

Carmel Court 39 Myall Avenue Kensington Gardens

Background

Alan Killigrew, during his coaching term at Norwood from 1959 until 1962 was widely criticised by many Norwood die-hards for his lack of local recruitment. His focus was on interstate players and statistics will show that players with interstate backgrounds augmented the league team during his four years in charge. Of the 40 players who played in 1961, 9 were interstate recruits, 16 had country origins and 15 were local players. In Killigrew's first year, 1959, there were 3 interstate players listed, in 1960, the number had grown to eight. After Killigrew's departure, only John Vickers and Brian Bowe survived the 1963 cull and by 1967 there were no interstate players in the line-up.

New coach, Doug Olds (1963-4) and chairman of selectors, John Marriott had a firm policy of recruiting local players only. Unfortunately, Norwood drifted out of the four under this new policy.

The Vigilance Committee formed in 1963

The need to recruit was paramount. More help was needed outside of the club's over stretched internal resources. There was a Welfare Committee in place but no structured recruitment committee. To this end, invitations were extended to members and other interested parties to test their willingness to help. A dinner/meeting in the Norwood Town Hall attracted 200 people who expressed a desire to help the club improve its playing status. The areas of help were defined as assisting the club with recruiting players, accommodation and employment, school coaching, and financial support to achieve these objectives. Out of this meeting, a

Vigilance Committee was formed comprising His Worship the Mayor of Kensington and Norwood, Mr. F. J. McCallum (Chairman), Hon. L. L. Hill (Deputy Chairman), J. E. Masson (Hon. Secretary) and S. R. Applebee (Hon. Treasurer).

New Coach and President - The Boulderstone Era

Haydn Bunton replaced Doug Olds as coach in 1965. He was not opposed to recruiting interstate and he soon had South Melbourne key position player, Bob Kingston, in his sights.

Bert Boulderstone, who replaced deceased Ted Heidenreich as President in January 1963 had devoted his early years at Norwood to the commercial aspects of the club's management and the updating of the redundant management structure. His attitude to coaches Haydn Bunton and later Robert Oatey was simply "you go after the players and I'll look after the club". But he recognised the need to recruit and he often toured country areas with the respective coaches in his vehicle at his own cost seeking new blood for Norwood. Bert's poor eyesight prevented him from driving and Haydn Bunton was quite relieved that he couldn't readily see the speedometer when he was behind the wheel on country trips. Some of the recruits were housed in Boulderstone's renovated property in Rutland Avenue Unley Park, close to his home in Victoria Avenue. Many were given employment with his building company.

Recruitment Policy

The club developed a recruiting policy revolving around the attraction of youth in large numbers with the belief that if the net was cast wide enough it would land some big fish. There was a shortage of boarding facilities around Norwood, however, and suitable private accommodation proved difficult to obtain for country boys. Some families, with strong Norwood affiliations, who had been stalwarts in housing and caring for recruits in the past were aging and no longer willing to take new-comers into their homes.

Bert Baulderstone was a man of very high principles. He believed that if Norwood could house recruits in dignified accommodation and provide good care, acceptable to their parents, then that would be the foundation for success.

Carmel Court becomes a reality

To this end, Baulderstone conceived Carmel Court and set about to develop a boarding facility to care for new arrivals. He was cognizant of the parlous state of the club's finances and he purchased a large villa at 39 Myall Avenue, Kensington Gardens in the name of his family company, Carmel Holdings Pty Ltd, independent from his building company and the Norwood Football Club. Bert's wife was named Carmel.

Baulderstone devoted a lot of his time and resources to the Norwood Football Club and his company executives felt that it was time and money detrimental to the growth of his company. Apart from his Myall Avenue project, Bert's plans for the Redlegs Club were nearing completion and he completely reorganised the football club administration, eliminated the social club, and created new identities in the Redlegs Club Inc. and the Norwood Footballers Association Inc. He had a massive workload both as NFC President and the Head of his ever-expanding construction company.

However, Baulderstone was a man of passion and he was determined to elevate the standards of the club and thus erode the "tin shed keg of beer" stigma which he believed characterised the football club in the early 1960s.

He renovated the house at 39 Myall Avenue, initially added six motel-style double rooms, with plans to add a further six, a common lounge room, swimming pool, laundry, ablution facilities, and a kitchen cold room to ultimately accommodate 24 players.

Carmel Court was in an ideal location. About 3 kilometres from the Norwood Oval, between popular bus routes on The Parade and

Kensington Road, and within proximity of recreation facilities surrounding Parkinson Oval in Kensington Gardens Reserve.

Baulderstone delegated the responsibility of management to a committee comprising Ern Wadham, Jack Masson, and Eric Johnson and later in February 1967 when he had revamped the club's management structure, to the new CEO, Ron Kitchen. Baulderstone, however, supervised everything as was his custom as chairman, and of course, he had a vested interest in this unique project. The initial task was to find suitable staff and then the recruits.

Gil Butchart was recruited from West Gambier in 1966. When his clearance was approved, Gil began playing with the league team in June 1966. Initially, he commuted from Mt Gambier for each game thanks to the generosity of Australian National Airlines management. In December, his mother accepted Bert Baulderstone's offer of free lodgings at Myall Avenue as manageress of the residence. The committee comprising Ern Wadham, Jack Masson, and Eric Johnson facilitated her transfer to Adelaide. She was undaunted by the challenge, came to Adelaide, and took up occupancy in January 1967 with her son. Mrs. Butchart was of Scottish heritage, a no-nonsense rotund woman who managed with firmness and compassion. She was unpaid but received free board and exclusive use of the main dwelling.

The players' board was set at \$12.00 per week, with the coach and management having the unfettered power to award subsidies when considered appropriate.

The first intake comprised of 5 players. One recruit was refused entry into the hostel by the Welfare Committee because of his historically poor behaviour in private board.

Stage two of the building work began in February 1967 and was completed in September.

Robert Oatey takes charge

With Haydn Bunton's departure at the end of the 1967 season, new coach, Robert Oatey, formed a recruitment committee. Oatey chaired the fortnightly meetings which included Perce McCallum, Peter Vivian, Ron Kitchen, Max Goodger, Bill Worthington, Horrie Nelson, and Ern Wadham. Later in 1968 Wally Miller, Bob Truelove, John Hall, and Graham Horlin-Smith were added to the recruitment team replacing Vivian, McCallum, and Nelson.

The mood of the club and the need to improve player lists were made abundantly clear in a supporter's letter written to President Bert Baulderstone in 1969. It read:-

"Dear Sir, I beg to be pardoned for taking this privilege, but as a supporter of Norwood Football Club for nearly 40 years, I felt prompted to write to you as an honourable and respected President. Such a lot of the club's supporters are so upset and grieved to see our old Norwoods in the position we have been for two years, each year this position gets worse, never before to my knowledge have we supporters, had to submit to such humility. We are laughed at by most clubs. It is the coach it surely seems to be, there is potential there and he is squashing it. Do we put up with him another year, rumour says we may? A number of good supporters are turning their back on him, and closing their purses. We can't afford to lose supporters, and we should never be so low on the premiership table. Also, do we have to go along with two lethargic secretaries, why not someone enthusiastic, whose whole aim is to work for the club?

We in the west side of Norwood are downhearted and disgusted each year hoping for better things, and they don't eventuate.

We wonder Mr. President, with much admiration for you and your hard work you are putting into the project, we can avoid another year like this and try to gain the old prestige.

Thanking you for listening to our sorry cry and we will hope for a new outlook and return to Norwood."

The new recruitment committee was active and aggressive. It implemented a card system to record potential recruits and the follow-up action to be taken. All committee members were made accountable. In the beginning, they relied heavily on information ad hoc from a variety of sources but later they began to travel on weekends to view games both in country areas and within the metropolitan zone. The emphasis was on youth, particularly underage players regularly playing at senior level. Country association programs and newspapers were sourced and there was particular attention given to inter-league games state-wide. Gradually reliable contacts were established in most country areas and a recruiting network was formed.

Oatey put his heart and soul into this project and was in most cases the final arbiter on who would be recruited and their suitability for entry into Carmel Court. Later he handed this responsibility in part to Ron Kitchen and then Wally Miller who had been appointed to the position of NFC promotions officer in August 1968, with recruitment and junior development being two of his many-faceted responsibilities. Miller replaced Ron Kitchen as secretary-manager in March 1970.

In January 1968 Bert Baulderstone handed over the complete control of the Myall Avenue hostel to the club who was then required to pay all rates and taxes and any maintenance factors that may arise.

Books of account were organised by the Treasurer, Eric Johnson, and Mrs. Butchart was instructed in record keeping. With an active recruitment committee numbers began to rapidly swell.

The House Mother becomes an NFC employee

With Mrs. Butchart's greatly increased workload her terms of employment were revisited. She received a weekly wage, one day off

per week, 3 weeks' annual leave, and assistance with the laundry and cleaning.

The murmurings about country zoning became a reality when a motion was tabled at the SANFL Delegates' meeting in Bagot Street North Adelaide. It was defeated in July 1969 but it was obvious that North Adelaide, who proposed the motion, would continue to push the concept.

By 1970 Carmel Court was working at capacity with 24 recruits in residence. There was somewhat of an occupancy crisis with a growing waiting list. The club was forced to seek private board for the most urgent of those waiting to be housed at Carmel Court.

Farewell Mrs. Butchart - Welcome Mrs. Carman

In May 1970 Mrs. Butchart resigned as House Mother. Her son Gill, and residents Ian Stasinowsky and Brian Isbell left Carmel Court to board in her newly acquired private residence in Klemzig. Mrs. B had served Norwood well and the management knew that to find a comparable replacement would present a daunting challenge.

Norwood was in the process of recruiting Philip Carman, an Edenhope 17-year-old player from country Victoria playing senior football in the Kowrie-Naracoorte league. The negotiations were consummated and Boulderstone agreed to move the whole family to Adelaide and house them in one of his properties on Glynburn Road immediately west of Carmel Court. The children were all of school-going age including Philip who was granted a football club scholarship at King's College (Pembroke). The two younger siblings, Faye and Wayne attended Norwood High School. Gary, the oldest boy in the family chose to remain in Edenhope.

Mrs. Annie Carman, who was widowed, replaced Mrs. Butchart as Carmel Court's house mother in late May 1970. She received welcome assistance for her budgeting and financial control from Mr. Jock Skinner, a retired insurance company director and the father of

past players, Bob and Mark. Bob Skinner was the current Executive Committee chairman.

Jock Skinner a management asset

Jock Skinner's financial skills and business acumen proved invaluable and relieved the office of many time-consuming tasks. Wally Miller, though, was still responsible for disciplinary factors, the rules of conduct, recruit welfare, staff morale, and board money collection. He received some assistance from Max Goodger (U19 Team Manager and key recruiting operative) who was appointed Carmel Court Liaison Officer. Assistant secretary, Ern Wadham collected board monies each Friday evening in his office at the Redlegs Club.

Later in 1970, Bert Baulderstone asked the club to purchase Carmel Court from Carmel Holdings Pty Ltd. The request was unexpected. There was a sharp downturn in the building industry and the A W Baulderstone company was under some financial pressure. It had to take immediate measures to survive the crisis.

The purchase price was \$50,000 and the terms offered were very generous. Considering the value of the property as a recruiting tool it was agreed to explore every angle for its potential acquisition.

At that time, the following players were in residence:

From the League training list: Michael Boase (Wallaroo), Neil Button (Murray Bridge), Philip Carman (Edenhope), Benton Hole (Kybybolite), John Nash (local), John Pearce (Ardrossan), Glen Rosser (Port Elliott), Peter Senic (Loxton), Tony Gill (Loxton), Daryl Seekamp (Renmark), Greg Thiele (Loxton), and John Wynne (WA). Noel Pettingill (Mt Gambier), one of the earliest residents left to marry and Mike Poulter (Darwin), an in-season border, moved into the Norwood Hotel.

From the U19s and U17s:

Ian Craig (Maitland), Neil Craig (Maitland), Gary Eckermann (Yacka), Mark Gould (Lucindale), Craig Hutchins (Darke Peak), Graeme Madden (Loxton), Roger Pinches (Mypolonga), Barry Pontt (Loxton), Michael Taylor (Kingston), Rex Jaeschke (Loxton)

NFC purchases Carmel Court

Jock Skinner undertook a feasibility study in September 1970. His comprehensive report recommended that it would be advantageous for the club to purchase Carmel Court. He set out a payment plan that, in his opinion was affordable. The purchase price was \$52,500 including transfers, stamp duty conveyance fees, etc.

The independent valuation of the property, fixtures, fittings, and furniture was \$72,000, which would immediately give the club equity of \$20,000.

The first mortgage of \$13,000 at 8% was with an insurance company. The second mortgage of \$37,000, interest-free over 10 years, with Carmel Holdings Pty Ltd providing that an annual repayment of \$5,000 was made on time each year. There were discounts for greater repayments.

On the 16th of September 1970, the management committee agreed to purchase the property.

Jock Skinner continued as administrator free of charge although his budget for this position was set at \$1,000.

A fund-raising program was implemented, including an open day for members to inspect Carmel Court, an allocation of \$1.00 per member from their annual \$5.00 membership subscription, and a drive to obtain outright donations to the purchase appeal. The Vigilance committee was asked for help but they declined. That committee whilst active and productive for a few years had been dormant in recent times following the decision to form a specialist

recruitment committee and a full-time staff member to administer junior football programs.

Short-term personal loans to cover the cost of the charges to acquire the property were received from generous supporters, many of whom also made outright donations rather than redeem their original interest-free loans which were repayable by 1st December 1971. In all donations totalled \$4,000.

Jock Skinner presented a break-square trading budget which was dependent on an increase in laundry sales. To this end, a commercial washing machine was purchased for \$1,000 to enable Mrs. Ingham to expand her laundry activity beyond the in-house requirements to take in large volumes of Redlegs Club's linen. Board payments were held at \$14.00 but would need to be continually monitored to achieve budget.

Prohibition relaxed

Up until 1971, there was complete prohibition in Carmel Court. The legal drinking age in South Australia was 21 and then lowered to 20 years of age. It was easy to prohibit alcohol because most boarders were under 20 years of age and several were non-drinkers. However, in 1971 the legal drinking age was lowered to 18 years of age and it became necessary to revisit the rigid policy. It was desirable to maintain the no alcohol rule but several incidents made it sensible to slightly modify the rules. Packaged drinks could be brought onto the premises, named, and stored in the house refrigerator until required but liquor could not be consumed within the players' rooms. With the permission of the House Mother alcohol could be consumed in moderation in her private lounge. This negated the need for residents to binge drink unnecessarily in vehicles before entering the building after an evening out.

After the legal drinking age was lowered to 18, the management of Carmel Court did become significantly more difficult.

Discipline generally was not a huge problem. In an environment where everyone had a common goal of playing league football and was engaged in the pursuit of excellence in playing or in their studies, discipline was self-governing and anyone who stepped out of line was quickly made to see the error of their ways by their peer group. Of course, there were grumbles about some of the policies with prohibition, curfews, their telephone account, and the ridged barring of girlfriends from the bedroom wings easily topping the list. Management was worldly enough to realise that on occasions some of the rules were broken. After all, there was substantial testosterone floating about with 24 virile young men in residence. There were no whistle-blowers.

Country zoning becomes law

On the 11 of February, 1972 country zoning became official when the Boundaries Commission signed off on the map dividing the state into 10 geographical zones. Norwood, Port Adelaide and Sturt who were bitterly opposed to the concept fought hard to the end but the majority of clubs held sway and pushed the new rule to its conclusion. North Adelaide who was the architect of the scheme had lobbied hard since 1969.

Norwood's area incorporated Murray Bridge and surrounding districts and the Mallee towns of Karoonda, Lameroo, Pinnaroo, and some Adelaide Hills towns, all areas of unknown potential. There were also some adjustments to the metropolitan zone.

Presidential and staff changes

Bert Baulderstone, who conceived and built the Myall Avenue residence, died on February 24th, 1972, a fortnight after country zoning was introduced and regrettably he was never able to see his dream fully materialised or witness Norwood as a consistently strong competitive team, although he had glimpses in 1970. Carmel Court was a major contribution to the Norwood Football Club by

Baulderstone but only one of many. He will probably be best remembered for the impact of his principal achievement – the Redlegs Club.

There was a delay in appointing Baulderstone's replacement and it wasn't until October 1972 that Rex Wilson became Norwood's tenth and youngest President at age 36 years. It proved to be a very good appointment albeit for only a three-year duration.

On the 1st of June 1972, Jock Skinner took leave to engage in an overseas trip and Wally Miller was appointed Carmel Court administrator. There were other staff changes too with the office secretary, Pam Forster resigning. Her replacement, Allison Hembrow, was quick to establish a rapport with Mrs. Carman and she was destined to play a significant role in Carmel Court management over the next few years. As the staff's paymaster, she was always welcome at the residence.

At that time, Carmel Court was at capacity and there were eleven recruits in an outside private board, most of whom were receiving some assistance from the club. Financially Carmel Court was self-supporting but the need to replace capital items and maintenance issues required the club to make grants from time to time. New carpets and the replacement of lounge room furniture with steel-framed items cost \$4,000.

The following players were in residence: - John Blythman, Neil Button, Dean Button, Michael Taylor, Mark Gould, Craig Hutchins, Jim Faehse, Haydn Davey, Graeme Madden, Des Flavel, Ian Griffiths, Brenton Hole, Gary Eckermann, Barry Pontt, Glen Rosser, Greg Turbill, John White, Philip Carman, Jim Thiel, Gary Wilson, Danny Jenkins, Daryl Seekamp, Greg Hodge, Gary Hodge, Jeff Adams.

The most prominent players in external accommodation were Mike Poulter, Greg Rix, and Neil Craig. Craig's parents had moved off of their farm at Sandilands on the Yorke Peninsula and acquired a

home in Dernancourt. Kath Craig, Neil's mother, worked at Carmel Court as a casual employee.

Initially, country zoning had little effect on the occupancy of Carmel Court because of the backlog of players seeking accommodation from the open boundaries days before February 1972 but it soon became apparent that the quality of players had diminished. Bringing sub-standard players to Adelaide who had little chance of progressing to league ranks was false and unfair.

Country zoning eventually takes its toll

The occupancy dropped to 19 in 1973 and accordingly the budgeted income fell short of requirements. It became necessary to offer boarding facilities to non-playing personnel who would pay a full tariff and therefore boost the income. The Kensington Cricket Club took up the opportunity of accommodating some of their country recruits and Mt Gambier junior Peter Sleep became a boarder at Carmel Court. Sleep who was working as a junior groundsman on the nearby Parkinson Oval went on to play Test cricket for Australia. He played eleven games for Norwood U19s in 1976 and kicked 48 goals, including 10 goals in his first game.

Minor maintenance was a constant problem at Myall Avenue and retired carpenter, Harry Porritt, the father of vice-captain Ross, was paid a modest weekly retainer and \$5.00 an hour to attend to maintenance issues.

It became necessary to increase the weekly board to \$17.00 per week. All subsidies were assessed on the recruit's income in cases where they were employed and earning a weekly wage. Most, of course, were students and supported by their parents and the club.

Mrs. Carman retires - House Mother changes again

Mid-way through 1973 Mrs. Carman gave notice that she would be retiring in December and moving into her own home. Philip also

bought a second property in Hazelwood Park and Glen Rosser and Daryl Seekamp moved into his premises. Later they were joined by Ian Stasinowsky.

Annie Carman had won the respect of both recruits and management and she proved to be a very good servant of the Norwood Football Club.

Staff members, Mrs. Ingham and Mrs. Howe both expressed interest in becoming the new house mother and after interviews, Mrs. Howe was appointed in January 1974. The package included her husband and one child, with the husband agreeing to take responsibility for the swimming pool maintenance requirements. It was a salaried position with the usual provisions for holidays, sick leave, etc. Mrs. Howe, a good manager, had no connection with football and couldn't generate the same empathy with the residents as came naturally with Mrs. Butchart and Mrs. Carman who both had sons playing with Norwood. They could understand the boys' emotions when injured, losing games, or being dropped from the team and make allowances for their fluctuating moods. Mrs. Howe's management was on a strictly business basis adhering to her job specification and managing efficiently.

Fluid occupancy

Over the years, the occupancy of Carmel Court was fluid. People left for a variety of reasons, some simply out-grew the boarding house environment, some finished study courses, and graduated to the workforce, while others reached the upper limits of their football achievements and chose to seek opportunities elsewhere. Only one was asked to leave because of his incompatibility with colleagues. Apart from those mentioned in other sections the following recruits were also residents at Carmel Court at various times.

Shane Gleeson (Edenhope), Kym Williams (Tailem Bend), Kent Newberry (Kadina), Colin Baker (Lucindale), Brian Purdie (Laura), Geoff Boase (Wallaroo), Peter Seekamp (Renmark), Lyall Ribbons (Pinnaroo), Michael Stevens (Port Pirie), Wayne Dalby, Garry Willson (Kangaroo Island}, Graeme Growden (Jamestown), Colin Earle (Port Wakefield), Cameron Coligan (Pt. Pirie), Les Thompson (Mt. Gambier), Gary Maddigan (Pt. Pirie), Tim Quill (Mt. Gambier), Linton Handcock (Parilla), and Peter Bond (Pt. Broughton) .

The NFA acquires Carmel Court

In October 1973, the Norwood Footballers Association, the finance arm of the club, and principal asset holder requested that Carmel Court be transferred to their asset register. It was sensible to do so but president, Rex Wilson, had fought hard to convince the NFA to change their constitution to ensure that they would be empowered to confirm their verbal commitment to establishing a coordinating committee and ultimately a Board of Directors with the football club having the appropriate representation. Only when members approved of the new rules was the asset of Carmel Court transferred to the NFA. The Football Club, however, was still responsible for the day to day management of Carmel Court.

Carmel Court loses its value as a recruitment vehicle

By 1975 it became obvious that Carmel Court was no longer a valuable recruiting tool. Country zoning had taken its toll on the number of available quality recruits and a cost analysis revealed that the property should be sold or leased, Gary Menzel (Ngallo), Wayne Schmaal (Karoonda) and, Darwin juniors Stephen Fenton and Rodney McPhee were the last players in residence.

Carmel Court was leased with the club reserving the right to housing recruits as a priority but it was never again a suitable place for ambitious young men.

Members were advised of the new arrangements and thanked for their assistance. The \$1.00 surcharge on their membership subscriptions was duly removed.

Carmel Court had served the club well for 10 years. The following residents at some point in Carmel Court's history played at league level and were prominent in Norwood's revival.

Neil Button (283), Glen Rosser (182), Michael Taylor (289), Neil Craig (124), Philip Carman (58), Danny Jenkins (198), Gary Menzel (102), Wayne Schmaal (50), Mike Poulter (175), John Wynne (193), Gil Butchart (152), Ian Stasinowsky (150), Stephen Kerley (132), Greg Turbill (128), Malcolm Noble (77), Noel Pettingill (133), Jim Thiel (156), John Clarke (58) Greg Kuchel (33), John Nash (22), Bill Nalder (22), Des Flavel (26), John White (27), Peter Goodale (20), John Lokan (9), John Tye (6), Jeff Mulranney (2), Graham Blythman (6), John Blythman (2), Michael Boase (2), Clem Fitzgerald (1).

John Nash spent a short time at Carmel Court while reorganising his life after the death of his parents. He eventually chose cricket over football as his preferred sport and had considerable success as an East Torrens and Sturt A grade district cricketer. He played 51 first-class games for SA as a Sheffield Shield batsman. Nash finished his impressive first-class cricket career in 1981. He became a SACA selector in 1996 and held that position for decades.

The above list included four Norwood captains, Wynne, Taylor, Jenkins, and Turbill: twelve premierships players, Button 3, Craig 2, Jenkins 3, Kerley 2, Poulter 1, Rosser 2, Schmaal 1, Stasiowsky 1, Taylor 2, Thiel 2, Turbill 3, Wynne 2: fourteen who played over 100 games: 11 player life members: six selected in Norwood's Hall of Fame, (Button, Rosser, Wynne, Taylor, Jenkins, Turbill), and three in the SANFL Hall of Fame, (Taylor, Craig, and Wynne)

There was a very large number of Carmel Court recruits who made outstanding contributions to Norwood's underage and reserves teams and hence contributed significantly to the club's rejuvenation. The league reserves won premierships in 1969, '70, '72, and '74, and the under 19s in 1971 and '72. Norwood was awarded the Stanley H Lewis trophy in 1974 as the SANFL's most successful club in all grades, a far cry from the club's dismal record in 1968, when the league team finished 10th, reserves 8th, thirds 9th, colts 9th, with an overall ranking of 10th in the Stanley H. Lewis trophy.

Norwood suffers financial problems

Carmel Court was sold in 1981 when the club was forced to sell all assets other than the Redlegs Club and 19 Wood Street, following the collapse of Windsor Park shopping centre, a failed joint venture investment in Windsor Gardens.

The sale price for the NFA was \$90,000.

It operated as a boarding house, a disability support facility, and a rest home until 2016 when the block was cleared and sold to make way for new housing.

Some Carmel Court stories

There were some events at Carmel Court that are worth recording and others that are best left in-house and remain cherished memories for those involved.

Curfews and the Coach

On Friday nights before games, all residents had to be home by 9 pm. Coach Robert Oatey wasn't satisfied that the curfew was always being obeyed. On occasions, he would camouflage himself in the impressive flowering gumtree in the front yard overlooking the car park and players' entrance. From that vantage point, he would monitor any late arrivals. His surveillance was only effective on moonlight nights. Oatey was the playing coach and he subjected

himself to this cramped, cold wintery perch to spy on any errant players. His success rate or otherwise was never known.

Under 19 coach, Bob Farnham took an entirely different approach. He lived on nearby West Terrace and did his matchday planning in front of his fireplace in his comfortable lounge room, probably sipping a port. He would ask Mrs. Carman to pin a message on the pillow of any suspected wayward under 19 players. The message read, **“If home before 9 pm please ring me to discuss tomorrow’s game.”**

Farnham knew what was going on without suffering any discomfort. There’s a lot to be said for maturity.

Homesickness

There was such a diversity of people at Carmel Court - regular league players, some just making their way, underage players, high school students, tertiary education students and workers, some in offices others doing manual labour. There was a wide span in ages. Neil Craig, aged 13 years was the youngest, and John Wynne, Gil Butchart, and Mike Poulter, the most mature adults in their early 20s. But, all at some point suffered from homesickness. About the first month to six week period was the critical time. Apart from missing their families and familiar home town facilities, the recruits had to adjust to life in Adelaide and come to terms with a multitude of challenges. Finding bus routes to employment or tertiary institutions, locating banking facilities, accessing medical services, and many other day-to-day matters that locals take for granted. Management was adept at predicting this problem and was usually able to offer some effective counselling.

In one extreme case an under 17 player, of great potential, left training disgruntled, went straight to the bus depot, and caught the Pinnaroo bound bus to his hometown. His coach and manager, Mal Smith and John Hall were immediately alerted to his absconding,

drove their vehicle to Murray Bridge, pulled him off the bus when it stopped for passengers to alight, counselled him, and drove him back to Carmel Court. Kidnapping probably! His father responded by thanking those involved for their action.

Others preferred the kudos associated with stardom in their home Associations rather than endure the struggle to achieve success in league ranks.

The three shepherds

Underage coach, Mal Smith was a senior employee of Metro Meats and in charge of their holding farm at Virginia. He was able to offer employment to some Carmel Court residents who could handle working with stock, mainly sheep. Ex farm boys were ideal for that type of work which was exceptionally dirty and physically demanding. Country recruits, Michael Taylor, Craig Hutchins, and Mark Gould were employed on the Virginia farm and travelled with their coach each day. They became known as the three shepherds. Their housemates steered clear of the shepherds when they returned from work to shower each night. The rancid smell of sheep, animal manure, and associated farm smells was overpowering for their suburban mates. Plenty of others tried the work but only Ceduna aboriginal boy, Haydn Davey, could consistently handle the challenges.

Michael Taylor's progression in football is well known but the other shepherds, who all played in underage premierships teams, returned to their country homes before persevering at league level. That was a disappointment as Craig Hutchins, from Darke Peak, in particular, had exceptional talent. When he returned to the County Jervois League he won two Mail Medals with Darke Peak, had three successful years with North Whyalla, and finished off his stellar football career with two premierships with Edwardstown in SAFA.

Haydn Davey, a Mail Medal winner with Thevenard in the Far West, kicked six goals in the reserves winning the 1972 grand final on the Adelaide Oval. He was vying for a league roving spot with the two Oatey's and felt that his chances of progression were limited. As runner-up in the seconds Magarey Medal behind John McInnes, Davey, who finished his career in Pt. Lincoln and won another Mail Medal with Boston, demonstrated enough skill in his one season with Norwood to warrant a league game. His younger brother, Alwyn (Gunny) also stayed at Carmel Court for a short time. But Adelaide had very little appeal to him and he returned to his home club, Thevenard in the Far West League. Alwyn won 3 consecutive Mail Medals (1971-2-3), was runner-up in 1974, all before his 19th birthday. Davey later played in Pt. Lincoln and with North Darwin, in the NTFL. His two sons, Aaron (Melbourne) and Alwyn (Essendon) played AFL.

Recruiting

Robert Oatey deserves praise for his tireless recruiting campaign from 1968. Norwood had lost its way and was the chopping block of the competition in his first two years. He set up and administered the recruitment drive to get Norwood off the bottom. In the beginning, his recruitment team had nothing to offer aspiring country players but Carmel Court and the promise that Norwood would soon return to its former glory. At that time, all grades were floundering. Carmel Court proved to be the winner. Country parents were impressed with the facility and were happy for their sons to sign with Norwood.

Sturt was dominating country recruiting. Their image as a successful league team with their 5 consecutive premierships gave them a distinct advantage. Norwood, however, was able to favourably compete for country recruits with Carmel Court often tipping the scales in the Redlegs' favour.

Norwood became a very competitive team in 1970, had a lapse in 1971, and then began to climb the ladder culminating in the 1975 drought-breaking premiership.

Although Oatey was replaced as coach in 1974 by Bob Hammond much of Oatey's good work is evident in the club's success in later years.

Ex Carmel Court residents in the 1975 Grand Final included: - Neil Button, Glen Rosser, Jim Thiel, Neil Craig, Greg Turbill, Mike Poulter, John Wynne, Stephen Kerley and Michael Taylor. Ian Stazinowsky was injured in the second semi-final and Greg Rix and Rod Seekamp, although living privately, were a part of the recruitment drive implemented by Robert Oatey and his team of recruiters beginning in 1968.

Kensington Gardens - the extra training venue

The spacious, grassy areas in Kensington Gardens Reserve made it an ideal training venue. It became Carmel Court's extra training facility, particularly for those playing at the highest level or those with a burning ambition to do so.

Philip Carman was a fitness fanatic and a virtual running machine and he set the standard for the extra voluntary training sessions on the reserve which could include up to eight residents at any impromptu session. Glen Rosser, Neil Craig, Greg Turbill, and John Wynne were regular participants. Sometimes "outsiders" Robert Oatey and Ross Dillon joined in with the Carmel Court contingent. There was an insatiable demand for footballs for these private sessions and the club ball steward would regularly complain about his diminishing stock of practice balls when preparing for normal training at the Norwood Oval.

Carman also led pre-breakfast, half-hour running sessions a couple of times a week on the roads around the perimeter of Kensington Gardens Reserve.

The miracles performed in the laundry

Mrs. Ingham ran the laundry at Carmel Court. She washed clothes and linen for 24 young men, a mammoth task. Mrs. Goodger did the ironing on a rostered system and the residents collected their laundered clothes at regular intervals and returned the various articles to their respective rooms.

Each person needed to place names on their articles of clothing before settling into Myall Avenue.

Generally, the system worked well but on occasions, things went wrong in the collection process. Someone in a hurry to get to work or go out in the evening would grab the first available shirt as a matter of expediency. Such selfish practices although very annoying were always sorted out internally. The Syd Gould Pelaco shirt award for the league player of the day was usually unmarked and therefore a bit harder to trace. As it could only be won by a small percentage of residents the culprits were soon identified.

When the NFC purchased Carmel Court in 1970 the laundry became a commercial operation to help cover costs. Mrs. Ingham had a new commercial washing machine to launder Redlegs Club linen as well as meeting the recruits' internal demands.

Tragedy strikes young recruits

During the aggressive recruiting period in the late 60s and early 70s two tragedies rocked the administration. In April 1970, Michael Barnes, a 19-year-old recruit from Barmera, was accidentally killed when his motorbike collided with a bus on Magill road after leaving work from the Kensington Park branch of the Commonwealth Bank. It was a promising football career cut off before it began.

Michael Barnes, born in Kimba on the 12th of April 1951 died on 22nd of April 1970. He was head prefect of Glossop High School and had already played senior football with Barmera Monash in the

strong Riverland League. He had shown great promise in pre-season training sessions with Norwood under 19s. Carmel Court was fully occupied in 1970 and the club arranged private board for Michael in a home in Cator Street, Glenside. Some of Norwood's Riverland recruits attended his funeral to pass on their sympathy to his parents, Don and Beverly Barnes.

Later in 1974, Michael Gerard Packer of Karoonda, a Carmel Court resident, was tragically killed when a car that he was driving hit a small gum tree on the edge of Norwood Parade adjacent to Kensington Gardens Reserve on his return journey to Carmel Court. None of his passengers were injured. The accident occurred on the evening of December the 5th 1974. Packer had played one season of underage football in the under 19s. He competed in all 24 games and kicked 13 goals. As a key position player, his coaches had high hopes for his future as a league player.

His funeral was held at Karoonda on the 9th of December and President Glen McMahon, Chairman Bob Farnham, and Secretary/Manager Wally Miller represented the club and were able to convey the club's condolences to his parents, George and Kath Packer on a very sad day for their family and district.

Later attempts to replicate Carmel Court

When zoning was in place there was no opportunity to obtain players from areas outside of a club's specified zone unless an improbable clearance could be obtained.

In 1978 Norwood challenged the interstate clearance rules in the case of West Perth refusing to allow Brian Adamson to play in South Australia. The challenge was made in the Federal Court on the premise that West Perth was in breach of the restraint of trade doctrine. After complex and expensive legal proceedings, the High Court of Australia determined that football clubs were commercial enterprises and therefore subject to Federal Law. A Federal Court

order was issued to West Perth to clear Adamson forthwith to Norwood free of any encumbrances.

Consequently, the previous rock-solid boundaries became promotional zones only and players had freedom of movement providing that a compensatory fee of \$2,000 was paid to the club losing the player.

Once again there was interest in recruiting state-wide albeit with caution given the expense involved.

In the mid-eighties, there was sufficient recruitment activity to warrant another boarding house. President Nerio Ferraro and Wally Miller found a suitable property in Reynell Road, Campbelltown - a house that could cater for six and a self-contained granny flat for the privacy of a House Mother.

The Board approved of their recommendation to purchase the property and another era of boarding house management began. One of the drawbacks of Reynell Road was its distance from the Norwood Oval and convenient bus routes.

Later a duplex house became available in Woods Street adjacent to the NFC office at numbers 20 and 21 Woods Street. The club quit Reynell Road and purchased the Woods Street property. Being so close to the Norwood Oval and the Redlegs Club made it an ideal recruit boarding facility for a maximum of 6 boys. Internal access to both houses was achieved with minimal structural alterations which included a secure facility for the house mother. Two attempts were made to engage a suitable live-in house supervisor/housekeeper but when both failed it was decided to operate the house as bachelor quarters with evening meals supplied by the Redlegs Club kitchen.

Reynell Road and Woods Street properties were both useful as a recruiting aid but never approached the gold chip value of Carmel Court in productivity.

Carmel Court from a recruit's perspective by the late Glen Rosser, a resident from 1969 to 1974

I resided at Carmel Court from January 1969 until January 1974 after being recruited to play football for the Norwood FC (NFC) from Port Elliot after completing year 12 at Victor Harbor High School. During the two-previous football seasons, I was playing senior "A" grade football with the Port Elliot football club. Like many other young recruits, we had been promoted to senior football in the country at a young age and came to the attention of several SANFL Clubs. During 1967/68 I was approached by several clubs including Norwood, Sturt, North Adelaide, and West Adelaide. In the end, I decided to sign with Norwood due to the club struggling for a few seasons and aiming to regenerate the team and hopefully provide some chance of an early promotion, plus the opportunity to reside with other similar age recruits from the country in Carmel Court. I was regularly contacted during my last years at Port Elliot by Senior Coach Robert Oatey and Bob Truelove who had joined the NFC Recruitment Committee. Bob had coached me for one season at Port Elliot and my family felt comfortable that I would be looked after by them and the NFC while residing at Carmel Court.

Adelaide was a daunting prospect for many of us and my mother when driving me to meet with Ernie Wadham at the Redlegs Club, who was waiting to check me into Carmel Court, got lost and we finished up at Glynde before realising and asking a shop owner where to find Norwood Oval and The Parade. We eventually arrived and I moved into the house along with recruits Phil Carman and Ian Stasinowsky who had also arrived within days to find their way in the city. We all needed help to acclimatise to the city and this was provided by the Club, the other recruits sharing Carmel Court, and house mother Mrs. Butchart.

We were all very well cared for by the Club and staff at Carmel Court with evening meals provided Monday to Friday and breakfast Monday to Saturday. We all looked forward to t-bone steaks on Friday night and all other evening meals were of a good quality and served over about a two- hour period depending on training time finishes. On Thursday nights during the season, we dined in the Redlegs Club. Also, our washing was done weekly and rooms cleaned which was a great benefit when we all worked and trained several nights a week. On occasions, some clothes went missing from the laundry but the gear would often turn up in the next few weeks. The common games room with television, table tennis, and darts was the main gathering area and

enabled us to relax in the evenings. There was also a swimming pool and gym weights which were both well used and very popular particularly in summer months. However, the most valuable and memorable part of Carmel Court were the other players as we created a special bond that has remained with us for many years. Whenever you catch up with another former resident there is an immediate friendship and it is always easy to converse and share our common experiences from many years ago. In those days there was always someone to run with before work, have a kick at nearby Parkinson Oval, go out with to a social function, share a drink at the pub or give you a lift somewhere. We had lots of laughs as well as helping each other get through tough times and looked out for each other and became similar in many ways to family.

I vividly remember playing Under 19's in my first year at Norwood and traveling to the games in several cars with six to eight others and sitting in the grandstand together watching the Under 17's before our game. The other local members of the team would sit together segregated from us as we were seen as taking their mates positions in the teams which must have made winning games a difficult task. The segregation experienced was not as apparent in the senior teams as all players at this level came from a variety of places and once selected appeared to be more readily accepted by the other players. In the years that followed the influx of country players was more readily accepted by the local players which led to a more harmonious environment.

The team from Carmel Court

In their reminiscing Greg Turbill and Gary Menzel (with help from some other residents) applied themselves to picking their best team from Carmel Court years. They came up with this combination:-

From the forward line:

Menzel	Carman	Kuchel
Pettingill	Theil	Craig
Rosser	Taylor (V/C)	Jenkins
Clarke	Kerley	Butchart
Poulter	Stasinowsky	Schmaal

Ruck: Button, Wynne (Capt.), Turbill

Interchange: Noble, Nalder, White, Tye

Emergencies: Fitzgerald, Lokan, Nash, Flavel, Goodale, J Mulranney, G Blythman, J Blythman, Boase.

Coach: Neil Craig

A note on occupancy

In material researched from Management Committee minutes etc. the names of Carmel Court residents were not recorded until 1970. Previous to that time references to the occupation of the "Myall Avenue Hostel" were by the number in house only i.e. "In 1969 occupancy had reached a capacity of 24 recruits". Consequently, not all recruits' names have been recorded in this document. No attempt was made to record the names of non-football residents, who over the years assisted the club to reach its financial targets.

This paper was prepared in April 2017 by: -

Wally Miller Carmel Court administrator from 1968 to 1976

Glen Rosser Player Life Member and Carmel Court resident 1969 to 1972

Allison Manefield (nee Hembrow) Carmel Court administrator from 1972 to 1976 and NFC secretary 1972 to 1980

Attachment – Carmel Court Photographs



**39 Myall Ave Kensington Gardens
1971**



Players lounge carpeted in red & blue squares



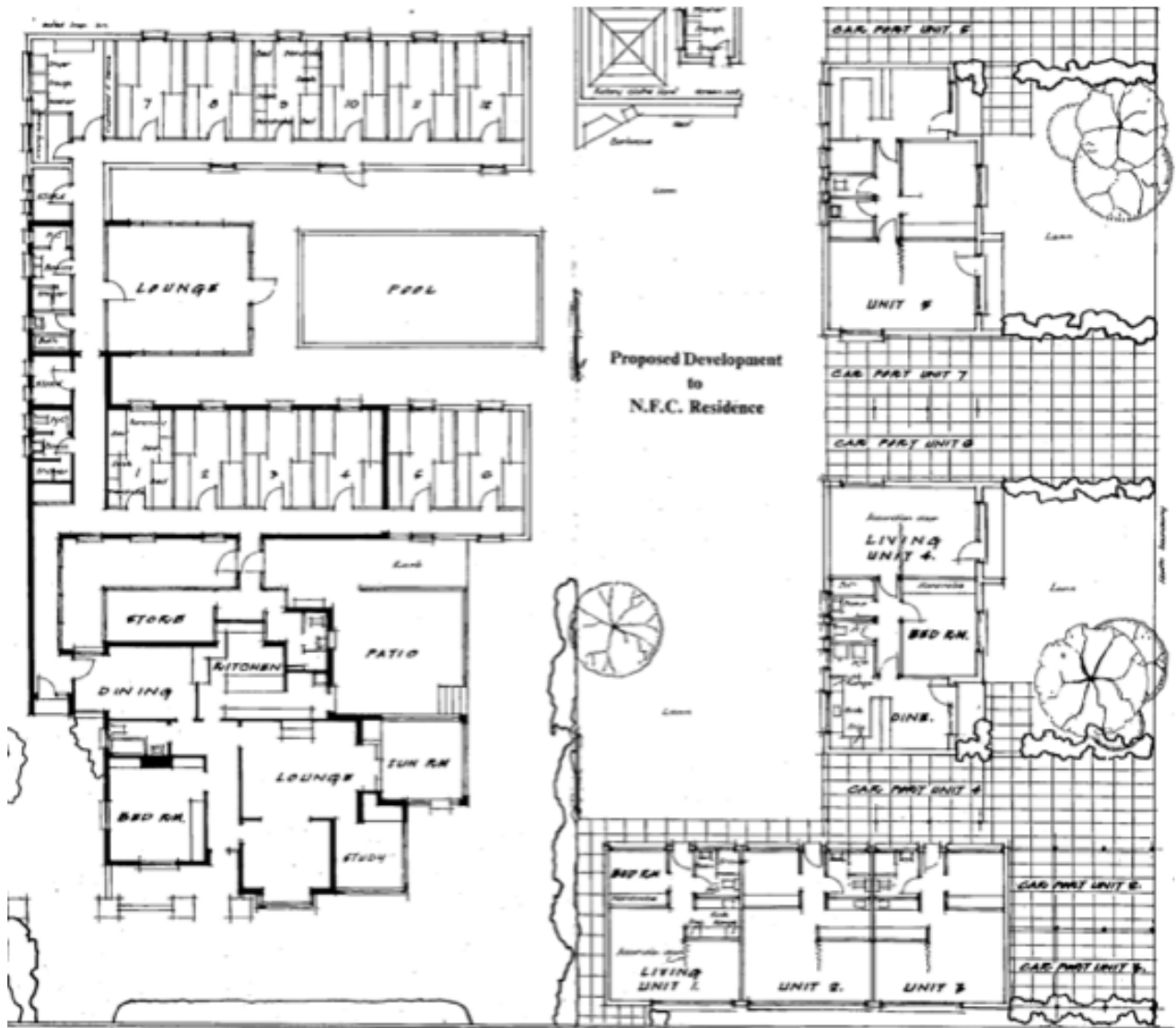
Boarder's bedroom unit



Cleaning the pool



Monday was washing day for Mrs Ingham



Carmel Court floor plan