

History of The Basin

Chapter 9

Sporting Organisations

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Summary

This chapter details the history of sporting organisations in The Basin.

The Basin Badminton Club was established in 1935. The club's most successful years were the 1950's and 1960's.

The Basin Football Club was established in 1946. The senior side won its first premiership in 1962.

The Basin Cricket Club was formed in 1946 although not until 1983 was it known by that name. The club has won at least 10 premierships over the grades since the 1960's.

The Basin Junction Basketball Club was formed in 1962 and won their first premiership in 1964. The club was disbanded in the late 1960's.

The Batterham Park Tennis Club came into being in 1972.

Miller Park Tennis Club was formed in 1986.

The Basin Basketball Club was formed in 1976. Many teams in all grades have won premierships over the years.

The Basin Tennis Club was formed in 1932. In 1951, the club won its first premiership. The club disbanded in 1954.

In 1971, the first "Riding for the Disabled" group in Victoria was registered with its base at Wicks Reserve, The Basin.

The Lilydale Bowman Club was formed in 1977 and operates off land in Sheffield Road.

The Doongalla Horse and Pony Club was formed in 1969 and have their base in Sheffield Road.

The Basin Badminton Club

The Basin Badminton Club

It seems that as a result of talks, between the first minister of The Basin Presbyterian Church Mr. H. M. Bell and church members Mr. & Mrs. Roxburgh, Mrs. Pickett and Mr. L. Gretton, The Basin badminton club was established in 1935. Mr. Roxburgh donated four racquets and a net and the game was played in the Presbyterian Church. Other first year members included Messrs. F. & E. Gretton, A. John, G. & F. Grumont, W. Martin, and Misses M. Dickson, and N. Gibson. Foundation office bearers were Mr. H. M. Bell Chairman, and Mr. L. Gretton Secretary and Treasurer.

The Basin Presbyterian church hall was used for approximately 2 years before the club moved to the Basin Progress Hall which provided extra space and better playing conditions. Prior to S.E.C. power coming to the district the game was played under kerosene lamps. Finance was very limited and the club held various social functions to help defray costs.

The game was played mainly in a social nature before World War II but individuals entered Victorian Badminton Association Carnivals such as country Week. Matches were arranged with neighbouring clubs and tournaments held within the club. Gentlemen were then rarely seen playing in shorts. Because of the war the club went into recess until reformed in March 1946, when it soon began to flourish.

In 1949 the Croydon District Badminton Association was formed with The Basin as a foundation member. In 1952 The Basin emerged as A Grade premiers. To make a stronger competition the Mountain District and Croydon and District Associations amalgamated in 1953 with Basin President George Grumont as President. The "A"

Grade pennant was again won in 1958 by The Basin after many years as runners up.

In 1964 The Basin won the "A" Reserve premiership. Among many fine former players Bob Irwin holds a high place having been ranked No. 5 player in Victoria in 1965 and having represented Victoria in 1965-66.

There were many long standing members of the club including George Grumont (32 years - 17 years as President), Ernie Gretton, John Chandler, Wally Goodwin, May Moran, Elsie Greenwell, Val Gretton, Marjorie Dickson, and Anne Spry.

The club produced many fine players including Ernie Gretton, Bob Irwin, Margaret Ritchie, May Dickson and Elsie Greenwell.

The Basin Football Club

In Victoria no town is complete without an Australian Rules Football Club. From 1946 the young men of The Basin has been represented in this field. To the credit of many staunch workers, the club, after a modest beginning, has grown to a formidable club. Its growth has been in spite of the fact that little local support was forthcoming in the early days and great reliance was placed upon the efforts of officials and the ladies auxiliary for sorely needed funds.

Before the days of The Basin Football Club the Bayswater team had Basin boys W. Jackson, H. Collier, A. Collier, A. Turner and Gib. and Alan Chandler playing with it. Consequently the football club dance was well patronised by Basin lads and lasses. A wonderful supper was included in the entry price of four shillings.

The club's inaugural meeting was held at the home of Mr. Jack Martin late in 1946. Arthur Cooper was elected President, R. Peck Treasurer and F. Byford Secretary. Committee members included A. Collett, C. Whitworth, and A. J.

Distinguished Resident Max White

A past Secretary, President and junior team manager, Max was a great worker for The Basin Football Club. Never a shirker from hard work, Max ran a drainage business and a hardware store at The Basin. He was a former policeman and in 1962 brought honour to himself, family and town when he was awarded a Police Valour Medal for bravery in assisting to arrest an armed man at Blackburn. Many local organisations have benefited from Max's charitable nature. In a good cause he often rolled up his sleeves or made donations of materials.

In 1965 and 1966 Max stood for the Knox Shire Council. The Basin people gave him an almost unanimous vote but the bigger population in Boronia carried the day for his opponents. Max was eventually elected to Council in 1969 and served for 12 years. He held the position of Mayor in 1971 and 1972.

After leaving The Basin, Max and his wife Pat ran the Homestead motel at Buninyong, near Ballarat for a time.

The Basin Football Club

Stephens. In 1947, a side was fielded in the Croydon Ferntree Gully League. Having no home ground, the side was drawn to play away continuously and consequently were beaten by huge margins. Players and loyal supporters were transported by Thompson's buses.

In 1948 the club combined with the Colchester-Basin Cricket Club and commenced playing at Batterham Reserve after the proposed site of Wicks Reserve proved unsuitable. South West of the lower oval (beside the dam from which the football was frequently retrieved) was a bark and paling hut built by a working bee. This supplemented by an army tent supplied by Arthur Cooper. The army tent was used as a change room until 1949 when a temporary dressing shed was built.

In 1953 Clifton Pugh, well known artist, was president and in 1955, because of insufficient players, the club was temporarily suspended.

In those early days it seems that the team used to be selected at "Vassos's" Hotel (later known as the Club hotel) on Saturday morning (there was no training in those days) and they could always pick two or three drinkers when short.

In 1957 the club reformed with Alf Petrie President, A. Cooper Treasurer and J. Stephens Secretary with their home at Batterham. Anyone involved with the re-birth of The Basin Football Club would scarcely believe the changes made to Batterham Reserve in the intervening years as a result of the continued presence of the Football Club and later the Cricket and Tennis Clubs.

In 1957, the club was using the lower oval and played on a surface which still bore signs of the drainage furrows from the days when the ground was part of Rowley Batterham's apple orchard. The club had many working bees to develop the grounds. Saplings were cut down at The Ravine for point and goal posts and power poles were erected to obtain electric power.

An "Ugly Man's Competition" raised enough money to buy timber and galvanised iron to proudly build a 24 x 48 foot unlined "tin shed" - the first in the district with a 1000 gallon water tank that served for a couple of years for showers and other water supplies. A briquette hot water service and wire netting were added later. Working bees laid the first water pipes from Arcadia Avenue.

Dinny Lewer was appointed coach in 1957 but

Premiership Celebrations

One mystery not solved is the identity of the football supporter who ran in his undies down Forest Road after The Basin won its first premiership in 1962.

the team finished last. Dinny was involved in a memorable event in late July 1957. The club had only a single win at this stage and were playing Yarra Glen at home. The forty-seven year old non-playing coach decided to play in the team and show them how it should be done. The side did well, without much help from Dinny. In the dying moments of the last quarter with The Basin three points down, Dinny took a mark thirty yards from goal. Rather than go with convention, the coach decided on a place kick to win the game - probably the first place kick in the district since the war. Dinny kicked a point and The Basin went on to lose.

All year the club had struggled to attract more than seven or eight players to training, but the coach's place kick was responsible for the full nineteen players attending an emergency team meeting at the club the following Sunday morning. After much debate, Dinny managed to hold on to the coach's position by the narrowest margin. That place kick will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

The club's first success came in 1958 when the side made the semi-finals. Wally Lindsay took over as coach in 1959 and the side finished about the middle of the list. In 1960 Noel Harman was coach and an under 16 side, with Max Norton coach, was fielded.

Continuing as coach, Harman was rewarded in 1962 when the senior side won the premiership. Officials that year were J. Wallace (President), A. Cooper (Treasurer), and R. Williams (Secretary). Star players included John Wright, Norm Parkinson, Morrie Cook, Kevin McDonagh and Ron Williams.

In 1963 a 2nd XVIII was fielded and justified its existence by playing in the grand final.

From 1957 to 1965 the club owed a lot to the work of the ladies committee. Stalwarts among them being Mesdames Swanson, Petrie, Norton, Murray, Scanlon and Harrod.

Until about 1962, all improvements at Batterham were jointly funded by the Park Committee and the Football Club. On many occasions,

Ugly Man Competition

Dinny Lewer, a captain and coach of The Basin Football Club, contributed more than football ability to the cause. His face won the Uglyman's competition in 1957, thus lifting the club's funds by 96 pounds.

the club loaned money to the Park Committee for improvements in lieu of future rentals. Over the years the facilities have been improved and upgraded. The ground is now considered by many one of the best in Melbourne.

On the playing field the club has had mixed fortunes since that 1962 premiership, but it is now flourishing. Of note was the first premiership win in 1977 by the under 15's. The club is winning their share of games and enjoying financial stability - all finances being self generated.

A supporters group meet monthly and have been responsible for many improvements to the club rooms and grounds. The group is credited with starting the highly popular Country and Western Day that was held in February for many years.

The Club is fully licensed and runs a well ordered bar. Discipline was established some years back when a handful of individuals were banned for behaviour unbecoming to the club. Members are aware of the value of the facilities and take pride in them. Visitors are also made welcome.

The stability of the club and the esteem in which it is held by its players was highlighted by senior coach, John Ruffles, when he observed in June 1992 that the senior side which beat Templestowe by ten goals the previous week contained only two players who did not play their junior football at The Basin.

The Basin Cricket Club

Cricket has had a rather chequered career in The Basin, having many phases over the years.

Before the 2nd World War, Cricket was played by a team calling themselves "The Valley" competing in the Ringwood competition. The side played on a pitch at the corner of Colchester and Canterbury Roads and included such players as George Fiedler, Mick Godfrey and A. Treleven. This club continued after the war as "The Colchester-Basin Cricket Club".

In 1946 The Basin Club formed and played on the same private property as The Valley, in the Ferntree Gully Competition but shortly after-

Hard Times

The The Basin Football Club could have done with a benefactor one year when finances took a sudden dive. No new project had been entered into, no great player had been bought - the treasurer had absconded with the funds and police had to be called in.

wards moved to Batterham Reserve. Players and officials remembered in that period include Alan Collett, Graeme Kerr, and Jim Stephens. A "B" Grade side was fielded but the club met hard times and was disbanded in 1948. A club known as "Somerville Park" then played for a few years.

In 1958 a fresh start was made when The Basin Footballers fielded a cricket side again in "B" Grade of the Ferntree Gully Competition. Over about a ten year period, the club headed the ladder after the home and away matches a number of times, but unfortunately a premiership did not come the club's way. Defeats in finals were by as little as 3 and 9 runs. One season the "B" Grade side headed the list with 88 points out of a possible 100, but was plagued by injuries and mishaps during the final.

In season 1962-1963 a "C" Grade side was added, and then in 1964-1965 A, B, C and Juniors were fielded - the club had come a long way in a short time.

There were many staunch players and officials up to 1965, among them being Doug Sims, John Wallace, Noel Harman, Alan Sward, Alan White, Norm Parkinson, Morrie Cook, John Wright and Philip Jordan.

In the late 1960's, the word "Footballers" was dropped from the clubs name. For the period 1973-1983 the club played under the banner of Batterham Park Cricket Club after combining with the Church of Christ Cricket Club. At the commencement of the 1983/84 cricket season, the club reverted to the name The Basin Cricket Club and continues to play under this name.

In the last twenty-five years the club has achieved much success on-field and has won ten premierships throughout the grades. By far the most successful leader has been the late Phillip Johnstone, who captained three premiership teams in the lower grades before his tragic death in 1991. Phillip and his wife Robyn were staunch workers for the club.

From having two senior and one junior team in the early 1970's, in the 1990's, the club had

The Basin Junction Basketball Club

grown to the stage where it was fielding five senior and five junior teams each Saturday.

The Basin Cricket Club has had many outstanding players in the past twenty-five years, including Fred Davies, David Lambert, Steven Plymin, Garth Smith and Tony James. Players have also filled most positions on the club's committee and there have been many tireless workers including Robert Smith who served as President for eight years, Graeme Murray, Secretary for six years and Mark Posch, Treasurer for eight years.

The outstanding service of these men has been recognised with the presentation of life membership awards and others awarded this honour include Terry Davis, Dennis Wheeler, Paul Wakefield and David Smith.

The Basin Junction Basketball Club

In 1962, several local girls who were keen on sport decided to form a basketball club. These girls raised enough support to form two teams which were entered in the Mountain District Girls Basketball Association. A distinctive uniform was designed by Joyce Reid and The Basin Junction Basketball Club made its debut with an "A" Grade and "B" Reserve team. Both teams had successful seasons with "B" finishing runners-up.

Another team was added in 1963 and, playing at St. John's Ferntree Gully, all teams finished in the four. The need for home courts was obvious so the girls set to work to raise funds. With the assistance of parents, The Basin Progress Association and the Shire Council, a court was finally put down in 1964. The same year saw Mrs. Marie Alexanderson appointed as the club's first official coach. With extra practice, excellent support and fine coaching "A" Grade won the club's first premiership. It was fitting that this team consisted mainly of the club's original members. Two more courts were added as now six teams were to be fielded. The club had come a long way in a short time.

In 1966, few of the original members remained but this report would not be complete without mention of

Jill and Carol Wright, Joyce Reid, Meryl Neeson, and Denise Gretton whose work and play combined with the efforts of Mrs. Alexanderson, Mrs. Nicholls, Mrs. Hayles and Mrs. Kaliszewski lifted the club to prominence.

Batterham Park Tennis Club

The Batterham Park Tennis Club came into being on 4 September 1972. The founding President was Rev. Ian Parton and Secretary Mrs. Claire MacMillan.

The idea of a tennis club at the reserve had been raised some time earlier when the Batterham Park Grounds Committee called a meeting of local people to discuss the formation of a tennis club. Little interest was shown however, and it was not until a chance meeting between Don Maguire and Claire MacMillan that steps were taken to form the Batterham Park Tennis Club.

Don Maguire was a member of The Batterham Park Grounds Committee, and Clare MacMillan was a member of The Boronia Presbyterian Church Tennis Club, a small, but active club without their own courts. They had three teams and hired various courts in Boronia and Bayswater for home matches. After months of negotiation, The Boronia Presbyterian Church Tennis Club ceased functioning, and together with a group of ladies from Mount View became the nucleus of the new Batterham Park Tennis Club. (The Mount View ladies played mid-week on Rita Matthews' private court in Boronia.)

The aim of the new organisation was to have a family based tennis club, open to the local community and catering for all levels of tennis. Founding members were: Len and Judy Pacey, Jeanette and Don Osborne, Beryl Tate, Claire and Hamish MacMillan, Ian and Anne Parton, Ted Cornell, Jean Isherwood, Bill and Dawn Ochiltree, Peter and Lorraine Smith, Gordon and Laurence Hill, Pat Ewart, Robert Henry, Pieta Boyles, Pat Ingram, Terry Starling, Lorraine Davie, Pat Harvey, Jeanette Brown and Alan Thorne.

The new club was located on its present site and consisted of two en-tout-cas courts, a clubhouse and one asphalt netball court.

A number of prominent local identities have been members of the club, including four Mayors of Knox - Hurtle Lupton, Tom Blaze, Geoff Draper and Peter Maley. Another prominent member was Hamish MacMillan, who was Treasurer of the Victorian Tennis Association and a Director of Tennis Australia. Hamish is also a life member of Batterham Tennis Club and was a past president of Ferntree Gully and District Tennis Association, a position he held for 15 years.

Miller Park Tennis Club

In 1992, the Tennis Club had grown from its original 43 members, to 266. and boasted five en-tout-cas courts and an attractive clubhouse surrounded by gardens and lawn. The courts can be floodlit for night matches.

In 1997, the club held their 25th anniversary with a celebration at a local restaurant.

The Club has had some financial assistance from the local council, but the majority of funds come from the membership and from fund raising events.

Miller Park Tennis Club

Situated on the corner of Liverpool Road and Mountain Highway, the club was officially opened on 6th July 1986 by Cr Tom Blaze.

The original complex consisted of the club-rooms and 3 plexipave courts.

The first night competition was registered in July 1988 after lights were installed on the existing courts. Twelve months later, three en tout cas courts were constructed with lights installed on these courts in August 1990.

In May 2002, the worn plexipave courts were upgraded to sand filled artificial grass courts.

Well known coaches over the years have been Keith Rogers and Ian Goolagong.

The Basin Basketball Club

In 1975 a number of women living in The Basin were getting together at playgroup meetings. Their husbands also met regularly, playing cards and billiards. Some of these men decided to form The Basin Basketball Club. The team, which played at Kilsyth stadium, consisted of Dick Thomas, Matt McManus, Bill Major, Howard Blegg, Andy Sweet, Brian Hill, Godfrey Baker and Bill Barry.

The following year a womens team was formed. This team, coached by Dick Thomas, also played at Kilsyth stadium and was made up of Norma Thomas, Sandra McManus, Irene Major, Joy Wallace, Margaret Stewart, Barbara Moxham, Marilyn Rose, Carol Baker, Loretta Kelly and Lyn Blegg.

The first junior team was formed in 1978 when the coach of an under 16 boys Boronia Technical School team ceased coaching; the team was taken over by Dick Thomas under the banner of The Basin Basketball Club. Included in the team were Geoff Toulson, Matt and Seymour Van De Meere and several boys from the school.

On the 21st of April 1979, the club entered its first boy's team for a full season. The team, an 11d side, played at Nunawading and was coached by Bruce Kelly, although the first game was coached by Dick Thomas as Bruce was unavailable. Much of the early work was done by Dick Thomas and Irene Major. A team set of green singlets with white trim were purchased from Kmart and red numbers sewn on. Red cotton football shorts were also purchased and completed the uniform. The boys in the team were David Bortolussi, Ian Bottel, Peter Dobson, Simon and Tony Major, Brian Page, Stephen Shepherd and Andrew Wallace.

In 1981, the first junior girls team was formed and coached by Margaret Sweet and Ute Frankcom played in the under 10 competition. The team played at Boronia stadium and was made up of Gillian Bottel, Michelle Sweet, Joanne Frankcom, Kendra and Donna Gill and Michelle Moore.

In 1992 the club, under the Presidency of Justin Walton, had 460 juniors and 80 seniors making 70 junior teams and 8 senior teams competing at Knox Amateur Basketball Association (K.A.B.A.), Melbourne East Basketball Association, Nunawading (M.E.B.A.), and Kilsyth and Mountain District Basketball Association (K. & M.D.B.A.).

Many teams have won premierships over the years. A championship mens team playing at Kilsyth has been premiers for the past two years.

The Basin Tennis Club

The Basin Tennis Club was formed in 1932 at the initiative of Mr R. B. Smith, owner and operator of Smith's Store, the first store in The Basin. The first meetings were held in Mr Smiths lounge room. The clubs' first President was Mr. Smith himself and the first treasurer and secretary was Miss Rose Rafferty. Mr Smith provided some land at the rear of his property and constructed an asphalted tennis court. Due to the popularity of the game another court was added a little later. The club affiliated with and participated in the Fern Tree Gully and District Tennis Association.

The first few years successes were few. In 1951 the club won its first premiership, the "Dr Farrow Cup". During its existence, the club was extremely popular with its warmth of atmosphere and the afternoon teas provided by the ladies.

Due to property development leading to the

Riding for the Disabled

loss of their courts, the club disbanded in 1954 with the clubs funds being donated to The Basin Progress Association.

The Basin Progress Association attempted to reform the Tennis club in 1962 in the Batterham Park area but this was unsuccessful. Later, in 1972, the Batterham Park Tennis Club was formed.

Riding for the Disabled

Early in 1971, a number of community minded people in The Basin formed a group with aim of teaching handicapped children to ride. Lead by Mrs. J. Ericson, of Fern Street, the group initially started at South Yarra. In October 1971, the group became the first registered "Riding for the Disabled" group in Victoria with its base at Wicks Reserve, The Basin.

Riding for the Disabled had its origins in England in 1954 and quickly spread to other countries. Queensland was the first State in Australia to start in 1964.

For the handicapped, riding represents a whole new way of life; four strong legs to carry you instead of two weak or useless ones. To those confined to a wheelchair or to moving slowly using crutches or callipers, horse riding opens new horizons, gives new independence and confidence, and a lot of enjoyment.

The group at The Basin were known as the "Wick's" group (for the reserve where they met). They were greatly assisted by the Wicks Reserve Committee and the Rotary Club of Boronia, who provided an enclosed area for the riders to work within.

Lilydale Bowmen Club

The Lilydale Bowman Club is located on the corner of Pavitt Lane and Sheffield Rd.

The club was formed in 1977 by five members of the Moorabbin Archery Club. These members were Steve Edwards, Peter Dickson, Brian Williams, Graham Windsor and David Abbott. They recognised a need for a club that focussed on Field Archery and at the time the Moorabbin Club focussed on Target Archery.

Field Archery simulates hunting game, with small targets placed in natural surroundings at various distances. It requires a large site with natural bush surroundings.

The founding members spent considerable time assessing potential sites for the club; finally

choosing a site of 22 acres on the corner of Pavitt Lane and Sheffield Rd. This site was ideal for the purpose and was also surrounded by national park and farm land. The farm land has been leased on occasions for use when the club hosted international shooting competitions. The site is owned by the local council and leased by the club who pay all the land rates. The site has no reticulated water or electricity. Water is provided by on site tanks and a generator provides electricity.

In the early days, the local council supported the club by providing clubrooms in 1984 and toilets in 1986. The toilets were installed on the site boundary to be shared with Doongalla Horse and Pony Club.

Over the years, the club has spent over \$20,000 improving the facilities and now have excellent clubrooms and their own toilets and showers. Finances to improve the facilities have been entirely self funded.

The club has grown rapidly and in 1997 boasted the largest club membership in Australia.

Doongalla Horse and Pony Club

On the 24th March, 1969, The Basin Progress Association called a special meeting inviting interested people to form a local horse and pony club. A total of 33 people attended the meeting where following points were made:

- There was a definite need in this area for a Horse and Pony Club, as the nearest was at Croydon.
- After investigation, the Progress Association compiled a list of 33 names who did not belong to a club but were interested in joining if a local one was formed.
- A suitable location was available at Wicks Reserve and the Committee of Management would encourage and assist a newly formed club.
- The Shire Riding Councillors were in favour of the proposal and would do what was within their power to help.
- The Basin Progress Association was sponsoring the proposal in the interest of community benefit and once the club was formed would take no further active participation unless requested by the club
- Various executive and members of the Croydon and Mountain District Horse and Pony Club had been contacted and some had inspected the proposed location. While

the proposal had not been put at their meeting, they personally felt the proposal a worthy one and stated they felt that their club would be willing to advise and assist in the formation of the club.

A committee of 15 was elected to guide the formation and draft a constitution. The first committee members were Mrs Morgan, Mrs Elliott, Mr. John Pittard, Mr. Wallace Campbell, Mrs. Phelan, Mr. John Campbell, Mrs. Ierufi, Mrs. Veal, Mrs Tremevan, Mr. K. Riddell, Mr. L. Everett, Mr. Roy Ritchie, Mrs. Stellar, Mrs. Ericason and Mrs. Gale. President was Mrs. Morgan, Secretary Mrs. Elliott.

The committee arranged to hold a rally and gymkhana in the near future. A local veterinarian, Mr. Wilson, offered his services to the club. Miss Ericason offered to loan 4 horses to the club for a few months and Mr. Robinson offered to let them graze in his paddock provided someone looked after them to which Miss Vikki Walker volunteered.

Subsequent meetings drafted a constitution and the club commenced operations at Wicks Reserve. It was soon discovered that Wicks was unsuitable and other areas including land near Millers Road and the Chandlers paddocks were used for a time. In 1971, the group discovered a large tract of land in Sheffield Road owned by the then Lilydale Council. Negotiations were successful in obtaining the use of the land, although the agreement to use the land was a loose one.

The land in Sheffield Road became the clubs home and has proved extremely suitable. It consists of an area of 8 - 10 acres that has been cleared over time with a further 10-15 acres of bush used for cross country jumping. All the area is appropriately fenced.

The Doongalla Pony Club Incorporated was registered/affiliated with the Victorian Pony Club Association on 25th May, 1971 with full affiliation granted on 14th December 1971.

The Story of Johnny Reb

The Royal Melbourne Show is the Mecca of showjumping in Australia. Show Day is Grand Prix Day; the most coveted event on the Australian Show Jumping circuit.

On Show Day 1971, a cloud hung over the event. The third horse to jump was the skewbald, Johnny Reb, ridden by Guy Creighton. As he made his way around the course, all those who knew him could see that he was not jumping his best or in his usual neat fashion. Coming to the second last fence, he looked right to jump the parallel bars. He failed to rise high enough to clear the bar, took the front rail with him and crashed heavily to the ground, throwing his rider well clear. He made an attempt to rise but failed to do so. A screen was placed around him and eventually he was removed to the Research Station at Werribee, where he died on the operating table.

Owned by Max Towns of Orbost in Victoria, Johnny was only a 10-year -old. Starting his jumping career at the early age of 3 years, firstly with his owner, then Geoff Richards, Robert Allen and finally Guy Creighton.

Johnny Reb had jumped with distinction at every worthwhile show between Adelaide and Cairns. He was a Melbourne Grand Prix winner in 1969 when ridden by Geoff Richards, an event he won in brilliant fashion over a very big course.

Plagued by leg injuries for a couple of seasons, he came right back to his own in 1971 with a number of placings in Sydney. This was followed by a win in the Queensland Championships, at Toowoomba, string of wins in Northern Queensland during the Winter, winning the Australian Showjumping Championships during the Royal National Exhibition in Brisbane and 5 wins in Adelaide.

Johnny Reb was not a big horse, but he was a brilliant jumper who disliked hitting fences. By all standards he was great horse - any horse that wins a Melbourne Grand Prix must be classed as great.

Johnny Reb died a Champion - a true Champion in every sense of the word.

Major ground and building improvements over the years have been:

- The first shed (a double garage) erected in 1972 to store gear and an area flattened for a temporary arena.
- Another double garage shed erected in 1976

Life Members of The Doongalla Horse and Pony Club

Gordon Miller	Iris Dawson	Bob Chipperfield
Noreen Miller	John Anderson	Pat Chipperfield
Gary Hartigan	Shirley Anderson	Brian Lowe
Margaret Domican	Mark Anderson	Geoffrey Hudson
Noel Steele	Andrew Martin	
Pam Steele	Diana Chaplin	

Doongalla Horse and Pony Club

beside the earlier one creating a walkway between the two.

- In the late 1970's, a cover was erected over the area between the two garages and also extended out the front of the garages.
- In 1985, a besser block shed was constructed with a concrete floor and roof and roller door. A 25KVA electric generator complete with electric wiring to other areas was installed. Prior to this, the members used a portable generator. This new shed was financed and erected by club members. The generator was donated by a club member.
- In 1988, the club negotiated with the Council to construct a series of riding trails that followed local roads and led to the pony club. Many of the younger club members agist horses in local paddocks and have to ride to and from the pony club.
- A stone topped and fenced arena was created in 1989. The local Council financed the excavation and stone topping and the club paid for and erected the fence.
- In 1990, the club renegotiated the land lease arrangement with the Council incorporating much tighter conditions that suited the club.
- In 1991, a huge tree planting effort saw trees around the arena and in many other areas.
- The club used pan toilets up until 1986 when Council constructed public toilet facilities on the land border that is shared with the Lilydale Bowmans Club. However, these toilets were too distant from the club buildings. In 1992, the club financed and erected a large toilet block located closer to the club's buildings.
- The largest "gear" shed was donated to the club in 1993 and erected by members.
- Over time, the canteen front area roof was extended and the floor concreted. In 1999, steel walls were added.
- In 2002, the construction of an additional arena commenced and this is expected to be complete in a few years.

The site is also home to the Doongalla Adult Riders Club who commenced operation in 1981, They use the club facilities, provide finance to the club and assist at working bees but operate as an independent organisation.

Johnny Reb Memorial Jumping Competition Past Winners

1971	Debbie Rawlinson with Manning
1972	Jenny Parlevliet with Tamborine Lass
1973	Howard Ward with Big Ben
1974	Felicity Brennan with Allegro
1975	Glen Bishop with Chubasco
1976	Debbie House with The Exhibitionist
1977	Andrew Garret with Ash
1978	Paul Buckland with Romany Nomad
1979	Lee Davis with Just Peter
1980	David Strapp with Della
1981	Tanya Werna with Corncob
1982	David Joyce with Roly Poly
1983	Phillip Johnston with Circle J Jason
1984	Sarah Bray with Tudor Park Prophet
1985	Lori Hicks with Scooby Doo
1986	Sally Heeps with Wilmalong
1987	Daralyn Hodge with Hustler
1989	Brook Dobbin with Cha Cha
1990	Brook Dobbin with Take A Risk
1991	Brook Dobbin with Esso
1992	Caroline Quilty with Columbia
1993	Anna-Jane Stevens with Supper Balaria Boy
1994	Tara Prendercast with Mirror Quest
1995	Sophie Hughes with Supper Cooper
1996	Rebecca Allen with Donlun
1997	Amanda Eltringham with Excavators Illusion
1998	Colleen Waddell with Khan Coban
1999	Amberley Thorpe with All American Boy
2000	Leigh Shera-Jones with Fair Dinkum
2001	Kristy Lee Pettifer with Wenloch Cuchlain

Major events held each year include:

- The Annual Johnny Reb memorial jumping competition (see the insert on page describing how this event came to be named).
- The Annual Johnny McCabe fancy dress event held after the last rally of the year. The McCabe family were active members of the club in the 1970's. Johnny McCabe, the young son, was killed in a tragic accident and the fancy dress is named in his honour.
- Show jumping day, Dressage day and One Day Event (includes Cross Country Jumping).

The club operates a Junior Committee and a Senior Committee. The Junior Committee has been operating since inception and offers younger members of the club a venue for involvement in the administrative functions of the club.

Sources of Information

- “The Basin Centenary booklet” - Ron Ikin.
- “Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley” - Rick Coxhill.
- Current and former residents. In particular, Jim and Barbara Stephens for general help and information.
- Current and former members of the Doongalla Horse and Pony Club.
- Current and former members of the Lilydale Bowman Club Club.
- Boronia and The Basin Community News.

Sources of Information

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Alexanderson, Mrs. Marie

early supporter of Basin Junction Basketball Club 4

first coach of Basin Junction Basketball Club 4

Anderson, John, Shirley & Mark

life members, Doongalla Horse and Pony Club 7

B

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womens team 5

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member of first Basin Basketball Club mens
team 5

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Bob Irwin outstanding player 1

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fine players. 1

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founding member of Croydon District Bad-
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first President of Basin Badminton Club	1	Cooper, Arthur	Basin Football Club Treasurer when it reformed in 1957	2
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Blegg, Howard		Cornell, Ted	founding member of Batterham Park Tennis Club	4
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- Everett, Mr L**
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- Gretton, Ernie**
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member of first Basin Basketball Club womens team	5	Murray, Mrs.	
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early member of Basin Basketball Club junior boys team	5	N	
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Posch, Mark	
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Pugh, Clifton	
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Smith, Garth	
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Smith, Lorraine	
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Smith, Peter	
founding member of Batterham Park Tennis Club	4
Smith, R. B	
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Smith, Robert	
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Starling, Terry	
founding member of Batterham Park Tennis Club	4
Steele, Noel & Pam	
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Stellar, Mrs	on first committee - Doongalla Horse and Pony Club	7
Stephens, Jim	Basin Football Club Secretary when it re-formed in 1957.	2
	early Basin Cricket Club player.	3
	first Basin Football Club committee member	1
Stewart, Margaret	member of first Basin Basketball Club womens team	5
Swanson, Mrs.	early member of Basin Football Club ladies committee	2
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Walton, Justin	president Basin Basketball Club 1992.	5
Wheeler, Dennis	Basin Cricket Club life membership	4
White, Alan	early Basin Cricket Club member	3
White, Max	distinguished resident	1
Whitworth, C.	first Basin Football Club committee member	1

Wicks Reserve Committee

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Williams, Brian

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Williams, R.

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Williams, Ron

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Wright, Carol

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Club 4

Wright, Jill

early supporter of Basin Junction Basketball
Club 4

Wright, John

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