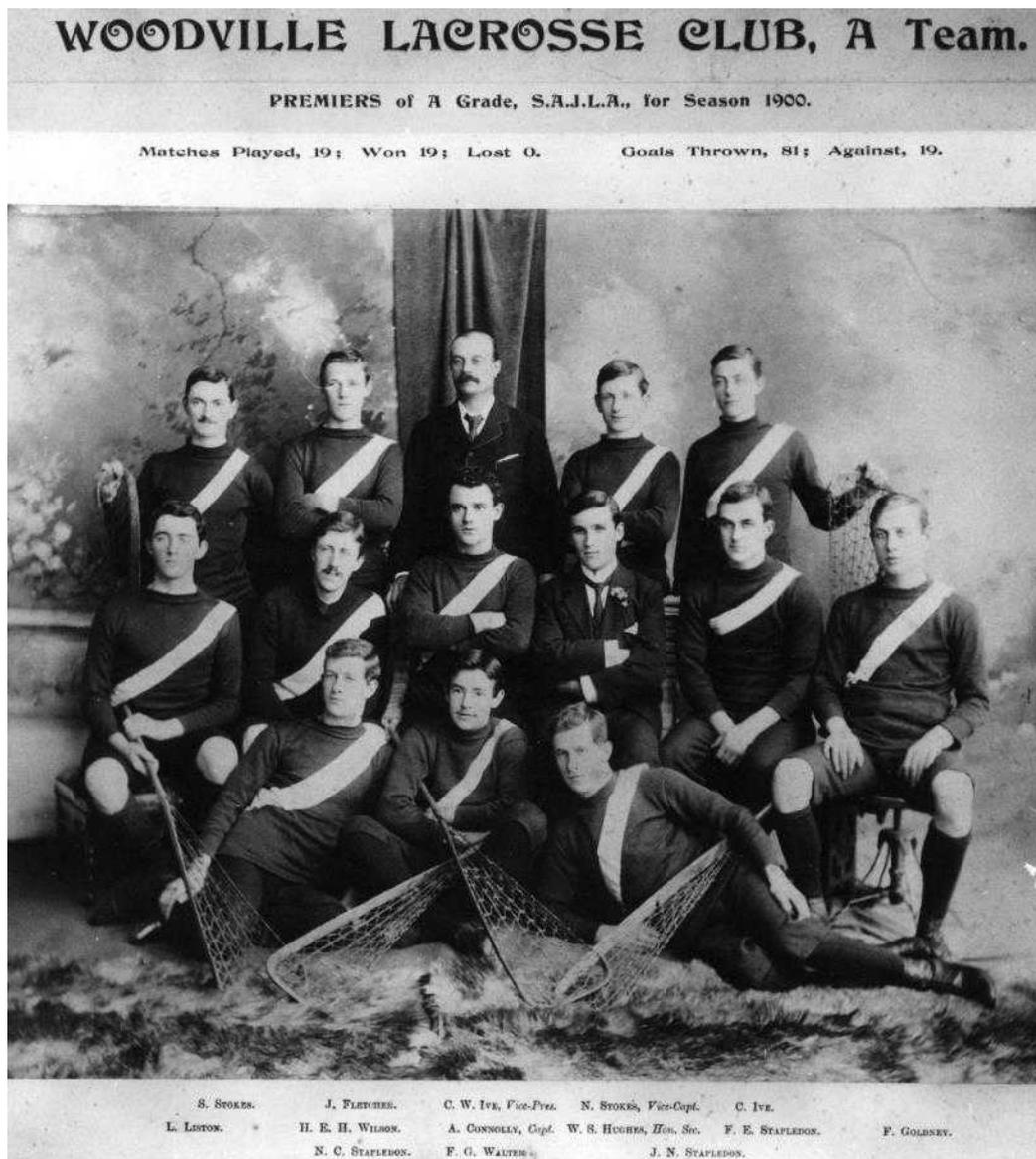


## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WOODVILLE LACROSSE CLUB

The Woodville Lacrosse Club was formed on 24 February 1899 when a meeting of was held at the Woodville Institute for the purpose of forming a club. The newly formed club secured the use of the Cheltenham racecourse from the Port Adelaide Racing Club as its home ground, sharing it with the Semaphore Lacrosse Club who had formed days after Woodville. Both teams entered the South Australian Junior Lacrosse Association's B Grade competition, and their first competitive matches were against each other.

Woodville earned early success, winning the SAJLA B Grade competition in 1899, and having been promoted to the A Grade of the SAJLA, duly won that competition in 1900. Below is that premiership team.



Men's Junior A Grade Premiers, 1900

Woodville were then elevated to the South Australian (senior) Lacrosse Association in 1901, but found that competition a lot more challenging, and won just a single match in that season, in the final round against North Adelaide. Meanwhile, Semaphore Lacrosse Club folded, with most members joining Woodville.

With the introduction of “electorate” lacrosse in 1903, requiring lacrosse players to represent the team tied to the district in which they lived, Woodville changed the name of the club to Port Adelaide Lacrosse Club to reflect the district from which players were drawn. Success followed soon after, with Port Adelaide (with the assistance of several members of the Holdfast Bay Lacrosse Club) securing the SALAA Grade premiership in 1904.



Men's A Grade Premiers, 1904

A lean period followed for the club, with only one top-two placing for the next three decades, including a five-year recess as a result of the First World War, PALC not returning to competition until 1921, playing games from Largs Reserve, before the condition of the ground saw the club move to Woodville Oval from 1929, and soon added “District” to the club’s name.

Port Adelaide slowly rebuilt, and claimed back-to-back premierships in 1931 and 1932.

The Second World War affected Port Adelaide as much as any club, but the club maintained a junior program, leading to the start of a golden era for the club, where the club played in 10 of 12 A grand finals between 1949 and 1960 (including a replay), winning four premierships. The culmination of this era was arguably in 1959, when Port Adelaide won the premiership in a grand final replay over Brighton, six players represented South Australia, and two of them, Graham Lines and Ralph Turner, represented Australia in the test match against the United States on the MCG.



Men's A Grade Premiers, 1959

With the Woodville Football Club's imminent inclusion into the SANFL, the Woodville Oval ground was no longer available to the PADLC. Woodville Council found a ground for the club at Matheson Reserve in Findon from the 1967 season, in which the club was also renamed back to the Woodville Lacrosse Club.

Women's lacrosse was introduced at Woodville in 1968, with a team coached by Ken Forrest entering the SAWLA B Grade competition, and winning in its first season. The team was promoted to A Grade the next season, and was competitive, making three grand finals in the 1970s, but could not overcome the dominant Seacombe Women's Lacrosse Club. Meredith Fowler and Anne Cameron were representatives in the Australian women's team's first overseas tour in 1972.



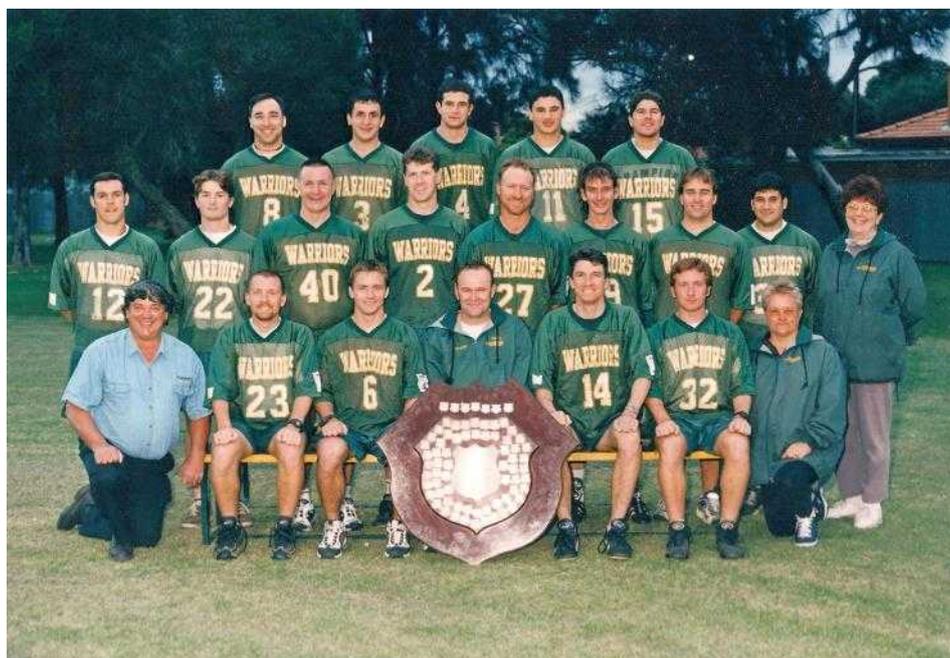
Women's B Grade Premiers, 1968

The development of Woodville Women's Lacrosse Club stalled however, with the team dropping out of A Grade by the late 1970s, and by 1985 the women's club had folded.

Woodville's men's team had also found itself in the wilderness, struggling to be competitive against the strongest clubs through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

In the 1990s however, the Woodville Lacrosse Club was determined to get itself back on track. Women's lacrosse was restarted under a unified club banner in 1990, and under the direction of David Inge, a five-year plan was implemented in 1992 to focus on the development of a promising group of junior players into successful senior players.

Woodville slowly climbed the ranks, making A Grade finals for the first time in a long time, and becoming minor premiers and making the grand final in 1997, only to be humiliated by West Torrens in the decider. The 1998 grand final was heading a similar way, with West Torrens leading by 4 goals heading into the final quarter, before a Woodville resurgence forced the game in overtime, where Woodville scored the only goal and hung on for its first premiership in almost 40 years.



Men's State League Premiers, 1998

Led by Australian representatives, brothers' James and Peter Inge, with many other talented players such as twins Anthony and Richard Feleppa, Craig Schicker, Brett Howe, Aaron Sargent and Michael Santi among others, the Warriors enjoyed a second golden era, winning 8 premierships from 10 grand final appearances **in the 13 seasons from 1997-2009**. The culmination of this era was the winning of the first Australian Club Championship in 2008, when the Warriors defeated Eltham in an epic match between the premiers of the SA and Victorian men's state league competitions.



Australian Club Champions 2008 Following the men's success, Woodville began redeveloping its women's program, and based around a core group of talented players, is now a regular finalist in the SA women's state league competition, including a minor premiership and heartbreaking grand final loss in 2018 the closest the Warriors have come to A Grade success in women's lacrosse.

However, with a promising group of young women, four of whom are representing Australia in the 2023 U20 Women's Lacrosse World Championships in Hong Kong, joining season players including Australian representative Olivia Parker, the Warriors are hungry to make the final step and finally become Women's State League Premiers.



2018 Women's State League team – Minor Premiers and Grand Finalists