

# RED JACKET SPORTS GROUND

c.1890s

**Red Jacket, Jericho and Victor's Quartz were all keen on sporting events. At one time or another, all three were able to field cricket teams, football teams, rifle and shooting clubs and New Year or Boxing Day picnics.**

Miners often organised events between men from the local mines, but players seem to have no allegiance to any particular team. Some were found selected for Jericho one week, Aberfeldy the next, and possibly Victor's Quartz after that. In 1899 the Wood's Point Cricket Association included teams from Gaffney's Creek, Matlock, Jericho, Mt. Lookout (Aberfeldy), Victor's Quartz and Red Jacket. Each club participated on a rotation basis using its home ground. Opposition clubs appeared not concerned with the long distances between each venue.

Red Jacket developed a cricket pitch on a small patch of relatively flat ground towards the Red Jacket Creek. Their first match was against Matlock, with Red Jacket achieving a convincing win. The next round was against the Victor's Quartz team with Red Jacket again getting the runs on the board.

Cricket was a sport that continued for many years in the region, popular well into the 1930s as described by Red Jacket resident Neil H. Richardson when he was invited to play for a season with Aberfeldy:

***“Cricket was our recreation in the summer. My sisters and brothers would remember Dick Merington. Dick was a cricket fanatic. As a young man he had played against Warwick Armstrong's Australian Eleven on the little cricket ground on top of the mount where Armstrong's Eleven played a charity match against our local teams. He would walk down the river and over the ranges every Saturday, a distance of 20 miles, to play. He did it for years. When I knew him, he was the captain of the Aberfeldy Cricket Club. He was always captain.***

***He was more than middle aged when I knew him and yet he walked all the way from the Mount (Aberfeldy) to Red Jacket to ask if I could play with the team, having heard from someone that I was a bit of a dasher with the bat and ball...”***

Football was another game engaged in by all districts with Red Jacket and Victor's Quartz regularly mustering teams. Matches were organised against other teams as far away as Toombon, Donnelly's Creek, Aberfeldy and Gaffney's Creek. Given the distances travelled and the grounds played upon, these men had to be admired for their persistence and tenacity.



*Matlock cricket team, worthy opponents of the Jericho, Red Jacket and Victor's Quartz club members*

CRICKET.		
RED JACKET v. MATLOCK.		
RED JACKET.		
M. O'Keefe, c Cronin, b Allen	...	42
Hussey, b Cronin	...	1
W. Hughes, b Cronin	...	4
Martin, l.b.w. b Cronin	...	7
M. Hughes, stp. Nichols, b Cronin	...	0
Franzki, c Boucher, b Allen	...	1
Barker, b Allen	...	4
M'Neil, b Boucher	...	1
H. Bennett, run out	...	0
Negri, b Allen	...	0
G. Bennett, not out	...	6
Sundries	...	6
Total	--	72
Bowling.—Cronin, 4 for 30; Allen, 4 for 13; Boucher, 1 for 22.		

Source: Rodgers, J.G., 1998, 'Jericho on the Jordan: a Gippsland Goldfields History'  
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