

By 1889 eight clubs were competing in NSW - Balmain, Glebe, Iroquois (est 1886), St Leonards (1887), Mohicans (1888 at Parramatta), Kirribilli (1888), Paddington (1889) and Grammar School (1889). Two Intercolonial Matches were played against Queensland in Sydney on 24th and 31st August 1889, with NSW victorious in both.

Broader interstate experience came in 1897 when New South Wales sent a team to Melbourne to play against Victoria and South Australia. Despite being soundly beaten, New South Wales hosted a return visit from Victoria the following year and in 1889 travelled to both Melbourne and Adelaide for competition.

The highlight of the early years of lacrosse was the tour of Australia by Canada in 1907. The tour was prompted by the suggestion of Mr E.J. Boswell, a Vice-President of the NSW Association who visited Canada in 1899, although it was not until some years later that Australia issued a formal invitation to the Canadian Lacrosse Association. The Canadians arrived in Brisbane on July 14, 1907 and, after defeating Queensland travelled by train to Sydney for a match against New South Wales, which was played at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday 22 July before a disappointing crowd of one thousand spectators. The result was an 11-0 victory for the Canadians.

CANADIAN TEAM.



Back Row—W. Attow, A. Rose, R. J. Arcus, T. Hanley, E. V. Graham, Dr. Cambell.

Second Row—H. Campin, W. D. Ramore, W. J. Hanley (*Captain*), J. C. Miller (*Manager*), J. M. Kearns, G. A. Macdonald, R. Gilbert.

Front Row—F. J. Grace, F. E. Coombs.

The Lacrosse Tournament attracted between six and seven thousand spectators. A special marquee and seats were provided for invited guests, which included the Hon. James Inglis and several members of Parliament, and the Naval Artillery Band played a selection of airs during the afternoon. A series of half-hour "heats" were played to decide the finalists. In the final, the Balmain club, which had been the season premiers, defeated Iroquois one goal to nil. Summing up the outcome of the tournament, the Sydney Morning Herald reported:

"Judging from the interest aroused, it is very probable that before many years lacrosse will be a hot rival in popularity to our other principal winter game - football".

Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 29 August, 1887, p9.

Also in 1887, New South Wales was invited to send a team for exhibition matches in Queensland where lacrosse had just commenced. New South Wales won in a match played in Brisbane on 24th September, but lost in a return encounter at Ipswich two days later.

INTERCOLONIAL LACROSSE MATCH,



NEW SOUTH WALES V. QUEENSLAND.

NEW SOUTH WALES REPRESENTATIVE-SEASON 1887.



Standing—J. C. Silly, G. Noake, Geo. Banks, A. L. Silly (*Capt.*), W. M. Bligh, E. Broughton, C. J. Grice, S. Ball, A. O. Stevens,
Kneeling—G. W. Pettit, Jas. Banks, J. Matthews, W. Howe.

BRIEF HISTORY OF LACROSSE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The sport of lacrosse was first played in Australia in 1874 in Melbourne, introduced by Mr L.L. Mount, a Canadian immigrant who brought with him a number of lacrosse sticks. The game quickly attracted a following and eventually clubs were formed and the Victorian Lacrosse Association was founded in 1879.

Interest spread to other States and, in July 1883, New South Wales lacrosse was born when a group of enthusiasts met together and formed the Sydney Lacrosse Club. The club played practice games at Moore Park and in 1886 split to establish two clubs, Balmain and Redfern (later called Glebe)

On the 9th of April 1886, the New South Wales Lacrosse Association was founded. In the following year, the Association undertook an ambitious project by staging a lacrosse tournament in Sydney to publicise the game. The Sydney Morning Herald reported that:

"The lacrosse season will be brought to a termination today by a tournament, on the Domain cricket ground, in which the Balmain, St Leonards, Iroquois, Sydney, Redfern and Oaklands clubs will take part. It was intended to have carried this out earlier in the season, but no ground could be secured; and it was only at the last moment that permission was given to use the Domain. It appears that the park is dedicated for the purposes of cricket only, and the devotees of that game jealously guard the monopoly. It is, however, hoped that by next season lacrosse players will have full run of the field for their short season of three months, as Sir Henry Parkes, in granting it on this occasion, spoke very decidedly against the monopoly."

Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 27 August, 1887, p9.

In July 1939 lacrosse activity was suspended due to the onset of the World War. It was not until May 1947 that the game was revived with weekly games being arranged at the old headquarters of the game, the Sydney Domain. New South Wales did not send a team to the Australian Carnival held in Perth in 1947, but Queensland accepted an invitation to play in Sydney on their return, defeating NSW 15-4 in a match played at the Domain. By 1949 only two teams were playing in NSW with total player numbers being 35 - 40.

The sport faded from the scene in the early 1950's and, despite sporadic attempts to revive it, no lacrosse of any significance was played in New South Wales until the introduction of softcrosse, a modified form of lacrosse, occurred through schools in the mid-1980's as part of an Australian Lacrosse Council national development initiative.

The most recent chapter in the history of lacrosse in New South Wales was the formation of New South Wales Lacrosse Incorporated at a meeting of ten interested people convened at Cremorne on 28 February, 1990. At that meeting a constitution was adopted covering men's and women's lacrosse, a development plan was presented and a program to seek affiliation with the Australian Lacrosse Council and Australian Womens Lacrosse Council agreed. The office-bearers elected at that meeting were:

President	-	Judith Halnan
Secretary	-	Sally Dawbarn
Treasurer	-	Lynda Roylance

By September 1991, the Association was able to report on regular practice games with 20 women and 16 men participating and numerous school visits to assist with an expanding interest in softcrosse through the Australian Government's Aussie Sports program. In July, 1991 three teams of English schoolgirls visited Sydney and played in a round-robin series against NSW. At the end of July the Japanese National Junior Womens Team also visited Sydney and further games were played. In November 1991, the ALC and AWLC resolved to support the growing interest in New South Wales by the implementation in 1992 of a junior recruiting and club building project with funding provided by the Australian Sports Commission.

By December 1991, the stage was set for a significant and successful re-emergence of lacrosse in New South Wales.

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New South Wales' best performances in Interstate Carnivals were in 1912 in Melbourne, where NSW finished third behind Victoria and South Australia, defeating Western Australia, Tasmania and Queensland. In Adelaide in 1926, NSW again finished third behind South Australia and Victoria, defeating Western Australia and Queensland.

In 1925 NSW played a match against a United States team of Fleet Officers in Sydney.

1932



N.S.W. Lacrosse team at the Interstate Carnival at Melbourne Motordrome. Standing (l. to r.): H. McIhee, M. Alexander, R. Booth, E. Cook, M. Emmersen, L. Davino, D. Stacey, W. Turner, L. Wood. Seated: W. Harris, T. Hale, W. Wallace (capt.), G. Ulbsa (manager), E. Tarabala, R. Manton, T. Carlisle.

The effects of the Great Depression on the state of lacrosse are reflected in a decline in registered players from 144 in 1933 to 72 in 1935 with only four affiliated clubs remaining - Eastern Suburbs, Balmoral, Bondi Beach and Western Suburbs. The President, Mr A.L. Newman issued a stern warning in the 1936 Annual Report of the Association...

"The position of lacrosse in New South Wales has now reached a stage where Members are warned that if they desire its continuance, each and every Member will have to make a special effort during 1937. The apathy of Members in the past has been appalling, and makes it almost impossible for the Association Executive to function as it should. The Association can only progress by Members taking a more active interest in the affairs of their own Club"

WAVERLEY TEAM. 1908.



BACK ROW—J. B. King, A. Linsley.
 SECOND ROW—J. Turnbull, W. W. King, L. Abel, R. A. Cullenward (CAPT.), S. Fullwood,
 Alf Baxter, Rev. R. O. Todd.
 IN FRONT—A. Fullwood, E. Cullenward.

MOSMAN AND MIDDLE HARBOUR



BACK—Reading from left to right: F. J. Goustone (HON. SEC.), G. Senior, N. Booth, F. Procter,
 C. Reynolds, J. Travers, A. J. Downe, E. H. Senior, W. H. Stillman, B. Mason.
 MIDDLE ROW—C. B. Wood, K. Gattley, J. Ferguson, R. T. Higgs (VICE CAPT.), A. P. R. Lane
 (CAPT. AND HON. TREAS.), W. R. Lane, W. J. Reipolds, B. Watson.
 BOTTOM ROW—E. Allworth, W. H. Goustone, B. Arthur, E. Lane, C. Booth.
 ABSENT—H. R. Keeting, J. Swan.

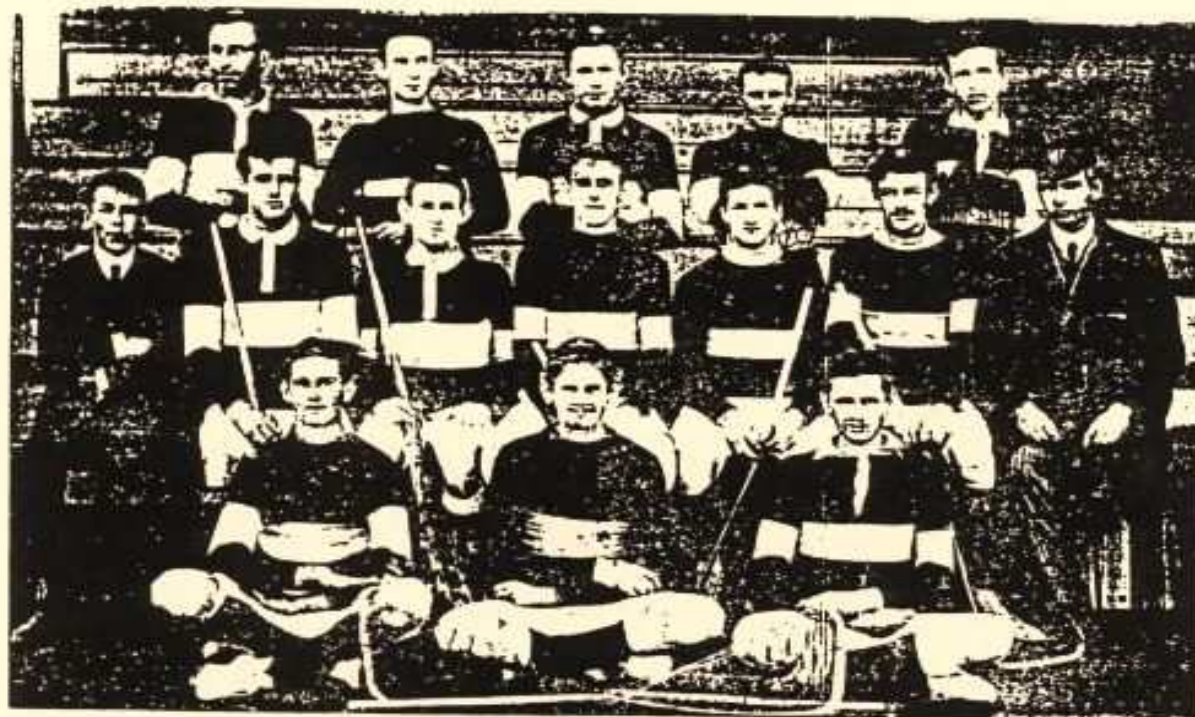
NEW SOUTH WALES REPRESENTATIVES, 1907.



Back Row—J. Farebrother (*Referee*), C. Booth, A. Rankin, C. Hughes, R. Lane, R. B. Fitzhardinge, H. Whisker.
Middle Row—R. A. Cullenward, H. Dawson, P. M. Loutit (*Captain*), S. Meyer, C. U. B. Garnett
Front Row—F. Henriques, A. Newman, W. Stillman.

In 1908 the following clubs were competing in the NSW local competition - Balmain, Waverley, Mosman, Burwood, City, Petersham & Stanmore, Manly

BURWOOD TEAM, 1908.



Back Row—I. Corbett, H. Whisker, S. C. Fowler, W. Jones, R. Sauter.
Middle Row—C. Cooper, S. Vincent, C. Southwick, J. Southwick (*Captain*), A. Newman, J. Gardiner,
 C. T. Hunt (*Row No. 1*).
Front Row—W. Brown, A. Ylmen, D. Milne.

BALMAIN LACROSSE CLUB.

Premiers Season 1907.



Back Row—C. Tinley, A. Ranken, A. W. Brind, W. Matthew, C. Hughes, N. Rowntree.

Sitting—H. Gregory, L. B. Hart (*Hon. Sec.*), P. M. Loutt (*Captain*), R. Cullen-Ward (*Hon. Treas.*), J. M. Campbell, R. B. Fitzhardinge.

In Front—C. Harrold, T. G. Mann, H. Macpherson.

Colours:—Black, with Yellow Facings.

MANLY TEAM, 1908.

