

NORTH WEST CRICKET ASSOCIATION INC.

Acknowledgements

In researching the history of the Association I have been very fortunate to receive a lot of assistance from Betty Knight the daughter of Andrew Shankland Knight who was the Secretary of the Association from 1932 to 1941. The guidance of Bob Chalmers from the Essendon Historical Society is also gratefully acknowledged. It was Bob who put me on the track of a lot of the early history of the Association and the early editions of the Essendon Gazette have been a most useful resource. The early research of Aub Giddings and Don McCabe is also gratefully acknowledged. Early Minute Books from 1941-42 and 1947-1965 were valuable resources and also some old copies of Annual Reports. The late Mrs Verna Littlejohn supplied me with a quantity of photos and memorabilia of her husband Alf. Copies of the photos have been passed on to the Jika CA and the MMVCA where applicable. Alf was a life member of the Campbellfield CC and had played for several clubs in the 1930's including Merlynston, Clifton (or possibly Clifton Brick CC) and Northern Colts Cricket Club, Fawkner. Many clubs were able to assist me also in filling in those annoying little gaps and I particularly would thank Paul Spicer (Airport West/St Christopher's) Don Hudson junior,

Forward.

Cricket has been played in Australia possibly from 1830 and the Melbourne Cricket Club was formed in 1838. Essendon CC first played under its own name in 1872/73, which was a re-forming of the old, Essendon and Flemington CC. Essendon however did not play in any organised competition until 1886/87 when they joined the VCA. The Protestant Churches had an extremely strong competition in the Flemington and Essendon area from 1902 and most churches had at least one team in the competition. There were other cricket associations in the area such as Church of Christ Association, Church of England Cricket Association, Essendon Scottish Cricket Association, and the North Suburban Cricket Association. Most government departments and factories, large industrial and commercial operations had a cricket team and played regular social matches. Cricket was played at Campbellfield, Bulla and Wildwood as early as 1874 and Aub Giddings says in his notes that he was shown, by a Mr Jim Hume of Glenroy, a copy of a photo and scorebook from a match between Campbellfield and Wildwood from this era. Mrs Verna Littlejohn, just before her unfortunate demise in February 2002, showed to me an original postcard dated February 26th 1894 written by the Secretary, Mr Edward Swan, of the Campbellfield CC to Mr A F Daniel the Secretary of the Bulla CC. The card says,

“Dear Sir, I am sorry to say that I am unable to get a team to meet you next Saturday. There are only about four of us available, which would be useless to meet such a team as yours. Hoping this will not put you to any great inconvenience.”

A photocopy of this card is held by the Association and is reproduced on Page ????. The Association has a scorebook of a cricket match played between Campbellfield and Riverside CC on 4th February 1922 and Glenroy CC on 4th March 1922.



Moonee Ponds Cricket Club c 1890

photo courtesy Essendon Historical Society

The Cricketer's Prayer

Lord give me strength to hit a six
So high that even I
When speaking of it to my friends may never have to lie

The Association possibly had its beginnings in 1923 (or it may even have been earlier) when in the area known as Essendon, six teams agreed to play social cricket matches whenever possible. This was not a fully structured or regulated Association, as we know it today.

I have however not been able to obtain details of which teams competed or to find any definite proof of this actually occurring except for the early hand written notes from the late Aub Giddings. A Secretary of this early group was shown in these notes as a Mr B Sullivan. In an article written by a stalwart of the Association, Frank McDonough, and published in the "Broadmeadows Observer" dated 10th October 1973 it mentions in an interview with George Luscombe that he was one of the original members who formed this social group. I have to therefore assume that the Association did have its beginnings in 1923 however my research has highlighted several discrepancies in this article by Frank McDonough and it cannot be assumed that everything mentioned there is 100% correct.

These six teams held their meetings at "Kirks Bazaar" which was in Keilor Road, North Essendon near the intersection of Bulla, Keilor and Mt Alexander Roads on the north-eastern side on the road and on the site currently occupied by a "BI-LO" or "Coles" Supermarket. Kirks Bazaar was an extremely popular venue for the purchase and sale of various types of household goods, both new and second-hand, and livestock, which was mainly poultry. Motor vehicles of all types were auctioned, as were houses and land. Auctions were held regularly and many a bargain was to be had. "Kirks" was run by Mr Harry Kirk the eldest son of John Kirk the founder of the famous "Kirks Horse Bazaar" of Bourke Street, Melbourne.

The reason for choosing this venue would have been because of its size and also the regular meetings of the North Essendon and South Broadmeadows Progress Associations were held here.

It is assumed therefore from these early notes that the six teams may have been Essendon Diggers, Moonee Valley, Sydenham, Glenroy, Aberfeldie???????

In early October 1928 a meeting was held at Kirks Bazaar between the local Progress Associations and it was decided to form a cricket association comprising of teams representing Progress Associations in Essendon and the surrounding district.

The 7 teams were, with the delegate's names in brackets:

North Essendon (L. A. Enderby & G Waghorn)
Aberfeldie (Smith & Trengrove)
Keilor Road & South Broadmeadows (Harrison & Muir Brown & G Cranwell)
Sydenham (Luscombe & Excell)
St Albans (Trudgen & McKenzie)
Glenroy (Houston & Admans)
West Coburg (Lee & Acocks)

The name of this Association was called "**The Northern District Progress Cricket Association**"

President Mr G Cranwell
Secretary G F Acocks

In a match on 27th October 1928 it was reported that E Beames playing for West Coburg v North Essendon "sent the bails spinning 39yds". Beames finished the innings with the figures of 4/28.

Premiers for season 1928-29, which was played at Glenroy over 3 Saturdays because of poor light and concluded on 4th May 1929, were **Keilor Road & Districts who defeated Aberfeldie**.

Scores **Keilor Road 91** (Butterley 16, Clarke 15, O'Neill 13, Enderby 10 no Johns 3/16, Grieves 3/23 & Milne 3/32) **and 90** (Butterley 20, Forster 30 Johns 3/20 & Grieves 3/26) defeated **Aberfeldie 71** (F K Smith 21, Milne 13, O'Neill 7/26 & Swann 2/13) **and 38** (Milne 15, Hansen 1/8, Swann 2/13 & O'Neill 7/16).

The Premiership Shield, which was supplied by Hartley's Sports Store of Melbourne and called the Hartley Shield, was presented together with other trophies by Mr G Cranwell (President) at a euchre party and dance held at the Rose Street Hall Essendon on Saturday 18th May 1929.

It is interesting to note that the Secretary/Treasurer of Keilor Road was plainclothes Constable S McD Millar who was stationed at Flemington Police Station. In January 1931 he transferred to Benalla.

Season 1929-30

In September 1929 the Northern Districts Progress Cricket Association decided to engage professional umpires to officiate in matches for the 1929-30 season and advertised in the "Essendon Gazette" for personnel with previous umpiring experience.

North Essendon CC (President F Crownell & Secretary Harrison) announced at their Annual awards night that the following were trophy winners: F Warner batting average, R Adams bowling average 42 wickets @ 6.7, W Boquest best all rounder & L Wright best fielder.

Premiers for season 1929-30 which was played at Glenroy were **Aberfeldie who defeated Keilor Road & District.**

Scores **Aberfeldie** 93 & 239 (Milne 82 no, F Nancarrow 26, Treweek 41, Lindsay 22, Thaw (Capt.) 25, T Nancarrow 16, O'Neill 7/93, Hansen 2/67 & Lewis 1/15) d **Keilor Rd** 121 (Forster 20, Fleming 15, O'Neill 14 no, Johnson 35, Milne 3/54, W Nancarrow 2/24, Grieves 1/24, S Nancarrow 2/14) & 55 (W Nancarrow 5/31, & S Nancarrow 5/10)

Season 1930-31

Both George Luscombe and Andrew Shankland Knight were by this time playing for Sydenham during this season

The Semi-Finals were between
West Coburg v Sydenham.
North Essendon v Aberfeldie.

Scores **West Coburg 110 & 111** (A Knight 7/50*, G Luscombe 6/57*) d Sydenham 15 (Elland 4/5, Gloz 5/10) & 49 (A Knight 18)

*These are total figures for the match.

North Essendon 88 & 9/77 lost to **Aberfeldie 99 & 7/71**

Premiers for season 1930-31 were **Aberfeldie** who defeated **West Coburg** by 86 runs.

Scores **Aberfeldie** 89 (Milne 32) & 156 (Milne 44) d **West Coburg** 88 & 71 (Milne 9/43, Campbell 5/29, Nancarrow 2/37 & W Nancarrow 3/31)

Season 1931-32

Ten clubs competed in the competition this season

:

Aberfeldie,
Keilor,
Keilor Road,
Moonee Ponds Traders,
Moonee Valley,
North Essendon,
Napier Park,
Pascoe Vale,
Sydenham,
West Coburg.

In August 1931 the Moonee Ponds Traders Association formed a cricket team to compete in the Northern Districts Progress Cricket Association and was known as the Moonee Ponds Traders Cricket Club or Traders. Their President was Cr W B Reid, Secretary Mr E Rixon and Treasurer Mr D Nunan. The club charged its members 3/- per player membership fee.

The Semi-Finals were between

Moonee Ponds Traders v Pascoe Vale.
Aberfeldie v West Coburg.

The Moonee Ponds Traders, who were in their first season in the Association, selected their team for the Semi final from the following players, Adams, Cairns, Picken, (or Pickin), Ashworth, Baker, Black, O'Connor, Faust, Sully, Willett, Jude, Rixon, Tissot & Cahir.

The semi-final between Moonee Ponds Traders and Pascoe Vale was required to be played on the 9th April 1932 on the ground of the Keilor Rd Cricket Club Cnr Keilor Road and Ogilvie Street, Essendon just past the then Essendon Tram Terminus, which ended at Birdwood Avenue. The match however could not take place as specified because of very heavy rain and the ground was under water. The match was subsequently re scheduled to the following Saturday 16th April 1932 at Ormond Park.

The scores from this match were **Pascoe Vale 162** (Hammond 33 no, Masters 33, Sheldon 39, Cairns 4/36, Adams 2/44 & Baker 3/40) **d Moonee Ponds Traders 145** (A. A. Sully 70, Adams 17, Cairns 15, Baker 14, Crosby 5/44 & Aiken 3/37).

Scores for the other semi-final Aberfeldie v West Coburg are incomplete but show Aberfeldie all out 256 and West Coburg 4/17 at stumps 1st Day.

Aberfeldie and Pascoe Vale who tied the Final shared the premiership for season 1931-32. I have been unable to locate any details of the scores.

Presentation Night was held on 1st October 1932 at Ascot Vale Masonic Hall with 140 people in attendance. Wally Milne of Aberfeldie CC won both the Batting & Bowling averages. Aberfeldie players from the tied premiership were presented each with a pullover in club colours whilst the Pascoe Vale Club was presented with a cheque of equal value.

The Moonee Ponds Traders CC also conducted at this venue and at this time the presentation of trophies for their players.

For Season 1932-3 nine clubs competed in the competition, which was now called
The North West Cricket Association:

President Mr G Downs
Secretary Mr A Knight

Aberfeldie,
East Essendon,
Keilor,
Keilor Road,
Moonee Ponds Traders,
Moonee Valley,
North Essendon,
Napier Park,
Pascoe Vale.

Sydenham club disbanded, and a new team was entered from East Essendon.
West Coburg was a non-starter possibly because the Coburg District Cricket Association was just formed and West Coburg decided to enter their teams in that competition.

Mr. Andrew Shankland Knight who was by now playing with the Moonee Valley club was appointed Secretary of the Association.

The Association organised a Social match that was extremely well attended by players and their families and was played on the 8th April 1933 (Easter Saturday) against Trentham.

The team was

A Masters, A Eastman & R Simpson (Pascoe Vale)
R Adams & A Sully (Moonee Ponds Traders)
L Wright & F Trengrove (Aberfeldie)
Andrew Shankland Knight & James Vallins Knight (Moonee Valley) brothers.
W Christie (Keilor Road)
A Milburn (Keilor)
G Luscombe (Keilor) 12th man
J Paton (umpire)

Scores: **North West** 105 (Graco 15, Adams [Capt] 25, Masters 17, Wright 18, Luscombe 9, Morris 3/7, Holman 2/7 & Kenwood 1/10) d **Trentham** 103 (Simpson 3/24 & Adams 4/16).

Moonee Valley CC announced their Annual Awards for 1932-33 as follows

Batting

Tom Herbert 27.3 av,
A Knight 19.7 av,
J Black 16.5 av,

Bowling

H Boyle 58 Wkts@ 11.6
J Knight 26 Wkts@12.73
H Kirby [Capt] 24 Wkts@12

In a match Moonee Valley v East Essendon played 26th January 1933 Tom Herbert from Moonee Valley scored 98, which was then, the highest score achieved in the Association. This surpassed the best score of 91 achieved by A Knight also of Moonee Valley.

This record did not last long as two further high scores were recorded, F Nancarrow (Aberfeldie) scored 108 no v Moonee Valley and W Christie (Keilor Rd) scored 105. A youngster called Kenny Chapman (Aberfeldie) scored a very brisk 52 in 20 minutes in the match v Moonee Valley.

In the match Moonee Valley v East Essendon, Moonee Valley surpassed the best team score of 231 set by Aberfeldie.

Scores were as follows:

Moonee Valley 232 (Herbert 98, A Knight 37, Mitchell 270 d East Essendon 40 & 8/124 (Clarkson 30, J Kennedy 52, Boyle 6/49)

This record best team score of 232 did not last long as Keilor scored 270 in the following match also against the hapless East Essendon.

A fortnight later Aberfeldie scored 339 against East Essendon.

Premiership for season 1932-33 was won by Aberfeldie d Moonee Ponds Traders by 8 wickets. This match was played over five weeks at Pascoe Vale. Aberfeldie won the Hartley Cup outright after having won three successive premierships.

Aberfeldie went through season undefeated.

Scores **Aberfeldie** 309 (W Milne 69, Green 49, F Nancarrow 48, Campbell 33, Brown 32, Forbes 30, Sully 4/90, Cahir 2/25, Ross 3/100) & 2/42 d **Moonee Ponds Traders** 199 (Sully 95) & 148 (Sully 44, Willett 33, F Nancarrow 4/60*, Campbell 4/28* & Green 4/32*).

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

A consolation Round, for teams that finished 5th to 8th, was introduced during 1932-33 and was won by Keilor who defeated Keilor Rd.

Season 1933-34

President W Newton
Secretary A S Knight
Treasurer H Sherburn

The Annual Meeting was held at Kirks Bazaar on 24th August 1933 attended by over 30 delegates from local clubs and elected President Mr W E Newton (well known at Essendon FC), Vice Presidents C Milne & G Luscombe, Secretary Mr Andrew Shankland Knight and Treasurer Mr H Sherburn.

Numerous clubs applied for membership of the Association and the meeting selected Glenbervie, Regals and Swastika to add interest to the forthcoming season, which was scheduled to commence on 30th September 1933.

Twelve clubs now competed in the competition

Aberfeldie,
East Essendon,
Glenbervie,
Keilor,
Keilor Road,
Moonee Ponds Traders,
Moonee Valley,
North Essendon,
Napier Park,
Pascoe Vale,
Regals,
Swastika.

Glenbervie was based at Cross Keys Reserve with Mr S G Berrill as Secretary and Reg Thompson as Treasurer.

The captain of Moonee Valley was Mr Andrew Knight.

The Annual Presentation Night for the previous season (1932-33) was held on 11th September 1933 in the supper room of the Moonee Ponds Town Hall.

Moonee Ponds Traders CC were presented with a cheque for being Runners-up and Keilor CC, who were winners of the consolation trophy, presented to all their players cricket caps in the colours of the Association, Navy Blue with Gold monograms.

Trophy winners were:

Batting F Nancarrow (Aberfeldie) 48.55 av and the highest individual score of the season of 108 no

Bowling A Sully (Moonee Ponds Traders) 24 wickets @ 6.7 av

Highest number of wickets W Forbes (Napier Park) 74 @ 7.27av

At the end of the home & home games the ladder was

Aberfeldie	32
Keilor Rd	30
Glenbervie	29
Moonee Valley	27
Regals	23
Pascoe Vale	21
Keilor	17
North Essendon	14
Napier Park	14
Moonee Ponds Traders	11
Swastika	11
East Essendon	7

Semi Finals were therefore:-

Aberfeldie v Glenbervie at Keilor umpires O'Brien & Mitchell

Keilor Rd v Moonee Valley at Pascoe Vale umpires Nancarrow & Johns

Consolation semi finals:-

Regals v Keilor at East Essendon umpires Taylor & Paton

Pascoe Vale v North Essendon at Aberfeldie umpires Grant & Timms

Scores

Keilor Rd 194 & 6/114 (Eddy or Eddie 21, Woods 35 Christie 20 & 30, R Parsons 23 Herbert 5/26) **d Moonee Valley** 180 & 8/108 (C Levy 46, W Lawry 32, Herbert 34, D Lawry 28, T Sharp 27, Christie 6/31)

(Note that it was not possible to allocate the batting & bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

Aberfeldie 69 & 6/298 (Nancarrow 22, Forbes 107, Green 57, Campbell 30 Grunden 5/40 & Kidney 5/29) **d Glenbervie** 102 & 106 (A Wilmott 30, Thompson 29, Mill 27, Campbell 6/37)

(Note that it was not possible to allocate the batting & bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

Consolation Semi Final Scores

Keilor 115 & 4/87 (A Milburn 35 & 40, Graco 20, Buckley 4/30) **d Regals** 84 & 113 (Davies 21, Willett 21, Holzer 35, Coglan 24 Graco 7/57 & Brown 9/68)

(Note that it was not possible to allocate the batting & bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

Pascoe Vale 131 (Simpson 41, Masters 28 Wright 5/36) **d North Essendon** 50 & 54 (Clarke 22 Simpson 5/25* & Crosby 7/6*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to the individual innings of North Essendon and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

Grand Final Aberfeldie v Keilor Rd at Pascoe Vale

Consolation Grand Final Keilor v Pascoe Vale at Keilor Rd

Aberfeldie won premiership for season 1933-34.

Scores

Aberfeldie 155 (G Brown 58no, J Wills 23,) & 100 (G Brown 19, J Wills 23, C Campbell 32, F Trengrove 21, Eddie or Eddy 6/60* Cunningham 10/83*,) **d Keilor Rd** 124 (A Parsons 49no Christie 35,)& 71 (Christie 25, H O'Brien 19, B Lindsay 4/31, P Shepherd 8/35*, F Trengrove 3/20*, Campbell 3/22*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

A feature of this Grand Final was a splendid effort by a 15 yo boy A Bass playing for Keilor Rd. In their second innings he opened the batting and carried his bat for 13no, 9 of these runs came in the last 10 minutes of the innings.

Keilor won consolation round for the second consecutive year.

Scores

Keilor 88 (G Luscombe 27) & **83** (G Luscombe 25, J Crosby 7/51*, A Eastman 8/69*) **d Pascoe Vale 114** (W Russell 28, A Eastman 21) & **55**(N Graco 9/53*, G Luscombe 3/14)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

In this Grand Final G Luscombe "who hails from Sydenham", in his opening over in the second innings dismissed Pascoe Vale's first three batsmen for 4 runs.

Trophy winners for the season were:

Batting J Kidney (Glenbervie) 42.2 av

Bowling B Lindsay (Aberfeldie) 5.2 av

Highest individual score J Lewis (Glenbervie) 132

Most wickets R Buckley (Regals) 50 @ 8.3

An interesting match to note was that the Essendon Operatic Society Cricket team played its first ever match – a social fixture – against the Footlighter Society at Cardinia Park Beaconsfield on 25th February 1934. The team comprised L Wynne, L Woods, C Kerville, R Kerville, W Nancarrow, L Jennings, C Daniels, J Kennedy, Hunt, S Grunden, Leo Black and J Davidson. The club later on that year decided to enter a team in the Association.

Another noteworthy event was that in June 1934 Carter Bros CC honoured its Secretary, Mr E W Sleep, with an inscribed gold Life Membership medallion for 10 years outstanding service to the club. Mr W B Carter presented this at a dance and social evening at the Essendon Masonic Hall. Carter Bros were later to enter a side in the Association for season 1936-37.

At the Annual General Meeting on 13th August 1934 at the Essendon Cricket ground pavilion for Season 1934-35 the Association again changed its name again this time to **The Essendon District Cricket Association**. The following office bearers were also elected:

President Mr W E (Bill) Newton of the Essendon Football Club

Secretary Mr Andrew Shankland Knight.

Treasurer Mr H Sherburn

The last two were described as a "Couple of live wires"

In August 1934 the Essendon Operatic and Choral Society formally entered a side in the Association. Mr J Davidson was their Club President, Mr Ron Kerville Secretary and G Hornbuckle Treasurer. The club advertised for new or second-hand matting. The objects of the club are the attainment of cricket free from any objectionable feature, better understanding and good fellowship among members.

After advertising in August 1934 that the Association had vacancies for new teams, the demand was such that a second grade was introduced for the 1934-35 season

FIRST GRADE

Aberfeldie

Glenbervie

Keilor

Keilor Road

Moonee Valley

North Essendon

Napier Park

Regals,

Swastika

Pascoe Vale A

SECOND GRADE

Aberfeldie Footballers A

Aberfeldie Footballers B

East Essendon

Essendon Operatic

Glenroy

La Mascotte

Moonee Ponds

Moonee Ponds Traders,

Pascoe Vale B

Regals B

Riverside

The 1st Grade Semi Finals were between Pascoe Vale "A" and Keilor Rd and Aberfeldie and Keilor.

Scores: 1st Grade:

Pascoe Vale 128 (Masters 37, Dale 25, R Parsons 4/15, & Knight 3/34) **lost to Keilor Rd 6/203** (Cunningham 48, Phillips 37, A Parsons 35, Knight 44 no, A Eastman 4/71).

Aberfeldie 222 (Turner 73, Campbell 46, Green 42, Brown 6/58, A Milburn 2/32, Graco 2/58) **d Keilor 141** (A Milburn 34, Brown 24, Graco 28, Davis 21, Lawry 3/41, Turner 2/30, Lindsay 2/25 & Campbell 2/21)

The 2nd Grade Semi Finals were between Essendon Operatic and Glenroy and La Mascotte and Aberfeldie Footballers "A"

Scores: 2nd Grade:

Essendon Operatic 161 (Kerville 58, Morrison 20 Daniels 23) **d Glenroy 44 & 39** (Neuss 8/25* Cunningham 7/18*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

La Mascotte 125 (Hammond 34, Nichols 26, Bryant 4/35) **d Aberfeldie Footballers "A" 4/33#** (Fenton 4/9)

Note that it was not possible to obtain the full score for Aberfeldie Footballers and the score shown represents the total at the end of the first day. However one can assume that they did not win this encounter as La Mascotte played off for the 2nd Grade Grand Final in the following week.

Grand Final 1st Grade

Keilor Rd 69 (R Nixon 20, Knight 16 no, Cunningham 19, Turner 6/17, Campbell 2/18, Lindsay 2/27) **& 122** (R Nixon 24, R Parsons 24, Phillips 20, Knight 15, Davidson 14, Turner 5/49, Shepherd 4/46 Campbell 1/23) **lost to Aberfeldie 75** (Campbell 19, W McLennan 15, Lindsay 13, Cunningham 2/20, Cookson 3/10, R Parsons 2/12) **& 8/117** (Lindsay 25, Cunningham 3/33, Cookson 4/25)

Grand Final 2nd Grade

Essendon Operatic 139 (Sainsbury 44, Kerville22, Kortlang 15, Morrison 18, Cunningham 16, Daniels 14, Hammond 4/40 Fenton 4/18) **& 120** (Sainsbury 27, Kerville34, Hammond 4/31, Nicholls 3/44) **d La Mascotte 61** (Hammond 18, Neuss 3/18, Reid 3/5, Cunningham 2/15, Grunden 2/17) **& 72** (Anderson 20, Neuss 6/43, Grunden 3/24, Cunningham 1/5).

Presentation Night was held in the Masonic Hall, Maribyrnong Road, Moonee Ponds on 4th July 1935 and over 200 guests were present.

Hartley's Sports Store donated the A Grade Cup and Napier Park Coursing Club, which was utilising the dog track at Strathmore (North Essendon), donated the B Grade Cup.

A Grade awards were

Batting	J Cunningham (Keilor Rd) 29.9 av
Bowling	D Lawry (Aberfeldie) no details available
Most Wickets	A Eastman (Pascoe Vale) 75 wkts @ 6.6
Highest Score	R Willett (Regals) 119no

B Grade awards

Batting	L Crapper (Aberfeldie Footballers A) 27.5 av
Bowling	F Neuss (Essendon Operatic) 4.88 av
Most Wickets	R Ramsay (Aberfeldie Footballers B) 44
Highest Score	D Heathcote (Glenroy) 89

A Milburn of Keilor won a special award of a cricket bat, which was donated by Mr R M Crockett to the batsman who scored the most runs in either grade, with 413 runs. The Senior Vice-President Mr M Muir made the presentation of the bat.

Great praise was given to Mr A Knight the Association Secretary for his work and organisational skills.

On 22nd August 1935 The Essendon Operatic Society CC celebrated their B Grade Premiership with a dance at "Edenhope" in Maribyrnong Rd Ascot Vale. The Secretary of the club was Mr A J Cunningham and the President Mr J Davidson and the latter was presented with an enlarged photograph of the winning team.

Note that a copy of this photograph is currently held at the NWCA office and is reproduced below

Season 1935-36

President Mr W E Newton

Secretary Mr Andrew Shankland Knight.

Treasurer Mr H Sherburn

FIRST GRADE

GROUND

Aberfeldie, (Secretary H Smith)	New Reserve, Holmes Rd, adjacent to Incinerator
Essendon Operatic, (Secretary J Cunningham)	New Reserve, Holmes Rd, adjacent to Incinerator
Glenbervie, (Secretary A Butler)	Napier Park Estate, on right off Carnarvon Rd N Essendon
Keilor, (Secretary G Luscombe)	Keilor Reserve
Keilor Road, (Secretary J Davison)	Buckley Park Reserve
Moonee Valley, (Secretary I Black)	Ormond Park
North Essendon, (Secretary W Martin)	Napier Park Estate, on right off Carnarvon Rd N Essendon
Pascoe Vale A, (Secretary W Russell)	Lebanon Estate, opp LHS Pascoe Vale Railway Station
Swastika, (Secretary S Fenby)	Ormond Park
Waverley, (Secretary G Candy)	Maribyrnong Park

SECOND GRADE

Aberfeldie Footballers, (Secretary F Rule)	Clifton Park
East Essendon, (Secretary A Cockerill)	Rear Cross Keys Hotel
Essendon ANA, (Secretary S C Jackson)	Holmes Rd. Reserve, adjacent to Incinerator
Glenroy, (K D McNichol)	Glenroy Ground adjacent to Glenroy R/S on LHS
Keilor B, (Secretary N Milburn)	Keilor Reserve
Moonee Ponds, (Secretary I H Bedson)	Holmes Rd. Reserve, adjacent to Incinerator
Moonee Ponds Traders, (Secretary J Dobson)	Holmes Rd. Reserve, adjacent to Incinerator
Napier Park, (Secretary J A Nuttman)	adjacent to North Essendon
Oaklands, (Secretary C Quinlan)	Clifton Park
Pascoe Vale B, (Secretary W Russell)	Lebanon Estate, opp LHS Pascoe Vale Railway Station
Riverside, (Secretary T Fitzell)	Fairbairn Park
St John's, (Secretary R Dalton)	on left at terminus of Buckley St bus

It is interesting to note that St John's was a team comprised mainly of former Essendon Grammar School students and they formerly played in the early 1930's in the Essendon & Flemington Protestant Churches Association. The club was promoted to A Grade in the Churches and played as St John's "B". The St John's Presbyterian side, which was a founder club of the Churches competition when it was formed in 1903, was known as St John's "A". St John's "B" finished second in the Churches in 1934-35 and transferred to the E.D.C.A. for Season 1935-36. In 1940 St John's "B" amalgamated with Essendon Operatic.

Essendon Operatic CC appointed Ron Kerville as captain for Season 1935-36 with Cliff Daniels as vice captain. The club reported that they had acquired 5 new players for their first season in A Grade, J Fisher & L Woods from St Johns, W Nancarrow from Essendon, S Westgarth & H Raisbeck from "one of the local church teams". In their first match v Keilor both sides appeared to struggle for runs with the bowlers being dominant. It was reported that some Essendon Operatic players went out in their first innings to several "most spectacular catches" whilst Keilor appealed on the first day unsuccessfully against the light on many occasions but were required by the umpire to continue their innings until stumps.

Scores **Keilor 19** (Brown 5, Urquhart 3/1, Westgarth 1/1, Cunningham 3/6 Nancarrow 2/1) & **48** (Johnston 24, Nancarrow 2/20, Urquhart 1/5, Cunningham 2/20) lost to **Essendon Operatic 28** (Kerville 15, Foster 2/5) & **3/55** (Raisbeck 13, Nancarrow 30, Westgarth 12)

Another interesting item to note is that during 1935-36 Ormond Amateurs was playing 3rd Grade in the North Suburban competition. Ormond Amateurs joined the Association in 1937.

William (Bill) Hunken Lawry playing in the last home & away game for the season for Aberfeldie v Moonee Valley scored a magnificent 82.

At the end of the home & away matches the A Grade ladder was:

Essendon Operatic Society	31pts
Waverley	26
Aberfeldie	26
Glenbervie	25
Pascoe Vale "A"	20
Keilor	16
North Essendon	14
Keilor Rd	8
Swastika	8
Moonee Valley	5

Semi-Finals A Grade were Glenbervie v Waverley and Essendon Operatic v Aberfeldie. B Grade Glenroy v St Johns and Riverside v Aberfeldie Footballers.

Scores A Grade:

Glenbervie 212 (Wilmott 107, J Berrill 36, Mill 32) d **Waverley 74 & 55** (J Berrill 11/45*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match

Essendon Operatic 119 (W Nancarrow 33, Smart 4/14) & 0/12 d **Aberfeldie 16** (Les Rennie 8/8) & **119** (G Green 35 no, Neuss 5/37 Rennie 4/28)

Scores B Grade

Glenroy 301 (O'Sullivan 67, Downs 89, M McNicoll 27, Grindrod 34, R McNicoll 21 Newton 4/57) & **3/61** (O'Sullivan 21 no) d **St Johns 201** (E Davies 47, Bussell 27, Elliott 35, Sheldon 28) & **9/156** (Bussell 45, Sheldon 22, H Davies 23, Dalton 26).

Riverside 79 & 171 (Brooker 35, Gowan 35, Bertram 26, Anderson 27, Nowlan 4/67) d

Aberfeldie Footballers 86 & 64 (Hillman 26, Brooker 10/56*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

Grand Final A Grade

Essendon Operatic d Glenbervie by default as Glenbervie were unable to field a side after the 1st day.

Grand Final B Grade

Riverside 160 (Bertram 38, Nicol 27, Brooker 21, R McNicoll 4/35) d **Glenroy 52 & 45** (Bertram 4/10*, Hammond 4/24*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match)

Cliff Daniels, father of Essendon solicitor Colin Daniels, captained Essendon Operatic. Colin played cricket for Strathmore Presbyterians in the Churches Competition and he also served later for several years as Churches Association President.

Annual Dance and Presentation Night was held at the Essendon Town Hall on 3rd June 1936 with the Mayor of Essendon Cr & Mrs W K Park and 300 guests in attendance.

Premiership Cup & cheque to A Grade	Premiers	Essendon Operatic Society
	Runners up	Glenbervie
Premiership Cup & cheque to B Grade	Premiers	Riverside CC
	Runners up	Glenroy

A Grade awards were

Batting	J Berrill (Glenbervie)
Bowling	J Berrill (Glenbervie)
Most Wickets	L Turner (Aberfeldie)
Highest Score	L Masters (Pascoe Vale "A")

B Grade awards

Batting	L Bertram (Riverside)
Bowling	L Bertram (Riverside)
Most Wickets	E Davies (St Johns)
Highest Score	E Davies (St Johns)

Junior Champion A & B Grades

I T McIvor (Essendon ANA)

L Bertram of Riverside won a special award of a cricket bat, which was donated by Mr R M Crockett to the batsman who scored the most runs in either grade. The Senior Vice-President Mr M Muir, who was the works manager of Mr Crockett, made the presentation of the bat.

Les Turner had previously given outstanding service as a bowler to St John's Presbyterian side from 1927 to 1935. He had previously played with South Melbourne CC before World War I, and in the 1940's he returned to the Churches competition to play with North Essendon Methodists.

Scorer's Trophy for best kept score book was a tie between Mrs L Wright of North Essendon who received a mulga wood box and Mr A Thompson of Essendon Operatic Society CC who received a cigarette case. A silver cake dish was presented to Mr H Sherburn who had been the Association Treasurer for four years and who resigned for business reasons.

A further presentation, described as unique in the history of the Association was a silver cake comport with forks attached presented to Mrs A S Knight by members of the Executive in appreciation of the services she has rendered the Association. Mrs Knight was the first person outside the Association to receive a presentation. (Note that this cake comport is now in the possession of the Association having been kindly donated by Betty Knight, the daughter of Andrew Shankland Knight). Special mention was made of Mr A Knight the Association Secretary for being both hard working and efficient.

Mr A Knight who was now playing for the North Essendon CC won that club's fielding trophy, donated by J S Milne.

There were 26 umpires in the Association this season, Messrs. Almond, Bodycoat, Clarke, Connors, Jenkins, Jeffrey, Johns, Lane, Little, Lowe, MacLennan, Medhurst, Meehan, Mitchell, Molloy, Murdoch, Nancarrow, Paton, Prosser, Rixon, Robinson, Swan, Sweatman, Thompson Timms & Trengove.

Season 1936-1937

President Mr W E Newton

Secretary Mr Andrew Shankland Knight.

Teams entered as follows:

1st Grade

Aberfeldie

Essendon Operatic Society

Glenroy

Keilor "A"

Moonee Valley

North Essendon

Pascoe Vale

Riverside

South Essendon

Waverley

2nd Grade

Aberfeldie Footballers

Apex

Carter Bros

Essendon ANA

Keilor "B"

Moonee Ponds

Napier Park

Oaklands

St John's

William (Bill) Hunken Lawry playing on 13th February 1937 for Aberfeldie v Keilor scored a magnificent 173 in a total of 297, which was a record for the Aberfeldie CC.

Semi-Finals were:

1st Grade Aberfeldie v Riverside and Pascoe Vale v Essendon Operatic

2nd Grade St John's v Essendon ANA and Carter Bros v Oaklands

Semi-Final scores 1st Grade:

Aberfeldie 121 (Des Lawry 46 Hammond 6/31) **& 208** (W Lawry 77, Campbell 27 Hammond 4/34) **d Riverside 113** (Hammond 29, Anderson 27)

Pascoe Vale 41 (W Nancarrow 5/10) **& 82** (Masters 33 Nancarrow 4/35) **lost to Essendon Operatic 241** (Woods 38, Kortlang 21, Westgarth 52, Raisbeck 39, Eastman 4/62, Simpson 4/37)

Semi-Final scores 2nd Grade:

St John's 175 (K Forbes 42) **d Essendon ANA** (No score details available)

Carter Bros 122 (Halford 48, Goss 9/36) **& 312** (Halford 87, McFarlane 45, Gosling 39, Ahern 35, A Pitman 29) **d Oaklands 113 & 60** (Keogh 34, L Pitman 6/60*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

Grand Final

1st Grade Aberfeldie v Essendon Operatic

2nd Grade St John's v Carter Bros.

Scores 1st Grade:

Aberfeldie 172 (Campbell 72, Neuss 4/68, Nancarrow 4/50, Grunden 2/21) **& 104** (Campbell 86 no, Neuss 4/25, Nancarrow 4/24, Grunden 2/21) **lost to Essendon Operatic 185** (Daniels 58, Westgarth 42) **& 9/93** (W Nancarrow 29, Shepherd 6/72*, D Lawry 7/59*).

Scores 2nd Grade:

Carter Bros 111(Gosling 36,) **& 119** (L Pitman 38 no, Ed Davies 4/35) **lost to St John's 422** (Keith Forbes 172, Ed Davies 112, B Davies 44, Dalton 35).

On 9th June 1937 the Essendon Operatic Society CC held a Smoke Social at the Maribyrnong Road Masonic Hall to celebrate their 3rd Premiership in three years. Les Rennie won both their

batting and bowling awards and the trophies were presented to Les by Mr W (Bill) Newton the Association's president. A special award was made of the match ball to C Campbell of Aberfeldie for his fine performance in the grand final match

Season 1937-38

President Mr W E Newton

Secretary Mr A Knight

Teams entered as follows:

1st Grade

Aberfeldie
Ascot Vale
Carter Bros
Essendon Operatic
Keilor
Moonee Valley
Pascoe Vale Central
St John's
South Essendon
Waverley

2nd Grade

Ascot Amateurs
Essendon ANA
Glenroy ANA
Moonee Ponds
North Essendon
Oaklands
Ormond Amateurs
Pascoe Vale Footballers

William (Bill) Hunken Lawry decided to give up playing cricket for Aberfeldie and turned to umpiring games instead. He won the best umpire trophy this year

On 26th December 1937 Des Lawry (Aberfeldie) played for the VJCA team in Adelaide and also went to Wangaratta on 14th April 1938 with the VJCA team.

Semi-Finals were:

1st Grade Aberfeldie v South Essendon and St John's v Moonee Valley

2nd Grade Ascot Amateurs v North Essendon and Ormond Amateurs v Oaklands

Semi-Final scores 1st Grade:

Aberfeldie 142 (Pickford 43 no) & **117** (Bentley 27 no, Des Lawry 22, Jones 4/30* L Foran 5/74* Bentley 5/85) **lost to South Essendon 143** (H Davies 50, L Jones 38 no) & **9/117** (Missen 22, Lawry 4/88*, Bentley 10/96*)

St John's 143 (Chapman 34, G Davies 38, Forbes 26, Boadle 4/44) & **162** (Chapman 38, Forbes 48, Dalton 38, Blyth 7/62*) **d Moonee Valley 64 & 119** (T Sharp 50, Black 28 G Davies 10/85*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

Semi-Final scores 2nd Grade:

Ascot Amateurs 78 (Clayton 4/5) & **78** (Blades 40, A Knight 8/48* including hat trick, Sherburn 4/39*) **lost to North Essendon 214** (Sherburn 46, Dunlop 41, Clayton 22, A Knight 20, Foster 4/72, Kelly 4/31)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

Ormond Amateurs 104 & 9/160 (L Graham 61, Ellen 44, Goss 9/42*) **d Oaklands 126** (V Lette 27, Quinn 34, Shepherd 5/44) & **43** (Quinn 31, McGorlick 4/10)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

Grand Final

1st Grade St John's v South Essendon

2nd Grade Ormond Amateurs v North Essendon

Scores 1st Grade:

St John's 83 (Sheldon 22, Foran 5/28) **& 110** (H Davies 46 Foran 5/31 including a hat trick) **lost to South Essendon 146** (Buckley 28, Foran 27, Jones 20, Hearity 23, H Davies 4/16, E Davies 5/41) **& 0/47**

Scores 2nd Grade:

Ormond Amateurs 243 (Lowe 56, Graham 42, McGorlick 34, Paice 26 no A Knight 6/74) **& 4/48** (A Knight 2/9) **d North Essendon 170** (Shillington 49, McLennan 30, Wright 23, A Knight 19, Sherburn 18, Clayton 18, Lowe 4/79, Shepherd 4/39)

Note final scores for this match were unavailable.

South Essendon, were captained by Reg Vogt, and by defeating St John's to win the Premiership this ended 5 years in the wilderness with little success

Season 1938-39

President Mr W E Newton

Secretary Mr A Knight

Teams entered as follows:

1st Grade

Ascot Vale
Carter Bros.
Essendon Operatic
Moonee Valley
Ormond Amateurs
North Essendon
South Essendon
St John's

2nd Grade

Essendon ANA
Keilor
Moonee Ponds
Oaklands
Pascoe Vale
St Monica's
Sydenham
Waverley

There were several surprising omissions from the teams last season most notably Aberfeldie who was a founder member of the Association and one of the most successful teams of the period. Also missing Ascot Amateurs, Glenroy ANA and Pascoe Vale Footballers but new teams were St Monica's and a welcome return of Sydenham.

William (Bill) Hunken Lawry was tragically killed on 13th October 1938 whilst riding his bicycle home in West Keilor. He was struck by a car and was subsequently found lying by the roadside by George Luscombe. The driver of the car was surprisingly acquitted of the charge at Moonee Ponds Court.

Mr A Knight playing for Essendon ANA CC won the club's batting trophy with an average of 23.5. He also won the President's trophy

Semi-Finals were:

1st Grade Essendon Operatic v South Essendon and Ormond Amateurs v Moonee Valley

2nd Grade Waverley v Sydenham and Pascoe Vale v Oaklands

Semi-Final scores 1st Grade:

Essendon Operatic 216 (Rennie 66, Kerville 45) & **123** (Missen 5/37*, Buckley 7/101*) **d**

South Essendon 119 (Davies 55, Foran 29, Homan 21) & **2/90** (Collins 20 no Neuss 4/21*)

Ormond Amateurs 157 (Gresham 50, McGorlick 40, T Sharp 4/35, Ladders 4/36) **lost to**

Moonee Valley 168 (Allen 75) & **7/280** (Black 100 no, Allen 71, Roberts 60 no, T Sharp 20)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

Semi-Final scores 2nd Grade:

Waverley 213 (Willett 60, Wickham 64) & **131** (Fraser 36 no, Canning 27, Cooley 6/39*) **d**

Sydenham 150 (Cooley 76, Hugo 37, Kennedy 25, Nixon 25) & **8/149** (Cooley 70 no, Hugo 25, E Candy 5/49*, F Fraser 6/57*)

Pascoe Vale 129 (Masters 26, Pickford 31, Coward 4/57, Hall 3/4) & **132** (Masters 75, Worrall 7/58*) **lost to Oaklands 204** (Coward 68, Quinn 34, Nowlan 5/42) & **7/58**

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

Grand Final

1st Grade Essendon Operatic v Moonee Valley

2nd Grade Oaklands v Waverley

Scores 1st Grade:

Essendon Operatic 231 (Woods 43, Cunning 33 no, Urquhart 38, Cherry 4/64) & **141 d Moonee Valley 139 & 71**

Scores 2nd Grade:

Oaklands 132 (Coward 37, Coonan 35 no, White 26, E Sandy 4/50, Clark 5/35) **d Waverley 1/31** (Fraser 20 no)

Regrettably no further details were available for this match.

On 28th July 1939 the Essendon Operatic Society CC celebrated their 1938/39 Premiership at a Smoke Night at "Cidwood" in Wilson Street, Moonee Ponds. Les Rennie won the Club Champion Award as well as the batting and bowling trophies. Fred Noyes won the award for the Clubs' highest individual score.

Season 1939-40

Secretary Mr A Knight

Teams entered as follows:

1st Grade

Carter Bros. "A"
Essendon Operatic
Moonee Valley
Oaklands
Ormond Amateurs
South Essendon
St John's

2nd Grade

Ascot Vale
Australian National Airways
Carter Bros. "B"
Essendon ANA
Keilor
Moonee Ponds
North Essendon
Pascoe Vale
St Monica's
Sydenham

Waverley did not enter a side this season, however Carter Bros were able to field a second side and a new team was entered from Australian National Airways whose ground was at Essendon "Aerodrome". The above caused a bye in the 1st Grade, which did not please the clubs.

On 2nd October 1939 Des Lawry transferred to Essendon ANA

Semi-Finals were:

1st Grade Carter Bros. "A" v Oaklands and St John's v Ormond Amateurs

2nd Grade Moonee Ponds v Sydenham and North Essendon v Australian National Airways

Semi-Final scores 1st Grade:

Carter Bros "A" 85 (Salter 37) **lost to Oaklands** 102 (Stewart 30, McFarlane 4/25) & **3/119** (Stewart 53, McFarlane 1/26)

#Ormond Amateurs 117 (Chapman 6/46) **d St John's 153** (Elliott 32, Forbes 24, C Chapman 21 no) & **8/105** (Bond 40, Lowe 5/47*, Gray 4/51*, Ford 5/39*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

#A final score for the match **Ormond Amateurs v St John's** is regrettably unavailable.

Semi-Final scores 2nd Grade:

#North Essendon 134 (Adams 35, Phillips 38) & 9/90 (Gray 5/65*, Lang 7/53*) **lost to Australian National Airways 95** (T Sherburn 4/37)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

#A final score for the match **North Essendon v Australian National Airways** is regrettably unavailable.

Moonee Ponds 85 (Cope 21 no, Hugo 8/38, Cooley 2/25) **5/47** (Wallace 20 no, Cooley 3/9, Hugo 1/13, G Luscombe 1/0) **lost to Sydenham 8/371 dec** (Hugo 216 no, G Luscombe 32, Cooley 20)

Grand Final

1st Grade Oaklands v Ormond Amateurs

2nd Grade Australian National Airways v Sydenham

Scores 1st Grade:

Oaklands 175 (Mclvor 46, Small 58, Ford 7/41) & 2/30 **d Ormond Amateurs 93 & 8/111dec**
(Mclvor 5/21

Scores 2nd Grade:

#Sydenham 206 d Australian National Airways

#Regrettably no further details are available for this match. We know that the match was played over 6 days as matches had to be played out to a finish and this was before a time limit was placed on finals matches. The match had to shift to three different grounds because of the start of the football season.

At the Presentation Night for Essendon ANA CC on 16th April 1940 Des Lawry won the club's bowling trophy and Mr A Knight won the club's batting trophy with an average of 21.5. Andy also won the club's Mclvor trophy for the best all rounder and the Association's trophy for the most wickets viz 67.

A photograph of the winning team is reproduced below

Season 1940-41

President Cr F E Jolly JP
Secretary Mr A Knight

Essendon Operatic and St Johns amalgamated to form St John's Operatic and entered a team in the First Grade.

Teams entered as follows:

1st Grade

Australian National Airways "A"
Carter Bros. "A"
Keilor
North Essendon
Oaklands
Ormond Amateurs
Sydenham
St John's Operatic

2nd Grade

Australian National Airways "B"
Ascot Vale
Carter Bros. "B"
Essendon ANA
Pascoe Vale
St Monica's

Many clubs were unable to field teams because of the effects of the war. South Essendon, Moonee Valley, Moonee Ponds, departed however, Australian National Airways were able to field an additional team in 2nd Grade.

Semi-Finals were:

1st Grade Carter Bros. "A" v St John's Operatic and Oaklands v Ormond Amateurs
2nd Grade Essendon ANA v St Monica's and Ascot Vale v Pascoe Vale

Semi-Final scores 1st Grade:

#Carter Bros "A" 9/159 (de Morton 38, Kronk 35, Bond 3/36) **lost to St John's Operatic 197** (Elliott 50, Woods 50, Bond 22, Buckley 6/76)

#Further details for the match **Carter Bros v St John's Operatic** are regrettably unavailable.

#Ormond Amateurs 182 (McGorlick 63, Cherry 61,) **& 2/34** (McGorlick 12no Cherry 12 no) **lost to Oaklands 125** (G Lane 28, Watts 43 Ford 4/27).

Further details for the match **Ormond Amateurs v Oaklands** is regrettably unavailable. The only record is that Oaklands defeated Oaklands by 6 wickets.

Semi-Final scores 2nd Grade:

Essendon ANA 9/344 (T Sharp 152, A Knight 45, McPherson 41, Morrison 28 no, Garland 5/75) **d St Monica's 79 & 85** (Webster 31, Carey 28, Knight 10/70* T Green 5/30*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

Ascot Vale 177 (Small 61, Bertram 37, Drummond 35, Coulson 5/82) **& 86** (Small 56, A Eastman 6/20) **d Pascoe Vale 117** (A Russell 36, Bertram 6/43) **& 145** (A Russell 35, Leavold 35, Whan 35, Coulson 26 Drummond 4/34)

Grand Final

#1st Grade Oaklands v St John's Operatic

2nd Grade Ascot Vale v Essendon ANA

Regrettably no details are available for this match except that we know that Oaklands won..

Scores 2nd Grade:

Essendon ANA 140 & 120 (T Green 28, K Green 37, T Sharp 53no, B Crouch 35) **lost to Ascot Vale 156** (Drummond 60, White 32) **& 3/111** (White 56 no, Bertram 20, J Brockfield 21 no Jackson 2/24*, T Green 1/18*, Knight 5/73*)

*Note that it was not possible to allocate the bowling to each individual innings and the details shown represent total figures for the match.

Mr A Knight now aged 40 won the Essendon ANA CC batting trophy donated by H T Harvey with an average 20.3 and also the bowling trophy donated by A S McDonald with an average of 10.

Mr A Knight won the Association's trophy donated by R Thompson for the most wickets viz 50 in the second grade competition.

On 20th May 1941 the Association held the Annual Trophy Night, which was held at the RSSAILA (Returned Soldiers) Hall in Holmes Road, Moonee Ponds.

Premiership Pennant 1 st Grade	Premiers	Oaklands CC
	Runners up	St John's Operatic
Premiership Pennant 2 nd Grade	Premiers	Ascot Vale CC
	Runners up	Essendon ANA

It was Oaklands third successive flag.

A Grade awards were

Batting	R Cooley (Sydenham) 724 runs av 73.00
Bowling	J Bond (St John's Operatic) 36 wkts @5.70
Most Wickets	G Lane (Oaklands) 44 wkts @7.7
Highest Score	R Cooley (Sydenham) 226 runs

B Grade awards

Batting	R Drummond (Ascot Vale) 492 runs
Bowling	R Drummond (Ascot Vale) av 6.4
Most Wickets	A Knight (Essendon ANA) 54 wickets in 9 matches av 10.1
Highest Score	R Drummond (Ascot Vale) 155 runs
Wicket Keeping	Ian Hannah (Essendon ANA)

A Knight had been runner-up last year, (1939-40 to Hugo from Sydenham) in the "Most Wickets" category with 56 wickets @10.3 av

Junior Champion A & B Grades

G Lane (Oaklands)

R Cooley had previously been the Junior Champion in 1939-40 and had won the batting trophy with 460 runs at an average of 50.

On May 22nd 1941 Mr Andy Knight Secretary of the E.D.C.A. for the past 10 years resigned. At a social gathering, the president Cr Jolly presented Mr Knight with a "handsome wristlet watch" in appreciation of his services to the Association and to cricket in the district. Cr Jolly said the Association had the good fortune and advantage in having had Mr Knight's interest and efforts for so long and his place would be hard to fill.

Season 1941-42

President Cr F E Jolly
Secretary Mr R Thompson
Treasurer L McPherson
Minute Secretary Mr A Knight

Teams entered
Ascot Vale,
Australian National Airways,
Carter Bros A,
Carter Bros B,
Essendon ANA,
Flemington ANA,
Keilor,
North Essendon,
Oaklands,
Ormond Amateurs,

Even more clubs were unable to field teams because of the effects of the war. St John's Operatic, Sydenham, St Monica's Australian National Airways B and Pascoe Vale departed however; Flemington ANA were able to field a team.

Mr G Luscombe was cleared on 25th November 1941 from North Essendon to play for Keilor.

Starting time for matches was 2.15pm. Clubs were fined 2/6d for a late start; umpires were fined 1/- for failing to submit a report on match. Umpires were paid 10/- per day.

Under the headline "Fieldsman Catches Rabbit" it was reported in the **Essendon Gazette** that there was a highlight in the match played on 11th October 1941 on the wicket at the Essendon Aerodrome between Australian National Airways and Essendon ANA. The reporter thought that this had never happened before during a cricket match. *"The ball was hit in the long grass to the leg side. An Essendon ANA player rushed to field the ball but to the dismay of his fellow fieldsmen he failed to return it. The reason was explained when he held aloft a full-grown rabbit. We have heard of fieldsmen taking birds on the wing but this is the first instance we have had under notice of a bunny committing suicide in this way."*

On 25th October 1941 J Turner playing for Australian National Airways against Carter Bros B scored a rapid 103 with nine sixes, five of which came from one over. Other highlights from matches on this date were McPherson (Australian National Airways) took 11/10 in total against Carter Bros "B"; C Johnstone (Keilor) took 13/22 in total against Flemington ANA including a hat trick and Clayton (Ormond Amateurs) took 6/48 in total against North Essendon including a hat trick.

On 22nd November 1941 a report was given in the **Essendon Gazette** of a match, which *"staged one of the most exciting finishes ever seen in this Association. In the match Essendon ANA v Ormond Amateurs, ANA 31 behind on the first seemed doomed when Amateurs' score stood at four for 56. With seven wickets in hand and only wanting 15 to win it looked all over. However, ANA fought on, and with six to go 9 runs were wanted. A Knight, one of the older brigade took charge, and with the help of McKenzie the position changed to four to fall and 3 to win. When Knight went on to bowl what seemed to be the last over of the match, Ormond had two batsmen left and 1 run to win. With the dismissal of one with his second ball (one to fall – one to win) the situation was tense indeed. Two balls latter he dismissed the last man, thanks*

to a beautiful catch by Lawry, and thus ended a most exciting match in which the last seven wickets fell for 15. Of these Knight took 6/13, the last four for 2 runs. Nice work Andy!"

Scores were Essendon ANA 53 & 101(Lawry 50, Furniss 7/59* Bond 4/26*) drew with Ormond Amateurs 84 (Nancarrow 28) & 70 (C Hickey 24, Nancarrow 21, Knight 11/73*, Love 5/21*)
*These are total figures for the match.

On 29th November 1941 there was an interesting result, which demonstrates how some sides were ravaged by the loss of their players to the armed forces: Ormond Amateurs 5/76 d Flemington ANA 24 & 25 (K Furness 4/8). This result was achieved in less than one day and the match started at 2.15pm!

In November 1941 Carter Bros B and in January 1942 Australian National Airways were forced to withdraw their teams because of members joining the forces. Both teams were given "leave of absence" for the rest of the season hoping that perhaps next season would see the end of hostilities and the Association would be back to normal.

That man Knight was in the headlines again on 31st January 1942 taking a total of 12/81 in a match for Essendon ANA who defeated Carter Bros.

Trophy winners for this season were:

Batting D Lawry (Essendon ANA) av 45
Bowling L Turner (Carter Bros) & A Wickham (Oaklands) 4.6
Highest Score D Plummer (Oaklands) 120
Most Wickets A Knight (Essendon ANA) 67
Wicket keeping A Wickham (Oaklands) and Fitzell (Ascot Vale) joint winners

The semi finals were played between Oaklands and Ascot Vale (Umpires Trengrove and McDonald) and Ormond Amateurs and North Essendon (Umpires Tout and Nancarrow).

No scores are available for the semi finals.

Umpires Trengrove and Tout were appointed for the Grand Final but who were the teams???

Keilor won premiership

It appears that the Association went into recess after this season because of the war and did not reform again until 1947 but in another guise. I can find no record of when this occurred but possibly it happened after the Delegates Meeting of 19th May 1942.

On 5th September 1942 the Association President Cr F E Jolly was elected the 70th President of the Keilor Shire Council.

After the Association went into recess the remaining teams continued to struggle to field teams however I did find that on 6th November 1942 Ormond Amateurs played a match, at the West Brunswick turf wicket, against Essendon Stars. Unfortunately Ormond were soundly beaten by over an innings. Seems that they must have been without a lot of their star players or else it was a wet wicket.