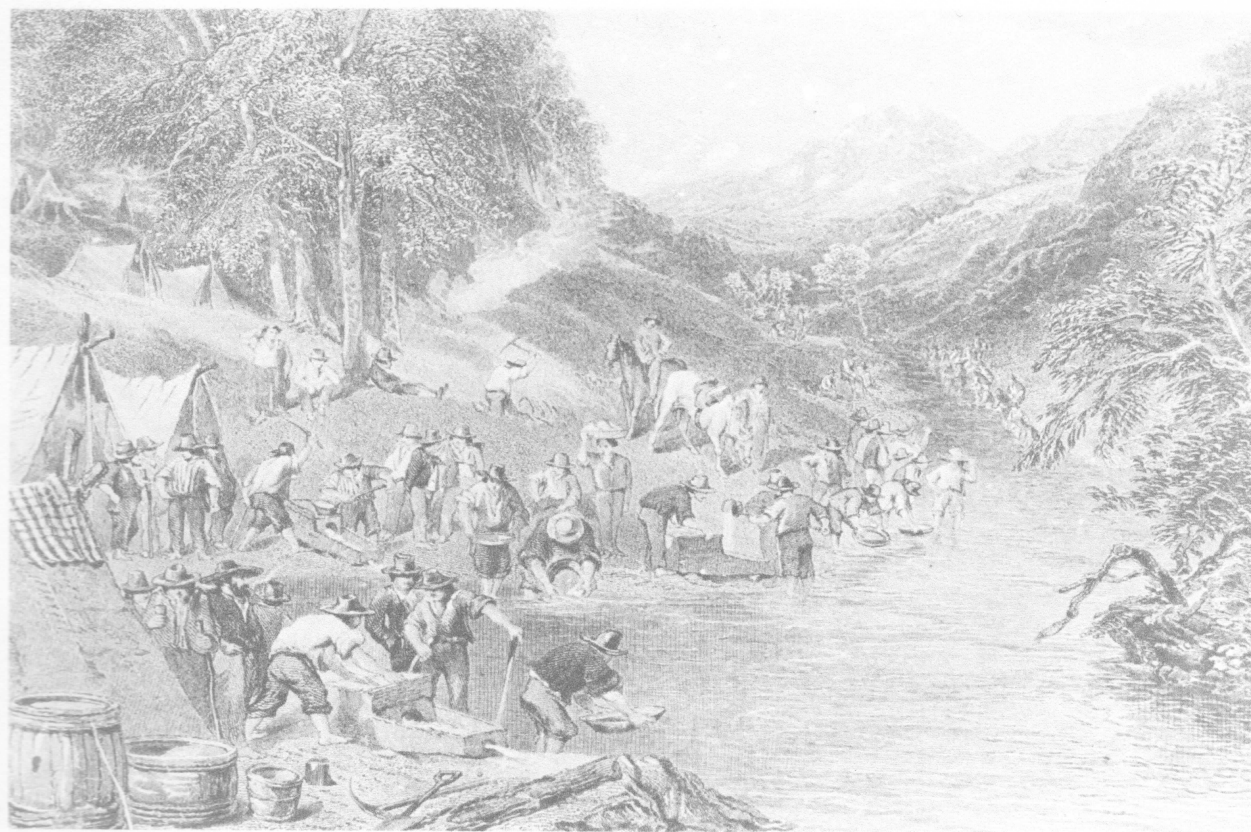


*Brown Hill Our  
Golden District  
Eureka Goldfields Town That Grew  
to a  
Suburb of Ballarat.*

**SPORT & RECREATION  
&  
SWIMMING COMMITTEE**



SPORT AND RECREATION  
BROWN HILL SWIMMING & ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

My sincere thanks to Ed Bawden, Lloyd Wilson, Leo Callinan and other Brown Hill community members for their help in compiling these notes. I trust that this information will be of interest to others and that the work by the Community will continue to increase our sporting facilities. Thanks to the Victorian Archives, and the Ballarat Public Records Office for their assistance in researching material and the use of maps.

Margaret McKenna  
March 2005



# SPORT & RECREATION RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

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## SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Progress Oval – Brown Hill Reserve



### PROGRESS OVAL - BROWN HILL

Situated off Reid Street and behind the Brown Hill Swimming Pool is the Brown Hill Progress Oval. set in picturesque surroundings with the Brown Hill Ranges as the back-drop, the Yarrowee River as a boundary, the Centenary Federation Rotunda on the east side and the Brown Hill Cricket Club Rooms on the west side.

This area started off as just "the flat" and was used for gymkhanas, and other sporting events early in the 1900's. Gradually over many years, the aim was always to have a sporting facility in this area with an oval the Brown Hill community could call there our own.

Gazetted as a Recreation Reserve in 1903.

Progress Park, Brown Hill



### THE HIGHLAND PIPE BAND

In December 1973 The Ballarat Highland Pipe Band approached the Brown Hill Progress Association about the possibility of having a bandroom-clubhouse situated at Progress Park. This Clubhouse, which was a RAAF Hut, was built on the west side of the Oval in Reid Court and is currently used for band meetings. The band wore the McKenzie Seaforce tartan in the colours of blue, green, black, red & white.

The Highland Pipe Band was formed in 1909, and then reformed again in 1932. In February 1937 the Highland Pipe Band held its fifth Annual Meeting. President Mr.N.C.Blackie, Snr.Vice President W.Keith, Jnr.Vice Presidents: J.R.McLeod, D.Barnes, A.E.C.Kerr, C.Lunnon, N.C.R.Widdison, S.Glanton, Secretary H.H.Henderson, Treasurer L.I.Zillies, Drum Major L.Zillies, Pipe Major F.Panther, Committee: D.Robertson, A.Comrie, R.Lazarus. At this meeting they thanked D.Morris the previous Pipe Major, and then at the end of the meeting Mr.Blackie was presented with a photo of the original pipe band formed in 1909.

The Pipe Band shares their Clubhouse at Progress Oval with the Athletic Club.

Of the three Pipe Bands in the City of Ballarat in the 1980's there was the Ballarat Highland Pipe Band and the Ballarat Ladies Pipe Band, plus the Ballarat Scottish Pipe Band. The Ballarat Highland Pipe Band and the Ballarat Ladies Pipe Band amalgamated in approximately 1985, the Ballarat Ladies Highland Pipe Band having been founded in 1949. The Ballarat Scottish Pipe Band who used the Ballarat Showgrounds for their home base was the other Pipe Band in Ballarat. The Ballarat Highland Pipe Band and the Ballarat Scottish Pipe Band decided to form just one band under a new constitution in the 1990's, which was called the City of Ballarat Pipe Band. Named after the City of Ballarat due to The Ballarat City Council helping to defray the cost of the Band, which was so supportive to the Ballarat events such as the Begonia Festival Street Parade and other functions.

A few years later the Ballarat Council had a rethink about its priorities in what funding was available for various projects and the City of Ballarat Pipe Band was one of the projects that was taken off the Council funding program. This then left the Band with a lack of support and finance and they then looked around for a new sponsor. Luckily this was found and the Pipe Band then reformed and was renamed the University of Ballarat Pipe Band after its major backer, with another sponsor being Gold Bus. The University Pipe Band uses the Club Rooms at Progress Oval at Brown Hill.

The amount of effort put in by band members is enormous. The satisfaction they give the public usually goes unrewarded and the financial cost of their uniforms and musical instruments plus transport to the different venues they play at has to be defrayed somehow, so it is very pleasing to hear they have such good support now and hopefully for the coming years.

The University of Ballarat Pipe Band performed at the Australian Tattoo "Scotland the Brave" held in Ballarat in 2004, and they also won awards at the Victorian Pipe Band Championships (Grade Three Division), including the top award for best pipe band in the state. The Band consisted of James Easdon (pipe major), Sue Brant, Troy Kerr, Les Hardy (pipe sergeant) Ian Ives (president), Steve Matthews, Chris Cannan (drum major), Nathan Keane, Michelle Bodey, Tegan Willey, David Sheppard, Lori Roberts, Warren Swards, Amber Ives, Robert Kerr, Leah Thevenet, Matthew Swards, Tim Bodey (drum sergeant).



In the "25 years ago column of the Courier" in 1937 they reported that "Nine bands are to be united to take part in the Eight Hour Procession. They are the Militia, Phoenix, Bulch's, Prout's, and Bean's Brass Bands, the Soldier's Hill, Town and City, Ballarat East and Orphan, Asylum drum and fife bands.



The Fire Brigade Demonstration at Russell Square in May 1876 was probably one of the biggest processions with all the fire brigades forming a torch light procession plus their bands. There is no doubt that the music of the bands absolutely captivated their audience at that time. We miss all these bands that played at so many different functions and we applaud the University Band for its continued involvement in performing for the community.

University Pipe Band Club rooms, Reid Court.



### **THE ATHLETIC CLUB**

Clubrooms are adjacent to the Brown Hill Cricket Club rooms with the running track behind the Brown Hill Kindergarten site. The land behind the Yarrowee River was gazetted in 1979 for the use of Athletic Club. This land was where "The Little Wonder Mine" was situated, one of the few gold mines that was still operating in Brown Hill in the 1900's. (When the Union Extended Company acquired a six-month development work on the Little Wonder Mine in 1937 the mine had a 5 head battery and a depth of eighty feet, with the company proposing to go down another thirty or forty feet.)

The Athletic Club has used the natural tracks over the hill and to Nerrina as training tracks and for long distance running. Now that the Yarrowee Trail has been built, they will be using these extra paths for training and club running programs.

### **THE YARROWEE TRAIL**

This starts at the base of the Gong Gong Reservoir, with access on the Daylesford Road (just past Brewery Tap Road). It runs along beside the River and across Springs Road. Then the trail goes behind Ditchfield Lane and under the Western Highway Bypass. The trail continues on behind the Brown Hill Progress Oval, on to the reserve for athletics, then over Ainley Street. The path then runs parallel to the Yarrowee River besides the Nerrina Wetlands, and along the banks of the river on the north side, then across Stawell Street and continues into the centre of the City of Ballarat.

A footbridge situated at the back of the Brown Hill Hotel car park and built by the Progress Association in 1992, gives access to this Yarrowee Trail. Major work and funding to construct the Yarrowee Trail started in the late 1990's after the Western Highway Bypass was constructed. The area abounding the Yarrowee River was declared a "Reserve for Public Purposes in 1992". Luckily community residents raised the concern of the natural fauna and animals in the area when the proposed Highway By-Pass was going to go through, with the result that a tunnel was placed under the new Highway, allowing Koala's access to their natural habitat. This tunnel forms part of the Yarrowee Trail.

The Yarrowee River Trail started in the Sebastopol-Redan areas and then work was carried out to start the trail from the Gong Gong Reservoir. A Yarrowee Trail Expo highlighting 20 years of work



carried out on the trail on Saturday, 1st March 2003, at the Gong Gong Reservoir Park, followed by the official opening of this River Trail.

Yarrowee Trail – behind Progress Oval.



### **PROGRESS PARK FOOTBRIDGE**

This footbridge was erected by the Brown Hill Progress Association. Originally planned to have a bridge with a fun run track over to Little Bendigo School and back, but after a lot of work and commitment to this it was not proceeded with, and the Western Highway Bypass going through the area put a finish to this project. This footbridge now is a very welcoming access to the Yarrowee Trail that proceeds up to the Gong Gong Reservoir, or you can walk into Ballarat along the path.

Progress Park footbridge – 1992



### **BROWN HILL SWIMMING POOL**

Apparently the closest place to learn to swim was for years, the Yarrowee River. For this year 2003, with a debilitating drought, no one would be able to learn to swim in the Yarrowee River as no water was flowing during the summer, and the Gong Gong Reservoir was probably at its lowest level it has ever been. But in 1937 that is where the children learnt to swim. A deputation of Members in April 1937, of the Brown Hill Progress Association, and School Committee met the councillors to put forward the case that Brown Hill needed a Swimming Pool and improvements to the Reserve. Mr. Tolliday welcomed the councillors and then they proceeded to view various areas for a site for a

swimming pool. A Meeting was then held on April 8, 1937 at the school, and including the Mother's Club and members of the community to further the movement and elect a committee. The meeting with the council also included requests of improvements at the Recreation Reserve, with levelling, tree planting, and of course the construction of a Swimming Pool.

Local identities then formed a group to build a swimming pool in Humffray Street North, which entailed a lot of backbreaking work in digging out this pool for the community. Sustenance work was used to help create this pool - this was work given during the depression years of the 1930's. The Victorian Gazette shows that this land for the swimming pool was added to the recreation reserve at Brown Hill in 1938. The pool opened with open access and no fencing, plus no admittance fee, with voluntary labour to maintain the facility.

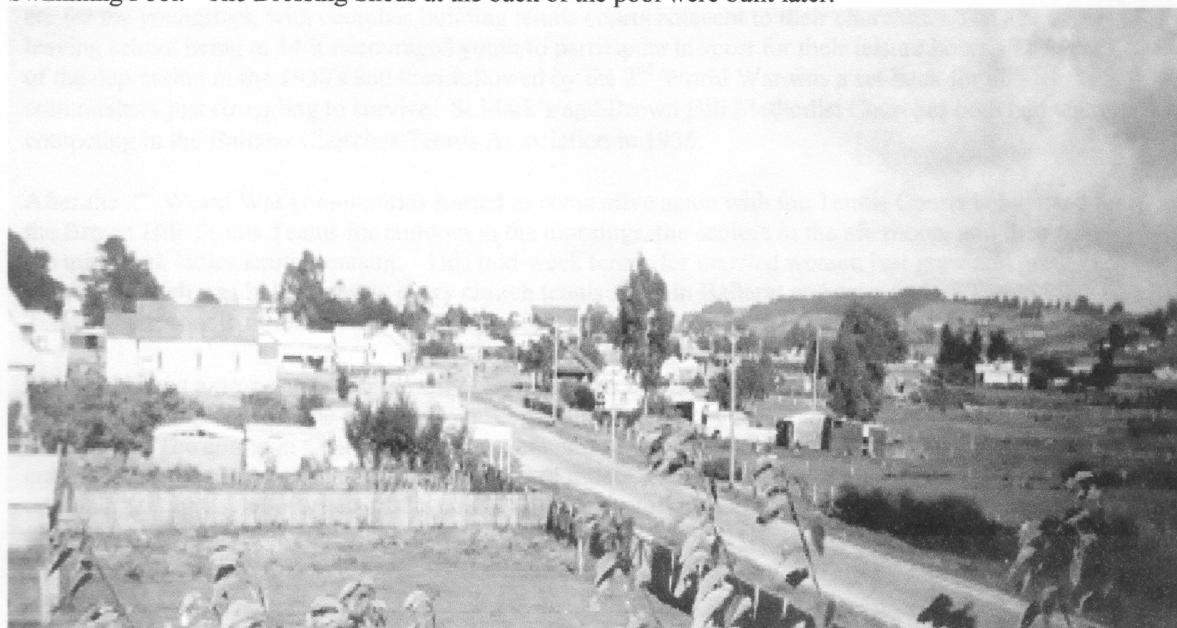
It was a very popular amenity for the area, providing children with a pool to learn to swim plus a great area for the community as a family venue as well. This Pool is a tribute to the work put in by the Brown Hill Community to obtain a much-needed sporting venue for the area. In 1942 the American's on R & R leave in Ballarat used this area for any soldier being reported for misdemeanours had to march around this pool, much to the delight of the children. At that stage there existed the City Baths at the corner of Armstrong & Market Streets and the Eastern Baths in Eastwood Street.

In August 1939 the Secretary of the Swimming Pool Committee wrote to the Council asking when work was commencing, writing again on the 29<sup>th</sup> November. A quick reply ensued - "this work was started on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 1939 and will be carried out as far as possible by sustenance labour as already agreed and arranged". The Brown Hill Swimming Pool had at last started.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1941 the Committee invited the Mayor, Mayoress and City Councillors to the Official Opening of the Brown Hill Pool, to be held on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1941. The Opening of the Pool was written up in the Ballarat Courier - "a fully concreted pool constructed on the very latest designs" "one of the few pools in Ballarat with a surfaced bottom". Everyone was handing out praise and saying how the reserve would be expanded into a great sporting area. They then staged a Swimming Carnival the officials being A.Kierl and G.Ainley (Starters) and the Judges, J.Callinan and G.Lakeland. The Ballarat Amateur Cycle Club also staged an event for this important occasion holding a 5-mile handicap race and a junior 2-mile handicap race.

The Pool was written up in the Australian Municipal Association Journal, and in February 1941 the Council received a letter from the Town Hall at Southern Cross in Western Australia, asking if they could use the plans and specifications.

On the right-hand side (the bend in Humffray Street) you will notice the Kiosk/Pavilion used at the Brown Hill Swimming Pool. The Dressing Sheds at the back of the pool were built later.



By April 1959 They had handed over 300 Pounds (\$600) for filtration plant and by December 1960 the local Government, through Mr. Murray Byrne M.L.C. advised of a subsidy of 5,625 Pounds (\$11,250) towards the cost of installing a filtration plant and chlorination plant. Then in May 1963 the Council were advising they would meet the cost of fencing in the pool.

Swimming at the Pool had been free until the pool was fenced off. Therefore, for twenty odd years the children and community of Brown Hill and surrounds had the facilities and swimming pool giving them hours of free entertainment.

In the last few years the Progress Association has been instrumental in arranging leasing and running of the pool with the Councils assistance.

The Brown Hill Pool, for the Summer Season of 2002-2003, was operated by the YMCA.

Brown Hill Swimming Pool.



#### **METHODIST CHURCH - TENNIS COURTS – Canterbury Street.**

The Methodist Church (now the United Church) constructed tennis courts in Canterbury Street. As with Education, starting in Victoria by caring church communities - so some of our sporting facilities were started. Children were encouraged to participate in sport with the YCW having cricket, football, etc for the youngsters, with churches building tennis courts adjacent to their churches. The age of leaving school being at 14 it encouraged youth to participate in sport for their leisure hours. The years of the depression in the 1930's and then followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War was a set-back for all communities just struggling to survive. St.Mark's and Brown Hill Methodist Churches both had teams competing in the Ballarat Churches Tennis Association in 1936.

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War communities started to come alive again with the Tennis Courts being used for the Brown Hill Tennis Teams for children in the mornings, the seniors in the afternoon, and then later the mid-week ladies tennis pennant. This mid-week tennis for married women just grew and grew in numbers, which was held at nearly every church tennis court in Ballarat and surrounds. The Indoor Tennis Courts and Hollioake Park in Wendouree have taken over from these small venues.

There had been a proposal put to the City Council when building the oval for an area to be set aside for tennis courts, but because the area had tennis courts in Canterbury Street this project was not continued. The courts in Canterbury Street were closed with this land being sold for housing. The cost of water rates, maintaining the small shed and toilets, supplying nets for the courts, and the upgrading of the asphalt surface of the courts all took the toll of keeping these courts operating with the members of the tennis club being reduced over the years.



### **ST MARK'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND - TENNIS COURTS - Humffray Street.**

The Church of England Tennis Courts were situated behind the Church in Humffray Street North. This land was reserved as a Church Reserve in 1862, with Humffray Street North along the front of the block and Water Street at the back. In the middle was the Tennis Courts. Membership of the tennis fraternity diminished in the 1930's and the common sense approach was to have the Canterbury Tennis Street Courts (the Methodist Church Tennis Courts) for the use of tennis players from both parishes. The bitumised surface of the tennis courts was still in evidence in 1960 with people taking a short cut through these church premises when they alighted from the Brown Hill Bus Service to get to Water Street, Ritchie Street, etc. The Heritage Court Units are now on this area in Humffray Street.

It was reported in the paper February 1936 that the Presbyterian Church was becoming "more tolerant toward Sunday sport, provided that it did not increase Sunday labour and deprive the working classes of their day of rest. To play tennis on a Sunday was not a sign of irreverence. Young people who had been to church in the morning did not regard it as a moral offence to indulge in light recreation afterward."

### **BROWN HILL CRICKET CLUB**

The land where the Brown Hill Cricket Club is situated was added to the Public Recreation Reserve in 1930. When the Oval was created this area was used for car parking to the oval as a practice cricket ground. Brown Hill Cricket Club originally used as their "Home Game ground" ovals at the Russell Square.

Extracts from Heroes from the Hill :

In 1947 the Brown Hill Progress Association conceived the idea of forming a Cricket Club in the Brown Hill area and to represent the Brown Hill District in the Ballarat Cricket Association in the 1947-48 season.

Starting off in "B" Grade, Division 3 for the first season of its inception. By the 1950-51 Season they had completed the journey to "A" Grade. This was the era of relegation if you finished on the bottom of the pennant ladder. This practice of relegation ceased in the 1950's.

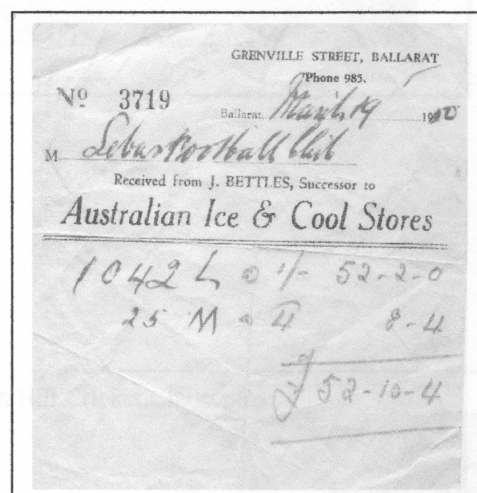
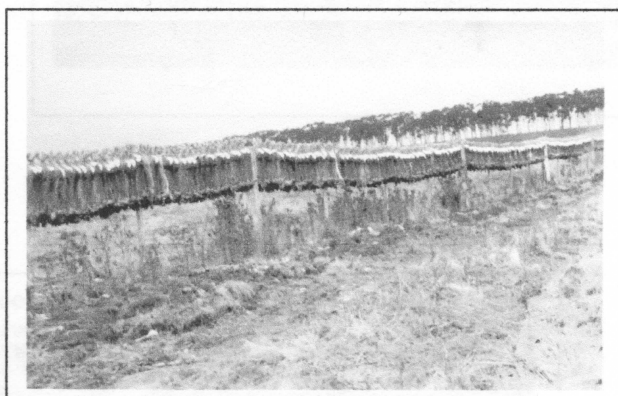
The Club Colours were elected to be light blue but by the 1950-51 season half of the players were wearing maroon, as that was the colour of the Brown Hill Methodist Church Under 19 team. A vote was taken, with of course the majority being from the Brown Hill Community the vote was won for the maroon cap. "D" Grade Team was entered in 1955-56 season. The numbers of teams grew to 3 in 1960 with the formation of a third eleven. During these years there was also a Brown Hill Methodist Church Cricket Club Team in the Sunday Schools Competition. Eventually the Under 19 Church Competition was discontinued and the Schools instigated a under 14 and under 16 competition. By 1963-64 Brown Hill had four teams entered and a junior team in the under 16 competition on a Saturday morning.

In the late 1970's the Brown Hill Cricket Club made a decision to move away from the Eastern Oval practice wickets and to establish a playing, practice and administration base at the Brown Hill Reserve. In 1980 a prefab building was purchased from Coronet and became the first signs of a Clubhouse. The first stage of this project cost \$15,000 and the Ballarat East Amateur Athletics Club agreed to share the Clubrooms on a 50/50 basis. Originally Progress Oval had to attain more ground area from the council to be able to make an oval. The land used was the property obtained from Mr. Jack Callinan, and an extension of the Swimming Pool Reserve. The front of this block in Humffray Street was later used to build a Public Hall on.

The Brown Hill Cricket Club currently fields eleven teams, five seniors, five juniors and one women's team.



There was an enormous amount of work putting in raising money to provide cricket gear and equipment and one of the early fund-raising events was a rabbit drive. Photo's courtesy of Max Allan of the Sebastopol Football Teams Rabbit drive effort show what a successful effort this was. They sold over 1000 Large rabbits and 25 medium size rabbits.



The Brown Hill Women's Cricket Club will be having their 5<sup>th</sup> season in 2004/2005. Originally, they formed a Ballarat Women's Cricket Club with their Home Ground at Russell Square approximately 10 years ago, fielding a team in the Victorian Women's Cricket Association. After a period of time it was apparent that the costs of maintaining the Club at Russell Square and fielding a team was beyond the scope of one team, and at this time Brown Hill Cricket Club asked the ladies if they would like to join the Brown Hill Cricket Club and have their amenities for their Home base. Two years ago they won the Premiership of "B" West Zone, and are currently fielding a team in "A" Grade, with District 1<sup>st</sup> and District 2<sup>nds</sup> the two Divisions above them, and one day we are sure they will attain these divisions.

They are currently looking for new members to add to the depth of the players and hopefully field another team in the lower division to start working its way up too.

#### Brown Hill Cricket Team.

Brown Hill Cricket Club 3<sup>rd</sup> XI – Premiers, Season 1961-62

Back – R.McKenna, R.D.Jeffrey, C.Norman (Pres.), R.Witcher (Sec.), J.W.Hodder, A.Jones.

Front – A.Coad, S.Jeffrey, Russ Jeffrey, Ron Jeffrey (Capt.) K.Ferris, K.Delaney, J.O'Brien, Absent – W.Noonan.



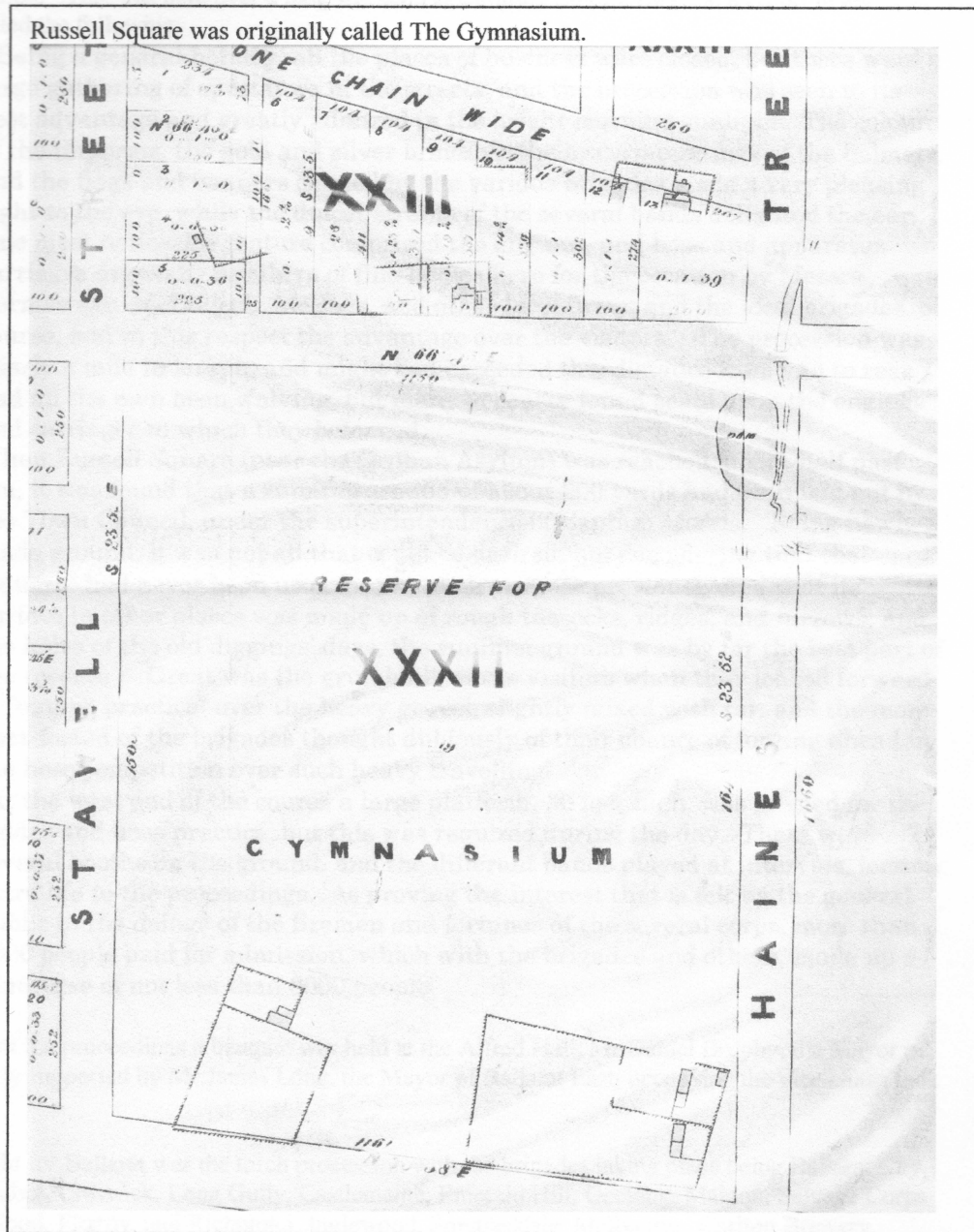
Oval looking towards Yarrowee River- Practice Wickets with newly installed lights – 2004.



Brown Hill Cricket Clubrooms



## RUSSELL SQUARE



### The Gymnasium was listed as 18 acres, 0 roods and 19 perches. c.1858

In the paper under the heading of East Borough Council in 1867 it was reported as follows: "Secretary of Ballarat German Gymnasium, asking for compensation as right of way through Reserve would damage gymnasium. Mayor stated right of way would improve the Reserve and not interfere with Gymnasium. Mayor stating that he informed the Secretary that the Gymnasium would not be materially interfered with and the right of way would be an improvement. The Secretary thought the whole building would be interfered with."



In April 1857 the Ballarat East Fire Brigade decided on the following articles for their uniform, Glazed Hat 8s.6d, Scarlet jumper 14/6d, braided cap 8/6d, leather belt 3/-, and it was ultimately agreed to, on the motion of the Secretary, Mr.Dyte, that each member provide his own red shirt. So in May 1876 the East Fire Brigade was resplendent in their red brigade uniforms.

In May 1876 Russell Square was the designated venue for the staging of the Fire Brigade Demonstration. This was held over a long weekend celebrating Empire Day and a report in the Courier stated the following:

"Being a general holiday, all the places of business were closed, but there were a large gathering of spectators in the streets, and the procession was seen to its best advantage and greatly admired in the bright morning sunlight. The colours of the uniforms, the gold and silver braiding, the brass mountings of the helmets, and the flags and banners carried by the various brigades made a very pleasing sight to the eye, while the dulcet strains of the several bands delighted the ear. One most noticeable feature comprised the engines, and hose and apparatus carriages drawn by numbers of fine horses here for the occasion by Messrs Permewan, McCulloch, McPhee, and other local firms; and the local brigades, of course, had in this respect the advantage over the visitors. The procession was nearly a mile in length, and might have exceeded this distance from van to rear had all the men been walking, but many of course found seats upon the engines and carriages to which they belonged.

When Russell Square (near the Orphan Asylum) was reached, about half past ten, it was found that a running ground of about 200 yards had been laid out by the Town Council, under the superintendence of Captain Morris. Being newly made ground, it was not all that could be desired; but considering that the "square" had never been used for any such purpose previously and that its surface in other places was made up of rough tussocks, ridges, and furrows, and the holes of the old diggings' days, the running ground was by far the best part of the reserve. Great was the grumbling of the visitors when they looked forward to "engine practice" over the heavy gravel, slightly mixed with tar, and the more fleet-footed of the brigades thought dubiously of their chance of forging ahead in the hose competition over such heavy travelling"

"At the west end of the course a large platform, 30 feet high, was erected for the ladder and hose practice, but this was required during the day. There were several booths on the ground, and the different bands played at intervals, lending extra life to the proceedings. As proving the interest that is felt by the general public in the doings of the firemen and fortunes of the several corps, more than 6000 people paid for admission, which with the brigades and others, made up a concourse of not less than 8000 people"

At the end of the proceedings a banquet was held at the Alfred Hall, Mr.Daniel Brophy, the Mayor of the City, ably supported by Mr.James Long, the Mayor of Ballarat East, occupying the vice-chair, took the chair.

The highlight for Ballarat was the torch procession with the brigades taking place being Ballarat City, Ballarat, Talbot, Creswick, Long Gully, Castlemaine, Emerald Hill, Geelong, Maldon, Salvage Corps of Collingwood, Fitzroy, and Richmond, Inglewood, Smythesdale, Melbourne, Carlton Brewery, Kilmore, Daylesford, Beechworth, Sandridge, Warrnambool, Alexandra, Eaglehawk, Williamstown, Fitzroy, Newtown and Chilwell, St.Kilda, Maryborough, Prahran, Sandhurst City, Clunes, Hotham, Kangaroo Flat, Footscray, Ararat, Pentridge, Sandhurst Temperance, Buninyong, Echuca, Stawell, Richmond, Sandhurst (No.1), Collingwood, Beaufort, North Clunes, Geelong Salvage Corps, Horsham. The Sandhurst City Band comprised of 9 cornets, 3 B flats, 1 double bassoon, 1 ophicleide, 2 euphonium, 2 baritones, 4 E flat tenors, 1 B flat trombone, 1 triangle, 1 bass and 1 side drum. With the bands, 800 kerosene torches, and the firemen marching, and 12000-15000 people thronging the streets for the procession it was a grand occasion.

In March 1885 the United Fire Brigade Demonstrations was once again held in Ballarat. The railway station was a vast scene of activity. Trains started to arrive at one o'clock



in the morning each train consisting of from eight to ten carriages on the up and down lines, and continued for hours. In the torchlight procession nearly ninety brigades and nearly thirty bands took their places to form the torchlight procession, with approximately half the Ballarat population of 20,000 people lining the streets to view the proceedings.

With all this influx of firemen and their bands, the town people went out of their way to make accommodation possible. One place offered was the "Apollo Hall" at Brown Hill, next to the Brown Hill Hotel.

Russell Square – view from Black Hill overlooking Russell Square complex with Mount Xavier in the background.



Russell Square – Humffray St.Nth. Cricket & Soccer grounds.



Russell Square. Football Oval – Scott's Parade.

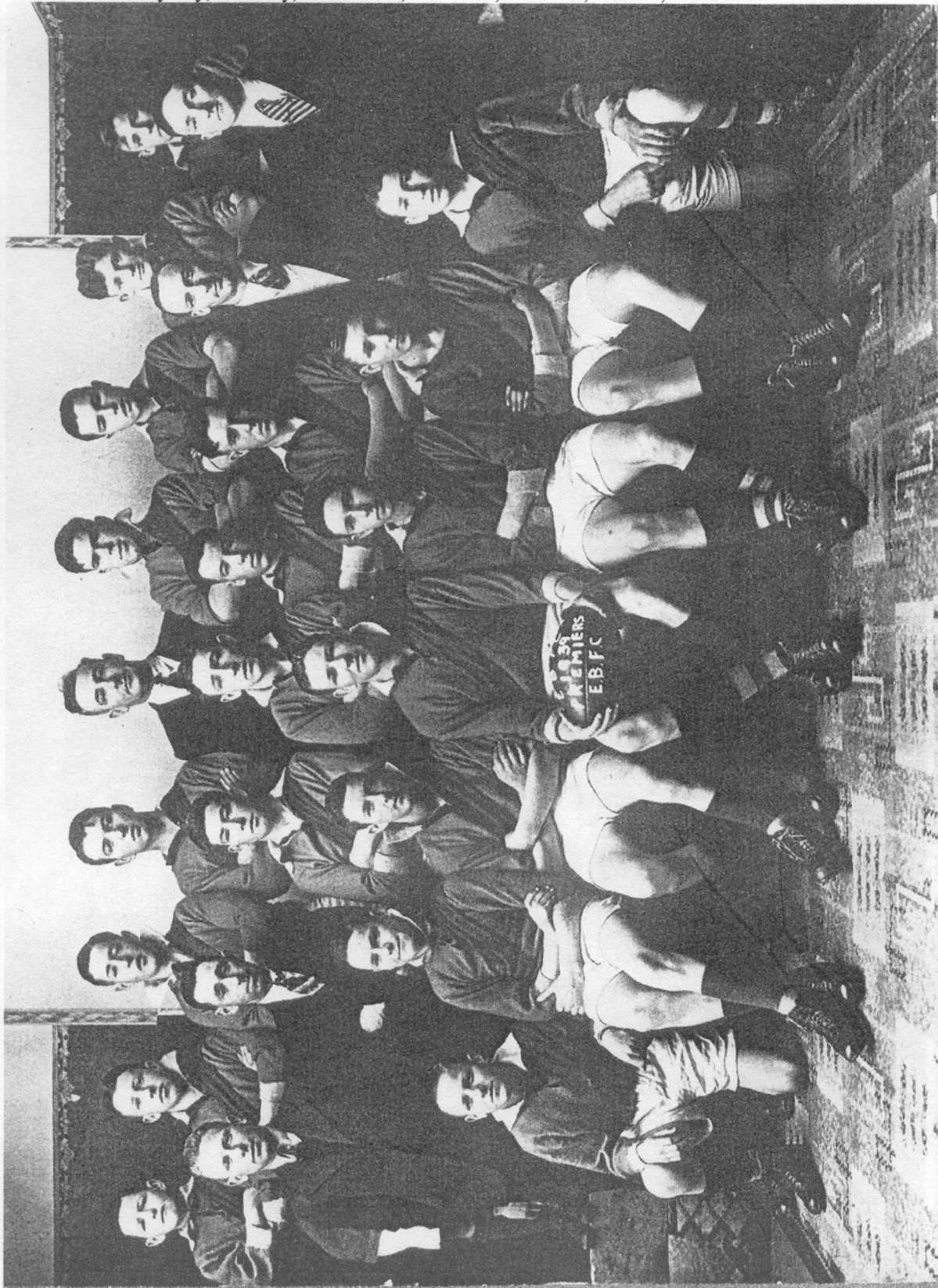


# EastBallarat Football Club – 1939

Back Row – W.Murnane, W.Kennedy, A.Ratford, B.Keirghery, J.Murnane (Secretary), A.George, L.Smith, M.Carson, M.Roberts.

Centre Row – T.Vauxhall, H.Clark (President), C.Walsh, R.Murnane (Vice-Captain), G.Sing, J.Irwin, B.Weybury (Trainer), J.Scarlet (Coach),

Front Row – E.Waybury, H.Ainley, A.Sandwith, T.Hannall, W.Carrol, N.Clark, T.Watkins.





Imperial Football Club – Russell Square

Back Row – M.Bennett, W.Cleland, N.Clarke, J.Cotter, J.Reynolds, F.Kenna, E.Walsh. Centre  
J.O’Connell, K.Drury, L.Vincent (Pres.) J.Budge, B.Clark, J.Watson, J.Lamb (Vice-Capt.),  
D.Brimacombe, K.May, T.Crawley.

Front – C.Sayers, D.Phillips, W.Liddicoat, W.Berriman (Capt. & Coach), B.Liddicoat, M.Plover.



Russell Square was listed in the Victorian Gazette on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1892, although this name had started prior to the Firebrigade Demonstration being held there.

In 1923 the Council were asked for permission To graze cows on the square for six months At one shilling per head, and in 1933 Mr. Peverill of the Primrose Dairy, Finch Street, was asking the Council for permission to cut grass, and cut wicket pitches using mower and scythes.

The Council were also asked in 1933 to erect ladies conveniences at Russell Square.

Ballarat East Football Club Rooms – Eastern Oval.



The Sunshine Biscuit Factory (Victoria Street) fielded a Ladies Cricket Team, and used the Russell Square.

When the Ladies' Association wound up there Cricket season for 1935-36 for a social, nearly 300 members and supporters turned up to the A.N.A. Hall. The Sunshine Biscuit Company's team once again winning the McGibbony Cup, and the Sunnyside team won the minor premiers' Marks Cup.

In January a Ladies Cricket Match was played at The Eastern Oval with the Ballarat team playing Collingwood. The players were selected from the Ladies: D. Williams, E. Jenkins, L. Jenkins, L. Lugg, L. Berriman, D. Papst, F. Lang, V. Hill, J. Dwyer, I. Boake, E. Aitken, D. Hetherington, M. Stapleton, F. Frears, J. Ellis and T. Singleton.

DEPOTS: MILDURA, BENDIGO, GEELONG, MELBOURNE. PHONE: BALLARAT 53.

**SUNSHINE BISCUIT CO. PTY. LTD.**  
VICTORIA STREET · BALLARAT · VICTORIA.

18th February, 1936.

City Clerk,  
City Hall,  
Ballarat.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Ballarat Ladies' Cricket Association, I desire to apply for two playing grounds situated in the park. One ground, which is situated near the small roundabout opposite the care-taker's residence, was last year granted to the Ladies' Association, but has not been used during this season. The other ground is near the Fire Street gate, right alongside the Commercial Cricket Association's Pitch, and this ground also has not been used this season. We also desire to make application to have concrete wickets laid on both of these grounds as soon as possible, and for the supplying and carting of gravel to the sites mentioned.

We have already called tenders for the laying down of one pitch in readiness for the final matches of the Association this year, and tenders will be called for the other pitch as soon as money is available - probably within a month's time.

Both of these grounds are rather small for the orthodox cricket playing area but are quite large enough for this Association, and we sincerely trust that your Council will accede to our request by allotting us these grounds and supplying the gravel as asked.

Awaiting your advice.

Yours faithfully,

*Lucy*



**ROTUNDA** – Built by the Brown Hill Hall Committee with assistance of a Grant from the Ballarat City Council, this Rotunda was erected to celebrate the Centenary of Federation 2001. Dedicated to the community that has contributed an immense amount of time and effort to obtain facilities such as the Brown Hill Hall and Progress Park for the benefit of the Brown Hill community.

Federation Rotunda – 2001



**BROWNBILL MEMORIAL GARDEN** – Erected by the Brown Hill Progress Association – to acknowledge William Brownbill who discovered gold in Brown Hill in 1851. This gentleman was later acknowledged as where the name of Brown Hill originated. This Memorial Garden is situated in Humffray Street North in the Reserve and next to the Brown Hill Hotel Car Park.

Brownbill Memorial Garden at the left with the children's playground in the middle. To the right of this is the footbridge that goes across the Yarrowee River.



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# BROWN HILL SWIMMING & ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

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Minutes of Brown Hill Swimming Pool and Advancement Committee

Courier April 8, 1937

Courier April 9, 1937

## **BROWN HILL SWIMMING AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Australia was in a Depression in the 1930's, with unemployment soaring, men walking to other towns looking for work, and great poverty. On top of this, World War II started in 1939 and continued until 1945. The women of course, in the War Years were busy knitting socks, making up food parcels for Red Cross to send overseas, and trying to keep the home fires burning. During World War II there were many men, husbands, brothers and uncles from Ballarat and District never to return, and the Arch of Victory and the Avenue of Honour gives thanks to our men of courage. With the war over in 1945, men returning from War to Home, and life starting to resume to be once again normal, there was a resurgence of looking forward and starting life again. "Black-outs" of the town were finished, so they were pushing for street lighting, and although "food coupons" had not been dispensed with, it was easier to start and cater for town events. Sugar was restricted for many more years, so there was a constant short supply of sugar for making jam and cakes and lack of refrigeration for eggs and milk did not help the housewife.

During the depression, there was a form of sustenance work allowing men to earn an income while doing work for the community. The Brown Hill Pool was one of these projects.

There was also a push for City Council allocations to be more fairly distributed, so that Ballarat East and Brown Hill had fair allocations of road and footpath funding plus improvements in general.

The Brown Hill Swimming Pool Committee was formed which raised money for many charities, such as the Orphanage, Hospital Appeals, etc. They also liased with delegates to the Eureka Progress Association, Black Hill Progress Association, Brown Hill Progress Association, The Ballarat Advancement Committee and the Ballarat City Council.

After a deputation of local residents and councillors, inspection of sites for a proposed swimming pool, was held with the result that they would hold a public meeting of residents to confirm the plans suggested to the council. They then held a public meeting on Thursday, April 8, 1937, at the Brown Hill State School for all residents and interested groups to discuss the recreation needs of Brown Hill and the proposed sites inspected for the construction of a swimming pool.

At the public meeting it was confirmed with a resolution -  
"That the City Council be requested to effect improvements at the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, and the improvements include levelling, tree planting and construction of suitable swimming facilities for the use of local residents". The Progress Association, The School Committee and the Mothers Club were all present.

The councillors were keen to assist the project and suggested that a more concrete proposal be put forward, so after the successful public meeting they then elected, straight after the meeting, the foundation committee of the Swimming Pool and Advancement Committee.

The following are extracts from minutes of the Brown Hill Swimming and Advancement Committee over a ten-year period starting in March 1947. This Committee and members were forever holding working bees to improve the Swimming Pool and Reserve, funding improvements, and asking for improvements for Brown Hill and Community.

In 1947 the Swimming Pool and Advancement Committee were requesting that they put on the agenda of the Advance Ballarat Association the following: -

- Revision of Brown Hill Bus Service to every 20 minutes
- Extension of Tram Service in Victoria Street
- Recreation Reserve at Brown Hill
- Electric Lights for Scott's Parade, Thompson Street and Brophy Street.

We had some complaints too, advising the Council of "the shocking condition of culverts in Thompson, Brophy and Humffray Streets".

In May 1947 they drew up the official Constitution and Rules for the Association and decreed that the name of the organisation should be:

"BROWN HILL SWIMMING AND ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION"

"To institute, and cooperate with other organisations in efforts for the betterment of Ballarat as a whole and to ensure that Brown Hill and Ballarat East shares in such development".



There, of course was the continual work of maintaining the swimming pool area, lawn maintenance, cleaning of pool, repairs to sheds, dressing rooms, painting, raffles, euchre nights and working bees.

While this was going on, in July, the Summer Gymkhana to be held on the Brown Hill 'flat' was busily being planned with Wood Chipping, Pony Events, Highland Dancing, Foot Races, Sheaf Tossing, Stalls, Publicans Booth and supplies of afternoon tea. Of course, the necessary request was forwarded to Council asking if they could kindly grade 'the flat', or at least the track needed for the athletics. (They also donated 100 pounds (\$200) to assist the Council to have the grading done).



Early in April they had the pleasure of sending on "Congratulations to be sent to the Brown Hill Boy's Under 19 Team (Church Cricket Team) and the girls Softball Club". In August 1947 "Moved by Mr.Davidson, seconded Mr.Kinnane, that this Association convene a meeting to form a Cricket Club in Brown Hill."

By the time the Gymkhana Carnival rolled around, they had added additional events of Bowling at the Wicket, Social Tug-of-War, Stepping the Distance, Ladies Wood Chop, Potato Race, Bag Race and other novelty events. The Mayor of Ballarat, Cr.Stewart and his wife Mrs.Stewart opened the Gymkhana Carnival and presented sashes to the winners.

In the late summer of 1948 came the idea of starting a camping reserve (the other side of the Yarrowee River from the Kindergarten and extended down to Ainley Street). This did not eventuate, but they were still trying to get the recreation reserve looking like a reserve, and asking for the top dressing of 'the flat' and a way to keep the cattle off the area.

At this time, they were also writing to the Council asking Dressing Sheds to be erected at Russell Square (for football and cricket).

The Bungaree Shire installed three lights on the Daylesford Road, which helped those people who had to walk home at night.

By 1951 they were writing to the Superintendent of Police in Ballarat regarding the removal of the Brown Hill Police Station and to the Council about footpaths and gutters from Thompson Street onwards, and the continuing vexing problem of trying to obtain a public telephone in the vicinity of Thompson Street.

The Committee also in 1951, were reporting the progress being made with the remodelling of the pavilion, plus asking the council for permission to build separate dressing sheds away from the present building. They also had their Annual Summer Carnival and included was a new event - "Bathing Beauty Contest".

By 1952, they were discussing the construction of a Toddlers Pool and by 1953 requesting consideration for a floodlight over the pool. Mr.Bob Davies constructed a slide for the lawn section of the pool, which gave continual enjoyment for years and years.

By 1953 there were estimates for the Toddlers Pool and by September of that year "Tenders were received for the Toddlers' Pool". Also the Swimming Pool Advancement Association were clamouring for, what we take for granted, writing to the Sewerage Authority, asking why Brown Hill had not been included in the sewerage area.

The fundraising for the pool and other charities was always continuing with the yearly Gymkhana, euchre nights, White Elephant Sales, Concerts in the Methodist Church Hall, and even a rabbit drive.

In 1954 a deputation visited Mr.Bolte re pool finance and Mr.F.Davidson reported on the successful Inaugural Meeting of the Brown Hill Country Women's Association.

A Working Bee was carried out to cut and cart electric light poles with the S.E.C. "Marking" the position for the poles.

Then surprise, surprise, the overhead Railway Bridge had been removed without warning from over near the villa. (They protested, but to no avail). (We need this bridge back now the 'fast train' is coming to Ballarat.)

In 1956 the working bees were practically continuous, starting off with discussions to re-tile and concrete the pool and by April a start was to be made to erect brick dressing sheds and conveniences. There were 450 cement bricks made in 64 man-hours, using 17 bags of cement. Making each brick cost seven and a half pence (8 cents). By September, 1,200 bricks were made, 4000 feet of timber cut, boxing on site, trenching done, cement and gravel placed on site.

They were still asking about connections to the Sewerage, reminding the Authority that Brown Hill residents had been paying into a special rate so that sewerage would be installed in the area.

Bottle drives were one of the most popular fund raising events for the year, besides the normal events.

The Annual Meeting in March 1958 reported the completion of Dressing Sheds at the cost of 2,500 Pounds (\$5,000), consisting of 50 to 60 different people contributing to this working bee. Truly a very special combined effort by the residents of Brown Hill.

The President reported on a Public Meeting regarding a new Hall for the District, held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1957. Donation of 200 Pounds (\$400) to the new Hall Committee being money held in Trust from the old Hall Committee.

In April 1958 they conducted a bottle-drive for the hall. Everyone in Brown Hill was included as volunteers collected from house to house. They raised 125 pounds. (i.e.\$250) There were refunds on soft-drink bottles in those days and you could sell the empty beer bottles as well. (No plastic soft drink containers and no beer stubbies. Softdrink bottles were usually threepence and beer bottles a penny. (12pence equals one shilling or 10cents.)

In June 1958 they were asking the Transport Board for an improved bus service and to have the bus to go to the top of the hill (Valve House, Daylesford Road), and they even included a petition to verify that the community were definitely behind them in this request.

In November the association was asking to have trees to be trimmed at Caledonian Corner and asked that the C.R.B. be approached to install a roundabout at Water Street, Scott's Parade and Old Melbourne Road. (A new roundabout was finally constructed here in January 2003.)

After the new dressing sheds were built at the pool the old ones were sold for a very small amount, as always looking for ways to contribute to the funds of "our" pool.

With thanks and gratitude to all the community in assisting whenever possible and the following names of members mentioned in the minutes:

Tolliday, Hyatt, Challis, Callinan, Saltmarsh, Whiting, Patching, Strickland, Cockerill, F.Davidson, F.Wilson, A. Wilson, Mrs.Ainley, Mrs.Cannane, Mrs.Collins, J.Kinnane, Allen, Hyatt, Clark, Tolliday, Long, Stevens, Rosser, Cockerill, Mrs.Burnett, Mrs.Allen, Mrs.Benson, Mrs.Long, G.Davidson, T.Franks, K.Saltmarsh, Clark, Kennedy, Mrs.J.Wilson, Mrs.F.Davidson, R.Gilhooley, G.Lakeland, Mrs.Lloyd, Lloyd, J.Benson, F.Whiting, J.Ryan, C.Bawden, G.Myers, S.Goldsmith, L.Harris, D.Dwyer, W.Bawden, W.McKenna, Mrs.Bell, Mrs.Grove, Mrs.Stokes, Mrs. Oldaker, Mrs.Hannah, Mrs.Gibson, W.Benson, L.Harris, Robbie, E.Bawden, Mrs.Penna, Miss.Lakeland, Mrs. Callaby, L.Rinaldi, Bob Davies, Cunningham, Schenk, F.Woodward, Mrs.Rinaldi, L.Callinan, D.Woodward, Mrs.F.Weston, R.Turner, M.Young, Bell, C.Turner, Mrs.Kerverack, R.Wilson, J.Walker, Mrs.James, J.Ruyg. (Apologies to those whose names are not recorded.)

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