

MITCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB – ‘HALL OF FAME MEMBER’ (#1)

Edgar Edwardes Walker

(1862 – 1936 Age 74)



Edgar in 1910

Biography

As Mitcham's second Club President, Edgar Walker was a dominant figure of the broader community and certainly was the Godfather of the Mitcham Football Club (MFC). Edgar ushered in the most successful period under his 10-year Presidency and beyond. He was President from 1903 - 1913. The Club was Premiers: 1903, 1904, 1914, 1915, (World War 1) 1919 and 1921.

MFC was formed earlier than most Clubs in 1888. Edgar owned and was the Managing Director of Mitcham's Australian Tesselated Tile Co (1885 - 1955) where many of its young workers were happy and maybe obliged to play for the boss's Mitcham Football Club. If not, the club would have battled for player numbers, and is a key reason why MFC started (in 1888) well before it's neighboring towns.

Edgar's company (locally known as the 'Tile Yards') was the largest in the District, providing work for the vast majority of people in Mitcham and surrounds. At its peak ATTC employed 350 staff in the 1920's / 30's. After leaving the 'Mitcham Square' (an oval come-paddock), bounded by Whitehorse, Mitcham and Station roads, Edgar set up in 1898 a beautiful white picketed fenced oval (Walker Park 1) on his private land, behind the Tile Yards for the MFC. This also served his workers and the community well, along with the odd cow or two, keeping the grass down. However, this land was later to be compulsory acquired by the Victorian Government - Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works to install a much-needed Mitcham Reservoir and running water. To ensure his beloved MFC had a ground to play, Edgar arranged a 10-acre parcel of land, where Walker Park 2 is located today on Whitehorse Road. Five years later in 1910 Edgar passed this land to the Shire of Nunawading to maintain for the MFC and the general local community.

As a leading citizen, Edgar was a man of high morals and great energy, placing much importance upon the code of honour of industry and integrity. Edgar had the first phone and car in the District, and agitated Government to achieve a 3-chain road width for Whitehorse Road through Mitcham and Nunawading. Still today, Whitehorse Road narrows when entering Ringwood and Blackburn ends without service lanes.

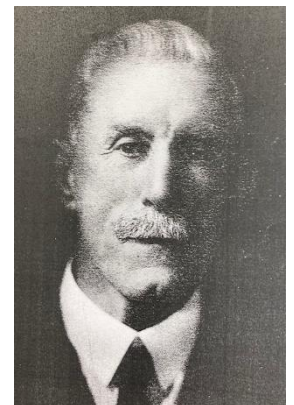
Edgar's civil duty saw him serve 21 years as Councillor and two terms as President of the Shire of Nunawading. Edgar was a truly great man, who not only loved his footy, but gave so much back for the economic development, employment and civil good for the community in which he lived. We are so much to be indebted to Edgar, as his generous achievements live on today.

Shire of Nunawading

- 21 Years as Councillor - Mitcham Riding
- 2 Terms as Shire President, Justice of the Peace
- Most prominent citizen and employer in Mitcham and neighboring townships
- Involved citizen and chaired most community committees
- A true statesman who was demanding, yet fair - and got the job done

MFC Active Service

- Moved MFC off the small Mitcham Village Square ground in 1902
- Relocated the Club to a new ground on his private land behind his Tile business.
- Relocated MFC to its current ground on Whitehorse Rd in 1910, as the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works acquired his land for a new Mitcham Reservoir,
- Effectively provided 2 grounds for the MFC to continue playing
- 1902 MFC Vice President
- 1903 – 1912 MFC President (10 years)
- 2010 Hall of Fame Foundation Member
- As MFC President he brought in professional teams behind him. This translated to much success and Premierships, laying the foundation for future Club success.



Edgar in 1934



Edgar in 1903