

Hi and we wish you well for Christmas and the new year.

This is just a short newsletter we are including with our annual journal.

Yes, it is a bit late this year and we needed to put on the after-burners to get it prepared on time.

In it you will find some interesting stories of past times in local football.



Former Balmain player, Jack Dare sent this 1958 Balmain Reserves photo in taken at Hurstville Oval. Here is who he can remember. Can anyone confirm the names?:
Back row l-r: Lionel Lock (pres.), Bob Jones, ?, Steve Gascoigne, ?, ?, Kevin Boyd, Clarrie Lemmie.
Kneeling: Max Longley ?, Robert Harrison, Milton Morrison, Max Longley, Greg Hickey, John Dare, Richard Dare,
Sitting: Michael Copeland, Knobby Tierney, Dave Longley, Lionel Parker or Jim Boyle, Jack Bugg

For those who are not aware, Balmain have had more jumper designs and colour changes than any other Sydney Club, although we are checking East Coast Eagles.

THE BOOK

"How is the WWI book coming along?" I hear you ask. It's going quite well. We put updates on the front page of the website. However here are some details:



- **Second draft to be released shortly;**
- Launch date set for midday, 15 April 2015 at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney.
- **A son and daughter of a WWI Digger who played football in Sydney will launch the book. The son, Ian Blackeby, played for Eastern Suburbs during the 1950s.**
- More former players who served in WWI have been identified some with great stories emerging for the book.
- **You are invited to attend the launch and hear the background of its genesis.**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Some members may find a renewal notice in this envelope and to you, we ask that you continue your membership of the Society. It all contributes towards maintaining our never ending research and commitment to football in NSW. **Also, why not upgrade?**

ONLINE SYDNEY FOOTBALL SCORES

Sometime ago, another footy enthusiast, **Andrew Robinson**, who compiled a list of online VFA scores, was given all the Sydney first grade scores. He is now in the process of putting all these scores from 1903 to the present, online. When he has finished you can view them year by year. His website is now linked to the Football History site. You can find it: **CLUBS & LEAGUES > GRAND FINALScores AND FINAL FOUR>**

MORE PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS

Another former Balmain player, Tom Watts, has donated a whole batch of photographs of Balmain and junior images. And as late as last week he also sent in two 16mm reels of match film of Balmain games which we believe are from the 1970s or 80s, and are now keen to get these digitised. As you can see, our collection is growing.

We should get our other 1978 16mm film back from the digitiser this month.

REP TEAM DATABASE

You may be aware that we are compiling a NSW and Sydney Representative Team database, part of which is already accessible on our website. This VERY slow process currently lists the games and players from 1881-1914. However there are problems with it so at last we are in discussion with some software programmers to repair and enhance the programme.

OUR MEMBERSHIP NOW STANDS AT 85

LEAGUE LIFE MEMBER BADGES

We are really finding it difficult to get hold of a NSW League Life Member Badge. Some issue of these were made from 9 carat gold. An approach has been made to a leading Sydney Badge manufacturer which produced other Sydney football badges and medals, without success. So are now looking at getting one made in China. Stay tuned.



HOW MANY OF YOU CAN REMEMBER THE METROPOLITAN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION?

Not many, I bet. It folded in about 1954 and was taken over by the **Junior Football Union**, however this did not cater for senior football. The **MANFA** of course, supported an A grade and there is a bit about it in the Journal. Committee person, **Jenny Hancock** has taken the job of researching the Association. We have the premiers cup from 1923 with all the A grade winners detailed on it. Most of the research is through the old football records and we hope to release more elements of it soon.