

Ipswich Soccer

Anglo Queensland Football was first played in Ipswich in the 1880's with the first recorded match being in 1886.

Blackstone and Bundamba districts were first to field teams and were followed by the Dinmore district

In the early years teams were based around mining companies. Mining and Football in Ipswich were to be linked through until the seventies.

The early mine owners like Lewis Thomas were pioneers of the game and provided land for clubs. The land mostly bush would be required to be cleared by some of the players themselves. The mine owners would be influential in the game also becoming administrators and Club patrons.

The early teams were made up of predominately immigrants from the UK who had sailed to Australia arriving in Ipswich as early as 1850. With the second generation of these immigrants being born in Ipswich teams became home grown. The 1926 all conquering Blackstone Rovers team were all home grown players with eight from Blackstone and three from Dinmore.

In the early years whilst the grounds were not ideal this was made up for with enthusiasm for the game. Most players would work on Saturday morning mostly at the mine and then play that afternoon as no games were played on a Sunday until 1949.

Up until bus or car transport was available players would walk, run on go by horse and buggy to games. Players thought nothing of riding horseback up to 40 kilometres one way to play a game.

Teams travelling to Brisbane to play had special train carriages set aside for the trip and travelled back the next day as games were scheduled in the afternoon so players could arrive in time from Ipswich.

As a result home teams would graciously provide entertainment and meals for visiting teams.

Results of these games were not reported to the Queensland Times until days later

It would not be until the 1894 when homing pigeons were used that a result was known on the day.

Toddy Edwards Blackstone Rovers International recalled in the twenties working at the pithead, running home bathing, as no facilities existed in the mines eat if time allowed and then run from Blackstone to the north east through the borehole to Bundamba Railway Station to catch the train to Brisbane. Players were also risking their livelihoods as no compensation from employers existed and injured players had to rely on the funds being raised to support them. A number of organisations assisted including the Masonic Clubs

During the war years whilst competition was suspended the Ipswich Patriotic Soccer committee headed by Alec Gibb arranged matches between collieries and services team to uphold the game in the wartime essential service and to raise funds for the war effort

The rivalry between Ipswich and Brisbane has endured the 134 years of the game in Queensland, from the * Kruger Cup and other *Intercity matches through to the administration of the game.

(*Matches won Ipswich (70) Brisbane (58) Draws 22 Venue of matches Brisbane 89,Ipswich 61)

The competition has split between Brisbane and Ipswich on a couple of occasions with the Ipswich and West Moreton Football Association fiercely guarding the interests of Ipswich clubs from its inception in 1891 through until 1940 when the senior competition fell under the control of Queensland Football Association.

Throughout these times despite the decline of the Brisbane competition in the early 1900's and the split in 1930 Ipswich clubs remained a force which was shown when the competition reunited in 1937 Ipswich clubs won fifteen of the next 19 Premierships. Ipswich also held additional competitions for Ipswich based clubs from 1891-1956 such as the Challenge and Hetherington Cups O'Callaghan Shield and Cribb and Foote Cup and other competitions for Charity

Ipswich achieved an unequalled representation of players in Queensland and Australian teams
Ipswich had a player in the Queensland team every year a team was chosen from 1890 until 1990
In the late sixties Soccer News magazine selected their best Qld Team from 1956-1967

Nine of the eleven were from Ipswich

The team was Brian Topfer, Alwyn Warren, Alex Duncan, Norm Rule Robert Lawrie, Cliff Sander, Brian Vogler
Spencer Kitching Gordon (Bunny) Nunn, Col Kitching, Graham McMillan



In the period 1922 -1959 thirty eight players gained International Honours

From 1922 to 1959 there was an Ipswich player chosen to represent the country every year a National team was selected except 1928 and 1933. In one year five Ipswich players were selected.

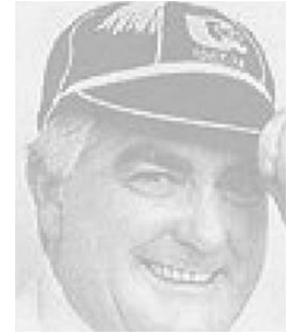
Ipswich also had the honour of having the first Australian captain Alec Gibb

Ipswich was home of the most Australian representatives per head of population in Australia with fifty men and four women representing Australia

Four Ipswich players would also be inducted into the Soccer Hall of Fame

Alec Gibb, Gordon (Bunny) Nunn., Robert Lawrie, Cliff Sander, Gary Wilkins

Success at club level shows Ipswich has four of the top five clubs in terms of total trophies won
 From 1886-1921 in the Combined Brisbane/Ipswich Competition Ipswich teams won ten of fifteen Premierships
 From 1922 -1959 Ipswich teams won eighteen Division one Premierships along with nineteen Tristram and two Hilton Shield's
 In total from 1889 until 1958 when the movement of players to Brisbane clubs began Ipswich teams won twenty nine of the thirty eight combined Premierships including five Premierships in a row 1953-1957
 Due to the player movement to Brisbane clubs it wasn't until 1979 before Ipswich once again won a trophy. Success followed in the mid eighties with Premiership and Cup Titles
 This was short lived as it would be another thirty years before an Ipswich Senior team would win a title with Western Pride crowned National Premier League champions in 2017
 Ipswich did have success however in Woman's Soccer(covered in separate volume) and with Junior teams and in the Queensland Christian Soccer competition



Soccer has been an important part of Ipswich's History which can be seen by the number of locations named after Soccer identities(1).

- Bob Lawrie Oval Silkstone State School named after Soccer Hall of Fame member
- Bognuda Street, Bundamba named after Mathew Bognuda, co-owner of Reliance Pottery,
- Coalstars Bridge to recognise women's soccer
- Eric Evans Reserve Bundamba a tribute to Secretary and Life member of Coalstars
- Gledson st Booval named after David Gledson (Attorney General of Qld) and player from Bundamba Rangers
- Hudson Street, Dinmore, named after Joseph Hudson who was administrator and owned the Hudson Pottery
- Kath Chandler Field, Raceview Kath Chandler was a Life member of the Queensland Christian Soccer Association.
- Kearton Lane Ripley named after Coalstars player Jason Kearton who represented Australia
- Lindsay Street, Bundamba named after the Lindsay Brothers who started Braeside Colliery and were original team Bundamba Rovers
- *Evan Marginson Park named after Blackstone Rovers, Rosebells and Booval Stars player
- Shelley Street, Brassall, named after Sam Shelley Blackstone Rovers and Qld player
- Shenton House named after International Clarence Shenton
- Stan McCrea Field, Ebbw Vale, named after Stan McCrea Life member of St Helens
- Stafford St Booval named after the Stafford brothers founders of Whitwood FC William was President of West Moreton Football

With the expansion of the city in to new suburbs twelve clubs (5 Senior and seven Junior) were operating in 2020

As a result Ipswich Soccer future looks bright

The following pages document the history and achievements

Source:Ipswich Library (1)