



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Our March Meeting

THE SOUTH ADELAIDE FOOTBALL CLUB
– AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
DR RANDAL WILLIAMS

Speaking as a life-long supporter, former club doctor and current club historian, Dr Randal Williams gave us an excellent, comprehensive history of the 143-year-old South Adelaide Football Club.

Australian Rules Football was devised in 1858 in Victoria by Henry Harrison and Tom Wills, beginning as a hybrid of rugby, Gaelic football and soccer. In 1860 the first Adelaide Football Club was established. By 1877 there were four football clubs in Adelaide, of which South Adelaide was one, and the South Australian National Football Association (SANFA) was established. In 1898 William Magarey, the chairman of the SANFA created the Magarey Medal, awarded to the best and fairest player. By 1900 there were 6 clubs in the SANFA. In 1907 the name changed to the South Australian National Football League (SANFL).

The South Adelaide Football Club (SAFC) was established in 1876 and had many fine players (including some from the Marion area). Many of their players also came from colleges around Adelaide, although this was mostly stopped when the district rule was enforced in 1899. Charles Cameron Kingston, lawyer, politician and sportsman, was one of the founders of SAFC, a player in 1876 and club president 1877 – 1904. The SAFC vice presidents' group is known as "the Kingstonians"

SAFC won the premiership in 1877 and went on to win seven more between 1885 and 1899, as well as being runners-up three times. This was SAFC's golden age. Their home ground at that time was the South Parklands (1882 – 1903), and from 1905 – 1994 the Adelaide oval was their home ground. Panther Park at St Mary's (1974 – 1994) was only used for training and trial games. In 1994 SAFC moved to new grounds at Noarlunga: Flinders University Stadium (formerly Hickinbotham Oval).

Between 1900 and 1930 the club declined somewhat. When Sturt came into the association in 1901, it robbed South of many good players. Competition

was suspended in 1916 because of the great war and resumed in 1918.

The first South player to win a Magarey Medal was Frank "Dinky" Barry in 1915. While the whereabouts of all of the other Magarey medals are accounted for, this one is missing. Another great player of this time was Jack Tredrea who was captain from 1910 – 1915, coach from 1921 – 1925, and the first SANFL player to reach 200 league games. Another was Dan Moriarty who won three consecutive Magarey Medals from 1919 – 1921.

In 1923, passionate South supporter, Charles Knuckey (1888 – 1988), donated a silver cup to be presented to the best and fairest South Adelaide player.

In 1935 Vic Johnson became coach, and South made a come-back, defeating Port by 9 points in the Grand Final. They won the flag again in 1938, by 46 points.

During WWII the competition was modified, with four combined clubs. Between 1946 – 1963 followed another grim period for South when they finished bottom or near bottom every year. One of the great players during that time was Jim Deane, a South legend who won six Knuckey cups and two Magarey Medals, and was inducted into the SAFC and SANFL Halls of Fame.

In 1957, the Panther emblem was adopted, and in 1958 a Geelong-style guernsey was created. In 1964 Neil Kerley was lured from West Adelaide, and SAFC won the first three games for the first time since 1938. The team was skilled, fast and fit, and toughened by Kerley. They went to the top and won the 1964 Grand Final. Prime Minister Menzies was present at the game. Most of the 1964 team are still alive and meet every year. One who is not still with us was best on ground, David "Soapy" Kantilla, an Indigenous player who played 113 games between 1962 – 1966. He was killed in a car accident in 1978. In 1965 the matches were televised for the first time. Peter Darley, who was recruited from Prince Alfred College in 1962, became Captain/Coach after Kerley. He played 205 games between 1962 – 1974.

Ernie Sigley, a dedicated South supporter, did Sunday Concerts at the St Mary's Social Club with the Viscounts, Little Patty and Anne Wills.

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1975 – 1980 saw something of a resurrection for South, but in the 1979 Grand Final they lost to Port. In 1990 Adelaide Crows entered the AFL, and South lost several players to them. After 1990 three players won Magarey medals, one winning twice.

In the inaugural year of women's football, 2018, the SAFC Women's league won the Grand Final. Women's football is thriving, and the club has seen a rise in membership.

Randal certainly knows his topic and must be a great asset to the SAFC Heritage Committee!

Making History Glenthorne National Park

The areas of land to be included in the proposed Glenthorne National Park includes the "**Happy Valley Reservoir**".

The reservoir was constructed between 1892 and 1897 and resulted in the flooding of the existing Happy Valley Township.

A tunnel was constructed between Clarendon and Happy Valley to carry the water for the reservoir from the Onkaparinga at Clarendon.

Originally known by the Kurna name of "Warekila" meaning 'place of changing winds', it is thought that one of the first settlers in the area, Edward Burgess, named the area Happy Valley. The South Australian Company had also purchased significant amounts of land in the area and was offering it to the settlers.

In 1844 a traveller through the area noted that there were 'several substantial stone buildings, among which is a neat little chapel'.

Within another twenty years, there had been a large increase in the area planted to vines and in the production of wine and a cemetery was constituted by deed on 12 September 1864.

By 1866, Happy Valley was described as 'an agricultural settlement lying near Dashwood's Gully, a good district road connecting the two places. It lies near the postal village of O'Halloran Hill. There is a public pound and a Forester's court in this place.' The settlement itself, although spread over a fair distance, incorporated an array of trades, a licensed school and chapel.'

In 1888 a royal commission proposed that a reservoir be built at Happy Valley, and the original township, school, church and cemetery would be completely flooded. All buildings were demolished and all salvageable materials including fruit trees and vines were sold before the flooding of the area

The township was moved to the east while the cemetery, which is still in use today, was moved to

the west and relocated alongside the base of the dam wall.

The South Australian Company again helped and donated an acre of land behind the Congregational Church, while the Waterworks Board arranged and paid for the exhumation and reburial of 215 adults and children (many of whom were, unfortunately, unnamed) which was completed by 1892.

The school was relocated south to two acres of land on Red Hill Road (later renamed Education Road) which was donated by local farmer Harry Mason. While some students attended O'Halloran Hill or Clarendon schools for the 18 months that the Happy Valley school was closed, some did not attend any school until it was re-opened on 26 September 1898.

The State Library has many photographs taken at the time of construction.

<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/find/Happy+Valley+reservoir>

All this work was undertaken before the advent of petrol or diesel transport. The photographs show horses and carts and a steam driven train bringing material to the dam wall.

This was the first dam constructed in South Australia to use steam locomotives to haul fill to site.

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

The MHRC is open throughout the year on Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am - 4pm. Visitors are always welcome and there is plenty to keep you interested.

For the May SA History Festival we are holding a display, '**Historic Gems of Glenthorne National Park**', from 3rd to 16th May at the Cove Civic Centre. Bookings are not essential. Just pop in any time during the library's hours.

For more information please call the Heritage Research Centre on 7420 6455.

Watch out for our events in the Marion libraries' What's On! booklet, the local newspaper or this newsletter.

Marion Historical Society

**Our next meeting will take place on
Wednesday 15th May 2019
7.30pm at Coinda**

Greg Drew

The Worthing Mine

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