

# Glebe District Hockey Club – Life Member Biography



## John James (Jack) Worley

Born: 6th December 1916

Died: 6th March 2012

Elected Life Member in 1958



Jack Worley, late of 65 Orchard Rd Beecroft, died in early March 2012. He was the Club's fourth Life-Member. He served both the Glebe District Hockey Club and his country in various positions.

- Club Assistant Secretary 1937-1939
- Club Secretary 1940-1941
- War Service 1941-1946 (Jack served in North Queensland and New Guinea)
- Club President 1946-1957 (12 Years)

Jack as a boy and young man lived at 114 Saint John's Road Glebe, down the hill from the old Glebe Post Office. Also living in this vicinity, 100 metres from Jack were Vernon Turner the driving force in the early years of the Club's juniors and Ray Thorpe a Club Secretary for 9 years. Jack's father, also called Jack, had come to Glebe from Dora Creek seeking work. Dora Creek is a small rural suburb of the City of Lake Macquarie in New South Wales, located 120 Kilometers North of Sydney and North of the town of Morisset. Jack (Senior), a teetotaler became an inspector on the Sydney trams. His mother Ethel (nee Conlon) was born and bred in Glebe into an old established Glebe family who had a Carrying business. No trucks in those days, just the old faithful horse and cart.



Jack at His Work Desk at Shell

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Jack Worley



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Jack Jnr went to Glebe Public School on Glebe Point Road from 1921 to 1928 and was dux of the school in his last year. After primary school, Jack went to North Newtown Boys High School and then on to Fort Street Boys High School at Taverner's Hill. Jack would have liked to have gone to University after leaving school, but finances were a consideration so he launched himself into the working world.

He had a couple of clerical jobs when he first went into the work force and obtained a Diploma in Intermediate Accountancy. He joined the Shell Oil Company located in the Sydney CBD in February 1935 where he did clerical work in various accounting departments. On the 7th of December 1938 Jack took leave from Shell and enlisted in the Army known as the AMF or Australian Military Forces. At the end of 1938 it was becoming clear that Australia might be involved in military conflict.

On joining the AMF, he started as a General Artillery Gunner and was posted to the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Battery Battalion in Charters Towers, Queensland which is located 134 kilometers inland (south-west) from Townsville on the Flinders Highway. In 1942 Jack completed a series of courses, which saw him promoted rapidly from Corporal to Sergeant and a month later to Warrant officer. Two weeks after he was appointed a Warrant Officer he was awarded a Commission and Promoted to Lieutenant.

In November 1943 Jack did active war service in Dutch New Guinea and East Papua. He was on international deployment for a total of 164 days. Jack became a qualified firearms and artillery instructor and his superiors described him as a, "solid and capable instructor with a strong personality", who was co-operative and worked hard. In Jack's Eulogy his great nephew Dean Elliott commented: "A strong personality, which I'm sure that we would all agree he never lost"



Jack in Military Uniform is on the left

Jack was discharged from the Army in April 1946 and returned to work with Shell Petroleum in the Sydney CBD. He was subsequently transferred to the Shell Refinery at Granville in a personnel management function. Jack had the opportunity to retire early from Shell and in 1973 after 37 years' service and at the age of 57 he left the Company.

Jack was finding that he had too much time to himself and registered with a personnel company to complete part-time short work assignments. He commenced what was to be a short stint at the Medical Supply Company H I Clements, which turned into a 10-year association. The highlight of his time with H I Clements was his management of the computerisation of the Company. He researched, selected, implemented and managed the computerisation of the Company having had very little formal computer training.

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Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Jack Worley



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In his youth Jack was a keen member of the Saint James' Forest Lodge Social Club's Debating Society. This organisation (The social club) fielded a hockey team in the Metropolitan Hockey Association Third Grade Competition in 1936. This team was separate to the teams fielded by the Glebe District Hockey Club. Jack's sister Thelma Worley (married name Brown) played in the first women's team fielded by Glebe in 1934 and 1935. This women's team was known as the Saint James Sports' Club Women's Hockey Team and only lasted two seasons before folding-up. A photo of this Women's team can be seen on the History Section of the Club's Web Site.

For the 1937 season, players from the 1936 Saint James' Forest Lodge Social Club's Debating Society joined the Glebe District Hockey Club and Jack was elected to the Glebe District Hockey Club Management Committee as Assistant Secretary to represent the interests of the players who had joined from the Debating Society's Team. Jack was Assistant Secretary from 1937-1939 (three years), before being elected Secretary from 1940-1941. In both these positions, Jack worked closely with Club President Charlie Humphries. Charlie, a Police Sergeant at Newtown Police Station was an Englishman who had spent his formative years in India. He served as President (1938-1945, 8 years), the third longest serving Club President after Bob Taylor (1998-2012, 15 years) and Jack Worley (1947-1957, 12 years).



Jack Worley playing in the 1938 GDHC 2nd Grade team. Jack is the tallest player in the back row, third from the right hand end. The photo is taken at Saint Paul's Oval, University of Sydney, with the Gate House in the background.

As an administrator Jack was superb, one of the Club's finest. A knee injury prevented him from achieving great feats on the field as a player. This injury restricted him to playing 116 games for the Club. Jack was also a keen umpire. He obtained his international badge qualification and umpired several test matches. He retired from umpiring in 1958. Jack was an active contributor/administrator/umpire with the Metropolitan Hockey Association, the Sydney Hockey Association and the New South Wales Hockey Association. In 1961 he was awarded Life-Membership of the NSW Hockey Association.

In 1966 aged 50 years Jack took up golf, which he enjoyed and continued to play until he reached his late 80s. Jack's wife Wyn was also a keen golfer. In his Eulogy Dean Elliott comments:

"I can tell you personally from having been a student at Jack's Back Paddock Golf School that he was not only very passionate about the sport, but was extremely talented and took the rules and etiquette very seriously." Jack had a green thumb was also a keen gardener

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Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Jack Worley



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In 1953 Jack aged 37 years married Wyn Strachan. When Wyn was a child her family came up from the South Coast and settled near the Bunnerong Power Station at Botany, a facility which was demolished in the 1980's. The purpose of the family's move to the Botany area was to enable her father to find work. Wyn went to school at Fort Street Girls High School, which was then situated at the Rocks and played hockey for YWCA.

Wyn was the cousin of an Assistant Priest at Saint James Church Forest Lodge, Father Tom Kerr and it was through Father Kerr that Jack and Wyn met. Shortly after they got married, Jack and Wyn moved to a small house opposite the Railway Station at Westmead where they lived for 13 years. Westmead was close to Jack's work at the Shell Oil Refinery, Clyde.



Wyn and Jack Worley

In 1966 Jack and his wife moved to 65 Orchard Road Beecroft where they spent the remaining years of their lives. Jack and Wyn had no children of their own, which was a source of disappointment to them both, but they were closely involved in caring for and interacting with their nephews Roger and John Elliott. Jack and Wyn were married for 57 years. Wyn predeceased Jack in 2007.

A Management Committee Member of the 1940's and 1950's Dave Robertson remembers Jack was a kindly man, who was considerate and measured in this approach to others and lead the Club through its golden years of those decades.

The Club was fortunate to have had Jack's involvement in Club affairs for over 20 years, 12 of which were as President. He was a giant, on whose shoulders those that followed have stood. He gave unselfishly to Club affairs and for that the Club owes Jack a great debt of gratitude.

In his later years Jack's eye sight became poor and he spent the final years of his life in a nursing home.

Dean Elliott comments in Jack's Eulogy "Jack was very devoted to his religion and when he became unable to attend church I know he was humbled to have had Mass brought to him in his home once a week". He was a generous doer here on earth and I have every expectation that he is now enjoying his eternal reward in Heaven, thank you Jack.

Credit: Information and photos for Jack's Biography was kindly given to the Club by his nephew Roger Elliott, his great-nephew Dean Elliott and his niece Trish Brown. The Hockey Club thanks Roger, Dean and Trish for their generous assistance in compiling Jack's Biography.

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Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Jack Worley





Jack Worley late in Life

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