

IN BLACK & WHITE



inblackandwhite
@heraldsun.com.au

JEN KELLY

Club history up in smoke

THEY'VE barely been heard of since the mid-20th century, but "smoke nights" were once an important male bonding ritual held everywhere from sports groups to veterans clubs.

"Smoke nights" or "smoke socials" were strictly all-male affairs with an air of class and respectability, and reached their peak of popularity in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

As the name suggests, men

would gather in large numbers to smoke tobacco, often coupled with a formal dinner or musical entertainment.

One such smoke night appears in the scant records of the Burwood Cricket Club, which is trying to piece together more of its history with the help of historian Stella Barber.

It was a time when the sport was often described in the papers as "the manly game of cricket".

Dr Barber says a smoke night for

men only was held in 1891 to celebrate awarding of the Gilmour Trophy, after an epic final that lasted six consecutive Saturdays.

"The night consisted of many musical numbers and the local paper reported, 'Mr James Rae then amused the company by playing a selection of instrumental music on a small brass whistle'," she says.

"Fast-forward to the 1970s when awards nights were often drunken gatherings featuring dancing girls and when trophy winners woke up

with pounding heads wondering what happened the night before."

By contrast, half a century on, the club now bills itself as one of our most inclusive.

Now the club is hoping Herald Sun readers may have memorabilia, photos, film or documents hidden in garages or attics that may help flesh out the club's long history. If you can help, let us know.

And if you have tales of smoke nights or other forgotten rituals of the past, share them with us.

MILESTONES

■ GIVE a standing ovation to Neville and Fay Lightfoot, of Eaglehawk, who are celebrating 70 years of marriage today.

And congratulations to Beryl and Peter Meeking, from Echuca, who picked this day 68 years ago to tie the knot.

WE LOVE CELEBRATING MILESTONES. JUST DROP US A LINE TWO TO FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AHEAD.

The rest is easy

■ YOU know you're getting old, says Barb, from Benalla, when it takes longer to rest than it did to get tired in the first place.



JOKE OF THE DAY

I ALWAYS carry a photo of my wife and children in my wallet - it reminds me why there's no money in there.
FROM PETER GILBERT OF WARRAGUL



A CART ABOVE

NORTH Melbourne footballer Bob Brooker was pictured in *The Herald* taking his kids for a billycart ride in 1954. Even Bluey the kelpie came along for the ride with Bob and

wife Pat's sons, Graham, 2, and Robert, 4, at their home in Mordialloc. For more photos from our archives, follow us on Instagram: [HERALDSUNPHOTO_RETRO](#)