

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

90 YEARS AGO - 1928

YALLOURN WINS THE YDCA GRAND-FINAL

This newspaper item consisted of nothing more than the scores from the 1927-28 Yallourn and District Cricket Association Grand Final between Yallourn and Mirboo North which was played at Moe on the 22nd April 1928.

Despite Yallourn's exciting 13-run victory, the scores were tucked away beneath a report related to the sales at the Melbourne Pig Market.

Unfortunately, there were no other details of the match provided; and, hopefully, the associated footnotes may shed some light on the fledgling Yallourn and District Cricket Association and some of the notable players of that era.

Note: The batting and bowling gridlines, as seen below, were not part of the original extract and have been added to assist the presentation of the scores on the website.

MAY 4TH 1928

'MORWELL ADVERTISER'

PAGE: 2

CRICKET YALLOURN WINS GRAND-FINAL.

YALLOURN INNINGS

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----|
| Rusden Bowled McCartin | 43 |
| Turner Bowled McCartin | 22 |
| Hassett Bowled Boon | 4 |
| Morris Bowled Boon | 3 |
| S. Cox Caught J. McCartin Bowled Boon | 12 |
| Harry Caught F. McCartin Bowled | 7 |
| Johnson Bowled Hibbins | 11 |
| Hunt Bowled McCartin | 17 |
| Hibbert Bowled McCartin | 5 |
| Lawrence Bowled McCartin | 0 |
| McCarthy Not Out | 0 |
| Sundries | 10 |
| Total | 134 |

Note: In the newspaper article, the number nine batsman for Yallourn was listed as Hibbert; however, another source gave the name as 'Herbert.'

MIRBOO NORTH BOWLING

| | Overs | Maidens | Wickets | Runs |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Solomon | 10 | 2 | 0 | 39 |
| Hibbins | 10 | 1 | 1 | 35 |
| Boon | 14 | 5 | 4 | 30 |
| J. McCartin | 10 | 3 | 5 | 20 |

MIRBOO NORTH INNINGS

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Verdon Bowled Mc Carthy | 7 |
| J. McCartin Bowled Lawrence | 1 |
| W. Payne Run out | 30 |
| B. Boon LBW McCarthy | 65 |
| Solomon Caught Cox Bowled Lawrence | 6 |
| Hibbins Caught Morris Bowled Lawrence | 0 |
| H. Pilbeam Run Out | 0 |
| J. Pilbeam Caught Turner Bowled Mc Carthy | 3 |
| F. Mc Cartin Caught Turner Bowled McCarthy | 0 |
| Evenden Bowled Lawrence | 1 |
| J. Payne Not Out | 4 |
| Sundries | 4 |
| Total | 121 |

BOWLING FOR YALLOURN

| | Overs | Maidens | Wickets | Runs |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Lawrence | 13 | 1 | 4 | 27 |
| Mc Carthy | 17 | 3 | 4 | 38 |
| Morris | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Cox | 5 | 1 | 0 | 15 |
| Harry | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Hunt | 2 | 0 | 0 | 16 |

FOOTNOTES

1. As the 'scorebook' shows, the batting star for Yallourn was opener G.F. 'Fred' Rusden (43). His co-opener (J. Turner) also batted well in compiling 22 runs. While the middle order struggled against some fine bowling, Yallourn's number eight batsman (D. Hunt) played an important hand in contributing 17 valuable runs at a crucial time of the innings.
2. It is every possibility that J. Turner was Jack Turner (sometimes called 'Jock') who was better recognized for his prowess on a football field. Jack played one VFL game for Essendon in 1930; and although kicking two goals, his VFL debut hardly caused a ripple. However, in his role as the full forward for Yallourn in 1933, he wrote his name into the archives of country football when he broke the Gippsland League record that season for goal-kicking. Jack was known throughout Gippsland as the 'champion forward' and his exploits were reported in 'Weekly Times'...

"YALLOURN MAN'S RECORD JACK TURNER, of Yallourn, headed the Gippsland League goal-kicking list with 116, breaking the existing record held by Ian McLean, of Bairnsdale, who in 1930 had 111 goals for the season."
'Weekly Times' August 26th 1933 Page: 65.

Note: In that same season, Jack kicked **28 goals** in one game (against Bairnsdale). The scores that day were: Yallourn 53.27 (345) defeated Bairnsdale 6.7 (49). In the history of YFC, Jack Turner was probably the only Yallourn player to kick one hundred goals in a season.

3. Eight of Yallourn's batsmen were bowled which said much about the line and length of the opposition's bowlers Boon and McCartin.
4. Yallourn's two strike bowlers, Jack McCarthy and Mark Lawrence, also played their part in capturing a combined tally of eight wickets. The duo must have formed a daunting attack in those days as both were selected for the Country Week Championships in that era.
5. It appears that while Mirboo's B. Boon (65) and W. Payne (30) were at the batting crease, the likelihood of victory appeared possible. However, a lower order batting collapse brought about Mirboo's swift demise. The last seven MNCC batsmen could only muster 14 runs; and Mirboo North suffered the ignominy of two 'run outs' in its innings.
6. The 'player of the match' was undoubtedly Ben Boon (Mirboo North) who 'bagged' four wickets. Ben was the only player in the game to score a half century (65 runs). It is believed that Ben Boon was a Shire Engineer; and he was regarded

as a fine all-round sportsman. An annual 18-hole golfing tournament, which is held at Moe, is named in his honour (the 'Ben Boon Plate').

7. J. McCartin, from Mirboo North, returned the best bowling figures in the match with 5 wickets for 20 runs. He took one catch while F. McCartin took the other.
8. Cricket history was made that day as the victory in the 1927-28 Grand Final was Yallourn CC's first-ever premiership.
9. The following season, Yallourn also won the YDCA pennant by defeating Moe. Fred Rusden was again the mainstay of the innings that day and scored 110 not out in the first innings. He followed that up with an unconquered 66 in the second innings. Fred Rusden seems to have been a 'standout' cricketer who was most accomplished in 'wielding the willow'.
10. Ted Hassett, who played in that 1928 Grand Final for Yallourn, was the brother of one of Australia's foremost cricketing identities, Lindsay Hassett. Lindsay captained Victoria and was the captain of Australia from 1949 until 1953. Lindsay played 43 Test matches for Australia and scored 3073 runs including ten centuries.
11. The Yallourn player named on the scoresheet as 'Harry' was probably a well-known Yallourn identity of that era, Perc Harry.
12. It is recorded that that Yallourn's Med Cox, Jack McCarthy, Fred Rusden, J. Dooley, W. Johnstone, P. Palmer, Ted Hassett and Mark Lawrence were selected to play in the Victorian Country Week series in that period of YDCA. Other eminent Yallourn cricketers in that era included: Harry Culph and Alex Wiggins.
13. W.H. Brewer was a most influential personality in cricket circles in those early days of Yallourn; and, without question, was a dynamo in the development of local sporting clubs in Yallourn. A story regarding 'Dad' Brewer's phenomenal contribution to sport in Yallourn can be found on this website at:
<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/search?search=brewer>
14. Cricket was a most popular pastime in the town; and it is recorded that, within a few years of first sod being turned at Yallourn, the men of the town had established two clubs. One team was known as the 'Fire Brigade' and the other XI simply called 'Yallourn.'
15. Unfortunately, the club's score books, which, in most cases, were the only record of matches played in that period, have been lost with the passage of time. According to this website, since the early days of the town there have been about twenty cricket teams. Some teams were transitory while others 'morphed' or

were merged/amalgamated. The list of Yallourn teams, since the 1920's, included the following: *Yallourn ANA *Yallourn Golds *Yallourn Blacks *Yallourn Colts *Yallourn St Therese's *Yallourn Presbyterians *Yallourn Municipal *Yallourn Reds *Yallourn Fire Brigade *Yallourn Tech School *St. Therese's Yallourn *St Johns *Yallourn St Andrews *Yallourn RSL *Yallourn Sparks *Yallourn Footballers *Yallourn Methodists *Yallourn *Yallourn A and *Yallourn Colts.

16. Other teams that competed in those formative years of the YDCA included: Moe, Traralgon, Brown Coal Mine, Boolarra and Morwell. There were other teams (e.g. Church XI's) that 'came and went' but the larger towns, in the Central Gippsland, generally had well organized and competitive cricket clubs.
17. In reading about the matches in those early days at Yallourn, it appears as though there were many talented and enthusiastic cricketers. It is a great pity that more is not known about the players of those early years in the various Yallourn cricket teams. It is written that a team selected to represent Yallourn, as early as 1921, consisted of the following players: G. D. Jones, J. Padfield, A. Arnott, S.M. Watson, W. McCarthy, W. Turner, W.B. McKinnon and the Ley brothers. Source: 'Yallourn Was' written by Prue McGoldrick. Page: 22
18. One of the earliest teams to be unearthed in this research was the Yallourn 'A' XI in a match against a Morwell team in December 1922. The names of the players selected for Yallourn that day were: E. Twiddell, J. F. Smith, J.R. Fraser, H. Binder, E. Berry, T. Caldwell, W. Hudson, Lawrence, Shaw and Anthony. Source: 'Morwell Advertiser' December 8th 1922. Page: 5
19. The Yallourn Fire Brigade won its only cricket premiership in 1925-26.
20. The Yallourn Cricket Club won 13 premierships in its history.
21. In 1928, the Yallourn & District Cricket Association won the Country Week title. The representative team also won in 1930-31 and again later in 1948-49.
22. Finally, 1927 was a significant year in Australian cricket because of the emergence of Don Bradman as a superstar in Australian cricket. Don took the game to new heights throughout the cities and towns of Australia; and the 'Boy from Bowral' was said to be the foremost reason why cricket climbed to new heights as a national pastime.

JOHN WHITE'S BRILLIANT HISTORY OF LOCAL CRICKET

For those readers who are interested to discover more about the Yallourn Cricket Club, a book entitled 'Coal Dust & Cricket' by John White, is recommended. The book was published 2011; and deals with the development of cricket throughout Central Gippsland.

John White, a former resident of Yallourn, played football and cricket for Yallourn. A photograph and story about John and his impressive career for Yallourn and Morwell clubs, can be found on the Virtual Yallourn website.

John made more than 10,000 runs for the Morwell Cricket Club. He was also President of Morwell CC for more than 25 years. In 2013, he received a richly deserved Cricket Victoria Award for 50 years of dedicated service to local cricket.

MORE YALLOURN CRICKET HISTORY

The early years of cricket in Yallourn makes for absorbing reading.

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/31244>

Other cricket stories that can be found on this website include:

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/32418>

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/28088>

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/24261>

Note: For those people who enjoy cricket, the Yallourn Newsletter, which Julie will be sending out in January will carry the story of the town's most famous cricketing event. In February 1955, England, captained by the legendary Len Hutton, played a match at Yallourn; and thousands of people, throughout Gippsland, flocked to Yallourn to watch the game. Two very popular Yallourn cricketers, Ken Grant and Dick Sagar, feature prominently in the article.

PHOTOGRAPHS REGARDING CRICKET IN YALLOURN

To view a collection of photographs related to Yallourn cricket teams and players:

1. Click the above tab: 'Groups'
2. Scroll down to NID : 5092 'Cricket Club' and left click.

This story is part of a history project entitled 'From the Newspapers' and a full list of titles in this series can be obtained by contacting Julie George. The research and writing of this article were completed by Roger Spaul and presented and posted by Julie George for the Virtual Yallourn website in November 2018. The above extract from the 'Morwell Advertiser' has been faithfully reproduced. The only amendments to the original copy are the font style, font size and spacing, to enhance the story for the purposes of posting on the Virtual Yallourn website.