

Burwood Cricket Club: a history worth exploring

It has recently been discovered that the Burwood Cricket Club had been in existence at least as long as the city of Burwood itself. Until the last few months, it was thought that the Club had reached its centenary and this milestone would be well-deserved cause for celebration. However, a careful perusal of historical newspapers reveals that the club can trace its history to at least 1873 and so next year the Club intends to celebrate its 150th anniversary. To ensure the research is professional and thorough, the Club plans to engage a qualified historian to fully document the history of the Club and seek to find more about the men and women who have contributed to the Club's longevity and success.

The first white settlement in the region we now know as Burwood was in 1858 when the region was called Ballyshanassy, after the then Premier of Victoria, John O'Shanassy. The location was briefly known as Norwood (possibly from 1874) and then gazetted as Burwood in 1879. The Norwood Cricket Club had existed from the 1870s and this became the Burwood Cricket Club in 1879 when the name of the local government area was changed. Hence the Burwood Cricket Club has been an integral part of Burwood since its establishment. There is no doubt that the Burwood Cricket Club (BCC) is one of the oldest (and possibly the oldest) sporting clubs in Burwood. One of the aims of the history project is to offer a contextual history of the growth and popularity of cricket in Burwood and to trace the exact origins of the club, details of which have never been properly documented.

Those associated with the Club will be aware that the Gilmour Trophy takes pride of place in the clubrooms. The Trophy was inaugurated in 1891 as a magnificent silver cup that was awarded to the winner of an annual challenge series between the Box Hill and Burwood Cricket Clubs. That the cup has survived pays testament to the importance of this artefact. It is hoped that during the historical research period other items of memorabilia will be unearthed. Likewise, it is planned that many of those associated with the club in earlier decades are given the opportunity to contribute their memories to the historical record. It is also likely that families of former club members may have been left memorabilia that can be displayed in the club rooms in purpose-built showcases planned to be constructed for the 150th celebrations.

The Burwood Cricket Club is excited by what lies ahead and welcomes those who wish to partner with us.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Stella M. Barber is a professional historian with a special interest in business and family history. Her previous books include, *Marigold, Milestones and Memories, Lady Southey AC*, (2020); *Salute, Scalzo Food Industries celebrating 40 years* (2017); *A Sharp Vision: A history of enduring enterprise* (2016); *More than Meets the Eye, Warner's Nurseries, the First 100 Years* (2015); *Coles, 100 years of Quality, Service and Value* (2014); *The Passion and The Dream, Shepparton Villages, the first 50 years*, (2013); *A Club for Life, Centenary History of the Elwood Life Saving Club* (2012); *The Pride of Prahran, 150 years of the Prahran Library Service*, (2010); *Something Quite Noble, a History of the Goulburn Valley Grammar School* (2009); *Your Store Myer* and a companion book, *Celebrating 100 Years of Myer Fashion* (2008); *Crescendo, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Celebrating 100 years* (2007); and *Sidney Myer, a Life a Legacy* (2005).

In early 2020 she was awarded her Doctorate for her research into the role of women camera operators on the Woomera rocket range during the Cold War. She was previously awarded a Masters' degree in archives and history and prior to that completed a Post Graduate Diploma in information management and an Honours degree in history and fine arts.

When not writing, Dr Barber takes on contract work with museums and community groups, most recently she has worked as Communications Historian to the new National Communications Museum soon to open in Hawthorn and as "Hidden Histories" tour manager for Link Community and Transport. She has written several significance assessments of major historical collections and has also been a contributing author for the Australian Dictionary of Biography, research coordinator and consultant historian on other publications, documentaries, and heritage projects; and has managed various archival collections, including for Coles Myer Ltd and the Myer family.

A keen amateur sportswoman, Stella has represented Australia in the International Triathlon Union World Age Group Triathlon Championships, in London (2013), Rotterdam (2017) and the Gold Coast (2018). Stella has always had an affinity for the sea, her grandfather, father, and brother all served in the Navy, and she is happiest when close to the ocean. She also enjoys singing, reading, open water swimming and spending time with her two sons, Jimmy and Kieren and cats, Chloe, and Gerald.

