

### **HYDE FAMILY**

By Norm Hyde

We lived in Greensborough for 54 years; we came here in about 1964.

My mother came out from England a long time ago, they settled in North Fitzroy. I was born in Abbotsford. We lived in North Fitzroy for years and years, then mum went up to Northcote and lived in a commission house, we lived there for a long time, and that was where I met and married Pat. Two of our children, Robert and Glenn were born at Reservoir, the other two, Brian and Kerry were born at the D.V.C.H. after we moved to Greensborough,

After we were married, Pat's father bought a house in Vermont Parade, Greensborough, which backed onto the football ground; we lived there with Pat's father. I used to work in Abbotsford, for Birko Electrics, I was there for 40 years; I had had a car accident so I travelled by train. Coming home from the station, I had to walk across the footy ground to get to my back gate.

One night there was a huddle of about 6 or 7 men sitting on the ground, as I was walking past they called me over and asked if I played cricket, I said no, and their reply was, well you do now. They picked me for the game the following Saturday, that was the start of my involvement with the Greensborough Cricket Club, I played for them for between 10 and 15 years.

I didn't know much about football, but when they were playing, I used to go out the back gate and watch. I didn't know anyone and one day this bald head bloke was throwing his arms around complaining, which I had seen him do before, I started to complain about him and this woman jumped out of her car and had a few words to say to me, she said that's my husband, I didn't know who he was, it was Frank Le Gassick, a well known bloke around town.

The following year I trained with them, and then started playing with them, they reckoned I was the oldest recruit they had ever had, I was 30. The first year I was there I won the Best and Fairest for the seconds, this was the first year they had an open aged second team, before that they had an under 19 team. I didn't want to play with the seniors; I felt I was too old but one year I won the Goal Kicking in the reserves. Ray Skals was full forward in the senior's and when he retired, I took over from him. The ground was on the land that was called "War Memorial Trust Park"; it was donated to the council by a local person. Down the bottom of the park there was a

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War Memorial for the "Diggers" and every Anzac Day they used to have a service at the Memorial. They used to all march up from the R.S.L. before the service.

There were half a dozen of us on the Trust that used to run the War Memorial Park, if anyone wanted to use the park they had to have permission from the Trust, we would charge a small fee for its use. Jack Elliott was the main person involved. After a few years the council decided they would do away with the Trust and run it themselves.

They were good days in Greensborough before the big shopping centre, you could walk down the street, (sometimes it could take a couple of hours to buy a bottle of milk) because you knew everybody, you would stop and have a chat to this one and that.

Jack Waites one of the football club guys used to have an Ampol service station on the corner of Henry and Grimshaw Streets. Then there was Trist's Shop, they had a dairy in Mc Dowell Street, they used to do their deliveries from there, every morning about five o'clock we would hear the draught horse clip clopping along Mc Dowell Street and all the bottles would be rattling.

Pat Griffin used to live a couple of doors down from me, he was an old identity, he used to follow the football club, and he finished up joining the bowling club. Pat and I started the bowling club.

This councillor, Ian Wallace, came up to me one day and said, "How would you like to see a bowling club outside your back door?" I said it would be lovely, councillor Gus Lines always said there would be a bowling club. There was an elderly citizens club at the bottom of the park, which was where they thought the bowling club would be. Ian Wallace got a couple of councillors involved.

There used to be a row of old pine trees along one side of the ground, these trees were to be cut down for the bowling club, a lot of people protested, saying the trees were planted in memory of the war dead, in fact they were wrong, Betty Edwards a neighbour said they were planted for a wind break. The council went to VCAT, they lost the case, so had to find somewhere else for the bowling club.

At the time schools were being pulled down and Watsonia High was one of those, one of the councillors suggested the site for the bowling club, there was one protestor, he was an eleven year old child who used to kick his football there. Pat and I went to see the boy's parents and had a chat; they signed a letter saying they had no objections that is how the bowling club came to be.

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All the children went to St Mary's primary school at Greensborough, Robert and Brian went on to Parade College, later Robert went to teachers college at Coburg, he got a teachers college scholarship and finished up being Principal at Greenbrook in Epping, he has done quite well with his schooling.

Robert played football with Collingwood where he won the Copeland trophy. Later he coached West Coburg, and then finished up coaching the "Calder Cannons", in the under 18 T.A.C. Cup, he got the Coach of the Year Award, won three premierships with them, and holds the record for the most number of games played. He helped out at St Marys, also coached Greensborough for two years.

Brian and my son in law Terry McGough, he was coach of Greensborough Cricket Club, later went over and played football with Robert at West Coburg, Brian also played a few games with Essendon seconds.

Robert, Brian and Glenn all played football with Greensborough, starting in the under fifteens, so there is a bit of history with Hydes and the Greensborough football club.

Glenn gave football away after the under fifteens, he worked for Motorola, and travelled all over the world, he married a girl from Thailand and is now moving over there to live, he enjoys life and is very happy at the moment, that's the main thing.

Kerry did calisthenics, when she moved to Sydney she became president of Catholics Australia Calisthenics, she really enjoyed it.

Memories from the football club. There was a guy called Trevor Partington, he was in the Police Force, he was an electrician, a private contractor who did work for the police force, fixing up lighting in their buildings, fixing sirens in their car etc. After that he became a member of the Mounted Police, he was in that for a few years, and then became a Special Detective where they used to go and seek out drugs etc. He was a great guy.

Then there was Snowy Partington, father of Trevor, he used to train foot runners, Trevor used to be a runner. When my son Robert injured his knee, Snowy took him on and he trained with the runner until his knee recovered, around this time they decided to put on a Greensborough Gift for foot running, this meant they had to prepare a track for the race.

Ray Skals who worked at the quarries, on what was Mitchells paddock, borrowed equipment and brought down soil for the track, that was when we started the

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Greensborough Gift, it was televised on channel ten at the time. It was a great success, they had that for about three or four years, then another group ran it (Harriers) for about two years.

We are now in a retirement village at Janefield, Bundoora. The garden and maintenance of our house was getting too much for me, we had a look at the village, talked about it and here we are.

It is very nice, all the work is done for you, they have community activities, which everyone can join in, and it's good.

Pat loved Greensborough and would have stayed there if I had been able to cope with the house and garden.

June Hall nee Evans

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