Permanent Reservation and Control of City Park Lands

- Responsibility of Lands Department and City of Melbourne

Government Gazette 20 page 470, 1864

Yarra Park

YARRA PARK (formerly known as Richmond Police Paddock)—County of Bourke: Commencing at the south-east angle of the Mounted Police Barracks reserve; thence west to the south-west angle thereof; thence north to Wellington parade; by that parade west to the north-east angle of the property of C. J. La Trobe, Esq.; thence south and west by that property to Jolimont road; by that road south to the Yarra Yarra River; by that river easterly to the Punt road; and by that road north to the point of commencement. Land to be excluded from above-described area:—The land occupied by the Melbourne Railway; the Metropolitan Cricket Ground; extension of Botanical Gardens; and proposed road one chain fifty links wide, parallel to the north bank of the Yarra Yarra River, extending in a westerly direction from the Punt road. The permanent reservation of this land for public recreation to be subject to the condition that the Richmond Cricket Club, the Lonsdale Cricket Club, and the Press Cricket Club, be allowed by the City Council to retain the use of the portions of ground hitherto occupied by those clubs.

Commenced 12/2/1861 by Crown Land Order

Comments

- Yarra Park was formerly called Richmond Police Paddock
- Yarra Park in NE corner had Mounted Police Barracks Reserve
- Land Excluded
    - Extension of Botanic Gardens
    - Melbourne Railway
    - Melbourne Cricket Ground
    - Proposed road 1 chain 50 links parallel to North Bank of Yarra
    - Property of C J Latrobe
- Permanent reservation of land for public recreation subject to the condition that
    - Richmond Cricket Club
    - Lonsdale Cricket Club
    - Press Cricket Club

Be allowed by the City Council to retain the use of the portions of the ground occupied by those clubs

Other significant changes

- Botanic Gardens station serving MCC and Botanic Gardens, Footbridges over rail land, extension of Swan st, building of Cricket Ground facilities, new rail reserve along Wellington Parade, Olympic and Commonwealth Games ground redevelopment, deletion of all land south of Brunton Avenue from Yarra Park, widening of Hoddle st, forecourt and lighting

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Why are there text errors?

EXIT EAST MELBOURNE.

Famous Cricket-ground Closed.

"We, the undersigned residents in or near East Melbourne, many of whom have been affiliated with tlhe Abbotsford Cricket Club, being desirous of promoting the manly game of cricket on ground convenient to our respective residences, solicit you, by authority or recommendation, to permit us the regular use of a suitable block of Crown land for the purpose of the game."

Thus runs a memorial presented to the president of the Board of Lands and Survey in 1860 by members or the East Melbourne Cricket Club, in support of an application for the use of portion of Captain Lonsdale's cow paddock at East Melbourne. There had been other applicant, notably the Press club, which had a strong team in those days; but this memorial, backed up by Mr. J. Wilkie, M.L.A., the member for the district, was so convincing that the Minister for Lands (Dr. Greaves), to use his own words, "did not see how he could refuse such a request, supported as it was, and on October 23, 1860, the East Melbourne Cricket Club was granted permission "to play cricket on the ground in question, until further notice, on the understanding that the club will have an exclusive right to the ground, that no trees be interfered with, and no fence erected." And so the East Melbourne ground was established. Some three years before then Messrs. T. and C. Dight. J. O. and Fred Moody, from the Scotch College, used to meet for practice in Dight's paddock at Abbotsford, and when they were joined by another Scotch Collegian, A. E. Clarke, the Abbotsford Cricket Club was formed. Later on other Scotch Collegians, as they left school, joined the club, and practised on a vacant piece of land at the corner of Albert and Clarendon street. East Melbourne, until, as the members increased, they took up a pitch in the Richmond paddock, just outside the Melbourne Cricket-ground. It was Mr. A. E. Clarke who suggested trying to obtain Captain Lonsdale's cow paddock, and changing the name to East Melbourne, and, with that pertinacity for which he was noted, I he never rested till he succeeded. Then, having given the club birth, be acted as its first hon. secretary for four years, was successively hon. treasurer and vice-president, intil, in 1865, he was elected president. With the exception of one year, when he stood aside for the late Sir James MacBain, Mr. Clarke held the position until 1903, when he retired, and was elected life patron, the office being created specially for him. Mr. Clarke died in 1913,

but before he died he wrote the history of the East Melbourne Cricket Club. Of the original members of the club, only Messrs. Diaries night (the founder of the Abbotsford club), W. E. Parry-Okeden (first president of E.M.C.C), Daniel Wilkie, and A. E. Clarke were alive at the time of the club's jubilee, and of these Messrs. Clarke and Wilkie have since played their last innings.

When the cricket club first obtained possession of the ground, it was like a bog in winter, and it cost a lot of time and money to get it into order. Tlie first ball bowled was by F. Moody, a fast, erratic bowler, to the president (Mr. Parry Okeden). It landed in a hole made by a cow's foot, and, rising sharply, struck Mr. Okeden on on the forehead, stunning him. Soon, however, a pitch was made, and, as time went on, it was turfed, until for very many years it has been possible to get a perfect wicket at East Melbourne, while the outfield was fast and true. The ground used to be surrounded by a two-rail fence, but gradually, despite the conditions in the original grant, it became "enclosed," and the East Melbourne club, became to all intents and purposes, the owners. The first pavilion was built of wood in 1865, and 20 years later the present brick building was erected. After considerable trouble with the Lands department, a committee of management was appointed and gazetted in 1876 consisting of the Minister for Lands, Messrs. R.D.). Reid. A. E. Clarke, O. C. Williams, H. H. Budd, and William Riggall and of these Mr. Riggall is the only-survivor. The development of the ground has always been retarded by the uncertainty of the tenure, and by the constant threats of resumption by the Railways department. From time to time the loss of the ground appeared imminent, but, just when the end seemed near, the strenuous effort of old friends saved the situation until now, and at last the club has been dispossessed, and the platc thereof will know it no more.

One extraordinary feature of the East Melbourne ground as been the length of service of its officers. Mr. A. E. Clarke has already been referred to; Mr. W. Riggall, one of the original members and vice-president in 1870, has been continuously vice-president since 1900; Mr. W. G. Hickford has been hon. treasurer for 20 years; Mr. E. B. Maiming was secretary for 13 years, Mr. F. S. Hilcke hon. secretary for 15 years, and Mr. H. H. Rudd for 10 years. In captaincy there seemed to be the same permanence. For its first 5O rears the club had but three captains -- D. Wilkie (186-75), H. F. Boyle (1871 to 1893), and F. Laver (1893-19I0). The position of curator has also only been held by three men. McAlpine, McAulay (better known as "Old Mac"), and F. Capewell, who finally handed the ground over to

the railway yardsman. Similarly its players have stuck to it year in and year out, and the remarkable success of the club has been due to the fact that there was always a happy family at East Melbourne. As one reads tho history of the club one is the more impressed by the strong bond of union ling between members. In fact, it is as a club that East Melbourne has been famous. Its aims and aspirations have always been for East Melbourne. Its horizon was bounded by its own activities. In the heyday of success the institution of district cricket struck a death-blow at the club, and its performances since 1906, when residential qualification was insisted on for pennant matches, have not reached anything approaching its prior glory.

In all, during its long career, the first eleven of the East Melbourne played 1,112 matches, winning 587 and losing 178. No fewer than 343 matches were drawn, three resulted in a tie and one was abandoned. The team won the premiership on 22 occasions, and was runner-up 20 times.

The Eats Melbourne Ground as far back as 1861, was called "the nursery of cricketers" and a glance at the list of names which follow will show how the name was justified. Take the international players first - F. Laver. P. A. McAlister, A. E. Trott, T. Horan, H. V. Boyle, H.J.H. Scott. T. W. Groube, and E. R. Mayne, who, however, only came to East Melbourne late. Then the older brigade? Dan Wilkie, W. W. Gaggin, W. Campbell, L. Goldsmith, C. Forrester, E.P. Hastings, C. G. Alice, E. Elliott (the wicket-keeper), P. C. 'McShane, P. Lewis, J. Healey. J. Harry, V.R. Trapp, H.Musgrove, G. Gordon, J. W. Allie, W. R. Robertson; and in more recent years S. McMichaell (as player and secratary and one of the founders of the board of control), H. J. Stuckey. F. B. Collins (who lost his life in the war), H. Wright, C. Letcher, Arthur Christian. A. S. Carter. L.N. Rainey, J. A. Seitz, F. Baring, L. McNaughton, and many moro. Almost every one of these, at one time or another, represented Victoria, and all were flirt -class players.

No reference to East Melbourne ground would be complete without mention of the Essendon Football Club, which, making its home at East Melbourne in 1882 remained practically partners in the ground til the end. No ground profited more bv football gates than East Melbourne, and no cricket club was more ready to acknowledge the financial assistance given by the winter sport to the summer game. Although separate entiities of the two clubs worked well together, ad the fame of Essendon did as much to increase the popularity of theground as the handiness of the ground to the city did to enhance the success of Essendon.

Baseball and skittles were two kindred sports which grew and flourished under the wing of the East Melbourne club, and in each there were championships and premierships galore won by the men of Jolimont.

The loss of the East Melbourne ground as a sports oval was inevitable, but none the less to be regretted. It was so central that the clubs playing there became cosmopolitan. Around it is woven much romance and a vast amount of sentiment, fostered a great deal by topical verse written at various times by Messrs. J Jenvey and E. R. Manning, but in its simplicity, its absence sf elaborate improvement, it exercised a charm on its members which nothing could eradicate. Though the close neighbour of the Melbourne Cricket ground there was between the two places a strong -- at times bitter rivalry. The Melbourne Cricket Club, with its wider outlook, its much stronger financial position, knew that just across the road was its poorer, but no less enthusiastic brother, and in all the years those at East Melbourne never forgot that they were only able to struggle along, while Melbourne waxed fat and prosperous. There has been a pathetic touch in the eviction of East Melbourne from its home at Jolimont. The old club has done much for cricket, and it is hoped that it will be able to transfer the spirit of Jolimont to the rarer atmosphere of Hawthorn, with which it has amalgamated

towers around MCC, events and car parking in Yarra Park, expanded watering and storage system

Fitzroy Gardens

MELBOURNE EAST—Fitz Roy Gardens, to be *permanently* reserved for Public Gardens, pursuant to Order of 15th February, 1864.—Sixty four acres two roods, county of Bourke: Commencing at the south-east angle, being a point bearing west one chain fifty links from the south-west angle of block 15, East Melbourne; bounded on the east by Clarendon street, bearing north thirty chains; on the north by Albert street, bearing west twenty-one chains fifty links; on the west by Lansdowne street, bearing south thirty chains; and on the south by Wellington parade, bearing east twenty-one chains fifty links to the point of commencement.—(62.E.5236.)—Gazetted (1°) on 26th February, 1864.

Gazetted 26/2/1864

Other significant changes

- Designed by Clement Hodgkinson and planted by James Sinclair
- Physical changes from initial layout
    - Removal of planted blue gums and wattles, Kiosk, rotunda, relocated nursey and depot, information centre, Sinclair's cottage and gate keeper's cottage, Cook's cottage, Conservatory, substation, expanded storage and watering system to include all garden beds and grass areas and water main through gardens