

## FOOTBALL IN THE ACT

The following articles are not intended to be a complete overview of the sport of football in the territory which is well documented in a number of books on the subject, but rather a general overview of the significance of the game in the territory using a number of articles I came across in the local papers and Lyall Gillespie's cards. I was somewhat surprised to read in the 1939 article in *the Canberra Times* that Jeremiah Dillon was not mentioned other than in general passing. Instead, Jacob Tootell is referred to as the Father of Football. In the many documents that I have read and in conversations with locals who lived at Westridge and Westlake, it is Jeremiah Dillon who held the title. Jeremiah came to the territory in 1915 and was head foreman in charge of the sewer construction works. This work ceased in 1916 and recommenced following World War One in 1921.

His obituary was published in *The Builders of Canberra 1909-1929*. The draft for the revised edition in the chapter on Westridge is in the web Canberra Camps -

<http://canberracamps.webs.com/acton%20brickyards/BRICKYARDS%20WESTRIDGE.pdf>

Jacob Tootell's name I first came across in relation to the formation of a local Bicycle Racing Club and later I became aware of his connection with football and cricket. He lived at 9 Westlake for a number of years. In the *Canberra Times* in 1927 there are a number of advertisements that indicate that Mr Tootell was an agent for the sale of new and second hand cycles...eg 10 March 1927 - *SUPERB Special Racing Cycles as ridden by all leading riders in Australia. Cash or terms. Tootell Agent 9 Westlake.*

Mr Tootell is not on the electoral rolls that I have transcribed for the ACT which include 1928, 1929, 1935, 1943, 1949 etc hence I surmised that he left the territory. However, an article in 1939 suggests that he was still in the district - may have moved to Queanbeyan?

*The Canberra Times 4 May 1939: NATIONAL CODE'S 18<sup>TH</sup> SEASON IN CANBERRA - FOOTBALL IN RETROSPECT. Canberra Clubs in Top Flight.*

*The drama of 17 years perseverance is written in the history of the National football code at Canberra. Administrators and players of the early years triumphed over difficulties before which less enthusiastic men would have quailed.*

*The fruits of their efforts will be reaped this season, when Canberra will see the highest standard of play and the widest competition that the code has known in the Australian Capital Territory.*

*The Australian code has been played in Canberra since the early days of its occupation as the future Federal Capital. It was played at Royal Military College Duntroon before the war and when in 1922 city reconstruction was recommenced after the war, the code had its devotees in the city area proper.*

*Enthusiasts organized a Canberra team to visit Sydney at the end of the 1922 season. In 1923 the increasing population was sufficient to have three 'scratch' teams arranging frequent matches at the Acton Race Cours and at a fenced in tufted area then known as Blandfordia.*

*The first step towards organization of the game was taken in March 1924 when Mr JH Tootell, a Duntroon resident approached other enthusiasts - among them Messrs JJ Dillon, JM Orr, J Ryan and R Kiely -with a view to establishment of a regular competition.*

### **THE PIONEERS**

*The outcome of this suggestion was the formation of the Federal Territory Australian Rules Football League with four teams - Acton, Federals, Canberra (subsequently named Blandfordia) and Duntroon. Mr JJ Dillon (Federals) was the first president and Mr JM Orr (Acton) the first secretary.*

*The competition won popular support from the outset, although it was conducted under most primitive conditions. In addition to the Acton and Blandfordia grounds - the latter now the splendidly surfaced Manuka Oval*

- there were paddocks at Duntroon, Westlake and Westridge - the Westridge 'oval' having Rugby posts firmly embedded in the playing area which was deeply rutted with wheel tracks.

Enthusiasm triumphed over obstacles, however and with valuable backing given to the administrators by Colonel PT Owen, then in charge of city construction, and Colonel JT Goodwin, then director of Lands & Survey, the first season was a highly successful one.

### **ACTON THE FIRST PREMIERS**

Acton won the premiership, and a combined Canberra team visited Sydney to defeat North Sydney in a match which was described by one newspaper as the finest seen in the State Capital that year.

Although cups as trophies have long been obsolete in the Australian game, 'Acton's' premiership carried with it initial possession of the Owen Cup, presented by Col Owen for perpetual competition and another presented by Mr Fred Carnall of Duntroon to be won in three successive seasons.

There was some improvement in conditions in 1925. Intensive constructional activity brought many fine exponents of that code and Northbourne Oval was made available as a playing area.

Of the original teams, Duntroon disbanded but its place was taken by Queanbeyan, which under the direction of the Mason brothers, immediately became a force in the League competition. The premiership was won by Federals and at the end of the season a Canberra team played the NSW second XVIII losing by only eight points - a tribute to the standard of the game in Canberra even in the early days.

Further substantial progress was recorded in 1926. The city construction programme was at its height and tradesmen players materially improved the playing standard and competition generally. Two new teams appeared - Red Hill and Eastlake - while the old Blandfordia team split up, further strengthen the Federals and Queanbeyan sides. Acton was the dominating team throughout the season, remaining defeated by the Federals. Federals clinched the victory by repeating the performance in the grand final, winning its second successive premiership.

In 1927 with the Royal visit and the opening of Parliament House in May, the initial boom ended and considerable retrenchment in employment followed. Followed was affected by the departure of players. Red Hill and Queanbeyan disbanding and Federals being greatly weakened in playing strength. Another new team appeared, however, in Ainslie. Acton again dominated the competition eventually winning the premiership without a grand final, after suffering only one defeat, and that by one point during the season.

### **Representation on Australian Council**

While the competition slumped by comparison with that of the two previous years, the 1927 season was a most important one for the 'national game in the national capital' - a phrase which was used then for the first time, and in the new capital's most important sporting fixture up to that date, was victorious by one goal.

Simultaneously the Australasian Football Council holding its triennial meeting in Melbourne extended honorary membership to the games administrative body in Canberra under the new title of the Canberra Australian National Football League.

The new member of the Council was without voting power, but in all other respects it was to be the equal of the State Leagues. The Canberra National Football League admitted to the Council through the initial representation of Mr J Ilott, long associated with the Acton Club, and Mr PF Douglas, who was Canberra's first Council delegate, has since made several valuable contributions to the administration of the national game.

### **NEW FACES: OTHER DAYS**

Towards the end of the 1927 season, the game entered upon the second phase of its development with the transfer of the Seat of the Commonwealth Government from Melbourne and the consequent arrival in Canberra of hundreds of Public Servants. In 1928 the Federals team disappeared after a valuable four years contribution to

*the progress of the game, and an almost complete change in the personnel of the administrations and playing strengths of the remaining clubs, - Acton, Eastlake, and Ainslie.*

*Many residents of Canberra in the building period had settled later in Queanbeyan and through their activity the Queanbeyan team was reformed. Another new team - Manuka - was formed to cope with the demand of the new residents for the popular game.*

*In its status as a member of the controlling Council, the League, too, reorganized its administration, and under the guidance of Mr JL Mulrooney, who was that year elected to the office of president, undertook the activities which had not been within the scope of the organization as a junior body of the New South Wales League. One of its first operations was the establishment of the national game in the schools where it was welcomed as the first organized sport introduced to the establishments. Later in the year, so popular had the game become among younger players that it was possible to arrange junior matches independently of school boys.*

### **EASTLAKE STAR RISES**

*Eastlake won its first premiership in 1928 thus becoming the first hold of the 'Canberra Times' Shield which subsequently was to pass into its permanent possession. The year brought Canberra the first fruits of its membership of the Australian Council in the visit of the Western Australian League team.*

*In 1929 the Queanbeyan Club encountered difficulties and disbanded cut several of its experienced enthusiasts transferred to strengthen the Ainslie side. The standard of play generally showed a great improvement on that of the previous year, but the 'Combine,' gathering strength toward the finals took out the premiership. Canberra unsuccessfully tested its strength against a Broken Hill team during the season, the most important development of which was the visit of a schoolboys' team to Melbourne.*

*In some respects 1930 was the game's lean year, although Queanbeyan again entered the competition. The older players, however, were withdrawing from active participation and all clubs were depending on juniors, the encouragement of whom in the previous two years was now of material assistance.*

### **NEW RECORDS**

*The beginning of the depression with its retrenchments also affected the personnel of the teams. The season, however, was, paradoxically the real starting point in the uplifting of the standard of play, a fact due almost wholly to the progress in virile, systematic play developed by the Eastlake team, which eventually won the championship without a grand final, establishing a record highest score which stood until last year, and a still standing record winning margin.*

*The other clubs followed Eastlake's lead in 1931 and provided the most evenly matched competition to date. The 'final four' placings were not decided until the last pre-final match, the premiership finally going to Manuka, the then youngest club in the organization. Apart from the development in the general standard of play, 1931 saw the Canberra League's first dispatch of an inter-State team from its territory. The visit was to Brisbane, where Queensland was successful.*

*The progress of 1931 was repeated in 1932 when, after some pioneering in the previous year the national game was established in Goulburn with such success that the first team from that centre won the Canberra League's 1932 premiership.*

*In 1932 a further step in the development of the game was achieved in the entry of the Canberra schools to the Interstate Schools Carnival, a team playing that year in Melbourne, with success foreshadowing that of many of the schoolboys of 1932 in the first grade Amateur Interstate Carnival at Launceston last year.*

*Canberra's senior status in Australian football was advanced in 1933 when its representative team played in the Interstate Football Carnival at Sydney, an experience which proved valuable in indicating the directions in which the standard of the game locally was to be improved, and was the basis for the progress of the subsequent years.*

### **EASTLAKE'S SHIELD**

*In the local competition Eastlake won its third premiership and the permanent ownership of the 'Canberra Times' Shield. A further development during the year was the establishment of an Intermediate competition conducted on an open-age basis. It was successful for one year, but subsequently provided the initial evidence of a fact eventually realized that an unequal age-class competition cannot be permanently successful.*

*Interest in the game in 1934 and 1935 when Manuka and Eastlake won the respective premierships. The most important feature of 1935 was the holding in Canberra of the Interstate Schools Carnival, in which teams from South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Canberra participated.*

*At Manuka Oval Canberra played Queensland. The result was a tie, but the honours of the play were with Canberra which was vitally handicapped by the accidental disablement of its outstanding forward.*

### **AINSLIE'S WINNING WAY**

*History was made in the League competition when Ainslie went though the 17 match season without a defeat, the first club to perfume the feat since the inception of the League.*

*An ambition formed in 1924 was realized by a visit of a representative Victorian amateur team, on August 7 1937 when greater accuracy in scoring from an equal number of scoring shots gave victory to the Victorians several of whom have since earned placed in Victorian League clubs. The Canberra achievement was in the nature of a triumph which added zest, and increased public interest to the subsequent matches in the local competition, which ended Eastlake's fifth premiership.*

### **JUNIOR LEAGUE**

*In this year too, the Junior League established a new competition for youth between 15 and 20. The experiment was immediately successful and gives every indication of justifying the intention of its promoters.*

*The following year saw the best football since the inception of the game at Canberra. The season reached a climax in a spectacular grand final which broke all scoring and attendance records. During 1938 Mines Rovers entered the competition from Captains Flat, and one of the outstanding features of the season was Canberra's participation in the All Australian Amateur Football Carnival at Launceston.*

*In spite of inexperience in such first class company, Canberra held its own credibility. That achievement may well end the third phase of the progress of the national game in the national capital.*

### **A NEW CHAPTER**

*It enters now upon its fourth chapter, the enrolling in the ranks of its players, of sub-junior boys from the age of the use of reason until they move into the junior grade, thence to the intermediates, thence through a foreshadowed new seconds grade to senior ranks, and thence to lifelong enthusiasm for the Australian national game, the merits of which will be made patent in a few moth's time when Carlton and Haw...[article should have continued on page 8 but not included in the on-line article.]*

### **LYALL GILLESPIE'S CARDS: FOOTBALL, AUSTRALIAN RULES**

**Canberra Times 19.3.1928:** The Australian or National Rules code of Football has made very rapid strides since its beginnings 70 years ago. The game originated in Melbourne when Thomas Wills came from Rugby School in England in 1858 no football had been played. Wills after his arrival visualized the great possibilities of Australia's future and imbued with enthusiasm for the land of his adoption recognized the value of manly sports. He persuaded other sporting men that football was essential to the development of our manhood but did not achieve the adoption of Rugby. He urged that a game be initiated that was purely Australian. A few practice games were held with no set rules but gradually these were evolved. Melbourne was the first club to be formed and quickly Richmond, South Yarra, Royal Park and Geelong formed clubs while in other parts of the state the new game of football began to get popular. At first two goals constituted a match and if neither side scored the required number in one afternoon play was to be continued at some other time until a decision was reached. This was found inconvenient however

and it was decided to get HCA Harrison, now known as 'the grand old man' of the game to draft a set of rules, which he did and they were adopted as the first constitution of Australian Football. Mr Harrison was an outstanding player at the time...

**Canberra Times 20.4.1928:** Endeavours to establish the National Rules Football at schools have been successful. Students at St Christopher's Forrest have decided in its favour and preliminary coaching of the lads is a dinner hour feature. The Ainslie School has also commenced operations and it is expected as a result of instructions issued by the Chief Commissioner (Sir John Butters) that a start will be made at other public schools.

**Canberra Times 26.4.1928:** A feature of most interest in the opening games in Victoria last Saturday was the interpretation of the new rules of the Australian National Football Council. The majority of the 130,000 spectators were of the opinion that the new interpretation with regard to the holding of the ball and the holding of the man was going to bring about a reduction in the number of free kicks awarded during the matches this season.

**Canberra Times 13.6.1929:** A deputation from the National Football Council will wait on the Minister for Defence in an endeavour to secure his consent to the playing of Australian Code at Duntroon Royal Military College. The action is the result of a letter from the Canberra League to the Council expressing regret that the National Code was not sanctioned in the Military College and that cadets had been refused permission by the authorities to play in a benefit match for the Tasmanian Flood Relief Fund.

**Canberra Times 27.6.1929:** That the Australian National Football Council has taken a serious view of the refusal of the Royal Military College to allow the Australian Rules Code to be played by the cadets is manifest by the active measure that body is taking to have the code established at Duntroon.

**Canberra Times 29.8.1929:** In reply to Senator Daly the Minister of Defense Sir William Glasgow and yesterday in the Senate that no definite instructions had been issued that the Australian game of football is not to be played at Duntroon. The numbers at the college do not permit of more than one code of football being played and the cadets themselves have selected Rugby.

**Canberra Times 22.3.1930:** The matter is at present under consideration 'was for Defence when asked in the Senate yesterday by Senator E Johnston (WA) whether it was the intention of the Government to amend the rules of the Royal Military College in order to permit those cadets who wished to do so to play the Australian game of football.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

**Goulburn Evening Penny Post Wizard's Notes Post 26.8.1911:** Football - a team from the Military College paid us a visit on Saturday last and defeated a local team 4 points to nil.

**Goulburn Evening Penny Post (Wizard's Notes) 23.9.1911:** The third football match between Ginninderra and Duntroon Military College was played on the ground opposite the Farmers' Union Hall on Saturday afternoon last. In an exciting finish Duntroon won 6 points to 5.

**Goulburn Evening Post (Ginninderra News from correspondent). 27.6.1914:** A football match between Ginninderra and the Federal Power House was held on the local showground on Saturday afternoon last. AH Curran kicked a goal that enabled Ginninderra to win.

**Canberra Times 3.9.1926:** Two football matches were played at Hall on Saturday afternoon, the first match being between Duntroon juniors and Hall juniors. Duntroon won. The match between Hall and Braidwood was the match of the day and practically the match of the season. Crowds turned out to see if Hall could still retain the Walsh Cup or if Braidwood would carry it away with them. Braidwood won 12 to 8.

**Canberra Times 15.7.1927:** After considerable organizing to bring the various clubs together a Rugby League competition for the Canberra District has been finalized. Opening games for the contest will be played tomorrow six teams have been entered and an interesting struggle is expected to ensue for the premiership honours.

Although commencing late in the season two rounds will be played each team meeting the other on its home ground, the first fixture being at the end of September. Six clubs have been entered for the Federal Capital Territory Rugby League competition for the current season, Canberra, Duntroon, Westridge, Hall, Molonglo and West Queanbeyan Clubs will field teams for what promises to be an interesting contests.

**Canberra times 28.3.1928:** Rugby League. Growth in Territory (by Publicity)

I arrived in Canberra three years ago and to my surprise found that three clubs of this code already existed. They were Hall, Molonglo and Federal rovers. The first named Hall, headquarters nine miles from the city proper consisted of played who had to travel many miles from their farms and other outlying places to play and since their inception they have lost very few matches. They hold three cups and are the winners of the Federal Territory Competition Season of 1927.

Molonglo team is the unfortunate one of the Territory its players either being retrenched or leaving for better position outside the Territory. In its infancy the club gained many cups but in later seasons they were lost.

The Federal Rovers have been A Grade players for many years and are still the only A Grade team in the Territory. They too are the holders of many cups. So far it is the only club not affiliated with the district league. The season 1926 blossomed well for the Rugby League for the code is no less than seven clubs were formed. They were Hall, Molonglo, Federal Rovers, Acton, Duntroon, Westridge and Canberra.

The 1927 season opened up with the same number of teams to take the field. Rugby enthusiast such as W Webb, Addison and W Hunt put their heads together and the result was delegates called from every club with the object of forming a district League and competitions. Mr WK Hunt was appointed to the chair of this first meeting to be known at Canberra Queanbeyan Rugby Football League. Canberra times 28.3.1928

**Canberra Times 27.4.1928:** The Canberra District Rugby League has taken steps to see that the Rugby game is played in the schools. To aid the project the NSW Rugby League will donate for a competition to be played.

**Canberra Times 25.6.1928:** Rugby League - Acton defeated Hall on Saturday in a wonderfully thrilling game at Hall. The meeting of these two clubs teams on Hall's home ground was keenly looked forward to as Hall had not been beaten on their ground for three years. The score was 12-9 Chappie Curran scores two goals for Hall. The Hall team comprised F Graham, C Kilby, R Hilton, T Gribble, E Maloney, H Denny, E Bondfield, Curran, R Graham, Reid, E Lucas, B Kilby, F Lucas.

**Canberra Times 20.8.1928:** Report of the Massy Cup match at Queanbeyan between Queanbeyan and Yass. Yass won. The visitors were given a dinner at Richardson's Hotel in the evening.

**Canberra Times 11.9.1928:** One of the cleverest and most brilliant exhibitions of Rugby League football was played on Yass Oval last weekend when a Queanbeyan team (challengers) contested with a Yass team for the Massy Cup which the Yass team wrested from it some weeks ago before a large and enthusiastic crowd. Queanbeyan won 11 points to Yass 5.

**Canberra Times 27.4.1929:** Rugby League Football in the Federal Territory has taken a new lease of life with the inception of the district scheme and the struggle for competition honours will be keenly contested this season.

**Canberra Times 13.5.1929:** Rugby League Season Opened. A large crowd witnessed the opening of the Rugby League season by Major CWC Marr at Northbourne Oval on Saturday. The Hall and West(?) game was exciting from start to finish and was one of the best Rugby League struggles witnessed in Canberra. Hall won.

**Queanbeyan Age 11.7.1929:** Two football matches were played at hall on Saturday afternoon. The home juniors had a fairly easy win against Wests by 15 to 3. The Seniors had a strenuous games as they met South Canberra and very little scoring was done. The game resulted in a victory for the Hall 7 to 3. There was a big crowd of onlookers...

**Canberra Times 20.8.1929:** The large crowd at Queanbeyan Park on Sunday afternoon witnessed one of the fastest and certainly the most interesting Rugby League game seen this season when Yass met Queanbeyan in a determined contest to ... the Massy Cup from the team but by its score 15 to nil Queanbeyan retains the trophy.

**Canberra Times 5.9.1928:** Rugby League competition commences today and all clubs will participate in the matches. A knockout competition will be played by the teams incorporated in the Canberra District Rugby Football League. Such was the discussion of the Executive of that body at a meeting held last night at the Social Service Hall.

**Canberra Times 10.9.1929:** In the presence of a fair crowd including many visitors from Yass the battle for the Massy Cup played between Yass and Queanbeyan Blues Rugby League teams at Queanbeyan Park on Sunday afternoon was a fast game and full of incident. Queanbeyan won 22 to 7.

**Canberra Times 14.8.1930:** Report of difficulties arising with the district scheme of Rugby League football. At the beginning of last season when the district scheme was inaugurated Canberra was divided into four areas with a fifth from Hall for competition purposes. East City area comprised Duntroon and Russell Hill but the exodus of residents from Russell Hill has precluded any possibility of raising a team in that area this year.

#### **Canberra Times 8.4.1930: FOOTBALL, RUGBY LEAGUE GROUP 8**

The tangled affairs of Rugby League Football both locally and at Group 8 headquarters in Queanbeyan were discussed at the Annual meeting of the group on Sunday. The election of officers resulted:

Patron: Mr Arthur Blakeley MP

President: Mr A Gardiner (Canberra)

Vice President: Mr A Bouquet (Yass)

Junior Vice President: Mr G Weylard (Yass)

Secretary: Mr SG Addison (Canberra ) unopposed

Asst Secretary: Mr E Gardiner (Queanbeyan)

Treasurer: Mr E Byrne (Queanbeyan) unopposed

Trustees: Messrs W Webb and HJ Richardson

Auditors: Messrs F Waight and J Lynch

The resignation of Dr LW Nott the president last year, was accepted by the meeting with regret.

**Canberra Times 9.4.1930:** Headquarters of the Rugby League Group 8 will be at Canberra instead of Queanbeyan as formerly. This discussion was made at the annual meeting of the Group on Sunday last.

#### **FOOTBALL, RUGBY UNION**

**Canberra Times 29.4.1927:** Rugby Union Football at Canberra by H Grose. Adherents of the Rugby amateur code are delighted to know that it has been firmly established at Canberra.

As the official of the NSW Rugby Union deputed to launch the formation of a branch union in the Territory I desire to express appreciation to those people who assisted me. Mr Norman Newton who has undertaken the duties of honorary secretary of the Federal Territory Branch of the Union, Drs JA James and Clive Finlay of Canberra, TM Barnet of Queanbeyan, G Walters, J Stead, R Jones, H Stephens, WT Tucker, solicitors of Queanbeyan not forgetting AK Murray the popular editor of this very interesting publication are all men who have had honorable association with Rugby Union code in the metropolis and A Robey and the Ryan brothers of the Southern Monaro Rugby Union have all done yeoman service in that district. Duntroon ever ready to advance the interests of the code will greatly assist by placing a team in the field each Saturday and Queanbeyan will field at least one team. Canberra itself should at least field two teams and it will surprise if the Hall team does not affiliate. Mr Bondfield the guiding star of that team was wonderfully good to me during my stay. Federal Capital Pioneer Magazine May-June 1927

Enthusiastic devotees of the Rugby Union Code decided at a meeting on Tuesday night to establish a branch of the New South Wales Rugby Union in the Federal Territory. Mr N Newton was appointed honorary secretary and delegate to the Outdoor Recreation Committee. Election of Officers was deferred.

#### **FOOTBALL, SOCCER (SEE ALSO FCT SOCCER ASSOCIATION)**

**Canberra Times 25.4.1928:** Report of the annual meeting of the FCT Soccer Association. Included in the office bearers elected were President, Mr EA Swane; Hon Secretary, Mr R Havill; Hon Treasurer Mr H Hamilton. It was decided to commence competitive play on May 12.

**Canberra Times 3.5.1928:** Although many of last season's soccer players have left Canberra the soccer code will not be the less popular on this account. The four clubs, Ainslie, Burns, Kingston and Queanbeyan are completing their preparations for the opening of the season on May 13 and practice games are revealing the worth of the newcomers. The breach caused by the closure of the Molonglo Club where the retrenchments axe was busiest has been filled by the new Kingston Club whose home ground is situated south of the Printers Quarters. Black and white are the new club's colours. The Burns Club will be at home at Capital Hill and the Queanbeyan men will retain their ground at Queanbeyan Park. Ainslie Club will use the Acton Sports Ground. To obviate misunderstanding the old Canberra Club has been renamed the Ainslie Club. Strangers sometimes erroneously assume that the Canberra Club must necessarily designate a representative team.

**Canberra Times 14.5.1928:** The opening matches of the first round of the soccer football competition were played on Saturday. The new Kingston Club signaled its entry to competition football by defeating Ainslie 7-2. The Queanbeyan and Burns Clubs played a drawn game of one goal each.

**Canberra Times 23.5.1928:** At a meeting of the FCT Soccer Football Association yesterday evening the resignation of the honorary secretary (Mr R Havill) was accepted with regret. Mr JW Worster was appointed in his stead. The position of the teams re the present stage of the competition was shown: Queanbeyan 3 points; Burns 3 points; Kingston 2 points; Ainslie 0.

**Queanbeyan Age 10.9.1929:** Soccer- Queanbeyan and Canberra Rovers met on Northbourne last Saturday afternoon in the final and most thrilling round of the Canberra Cup. Queanbeyan won and Sir John Butters then presented the cup to W Denham, Captain of the Queanbeyan team.

**Canberra Times 8.4.1930:** Soccer - A friendly game between teams representing Canberra and Queanbeyan was played at Acton Sports ground on Saturday afternoon and resulted in a draw of one goal each.

#### **JEREMIAH DILLON - Lyall Gillespie's Cards**

DILLON, JJ - 1929

**Queanbeyan Age (West Ridge Correspondent) 7.7.1922:** A tennis club has been formed under the name of the West Ridge Tennis Club. Mr JJ Dillon was elected patron.

**Queanbeyan Age 13.7.1923:** Report of the death of Alf Wallace aged 26 who worked on the main sewer works Canberra. Mr J Dillon, sewer foreman, Les Boreland and Jack Hundson deserve great praise for their attention and assistance to our departed comrade.

**Queanbeyan Age 4.10.1929:** The death occurred at Stanmore yesterday of Mr JJ Dillon aged 63 after a short illness. Jerry will be missed from Canberra where he was a familiar figure for many years. He was engaged principally with the construction of the sewer in the Territory.

**Canberra Times 4.10.1929:** The death occurred yesterday morning of Mr JJ Dillon of Canberra in a private hospital in Newtown Sydney. Mr Jerry Dillon was one of the best known identities in Canberra and was always ready to co-operate in all movements for the benefit of the Community and actively assisted in the Social Service Activities during the past four years. At Westridge where he resided he was associated with many social functions.

A keen supporter of the National Football code in the Federal Territory, he may be termed the 'father' of the game in Canberra having founded the well known Sewer Team of four years ago. Since then he has been a keen supporter and a familiar figure at football matches until his death. During his 14 years residence in Canberra Mr Dillon was chiefly engaged as a foreman in the construction of the sewer system. He is survived by a wife.

**Canberra Times 22.3.1928:** At a meeting held to form the Manuka Football Club Mr Jerry Dillon suggested that the Club should adopt the name of the now disbanded Federal Team and take over the material and colours of the club. Mr Tootell said that in view of the fact that district football would soon be necessary in the Territory it would be better to adopt the name, Manuka Football Club in preference to any other. He then moved to that effect and accepted the colours which are black with red stripe. The motion was carried.

**Canberra Times 10.8.1929:** At a meeting held in Acton Social Service Hall when the Acton District Cricket Club was formed Mr JJ Dillon was elected a vice-president



Above left: Jeremiah Dillon's cottage, Section 64 Yarralumla. Photograph Trish Frei 2010. Above Right - Cartoon Jeremiah Dillon