



Norwood Football Club History Committee Annual Report 2023

New Norwood FC Museum

The Museum planning committee, made up of two representatives from each of the Past Players and Officials Committee and the History Committee, along with CEO James Fantasia and board member Rick Neagle as chair, continued to meet throughout the year. Architect Tom Doull from *Architecture That!* joined the committee and presented an innovative concept plan to convert the former mayor's parlour in the western stand into a purpose built museum.

Detailed plans for the room, which will include interactive elements and a history time-line, were developed in what promises to be an exciting presentation of the club's history

The museum will be called **The Redlegs Museum** and should be open later this year, on week days and weekends.

Redlegs Museum Website

Following a digitisation grant from the History Trust of South Australia in 2022, a **Museum Treasures** page has been created on the website. The high quality photographs present a history of the Norwood Football Club in objects, ranging from the original 1878 club Minute Book to the boots worn by Matt Panos in the 2022 Grand Final.

Profiles of 63 players were added to the website bringing the number of completed biographies to 1331, of the 1544 players who have represented the club at league level since 1878. Of the 365 players listed from 1878 to 1906, only 35 profiles remain to be completed.

It should be noted that research on a number of players from the nineteenth century has not uncovered any documentary evidence that they represented the club at a senior level, although their names may have appeared on previously compiled lists. There are very few primary sources for the period and newspaper reports are often incomplete, so where there is some doubt about the veracity of a player's record, the name remains on the website in case further information comes to light.

Images of 1,475 players are attached to their profiles leaving just 69 players for whom photographs have not been located. This year over 300 action photographs were also added to player profiles.

Records and photographs for 16 players who have competed in the SANFL Wheelchair competition since 2021 were added to the website and can be accessed under the **On Field** menu option on the home page.

One hundred and eighteen players have represented the club in the SANFL Women's competition and their records and photographs can be found under **On Field** on the website's home page.

Photographs of all the club's membership badges have been added to the website along with the collection of Norwood Mobil footy cards issued in the 1960s and 70s. Both collections can be viewed under **Off Field** on the website home page.

The Collection

Norwood is currently the only SANFL club using the AFL sponsored database to catalogue its collection. The club's database holds entries for 3,930 items of which 2,142 have images attached.

Digitising the club's collection of photographs continued and the number of player, official, team and action images is 13,281. In addition to the league and reserves team photos, the colts and senior colts team images have been digitised.

A PhD thesis submitted to the Department of Archaeology at Flinders University by Martin Wimmer, *Gimme Shelter : archaeology and the social history of structural defence in Adelaide 1941-1943*, claims that air raid shelters were constructed at the northern and eastern ends of the Norwood Oval. Further research needs to be undertaken to confirm that the shelters were built.

Drawings obtained from the Architecture Museum at the University of South Australia show that there were plans during World War II to convert the lower ground floor of the E T Smith Stand into a first aid post. The plans were never realised which could also suggest that the air raid shelters did not eventuate.

The committee was fortunate to acquire three medallions that had belonged to John Joseph Woods, which honour his contribution to the game at a national, state and local level, viz.,

- A gold 'Australasian Football Council Honorary Life Member' medallion presented to Woods in 1914
- A voided gold 'SANFL Ltd' monogrammed fob, probably awarded during Wood's term as either SANFL deputy vice chairman from 1923 -1952 or as a NFC delegate from 1902 - 1922.
- A red-and-blue enamelled brass Norwood Football Club badge, undated but likely to be late 19th century

A number other significant acquisitions were added to the collection including:

- A 1921 metal photo badge of Horace Wilson (1919-1921)
- A box set collection of 1963 Coca Cola bottle caps featuring images of 18 Norwood players
- A 1976 white towel printed with a large Redlegs Logo
- An original black and white studio photograph of Sir E T Smith in his mayoral regalia
- Video of a Norwood v Northern Territory trial game held in Darwin on 12 February 2000
- Two match day Wheelchair League footballs signed by the the inaugural 2021 Norwood team and the 2023 team
- A 1947 trophy awarded to Pat Hall for fairest and most brilliant in the senior colts
- A scrapbook of clippings from Greg Turbill's football career
- The recording of Ballad of Phil Carman was converted to MP3 digital
- Greg Champion recorded on MP3 digital, the 1935 Norwood FC song (to the tune of *The Man on the Flying Trapeze*) and also provided on MP3, his composition, *They Came from Adelaide*.

Norwood Port Rivalry

The history committees of both Norwood and Port Adelaide combined to lobby both clubs to reinstate the presentation of Gallagher Williams Cup which had been in abeyance since 2015. The clubs agreed and Norwood retained the cup, which it would have won in 2022, as the 2023 results were tied with one win apiece and the same winning margin.

Chris Brown was invited to talk at the Payneham Public Library in May on *Footy Frontiers and Pioneers: The Origins of the Norwood-Port Adelaide Rivalry*. The address was well attended and gold coin donations on the night contributed \$110 to the Norwood FC museum fund.

Norwood's first home ground

Research undertaken at the City of Adelaide Archives has confirmed the location of the club's first home ground, from 1878 to 1882, in the East Parklands. Letters on file in the archives show that in 1880 the club, along with the East Adelaide Cricket Club, applied for fencing to be erected around the East Parklands ground. A subsequent, detailed plan locates the ground just east of the corner of Bartels Road and East Terrace. The location corresponds to the sports ground currently used by Christian Brothers College in what is known as King Rodney Park.

Digital copies of letters, the fencing plan and an 1885 plan for a changing shed at the ground have been acquired for the collection.

Exhibitions

The History Committee collaborated with the St Peters Cultural Heritage Centre to host the *Beyond the Bleachers* exhibition at the St Peters Town Hall during April and May as part of celebrations held during AFL Gather Round. The exhibition, featuring objects, photographs and video from the club's collection, was curated by Jacquelyne Ladner from the Cultural Heritage Centre.

Norwood joined representatives from the other SANFL club history committees at the Adelaide Oval to change the items in the club display cases in the Riverbank Stand. This was only the second change to the displays since 2014.

Images of some of the outstanding player action shots were selected for a permanent exhibition in the long tunnel underneath the western grandstands. Forty two enlarged photographs ranging from 1905 to the present day were mounted along the tunnel walls in what will be known as **The Long Gallery**.

Graphic artist Col Bodie was commissioned to create coloured line drawings of the club's twelve Magarey Medallists and the 2017 SANFLW best and fairest, Najwa Allen. The 13 large scale images will be displayed at the club, which also holds the sole right to use them for commercial purposes.

AFL Gather Round

The committee was pleased to receive a number of items as mementos of the inaugural Gather Round round games held at the Norwood Oval.

- Fifty high resolution drone photographs and a video of the Norwood Oval, taken by Caleb Hearn
- Gold Coast Suns FC guernsey signed by players, arranged by Matt Primus
- Fremantle FC guernsey signed by players, arranged by James Aish
- Match ball from the Gold Coast v Fremantle game
- Gather Round street banner used on The Parade, arranged by Mayor Robert Bria

Publications

The following publications were released during the year and can be accessed on the Redlegs Museum website .

Wheelchair Football Team; the first season 2021, by Chris Brown documents the team's season in the inaugural SANFL Wheelchair League

A Discography of the Norwood Football Club. Chris Brown traces the history of the songs associated with the club

LadyLegs Yearbook; the Inaugural SANFL Season 2017, by Chris Brown

1922 NFC Yearbook, by Chris Brown commemorates Norwood's 15th premiership

Acknowledgements

Since the History Committee was established, it has been fortunate to receive donations of items from past players, members and supporters. This year 34 people donated material bringing the total number of donors since 2009 to 282. All donations are acknowledged by letter.

In December, Declan Hamilton and Robert Neill joined Roger Woodcock to present fellow number 10 and 100 gamer, Merv Roberts with a framed and autographed guernsey on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Lester Ross jnr was unavailable but had also autographed the guernsey.

Dawn and John Eastwood from U-Store-It are thanked for continuing to provide three storage units to securely house the collection.

Wally Miller continues to be an invaluable source of information and we thank him for his ongoing interest and support.

Barry Solomon, along with the ground staff and Peter Nanotti are thanked for their assistance and support.

The office staff are always cooperative and willing to provide assistance and Anthony Harvey continues to oversee the operation of the Redlegs Museum website.

Throughout the year a wide range of people, including families and friends of past players, local historians, archivists and librarians, have provided information and photographs and we acknowledge the following:

Rhett Bartlett, Greg Champion, Dr Julie Collins, Barbara Cullen, John Emery, Nick Haines, Caleb Hearn, Jacquelyne Ladner, Mark Sheppard, Peter Vasic, Toby Wooley.

History Committee members

Graeme Adams
Chris Brown
Reonaldo Cialini
Michael Coligan
Dee Cox
Rob Crompton
Wynton Heading (Chair)
Stephen Jones

Chris Lane
Trevor Mather
Bryan Ridge
Phil Robins
Marie Walsh
Robert Walsh
Roger Woodcock

Wynton Heading January 2024