THE YORKER

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This Issue

This edition of *The Yorker* contains the eagerly awaited second half of Trevor Ruddell's research on the evolution of the rules of Australian football up to 1877. The first installment, published in Yorker #39, received critical acclaim for Trevor's landmark research.

To coincide with ANZAC Day 2010 we publish two articles by Alf Batchelder. The first, *Sport and War*, looks at how the traditional sporting values of the time (such as honour, esprit de corps and self sacrifice) were exhibited by MCC members who served on the battlefields of the Great War.

The second piece sheds light upon an era of the MCG's history that until now has remained cloaked in secrecy: the occupation of the ground in 1942 by the United States Army's Fifth Air Force. For this we are most grateful to Mr Bob Shields, one of the US servicemen who called our stadium home, who donated more than 70 photographs taken at the time.

THE EDITORS

A visit from Richie

Library staff members were thrilled to receive a special visit from Richie Benaud on the second day of the 2009 Test match. MCC vice-president Bob Lloyd and Peter French, assistant to the CEO, escorted Richie and his fellow Cricket Hall of Fame selector Mike Coward to inspect the Benaud tribute exhibition after the annual ACHOF meeting.

Richie expressed his delight at the exhibition, which contained items he had never seen, such as a selection of Benaud trade cards. He spent quite a deal of time taking in the range of material relating to his playing and media careers.

He was most appreciative of the work undertaken by the library staff and volunteers and especially thanked old friends including library research officer Peta Phillips.

The Benaud exhibition, in the showcase at the rear of the Grey Smith Bar and near the library entrance, will be on display until mid-May when our next major display – on the FIFA World Cup – will be installed.

SPORT AND WAR

An MCC Case Study by Alf Batchelder

Recent years have seen growing interest in the relationship between sport and war in Australian history. While it is interesting to see photographs of famous sportsmen in uniform, or to learn of sporting contests being played close to the frontlines, it is also important to consider how the sporting background of fighting men might have influenced events on the battlefield.

About 1100 members of the Melbourne Cricket Club served in World War I. Most were products of the private schools, particularly Scotch College and Melbourne Grammar, but several came from institutions that are little remembered now, such as Hawthorn Grammar and Cumloden.

Many halls of learning regarded military training as an integral feature of the curriculum. One headmaster of the time observed that the spirit of such schools consisted "partly in a sense of honour, of esprit de corps, and that which is most English of all, a spirit of self-sacrifice." History and literature courses augmented this notion by devoting considerable attention to Britain's battles and conquests which, by their "very remoteness ..., both in time and space, romantically enforced the notion of glory through war." In fact, boys "were inculcated with the idea that to be a war hero was supreme in the British honours list." [1]

In Australia, such views gained wide circulation through *Deeds That Won The Empire*, written by the Rev W.H. Fitchett of Methodist Ladies' College. In his efforts to foster patriotism, Fitchett promoted a willingness to defend the British Empire against its enemies if the need ever arose. Victoria's private schools regarded sport as an important part of the preparation and training for this noble cause.

While games were primarily a means of keeping young men sound in mind and body, it was believed that sporting contests at school produced teamwork, and developed leadership, initiative, courage and determination in the individual, all of which would prove useful in life in general and, of course, on the battlefield. As early as 1864, *Bell's Life in Victoria* maintained that "the boy who would charge one bigger than himself without a moment's hesitation" was likely to develop into the man who "would probably stand a bayonet charge" and fight on "with almost certain death staring him in the face, without a murmur or a shadow of doubt." [2]

Early in the 20th century, Melbourne Grammar boys celebrated the perceived link between military preparation and sport in *The School Games Song:*

> Some, in strife of sterner omen,
> Faced the Empire's stubborn foemen;
> Fought, as erst their sires - her yeomen,
> Won a deathless name.
> Praise ye these who stood for Britain –
> These, by foreign marksmen smitten –
> Praise them, for their names are written
> High in storied fame.

A former oarsman and Essendon footballer, Lieutenant-Colonel Frederic Hughes commanded the 3rd Light Horse Brigade at Gallipoli.

Similar sentiments were expressed at Geelong Grammar in *Our Motto* and in Xavier's *Black and Red*. In May 1915, a month after the Gallipoli Landing, MCC member R.W.E. "Bung" Wilmot claimed in the *The Australasian* that:

> The Australian has shown himself to be on a par as a soldier with his brethren from the other branches of the Empire, and by no means the smallest part has been played by those who in the past have been leaders in our school games. [3]

In his famous account of the landing, English war correspondent Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett referred to Australian soldiers as a "race of athletes". By depicting the Australian warriors as sportsmen shaped by school games, Wilmot and Bartlett were presenting a stereotype that well suited the Melbourne Cricket Club's members in uniform, for the majority of them had enthusiastically taken part in sporting activity since their youth.

Men of the 8th Light Horse on their way to Williamstown for rifle practice.

For example, Lieutenant-Colonel Frederic Godfrey Hughes, commander of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, had been an intercolonial rower in his younger days, as well as a foundation member of the Essendon Football Club and a Victorian representative in the 1880 and 1881 seasons.

Although Fred Hughes was 57 when war was declared, he shared with so many of his fellow MCC members an eagerness to serve in what was seen as the Empire's hour of need. Indeed, he had always followed what historian Charles Bean termed "the exalted British standard of service". For many years, he was a St Kilda councillor, with terms as mayor in 1901-02 and 1911-12.

In 1875, three years after he left Melbourne Grammar, Hughes had joined the St Kilda Battery of Field Artillery as a driver, a move that launched four decades as a part-time soldier with the Victorian and Australian Defence Forces. By 1889 he was a captain in the Victorian Horse Artillery and commanded Sir William Clarke's Rupertswood Battery until 1897. Under his leadership, the battery formed the Australian Escort to Queen Victoria at the wedding of the Duke of York in 1893. In 1903, Hughes became commander of the 11th Australian Light Horse Regiment (Victorian Mounted Rifles) and served as aide-de-camp to the Governor-General, the Earl of Dudley, in 1909.

However, his impressive career had not left Frederic Hughes completely fulfilled. By 1914, he was close to retirement – and still deeply disappointed that he had not fought in the Boer War. Consequently, he was determined to seize what was clearly his last opportunity to see action. Even though he was about 10 years older than the average brigade commander in the Expeditionary Force, Hughes was given charge of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. Since it was assumed that the war would last no longer than a year, he was granted 12 months leave of absence from his directorship of the Dunlop Rubber Company. [4]

Not long before Colonel Hughes sailed for the front, he was the subject of a lengthy pen-portrait in *Melbourne Punch*. The magazine identified some of the specific qualities that, through sport, the elderly citizen-soldier would bring to his responsibilities at the front:

Every man shows in the game of football the characteristics which he displays in the game of life, and a good line is obtained on the character of Fred Hughes by recalling his methods on the football field. He was a stayer. One of the patient, solid, never-tiring class of men who are doing their best work in the last quarter of a game when other men are tired to nothing ... It was the same on the river. His custom was to play football all the winter, and row all the summer, and in the boat he was noted as a plucky resolute stayer, who would shut his teeth and fight out the hardest race without once slacking. [5]

Amid the fervour of late 1914, it undoubtedly seemed reassuring and highly desirable for a commander to be "a plucky resolute stayer". However, in what came to be termed "the greater game", the supreme test still awaited Frederic Godfrey Hughes. It remained to be seen how his renowned unwillingness to withdraw or admit failure would affect his leadership and events on the battlefield.

Even before the 3rd Light Horse Brigade left Egypt for the Dardanelles, Colonel Hughes did not find war service very easy. A fellow officer remarked that "the old chap I think is ageing a lot." The harsh conditions of Gallipoli and the prevalence of disease brought even more serious difficulties. After Hughes developed pneumonia in June, he spent at least four weeks in Egypt and on board a hospital ship. The result was that effective command of the 3rd Light Horse increasingly became the domain of Lieutenant-Colonel John Macquarie Antill, a regular army officer from New South Wales known, somewhat irreverently, as "Bull". [6]

On the morning of August 7, Australian, New Zealand and British guns began an intensive bombardment on the Turkish positions. In their front trench on Russell's Top, two lines of Victorians from the 8th Light Horse awaited the order to advance. Among them were seven members of the Melbourne Cricket Club. One of them, Trooper Cliff Pinnock, wrote that the noise "was simply one continual roar and nerve racking in the extreme."

Suddenly, the barrage ended, "cut short as if by a knife – seven minutes before the watches on Russell's Top pointed to 4.30." [7] In the uncertainty that followed, the Light Horse lost that vital instant in which they might have caught the Turks unprepared:

Officers of the 8th Light Horse at Altona Bay.

For three minutes hardly a shot was fired. But during that time the Turks … manned their trenches in anticipation of the assault which they knew must be imminent. [8]

In a letter written nine days later, MCC member Jack Dale relived the events that followed:

Lance Corporal Norman Tetley was in the first line in the charge at The Nek on August 7, 1915.

… we got the order to get on the parapet. A few minutes later we advanced, and all of a sudden the Turks opened up with murderous machine-gun fire. It was something terrific and I have never heard anything like it. Those of us that got over the very slight rise of ground were simply mown down.

Of the other MCC men, Trooper Charles Wingrove died instantly. Lance Corporal Norman Tetley fell, mortally wounded. Cliff Pinnock was hit in the left hand and right shoulder:

We all got over and cheered, but they were waiting ready for us and simply gave us a solid wall of lead. We did not get ten yards. Everyone fell like lumps of meat. I got mine shortly after I got over the bank, and it felt like a million ton hammer falling on my shoulder. However I managed to crawl back.

In the space of three minutes, more than half of the 8th Light Horse were dead, with another 80 wounded. [9] Two lines of West Australians from the 10th Light Horse then filed into the trenches just vacated by the men of the 8th. With the saps choked with dead and wounded Victorians, a young officer of the 10th reputedly remarked, "Well chaps, we've just got ten minutes to live." [10]

In the hope of saving his men, Lieutenant-Colonel Noel Brazier, the "Father" of the 10th, urged "Bull" Antill to halt the offensive. Instead, Antill ordered him to "push on" and so the third line went over the parapet to annihilation, with most going down before they advanced five yards. Desperate after Antill again repeated his order to advance, Brazier appealed to Frederic Hughes, reportedly shouting that "the whole thing was nothing but bloody murder" and pleading for an end to the slaughter.

In that moment, Brazier confronted Hughes with the most critical test of his life. His military experience had largely been limited to part-time involvement with "exclusive units better prepared for the tournament arena than the battlefield". [11] As historian Peter Burness wrote in 1996:

Hughes was neither a fool nor a coward. But he was not a battle-hardened commander and there was nothing in his training or background which could have prepared him for the situation he had to face. He did not even share the experience of previous campaigns with most of the other officers at his level.

Most importantly, the burden of command and the physical exertions of simply holding on at Anzac, were simply too much for a man of his age … As a peace-time brigade commander he rarely saw a brigade on the ground, except occasionally at annual encampments, and then he was more concerned with the parade and ceremonial aspects of soldiering. Now on the battlefield he was unable to adapt to the circumstances. [12]

The old sportsman could only put his faith in values that had served him well in the past. For the "stayer" that *Melbourne Punch* had depicted as a man "who would shut his teeth and fight out the hardest race without once slacking", this was certainly not the time to falter. Instead, he had to persevere, to be once again "one of the patient, solid, never-tiring class of men who are doing their best work in the last quarter of a game when other men are tired to nothing."

Colonel Hughes therefore directed Brazier to try the attack from another angle. By then, the right and centre of the 10th's second line had gone over the top. The left also went forward, only to be pinned down, and then withdrawn – fortunately, they were not called upon to carry out Hughes' new directive, which was "eventually abandoned, the impossibility of the plan being sufficiently demonstrated in the attempt made by the British to carry it out." [13]

The 10th Light Horse had lost seven officers and 73 men, with a further 138 wounded. In the 8th, 12 officers and 142 men were dead; another four officers and 76 men were wounded. When the survivors managed to return to their line, they were "shattered, absolutely shattered. It was the hardest [time] of the whole war. Later looking out on the dead was horrible ... We never discussed it later. We couldn't."

In a letter written a week later, Cliff Pinnock said it was:

Really too awful to write about. All your pals that had been with you for months and months blown and shot out of all recognition. There was no chance whatsoever of us gaining our point, but the roll call after was the saddest, just fancy only 47 answered their names out of close on 530 men. When I heard what the result was I simply cried like a child. [14]

Trooper Roly Knight

MCC member Roly Knight was one whose body did not find rest in a known grave; a few weeks later, a friend remembered him in the *Argus*:

The staunchest pal that ever lived.

He died, as he lived, playing the game.

Either Hughes or Antill could have overridden their orders and put a stop to the nightmare that was The Nek. In failing to do so, they were not unique, for this was a war in which stubborn leaders on all sides were not renowned for flexible thinking. Indeed, in those times, that virtue was not encouraged, for the education system and sporting activities taught that persistence was much more desirable.

Moreover, even though half a century had passed, few commanders in 1915 recognised that modern warfare had begun at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, when massed weapons made such concepts as valour and perseverance very debatable factors in deciding the outcome of a battle.

Lieutenant-Colonel J.M. "Bull" Antill, Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes and Captain McFarlane.

If any good can be seen in the events of August 7, it is in the qualities that Charles Bean discerned in the Australian soldier. Of the events of that day, he felt that "for sheer bravery, devoted loyalty, and that self-discipline which seldom failed in Australian soldiers, they stand alone in the annals of their country. Not once during all this deadly fighting did the troops display the least sign of hesitation in performing what they believed to be their duty." [15]

To his expression of admiration, the historian could well have added the words of Robert E. Lee after his troops had won their bloody victory at Fredericksburg in 1862: "It is well that war is so terrible, we should grow too fond of it."

ALF BATCHELDER

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Bob Shields and Camp Murphy, 1942.

Early in 2008, MCC guide Dudley Phillips phoned the library to ask if I could come down to the museum to talk to Bob and Wendy Shields from Colorado. When I met Mr Shields I could not believe my luck, for he had been a member of the United States Army's Fifth Air Force and a resident of the MCG in 1942, the most mysterious year in the ground's 156-year history.

Most of our knowledge of the history of the club and its ground comes from press reports, club records and eyewitness accounts but, in the serious wartime situation of 1942, these sources were almost non-existent.

After I explained that we knew extremely little about the Fifth Air Force at the MCG, Mr Shields promised to provide us with an account of his wartime experiences. In June 2009, we received much more than a memoir – Bob had demolished his photo album to send about 70 pictures that he had taken in Melbourne and in New Guinea.

Apart from providing our first detailed view of the ground's interior in 1942, the Shields donation contains pictures of some of the men who were quartered at Camp Murphy, as it was known, and of their subsequent service in New Guinea. It is an extremely important acquisition.

ALF BATCHELDER

Bob Shields graduated from high school seven months before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. At 20, he was older than many of his classmates as family circumstances had forced him to abandon his studies for two years "to work and help put food on the table."

A month after Franklin Roosevelt had declared that December 7, 1941 was "a date which will live in infamy", Bob volunteered for America's armed services. Since "the closest place to enlist" was at an infantry camp in Des Moines, Iowa, he travelled 115 miles from his home in Unionville, Missouri, to join the US Army's Fifth Air Force. (A separate United States Air Force was not formed until 1947.)

Bob Shields - 1942 and 2009

A few weeks after enlisting, Bob Shields was part of a boatload of "green soldiers with no training ... headed for Australia." The raw recruits had been despatched with considerable haste. As Bob remarks, the United States "was completely unprepared for sending troops any place in early '42." Even by the time he boarded the liner *Mariposa* in San Francisco, he "had never seen an M1 rifle." The weapons were eventually issued at sea, packed "in individual cardboard boxes covered with Cosmoline", a gelatinous rust preventative. Bob recalls that "when we arrived in Melbourne in the first part of April there was no place to house us."

That situation was in the process of being rectified. Two months after the first American personnel had arrived in Melbourne, the Melbourne Cricket Ground was to be handed over to the Port Quartermaster, United States Armed Forces in Australia. Late on the afternoon of April 2, 1942 MCC secretary Vernon Ransford had learned that "the whole of the Ground was required for Commonwealth purposes as from the 7th day of April 1942."

On April 13, press reports announced that, as a "tribute to the men he led in the Philippines", General Douglas MacArthur had named his Australian headquarters "Bataan". On the same day, United States Army Headquarters in Australia announced that "American camps in Australia are to be named after officers and men killed in the Southwest Pacific area":

The two first camps to be named are Camp Pell and Camp Murphy in memory of Maj. Floyd J. Pell, Utah-born Air Corps officer killed in action February 19 at Darwin, Australia, and Col. William H. Murphy, German-born officer of the Signal Corps, whose bomber was shot down by a Japanese fighter, February 3, over Java. [1]

In keeping with the secrecy of the time, the announcement made no mention of the fact that both camps were in Melbourne. Camp Pell was in Royal Park, while Camp Murphy, home of the USAAF's 11th Replacement Control Depot, was at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

These developments came amid considerable uncertainty and even fear. The Japanese had seized the Allied bastions in Malaya, the Philippines and Netherlands Indies faster than anyone thought possible. Moreover, New Guinea was thinly defended. Australians feared that the Japanese might launch attacks on the industrialised south-east and might even occupy the continent's north-west. [2]

Few constants marked the American presence in Melbourne. The critical and changing war situation demanded a steady flow of men and materials into and around the country. Not only were new arrivals like Bob Shields young, untried and not fully trained, they experienced the old Army adage of "hurry up and wait".

One man said: "It just seemed that we were there, but no one knew what to do with us." [3] As Shields put it: "Our outfit had no nothing as a guideline to know how, when or where. Loose, loose. I was one of the motor pool personnel, which was a 'Mickey Mouse' operation."

In the flux that prevailed in Melbourne, it is hardly surprising that when the Fifth Air Force men moved in to Camp Murphy, they found that it "had not been used for troops prior to our arrival." While the meals prepared at the ground by Army cooks were adequate, the sleeping conditions were rather basic:

> We were to sleep on canvas army cots high in the bleachers, cold and windy. I carried in old newspapers 4" deep on my cot for insulation to keep from getting cold from the bottom. No mattress at that time.

The austere facilities explain the reaction of Master Sergeant Kenneth Paul Meriam when told later in 1942 that he would have to return briefly to Camp Murphy. In his diary, Meriam wrote: "Phooey, hate to go back there ..." [4]

After languishing behind tarpaulins in the bleachers for two weeks, Bob Shields "then moved down to the athletic players dressing and shower room for the remainder of my stay." Others were apparently housed in tents erected on the northern side of the ground, between the stands and the arena fence.

Shields was a member of the motor pool, working behind the ground's outer wall that faced Brunton Avenue. The high brick fence enclosed an open space, with the western end of the New Outer Stand on one side and the green concrete stand that housed the scoreboard on the other. According to Bob,

> The motor pool office was at the back gate. As you stood in the opening you could look out a great distance to an open area where US soldiers from the Melbourne area played baseball and softball. I see it as being where the tennis courts are located at this date [2009] ...

At times, Shields took men "for rifle instruction and practice shooting" to a place that was beside "the ocean". (This was probably the range near the Williamstown racecourse.) He recalls that "at least one softball game" was played on the arena and that on another occasion about "200 men in dress uniform with rifles" were inspected by "an Australian official minister of war".

Not surprisingly, the young men quartered at Camp Murphy sought diversions outside. Though there were guards on duty, Bob Shields "went in and out of the back gate" that opened on to Brunton Avenue at "any time, day or night." He had been "most fortunate in meeting and getting acquainted with a young lady that worked at the mail order four-storey building", possibly Wake's, which was located opposite the City Baths.

His friend was "one of six daughters named Smith" who lived in Hotham Street, East St Kilda, not far from the cemetery. Like so many Melbourne families who welcomed American servicemen during the war, the Smiths treated Shields as one of their own: "I was invited to Sunday dinners and other family gatherings. I was treated as a friend of the family for my entire stay. I ate my 21st birthday cake at the Smiths' …"

Bob Shields believes that he was at Camp Murphy for 90 days. From there, he travelled in a convoy to Townsville. At some point, the group indulged in some kangaroo shooting but, in the process, Bob almost drowned in a nearby stream. When the convoy reached Townsville's Armstrong Field, there was "no nothing but us in army tents in a cow pasture half a mile from the boat, grass two feet high." Then, after a couple of weeks, "we were loaded … at 2.00 a.m." aboard a Liberty ship bound for New Guinea:

> The reason for the delay was Japanese subs were sinking everything headed for New Guinea. When we did arrive, there were three ships lying in the harbour, having been sunk. On our way from Townsville, we rammed into an American boat at 2.00 a.m. on the second day out that was headed back and was being chased by submarines. The two Liberty ships hit within seven feet of dead centre.

> The force was so great that it broke the chains that contained the trucks … and all trucks, along with the men sleeping in and under them, went into the ocean … We had two Australian corvettes as our escorts that managed to get us to New Guinea safely.

> That first night we were bombed three times. I was with 32 other Melbourne soldiers, with no commissioned officers. No personnel in charge, no rank, no instructions, nothing. I ended up being the one in charge – that is a long story that no sane person would believe …

Kikendall
and
Some Officie Flugie
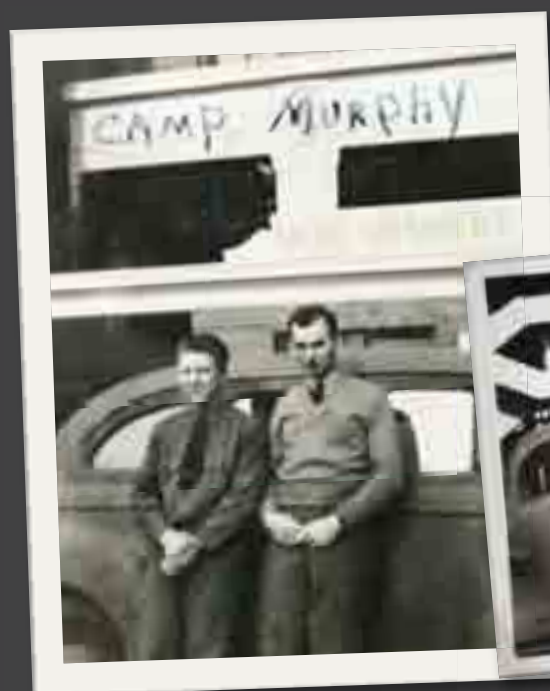
Top: Some lighter moments for armed guard Glen Kirkendall at the Brunton Avenue gate.

Centre: Motorcyclist Bob Shields in Hotham Street, East St.Kilda; Captain Jones and Sergeant Doroshaw with a Jeep in Yarra Park.

Bottom: Bob Shields and men of the Motor Pool.

Bob Shields is now in his 88th year. Since 1956 he has lived in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he has sold real estate and raised Angus cattle. Looking back on his wartime experiences, he says:

> *"I saw a lifetime of misery and death that will always be there to remember and I give thanks for having been saved over seven or eight times."*

His words are a reminder that the men who lived at the MCG in 1942 were fighting a war that affected them in ways that later generations cannot truly appreciate. Bob is the sole survivor of the 33-man party that travelled from Camp Murphy to Townsville. In 2008, he made what he acknowledges will be his final visit to the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Recently, he presented the club with a large collection of photographs taken between 1942 and 1944. Since we have had remarkably little information about the presence of the US Army's Fifth Air Force at the MCG, this is a most important donation – not only does it remove much of the mystery that has been associated with 1942, but it provides a glimpse of our former residents during their subsequent service in New Guinea.

Opposite: Scenes in the Motor Pool, which was located behind the Brunton Avenue fence.

This page, top: Cooks at a barbecue; the grave of Sarge, the Camp Murphy dog.

Bottom: Motor Pool personnel: John Maulson, Huntzler, "A Good Soldier", Alvin Dale.

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The Evolution of the Rules of Football from 1872 to 1877

The purpose of this article is to create a reference guide to the changes and evolution of the Victorian Rules of Football and its direct descendants from 1872 to 1877. Therefore, four codes spanning this period and two colonies (now states) have been transcribed and all rule changes colour coded.

A written commentary is also provided to discuss the events and resources that shaped the laws. It is not an early history of football games in Victoria. However, playing trends that were emerging in football during this period, the impact of local tournaments and the organisation of the game in England are discussed in terms of their relationship to the evolving code.

Please note that the terms "scrimmage" and "scrummage" were interchangeable in the 1870s. However, for consistency and readability only the term "scrimmage" will be used in the commentary portions of the articles unless a particular rule or a football columnist is being quoted.

The Yorker's key to the early alterations to football's rules.

Red ink indicates text in the code has been substantially altered. It therefore indicates a rule change.

Red ink in the commentary sections is used to indicate portions of old rules that are being debated and proposed alterations to the rules.

Blue ink indicates rules (or phrases within rules) that have been incorporated into another law, or if their location has changed, such as when much of the content and scope in Rules 7 and 8 swapped positions in the 1874 code. It is a change in the laws' locations but they are not new rules.

Blue ink has also been used to indicate a change in terminology but not a rule, such as when "scrimmage' is used instead of "scrummage" in Rule 3 of 1872 as published by E.A. Crawford in *The Australasian* on May 25, 1872.

Purple ink in the commentary sections indicates cup competition/ tournament rules that impact on the laws of the game.

Green ink in the commentary sections indicates rules that were used in other football codes.

Victorian Rules of Football (1872)

Victorian Rules of Football … amended by a meeting of delegates of clubs held at Garton's Hotel, Melbourne, on May 22, 1872. (E.A. Crawford, hon. secretary to the delegates, *The Australasian*, May 25, 1872)

1. The distance between the goals shall not be more than 200 yards, and the width of the playing space (to be measured equally on each side of a line drawn through the centres of the goals) not more than 150 yards. The goal-posts shall be seven yards apart, of unlimited height.

2. The captains on each side shall toss for choice of goal, the side losing the toss, or a goal, has the kick off from the centre point between the goals. When half the time arranged for play has expired, the sides shall change ends, and the ball be thrown in the air by the Umpire in the centre of the ground.

3. A goal must be kicked fairly between the posts without touching either of them, or any portion of the person of one of the opposite side. In case of the ball being forced (except with the hands or arms) between the goal-posts in a scrimmage, a goal shall be awarded.

4. Two posts, to be called the "kick-off" posts, shall be erected at a distance of 20 yards on each side of the goal-posts, and in a straight line with them.

5. In case the ball is kicked behind goal, any one of the side behind whose goal it is kicked may bring it 20 yards in front of any portion of the space between the "kick-off" posts, and shall kick it towards the opposite goal.

6. Any player catching the ball directly from the foot or leg, on or below the knee, may call "mark"; he then has a free kick from any spot in a line with his mark and the centre of his opponent's goal-posts, no player being allowed to come inside the spot marked, or within five yards in any other direction.

7. Tripping and hacking are strictly prohibited. Pushing with the hands or body is allowed when any player is in rapid motion. Holding is only allowed while a player has the ball in hand, except in the case provided in Rule 6.

8. The ball may be taken in hand at any time, but not carried further than is necessary for a kick, and no player shall run with the ball unless he strikes it against the ground in every five or six yards. In the event of a player holding the ball, and several players closing round him, the umpire shall interfere and cause the ball to be thrown in the air.

9. When a ball goes out of bounds (the same being indicated by a row of posts), it shall be brought back to the point where it crossed the boundary-line and thrown in at right angles with that line.

10. The ball while in play may under no circumstances be thrown.

11. In case of deliberate infringement of any of the above rules, the captain of the opposite side may claim that any one of his party may have a free kick from the place where the breach of rule was made.

12. Before the commencement of a match each side shall appoint an umpire, and they shall be the sole judges of goals, and of cases of the ball going behind goal. A field umpire shall also be appointed, who shall decide in all other matters.

Melbourne plays a suburban club in Yarra Park c1873. In 1873 Melbourne pioneered knickerbockers and uniform red hose in Victoria. The suited gentleman watching the play passively is the field umpire. This official was a regular presence at football matches since 1870 and was first recognised by the code in 1872. The 1872 laws discouraged scrimmages and although the game remained physical it became more open.

Commentary: The South Yarra Football Club, a powerful football institution of the 1860s, was defunct by 1873. However, it was at the forefront of initiatives to amend the 1866 code in the early 1870s. In 1870 it sponsored a new challenge cup competition that had its own rules and the club also initiated amendments to the rules in 1872.

In the late 1860s there appears to have been a movement to prohibit carrying the ball and prior to the commencement of the 1869 football season letters appeared in the press for and against this idea. It seems that the Melbourne Football Club was defensive of what it saw as "its code".

The rules had not been revised since May 1866 when **Colden Harrison**, still a leading player and administrator at Melbourne, drafted them with the stipulation that allowed running with the ball provided the player strike it against the ground every five or six yards. At Melbourne's 1869 annual meeting, Harrison successfully encouraged his club to issue a statement about "a little controversy which was being raised as to the rules in this colony."

The resolution stated: "That we, as the oldest football club of the colony, see no reason whatever for altering the Australian rules of football, and we decide that there shall be no alteration so far as this club is concerned."[1]

The rules remained untouched but it did not stop correspondents decrying the brutality of the Victorian game. Some saw a solution through creating a system for appointing efficient umpires, while others advocated the English Football Association (FA) rules (soccer).[2] Melbourne was still a leading club on and off the football field and if any changes to the Victorian football code were to be made it was probable that Melbourne would not support them.

In 1870 it resisted any attempt to change the rules at the annual meeting of secretaries.[3] Melbourne, despite the vehemence of its position, played against teams that did not recognise the Victorian code. Her Majesty's 14th Foot Regiment (1868–1869), the 18th Royal Irish Regiment (1870), and the Police (1869-1870) played according to what was styled "Irish rules". Unlike the Victorian rules this game apparently permitted hacking (kicking shins) and forbade holding or running with the ball.

It may be described as hard body-contact soccer. It seems that such matches were arranged in the hope that the largely Irish contingents of soldiers and policemen would conform to the Victorian rules. Harrison recalled that when he complained about the soldiers' tactic of kicking shins he was told "To H__ with your rules! We're playing the __ Irish rules!"[4]

The first formal revisions to the code in six years were initiated by the South Yarra Football Club which in 1872 instructed its playing secretary **E.A. Crawford** to "bring under notice the advisability of a change in some rules of the game"[5] at the annual meeting of club secretaries. It was agreed to review the 1866 laws and the code was amended on May 22, 1872 at Garton's Hotel with Crawford elected hon. secretary to the delegates.

This revision generally recognised conventions that had been in use for a couple of years,[6] and legislated against scrimmages. Three of the four rule changes, Rules 2, 8 and 12, concerned the role of "the umpire" or "field umpire", a position that prior to 1872 had not formally existed in the code.

The appointment of a central umpire alongside goal umpires was not new to Melbourne football. It is documented that a field umpire complemented the goal umpires for an Athletic Sports Committee (ASC) Cup match on June 30, 1866.[7] However, the absence of this official in the 1866 code is possibly the reason why central umpires were rarely used before the South Yarra Football Club established the last senior challenge cup competition in 1870.

South Yarra issued rules that covered the formalities and organisation of the contests. It determined how the cup may become the permanent property of a competing club, restricted players to one club for cup matches, and ruled that competing clubs must wear particular items of uniform. Two of the rules referred to the 1866 code specifically:

5. The rules of football as arranged at a meeting of delegates on 8th May, 1866, shall be followed in all respects except as altered by the following rule.

6. Both sides shall choose an umpire, to be called the central umpire, to whom all disputes in the field shall be referred.[8]

Therefore, a central umpire was appointed for most senior football matches from 1870. The 1872 code's Rule 12 echoes the 1870 Challenge Cup's Rule 6 by designating the central umpire as the arbiter of all play in the field, leaving the club-appointed goal umpires responsible only for adjudicating goals and behinds.

By 1872 field umpires were a part of the game's fabric to the extent that their appointment was taken for granted. The cup rules of 1870 identified that the central umpire shall be chosen by "both sides" but the revised code of 1872 suggested no mechanism for the field umpire's appointment.

The revised rules also instructed the umpire to keep the ball in motion. An amendment to Rule 8 empowered the central umpire to stop play and throw the ball in the air should any player holding the ball be surrounded by opponents. It was a response to some players slowing down the play by inducing scrimmages, similar to rucks or mauls in modern Rugby Union.

It also complemented the 1866 Rule 3 that stipulated that goals would not be awarded if the ball was carried by hand between the posts in a scrimmage. The legislation favoured an open running game that featured bouncing and kicking the ball. What constituted a mark was further defined in Rule 6 and a free kick could only be claimed if caught directly from a kick by the "foot or leg, on or below the knee...".

Like central umpires, time limits and the division of the game into two halves had been used in Victoria for a number of years before being incorporated within the 1872 rules. The concept had been active somewhat earlier in England. Football was played in two halves at Eton in 1859 and a similar rule was adopted at Cambridge University in 1862 and 1863.[9]

Support for the concept in Victoria found succour in a recent change to the London-based Football Association (FA) Rule 3 in 1867. The amended FA rule read: "3. After a goal is won, the losing side shall kick off and goals shall be changed. In the event, however, of no goal having fallen to either party at the lapse of half the allotted time, ends shall then be changed."[10]

In 1871 the FA Cup competition was introduced to English soccer and its Rule 5 stipulated: "5. The duration of each match shall be one and a half hours."[11] However, the FA rule still allowed for changing ends after each goal, the system used in Victoria and by Rugby football adherents throughout the 1860s.

One of the earliest Victorian matches determined within a set time rather than by a set number of goals was played on June 5, 1869 between Melbourne and Her Majesty's 14th Foot Regiment on the MCG. It was played from 3.00pm to 5.00pm but the ends were changed about an hour and a quarter into the match following the first goal.[12]

The concept of a match consisting of two equal halves was not embraced until the following year after Melbourne footballer **Ben Goldsmith,** writing as "Fairplay" for *The Australasian*, suggested it in a review of the 1869 season on October 16.[13] He saw it as a means to "equalise the game" and "do away with the unfairness" of one team playing against the wind and/or into sun the entire afternoon.[14]

On May 28, 1870 Goldsmith regretted that the FA rule had come to light in the "last mail" after the South Yarra Challenge Cup rules were determined. He also paraphrased the English rule crudely as "... when the game has been played half the allotted time and no goal has been kicked that the players change sides."[15] This phraseology is very similar to that adopted in Rule 2 in 1872.

The following week, on June 6, a challenge cup match took place in two theoretically equal halves when **Charles Chessell,** the captain of Albert Park, and Melbourne's captain **Colden Harrison** arranged to swap ends after one hour's play irrespective of the score (at which time it was discovered Albert Park had two extra men on the field). The match was played in drizzle and wind at Albert Park and it was mutually decided to end 15 minutes earlier than arranged. However, the concept of the game played in two halves rapidly became the convention throughout Victoria and was formalised in the 1872 amendment to Rule 2.

The concept of dividing matches into two equal halves evolved from local inspiration supported by UK precedent. However, the Victorian means for resuming play after the half time break was different. The FA stipulated a "kick off" while at Eton College a "bully", similar to a modern rugby scrum, is formed to restart the match.

Play recommenced in Victoria with the umpire throwing the ball in the air in the centre of the ground, just as he had been instructed to do in the event of a scrimmage. In the early 1870s the Victorian game was developing along its own evolutionary trajectory, and although it drew on ideas from UK football codes, Victorians were devising local solutions for local problems.

(Endnotes)

1   *The Age*, May 10, 1869. *The Leader*, May 15, 1869. *The Australasian*, May 15, 1869.

2   *The Australasian*, May 22, 1869.

3   Pennings, M. *Compendium of football in Victoria, 1858-96,* forthcoming. The annual meeting of football club secretaries was first convened in May 1869. The meetings were generally held prior to each football season to organise the club fixtures for the coming year.

4   Mancini, A. and Hibbins, G. M., *Running with the Ball*, Lyndoch, Melbourne, 1987. p.125.

5   *The Australasian*, April 27, 1872.

6   *The Australian Cricketers' Guide for 1870-71* edited by Tom Wills documented two conventions that were generally accepted by 1871 in its transcript of the 1866 "Victorian Rules of Football" (see *The Yorker: Journal of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library*, Issue 39, Autumn 2009, p.22 for a transcript of the 1866 rules). Wills in square brackets annotated Rule 12, the 1866 law that governed the appointment of umpires, with the following, "[Now a central umpire is appointed, who decides all disputes in reference to play, &c.]". Directly beneath this Wills noted, "A new rule has been added to the above, which is, that the teams change ends when half the game has been played, and not when goals are kicked, as formerly. Now, also, one goal counts as a win." Wills' annotations to the 1866 code suggest conventions concerning the central umpire and the division of the

game into two equal halves were widely accepted practices by 1871, but the code will not be formally revised until the following year. Wills, T.W. (ed.), *The Australian Cricketers' Guide for 1870-71*, Melbourne, 1871. p.119.

7   *Bell's Life in Victoria*, July 7, 1866.

8   *The Australasian*, May 21, 1870.

9   The concept of a game of two halves had been a part of a number of football codes for some time. The first two rules of the 1859 Eton College code stated: "1. The game begins strictly at half-past twelve, and ceases at half-past one, should no other time have been previously agreed on. 2. At the expiration of half the time, "goals" must be changed, and a "bully" formed in the middle of the field." (A "bully" is similar to a scrum in modern Rugby Union.) Lillywhite, F. (ed.), *Lillywhite's Guide to Cricketers...1859*, London, 1859. pp.32-33. A similar practice was adopted at a match between Harrovian and Etonian residents at Cambridge University in November 1862 when it was decided that: "(iv) The game shall last for an hour and a quarter; at the expiration of half the time the Umpires shall call "*change*", and that the sides shall change their Bases." (A "base" was the term for "goal" used at Harrow.) Young, Percy. M. *A History of British football*. Stanley Paul, London, 1968. pp.83-84. The Cambridge University Rules of November 20, 1863 that were framed by students from Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Marlborough, Shrewsbury and Westminster likewise stipulated: "4.

In a match when half the allotted time agreed upon has elapsed, the sides shall change goals when the ball is next out of play. After such change or goal is obtained, the kick-off shall be from the middle of the ground in the same direction as before. The time during which the game shall last and the numbers on each side are to be settled by the heads of the sides." J. R. Witty, "Early Codes" in *Association Football*, Volume 1, Claxton, London, 1960. pp.142-146. As with Rugby School football, the Cambridge and Eton codes influenced the first rules of the FA when they were first determined on December 1, 1863. The 1863 FA code followed the Rugby School convention that ends change after each goal (Rule 3 of the 1863 FA code), and did not propose a set duration for a match, let alone changing ends at half time. Young, Percy. M. *A History of British Football*. Stanley Paul, London, 1968. pp.93-94.

10 Witty, J. R., "The F.A. frames its laws" in *Association Football*, Volume 1, Claxton, London, 1960. p.153.

11 Witty, J. R., "The F.A. frames its laws" in *Association Football*, Volume 1, Claxton, London, 1960. p.154.

12 *The Australasian*, June 12, 1869.

13 *The Australasian*, October 16, 1869. Pennings, M. *Compendium of football in Victoria, 1858-96,* forthcoming.

14 *The Australasian*, May 28, 1870.

15 *The Australasian*, May 28, 1870.

1. The distance between the Goals shall not be more than 200 yards; and the width of the playing space (to be measured equally on each side of the line drawn through the centres of the Goals) not more than 150 yards. The Goal posts shall be seven yards apart, of unlimited height.

2. The Captains on each side shall toss for choice of Goal, the side losing the toss, or a Goal, has the kick off from the centre point between the Goals. When half the time arranged for play has expired, the sides shall change ends, and the ball be thrown in the air by the Umpire in the centre of the ground.

3. A Goal must be kicked by one of the side playing for the Goal between the posts, without touching either of them or any player after being kicked.

4. Two posts, to be called the "kick-off" posts, shall be erected at a distance of 20 yards on each side of the Goal Posts, and in a straight line with them.

5. In case the ball is kicked behind Goal, within the "kick-off" posts, any one of the side behind whose Goal it is kicked may bring it 20 yards in front of any portion of the space between the "kick-off" posts, and shall kick it towards the opposite Goal.

6. Any Player catching the Ball directly from the foot or leg, on or below the knee of another Player, may call "mark"; he then has a free kick from any spot in a line with his mark and the centre of his opponent's Goal Posts; no player being allowed to come inside the spot marked, or within five yards in any other direction.

7. The Ball may be taken in hand at any time, but not carried further than is necessary for a kick, and no player shall run with the Ball unless he strikes it against the ground in every five or six yards. In the event of a player, with the Ball in hand, trying to pass an adversary and being held by him, he shall at once drop the Ball, which shall not be again taken in hand by any player till after it has been kicked.

8. Tripping, Hacking and Rabbiting are prohibited. Pushing with hands or body is allowed only when any player is in rapid motion. Holding is allowed while a player has the Ball in hand, except in the cases provided in rules 5 and 6.

9. When the Ball goes out of Bounds (the same being indicated by a row of posts), it shall be brought back to the point where it crossed the Boundary-line and thrown in at right angles with that line, but shall not be playable until after it touch the ground within Bounds.

10. The ball, while in play, may under no circumstances be thrown.

11. In case of infringement of any of the above Rules, any player of the opposite side may claim that any one of his party may have a free-kick from the place where the breach of Rule was made. The Umpire's decision shall in every case be final, and the Clubs disputing the same shall lose the match.

12. Before the commencement of a match each side shall appoint an Umpire, and they shall be the sole Judges of Goals and of cases of the ball going behind Goal. A Field Umpire shall also be appointed, who shall decide all other matters, and may appeal to the Goal Umpire.

13. No player shall play with more than one Club during one season. For the purposes of this rule, schools be not considered clubs.

Definitions:

1. A Drop Kick or Drop is made by letting the Ball drop from your hands on to the ground, and kicking it the very instant it rises.

2. A Place Kick or Place is kicking the Ball after it has been placed on the ground.

3. A Punt consists in letting the Ball fall from your hands, and kicking it before it touches the ground.

4. A Scrummage commences when the Ball is on the ground, and all who have closed round on their respective sides begin kicking at it.

5. Rabbiting is one player stooping down so as to cause another to fall by placing his body below the others' hips.

Commentary: The 1872 revision had diminished scrimmages and in the two seasons that followed play became more open. The Melbourne footballer **Ben Goldsmith,** writing as "Fairplay" for *The Australasian*, reported in August 1873 that a "scrimmage is now barely of longer duration in seconds than it formerly was in minutes..."[16]

However, scrimmaging had not been eliminated from the game and other aspects of rough play emerged as defenders sought to stop players running the ball. It seems this development, along with the eradication of a few loopholes, informed the next revision of the code when delegates from the senior football clubs Carlton, Melbourne, Albert Park, Geelong, St. Kilda and North Melbourne met at Nissen's Café on May 5 and May 12, 1874.

To eliminate the formation of scrimmages once and for all, Rule 7 was altered to instruct field umpires to award a free kick against players who do not drop the ball immediately when tackled by an opponent. Previously the umpire would throw the ball in the air and although this lessened the occurrence of Rugby football-style rucks and mauls, the 1874 amendment would effectively eliminate it as a tactic.

The amendment may be regarded as the game's first "holding the ball" rule and the word "scrummage" survived in the 1874 code only as a residual definition. The rule was effective immediately and Goldsmith, one of Melbourne's two delegates reported on May 23 that "the days of holding and tearing were at an end" although some players picked up the ball once it had been released rather than kicking it.[17]

Rule 3 governing goal scoring was also amended and complemented the anti-scrimmage alteration. The second sentence of Rule 3 in 1872 that stated "... In case of the ball being forced (except with the hands or arms) between the goal-posts in a scrimmage, a goal shall be awarded" was expunged and the amended Rule 3 stated that "A Goal must be kicked by one of the side playing for the Goal between the posts ...".

Therefore, it was now technically impossible for a defender to concede an own goal. The mark was also further defined in Rule 6 and outlawed a player claiming a mark if he kicked the ball to himself. According to Goldsmith it had always been assumed that a mark would not be awarded should a footballer claim one off his own foot, but this amendment eliminated a potential loophole.

A defensive practice that was outlawed in 1874 was "rabbiting". It was a recent tactic, introduced to the game by a couple of Carlton players in 1873 and a definition of it was added to the rules. Goldsmith graphically described "rabbiting" footballers who were "...suddenly dropping down at full length in front of a player running, and causing him to turn a somersault".[18] Goldsmith equated it with tripping and it was added to Rule 8 alongside the prohibition on tripping and hacking.

Other practices that had recently entered the game were also effectively outlawed. One tactic involved virtually slapping the ball immediately after it was released from the umpire's hand at boundary throw-ins. In Rule 9 the answer was found in an amendment that legislated that the ball had to touch the ground before it was in play.

Ballarat Imperial, South Melbourne and Geelong champion of the 1880s and 1890s Peter Burns in a 1941 *Sporting Globe* article recalled a throw-in during the early 1880s, after the 1874 amendment was firmly established. "The big huskies formed a ring around the place where the ball was likely to bounce and tried to keep the other fellows away. Brawn defied brawn – brawn crashed through brawn."[19] The scrimmage was eliminated as a tactic but the game remained extremely physical.

One proposal to outlaw pushing from behind when a player is attempting to mark was unsuccessful. Some delegates argued that technically pushing a player in the back when marking was already outlawed for the player is not "in rapid motion", the only allowance for an opponent to be pushed "with hands or body" in Rule 8.

Other changes governed aspects of the sport that had been previously stipulated in challenge cup competition rules such as inter-club and match disputes. In 1865 and 1866 the Athletic Sports Committee (ASC) was the "... sole judge of any disputes that may arise" for their cup.[20]

However, there had not been a senior cup competition since Carlton won and retired the South Yarra Challenge Cup in 1871, and without an organising senior association or competition rules, disputes often became entrenched. The scope of the

1874 amendment to Rule 11 differed from analogous challenge cup rules for it was wider. It penalised clubs who disputed the authority of umpires and applied to all matches.

This amendment was primarily motivated by an acrimonious dispute between the Carlton and Albert Park clubs during a match on May 31, 1873 at Albert Park. The umpire awarded Albert Park's George Crooke a mark one yard from goal but Carlton players claimed the ball had been touched.[21] The umpire was unmoved by the Blues' complaints who walked from the ground in protest.

Although Carlton later "...admitted their error in refusing to give way to the umpire", Albert Park refused to play Carlton until "... such time as they apologise for their unfootball-like conduct in disobeying the umpire's decision of the late match ...".[22]

The amended Rule 11 would mean the next time the umpire's decision was questioned the disputing side would effectively forfeit the match. With the new rule in place it seems the vitriol that sparked the amendment had subsided. On May 23 Carlton and Albert Park met in the first senior match under the 1874 amendments.

A new law, Rule 13, was introduced and limited footballers to representing a single club during a season. It was motivated by footballers from senior clubs playing for junior teams. It seems previous challenge cup rules that limited players to a particular club for cup matches may have been the basis for the new law.

In 1865 the Athletic Sports Committee (ASC) cup rules made no mention of players being tied to a club but in 1866 a new rule stated: "11. No players shall be allowed to play with more than two clubs for the Cup during the season."[23] The South Yarra Challenge Cup rules of 1870 were stricter and stipulated that: "4. No player shall be allowed to play with more than one club for the Cup."[24] The phraseology of both rules is echoed in the new Rule 13.

Goldsmith commented that although it "might tell awkwardly in a team visiting a country district, but arrangements could also be made between parties to avoid any difficulty." [25] Goldsmith was referring to the practice of teams travelling to towns short of the required number of players and having to recruit locals to make up the numbers.

All of the 1874 amendments that passed had been advocated by *The Australasian's* **Ben Goldsmith.** Other suggestions that he had proposed in recent years, such as letting behinds count towards the score, were ignored.[26] Goldsmith's newspaper published the English Football Association (FA) rules in full prior to the meeting but they seem to have had little or no impact on the revised Victorian code.

Goldsmith praised the delegates' "sensible counsel" for not "making radical changes as to entirely alter the character of the game ... and made alterations tending only to reduce holding to a minimum, and increase as much as possible all ways of kicking, in place of handling the ball."[27]

(Endnotes)

16 *The Australasian*, August 16, 1873.
17 *The Australasian*, May 23, 1874.
18 *The Australasian*, September 13, 1873.
19 De Lacy, H. A. "Greatest player game has produced", *The Sporting Globe*, May 3, 1941.
20 Rule 10 in the cup rules of 1865, *Bell's Life in Victoria*, June 10, 1865, and Rule 12 in the revised 1866 rules, *Bell's Life in Victoria*, June 2, 1866.
21 Pennings, M. *Compendium of football in Victoria, 1858-96,* forthcoming.
22 *The Australasian*, June 28, 1873.
23 *Bell's Life in Victoria*, June 2, 1866.

24 *The Australasian*, May 21, 1870.
25 *The Australasian*, May 16, 1874.
26 *The Australasian*, October 16, 1869. Pennings, M. *Compendium of football in Victoria, 1858-96,* forthcoming.
27 *The Australasian*, May 16, 1874. The delegates were Macdonald and L.J. Bracken (Albert Park), S. Wallace and T.P. Power (Carlton), G. Down and Reichmann (Geelong), B. Goldsmith and L.W. Bell (Melbourne), A. Hastings and J. McIndoe (North Melbourne), and G.L. Skinner and H. Jennings (St. Kilda). "Victorian Rules of Football" in Power, Thomas P. (ed.). *The Footballer: an annual record of football in Victoria and the Australian Colonies.* (Melbourne), 1876. pp.20-21.

SCRIMMAGING ON THREE CONTINENTS

Football codes borrowed heavily from each other from the 1850s. As late as the 1870s many of the rules, skills and tactics of Rugby, Soccer and Australian football were similar.

Scrimmaging was a technique still used by Victorian and Rugby Union footballers in the 1870s as the images attest. Scrimmaging featured in English Rugby Union football (top left), a football game played by Englishmen in Japan (top right) and Victorian football in Melbourne (bottom).

The images of footballers in Melbourne and Japan were probably based on the English original. The respective artists used the surrounding landscape to locate the games. Japan is clearly identified by Mount Fuji, and Yarra Park, Melbourne is identified with Jolimont Terrace in the background.

An effect of the Victorian anti-scrimmaging rules of the 1870s is evident in the Melbourne image. Whereas the ball remains hidden among footballers' bodies in the English and Japanese prints, the Victorian etching shows a footballer relinquishing the ball as instructed by the Rule 7 of the 1874 Victorian Code:

"…In the event of a player, with the Ball in hand, trying to pass an adversary and being held by him, he shall at once drop the Ball, which shall not be again taken in hand by any player till after it has been kicked."

Illustrated London News,1871

Japan 1874. Radio Times: Hulton Picture Library

Australasian Sketcher, June 12, 1875

I. The distance between the Goals shall not be more than 200 yards and not less than 180 yards, and the width of playing space (to be measured equally on each side of a line drawn through the centres of the Goals not more than 150 yards and not less than 120 yards. The Goal posts shall be seven yards apart, of unlimited height.

II. The Captains on each side shall toss for choice of Goal; the side losing the toss, or a Goal, has the kick-off from the centre-point between the Goals. When half the time arranged for play has expired, the sides shall change ends, and the ball be thrown in the air by the Umpire in the centre of the ground.

III. A Goal must be kicked by one of the side playing for the Goal between the posts, without touching either of them or any player after being kicked.

IV. Two posts to be called the "kick-off posts", shall be erected at a distance of 20 yards on each side of the Goal Posts, and in a straight line with them.

V. In case the ball is kicked behind Goal, within the kick-off posts, any one of the side behind whose Goal it is kicked may bring it 20 yards in front of any portion of the space between the "kick-off posts", and shall kick it towards the opposite goal.

VI. Any player catching the Ball directly from the foot or leg, on or below the knee of another Player may call "mark"; he then has a free kick from any spot in a line with his mark and the centre of his opponents' Goal Posts; no player being allowed to come inside the spot marked, or within five yards in any other direction.

VII. The ball may be taken in hand at any time, but not carried further than is necessary for a kick, and no player shall run with the Ball unless he strikes it against the ground in every five or six yards. In the event of a player, with the ball in hand, trying to pass an adversary and being held by him, he shall at once drop the ball.

VIII. Tripping, Hacking, and Rabbiting are prohibited. Pushing with hands or body is allowed only when a player is in rapid motion. Holding is allowed while a player has a ball in hand, except in the cases provided in rules 5 and 6.

IX. When the Ball goes out of bounds (the same being indicated by a row of posts), it shall be brought back to the point where it crossed the Boundary-line, and thrown at right angles with that line, but shall not be playable until after it touches the ground within bounds.

X. The Ball, while in play may, under no circumstances be thrown.

XI. In case of infringement of any of the above rules, any player of the opposite side may claim that any one of his party may have a free kick from the place where the breach of Rule was made. The Umpire's decision shall in every case be final, and the Clubs disputing the same shall lose the match.

XII. Before the commencement of a match, each side shall appoint an Umpire, and they shall be the sole Judge of Goals and of cases of the ball going behind Goal. A Field Umpire shall also be appointed, who shall decide all other matters, and may appeal to the Goal Umpire.

XIII. When any Club shall send a challenge to another to play a match, it shall be understood that each team shall consist of 20 players, unless it is otherwise arranged, and in the event of one side arriving at the ground with a less number, the opposite side shall not be obliged to reduce the number of its players.

XIV. The ball used shall be the "Rugby" or Oval ball.

XV. That the Umpire in case of doubt may throw up the ball where the dispute occurred, the same not being considered in play until it touches the ground; also that the ball be considered dead till the appeal is heard.

XVI. That any player striking another in any Associated Match shall be disqualified for the rest of the season. Any dispute in regard to the facts shall be settled by the Committee.

Commentary: By 1877 the Victorian code controlled almost all football matches in Victoria and in the late 1870s it was exported to neighboring colonies. However, the laws of the Rugby Union (est. 1871) and the London-based Football Association (FA, est. 1863) had dominated the football landscape of the United Kingdom by the mid-1870s and influenced football in the British colonies and beyond.

As had occurred in Melbourne two decades earlier, football clubs throughout Australasia drew on established codes as templates and the Victorian game was one choice among a number. For example, it was common for Southern Tasmanian clubs during the late-1870s to play according to three different codes in a month while maintaining a bias to a particular game, whether it was a variant of English Association, Rugby Union, Victorian rules or a local compromise.[28]

It seems the major determinant for the acceptance of the Victorian game in an Australasian city was its geographic proximity to Melbourne rather than Sydney, whose football games were controlled by the Southern Rugby Football Union (SRFU, est. 1874), and the potential for intercolonial matches.

The first football association (as distinct from a club) in Australia to adopt a large portion of the Victorian code was the South Australian Football Association (SAFA), formed in April 1877. However, an earlier meeting of 56 people representing four football clubs at Adelaide's Prince Alfred Hotel in July 1876 was pivotal to the establishment of the SAFA and Victorian rules in South Australia.

Before 1877 Adelaide clubs had played a variety of football codes, although the rules of the Kensington Football Club had been used in the city for a number of years. However, some footballers found the situation unsatisfactory.

Former members of the Adelaide Football Club (defunct since 1873) thought the Kensington rules caused too many disputes and resulted in the decline of football's popularity. Therefore, on July 8, 1876 a reconstituted Adelaide Football Club played South Adelaide under what *The South Australian Register* styled "the old Adelaide or modified Rugby Union rules".[29]

A major reason South Australia adopted the Victorian code was to help facilitate intercolonial competition. In August 1877 Melbourne and St Kilda (above) were the first Victorian football clubs to visit Adelaide, within months of the South Australians adopting Victorian rules.

Less than a fortnight later, representatives of Old Adelaide (former members of the Adelaide Football Club), South Adelaide, Woodville and Victorian met on July 20 at the Prince Alfred Hotel to consider a uniform code for the colony. It was largely a response to Kensington's aborted attempt to organise a similar meeting of clubs.

The chairman of South Adelaide, **Charles Kingston,** moved that "...the rules played in Victoria should be considered. They differed but slightly from the old Adelaide rules..." and to applause he added "... there would be greater probability of intercolonial matches being arranged."[30]

The four clubs adopted most of the Victorian 1874 rules. The Kensington rules' goal posts, in which a goal was scored if the ball travelled over a crossbar and under a rope, made way for the Victorian goals "of unlimited height". The representatives even stipulated that the clubs use an oval rugby ball. At the time round footballs were widely used in Adelaide, but the oval ball, though popular in Victoria, was not stipulated by its code until 1877.

The South Australians did amend three rules and one of these was idiosyncratically Victorian. Rule 7 governed the most distinctive feature of the Victorian game for it allowed for running with the ball only if the player strikes it against the ground every five or six yards. The South Australians struck it out and replaced it with a new Rule 7 that stipulated: "The ball may be taken in hand at any time, but the player shall be liable to be held or thrown until he drops it."

This rule sounds similar to a convention used in Victoria immediately before the 1866 rules were introduced. Rule 6 was amended to prevent players who have claimed a mark playing

on and Rule 8 was altered to permit pushing from behind "only" when the player is running.

The new rules were put into effect on Saturday July 22 when all four of the signatory clubs played. Old Adelaide and Woodville played according to the new laws and although the game was rough it was apparently contested in good humor and without dispute. Meanwhile, Victorians met Port Adelaide, a team that had not signed on to the rules. However, the game as described in *The South Australian Register* is consistent with either the new South Australian or Victorian codes.

A third match that afternoon featured Kensington and South Adelaide. The game was delayed because South Adelaide refused to play under Kensington's rules unless they were altered. South eventually conceded to play by Kensington rules because the initial challenge had specified them. However, this match was apparently riddled with disputes.[31]

By 1877 at least four Adelaide football clubs had agreed to play by a code based largely on the Victorian game, albeit without its most distinctive feature. However, Adelaide football was still without a universally agreed code when on April 19, 1877, weeks prior to the start of the football season, the South Australian Football Association (SAFA) was established.

Little business was transacted that night, so on April 30 the SAFA was officially constituted when delegates from the South Park, Willunga, Port Adelaide, Adelaide, North Adelaide, Prince Alfred College, Gawler, Kapunda, Bankers, Woodville, South Adelaide, Kensington and Victorian football clubs met at the Prince Alfred Hotel.

In 1877 South Australia adopted the Victorian brand of football but two years elapsed before the colonies met in a representative game. In their first contest Victoria defeated South Australia seven goals to nil on July 1, 1879, at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground. *Australasian Sketcher*, August 2, 1879.

They decided to consider the Victorian rules for play. *The South Australian Register* reported that "the result of the meeting being that the Victorian playing rules were adopted almost *in toto* though pushing behind was, after considerable discussion, forbidden."

Nowell Twopenny, an Adelaide representative and the first secretary of the SAFA, spoke in favor of running with the ball without the requirement to bounce it, "...urging that it was a *sine qua non* of genuine football, and that, from English experience, he could vouch for there being no disputes when this rule was played; whereas bouncing the ball had led to endless disputes here [in Adelaide]."

Charles Kingston of South Adelaide responded that there are generally no disputes regarding the bouncing rules when the Victorian code is played by experienced players. Kingston proposed that the SAFA adopt as many of the Victorian rules as possible "... and this rule was an essential to an intercolonial match." It therefore seems that the prospect of playing football against Victorian sides played a major role in the SAFA adopting the Victorian code. As a result, most of the Victorian Rule 7 was accepted by the SAFA "...as it stood."[32]

This particular law, like the earlier South Australian code of 1876, was transcribed from the 1874 Victorian Rules of Football. However, when on May 17, 1877 the Victorian Football Association (VFA) was officially founded in Melbourne it too altered some of the 1874 rules. Four new VFA laws (Rule 13 to Rule 16) and about 15 amendments postdate the establishment of the South Australian code.

The South Australians also had 16 rules with their additional four rules governing other aspects of matches (curiously only Rule 13 and Rule 14 are reproduced in the Victorian football annual *The Footballer* of 1877). Therefore, in 1877 there are subtle anomalies between the two codes. The ball type for instance was not referred to in the 1874 rules, but was incorporated into Rule 1 of the VFA code and mentioned separately as Rule 14 in the South Australian code.

Similar quirks occurred when other newly formed football bodies decided to play according to the "Victorian Association" rules. In 1879 the Hobart-based Tasmanian Football Association played a game similar in most respects to the VFA code except a goal had to be scored between the goalposts and under a tape stretched across them 10 feet from the ground.[33]

Despite such differences, rival bodies and clubs were willing to compromise and Victorian clubs toured neighboring colonies within months of the establishment of regular "Victorian rules" matches in a city, or in Sydney's case a few years before then. It would not be until Friday November 9, 1883 in Phair's Hotel, Melbourne, that an attempt was made to standardise the code throughout the Australasian colonies at the first intercolonial football convention.

Delegates representing the senior football associations of South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and Victoria revised the code and gave it a new name: "The Laws of the Australasian Game of Football".[34] The Victorian game was not the only football code in Australasia during the late 1870s and early 1880s but its scope was transcontinental.

(Endnotes)

28 Ian Syson, writer in residence with the soccer's Football Federation of Victoria (FFV), and Australian soccer historian Roy Hay legitimately challenged the Football Federation of Australia's (FFA) official recognition of a football match between Wanderers and Kings School at Parramatta, west of Sydney on August 14, 1880, as the first football (soccer) match in Australia. They noted that, "there is strong evidence that organised [English] Association football was played between New Town Football Club and the Cricketers of Hobart in May and June 1879." Hay, Roy and Syson, Ian. *The Story of Football in Victoria*, Football Federation of Victoria, Mebourne, 2009. pp.2-3. Syson had also noted in unpublished correspondence that the Cricketers Football Club in Hobart had played an interclub match according to English Association rules (soccer) as early as May 10, 1879. *The Hobart Mercury*, May 12 1879. Unpublished correspondence with Ian Syson, November 13, 2009.

29 *The South Australian Register*, July 8, 1876.

30 *The South Australian Register*, July 21, 1876.

31 *The South Australian Register*, July 24, 1876.

32 *The South Australian Register*, May 1, 1877.

33 *The Hobart Mercury*, June 16, 1879, reported that the "Victorian Code of Rules were adopted, with certain modifications" by the newly formed Tasmanian Football Association. There were 12 rules and six definitions with the goal defined by Rule 1 as, "...two upright posts, 8 yards apart, with a tape across them 10 feet from the ground." According to Rule 7, "A goal shall be won when the ball is fairly kicked under the tape between the goal posts, not being thrown, knocked on or carried". Rule 8 was definitely inspired by Victorian football and states: "Running with the ball shall be allowed, provided that it is bounced on the ground at intervals of five yards." However, some terms used in the document are derived from Rugby Union and the Football Association (soccer) rules. "Laws of the Tasmanian Football Association 1879: Rules of the New Town and Hobart Town Football Clubs." in Stoward, John. *Australian Rules Football in Tasmania*, John Stoward, 2002. p. 28.

34 *The Australasian*, November 17, 1883. Melbourne Cup week was chosen for the convention as it was the most convenient time. According to *The Australasian* the Tasmanian delegate Mr Westwood proposed placing a crossbar 10 feet off the ground across the goalposts, a goal only counting if the ball was kicked over it. The proposal was "negatived by a small majority".

1. The distance between the goals should not be more than 200 yards, and the width of playing space to be measured equally on each side of a line drawn through the centre of the goals not more than 150 yards. The goal posts shall be seven yards apart, of not less than12ft in height. The ball to be used shall be the No. 2 size Rugby (26in. in circumference).

2. The captains of each side shall toss for choice of goal. The side losing the toss or goal has the kick-off from the centre-point between the goals. When half the time arranged for play has expired, the players shall change ends, and the ball be thrown in the air by the field umpire in the centre of the ground.

3. A goal must be kicked by one of the side playing for goal between the posts, without touching either of them (flags excepted), or any player after being kicked. Should any of the spectators standing between the goal-posts interfere with or stop the progress of the ball going through, a goal shall be scored.

4. Two posts, to be called the "kick-off posts", shall be erected at a distance of twenty yards on each side of the goal-posts in a straight line with them.

5. In case the ball is kicked behind goal by one of the opposite side within the kick-off posts, any one of the side behind whose goal it is kicked may bring it ten yards in front of any portion of the space between the kick-off posts, and shall kick it towards the opposite goal.

6. Any player catching the ball directly from the foot or leg on or below the knee of another player may call "mark." He then has a free kick from any spot behind and in a line with his mark and the centre of his opponents' goal-posts, no player being allowed to come inside the spot marked, or within five yards in any other direction.

7. The ball may be taken in hand at any time, but not carried further than is necessary for a kick, unless the player strikes it against the ground every five or six yards. In the event of a player with the ball in hand trying to pass an adversary, and being held by him, he must drop the ball.

8. Tripping, hacking, rabbiting and slinging are prohibited; pushing with hands or body is allowed only when a player is in rapid motion within five or six yards of the ball. Holding a player is allowed only while such player has the ball in hand, except in the cases provided in rules 5, 6 and 7.

9. When the ball goes out of bounds it shall be brought back to the point where it crossed the boundary line, and thrown in by the umpire at right angles with that line, but shall not be playable until after it touches the ground within bounds.

10. The ball while in play may, under no circumstances, be thrown or handed to a player.

11. In case of infringement of any of the above rules, any player of the opposite side may claim a free kick from the place where the breach of rule was made, the player nearest the place of infringement being the only one entitled to kick.

12. Before the commencement of a match, each side shall appoint an umpire, who shall be the sole judge of goals and of cases of the ball going behind goal. A field umpire shall also be appointed, who shall decide in all other matters, and may appeal to the goal umpire.

13. The field umpire on being appealed to may either award a "free kick", call "play on" or stop the play and throw the ball in the air, and stop all attempts at scrimmages. In every case his decision shall be final, and the club disputing same shall lose the match. But in the event of an umpire refusing to decide upon any matter in dispute, clubs may, according to Rule 8 of the Association, appeal to that body, whose decision shall be final.

14. No one wearing projecting nails, iron plates or gutta percha on any part of his boots or shoes shall be allowed to play in a match.

15. No player shall play with more than one club during one season, except he permanently change his residence from town to country, or *visa versa*. For the purpose of this rule, schools or universities shall not be considered clubs. In the event of a club disbanding, its members may be at liberty to play with any other club, with the consent of the Association.

16. None of the above laws shall be altered or rescinded, nor shall any rule be added during a season, nor shall any rule be repealed, altered, amended, or adopted without concurrence of a majority of the Association at a meeting specially called for that purpose.

Definitions:

1. A drop-kick or drop is made by letting the ball drop from the hands on to the ground, and kicking it the very instant it rises.

2. A place-kick or place is kicking the ball after it has been placed on the ground.

3. A punt consists in letting the ball fall from the hands, and kicking it before it touches the ground.

4. Rabbiting is one player stooping down so as to cause another to fall by placing his body below the other's hips.

5. Slinging is the act of catching a player by or round the neck and throwing him to the ground.

Commentary: The idea to form a Victorian Football Association (VFA) was conceived by delegates from all senior Melbourne metropolitan clubs at Oliver's Café on Monday May 7, 1877, but *The Footballer* of 1877 commented that there had been discussion of forming a football association in Victoria for a couple of years.[35]

The Association was intended "to have entire control and management of all intercolonial football matches."[36] Therefore, it appears that the impetus to form the VFA came from the establishment of the South Australian Football Association (SAFA) in April and the prospect of intercolonial competition.

The VFA was immediately recognised as an independent body that could be used to control the game in the colony, settle disputes between clubs, disqualify players for indiscretions and review the laws of the game.

At the May 7 meeting, it was suggested that the rules should also be revised and a number of suggestions were put forward for discussion when the clubs next met to constitute the VFA on Thursday May 17 at Nissen's Café.

The revision of the rules was the first work of the Association and the meeting was attended by delegates from Melbourne's senior clubs – Albert Park, Carlton, Hotham, Melbourne and St. Kilda and a representative of the Geelong Football Club. The previous meeting had framed some suggestions and prepared a draft document based on the 1874 rules for discussion.

Some of the first amendments to the code reflect the game's growth and evolution throughout the 1870s. The oval rugby-type ball had been used intermittently in Victoria from 1860 and had gained in popularity as the players became adept at bouncing, punting and dropkicking it.

However, the type of ball had never been specified in the Victorian code although the South Australians specified an oval rugby ball on April 30, 1877 (Rule 14). The VFA also decided to codify the size and type of ball in Rule 1 as a No. 2 size rugby ball (which was full-size), 26 inches in circumference.

Other additions to rules reflected the growing popularity of the game in Melbourne. An addition to Rule 3 awarded a goal to the attacking team if a ball when heading for goal was interfered with by spectators. This reflected an era when matches were played on unfenced parkland and barrackers, numbering in the thousands, often encroached onto the field, disrupted play and crowded the goalmouth. This practice influenced the outcome of matches when one goal to nil was a regular score line.

Football's growing spectator appeal possibly informed an amendment to Rule 1 that stipulated the goal posts were to measure 12 feet high. It was probably intended to assist goal umpires reach a correct decision for each goal umpire was appointed by the competing clubs and there were sporadic accusations of bias. In the 1870s goal posts were portable and relatively low, some as low as eight feet from the turf, and therefore the ball regularly sailed well over the posts and the decisions of goal umpires were often questioned.[37]

Some new laws were created to further protect footballers when not directly participating in the play. Rule 8 was changed to outlaw "slinging", a new term defined as "...the act of catching a player by around the neck and throwing him to the ground." The VFA also added the stipulation to Rule 8 that the player must be within five or six yards of the ball for a push (shepherd) to be deemed legal.

Players had not been able to induce a scrimmage under penalty of a free kick since 1874. So successful had the law been that the scrimmage definition was removed from the code in 1877. Rule 7, the "holding the ball" rule, remained unchanged but a new law (Rule 13) revived an expunged 1872 amendment that permitted the field umpire to throw the ball in the air if a scrimmage formed.

The new law allowed the umpire to use his discretion to award a free kick, or throw the ball in the air if it was unclear who initiated the scrimmage, or let play continue if the ball spilt free.

Pressure was also placed on defenders to keep the ball in play. The area we currently refer to as the goal square began to reach more modest, modern dimensions. The area formerly measured 47 yards wide and extended 20 yards into the field of play. This was halved to 10 yards in front of goal between the kick off posts (Rule 5).

It seems halving the space a defender is entitled to for restarting play following a behind was related to two laws that did not pass but were attempts to discourage defenders from deliberately rushing or kicking the ball behind, or restarting play by kicking the ball out of bounds. A proposed May 7 amendment to Rule 5 would have required a ball kicked out of bounds from a kick-off be kicked out again, but this was defeated.

Another proposed new law was to have been inserted directly after Rule 5. It read: "6. In case the ball is kicked behind by one of the side whose goal it is, the ball shall simply be thrown in at the place it crossed the line, as if it had gone out of bounds, same as provided for in Rule 10 [read as VFA Rule 9]."[38]

However, the proposed new Rule 6 was defeated, and a mechanism that discouraged players from deliberately taking the ball behind goal when under pressure and using a kick-out to restart play at their leisure was not reconsidered until 2009.

Not all the proposed amendments favoured the attacking team. A successful alteration to Rule 11 stipulated that if a free kick is granted only the player nearest the infringement could take it (Rule 11). It was a convention that players who received a free took the kick although it had not been stipulated in the code.

The catalyst for drafting this amendment may have come from a Geelong match towards the close of the 1875 season. The umpire, Tom Wills, allowed a Geelong player who was given a free kick in front of goal to hand the ball and the free kick to the team's famed goal scorer Ben Hall, despite protestations from opposition barrackers.[39]

Another proposal considered at the meeting would have eliminated what was called the *little mark* then creeping into the game. A *little mark* involved a player handing the ball to a team mate having deftly touched it against his toe. A proposed addition to Rule 6 that governed marking would have curtailed the practice.

It read: "...No mark shall be allowed unless the ball is kicked at least six yards." It was not passed but a proposed addition to Rule 10 was successful and from 1877 handing the ball to another player was outlawed.

The little mark did have its supporters and the tactic would blight the game as players exploited it with chains of little marks. It was not until 1897 with the establishment of the Victorian Football League that it was eliminated through the enforcement of a law similar to the unsuccessful amendment to Rule 6.

There were four new rules added to the code. Rule 13 dealt largely with an umpire's responsibilities (such as the previously mentioned scrimmage rule) and the responsibility of clubs and footballers to him. However, the rule also provided aggrieved clubs the ability to appeal to the Association.

The VFA's Rule 14 was possibly driven by safety issues in the Victorian game. It read: "14. No one wearing projecting nails, iron plates or gutta percha on any part of his boots or shoes shall be allowed to play in a match." This new law resembles beyond all coincidence an English FA law that had been in place since 1863. The English rule stipulated: "13. No player shall be allowed to wear projecting nails, iron plates, or gutta percha on the soles or heels of his boots."[40]

The FA rule in turn was descended from a Rugby School football law first drafted on August 28, 1845 that stated: "xxviii. No player may wear projecting nails or iron plates on the heels or soles of his shoes or boots."[41] The Victorian game had a number of unique issues and qualities by 1877 but then as now its administrators looked to other football codes and sports for guidance.

The new rules 15 and 16 deal exclusively with off-field issues such as recruiting and further amendments to the rules. The VFA in its bylaws (not dealt within the rules of the game) left membership open to provincial clubs that do not accept a handicap against senior metropolitan clubs.

Therefore, Ballarat, Beechworth, Castlemaine, Geelong, Inglewood, Rochester and Barwon also joined the body in 1877. It is possible that Geelong's presence at the May 17 meeting helped amend a proposed new law from May 7.

Rule 15 governed player transfers and begins as a transcript of the old 1874 Rule 13: "No player shall play with more than one club during one season,…" But then it added "…except he permanently change his residence from town to country or vice versa."

It is assumed this addition was to control the practice of metropolitan clubs arriving at a provincial town without the required number of players and ringing in footballers from a local rival for the scheduled match.

After 1877 the game's laws were reviewed each year and changes to the code were often implemented within months of a player or club exploiting a loophole.

The game changed rapidly from the late 1870s. Enclosed cricket grounds replaced open parkland as regular football venues which allowed admission fees to be collected at the gate, increasing the wealth of clubs and enabling them to broaden their recruiting base and implement more scientific training methods. Faced with ever keener competition, teams' tactics became increasingly co-ordinated and gifted footballers took more risks.

The Victorian code grew rapidly under such forces for change. From 16 rules and five definitions in 1877, the code had grown to 25 rules with six definitions and a separate paragraph on umpires by 1883, when the code was renamed "The Laws of the Australasian Game of Football".[42]

TREVOR RUDDELL
Trevor Ruddell is the assistant librarian of the MCC Library and the co-author of
Richmond FC: a century of League Football

Six footballer/officials who led the Melbourne Football Club in the 1860s and 1870s. Colden Harrison (captain 1861, 1863-71, player 1859-61, 1863-71) is wearing the pale suit. The others are James Byrne (captain 1868, 1872-73, secretary 1869, player 1866-75, 1877), Charles "Chubby" Forrester (captain 1875, player 1867-78), Ben Goldsmith (captain 1871, 1874-75, player 1868-75), Jack "Specs" Bennie (player 1865-76) and Charles Carr (secretary 1873, player 1869-77) - *Leader* **August 15, 1908. p.29.**

(Endnotes)
35 "Victorian Football Association" in Power, Thomas P. (ed.). *The Footballer: an annual record of football in Victoria and the Australian Colonies*. Thomas P. Power, [Melbourne], 1877. pp.17-21.
36 *The Australasian*, May 12, 1877.
37 In 1873 the Melbourne Football Club was the first club to use goal posts that stood about 20 feet out of the ground. Ben Goldsmith wrote that due to the height of the posts, "… a disputed decision will, in future, be almost an impossibility". He also noted: "… the height of the general run of goal-posts is from 8ft. to 10 ft." *The Australasian*, May 31, 1873.
38 *The Australasian*, May 19, 1877.
39 de Moore, Greg. *Tom Wills: his spectacular rise and tragic fall*, Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest, 2008. p.240.
40 Young, Percy M. *A History of British Football*, Stanley Paul, London, 1968. pp. 93-94.
41 Macrory, Jennifer. *Running with the Ball: the Birth of Rugby Football*, Harper Willow, London, 1991. pp. 86-90.
42 *The Australasian*, November 17, 1883.

TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION

The MCC Library display for the 2009 AFL finals looked back 60 years to the colour photographs of leading footballers and teams published by *The Argus* in their Week-end Magazine. These early colour reproductions of VFL and VFA teams were a feature of the magazine in 1949 and 1950.

What better choice could we make in presenting an image to represent this display than that of John Coleman. We will be reproducing the 1950 images for your enjoyment as part of our 2010 AFL finals display.

HOW ESSENDON BECAME MY TEAM

The 2009 AFL season marked the 60th anniversary of one of the most celebrated years in the history of the Essendon Football Club, in which the introduction of the legendary John Coleman added a further dimension to an already accomplished and successful line-up and virtually ensured the winning of its ninth League premiership.

His stunning contribution to a side which proved unbeatable in the latter half of the season convinced an impressionable eight-year-old, whose only awareness of the VFL until then had been confined to listening to the radio in a pre-television era and collecting player cards from boxes of Kornies breakfast cereal, that Essendon was the only team to follow.

Earlier that season, I had had my first experience of watching senior football, in the company of my father at the Camberwell Sports Ground. It was very much a time of supporting your local club and therefore, as residents of the area, my father encouraged me to join him in following the fortunes of lowly Camberwell in the VFA. As a result, local players such as Jim Bohan, Jack Hedley and Bob Milgate initially became far more familiar to me than unseen Essendon stars.

All that changed in the second round next season. An uncle of my father's lived in Napier Street, within a short distance of Windy Hill, and he took us to see the game against South Melbourne that afternoon. To my delight, Essendon led from early on and had substantially increased its advantage by each change of ends, culminating in an amazing 12.3 in the last quarter to the Swans' 2.2, for a final scoreline of 29.7.181 to 10.16.76.

Twenty-three of the home side's goals came from the boots of Coleman (11), Ron McEwin (7) and Bill Hutchison (5). Images of the former's spectacular marking, together with the excitement generated by the dash of the two small men, remain indelibly imprinted on the mind, even though the passage of time has clouded other aspects of the game.
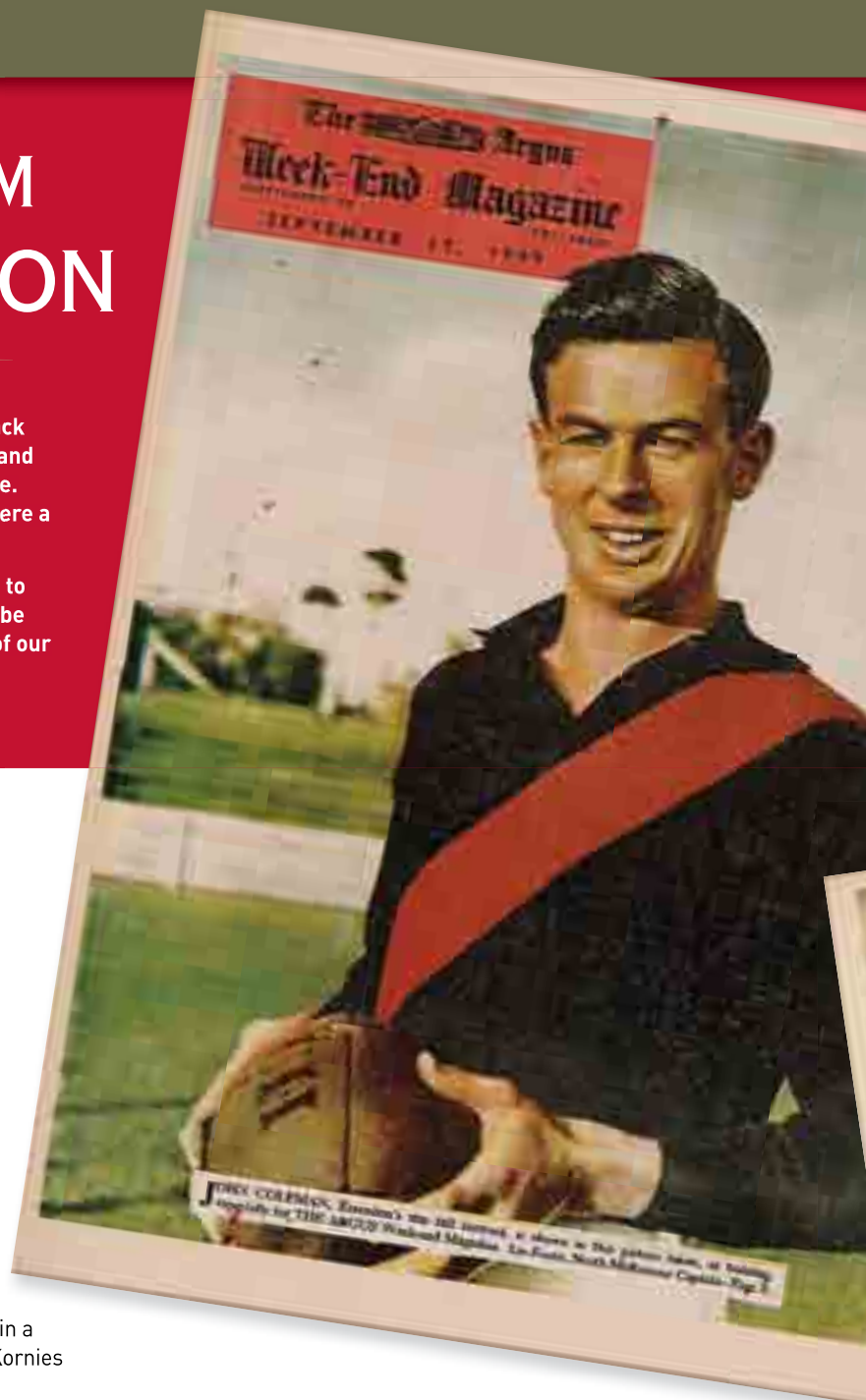
Coleman's performance that day and the overall dominance of the Bombers throughout a season in which they lost just one game merely reinforced my earlier decision to follow them.

Within a few years, however, cricket became a far greater passion and has remained so to the present day. Even so, my interest in the fortunes of Essendon has continued undiminished, albeit a little more distantly.

Down the years I have been thrilled by the sublime skills of Billy Hutchison, Jack Clarke and James Hird, the brilliance of Tim Watson, the courage and leadership of Ken Fraser and Terry Daniher, the ruck work of Simon Madden, the elusiveness of Hughie Mitchell and the goal-kicking of Matthew Lloyd.

But my fondest memories will always be those of the exploits of that man with number 10 on his back, which made such an impact personally and began a life-long love of the red and black guernsey.

RAY WEBSTER

VFL Teams of 1949—
No. 11: Essendon

BOOK REVIEWS

Steve Cannane

First Tests : Great Australian Cricketers and the Backyards That Made Them

ABC Books & Harper Collins 2009

ISBN 978 0 7333 21146

Steve Cannane, who confesses to an obsession with the game of cricket, sought the reason for Australia's dominance of world cricket.

He makes the hypothesis that "the backyard has been the real academy of cricket in Australia" and that Australia's best cricketers' skills and competitive instincts were developed by spending thousands of hours with family members and friends playing cricket in farmyards and suburban driveways, in backyards, around Hills Hoists, in streets and in local parks.

"First Tests" is the result of thorough and careful research undertaken to test this hypothesis. The extent of the task becomes evident by perusing the bibliography which includes not only all the books consulted but also the sources from the oral history collection of the National Library of Australia, the broadcast and print media and online and concludes with a list of interviews with the author.

The book is divided into five sections commencing with "The Originals – Self-made men from Trumper to Bradman". This section also includes Charlie Macartney, Arthur Mailey, Clarrie Grimmett and Bill O'Reilly.

The second section, "The Hard Road – Depression-era kids and the rise of street cricket", includes Sid Barnes, Keith Miller, Ray Lindwall, Betty Wilson and Neil Harvey.

Then follows "The Radio Age – Synthetic Tests made backyard Tests more authentic" with Alan Davidson, Richie Benaud and Bob Simpson highlighted.

The fourth section, "Suburban Sprawl – The post-war building boom creates a nation of cricket pitches", examines the Chappell brothers, Doug Walters, Dennis Lillee and Allan Border.

The final section looks at the most recent successful players – Ian Healy, the Waugh brothers, Belinda Clark, Glen McGrath, Adam Gilchrist, Mike Hussey and Brett Lee – in "The TV Age – watching Tests, playing Tests and imitating your heroes".

The author begins each section with a brief introduction setting the scene for that period. For example most of those who grew up during the Depression played their games in the street, usually on bitumen, while those in the section following had the early ABC commentary to listen to on the radio and hence "backyard Tests became closer to the real thing".

The post-war building boom meant many suburban homes had large backyards and were often next to a vacant block, making ideal spaces for cricket-loving boys to play.

TV of the 1970s and 1980s allowed that generation to imitate their heroes. They watched Tests in the living room and played their own Test matches in the backyard.

Within each section the essay on the player is introduced with a small photograph and a summary listing "Pitch, Bat, Ball, Wicket, Players, Backyard Drills and Player's Comfort Level". This makes for easy comparisons for the interested reader.

After reading "First Tests" one is convinced of the veracity of the author's hypothesis. The detailed research into the boyhood cricket exploits of Australia's great Test players from Trumper to Lee certainly attests to their "backyard games" playing an important role in their development into very good players (and in Bradman's case into the greatest batsman ever).

The reader is left with a similar thought to the author that maybe Australia's Test dominance may not continue as there are so many fewer spaces to play backyard games in our modern cities.

Steve Cannane has investigated a fresh aspect of Test cricket and produced a most enjoyable book for all lovers of cricket.

ANN RUSDEN

Peter Murray

The History of AFL: Australian Rules Football

Parragon Publishing Pty. Ltd. 2008

ISBN 978-1-4075-2957-8

The red Sherrin football-shaped cover immediately draws your attention to another Peter Murray publication. For all true supporters, an Aussie Rules book is like a magnet.

The opening pages delve quite extensively into the history of our code, with particular attention to the Victorian Football League.

Some might claim that the great games can only be seen in Victoria, but the truth is that many a classic match has been staged in other states and champions of the game have been produced throughout the country.

Witness the likes of Darrel Baldock, Graham "Polly" Farmer, Peter Matera, Royce Hart, Jason Dunstall, Wayne Carey, Chad Cornes and many more. The action shots of our stars are magnificent.

We see Ted Whitten revving up his team, Ron Barassi as player and coach, Dick "King Richard" Reynolds – the idol of so many – little Kevin Bartlett, "Lethal" Leigh Matthews, the incredible "Jezza" and modern-day maestros James Hird and Nathan Buckley.

This is a footy fan's dream, so well presented, and I strongly recommend the book – an ideal novelty present.

PETA PHILLIPS

Darren Lewis with Stephanie Holt and Jack Jefferies

A Day at the Camp: 150 years with the Castlemaine Football Netball Club.

Castlemaine Football Netball Club Inc., Castlemaine, 2009.

ISBN: 978-0-646-51302-7

Most country football club histories add little to our knowledge of football's early days in Victoria, but Darren Lewis's ***A Day at the Camp*** is an exception. Published to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Castlemaine Football Club founded on June 15, 1859, this book challenges the perception that club football in Victoria was confined to the port cities of Melbourne and Geelong in the late 1850s.

Lewis is honest to the historical record and recognises that links between today's Castlemaine Football Netball Club and the club formed in 1859 are tenuous. The first club apparently vanishes from the records soon after its formation and it seems another would not be formed until 1871.

The chapter demonstrates that the football scene in the late 1850s was more complex than previously thought. Lewis even uncovers a connection between the Melbourne and Castlemaine Football Clubs in 1859 through the brothers Butterworth, Tom who was on Melbourne's committee and Ben who penned the advertisement that was the catalyst for the formation of Castlemaine Football Club.

The current club that is the main focus of the book traces its foundation to 1925 when it joined the Bendigo Football League, but the book is not a history of the Castlemaine Football Netball Club so much as a history of Castlemaine football and netball generally. The netball section of the club was officially founded in 1991 and from this period onwards receives equal billing in the book.

The 176-page publication is illustrated throughout, readily accessible to the casual reader and is complemented by lists of past members and club honour boards from 1925. These personalities helped make the Castlemaine Magpies a prominent part of Bendigo football and the Castlemaine community, and some have achieved success at football's highest level.

A Day at the Camp does justice to the long history of the club and I recommend it to those interested in country football.

TREVOR RUDDELL
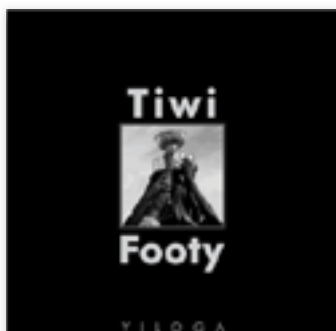
Andrew McMillan

Photographs by Monica Napper and Peter Eve

TIWI FOOTY

F11 Productions 2008

ISBN 978 0 646 48392 4

Today is the big day. The people are pouring into the ground, arriving by land and sea and in all shapes and sizes. This is the best, the Tiwi Islands grand final, a battle royal between two teams from Melville and Bathurst islands, just north of Darwin in the Timor Sea.

The Tiwis are a proud people, steeped in tradition, but they've long since embraced the new world. Aussie Rules was introduced to the islands in 1941 by Brother John Pye and, despite the difficulties of the war years and the fear of Japanese air attacks, by 1944 he had organised a competition between Tiwi teams.

Yiloga (footy) was to begin its life-long fascination for the islanders, where today the population is about 2600 and there are seven teams in the competition. Grand final day is special, the pinnacle, for the islanders.

This superb book features some amazing photography, so rich in the history of these beautiful islands. The coloured pages, offset by dramatic black and white shots, say it all. The football is a getting together of various tribes from both islands to play the game they love.

This is Aussie Rules played with a passion. It's a bit different, from the manual scoreboard, the goal umpires in shorts and the radio announcer perched on the back of a truck. The ground (Stanley Tipiloura Oval on Bathurst Island) may need a bit of tender loving care, but the game is the most important thing. The Muluwurri Magpies have arrived from Melville Island to do battle with the Imalu Tigers, also from Melville.

The Tiger honour roll includes Norm Smith Medallists Michael Long and Maurice Rioli. Sibby Rioli, Maurice's brother, played for South Fremantle and nephews Dean and Cyril Rioli and many others are among the brilliant footballers to emerge from the Tiwi Islands.

On the big day a steady stream of charter flights arrives from Darwin International airport, boats from Melville Island and cars and trucks are laden with happy, brightly dressed supporters. The crowd numbers around 3000.

The players' preparation is familiar – some are a little nervous, there's the pre-match huddle before the burst through the banner. It's all there. The high marking, the speed, the handpasses skilfully executed by fanatical footballers.

The Muluwurri Magpies have a great win – 25.6.156 to Imalu Tigers' 12.4.76 – and there's plenty of dancing, cheering and tears from both the victor and the runner-up. The presentation of the Maurice Rioli Cup and the E.J. Whitten Medal for best and fairest is enjoyed by all, with the exception of the little ones, asleep on Mum's blanket. Just too big a day!!!

Brother Pye was right. "Football," he said, "has unified people on the islands. They are all from different clans, but as soon as you pick a footy team they are all in it together."

This is a book of magnificent photographs capturing the spirit, enjoyment and skill of our national game. It's also a history of the Tiwi Islands, their language and most importantly their friendly and engaging people.

It's highly recommended.

PETA PHILLIPS

John Murray

Melbourne F.C. since 1858: an illustrated history

Melbourne: Geoff Slattery Publishing, 2008

ISBN: 9780980442007

This work is both an historical record and illustrated compendium of the Melbourne Football Club's first 150 years. Key milestones are brought to the reader's attention along with the reminiscences of outstanding players and club personalities. The content is broken up into sections: a wonderful history, culture and characters, moments in time and glory days.

The historical section has contributions from sports academics, journalists and historians. Insight is gained into the development of the game and the Melbourne Football Club against the social and economic backdrop of Melbourne city. Writers recount the roles of H.C.A. Harrison, key players and heroes, the connection with the Melbourne Cricket Club and the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and much more.

The thoughts of past greats such as Garry Lyon and those from the golden years – Hassa Mann, John Lord, Stuart Spencer, Noel McMahen and Ron Barassi – are shared with prominent football journalists. There is appropriate acknowledgment of Norm Smith as player and coach and the club's six Brownlow medallists are featured, as are all inductees into the Melbourne Football Club Hall of Fame, club characters, coaches and footy fans.

Melbourne's 12 premiership triumphs are recalled through team photographs, match details and written highlights of the games. Tables for easy consultation include a chronology of signal events at the club since 1858, honour boards of leadership at Melbourne 1897-2007, games, goals and guernsey numbers for every Melbourne player since 1897, and club records of individual and team milestones 1897-2007.

Included among the high-quality reproductions are previously unpublished photographs, illustrations, paintings and memorabilia from the club's archives. These bring back those moments of excitement - the brilliant mark, the snap at goal, the coach's pleading.

This is a glossy volume that can be readily perused by Melbourne Football Club enthusiasts and lovers of the game. It is also a suitable addition to library collections and will retain its appeal.

MARIE PERNAT

Dennis Carroll

The Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria: a Sporting and Social History

Melbourne: Dennis Carroll and the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria, 2009

ISBN: 9780646515373

This is a vibrant, comprehensive and well illustrated sporting and social history. The Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria adopted its name in 1920 (previously titled the Schools Amateur Athletics Association of Victoria).

The AGSV foundation schools included All Saints' Grammar, Caulfield Grammar, Brighton Grammar, Camberwell Grammar, Haileybury College, Trinity Grammar, St Thomas's Grammar and Ivanhoe Grammar. Its membership fluctuated as schools such as Malvern Grammar, Assumption College, Mentone Grammar, Carey Grammar, Essendon Grammar, Marcellin College, The Peninsula School and Yarra Valley Grammar joined while some others left, closed or amalgamated.

This book is organised chronologically and the years unravel with well written accounts of sporting life and social events. Prominent characters are profiled and the influence of external events is analysed.

The who's who of brilliant sportsmen and women are joined by leading contributors to our community. Brownlow Medallist John Schultz (Caulfield) Francis Bourke (Assumption) and Stephen Silvagni (Marcellin) are a few of the leading footballers. Cricketer Shane Warne (Mentone) and Cyclist Phil Anderson (Trinity) are profiled, as is Olympian John Marshall (Haileybury), to name just a few.

Other figures include the Victorian Governor David de Kretser (Camberwell), Australian Crawl member James Reyne (Peninsula) and even our own MCC librarian David Studham (Marcellin). The moving accounts of students who lost their lives in a war are accompanied by informative historical observations on amateurism, school history, the development of girls' sport and the impact of war.

One of many strengths of this publication is the copious photographs which are all well selected and captioned, identifying all the participants. A very useful name index gives the reader easy access to information and this should prove a great benefit for future research.

The Associated Grammar School of Victoria's history is presented with fascinating details of schools which have closed or left. The current members of the AGSV are Assumption, Camberwell, Ivanhoe, Marcellin, Mentone, Peninsula, Penleigh and Essendon, Trinity and Yarra Valley.

Former Yarra Valley Grammar Head of English and cricket and athletics coach (and current MCC Library volunteer) Dennis Carroll has provided a comprehensive, well written and readable book.

DAVID ALLEN