Carlton Community History Group



NEWSLETTER

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History of Carlton Football Club

In the world of football, Carlton is synonymous with 'The Blues'. The Carlton Football Club has been in existence since 1864 when it was officially established at a meeting that took place in the University Hotel on the corner of Lygon and Grattan Streets. Its first matches were with teams such as the Grammar School Club, Williamstown and the Warehousemen.



(Photo of Tom Simmons courtesy of Blueseum)

For many years it had no formal home, and moved from grounds to grounds, including Royal Park, the University Oval, and the southern part of Princes Park. It only acquired a permanent home in 1896 when it and the Carlton Cricket Club were granted permanent occupancy of some rather rustic sports grounds on the site of the current oval. A small stand opened in 1900, and further facilities were constructed in the 1930s.

You can find everything you ever wanted to know about the history of the Carlton Football Club at <u>www.blueseum.org</u> the club's official website for its history.

Did You Know: Iconic 'Rosella' brand originated in Carlton



The iconic brand "Rosella" had its origins in Carlton. In 1894 Horatio R. McCracken, commission agent, and Thomas J. Press, grocer, commenced making jams and preserves in a copper in a backyard in Carlton. The Rosella trademark was reaistered in Julv by 1895 Messrs. McCracken and Press, trading as Rosella Preserving Company of 266 Station Street, North Carlton. The company soon outgrew its backyard operation and leased premises in Flinders Street, trading as the newlyregistered Rosella Preserving Company Limited.

Patriotic fervour in Carlton during the First World War

Anzac Day was first celebrated in this country on 25 April 1916, exactly one hundred years ago. In this, its centenary year, it is interesting to look back at what was happening in Carlton at the time, and what the feeling was towards the war. The war had been running for only a year and a half at that stage and patriotism and a sense of duty were still the dominant public sentiments. The men of Carlton were being urged to sign up and fight for King and Country, as the following newspaper article of the time shows.

FATHER WHOSE SONS WILL NOT SERVE

At a recruiting meeting at Carlton on Thursday night, Corporal Gange, a returned soldier, in ringing tones said: 'If some of you people in Carlton had not stopped at home, the Union Jack would have been floating in Constantinople today'. (Cheers and disorder). Were they proud of that fact? An interjector: 'No, sorry'. Corporal Gange (to the interjector): 'If you were five years younger you would make a good soldier'. The interjector (standing up): I have three sons fit to fight, but they will not go. So take me in their place (great cheering). Corporal Gange: Did Carlton's young men wish to keep company with three such men as this man's sons? Let them join the colours before conscription comes in. If they did not, when they were forced to join, the Anzac boys would say: You big loafing bounders. You never came until you were pushed into it'. (Great cheering).

(Bendigo Advertiser, 11 March 1916)



A year later, patriotic feeling and a sense of duty was still in evidence. And it was women as well as men who were driven by it, as the following newspaper article from February 1917 shows.

COUNTRY NEEDS THEM MORE. WIDOW SENDS TWO SONS

Mrs Grace Johnson, of 187 Madeline street, Carlton, is a happy mother today. This morning she brought her two sons. Matthew David, 18, and John Benjamin, 20, to the Town Hall recruiting depot and offered them to the King. To her great joy they were both accepted by the recruiting officer and duly passed into the service. 'Yes', said Mrs Johnson when her two boys came out of the depot with their attestation papers, 'I am very pleased to get them through. I think it is my duty and theirs. I am a hard working widow and have only the two boys, but the country needs them more. I was a nurse myself once, and if I were strong enough would like to enlist also'. (Weekly Times, 24 Feb 1917)

At the same time there were families in Carlton who were experiencing the other side of the war on the home front- anxiety and grief. For example, the Carlton family of Ralph Stobaus was by 1916 Private desperate for news of him. He had enlisted in August 1914 in the earliest days of the war father notwithstanding). (German-born married 19 year old May Kniese at St Jude's Vicarage in September and sailed for Egypt in October. Just six months later he was killed in the landing at Gallipoli. But for 18 months he was officially 'missing in action' and his army file is full of letters from his family seeking answers. Ralph Stobaus was never to know that he had a daughter, Myrtle, who was to become an orphan at the age of four when her mother, May, died of influenza in 1919. Ralph's younger brothers, Robert and Victor, also enlisted in July 1915, but their stories ended more happily and both returned to Australia. You can read the stories of the Stobaus brothers on our website at: www.cchg.asn.au/greatwar.html

In 1914 Victoria had a population of some 1,450,000 people, of whom a total of 112,400 men and women enlisted during the First World War. Of these 19,000 were killed in action or died from their wounds later. Some 1,700 of those who enlisted gave Carlton as their home address as that of their next of kin.

Brewery employees picnic 1916

Not all was doom and gloom in Carlton during the First World War. The following is an extract from an article that appeared in *Punch* on 6 April 1916:

CARLTON AND UNITED BREWERIES EMPLOYEES' PICNIC. ENJOYABLE DAY AT QUEENSCLIFF

The ninth annual picnic of the Carlton and United Breweries' employees was held at Queenscliff on Saturday, 1st April, some 1400 people participating in a function which was, if anything, even more successful and enjoyable than any of its predecessors. The paddle steamer Hygeia left the Port Melbourne Wharf punctually at 9.30 a.m. The Richmond City Brass Band accompanied the steamer. The children of the party suffered from no lack of amusement, as the committee thoughtfully distributed toys and lollies shortly after the steamer released her moorings.

Despite the stringencies of wartime conditions, the directors of the brewery company had paid for the chartering of the steamer and granted all employees a holiday. The article also reported that the company was paying out some thousands of pounds per year to former employees who were at the front, and had given over £7000 to various patriotic funds. There were, it said, nearly seventy employees of the Carlton and United Breweries at the front or in camp. Some had taken part in the landing at Gallipoli, 'that glowing episode that would ever stand a glorious page in the world's history'.

The program of events at Queenscliff included a Youths' Race, a Single Ladies' Race and a Married Ladies' Nail Driving competition. Names of the winners were printed at the end of the article.

In the First World War, nurses also served

More than 2000 Australian nurses served overseas during the First World War. At least three years' experience in medical and surgical nursing in a recognised hospital was required for acceptance into the Australian Army Nursing Service and recruits were to be aged between 21 and 45 years (although most were in fact in their thirties). They had to be either single women or widowed. Twenty five died on overseas duty. One of those who never returned was Amy Veda O'Grady who was working at the Melbourne Hospital when she enlisted. Amy contacted cholera and died at Colaba War Hospital in



Photo: Australian War Memorial

Bombay on 12 August 1916. Another Australian nurse, Kathleen Power, died of the same disease in the same hospital on the following day.

Of the nurses who enlisted in the First World War, ten gave a Carlton address as their ownor that of their next of kin. You can read the stories of Helen Mary Condon, Ruby Elizabeth Gordon and Isabel Henderson Ogilvie on our website at www.cchg.asn.au/greatwar.html

Project to record what Melbourne has lost

Over recent months the Carlton Community History Group (CCHG) has been involved, with Historical the Roval Society of Victoria (RHSV), in a project to find photographs of iconic Melbourne buildings that have disappeared. The CCHG took on the task of findina photos of Carlton's lost buildings. Those we found include



the Carlton Brewery buildings in Bouverie Street, the old Wilson Hall in Melbourne University that burnt down in 1952, and the Erskine Church that used to be on the corner of Grattan and Rathdowne Streets. Along with similar photos from other suburbs submitted by other historical societies, these will appear in a book to be published by the RHSV later this year. Above is one of the photos submitted by us. It shows Queensberry Street, Carlton, looking west from Drummond Street and across Lygon Street in the middle distance. While some of the buildings shown are still there 140 years later, the fine house on the right of the photo has long since gone as has the church on the corner of Queensberry and Lygon Streets, replaced by the Downtowner Motel.

Historical walks coming up in Carlton and Fitzroy

The National Trust's annual Heritage Festival will run from 16 April to 29 May this year, and among its many events are several historical walks in our area – including one that CCHG is running.

Rediscover North Carlton

Find out about North Carlton's penal stockade, asylum and convict settlers. This walk focuses on the contributions of North Carlton's British, Jewish and Italian settlers, but also includes information on its Aboriginal past, long lost forests and its fine nineteenth-century streetscapes. Presented by Princes Hill Community Centre and **Carlton Community History Group Saturday 14 May 2016, 10am to 12 noon.** Starts at Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, 20 Princes St, Carlton North. Bookings: phone: 9387 7740, or email: enquiries@princeshill.org.au



Carlton Coffee Crawl

Carlton is often regarded as the original home of espresso in Australia. Take a walk through the streets of Carlton and discover its iconic coffee venues, café personalities and rich coffee history. Presented by Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre, 251 Faraday St, Carlton. **Saturday 14 May 2016, 2:30 to 3.30pm**

Bookings: phone 9658 8300.

Discover Old Gold in Fitzroy

Rediscover the rich flavour of Fitzroy's chocolate history with an entertaining and informative guided tour through the world of the notable entrepreneur, philanthropist, confectioner and chocolatier, MacPherson Robertson, synonymous with Cherry Ripe, Freddo Frog and Old Gold chocolate. The tour finishes with a decadent contemporary chocolate tasting, or full indulgent high tea at Collingwood's finest chocolate boutique Mamor Chocolates.

Presented by Isabel Simpson in association with Mamor Chocolates and High Tea Salon **Every Wednesday 20 April to 18 May 2016, 10.00am to 12.30pm.**

Starts at the steps of the Fitzroy Town Hall, Napier Street, Fitzroy.

Adults: Walking Tour & Chocolate Tasting \$65.

Walking Tour and Full Indulgent High Tea \$95.

Bookings: 0407 404 629, or email isas.jap@bigpond.net.au

Fitzroy: From the Bowling Club Hotel to the Stadium

A morning walk around historic Fitzroy visiting the sites of the Fitzroy Bowling Club Hotel, early homes, Larcher's dairy, the School of Domestic Arts, and finishing at the Fitzroy Stadium. Meet at the corner of Victoria Parade and George Street, Fitzroy at 11 am.

Presented by Fitzroy History Society

Sunday 1 May 2016, 11am to 1pm.

Bookings: fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au

Friday Night Cemetery Tours

For an interesting and educational experience, participate in the popular night tours of Melbourne General Cemetery, one of Australia's most important burial grounds. Notable interments included on the tour are various Prime Ministers, legendary billiards player Walter Lindrum, ill-fated explorers Burke and Wills, and Federici, the famous ghost of the Princess Theatre. Presented by Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust

Fridays 22 April, 6 May, 20 May 2016, 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Adults: \$25. Children under16: \$20

Family: \$80 (up to three children under the age of 16)

Concession: \$20

Bookings: phone 8558 8210 or visit the website at <u>www.mgc.smct.org.au</u>

'WikiNorthia' - an encyclopaedia of Melbourne's northern suburbs

In 2006 a partnership was formed between four libraries in the northern region of Melbourne with the aim of establishing an online encyclopaedia that would document life in the Northern suburbs of Melbourne both now and in the past. Called 'WikiNorthia' it is an innovative project that encourages people across five local councils that have rich cultural histories and diverse communities to tell their stories, and provide a snapshot of life in the north of Melbourne. The project, which is the first of its type in Australia, has resulted in a wiki with contributions from a wide cross-section of people living in the Cities of Moreland, Darebin, Banyule and Whittlesea and the Shire of Nillumbik.

You can browse through WikiNorthia's many stories at www.wikinorthia.net.au

Publications from CCHG

(NB prices do not include postage)

Carlton Girls Born & Bred By Margaret Rich \$7.00 The story of Ruth Bailey... and her mother... and her grandmother... and her daughters.

The Stockade. Carlton's ForgottenPrison and the People Who Inhabited ItBy Jeff Atkinson\$8.00

Through the Eyes of a Child.A Street in Carlton 1939-45By Des Norman\$20.00

Walking Along Rathdowne Street

By Margaret Rich \$10.00 100 years of shopping, services and stories in North Carlton

Some Women of Davis Street. 1891 and 2008 Judith Biddington \$5.00

John King.

Marian Turnbull \$5.00 The story of the only member of the Burke and Wills Expedition to cross Australia from south to north and return to Melbourne alive.

The Troublesome AmericanJeff Atkinson\$5.00The story of Charles Ferguson, foreman onthe Burke and Wills Expedition

Among the Terraces\$5.00Only individual titles available from thisclassic 1980s Carlton history studies.

Are you interested in local history?

Then come and join us, bring your stories and help preserve the past for our future.

CARLTON COMMUNITY HISTORY GROUP

P.O. Box 148, Carlton North, 3054 Email: carlton@cchg.asn.au Website: <u>www.cchg.asn.au</u>

Meeting dates in 2016:

February
March
April (at 2pm)
May
June
July
August (AGM)
September
October
November
December
Monday evening meetings start at 7.30pm

Location (unless otherwise advised):

1st Floor Meeting Room Carlton Library 667 Rathdowne St Carlton North VIC 3054

Topics of meetings, special events and alternate venues, are posted online at: <u>www.cchg.asn.au</u>

Also on the noticeboards in both the Carlton Libraries (251 Faraday St, Carlton and 667 Rathdowne St, Carlton North).