History of the Camberwell Lacrosse Club

Formation and Early Years

The Camberwell Lacrosse Club was formed at a meeting at the Camberwell Town Hall in 1927 by an amalgamation of the Kooyong and Canterbury clubs.

Prior to World War I, both Kooyong and Canterbury had been successful and well-supported clubs in VLA competition. When the rush came for young men to enlist for war service, the Canterbury Lacrosse Club contributed 57 men and Kooyong had 36 enlistments. Some lost their lives and most that did return after the war had priorities other than re-visiting lacrosse.

Prior to the war Canterbury played its home matches at the Canterbury Cricket Ground and Kooyong was based for a time at the Camberwell Cricket Ground and later at Rathmines Road Reserve.





Following the conclusion of war, both clubs re-formed and fielded teams again but, with reduced numbers and the loss of experienced players, neither had great success. In 1926 Canterbury was at the bottom of the "A" Section table and Kooyong was at the middle of the rung in "Junior A Section". Early in 1927 a decision was taken to merge and consolidate under the new name of Camberwell.

On March 14, 1927, "The Age" lacrosse writer reported as follows:

"After months of negotiation Canterbury and Kooyong clubs have decided to amalgamate and enter teams representing the municipal district of Camberwell. Canterbury has for many years been a senior club, but Kooyong, despite repeated application, has never had a team above the Junior "A" section, and consequently many good players, out of a sense of loyalty to their club, have been lost to senior lacrosse. Each club has a large membership and they should be able to form a strong senior team. Their chief weakness will be on the forward line, but with careful selection and coaching they will no doubt repair this.

The general meeting on 10th inst. at which these proposals were adopted, was remarkable for the spirit displayed and club interests were conspicuously absent. The question of colours was discussed at length, and on the suggestion of Mr Howard Balmer, Hon. Secretary to the Victorian Lacrosse Association, it was decided to use the Camberwell district colours, red, white and blue.

No doubt there will be many regrets among old players at the loss of identity of their respective clubs, but in the best interests of the game and of the players concerned, the wisdom of this change cannot be challenged".

The new club registered 41 senior players and entered teams in "Senior A", "Junior A", and B sections plus a junior team in D section. Its teams were based at Canterbury Cricket Ground, Trinity Grammar School and South Camberwell Cricket Ground. In subsequent years the club also had use of the Deepdene Oval and Hartwell Oval.

In the 1927 season Camberwell's opening match in "A" Section was against Malvern on the Malvern Cricket Ground. Before the game, Malvern conducted a ceremony to unfurl their premiership flag from the previous year and then proceeded to beat the Camberwell boys by 12 goals to 3. Camberwell's first win came the following week with a one goal victory over University. By season's end, Camberwell had notched up 9 wins and 8 losses to finish a creditable 5th on the table ahead of University, Brighton, Coburg, Adult Deaf and Hawthorn. Some Camberwell players were coming under notice. Defenceman, George Smith, (brother to Horrie and uncle to Jim and Colin), gained selection in the Victorian Interstate Team and the "Sporting Globe" reported prophetically on the good showing of the Camberwell goal-keeper, Sam McCorkell.....



"His eye is sure, his stick-work good, and he is not afraid to leave his goal when needed. It may not be long before he reaches interstate standard"

Sam McCorkell went on to be, perhaps, Victoria's best-ever goalkeeper, playing in and captaining Interstate teams for a decade and winning the VLA Best and Fairest Player Award in four consecutive years.

In 1928, Glen Iris joined the VLA ranks as a new club, formed with the help of the Malvern Club. It registered 13 junior players and played in the "D2" competition. They played at the Glen Iris Cricket Ground (now Eric Raven Reserve), winning 4 of their 14 matches and, in the following year improved at this level before entering senior ranks in "C" section in 1930 and subsequently annexing the "C" premiership in 1931. The VLA Annual Report noted that Glen Iris had played with consistency throughout the season and had some very fine young players and should go far.

Camberwell was also advancing around this time and in 1932 finished second on the VLA senior premiership table to Malvern with a record of 12 wins, 5 losses and 1 draw. The prominent Camberwell players at this time were Sam McCorkell, Bev Kerrigan, George Smith, Cuth Dickenson and Alec Grant. In 1933, Camberwell had teams in the top four in both "Senior A" and "A" sections. In this year Frank Fox joined the club from the ailing YMCA club where he had been a leading attackman and goal-scorer.

Glen Iris captured its second "C" section premiership in 1934 and was elevated to "B" section for 1935. It performed well to make the Grand Final, going down to Williamstown. In the following year Glen Iris dominated the "B" section, decisively winning the premiership with Earl Worrall as Captain, and earning promotion to the senior "A" section. Glen Iris was now a neighbouring club for Camberwell and a friendly, but keen, rivalry ensued.



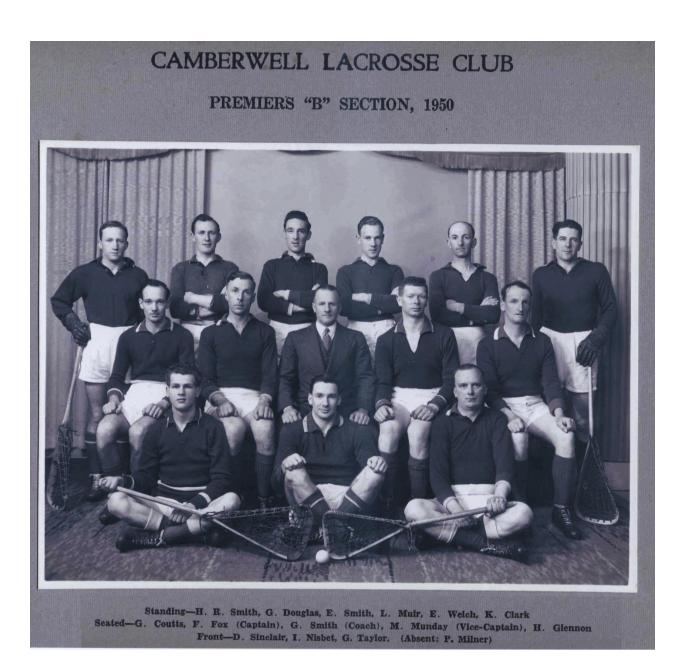
During the 1937 season, Camberwell had the privilege of playing the MCC club on the Melbourne Cricket Ground on the 19th June as a curtain-raiser to the VFL football match between Melbourne v Geelong. This was the last occasion on which an inter-club lacrosse match was played on the MCG. Both Camberwell and Glen Iris ranked in the middle of the senior competition in 1937 and both improved in 1938.

The 1939 "A" section season was a stellar year for both Camberwell and Glen Iris clubs, finishing second and third respectively. Camberwell's leading players included McCorkell, Kerrigan, Fox, H. Smith, G. Smith, Cocks and Marshall. For Glen Iris, Cartledge, Edwards, Reid, Grubb, Jacobs, Quilky and brothers Earl, John and Dave Worrall were prominent. During the season, Camberwell surprised the lacrosse world by being the only team to beat the powerhouse Malvern team. In their Semi-Final clash, Camberwell went down to Malvern 13 goals

to 10 and subsequently went on to beat Glen Iris 16 -8 in the Preliminary Final before losing to Malvern in the Grand Final.

The Grand Final took place at the Amateur Sports Ground one week before Germany invaded Poland and World War II was declared. Camberwell put up a plucky fight but the depth and experience of Malvern held out and the scoreline finished 15 to 4 against Camberwell. It seemed that Camberwell, or Glen Iris, was headed for an "A Section" premiership. Regrettably war intervened and the opportunity passed.

Senior lacrosse went almost into recession during the war years with neither Camberwell or Glen Iris fielding teams again until 1946. By 1950 Glen Iris were at the bottom of the A Section table and Camberwell had slipped to B Grade where they were successful in taking out the premiership.



Amalgamation with Glen Iris

With players in both clubs ageing, the writing was on the wall and in 1952 a decision was taken to merge the two clubs under the banner of Camberwell-Glen Iris. The club adopted the Glen Iris Cricket Ground as its home and also used the Francis Crescent oval. With re-vitalized playing strength success came quickly. CGI took out the premiership for B Grade in 1954.



Camberwell- Glen Iris "B" Section Premiers 1954

Back: W. Rainbow, M. Aitken, P. Stafford, H., Glennon, A. Jackson, M. Munday, J. Quilky, K. Clarke, G. Smith Front C. Jacobs, I. Nesbitt, F. Fox (Capt), H. Smith, G. Coutts

Around this era a solid junior program was developing with names emerging that remain familiar to the club to this day. Morrie Aitken started in U16's in 1952, Ralph Baker and Eric Nichols in U14 in 1953, Rob Jackson started in the U14's in 1954, Doug Fox and Jim Smith in U14 in 1955, Graeme Ross in U14 in 1955 (with Williamstown), Hal Cutting and Gordon Jacobs in U14 in 1956, John McKirdy in U14 in 1957, Leon Gardiner in U14 in 1958 and Colin Smith in U14 in 1959. This group later formed the nucleus of the senior club which played in open-age VLA competitions until 1968.

A New Start

Hard times had come by 1969. With no junior program and only 8-9 senior players wishing to play, a decision was taken for the senior club to go into recess and to start afresh with a committed junior program. The senior players agreed to help the junior rebuild but also stay together and transfer as a group to play with Surrey Park. The players who continued playing and went to Surrey Park were Hal Cutting, Ron Bassett, Rob Jackson, John McKirdy, Jim Smith, Colin Smith, Doug Fox, Leon Gardiner, Gordon Jacobs and Phil Baker.

Surrey Park, which had been a middling club in A Section lacrosse, was the delighted beneficiary of this decision. The injection of a bunch of quality players from Camberwell lifted them instantly into the top four in A Section, a position which they have rarely relinquished in the years since that time.

In March of 1969, Doug Fox, who had returned to the club after six seasons at Melbourne University, made a successful recruiting visit to the local Solway Primary School. Thirty-one new junior players joined the club to form two teams, the "Pirates" and "Raiders", which played in the Under 12 competition. These boys, and a second bunch recruited from Glen Iris Primary in the following year, formed the foundation stone of the club we have today. The 1969 group included:

Simon Adams	John Backhouse	Don Burrows	Trevor Comb	Paul Cooper	Bruce Churchward
Phil Churchward	Graham Cliff	Steve Connelly	Greg Donohue	Alan Gibbs	Richard Harvey
Phillip Holland	Shane Leonard	Douglas Lyle	Stewart Mason	Ian McCallum	Greg Moulton
Geoff Oliver	Neville Olsson	Richard Outram	Lawrie Padman	Andrew Philpott	Simon Philpott
Ross Pleydell	Anthony Price	Peter Raw	Ian Thomson	Mark Smith	Eddie Vanderstadt
Hans Vanderstadt					

Twenty-eight new juniors joined from Glen Iris Primary in 1970. They were:

Noel Abraham	Ian Armstrong	Warwick Burchett	Fergus Bremner	Tim Caffery	Ross Ferguson
Anthony Gordon	Graeme Harrison	Stephen Hurley	Stephen Jeffrey	Jamie Johnston	John Kaeslin
Bill Kent	Richard Maddock	Angus McEwan	Graeme Mills	Peter Mills	Steve Prosser
Danny Rose	Paul Rose	Kim Ryan	Frank Saddler	Jeff Schultz	Murray Spokes
Travers Stow	Ken Walters	Gary Yarnton	Paul Yarnton		

Three teams were entered in VLA junior competition in 1970 (1x Under 14 and 2x Under 12). The team coaches were Rob Jackson & Phil Baker, Doug Fox & Colin Smith, Leon Gardiner & Jim Smith. The club Committee comprised:

President: Alan Jackson Secretary: Morrie Aitken Treasurer: Rob Jackson

Committee: Horrie Smith, Hilary Glennon, Earl Worrall, Ron Bassett, Andy Barwell, Cliff Jacobs, Doug Fox,

Leon Gardiner, Phil Baker

The Under 14 team finished last on the ladder with just two wins but the Under 12's fared better, the "Raiders" finishing 7th and the "Pirates" placing 2nd, but losing the Grand Final to Chadstone by 7 goals to 3.

With a good-sized bunch of enthusiastic juniors and their parents, there was a new wave of excitement and expectation around the CGI club. The Committee was very active and supportive, organizing fund-raisings, pie nights, film nights, barbecues and a family picnic Presentation Day to close the season.

Premiership success and excited celebrations came in the following year when Leon Gardiner & Jim Smith coached the Under 12 Raiders to a 16-7 goal victory over Caulfield on a foggy, winter's Saturday morning in August at Caulfield Park. "CGI", as the club was commonly known, was back in business!



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The annual junior recruiting continued successfully each year in local primary schools and the Camberwell-Glen Iris junior numbers swelled as teams moved upwards through the Under 14 and Under 16 grades.

In 1974 the club returned to senior competition when Colin Smith and Jim Smith transferred back from Surrey Park to form a "C" Section team and take out the premiership with the juniors who were now graduating out of Under 16's. Terry Pepperell, Cal Knight and Leighton Beamsley joined them from the disbanded Melbourne High School Old Boys club.

Rob Jackson crossed back from Surrey Park in the following year and the team was promoted to the "A Reserve" section. The club had regrown to 100 juniors and 21 senior players. Doug Fox re-joined the club in 1976 and convinced two former Melbourne University team-mates Ted Rodda and Lloyd Holmes to join the party. A year later, Joe Downie also joined on transfer from Caulfield. With Cliff Jacobs as Coach, the team performed well to be runners-up in the 1976 "A Reserve" Section but the goal was to win and gain elevation back into the senior competition. This was achieved in 1977.



CAMBERWELL GLEN IRIS "A' RESERVE PREMIERS - 1977

Back: I, Thomson, D. Gibbs, P. Yarnton, N. Abraham, T. Comb, E. Rodda, W. Kent, T. Caffery, S. Adams, A. Gibbs, B. Churchward Middle: G. Oliver, C. Smith, D. Adams, D. Fox (Capt/Coach) H. Smith, (President) R Jackson, N. Gibbs, L. Holmes, A. Fida Sitting: L. Beamsley, P. Cooper, J. Downie

It had taken nine years to rebuild the club back to the State League section after the new start of 1969. In 1979 the Club Committee decided to change the club name to Camberwell in order to reflect the municipality in which it was located and also to get beyond the identity issue that came with the club being known as "CGI". The club has enjoyed many highs and lows since that time but has never relinquished its position as a leading Victorian club with a team in the State League competition.

To date, a State League premiership has eluded the club. Camberwell has made multiple appearances in State League finals but has only played off once in the Grand Final, back in 1939. In recent years the team has advanced to the Preliminary Final in 1993, 1998 and 2006 but was beaten on each occasion.

The premier player award within Victorian lacrosse is the annual Vince Healy Trophy for the State League player adjudged the Fairest & Best in Victoria for the year. Camberwell has a proud record of winners of this award:

1932 - Sam McCorkell	1935 - Sam McCorkell	1964 – Leon Gardiner	2010 - Clinton Lander
1933 - Sam McCorkell	1937 - Dave Scott	1966 - Doug Fox	2016 - Joel Easson
1934 - Sam Mc Corkell	1948 - Dave Worrall	2008 - Clinton Lander	

Camberwell has also been represented in the two premier individual player awards at national level:

1970 Doug Fox - winner of the Don Hobbs Trophy (Most Valuable Player at the Australian Championships) 2008 Clinton Lander – winner of the Issaachsen Trophy (Best & Fairest Player for the year – Australia)

Over the years since the revival of the club commencing in 1969, Camberwell has produced many outstanding "home-grown" players who have achieved State and International representation. Selecting a "Camberwell All-Stars Revival Team" from players recruited as juniors from 1969 onwards is not an easy task, but is always a good talking point. Here is our awesome "All-Stars Team" as named a few years ago:

Attack: Chris Weisse, Tim Caffery, Dan Pusvacietis

Midfield: Bill Kent, Geoff Oliver, Jason Davenport, Brad Ross, Clinton Lander (Capt), Mark Jackson,

Retlaw Compton, Adam Jackson, Al Gloutnay

Defence: Kier Jarvis, Brad Sheldon, Sabian Johnson

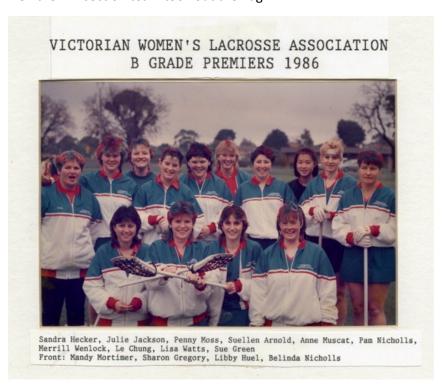
Goalkeeper: Russell Fox

The club is just 10 years away from its centenary so it will be interesting to see who makes our Team of the Century.

Women's Lacrosse

Our women's lacrosse program first got underway in 1979 with the entry of a "B" section team in the VWLA competition. Camberwell Women's Lacrosse Club started as a separately managed club with a group of women who were family and friends of our men's club. Nola Williamson, Jan Jackson and Sue Green were the key drivers in the early years.

By 1982 the club had two teams in senior grades and two teams of juniors. Their first premiership success came in 1986 when the "B" section team took out the flag.



Unhappily, declining player numbers in the late 1980's put the women's club under increasing stress and led to a recess commencing from the 1992 season. This lasted until 2001 when interest was revived and a largely new group of players was recruited, this time with sisters, girlfriends and mothers of male Camberwell players. With some skilled and enthusiastic coaching from Nick Bugeja this group progressed from "B" section to "A" section where they soon proved to be a highly competitive unit. The senior team took out the "B" section premiership in 2010. A new group of juniors was fostered and the future was looking stronger but unfortunately this success was short-lived and enthusiasm waned again. Some of the leading players left the club to pursue their potential at higher ranked clubs and no senior team has been fielded since 2014.

A new wave of junior recruiting is currently building a broader base of female members. Our junior teams are performing well and It is hoped that the club will soon return to and have success at both senior and junior levels.

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International Lacrosse

In 1984 the club hosted a junior team from Canada and two years later took on the ambitious task of organizing and sending an Under 14 team on an International Tour, playing multiple matches in both the United States and Canada. Matt Foster, Doug Fox, Colin and Andrea Smith, Linda Beamsley and Rob Jackson shared the management and coaching duties for this team.



Commencing in 1980, the club instituted a hosting program for international guest players. Our first guest player, Harry Gleeson from USA, made a great impact on and off the playing field and this encouraged the club to continue this program on an almost yearly basis. Players from United States, England, Canada and Sweden have participated with Camberwell in this venture over the years. The reverse of this process has been Camberwell players moving to the United States on scholarships to undertake academic studies and

play lacrosse with American college teams. Bill Kent, Adam Jackson, Jason Davenport, Brad Ross and Tim Murphy (then with Surrey Park) have participated in these exchanges.

Gaining selection in senior Australian teams for World Championships is an honour which comes to few players. Camberwell's representatives have been:

1974Doug Fox – World Championship2010Brad Sheldon - World Championship2000Brad Ross - World Championship2014Brad Sheldon - World Championship

2004 Daniel Pusvacietis – World Championship

Meredith Carre from our Women's program gained selection in the Australian Women's Team for the Women's Lacrosse World Cup in 2001, 2005 and 2009

A number of Camberwell players have also represented Australia in other senior International events:

1967 Eric Nichols - England Tour

1970 Doug Fox - USA Lancers Tour

1970 Graeme Ross - USA Lancers Tour

1972 Doug Fox – World Tour

1989 Tim Murphy – Japan International Tournament

1990 Brett Barnard - USA Tour

2011 Clinton Lander – World Indoor Lacrosse Championships

2011 Travis Gathercole – World Indoor Lacrosse Championships

World Championships are also played at Under 19 age level. Camberwell has had 14 players selected for Australian honours at Under 19 level: Mark Jackson (1988), Stephen Scammell (1998 - then with Surrey Park), Jason Davenport (1992). Russell Fox (1992), Matthew Roberts (1992), Chris Weisse (1992), Simon Barwell (1992), Keir Jarvis (1992), Rob Proctor (1999), Simon Baker (2003), Sabian Johnson (2003), Brett Melville (2003), Daniel Pusvacietis (2003), Ben Greenwood (2016)

Dorothy Laver Reserve West

Following a series of meetings during 1983-4 with Mrs Dorothy Laver, the local South Ward Councillor for the City of Camberwell, a plan was developed for a make-over of the paddock-like fields on the west side of Gardiners Creek.

The plan was turned into a formal submission, significantly enhanced by Hal Cutting's architectural skills. It included two ovals, a substantial pavilion, car-parking, a box lacrosse court, flood-lighting and a practice wall. In 1984 the club was successful in getting the plan acknowledged and included within the Council's budget allocations. The new facility was opened in July 1985, minus the box court, practice wall and floodlighting. A few years later the club, after an extensive fund-raising effort, erected the floodlighting that is still used at present and the club Committee continued to push for a practice wall. Much to our surprise Council finally agreed to fund the project and the wall was opened in 2016, appropriately named by the club as the Horrie Smith Practice Wall. Horrie had been a constant and vociferous advocate of the wall since the 1960's but the Council was reluctant to allow it, citing the regular flooding of Gardiners Creek as its reason.

Management

Keeping energy and continuity within a large, volunteer, community-based club is never easy.

As the years have passed, many of those who started as junior players have progressed to Committee roles and assumed key Executive roles within the club. Bruce Churchward, Phil Churchward and Travers Stow from the "Class of 1969" all have served terms as Club President. Similarly, Matt Foster, Matt Kerr and Ross Melville have each served in the lead role as Club President. Many others have served in Executive and Committee roles and, too many to name, have coached Camberwell's junior teams.

The club has been fortunate to have many parents of junior players make outstanding contributions, joining the club committee and bringing significant business management skills. These have included Norm Gibbs, Doug Adams, Murray Abraham, John Stow, Alan Caffery, Alan Olsson, Wes George, Ron Pritchard, Jim Williamson, Peter Lane, Reg Bugeja, Ken Lander, Rick Pusvacietis, Alan Ryan, Jenny Johnson, Mardi Hoy, Jane Scoble, Marg Redapple and Bronwyn Ch'ng. In more recent years Jennie Easson, Helen Gloutnay, Mike Gloutnay, David Huett, Miron Mizrahi, Peter McKee, Gill Greenwood, Tony Hollenkamp, Rob Pagliaro, Chris Downie and Annabelle Ashby have supported their children's lacrosse by providing their time and talents on the Club Committee and in other important areas. Helen and Mike's tireless work in running the weekly canteen for juniors and seniors has been a mainstay for the club for many years.

Over the years Camberwell has contributed significantly to the broader management and coaching of the sport at state, national and international levels.

- Rob Jackson has served as VLA President and as Manager of numerous teams at state and national level.
- Doug Fox has served as VLA Secretary, ALC Director, ALC President, World Championships Executive Director and International Lacrosse Federation Delegate.
- Leighton Beamsley has served as ALC Director, Treasurer and ALC President and Auditor, and also as a Director on the International Lacrosse Federation.
- Jan Jackson has served as a Director of Women's Lacrosse Victoria, Women's Lacrosse Australia, and currently is a Director of the Australian Lacrosse Association and Chair of the Women's Rules Committee for the Federation of International Lacrosse.
- Matt Foster has given up hundreds of lunchtimes as a member of the VLA Permit Committee and hundreds of hours as the Club Referee for our State League games.
- Graeme Ross has served as Head Coach for three Australian Under 19 World Championship teams.
- Adam Holmes (Finance), Josh Anderson (Secretary) and Anne Hodder (Administration) are all currently serving Directors of Lacrosse Victoria.

The club has often been an innovator within Victorian lacrosse. Many years ago. it initiated the annual VLA Golf Day as a means of retaining the interest of past players and creating inter-club fellowship. A few years later, CGI organized an end-of-year Presentation Night for the VLA, initiating an event which today is an important part of the Victorian lacrosse calendar.

When the Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre was opened in 1994, the club applied to the Council for space in the facility to conduct the weekly, Monday night indoor competition which was named the MILL (Melbourne Indoor Lacrosse League). The MILL, which has always been open to team entries from other Victorian clubs, has operated for the past twenty-three years and added an extra dimension to our club, and to lacrosse in Victoria.

Where to Now?

A snapshot of our club in 2017 shows that the club is in good health with a bright future.

Communications are managed through an active club website, Facebook page and electronic weekly newsletter supported with email and text messaging. A structured social program is conducted to ensure that the club maintains a friendly, welcoming environment and special-purpose working bees are convened from time to time to support recruiting, hosting and development projects.

The Club Committee comprises:

President - Ross Melville

Vice-Presidents - Jennie Easson, Bruce Churchward

Secretary - Gill Greenwood

Treasurer - Annabelle Ashby

Junior Co-Ordinator - Tony Hollenkamp

Members - Chris Downie, Helen Gloutnay, Mike Gloutnay, Rob Pagliaro

Life Members - Hilary Glennon*, Horrie Smith,* Cliff Jacobs*, Morrie Aitken, Doug Fox,

Rob Jackson, Eric Nicholls, Joe Downie, Graeme Ross, Janet Jackson,

Matthew Foster

• deceased

On the playing field, the State League team, coached by Tim Murphy and Rob O'Donnell and led by Joel Easson and Sean Aaron has performed brilliantly and is well positioned to be a force in the finals series during September.

In Sean Aaron and Eric De Stefano the team is fortunate to have two outstanding guest players from the USA. They have significantly boosted the State League playing strength and have also made valuable contributions to the coaching of junior teams.



The Division 2 team, coached by Bruce Churchward, is also a finals contender and has provided quality backup to the State League team when player injuries and absences need to be covered.

At junior level on the boy's side, the club is fielding five teams across the Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age grades. Our Under 11 "Buzz" team, coached by Aaron Hussain and Eddie Mizrahi, is a leading team in the competition and the Under 17 team, under the tutelage of Sean Aaron and Ben Greenwood, is set to play in finals.

The club has an expanding group of junior girls with teams at Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 levels. All teams are training enthusiastically and winning a share of games. The Under 15 girls, coached by Chris and Georgia Downie, are set to play in the 2017 finals.



On the significant occasion of the club's ninetieth birthday in 2017, the hope is that club members will maintain a strong custodial watch and see the Camberwell Lacrosse Club through to a vibrant 100th birthday and beyond, hopefully with the addition of a State League Premiership flag (Men's or Women's, or both) to hang on the wall.