

**Vale Thomas John Barklimore (11/06/1912—02/10/2012) a
Member of the Inaugural Glebe District Hockey Team of 1931.**



Tom is standing in the middle of the back row.

Tom Barklimore died in Cobar, western NSW on 2 October 2012 aged one hundred years and four months and his funeral was held in Cobar on 8 October.

He was predeceased by his wife Phyllis and is survived by his children Anne, Greg and Jane, his grandchildren and great grandchildren. The Glebe District Hockey Club extends its sympathies to the Barklimore family on the occasion of Tom's death.

Tom's grandfather William arrived in Australia from Belfast in 1865. William met a young lady from Tipperary during the voyage out to Australia and married in Victoria soon after the boat landed. William and Catherine had seven children, one of whom was Tom's father John. William and his wife Catherine moved up from Victoria and settled in the Cobar area, initially at Dunlop Station near Louth.

Tom's father John married Teresa Donohue, a former Governess from Dunlop Station in 1910 and Tom was born on 11 June 1912 at Artarmon in Sydney. His brother Greg was born

18 months later. The family lived at a station near Cobar called Innesowen which had an outstation at Birnamwood where John worked as a station hand. His father mysteriously disappeared on New Year's Day 1920, and was thought to have been murdered. Tom was 8 at the time his father disappeared.

Shortly after this Teresa, Tom and Greg moved to Sydney. Tom and Greg started at the Holy Cross Boarding School at Ryde. Tom left school in 1926 when he was 14 years old.

Reverend Brother Macartan Keegan Founder of the Glebe District Hockey Club taught at Holy Cross Ryde in 1929 and 1930 and introduced hockey to the school, but this was after Tom had left the school. Macartan Keegan was a Patrician Brother and teacher at Saint James School Forest Lodge in 1931 and was Captain and Coach of the first hockey team that played in the St James colours in 1931, Tom being one of the players.

The St James Sporting Club was founded in 1929 and fielded teams in a variety of sports and other activities, including debating, cricket and rugby league as well as hockey. 1931 was the first year of operation of the hockey team playing under the auspices of the Saint James Sports' Club. In the 1933 season the Saint James Sports' Club Hockey Teams played under the auspices of the Glebe District Hockey Club.

This inaugural Saint James' Sports Club hockey team was the predecessor Club of the Glebe District Hockey Club and played in the Metropolitan Hockey Association B Grade Competition of 1931, winning the Kippax Cup that first year. The Kippax Cup was donated by Alan Kippax, an Australian cricketer and then sports store owner with a shop in Martin Place Sydney.

Jack Ryan and Billy Bourke were ex-Holy Cross pupils who were members of the 1931 Saint James Sports Club and Brother Macartan Keegan had been a teacher at Holy Cross. Tom would have had friends at the Saint James' Sports' Club from his Holy Cross School days, which is probably why he commenced playing for the Saint James team.

Tom was aged 18 years when he played his first game for Saint James and then its successor Club the Glebe District Hockey Club. In total Tom played 90 games for Glebe, most in first grade between 1931 and 1937. Other members of the inaugural 1931 team were Roy Pearce, Walter Batty, Eddie McGrade, Jack Quinlan, George Gold, Mick Cummins, Jimmy Burt, Jack Taylor, Tom Pearce, Ted Mockler, Steve McCormack, Jack Ryan and Brother Macartan Keegan. It is likely that with Tom's passing there are no longer any inaugural Members of the Hockey Club still alive.

For close to 10 years Tom played grade cricket for the Glebe District Cricket Club. He described himself as a spin bowler who could bat a bit.

The following is an extract from the 1937 Annual Report, which was written by the then Secretary Jack W Taylor.

“Tom Barklmore a left winger was the best player who has played in that position for the Club and only for leaving us he would have gained Metropolitan honours this season.” Tom must have been a capable hockey player.

In 1936 and 1937 Tom was Assistant Secretary of the Club and on the Club's Executive Committee. He resigned from the Committee towards the end of 1937, and moved to the country in 1939.

In 1937, the last year Tom played for Glebe, the playing fees were: entry fee 2/6, ground fee 2/- per week and 1/- registration fee. Adjusting for inflation Tom would have paid \$177 for the season, assuming a 20 game season. In 2012 the playing fees are \$550. Playing hockey in 2012 is three times more expensive than in 1937.

In 2012 fees are levied on club players to help fund the Sydney, NSW and Australian Hockey Associations, umpires and technical official are paid and all games are played on synthetic surfaces. In Tom's era hockey was played on grass, there were minimal levies to help fund the Sydney, NSW and Australian Hockey Associations and umpires and technical officials were not paid.

In the 1930s Tom went to the functions organised by the Saint James' Sports 'Club. In the Inaugural 1931 Saint James' hockey team was a chap by the name of Walter Batty. Interestingly in 1937 at one of these functions Tom met a young Glebe girl of 16 years called Phyllis Batty, presumably a close relative of his team mate Walter. In 1939 Phyllis and Tom were married, a marriage which lasted for 63 years. Tom and Phyllis had three children Anne, Greg and Jane and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In 1939 Tom was out of work and the property at Cobar was still owned by the family, so he and Phyllis decided to move back out Cobar way. This was a bit of a shock for Phyllis as until the move to Cobar she had never been west of Penrith. He worked on the family property Innesowen for many years and then on a nearby property called Wyoming. He retired in 1979 aged 67 years and moved back into Cobar. In 1999 he and Phyllis moved into the Lilliane Brady Village.

Tom had a love of all sports especially cricket. During the 1972/73 cricket season at the age of 60 he topped the bowling averages in the Cobar District Competition. Tom was of sound mind right up until the day he died. Up until a month or so before his death Tom watched all the sport he could, rugby league, cricket, tennis, and rugby union.

The Cobar Local Newspaper reported that Tom still had a driver's licence aged 99 years, which would indicate that he was reasonably well until the last 12 months of his life.

In 2013 the Hockey Club still holds many social functions where men and women meet socialise and enjoy themselves. Looking at Tom's story it seems that things were not so different 76 years ago. Local sporting clubs have done and still do, provide a relaxed atmosphere for socialising, quite apart from their role in providing opportunities for exercise and the attainment of physical fitness. They are community resources that need tender loving care, nurturing and encouragement.

The Cobar Weekly published a full page article about Tom on Wednesday 19 October 2005, page 11 entitled People in our community: Tom Barklmore. It makes for interesting reading.

St. JAMES' SPORTS CLUB
RESERVE GRADE PREMIERS—SEASON 1932



BACK ROW—J. Burt, M. Cummins, J. Ryan, J. Taylor, E. Mockler, G. Walsh, T. Barklmore
SECOND ROW—J. Quinlan, Bro. Macarten (Coach) W. Bourke (Capt) J. Donovan (Sec.) T. Pearce (Vice-Capt.)
FRONT—M. Dunn, S. MacCormick, G. Mockler.

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Tom is standing on the right of the back row.