



## PICTORIAL NEWS

### The idea of the Marconi Club

It was born in 1956 as the necessity of a meeting place for the italians of the district. Promoters were: Provino and Ruben Sartor, Davino Zadro, Angelo Pessotto, Antonio Pessotto, Andrea Zulian, Felice Zadro, Eustacchio Del Pin, Sebastiano Crestani, Nino Zamprogno and Rino Bagatella.

The locality was chosen: Corner Middle Rd. (changed to Marconi Rd.) and Prairievale Rd. on land owned by the Sartor brothers and offered to the club for \$6900-00 interest free. The first general meeting was held the 21st November, 1956, with 300 members, in the hut of S. Crestani in Trivett Street, Horsley Park. The club was built by the builders L. Zamprogno, Argo Benedetti and Gisberto Benedetti and was officially opened the 2nd August, 1958 by the Italian Consul Sebastiani and attending the ceremony were the Mayor of Fairfield, Ald. Makepeace, Mr. Whitlam and Mr. Mannix. The second stage of the buildings was inaugurated the 24th November, 1962. Today the club numbers about 3000 members. The game of bocce is the most popular sport. In 1959 the Marconi Cup was started. The Cup, worth \$800, is played every year with the following clubs competing: Marconi Club, A.P.I.A. Club, Fraternity Club, Yoogali Catholic Club and Hanwood Catholic Club. The Youth Centre was formed in 1960 and the Ladies Committee in 1962. Soccer started as an offshoot of the Y.C. and today, for legal reason, it has formed its own club named Marconi Southern District Soccer Football Club. The Club, always responsive to public appeals, has given so far to charities more than 20,000 dollars. It is one of the finalities of the Club to help the integration of the Italian migrant in the australian community and improve the common understanding.



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## The name

The name of Guglielmo Marconi was suggested by Oscar Michelini at the second meeting of the Provisional Committee, the 18th September 1956. The name of the inventor of wireless was chosen because it was thought it had appeal for both Italians and Australians.

The name was confirmed in 1956. In fact, in the minutes of the meeting held the 28th November, 1957, one can read: "Moved by Mr. Michelini seconded by Mr. Fiorelli that the name of the club — Club Marconi of Bossley Park Social Recreation and Sporting Centre Limited — be confirmed and that name be the official name of the Club all the time".

## The memorial

The bust of Marconi one can see in the foyer of the club, was donated by the Italian Government in January, 1959. The pedestal was inscribed with the following words in Italian: "To Guglielmo Marconi / 1874-1937 / immortal genius of the Italian nation / who first / with / science's wonders and spiritual wings linked Australia with the world / the Italians of the Club that, in Bossley Park, N.S.W., bears his name / with fraternal auspices for the australians of the future / dedicate /. The inscription was written by E. Del Pin who was the first life member of the club, being so named in recognition of his vital contribution to the formation of the club.



## Emblem

The emblem of the club appearing on the membership badge, was designed by the artist Zuliani, painter and photographer of Leichhardt, who won the competition called by the Club in 1958.

## Flag

The flag — the emblem of the Club on blue background — was created in November 1958.

## Uniform

The uniform — blue blazer with the emblem of the club emblazoned on the breast pocket, grey trousers and blue tie, was born the 27th March, 1960.

## Company formation

Club Marconi was registered as a Company limited by guarantee with Number 6262-91 according to the Company Act of 1936, section 28, the 18th of March, 1957. Subscribers to the Articles and Memorandum of Association were: V.A. Pessotto,

Lorenzo Zamprogno, Ruben Sartor, Provino Sartor, Sebastiano Crestani, Victor Fiorelli, Carmelo Casareca, Andrea Zuliani, Rino Bagatella, Oscar Michelini, Eustacchio Del Pin, Argo Benedetti.

## Liquor License registration

The certificate of Registration of the club was issued the 11th November, 1957 pending the sale of liquor to 2 acres of the 5 acres the club then owned.

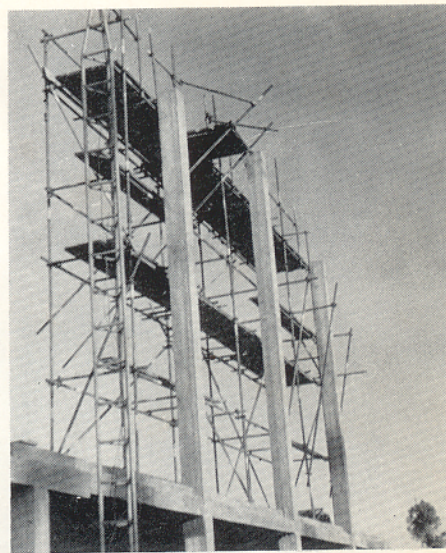


The first general meeting of the Club was held in this shed (Trivett Street, Horsley Park) on the 9th of September 1957.

## The land and the building

The first section of the Club, built under the supervision of the Building Subcommittee (O. Michelini, S. Crestani, F. Zadro, Provino Sartor) cost 120,000 dollars. The first discussion regarding the necessity of adding to the original building took place at the general meeting of the 16th October, 1959. The minutes of the said meeting record: "Item 9 — After much discussion by many members, the meeting resolved to extend the premises as soon as possible". The 25th of the same month, the committee at an extraordinary meeting, commissioned Arch. Cavalier to submit plans and specifications. The extensions were confirmed the year after at the annual meeting of 1960 even though there were only 55 members present (it was the most poorly attended annual general meeting in all these ten years) and notwithstanding that, at the time, the club had no assurances of receiving a loan.

At the annual general meeting of 1961, the President, Fiorelli was in a position to inform the members that the Bank of New South Wales prepared to advance \$50,000. But let's quote from the minutes of the meeting: "Item 9 — The President said this was insufficient to meet the proposed extensions and requested further debentures from members, opening the request



August 1962 — An impressive view of the progress of the new extensions.

with his personal offer of \$2,000. Within ten minutes offers totaled \$20,400-00". This is as far as the minutes go but it is a fact that brings credit to all members that by the evening of the same day the offers reached the total of \$90,000.00. A building committee was formed and included V. Fiorelli, E. Intilia, R. Mauro, A. Fornasier, L. Raumer.



The main entrance of the Club in 1958.

The new section of the club was built by Thiess Bros. and was officially opened the 24th November, 1962. The picnic ground was purchased the 5th November, 1962 for \$12,000. The other block of land opposite the Club and extending along Marconi Road was bought the 10th August 1960 at the cost of \$16,000. Today the club owns 22 acres of land.