

# **'EXTRAORDINARY ERNEST'**

## **A TRIBUTE TO**

### **ERN RUDDUCK**

Reference: 2022/10



**ERNEST RUDDUCK 1884- 1972**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Over the years, there have been passing references regarding Ern Rudduck and his involvement in advancing the interests of the Dromana Football Club. Research indicates that Ern was a devoted and dynamic character who not only played a major role in building the club but gave everything, that was humanly possible, to ensure its survival during some bleak and testing years.

It is hoped that this article will 'tie together' some of the 'loose ends' of Ern's imposing career at local, VFA and VFL level and also enlighten readers of Ern's unstinting voluntary involvement in local affairs.

#### **EARLY DAYS AT DROMANA**

The story of the Rudduck's of Dromana is quite a saga; and Ern' Father (Nelson) was a vibrant character in local affairs. The following information was taken from a website known as " Familytreecircles" ....

*"Nelson came in 1868 and was a carrier on what is now the Princes Highway and met Jane Sophia Chapman at the family inn at Springvale.*

*Nelson's much older brother, Sam, had married Jane's sister, Nettie. Nelson Rudduck married Jane and in about 1871, they moved to Dromana where their first makeshift store was the start of a successful business career. One facet not commonly known is money-lending.*

*When George and Susan Peatey wanted to leave their farm at the east corner of Harrisons and Bittern Roads, Nelson gave them a loan to buy their 2 acre block in McDowell St, Rosebud; they paid it off after 10 years in 1888."*

Nelson became a well-known and respected local merchant and commission agent; and, according to Jean Rotherham, of the Dromana & District Historical Society, Nelson owned two stores; one in Jetty Road, Dromana, and the other was situated in Rosebud (later to become known as 'Peebles' ).

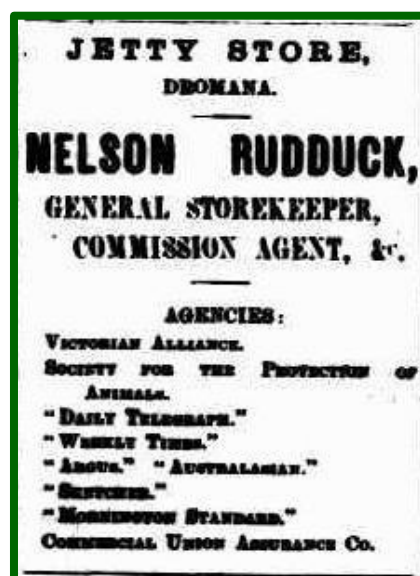
*"Nelson was the leading light in the Methodist community in the area; he was a trustee of the Red Hill church and donated his grant in the Rosebud Fishing Village for Rosebud's church. He and his brother Sam were also prominent in the Rechabite movement."*



The Jetty at Dromana

The Rudducks were prominent members of the local community; and the name 'Rudduck' is often mentioned in the newspapers of those times. In researching the family's background and contribution to the community, it seems that the Dromana Football Club was indeed privileged to have the Rudduck family 'in its midst' in those formative and exacting years.

It is apparent that DFNC owes much to Nelson, Ern and their family members for the diligence and fervour in guiding the club through turbulent times.

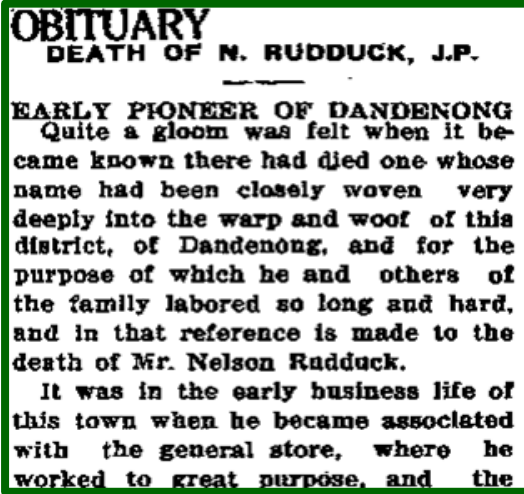


Several newspaper articles revealed that Nelson was a spirited citizen in public affairs; and it was known that he was a dedicated member of the Independent Order of Rechabites (I.O.R - See Nelson's obituary notice below). For younger readers, the I.O.R was a friendly society, which was founded in England in 1835; and among its various aims was the complete abstinence of alcoholic beverages by its members...

**I.O. RECHABITES.**  
—♦—  
**VISIT OF BRO NELSON RUDDUCK, P. D. C. R.**  
—♦—  
Mr Nelson Rudduck, who (as District Deputy Ruler of the Rechabite Order) in April of 1891 opened the Mildura Tent No. 323, last week spent four days in Mildura. He came up at the invitation of the Merbein Tent, which he visited officially on Wednesday evening, being also entertained at a coffee supper held there.  
On Tuesday night the Mildura and Trymple Tents ran a concert and picture show in the Shire Hall, the proceeds being handed over to the Australian Wounded Soldiers' Fund. The concert was proceeded with first and Miss Ida Davey and Messrs Arthur Davey and W. Hepburn pleased with songs, Mr Gordon Campbell accompanying. Mr Fred Brockhouse rendered an instrumental solo. Thereafter Mr Rudduck addressed the audience on the Temperance question.

**OBITUARY**  
—♦—  
**MR. N. RUDDUCK.**  
—♦—  
The death occurred at Dromada on January 3, of Mr. Nelson Rudduck, aged 55 years. The late Mr Rudduck was a pioneer general storekeeper at Dromada where he lived for more than 25 years. He retired from the business many years ago. He was a staunch supporter of church work and an ardent Rechabite with which order he was connected for the greater part of his life. He was known in Rechabite circles throughout the State and was a tower of strength to the institution. Burial took place on January 16. The funeral was largely attended by friends, many of whom travelled long distances to pay their last respects to the late Mr. Rudduck.

The Rudducks were well respected and there is little doubt about their willingness to participate in community affairs. Nelson Rudduck died in 1935. His obituary was published in the 'Frankston and Somerville Standard' on the 18th January 1935) as shown...



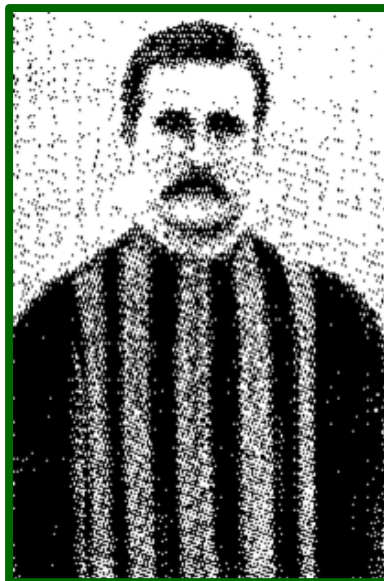
## ERNEST RUDDUCK- FOOTBALLER

Ernest Ruddock was born to Nelson and Jane on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1884. Even from a young age, Ern Rudduck excelled at sports (e.g. tennis); and it is known that by 1902, the 'teenager' had cemented himself as a key member of the Dromana Football Club. He was a player of 'some standing' and had gained the reputation as a 'strong man' in football circles.

Ern established himself in local football and became a star player within the league. According to MPNFL Historian, Doug Dyall, Ern took 'control of the Dromana team'; and was listed among their better players each week with his strong and combative style of the play.

## A STINT AT RICHMOND VFA

In 1904, Ern Rudduck took a major step in football and 'signed on' with Richmond in the VFA. In his debut match, he gave a forceful display at half back. During that season he also played a few matches with Dromana FC.



Ernest Rudduck at Richmond in 1905

**Note:** For younger readers, Richmond FC was formed in 1885 but did not join the VFL (now the AFL) until 1908. Richmond won two premierships in the VFA (1902 and 1905).





The famous Punt Road Oval Grandstand.

Ern was elected captain of Dromana in 1905 but after deliberation (and perhaps insistent coaxing) he decided to give VFL football 'another crack'.

In mid-season that year, he enjoyed a trip to Adelaide with the Richmond club; and, during that time, reports surfaced that the Carlton FC was keen to secure his services. Although he was a 'wanted man', his sense of loyalty shone through and he remained at Punt Road, and resisted the Blues' overtures.

**Mr E. Rudduck, our local football champion, states that his trip to Adelaide with the Richmond team was a most enjoyable one. On his return to Melbourne he was interviewed by the delegates from the Carlton club, with a view to securing his services. However, he has decided to finish the season with Richmond, and, if he plays next season, he will probably join one of the league teams.**

Source: 'Mornington Standard' Saturday 21 July 1906: Page: 2



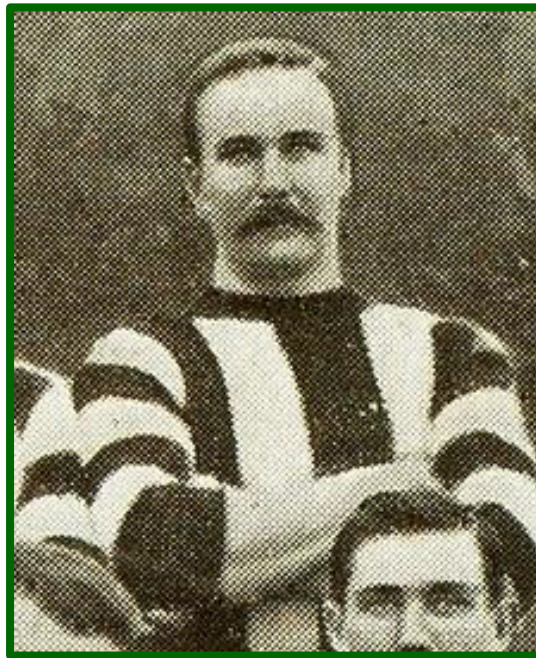
Richmond VFA in 1905.

Richmond was a dominant force season in 1905 and claimed the VFA premiership flag. On that day, Ern was selected on the half-back flank; and it is known he was a steadfast and tough defender in that game. In the match report in the 'North Melbourne Courier & West Melbourne Advertiser', Ern was named as the second best player for Collingwood.

According to Doug Dyall, in a consequent 'challenge match', Richmond defeated North Melbourne and Ern gave another sterling exhibition in defence.

### ERN BECOMES A MAGPIE IN 1907

According to Michael Roberts, the Historian at Collingwood FC, Ern was encouraged to cross to Carlton FC in 1907 but was denied a permit to play at Princes Park.

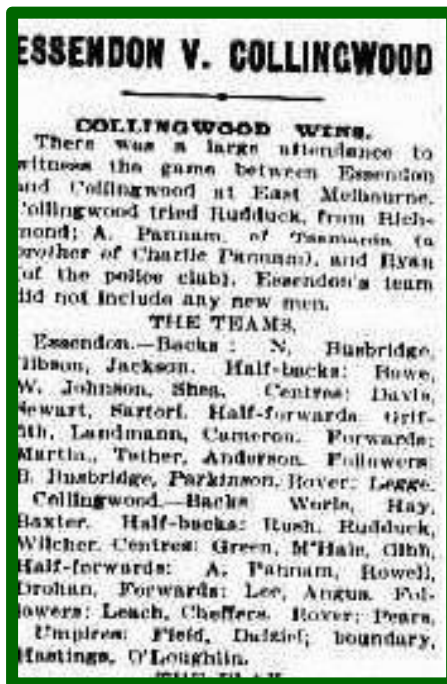


**Ernest Rudduck at Collingwood 1907**

It appears that Ern found his niche in VFL football because soon after that he was selected in the Collingwood team for the clash against Essendon. On that day, Albert Pannam from Wynyard, Tasmania, made his VFL debut ...but that is another story for another time.

In that match against Essendon (played at East Melbourne), the Magpie team included some very famous names in Victorian football such as : \*\*Bob Rush, Jock McHale, Arthur Leach , Eddie Drohan and the legendary Dick Lee. Ern was 23 years of age on debut. The final score was: Collingwood 6.11 (47) defeated Essendon 5. 8 (38). An emerging teenager named Dick Lee booted three majors to steer the Magpies to victory that day. Younger readers may not be aware that Walter Henry (aka Dick) Lee played 203 games for Collingwood and kicked 707 goals. He won the Magpies' goal-kicking trophy on eleven occasions.

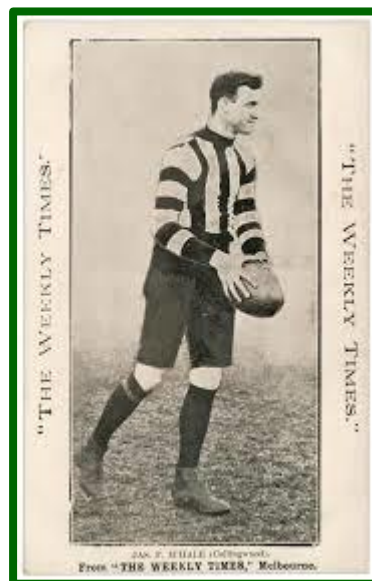
**\*\*Note:** There is a Dromana connection with Collingwood's famous Bob Rush as John Rush played at Pier Street in 2003.



Ern Rudduck was selected at centre- half back for the Collingwood v Essendon clash in May 1907 Source: 'The Herald' 25<sup>th</sup> May 1907 Page: 4



The legendary Dick Lee played with Ern Rudduck in 1907. He is seen above preparing for a place kick for goal. Dick Lee kicked 707 goals for Collingwood during his career.



James Francis (aka Jock) McHale-Jock coached the Magpies from 1912 until 1949 for a grand total of 714 games (which included seven VFL premierships). Jock was also a dashing footballer who played 261 games for the Magpies. Ern Rudduck was a team mate of Jock in 1907. Ern was 23 years of age when he stepped down from VFL ranks.



According to the AFL archives, Ern's next appearance for the Magpies was against Carlton at Victoria Park and in a low scoring affair, the Blues prevailed. In the Round: 10 match against South Melbourne, Ern kicked his first goal at VFL level; and according to the 'Mornington Standard' ....

*"Ernie Rudduck, of Dromana, played a splendid game in the ruck for Collingwood in their match against South Melbourne on Saturday," ....Source: As above 13<sup>th</sup> July 1907 page2.*

In the Round: 13 against Carlton; Ern booted an important goal and received glowing praise in the same paper. The following news item also gives readers an indication of Ern's strong physique....

*"Ernie Rudduck, the Dromana player, has not lost any of his form, and played a good game in the ruck for Collingwood v. Carlton on Saturday. In the second quarter he played forward and the 'Age' states he kicked a clever goal. Ruddock's weight helps him greatly in these hard fought games; he is the second heaviest player in the Collingwood team."*



**Ern Rudduck – A strong man at Victoria Park**

## **A MOTOR BIKE FOR ERN RUDDUCK**

Football was vastly different in that era; and player remuneration was a pittance compared to what AFL clubs pay players these days. However, Ern must have impressed the 'powers that be' at Victoria Park because Collingwood FC purchased/provided him with a motor bike to travel to the city each week. It would have been quite a trip in those days; and it says much about Ern's strong desire to break into league ranks...

*"Ernie Rudduck, of Dromana, played a splendid game in the ruck for Collingwood in their match against South Melbourne on Saturday. This popular player is thought, very highly of by the Collingwood Club, and they have provided him with a motor bike to enable him to be with the team every match." Source: 'Mornington Standard' 13 July 1907.*



## 1907 VFL SEMI FINAL - ERN' S LAST GAME

Ern's last game for Collingwood was in the 1907 Semi-Final against South Melbourne at the MCG and some 25,000 people attended the game.

From reading the match review, it seems that Collingwood was no match for the talented and desperate Bloods and went down by 34 points. The final scores were: South Melbourne 12.10 (82) defeated Collingwood 6.12 (48).

The star of that final was the illustrious Phillip 'Hughie' Callan (ex-Essendon); who later died at Gueudecourt, France in the Great War on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1917. Collingwood's best players were listed as: Percy Gibb, Albie Pannam, George Angus, Arthur Leach, Dave Ryan, Dick Lee, Tom Baxter, Graham Diggle and Dave O'Donoghue.

Ern Rudduck received a passing comment in the review: "...showed up well." It was the last of 14 VFL games (3 goals) that Ern played. His had been a short but impressive career; and it is fair to say that he had 'left his mark' at Victoria Park...

*"...Ernie Rudduck was a seriously good footballer. He'd been made captain of Dromana FC at age 19 in 1903, and played with Richmond in the VFA the following year. His early appearances in defence drew praise from journalists of the day, one of whom described him as "a good powerful player" who showed "fine football" ... One of the reasons Rudduck settled into VFL football so smoothly was his physique. He was relatively tall for the time, around 5'9" in the old scale.*

*He was also strongly built, with the 'Standard' reporting that he was the second heaviest player on Collingwood's list in 1907, and that enabled him to comfortably stand the rigours of football at the elite level."*  
*Source: Michael Roberts- Collingwood Football Club*



**Ernest Rudduck Collingwood- 1907  
(Ern is the player In centre of picture)**

## ERN RUDDUCK'S VFA & VFL CAREER SUMMARY

### Richmond (VFA)

- Career: 1904 – 1906
- Games: 34
- Goals: 2
- Played in the Challenge Final in 1905.
- Half back flank. Richmond 9.7.61 d North Melbourne 5.6.36

### Collingwood (VFL)

- 1907
- Debut: Round 5. 1907 vs Essendon, aged 23 years, 72 days.
- Debut Order for Collingwood: 128
- Games: 14
- Goals: 3
- Last VFL game: First Semi-Final 1907 v South Melbourne

## BACK HOME AT DROMANA

The Peninsula Football Association was formed in 1908; and Ern returned to Dromana FC. Ern was a 'Jack of all trades' in local football as he not only played for Dromana, while attending to the administrative duties of the club, but he also assumed the role of the central umpire (as was often required in those pre-war years).

It is not widely known that when Dromana struggled to field a team, in the local association in 1911, Ern was recruited to Frankston late in the season. He was a member of Frankston's premiership team which ended the run of three consecutive flags by the powerful Hastings team. The scores that day were: Frankston 4.17 (41) defeated Hastings 5.7 (37). Ern played as a follower that day and starred in the team's victory...

*"For the winners the leading players were Reynolds (by his clean and clever football all through), Rudduck (whose solid ruck work was invaluable to his side) ..."* 'Source: 'Mornington Standard' September 16<sup>th</sup> 1911. Page: 3

## WAR SERVICE AND OVERSEAS DUTY



World War: 1 : Embarkation to fight in a far off war.

World War changed the lives of so many families; and, in 1916, Ern Rudduck enlisted in the Army. The residents of the township gave him a warm 'farewell to the front' at the Mechanics Hall. As was the custom in those days, the townsfolk presented Ern with a gift of a gold chain and medallion.

The extract below again highlights Ern's commitment to his church and community; and it is mentioned that he was the Superintendent of the Sunday School at that time. Furthermore, the press cutting indicated the dreadful injury that had befallen Ern's brother (Joseph).

of Dromana and district assembled at the Mechanics' Hall recently to say farewell to Lance-Corporal Ernest Rudduck, who had enlisted on active service. Mr. A. V. Shaw (President of the Shire) occupied the chair, and after a very fine musical programme had been rendered, Rev. A. G. Adamson made a presentation of a wristlet watch on behalf of the church members. Rev. W. H. Taylor presented a gold chain from the Sunday school (of which Mr. Rudduck was superintendent), Dr. Weld, representing the townspeople, gave a gold medal, and the chairman, on behalf of the Rechabites made a suitable presentation. Mr. E. Rudduck made a suitable response, and a very enthusiastic send-off terminated with the National Anthem.

Mr. N. Rudduck has received word that his younger son received such injuries on the battlefield in France that his left arm has had to be amputated. His progress is reported to be "satisfactory."

**Ern Rudduck enlisted in the Army in 1916. The above press release also tells of the injuries received by Ernie's brother (Joseph) while at the front. Source: 'Spectator and Methodist Chronicle' Wednesday 4th October 1916.**

**Note:** Joseph John Rudduck also played football with Dromana and a tribute to Joseph can be found below.

As the Australian War Memorial records indicate, Ern (Military No: 3226) enlisted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1916 and was a member of Australian Infantry 57th Battalion fighting on the Western Front.

*"The 57th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 18 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 5th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 5th, the 57th was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Melbourne. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division. Having only arrived in France in late June, the 57th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a 'quiet' sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster.*

*Fortunately, for the 57th it was allocated a supporting role and suffered relatively light casualties compared to its sister battalions. This, however, meant that 57th carried the burden of holding the line in ensuing days for the battalion. Despite its grievous losses, the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.”*

*Early in 1917 the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, but it was spared having to assault it. It did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 57th's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September.” Source: AWM*

At some point, along the miles and miles of trenches excavated across the battlefields of the Somme, Ern was concussed and seriously wounded during a barrage. Ern was taken to a field hospital and then transported back to 'Old Blighty' (England) for further treatment and convalescence.

The following excerpt, from the Collingwood Football Club archives, refers to Ern's war experiences and also mentions the sad passing of his brother, Joseph, in 1918...

*“He spent most of 1917 in France with the 57th Battalion and was wounded in action in October of that year, suffering shell concussion which affected his hearing, and injuries to his shoulder and back. Lance Corporal Ernie Rudduck spent several months in hospital in England, returned to duty in March of 1918 and eventually arrived back in Melbourne in March of 1919.*

*Sadly, his youngest brother, Joseph John, wasn't so lucky. Having twice been rejected in Australia on medical grounds, he eventually enlisted with the British Army. He lost his left arm in the battle of the Somme, but reported for duty again within four months. He was caught in more fierce fighting in France in 1918 and died, aged 28.”*

Ern was discharged from the Army on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1919; and quickly re-engaged in community life and, of course, his beloved football club. It is not known if Ern kept a diary of his experiences at the Western Front but such would have been of value in trying to piece together his remarkable life story.

## **OTHER LOCAL VOLUNTEERS IN THE GREAT WAR**

Ern was one of many local young men who volunteered for wartime duty during the Great War. Other family names of local volunteers, associated with DFNC included: McLear, Chiton, Adams, Clydesdale, Dyson, Peatey, Sheean, Williams, Counsel, Brown, Gibson, Trewin, Cairns, Debney, Hinds and White. Each family has a tale to tell and each deserves to be heard.



## A NOTE ABOUT ERN'S BROTHER- JOSEPH

One of the great conundrums about the Dromana township is why the story of Ern's brother, Joseph, has been discounted in contemporary years. As has been the case, in so many community football clubs, the history of players and members has been sadly overlooked in the hectic rush to modernity.

However, Joseph John Rudduck's life is indeed an epic story; and it is lamentable that his name was never documented in the annals of DFNC history. It is known that Joseph (perhaps known as Jack) played with the club and enlisted in the armed forces during World War: 1. He may have lived in the 'shadow of his brother' on the football field but he was a truly gallant figure in military history.



**Lieutenant Joseph John Ruddock**

The following article was published in 'The Argus' in 1916; and Ern Rudduck is also mentioned as having enlisted...

*"CASUALTIES IN FRANCE...Lieutenant J.J. Rudduck, of Dromana, who was rejected for military service here, and paid his passage to London, where he enlisted, and received a commission in the Royal Lancaster Regiment, was recently in action in France, and received a wound in the left arm, which was subsequently amputated. He is now convalescent, and his services will be retained in England for training recruits. His brother, Mr Ernest Rudduck, recently sold his business at Dromana and Rosebud to volunteer, and is now in camp. " Source: 'Argus' Thursday 2 November 1916.*

Mr. J. J. Rudduck, son of Mr. Nelson Rudduck, a director of this company, and a well-known Methodist of Dromana, tried to enlist in the Australian Imperial Forces, but was rejected. Undeterred by his failure, Mr. Rudduck proceeded to England and offered himself there. This time he was successful, and he has been granted a commission in the British army.

Joseph John Rudduck's story is full of valour and pathos, and despite being an amputee he argued his case, with the British High Command, to be permitted to return to France to fight. As history shows, Joseph's fortune did not 'hold out' and, in June 1918, he died from wounds sustained in battle...

*"Twice rejected in Melbourne for active service, Rudduck booked a passage to London and joined the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, gaining his commission shortly thereafter. Lieutenant Rudduck lost his left arm in action in France, but following repeated requests was subsequently permitted to return to the trenches, where he later died from further wounds on 5th June 1918."*

## **ERN RUDDUCK COMES HOME TO DROMANA**



**'Home sweet home' - Dromana.**

On his return after his 'service years', Ern 'picked up the pieces of his life and it is believed that he and his wife (Theresa Charlotte) continued to manage the Jetty General Store. Apparently, Ern was still playing football in order to help the club on match days and was also actively involved in its off-field organization. His last match with Dromana was said to be in 1926 at the age of 42 years and, from anecdotal evidence, he was still capable of 'finding the ball.'

## **1929 ERN RUDDUCK'S LETTER**

As previously recorded on this website, things were very difficult for DFC in the late 1920's. While the AGM, in March 1929, offered a modicum of optimism for the coming season, by August, things were diabolical; and the club was struggling to stay 'afloat' because of a severe lack of players.

Any 'ray of hope' that the committee had felt in March 1929 was shrouded by a dark cloud of disappointment as things went from 'bad to worse' following a thrashing ( by some 50 goals ) at the hands of Hastings on August 3<sup>rd</sup> that year.

Dromana could field only nine players that day; and it is not hard to imagine the pessimistic talk and negative blather around the town that often occurs in such circumstances.

Ern Rudduck, who was the DFC President that year, was moved to write a letter of explanation regarding the club's sub-standard exhibitions during that season. The letter (as shown below) was forwarded to the Editor of the 'Frankston and Somerville Standard' and was published on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1929. It is a letter of historic importance because it told of:

- (i) The parlous state of the club; and
- (ii) Described the continual battle to a field team in the local competition.

**DROMANA FOOTBALL TEAM**

To The Editor

Sir.—I think your readers should know something of the disabilities under which the Dromana Football team has "carried on" this season. We commenced with a very limited reserve of players and every match has given us casualties.

We played at Sorrento without a full team; at Frankston with 16 men and our captain was injured early in the game. At Naval Base with 16 men. Against Somerville we had only 14 of our regular players and filled up with substitutes and in this match received four casualties. When it came to the Hastings match we only had half a team.

I think all fair-minded readers will admit that we have been a most unfortunate team. We have done our best to fill all engagements,—Yours, etc.,

**E. RUDDUCK, President.**

Source: 'Frankston and Somerville Standard' Saturday 17 August 1929, page 7

Ern Rudduck was 45 years of age when he penned the letter; and it is easy to see that, while he was passionate about the club, he was most apprehensive about its future.

It is alleged that Ern was forced to relinquish the position as DFC President in 1930 because of other pressing demands related to business and local politics. It seems to be an accurate assessment because it seems that community involvement and shire matters had 'swamped' Ern's life.

## RE-ENLISTMENT DURING WORLD WAR: 2

Ern was a deeply patriotic and intrepid gentleman and it is not surprising to learn that he re-enlisted for military service during World War: 2. As can be calculated, from his service record (below), Ern was 58 years when he enlisted on the May 11<sup>th</sup> in 1942.

He served, throughout World War: 2 as a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps until the cessation of hostilities in 1945.

<u>Name</u>	RUDDUCK, ERNEST
<u>Service</u>	Australian Army
<u>Service Number</u>	V358562
<u>Date of Birth</u>	14 Mar 1884
<u>Place of Birth</u>	DROMANA, VIC
<u>Date of Enlistment</u>	11 May 1942
<u>Locality on Enlistment</u>	DROMANA, VIC
<u>Place of Enlistment</u>	DROMANA, VIC
<u>Next of Kin</u>	RUDDUCK, THERESA
<u>Date of Discharge</u>	7 Jun 1945
<u>Rank</u>	Private
<u>Posting at Discharge</u>	10 BATTALION VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS
<u>WW2 Honours and Gallantry</u>	<u>None for display</u>
<u>Prisoner of War</u>	No

## A LIFE DEVOTED TO THE COMMUNITY –AN EXAMPLE TO ALL

On his return to civilian life, Ern resumed his involvement with the various organizations within the Dromana community; and he served on the Flinders Shire Council until 1959 (an imposing total of 24 years).

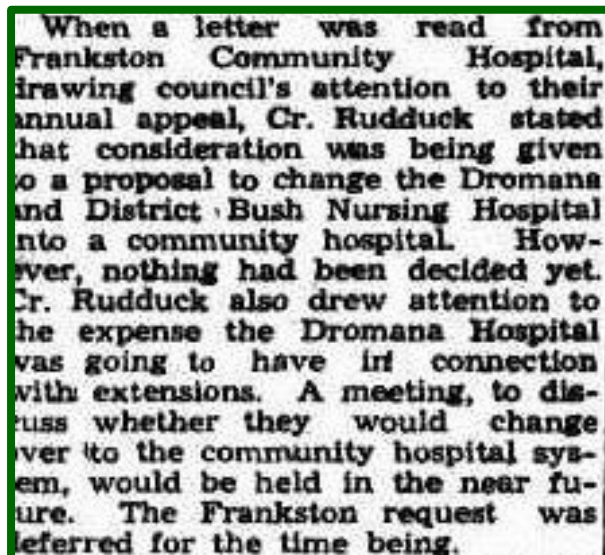
The Rudducks were a central part of community life in Dromana as shown in this extract from 'The Weekly Times' in April 1954...

*"...another foundation member, Mrs. E. Rudduck, has worked for many local causes. Her husband has twice been Shire president, and is president of the Dromana Hospital, which was founded by his father, the late Mr Nelson Rudduck. Mr. Nelson Rudduck actually gave the land for the hospital. He was one of the early pioneers of Dromana, having run away from his home in England as a boy, and worked his passage to Australia. He first joined an older brother who had a business at Dandenong (V.), but eventually set up on his own and ran the jetty store: at Dromana.*

*The hospital is a family interest of the Rudducks, for Mrs. Rudduck was for many years president of its women's auxiliary. She also works for Red Cross and in the C.W.A. She is the branch's magazine secretary. The Rudducks, who are dairy farmers, have a family of three, which has scattered to far corners of Australia. Their only daughter is married to a Darwin engineer, the elder son in an architect in Canberra and the younger son is chasing cattle in the Kimberleys (WA.). Mrs. Rudduck's sister-in-law, Mrs. V. Allen, was the branch's first secretary. She also works for the hospital and Red Cross..."*



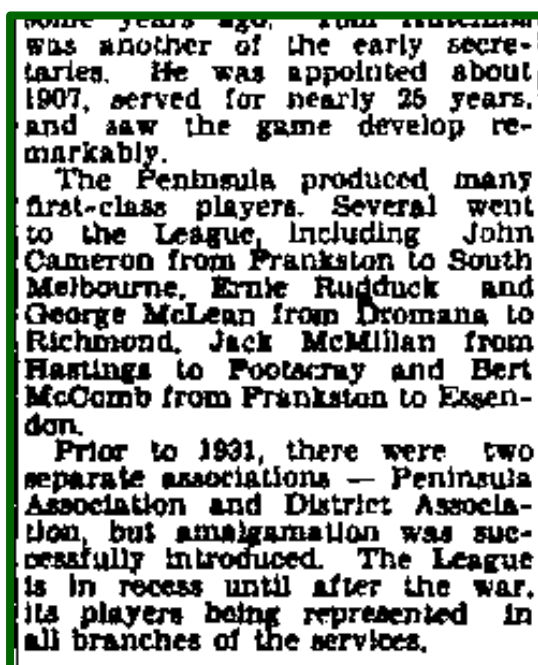
Nelson and Ern's dedicated involvement in the on-going operation of the Dromana Bush Nursing Hospital will always be remembered as one of his most important legacies to the township.



When a letter was read from Frankston Community Hospital, drawing council's attention to their annual appeal, Cr. Rudduck stated that consideration was being given to a proposal to change the Dromana and District Bush Nursing Hospital into a community hospital. However, nothing had been decided yet. Cr. Rudduck also drew attention to the expense the Dromana Hospital was going to have in connection with extensions. A meeting, to discuss whether they would change over to the community hospital system, would be held in the near future. The Frankston request was deferred for the time being.

Source: 'Standard' Thursday 11 July 1946. Page: 9

This extract ( below) was uncovered in a newspaper many years after Ern's retirement from playing football (i.e. with Dromana , Frankston, Richmond and Collingwood). George McLearn, who played three games with Richmond in 1914, is also mentioned. ( The cutting shows the name as McLean not McLearn and the error may lie with the reporter).



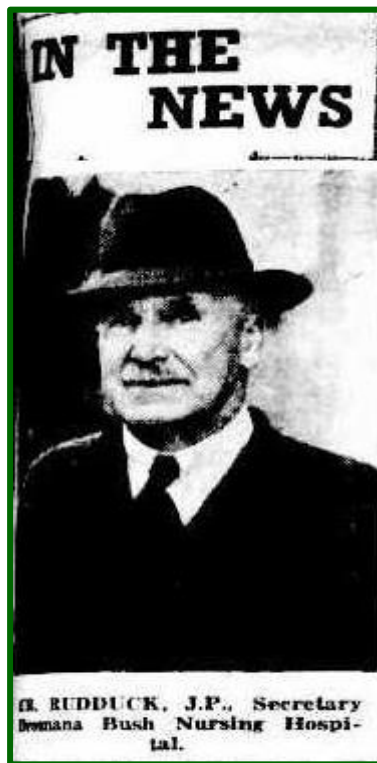
Some years ago, ~~the Peninsula~~ was another of the early secretaries. He was appointed about 1907, served for nearly 25 years, and saw the game develop remarkably.

The Peninsula produced many first-class players. Several went to the League, including John Cameron from Frankston to South Melbourne, Ernie Rudduck and George McLean from Dromana to Richmond, Jack McMillan from Hastings to Footscray and Bert McComb from Frankston to Essendon.

Prior to 1931, there were two separate associations — Peninsula Association and District Association, but amalgamation was successfully introduced. The League is in recess until after the war, its players being represented in all branches of the services.

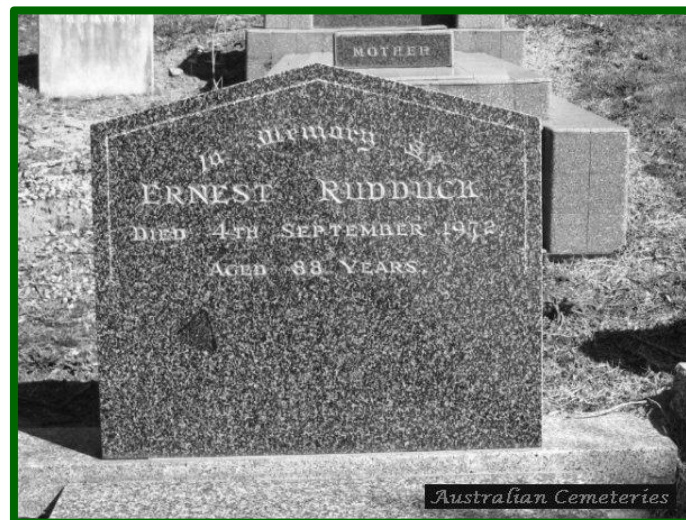
## ERN RUDDUCK - NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

Ernest Rudduck passed away on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 1972, aged 88 years. His life was one of devotion to his community and serving others. Ern was a stoic character; and it is fair to say that he deserves enduring credit for the part that he played in securing and maintaining the football club during the hard times..



Times were different when Ern forged his name in local football but he gave freely of his time and sought nothing in return. His was a 'labour of love' and he set a benchmark for all later volunteers; and his loyalty could never be questioned and his generosity of spirit was exemplary.

In closing this tribute to Ern, it is apparent his life-long quest was to ensure that the Dromana football club 'survived and thrived'. His endeavours in that era were unparalleled; and, he was, in every way, a giant within the community of Dromana.



Ernest Rudduck's Headstone at Dromana Cemetery

## THANK YOU & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Sincere thanks to MPNFL Historian, Doug Dyall, and Jean Rotherham of the Dromana & District Historical Society for their willing assistance regarding this research regarding the Rudduck family.

- Thank you to Michael Roberts-Historian at Collingwood Football Club for his interest in Ern Ruddock. Michael is to be thanked for the willing help he offers many community club's requests for assistance regarding players of bygone eras of football.
- This article, about the Rudduck family, would have been impossible without the resources of the National Library of Australia; and 'thank you' to the staff at Rosebud Library for their assistance, over many years, in allowing access to the editions of earlier local newspapers ( e.g. 'The Gazette') for research purposes.
- Our gratitude should be expressed to the various club scribes, in those formative years of Mornington Peninsula football. Those amateur/volunteer reporters played a vital part in ensuring that the match results and reviews arrived at the local printers for publication each week. In some cases (e.g. 'Frankston & Somerville Standard') the match summaries were extremely graphic and comprehensive and provide an excellent historical perspective regarding the early days of local football.
- Thank you to those local families who have taken an active interest in DFNC's history and this current project (i.e. to place on public record our enduring gratitude to the club's foundation members and pioneers).

## **FURTHER READING**

1. Those people who are interested in further information regarding the Rudduck family may enjoy reading 'A Dreamtime of Dromana' which was written by well-known identity and former DFC player Colin McLearn.
2. The Rudduck brothers are mentioned frequently in 'Our Boys at the Front 1914-18: The Mornington Peninsula at War'. The book is available via the Local History Reading Room at the Rosebud Public Library.

## **'THANK YOU' FROM DFNC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

In conclusion, thanks to all who have assisted in placing on record our appreciation to Ern Rudduck and his family for their role in building and sustaining the DFNC and their selfless contribution to the local community.  
 Roger (Historian)...On behalf of the Board of Management DFNC-May 2022.

## **REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:**

Sources: Personal records- DFNC Records -MPNFL archives- Doug Dyall MPNFL Historian- Jean Rotherham -Dromana Historical Society-Australian Cemeteries archives- Michael Roberts, Historian Collingwood FC-NLA- Rosebud Library.

Article reference: The story of Ern Rudduck. Reference : 2022/10

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