenuous ‘battling’ by Mr. Hill, a sum has been set aside for the purpose, and for the first time in the history of the Olympic Games Australasia’s men will step forth headed by a handsome banner, and costumed alike in the green and wattle of the land so dear to them.”¹ It would not be until the following Olympiad that Australian women competed at an Olympics.

In 1908 and 1912 a combined Australian and New Zealand team competed as Australasia. In both games a New Zealander carried the Australian flag – the hurdler Hugh Murray in 1908 and Auckland swimmer Malcolm Champion in 1912. Harry Gordon described the selections as “a diplomatic enough solution to a problem of dual identity.”²

The “handsome banner” that was carried before the Australasian teams was an Australian red ensign. From February 1903 an Australian blue ensign was reserved for the exclusive use by government institutions, events, and properties. The red version was labelled Australia’s *Merchant* flag, and could be used liberally by civilians.³ A distinctive feature of the Australian flag, the Commonwealth Star beneath the Union Jack, had six points at the time of the



AUSTRALASIA
Olympic Games 1908-1912

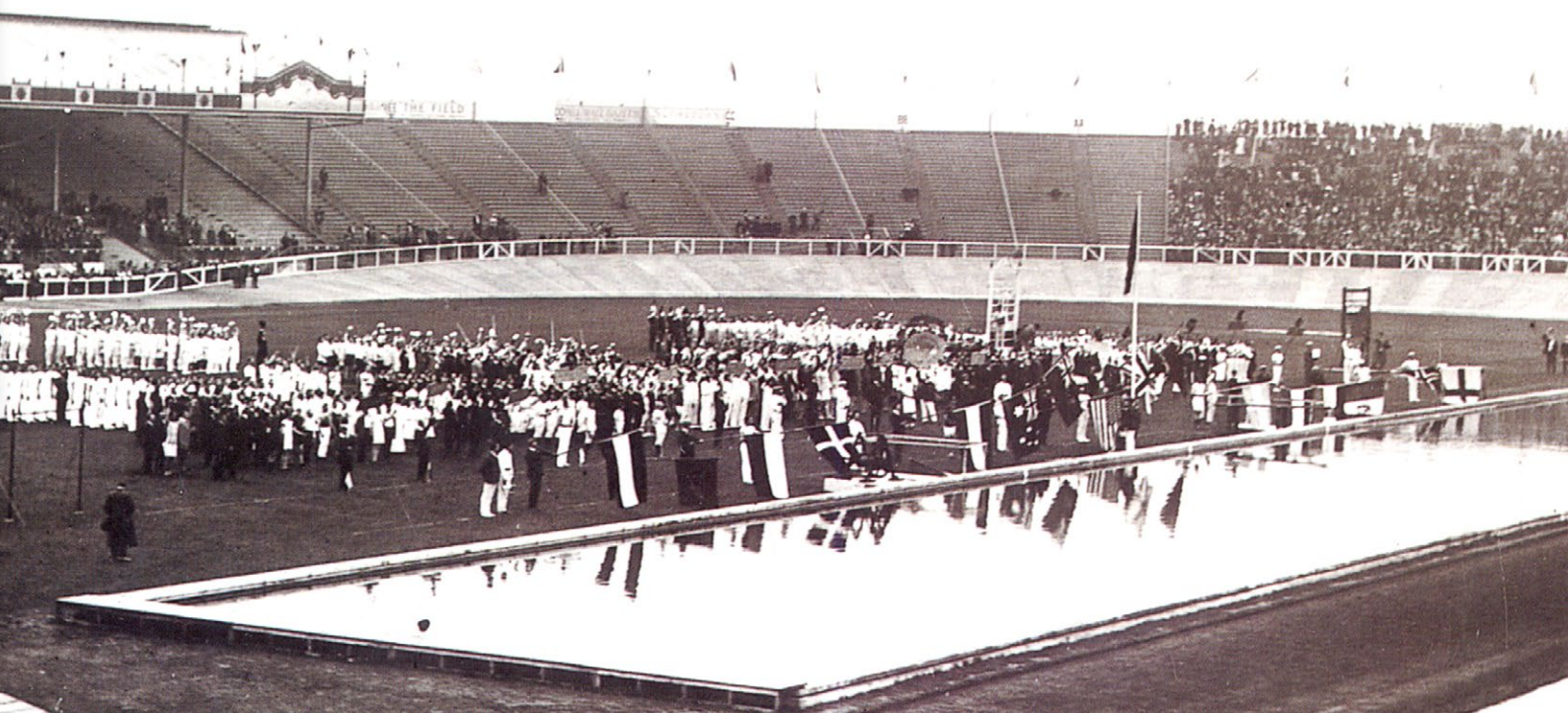


AUSTRALIA
Olympic Games 1920-1936
Empire Games 1930-1938
Winter Olympic Games 1936, 1952



AUSTRALIA
Olympic Games 1948-1976 and from 1984
Empire/Commonwealth Games from 1950
Winter Olympic Games from 1956

Below: The flags of the world are dipped at the opening ceremony of the 1908 Olympic Games in London. The Australian flag is clearly identifiable by the Commonwealth star.



1908 parade of nations. The points represented the number of Australian states. A few months after the games, the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* of December 19, 1908, announced that the star would be altered through the addition of a seventh point. This was to represent Australia's territories (initially the Mandated Territory of Papua) and to be consistent with the crest of the Australian Coat of Arms. However, the 1912 Australasian Olympic team marched behind the old, and now outdated, 1903-08 Australian red ensign with a six-pointed Commonwealth Star.

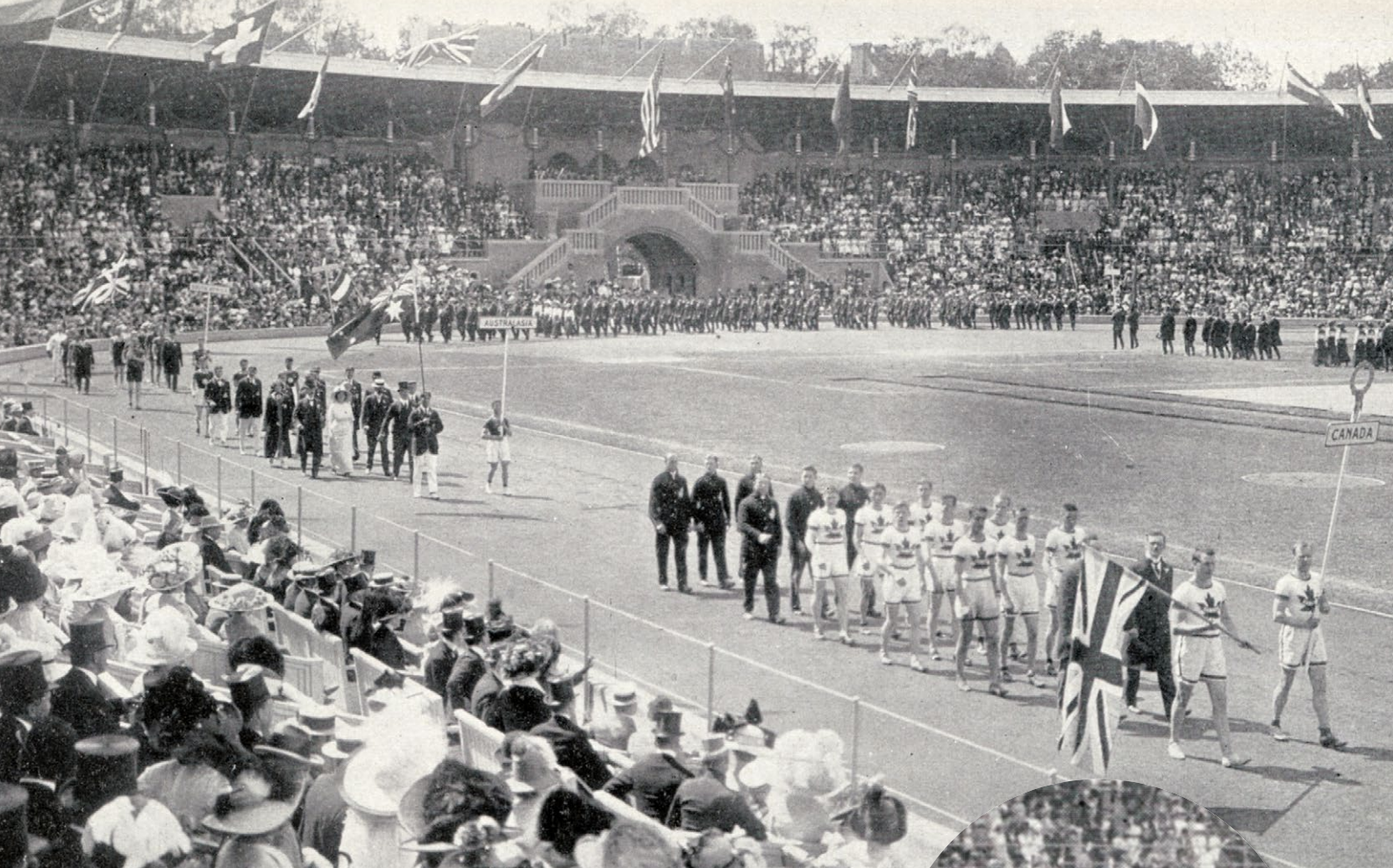
In 1920 Australia and New Zealand sent separate Olympic teams to Antwerp. The order of the parade of nations was alphabetical, but unlike 1908 and 1912 when the Australasian team was grouped with Great Britain and other British dominions, the 1920 Australians led the parade.⁴ The first Australian flag bearer, New South Wales' George Parker, would win a silver medal for the 3000 metres walk at these games. He held aloft a contemporary Australian red ensign for the parade. Two decades later, in 1941, Prime Minister Robert Menzies issued a directive that, "there should be no unnecessary restriction placed on the flying of the Blue Ensign on shore", and at the next Olympic Games, the 1948 London Olympics, the Australian team first marched under an Australian blue ensign. Yet it was not until November 1953 with the passing of the *Flag Act 1953* that the Australian blue ensign was proclaimed the national flag, with the red ensign being retained by Australian merchant shipping.

Above: The Australasian Olympic team marches behind the Australian flag at the opening ceremony of the 1912 Olympic Games at Stockholm.



Olympic Games Flag Bearers

	Opening Ceremony	Closing Ceremony
1920 Antwerp (Belgium)	George Parker	
1924 Paris (France)	Edwin "Slip" Carr	
1928 Amsterdam (Netherlands)	Bobby Pearce	
1932 Los Angeles (United States)	Andrew "Boy" Charlton	
1936 Berlin (Germany)	Edgar "Dunc" Gray	
1948 London (Great Britain)	Les McKay	
1952 Helsinki (Finland)	Mervyn Wood	
1956 Melbourne (Australia)	Mervyn Wood	
1960 Rome (Italy)	Jock Sturrock	
1964 Tokyo (Japan)	Ivan Lund	Dawn Fraser
1968 Mexico City (Mexico)	Bill Roycroft	Eric Pierce
1972 Munich (West Germany)	Dennis Green	Michael Wenden
1976 Montreal (Canada)	Raelene Boyle	Robert Haigh
1980 Moscow (Soviet Union)	Denise Boyd (nee Robertson) Max Metzker	John Sumegi
1984 Los Angeles (United States)	Wayne Roycroft	Dean Lukin
1988 Seoul (South Korea)	Ric Charlesworth	Debbie Flintoff-King
1992 Barcelona (Spain)	Jenny Donnet	Kieren Perkins
1996 Atlanta (United States)	Andrew Hoy	Mike McKay
2000 Sydney (Australia)	Andrew Gaze	Ian Thorpe
2004 Athens (Greece)	Colin Beashel	Petria Thomas
2008 Beijing (China)	James Tomkins	Stephanie Rice
2012 London (Great Britain)	Lauren Jackson	Malcolm Page
2016 Rio (Brazil)	Anna Meares	Kim Brennan



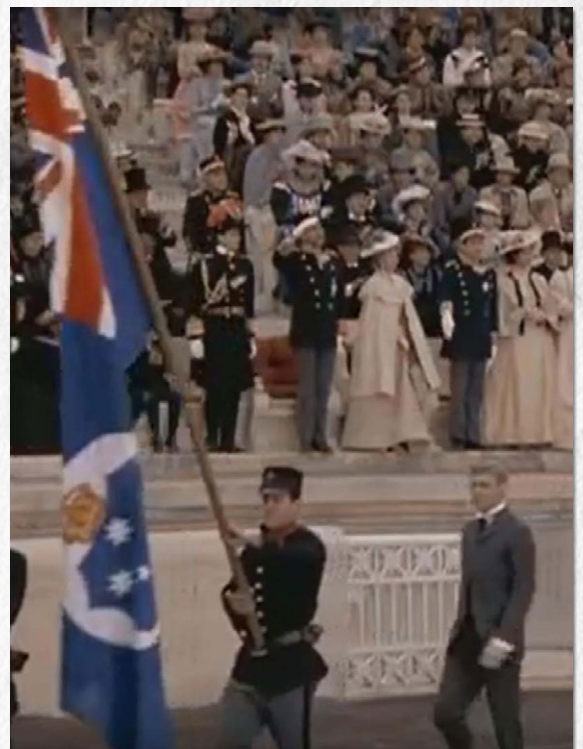
Above and Right: The Australasian Olympic team marches behind the Australian flag at the opening ceremony of the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm. Though the image is black and white it can be identified as a red ensign. The colour of the fly is dark, matching the red of the Union Jack in the flag's canton. The Union Flag is also carried before the Australasian team by the Canadians. The red is distinguishable from the blue in the Union Jack, as due to the photographic process, blue hues are shown much lighter than in life. The Commonwealth Star on the Australian flag used in the parade has six points, not seven.

Below: A scene from Colombia Pictures' *The First Olympics: Athens 1896* (1984). An extra carries a fictitious Australian flag before English actor Benedict Taylor, who played the Australian Edwin Flack in the miniseries.



An Australasian Olympic Flag Myth

The flag used by the Australasian team in 1908 and 1912 was an Australian red ensign, and not that shown on Wikipedia's "Australasia at the Olympics" page (at the date of publication, April 25, 2018). This faux-flag design was first published as the "Australasian Olympic Flag 1908, 1912" on the Flags of the World (FOTW) website at www.crwflags.com, by Juan Manuel Gabino Villascán on September 22, 2000. Villascán noted that, "I drew this flag from a T.V. series called 'The Olympic Games of the Modern Era: Athens 1896'." The flag he drew looked like a prop that was used in Colombia Pictures' two-part miniseries *The First Olympics: Athens 1896* – a drama set against the staging of the inaugural Olympic Games that was broadcast on NBC (United States) in May 1984. The production was criticised by Olympic historians for basic factual errors, inventions, and anachronisms, among which are two parade of nations ceremonies – replete with flags. The supposed flag of Australia featured in this miniseries resembled an unrealised 1877 design for a Victorian flag. On the same FOTW page, a sceptical Australian vexillologist, Ralph Kelly wrote that the design of this proposed Victorian flag was, "reproduced in some early flag publications and cigarette cards, but was never actually used in Victoria." It is likely that these sources were referenced by the miniseries' prop designers. Therefore, the supposed Victorian/Australian flag was probably first paraded in 1983, by an extra for the filming of the aforementioned period drama set on location in Athens. As for the actual parade of nations at the 1908 and 1912 Olympics, the photographs are unequivocal. The flag used by both Australasian teams was the 1903-08 Australian red ensign.





Australian Flag Controversies at Games

The 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games' closing ceremony was widely criticised. Chief among the criticisms was that the parade of athletes, and the national flag bearers was not broadcast, as this was part of the pre-broadcast. Many decried the opportunity of seeing Kurt Fearnley, a prolific Australian Paralympian and a Commonwealth Games gold medallist, carry the Australian flag into Carrara Stadium. Kurt was gracious (see right) and saw the controversy as disproportionate. On April 18 he stated on radio station Triple J, "If we're going to fire up, I just kept thinking about it, there's so many reasons that we could be firing up right now," Kurt then listed examples of real-world discrimination disabled people face that really "are worth blowing up about". This was not the first Australian flag controversy at a multi-sport games. The national symbols and flags used officially at Olympic and Commonwealth games reflect a conservative or consensus political perspective. If a sanctioned flag is not of a sovereign region with a recognised Olympic or Commonwealth Games federation, it is an inoffensive compromise – as happened when North and South Korea marched as a single team at the recent 2018 Winter Olympics at PyeongChang. Flags are emotionally charged. Therefore, some Australian athletes and administrators have had to negotiate the consequences of perceived breaches of flag etiquette and their conscience.



1906 Athens (Greece) Intercalated Olympic Games

The Intercalated Olympic Games was held at Athens in 1906 to stimulate the Olympic movement. Unlike the three

previous Olympics, athletes at these games were compelled to represent independent nations, with national flags raised to honour the three medallists after each event. However, the four-man Australian contingent was surprised to learn that their nationality would not be acknowledged, and that they were sequestered into the Great Britain team. New South Wales' sprinter Nigel Barker wrote that, "we were informed that our rights to representation were not recognised, as the Australasian Union (and Commonwealth Government!) had not officially appointed a jurymen. We were to be grouped with the English team, and our interests would be theirs and vice-versa."⁵ The opening ceremony, before King George II of Greece and King Edward VII of the United Kingdom on April 22, was the first parade of nations at a sporting event. Athletes from British dominions marched with the Great Britain team behind a Union Jack held by the English fencer and chairman of the newly established British Olympic Association, William H. Grenfell, 1st Lord Desborough of Taplow. Desborough was like a moustachioed pastiche of a patrician English sportsman. He was a first XI cricketer for Harrow and rowing "blue" at Oxford, as well as a big game hunter, who had, "climbed the Matterhorn three times; has swum Niagara twice."⁶ Barker wrote that the subsumption of the Australians, "even went so far as a statement that the English flag would be hoisted in place of the Australian in the event of our team securing any successes... Great Britain would thus be represented by England, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. It sounds well, but the English Association were the profitters thereby, so we thought it reasonable to insist on our own flag for what had England to do with our going to Athens?"⁷ Still, a Union Jack was raised for Barker's two track bronze medals, and fellow New South Welshman Cecil Healy's bronze in the pool. The

Victorian distance runner, George Blake stated that English residents in Athens had, "sent this silk Union Jack, and asked that we should run under it. I replied that we had to represent Australia. We were quite prepared to fight under one flag, but in sport Australia was on her own."⁸



1908 London (Great Britain) Olympic Games

In 1908 the very use of an Australian flag at the Olympics was controversial. The founder of the Olympic Games

movement Baron Pierre de Coubertin, queried whether dominions of the British Empire, Australasia, Canada and South Africa, should march in the inaugural parade of nations "under their own banner". Erik Nielsen wrote de Coubertin was, "troubled by whether athletes from the Dominions would 'be free to choose to join either [their home team] or the British team as he liked?' He was also unsure about how the teams would include or omit 'the so-called "'natives"' and the implications of the decision on the status of regions, such as Bavaria or Saxony in Germany, if they wished to compete on their own." After de Coubertin was assured the German team would not be divided, the three British Empire teams took their places in the 1908 parade, albeit after other nations had paraded in alphabetical order, and grouped immediately prior to the host nation Great Britain. The Australasian team would also compete under the Australian red ensign in 1912.⁹



1938 Sydney (Australia) Empire Games

In 1938 Sydney hosted Australia's first Empire/ Commonwealth Games. The Australian team was very productive collecting a haul

of 25 gold, 19 silver and 13 bronze medals, far exceeding any other nation. Unfortunately the organisers did not anticipate that



Jean Coleman, Decima Norman and Eileen Wearne at the 1938 Empire Games medal ceremony for the women's 220 yards. The bronze medallist's mystery flag is tantalisingly out of frame. (State Library of Victoria collection)

three Australians might stand on the medal dais simultaneously, and provided just two Australian flags for medal ceremonies at the main stadium, the Sydney Cricket Ground. On the final day of athletics Australia's Decima Norman (gold), Jean Coleman (silver), and Eileen Wearne (bronze) made a clean sweep of the medals for the women's 220 yards – an Empire Games first. Therefore, officials had to improvise a solution for the ceremony. The *Brisbane Courier's* correspondent wrote that, "the third place flag [was] of another country – it looked like Canada – was knotted in the corner to hide the emblem and served the purpose... Later in the afternoon another flag was procured, and was needed when three Australian men won the hop, step, and jump."¹⁰ The *Adelaide Advertiser* stated that a "New Zealand flag was substituted",¹¹ but New Zealand's flag was a defaced British blue ensign, and was quite different to the Australian red ensign used at the games. Other than the Canadian flag, the only other flag based on a British red ensign that may have been at the athletics, was Bermuda's, which had one entry in the men's 100 yard sprint.¹² Unlike most flag transpositions, the raising of Canada's, or possibly Bermuda's, red ensign for an all-Australian ceremony in 1938 was deliberate, and in any case, "the irregularity seemed to go unnoticed by the majority of spectators."¹³

1980 Moscow (Soviet Union) Olympic Games



At Moscow in 1980 the Australian Olympic team did not march under an Australian flag. Australia's first dual flag bearers at an Olympics, Denise Boyd (nee Robertson) and Max

Metzker, entered Lenin Stadium carrying the Olympic flag.

The Australian flag was used earlier that year by Australia's Winter Olympians at Lake Placid, United States, but in the wake of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the United States decided to boycott the 1980 Moscow Olympics. It also requested its allies, such as Australia, to do likewise. The Australian government pressured sport associations to join the boycott, and the debate divided the Australian Olympic Federation (AOF), member sporting bodies, and athletes – many of whom decided not to go to Moscow. The AOF voted to send a team despite heavy government lobbying, but conceded that it, "would march behind the Olympic flag, so that the national flag would not be dipped before Soviet leaders."¹⁴ Australia was one of 15 nations that used the neutral Olympic flag throughout the summer games (New Zealand opted for their domestic Olympic federation's black flag). The Olympic flag was designed by Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1913, who in 1927 reflected that, "It is white, as you know with five interlinked rings, blue, yellow, black, green, red, representing the five parts [continents] of the world united in Olympism."¹⁵ Despite its idealistic message of unity, the flag's display by many western nations at Moscow actually emphasised real world political divisions. The replacement of the national flag for the 1980 Moscow Olympics is unique in the history of the Australian Olympic movement. The Australian flag had previously been dipped as a courtesy to Adolf Hitler during the parade of nations at the Berlin Olympics in 1936 (our athletes refused to salute him), and it would be dipped before communist leaders at the 1984 Sarajevo (Yugoslavia) Winter Olympics and the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.



1994 Victoria (Canada) Commonwealth Games

In 1994 Cathy Freeman won the women's 400 metres Commonwealth Games final, and thereby became the first Aboriginal Australian to win a Commonwealth Games

individual gold medal. In this euphoric moment of pride in herself and her heritage, she ran 50 metres of a victory lap draped in an Aboriginal flag before an Australian flag was also handed to her. She would reflect in her diary, "that way they [all Australians] could all share what was a great moment for me".¹⁶ But to some the Aboriginal flag was seen as divisive. It was first raised in Adelaide on National Aborigines Day 1971 and has flown at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, Canberra, since 1972. In the 1980s it featured at Aboriginal land rights marches, including protests against Australian Bicentenary celebrations in 1988, and demonstrations agitating for a "black boycott" of the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games. Therefore, Arthur Tunstall, the Australian Commonwealth Games Federation's long-term secretary-treasurer and the team's *Chef de mission*, was sensitive to this flag, viewed Freeman's act as discordant, and issued a statement that he, "did not want any athlete acknowledging flags other than the Australian flag."¹⁷ However, Tunstall's reprimand was criticised by many in the media as well as leading citizens, including Prime Minister Paul Keating. Following gold in the 200 metres on August 26, Freeman again ran a lap of honour with both the Australian and Aboriginal flags – to the chagrin of Tunstall. But such was the widespread sympathy for Freeman that her acts helped to normalise the flag's display as one of identity, rather than one of protest and division. On July 14, 1995, the Australian government proclaimed it as, "the flag of the Aboriginal peoples of Australia and a flag of significance to the Australian nation generally." Just six years after the 1994 Commonwealth Games the Aboriginal flag was flown at all venues

of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. At these Olympics "Our Cathy" famously won gold in the 400 metres. Leanne White wrote that she then, "carefully collected both the Australian and Aboriginal flags from her support team in the crowd and waved them excitedly in her victory lap... the Australian public expected Freeman to uphold this powerful symbol of her people's struggle. The Aboriginal flag was of course made even more powerful by her own prior actions. By this time, Cathy Freeman very much 'owned' her flag, and the display 'was read as an inclusive gesture'."¹⁸



2010 Vancouver (Canada) Winter Olympic Games

The Boxing Kangaroo flag is Australia's de facto national sporting flag. Politically innocuous and playful, it combined Australia's sporting colours of green and gold with another Australian icon, a kangaroo boxing. It was designed for *Australia II's* victorious America's Cup campaign in 1983, and was soon carried by Australian athletes of all levels. Within one year of *Australia II* winning the America's Cup it was displayed by Australian Olympians. At Los Angeles in 1984 the cyclist Dean Woods rode with a Boxing Kangaroo flag on his lap of honour after winning gold in the men's 4000 metre team pursuit. In 1990, four years before Australia's Commonwealth Games *Chef de mission*, Arthur Tunstall railed against Cathy Freeman for celebrating with an Aboriginal flag, he evidently showed little concern when 5000 metre Commonwealth Games gold medallist Andrew Lloyd ran with a Boxing Kangaroo flag during his victory lap at Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland. Two days later the women's 4 x 100 metres relay team, that included Freeman, also celebrated with a Boxing Kangaroo flag without recrimination. It was handed to Kathy Sambell by a spectator during their victory lap, and she and Freeman ran with it together. The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) purchased the trademark in 1993 and capitalised on it, with the image and related merchandise being featured at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. In July 2004 the

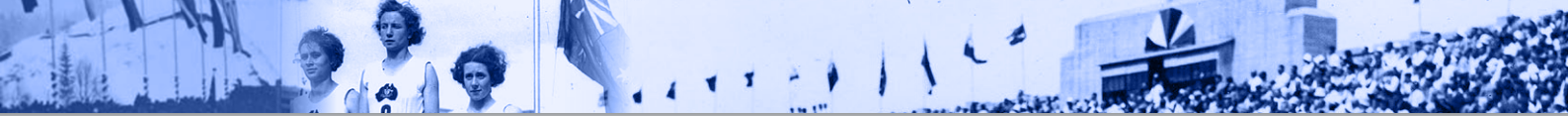


The Australian team parades at Civic Stadium, Hamilton, Canada, for the first Empire Games on August 16, 1930.

British Empire & Commonwealth Games Flag Bearers

	Opening Ceremony	Closing Ceremony
1930 Hamilton (Canada)	Bobby Pearce	
1934 London (England)	Noel Ryan	
1938 Sydney (Australia)	Edgar "Dunc" Gray	
1950 Auckland (New Zealand)	Mervyn Wood	
1954 Vancouver (Canada)	Dick Garrard	
1958 Cardiff (Wales)	Ivan Lund	
1962 Perth (Australia)	Tony Madigan	
1966 Kingston (Jamaica)	David Dickson	
1970 Edinburgh (Scotland)	Pam Kilborn	
1974 Christchurch (New Zealand)	Michael Wenden	
1978 Edmonton (Canada)	Remo Sansonetti Salvatore Sansonetti	Tracey Wickham
1982 Brisbane (Australia)	Rick Mitchell	Lisa Curry*
1986 Edinburgh (Scotland)	Michael Turtur	Gael Martin
1990 Auckland (New Zealand)	Lisa Curry-Kenny*	Phillip Adams
1994 Victoria (Canada)	Ian Hale	Gary Neiwand
1998 Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	Kieren Perkins	Susan O'Neill
2002 Manchester (England)	Damien Brown	Ian Thorpe
2006 Melbourne (Australia)	Jane Saville	Leisel Jones
2010 Delhi (India)	Sharelle McMahon	Alicia Coutts
2014 Glasgow (Scotland)	Anna Meares	Mark Knowles
2018 Gold Coast (Australia)	Mark Knowles	Kurt Fearnley

*Lisa Curry changed her surname to Curry-Kenny following her marriage.



Boxing Kangaroo was designated the official mascot of the Australian Olympic team. The flag generated little, if any, controversy until February 2010, when a two storey high version of it was draped over a balcony at the Vancouver Winter Olympics' village. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) claimed the image was "too commercial", citing its trademark registration, and ordered it removed. The IOC was very protective of its sponsors and perceived the display as ambush marketing. The AOC was defiant, their spokesman Mike Tancred stating, "We would hope the IOC would support us. The Boxing Kangaroo is a symbol of the team, but it's also used in the education of young kids about the Olympics." He was supported by a cross-section of the Australian and Canadian communities. Australia's Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard said, "It's a scandal. I think we want to see a lot of the Boxing Kangaroo, particularly now that we've had this ridiculous ruling. So, yes, boxing kangaroos everywhere."¹⁹ It was agreed that the banner could remain following a meeting between AOC president John Coates and IOC president Jacques Rogge on February 8. However, the image would have to be registered with the IOC as a mascot to distinguish it from a commercial brand.



2016 Rio (Brazil) Olympic Games

The current Australian and New Zealand national flags look similar and have often been confused. One such occurrence was at the 2016 Rio Olympics for the women's K1 (kayak single) slalom canoe medal ceremony. New Zealand's Luuka Jones won the silver medal ahead of Australia's Jessica Fox on August 11, however, it was an Australian flag that was raised on the silver medal pole, and the New Zealand flag flown a little lower from the bronze medal pole. The error was made just months after New Zealanders voted against changing its flag on March 24. Advocates for the change cited such trans-Tasman mix-ups, among other reasons for a new flag. However, the proposed new flag could not have been legislated in time for use at the Rio Olympics in any case.

Winter Olympic Games Flag Bearers

	Opening Ceremony	Closing Ceremony
1936 Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany)		
1952 Oslo (Norway)		
1956 Cortina D'Ampezzo (Italy)		
1960 Squaw Valley (United States)	Vic Ekberg	
1964 Innsbruck (Austria)		
1968 Grenoble (France)	Malcolm Milne	
1972 Sapporo (Japan)		
1976 Innsbruck (Austria)	Colin Coates	
1980 Lake Placid (United States)	Rob McIntyre	
1984 Sarajevo (Yugoslavia)	Colin Coates	
1988 Calgary (Canada)	Mike Richmond	
1992 Albertville (France)	Danny Kah	Cameron Medhurst
1994 Lillehammer (Norway)	Kirstie Marshall	Kirstie Marshall
1998 Nagano (Japan)	Richard Nizielski	Zali Steggall
2002 Salt Lake City (United States)	Adrian Costa	Steven Bradburys
2006 Torino (Italy)	Alisa Camplin	Dale Begg-Smith
2010 Vancouver (Canada)	Torah Bright	Lydia Lassila
2014 Sochi (Russia)	Alex Pullin	David Morris
2018 PyeongChang (South Korea)	Scotty James	Jarryd Hughes

Endnotes

1. *Referee*, August 12, 1908, p.4.
2. Harry Gordon, *Australia and the Olympic Games*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia (Qld), p.86
3. *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 20 February, 1903, p.93
4. The tradition of the Greek team leading the parade of nations began at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.
5. Nigel Barker, "The Olympian Games", *Referee*, June 20, 1906, p.8.
6. *Australian Star*, June 9, 1906, p.6.
7. Nigel Barker, "The Olympian Games", *Referee*, June 20, 1906, p.8.
8. "Mr George Blake", *Advocate* (Melbourne), June 23, 1906, p.7.
9. Erik Nielsen, "Fall of Australasia and the Demise of the Empire Olympic Team", *Rethinking Matters Olympic: Investigations into the Socio-Cultural Study of the Modern Olympic Movement Tenth International Symposium for Olympic Research*, 2010, pp.106-115. "Flag incidents through Olympic History", *Olympic Review*, No. 69, February 1960, pp.79-81.
10. *Brisbane Courier*, February 13, 1938, p.23.
11. *Adelaide Advertiser*, February 14, 1938, p.16.
12. India was another nation that used a British red ensign at the games (the star of India was in the fly) but its sole competitor was a cyclist.
13. *Sydney Labor Daily*, February 14, 1938, p.3.
14. Harry Gordon, *Australia and the Olympic Games*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia (Qld), p.329.
15. Karl Lennartz, "The Story of the Rings", *Journal of Olympic History*, Vol. 10, December 2001/January 2002, p.32.
16. Adrian McGregor, *Cathy Freeman: A Journey Just Begun*, Random House, Sydney 1998, p.169.
17. Adrian McGregor, *Cathy Freeman: A Journey Just Begun*, Random House, Sydney 1998, p.169.
18. Leanne White, "One Athlete, One Nation, Two Flags: Cathy Freeman and Australia's Search for Aboriginal Reconciliation", *Sporting Traditions*, vol. 25, no. 2 (November 2008), pp. 1-19.
19. *Telegraph* (London), "Australia defiant over Boxing Kangaroo flag and stringent Olympic rules", February 5, 2010.

Book Reviews



Steve Johnson with Adam McNicol
Stevie J: The Cat with the Giant Story

Michael Joseph - an imprint of Penguin Books
ISBN 9780143797012

An enigma in the world of Australian Rules football, Steve Johnson, who played 253 games for Geelong from 2002 to 2015 and 40 for Greater Western Sydney in 2016 and 2017, is sometimes described as a footballing genius by the Geelong faithful, but also

as a lairising show-off by some supporters of other clubs. His teammate Josh Hunt described him as “a phenomenal talent. He’s not just a genius on the football field, he’s mentally tough.”

In this honest appraisal of his career on and off the field, Johnson tells his story without pulling any punches, and provides us with a frank appraisal of his abilities and his faults from an early age. In the book’s introduction he says, “I was no angel... I just hope that if I tell my story, and young players see how close I came to losing everything I lived for, they will think twice about taking the sort of risks I did, off the field.”

Strangely the book starts with a chapter on his penultimate year with the Greater Western Sydney side, 2016, and his decision to play on in 2017 after the heartbreaking six point loss by the side in the Preliminary Final against eventual premiers the Western Bulldogs.

The author’s early days in Wangaratta are those of a typical country boy. Fiercely competitive footy after school outside their family home with his elder brother, junior days with the Wangaratta Magpies, sometimes with selection disappointments, then on to the Murray Bushrangers, junior All-Australian selection, interest from the Brisbane Lions, the Adelaide Crows and the West Coast Eagles before signing with his preferred option, the Geelong Cats, are all detailed.

His fierce competitiveness is clear throughout his story, but is tempered with a candid review of some of his mishaps, mistakes and failures, a number of which make very interesting reading. His deteriorating relationship with his elder brother is also covered with the same honesty and forthrightness.

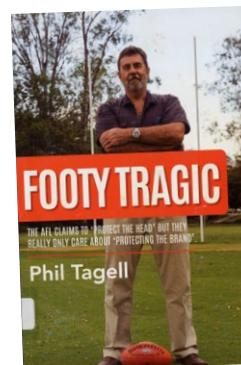
His description of the events immediately prior to, during, and after the Bali bombings and the effect on him personally, both short and long term, and on the players and officials who were staying at a nearby hotel on that fateful evening, are graphic and make sobering reading.

For fans of the game, tracing the progress of the Geelong

side from its earlier failures and tribulations to its three premierships in 2007, 2009 and 2011, the “one that got away” in 2008, and the author’s years with the fledgling Greater Western Sydney Giants side make engrossing reading as do his insights into the characters of the players and officials around him in the two sides which are again made without fear or favour.

It seems common now that retiring players of our game, who have had successful careers, will put their stories in print, so this is just another. However, having said that, this particular version is easy reading for any football fan, not only from a recent historical perspective but also for the insight into the mind of a talented player and the effects on him of those people around him and the significant events in his life.

Quentin Miller



Phil Tagell

Footy Tragic

Phil Tagell: Bardon, Qld, 2017
ISBN 9781876498924

Whilst the author states in the introduction to this book that it is “not an autobiography”, I beg to differ.

The author takes us from his early life in Melbourne as a football loving youngster to the present time.

The reason for the publication of the book came about as a result of an extremely unpleasant incident at a

junior football match in Brisbane in 2009, when the author was assaulted by a field umpire, receiving major long term head injuries. The title is ironic in that the author is, no doubt, what we understand to be a “footy tragic”, but his story could also well be described as “tragic”.

Coming from a football family in Melbourne, where his father played with the Collingwood reserves and then eight senior games with Hawthorn, the author takes us through a year by year chronology of his support of the Magpies and their successes and failures, starting in the 1950s. Moving to Brisbane in 1982 he decided to also support the local Brisbane Bears and he takes us through their progress as well, including their reformation as the Brisbane Lions.

As a result of the incident in 2009 it is no surprise that the author focuses on the history of violence in VFL/AFL football over the years and his belief that the game’s various governing bodies have failed to address the problem. He does so in a frank and unbiased appraisal.

The author has some extremely critical views of the sport’s various governing bodies from the Brisbane Junior league to the VFL/AFL, both its state body and head office, and he has clearly not taken a backward step in confronting them along the way on a number of occasions regarding a number of issues.



Throughout the book we also follow the progress of the author's two sons through the junior football ranks. Whilst you can justify the detail of this progress as being the writing of a proud father, it could be said that this is overdone.

His treatment by AFL Queensland, the AFL "head office", and the legal profession are covered in great detail. One cannot help but feel that the main purpose of the book is clearly for the author, rightly or wrongly, to vent his feelings with regard to his treatment by the football hierarchy and the legal system. Whether or not you agree with his feelings, it must be said that his bitterness shows through to the degree that when he launches into very personal attacks on the various members of the AFL Commission and also Andrew Demetriou, as well as commenting strongly on Essendon's "supplements saga" and poker machines, all this detracts somewhat from the case, or cases, he is putting forward. His comments on the selection of the AFL's "Team of the Century" will also be of interest to all followers of the game.

The bulk of the writing shows him to be a true "footy tragic" who was brought up to play, coach and serve in administrative positions in the game and whose love of the game has not diminished despite his trials and tribulations. However, this book is easy to read and will be of interest, especially to all those "baby boomers" who have followed VFL/AFL football since the Second World War.

Quentin Miller



unbreakable
JELENA DOKIC
with Jessica Halloran

Jelena Dokic with Jessica Halloran

Unbreakable

Penguin Random House Australia:
North Sydney (NSW), 2017

ISBN 9780143784227

The title says it all. It is amazing that Jelena Dokic managed to survive to tell her story. It's a dreadful tale, but one which needs to be heard in the hope that young sports players can be better protected from abuse, especially from those closest to them.

The chronological account of the relentless torment starts when Jelena was 6 years old. "I was a content, carefree child until tennis entered my life. ...with the arrival of tennis comes beatings and violence." It makes difficult reading, but we are able to experience just a little of what she went through from her early years.

Growing up in a time when war forced the family apart - her father remained in Croatia, whilst she, her mother and baby brother relocated to poverty in Serbia - was a difficult enough childhood. However her father realised very quickly that Jelena's tennis talent was a means of escape for the whole family. Unfortunately his own childhood traumas and feeling of powerlessness translated to obsessive, aggressive, often irrational and increasingly violent behaviour, exacerbated by a rapidly developing dependence on alcohol. As well as the physical (beatings, beltings, being forced to run up to 10 kilometers, often at night, when her father considered her efforts below par), there was also the emotional abuse (being forced to stand up for hours whilst having insults screamed at her). Later on, there was the financial abuse. She was continually told that she was no good.

As a newly-arrived migrant in Sydney, Jelena found herself the recipient of bullying and racism, and this was not helped

by her father discouraging her from having friends, whether at school or amongst the tennis community. His outlandish behaviour (distracting her opponents by rattling fences) further alienated her from the people she most wanted to befriend.

Fear became her motivator. "My focus is less on my opponent than the ramifications of a loss". This fear extended to her lying to the police and the court over an assault charge because the consequences of telling the truth could, she believed, have been fatal. Over the years she said and did things of which she is not proud - lying in interviews as she repeated his instructions, cheating, sacking good coaches for petty reasons, making outlandish statements (the Australian Open draw being rigged against her). All this was to attempt to minimise her father's irrational rage and sense of persecution.

Even when she finally "escapes" after she meets the car-racing driver Enrique, she is never wholly free of her father's influence which continues to disrupt her life. Enrique turns out to be a paler version of her father, a controlling young man lacking empathy and understanding.

In the book, Jelena tries to explain why she behaved the way she did. She endeavours to be fair to everyone, including those who turned their backs on her, but certainly blames her father for preventing her from experiencing a happy family life. Her mother's inability to protect her daughter causes her much heartache, even though she understands why her mother behaved so subserviently. Her brother seems to represent the good family she didn't have and she regrets not sharing his childhood. It would have been interesting for him to have given his perspective on this dysfunctional family.

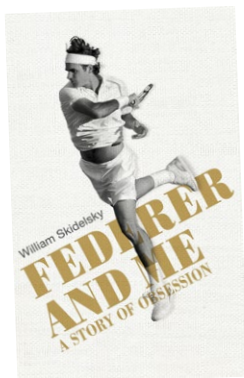
Luckily she has found a measure of happiness and security with Tin, the brother of her coach (an inexperienced, selfish and greedy man). The love and support of Tin sustained her through injuries, ill-health and periods of deep depression. Without him, who knows what could have happened.

Unfortunately, the assaults and endless torment were so continuous that it was very difficult to keep track of the narrative. This book is spoilt by the pedestrian writing, and the use of the present tense does not really add anything. A different collaborator could have improved the structure and quality of the text. It is repetitive (we are told several times that Damir hates flying, and repeatedly that her mother is totally submissive to him in the face of relentless domination. Cliches such as "hot tears" are superficial and unnecessary.

Jelena admits that the training drills Damir designed worked for her. During one tournament, she asked him to fly over as she found the advice he gave from a distance unsatisfactory, even though she enjoyed being away from her father. The unanswered question is what kind of player would she have been with the fear being replaced by love and support?

This is an important book - it gives a first-hand insight into the effects of abuse and how a young child learns to cope. Hopefully, telling her story has been therapeutic for her. Whether anyone could have done anything to prevent this particular abuse is the big question. You can't help but be affected by Jelena Dokic's story, and admiring of her ability to learn to live her own life. Many of us certainly would not be unbroken.

Edward Cohen and Gaye Fitzpatrick



William Skidelsky
Federer and me: a story of obsession
 Yellow Jersey Press: London, 2016
 ISBN: 9780224100533

“Federer and me: a story of obsession” is a somewhat unusual book about sport. The title was intriguing. Surely this wouldn’t be a justification for stalking?

The author, William Skidelsky, is the former literary editor of the New Statesman and the Observer. He has written a book which could be described as a collage – part autobiography, part tennis history, part psychology, part Federer. It is, on the whole, a well-constructed book, covering the author’s childhood sporting activities, his early interest in Federer, digressing to a history of tennis, and outlining the reasons why Federer occupies a pre-eminent position amongst the tennis greats, and why he became somewhat obsessed by Federer.

Skidelsky’s life as a young adult was “dominated by a protracted identity crisis” and depression, and he credits Federer and tennis with his “rejuvenation”. “Federer functioned as a point of constancy, of stability”.

One criticism of the book is the amount of space given to unnecessary (at least to these reviewers) personal details from the author’s life (e.g. losing his virginity; the reasons for the termination of his first child). Skidelsky is honest in his self-portrayal, describing how he went to watch Federer play instead of staying to console his grief-stricken girlfriend. It is to her credit that she agrees to join him in this form of therapy. He links his personal happiness with Federer’s success (like most AFL supporters, living vicariously through their team’s ups and downs).

This is certainly not a dry book, and there are numerous instances of humour – his biased views of Nadal, negative descriptions of him and Djokovic, his efforts to try and meet his hero, queueing for tickets to Wimbledon.

Nadal is painted as the villain, mainly because he isn’t Federer. Federer is “completely relaxed and poised”, Nadal “makes tennis look like awkward, stressful work”. Skidelsky gives his theory as to why Federer is the ideal tennis player.

The vivid descriptions of tennis matches are entertaining, coupled with the author’s views on what makes a good or great match. He also spends some time outlining the development of tennis over the decades, including the changes in racquets and the impact on the way the game is played. The relationship between sport and beauty is discussed, and he suggests that it is sometimes considered that it is not manly to be graceful or elegant. Federer shows that this is not so.

Everyone needs a healthy interest and Federer fulfilled this human need for the author.

Edward Cohen and Gaye Fitzpatrick

ROGER PAGE

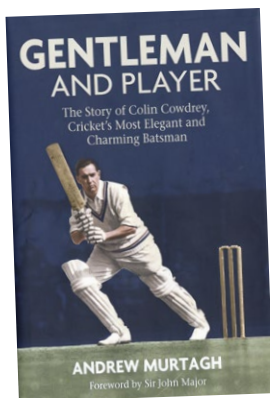
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Andrew Murtagh
Gentleman and Player: The story of Colin Cowdrey, Cricket's Most Elegant and Charming Batsman
 Pitch Publishing: Sussex, 2017
 ISBN: 9781785313226

In this splendid biography of Colin Cowdrey Andrew Murtagh gets into the heart and mind of this fine and charming cricketer. To do this he has consulted far and wide; first with Cowdrey's children and then with people who knew him from school,

university, playing cricket and in everyday life.

Cowdrey's children gave him access to Cowdrey's extensive papers. So, in his acknowledgements there are people like MJK Smith, AC Smith, Derek Underwood, Hubert Daggart, Jim Parks, Scyld Berry and John Woodcock. There is a foreword by his good friend Sir John Major.

Michael Colin Cowdrey was born on Christmas Eve 1932 in Ootacamund in India. This was in the Nilgiri Hills, 7000 feet above sea level. Aged six, he was taken home to England to start schooling. His parents returned to India and when the war broke out the following year they could not return to England. Colin Cowdrey would not see his parents again until he was thirteen. Murtagh believes that this absence of his parents had a profound influence on his character.

Murtagh stresses Cowdrey's need to find father figures for a large part of his early life (until he married). First there was Charles Walford, the disciplinarian headmaster at Homefield School in Surrey where Cowdrey spent the war years. Next there was James McNeill, his housemaster at Tonbridge and, also at Tonbridge the headmaster, The Rev. L.H. Waddy. Then when on his first tour of Australia Len Hutton took him under his wing. Finally at Kent Cricket Club, Stuart Chiesman, a committee member and club benefactor, became a mentor and gave Cowdrey work at his drapery store. Colin was later to marry Chiesman's daughter Penny. Murtagh devotes almost a third of the book to his growing up and how he sees the development of his character.

Murtagh then has a chapter on the first and last of the six tours Cowdrey made to Australia. John Woodcock is quoted at the top of the chapter as follows:

If I could watch one innings again, it would be Cowdrey's first hundred at Melbourne, on Hutton's tour.

It is often overlooked that Cowdrey's 102 out of a total of 191 was crucial in what is otherwise known as Tyson's match, when he took 7 for 27 in the second innings.

Murtagh covers Cowdrey's career with Kent, his experiences in and out of the English captaincy, and his involvement in the D'Oliveira affair. Also included are his parts in the 1963 Lord's Test when he batted with a broken arm, the famous 1968 victory at the Oval when spectators helped the groundstaff to get the pitch ready for play on the last day, and Trinidad in 1968 where England, under his captaincy secured a fine victory after Sobers' generous declaration.

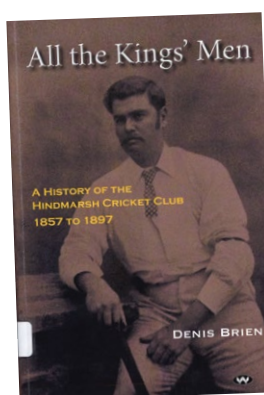
The last part of the book is devoted to Cowdrey's career after his playing days were over. This covers his time as president of Marylebone Cricket Club in 1986, his chairmanship of the International Cricket Council in 1989-93 where he, with Nelson Mandela, was instrumental in getting South Africa back in to

the cricket fraternity, and the time when neutral umpires were introduced. His time in the House of Lords from 1997, as Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge, is also covered, and finally his term as president of Kent County Cricket Club in 2000, after his children had ceased to be connected to the club.

In his foreword to the book, Sir John Major summarises the man as follows:

Colin played life as he played cricket: with a clear eye, a straight bat, and a cover drive from heaven. On the field he was a true Corinthian... As for those he left behind, we are blessed with the abundance of happy memories of the times we shared together. Well played, Colin. Bravo, Well played.

Jim Blair



Denis Brien
All the Kings' Men: A History of the Hindmarsh Cricket Club 1857 to 1897
 Wakefield Press Mile End (SA), 2018
 ISBN 9781743055182

Many published club histories pay little attention to the fact that all sports reflect the character and expectations of the society in which they participate. This is certainly not the case with *All the Kings' Men*, in which the story of the origins and growth of the Hindmarsh club is interwoven with the conditions

and aspirations of the local, predominantly working-class community, presenting, as the author states in his introduction, "a social history told through cricket".

The book's title recognises and pays tribute to the contribution of the King family, particularly that of Frank King, son of the founder of the local firm, J. King and Son, which dealt primarily in the production of building materials, including brick-making. In addition to being the club's first outstanding player, Frank King captained the side for several seasons and was prominent in administration at both club and association levels, as well as serving on the local town council. Three generations of the family played for Hindmarsh – father (James), son (Frank) and grandson (William, son of Frank).

Early cricket in Adelaide is examined in detail, including other local clubs which ultimately became subordinate to Hindmarsh. As the work's sub-title proclaims, it began matches in 1857 but there was no regular program until 1871 with the formation of the South Australian Cricketing Association, of which Hindmarsh was an inaugural member. The presence of brick-making in the district led to the club also being referred to as either the 'Brickfielders' or the shortened and more commonly applied, 'Bricks'.

Although the Norwood club and its champion, George Giffen, dominated the competition, winning 17 premierships between 1873 and 1897, Hindmarsh was its main rival with five during the same period. In addition to Frank King, its leading players included batsman-wicketkeeper A.H. 'Affie' Jarvis, the first South Australian representative to tour England with an Australian team, his brother 'Fred' and Jack Noel, who were both all-rounders and South Australian representatives.

'Affie's' image adorns the front cover of the book as author Denis Brien's all-time favourite player.

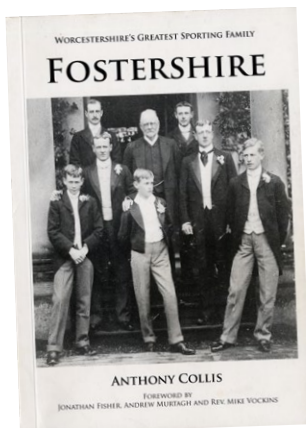
The introduction of a district or electorate-based competition in 1897 resulted in the demise of the existing senior clubs and their replacement with new bodies bearing the title of their electorates. All except Hindmarsh. As the major suburb within the West Torrens electorate the club completed a seamless transition to play on by assuming that name. As such, Hindmarsh/West Torrens remains the oldest continuously operating club in South Australia and has witnessed as well as contributed to the growth and development of the western suburbs of Adelaide.

Just on half of the work's 347 pages are devoted to a comprehensive set of appendices, which include a chronology of important events, the potted scores of all SACA programmed matches, as well as complete scores of those of particular significance. There is a complete register of players and their career records, extensive biographies of the leading players and administrators, together with the listings of records, both individual and team, that one would expect to find in such a work.

Denis Brien has had a lifetime association with both the club and its surrounding district. He continues to act as the club's historian and editor of its newsletter, *Eagle Eye*, and until recently had served as club president. There is little doubt that his passion for the club was the driving force behind the compilation of *All the Kings' Men*. Meticulously researched, he has produced a compelling narrative and in so doing, as Mike Coward pointed out in the book's foreword, "made a significant contribution to both the social and cricket history of South Australia".

I consider the work essential reading for any serious student of the game.

Ray Webster



Anthony Collis
Fostershire: Worcestershire's greatest sporting family
Anthony Collis: Stourbridge (UK), 2018

This book is about a great sporting family, the Fosters from Worcestershire. In it Anthony Collis describes the lives of Henry and Sofia Foster and their eleven children, seven boys and four girls. All seven boys played cricket for Worcestershire. This gave rise to the nickname for the

county, Fostershire. The book is divided into two halves. The first half covers the deeds of the most famous of the brothers, Reginald "Tip" Foster. The second half covers the exploits of the other members of the family, including the parents and the girls. Collis had two main sources; Sofia's scrapbooks kept over many years, summarised by Jonathon Fisher, the grandson of Johnnie Foster the youngest brother and Tip's diary of the 1903-04 tour to Australia of which we have a copy in the library. Collis has also used various books which covered the period, such as CB Fry's *Life Worth Living*,

Chesterton & Duggert *Oxford and Cambridge Cricket*, and David Lemmon's *History of Worcestershire CCC*.

Tip Foster's claim to fame is that he scored 287 in his first Test innings, which was against Australia in Sydney in December 1903. This was the highest Test score at the time and stood as such until Andy Sandham scored 325 in 1930 against the West Indies. It stood as the highest Test score by an overseas player in Australia until 2015 when the New Zealander, Ross Taylor scored 290 in Perth, but it remains the highest score by an Englishman in Australia, and the highest on debut. However, that is not the only claim Tip has to fame. He is and will remain the only person to captain England at both cricket and football. He also scored a century in both innings of a match three times.

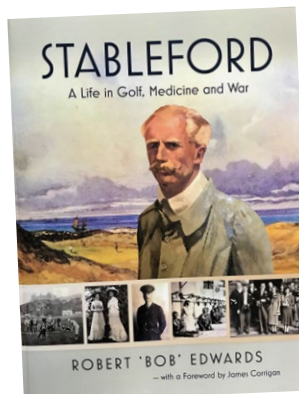
The book is filled with many photographs and has a good index. To enliven the text Collis includes little word sketches of players who have played for and against the Fosters. An example is this:

E.B. Dwyer (1876-1912)

The name of EB Dwyer of Sussex may not be familiar to modern-day readers or followers of cricket. Dwyer played 61 games for Sussex between 1904-09, during which time he took 179 wickets at a shade under 28 runs apiece; his best performance was nine for 35 against Derbyshire in 1906. The most remarkable aspect of the Australian-born cricketer was his name, or more correctly names. On scorecards, his name was not shown as JEBBPQC Dwyer being John Elicius Benedict [*sic*] Bernard Placid Quirk Carington Dwyer – one wonders if any other cricketer has had such a lengthy set of names.

Of the other brothers, Harry, the eldest was a fine racquets player, winning the Amateur title eight times. He later became a selector for the English Cricket team. Basil, was an actor but played cricket for the county and also for a team of actors. In one match he scored 100 and was then caught AA Milne bowled PG Wodehouse. The youngest son went to Malaya and ran a rubber plantation. His main claim to fame was as captain of a Malayan team which beat an Australian side led by CG Macartney. Cicely and Jessie Foster were both fine golfers, Cicely being capped to play for England. The book concludes with a number of appendices covering other aspects of the family and descendants. It is a book which needed to be written and the author has done a fine job.

Jim Blair



Robert "Bob" Edwards
Stableford: A Life in Golf, Medicine and War

Ryan Publishing, Melbourne, 2017.
ISBN 9781876498542 (PB)
ISBN 9781876498603 (HB)

At the age of 16, around half a century ago, I was once rewarded with 46 Stableford points for shooting 69 off the stick (par 68) at Murray Bridge when playing off a 12 handicap. The points awarded are one for

a net bogey, two for par, three for a birdie, four for an eagle and five for an albatross. A bogey is one over par for a hole,



a birdie one under par, an eagle two under, and an albatross three under (i.e. a two on a par five or a hole in one on a par four). A golfer playing to their handicap should score 36 points. I've never heard of anyone being awarded six points on a single hole but then if a person can hole in one at a par five he or she shouldn't be involved in amateur club golf.

For club golfers Stableford is a favourite competition around the world because it is both forgiving (of bad golf) and rewarding (good golf). It has the advantage of enabling golfers to enjoy their round despite having a couple of bad holes. It also speeds up play because once a golfer is unable to score a point they can simply pick up their ball and wait for their playing partners to complete the hole.

Countless millions of golfers have played this competition since the mid-20th century yet the man who designed the system, Dr Frank Stableford, has remained a forgotten figure in the game's history. *Stableford: A Life in Golf, Medicine and War* by English author Robert Edwards, and published in Melbourne by Ryan Publishing, finally promises to raise the curtain on a fascinating figure.

Certainly *Stableford* is a handsomely produced volume and the exquisite paintings of numerous links courses by Harry Rountree, along with superb photographs, sketches, letters, scorecards, maps, programs and certificates on all manner of subjects ranging from individuals and groups, to buildings, courses, ships and trophies, make a perusal through this book a most pleasing aesthetic experience.

Frank Barney Gorton Stableford was born in Oldbury, Warwickshire on 24 April 1871 and died at his home in Wallasey, Lancashire on 16 April 1959. The competition was first devised by Stableford and trialled at the Glamorganshire Golf Club, Penarth, Wales in 1898, but after being found to be flawed, lapsed for decades until reintroduced by its inventor, with sensible modifications, at the Wallasey Golf Club in 1932.

The book is rich in genealogical information, Stableford's golfing history and the growth of the sport in England and Wales around the turn of the 20th century, military campaigns in the Boer War and Somaliland, details of diseases from which soldiers suffered, his marriage and round-the-world honeymoon, further service in the First World War, post-war readjustment, and Stableford's domestic living arrangements, including the establishment of his medical practices. In addition, the illustrations are brilliantly captioned.

As for the development of Stableford's system in 1932, author Bob Edwards tells us that the fact that Wallasey Golf Club had readily taken it to their heart 'doesn't account for its spread over the next decade, particularly throughout Britain'. As Edwards explains, Stableford had been disappointed that despite articles in the *Western Mail* and *South Wales Daily News* in 1898 the response from clubs in the region was limited. With its second incarnation, however, he sought to target national sporting publications and certainly received positive support from the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*. The Liverpool and

District Golf Alliance held a Stableford 'better ball' competition in November 1932 but, even so, broadcaster and golf journalist Henry Longhurst gave it only a 'guarded endorsement' two years later, and in 1936 the *Yorkshire Post* reported that in their county the system had a 'mixed reception'. It wasn't until 1949 (when he was aged 78) that Stableford made further adjustments that led to its acceptance throughout Britain and then the world in the 1950s.

Curiously, Frank Stableford, the man, remains a shadowy figure. We know he is a surgeon but little of his actual work as a doctor in war or peace. What really impelled him to go to war? We know a lot about his competition play and membership of many golf clubs but little of his character as a golfer. We know little about his choice of a life partner or his relationship with his family and it is ironic that his widow seems to enjoy life more after his death than during marriage. We know he drove a Rolls Royce and left an estate of £58,816 (more than £1 million today), so he was financially comfortable.

The strength of *Stableford: A Life in Golf, Medicine and War* is not that of a traditional biography but what we discover about his world, the context of his life. Within this framework the book certainly succeeds and it will be an important addition to the library of anyone with a serious interest in golf history.

Bernard Whimpress

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