



Lieut. Darcy Rivers Warren Cowan

Royal Army Medical Corps



(Photo from the PAC Collection)

Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1907

(Intervarsity: 1904, 1905, 1907, 1908)

Cricket Club: 1908/9 - 1909/10 (A-Grade)

Other Sports: Tennis, Athletics & Lacrosse

**Sports Awards: (Blues - Football (1907), Lacrosse (1908) &
Tennis (1909))**

**Adelaide University Sports Association's First "Triple Blue"
Graduated MB BS (1908)**

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.

On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.

The following documentation relates to the life of AUFC/AUCC player Darcy Rivers Warren Cowan. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

Published Biographies

Cowan, Sir Darcy Rivers Warren (1885–1958)

By Philip Woodruff

This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 13, (MUP), 1993

Sir Darcy Rivers Warren Cowan (1885-1958), medical practitioner, was born on 8 August 1885 at Norwood, Adelaide, one of eight children of James Cowan, a merchant from Ireland, and his wife Sarah Ann, née Warren. Darcy attended Prince Alfred College and the University of Adelaide (M.B., B.S., 1908) where he won a triple Blue in lacrosse, football and tennis, and also played cricket. On 19 April 1910 at the Hahndorf home of Alfred von Doussa he married Effie Hewitt Cox with Catholic rites; they were to remain childless. The Cowans were in England at the outbreak of World War I and on 5 November 1914 Darcy was appointed temporary lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Returning to South Australia, on 22 May 1916 he joined the Australian Army Medical Corps Reserve as an honorary captain.

In 1924-35 Cowan served as honorary physician to the (Royal) Adelaide Hospital where he became increasingly absorbed with the problem of tuberculosis and concerned with the toll that the disease was taking of young people, particularly those nurses and doctors occupationally exposed to it. Cowan's mission was threefold: prevention, patient care, and convincing his colleagues and government that the matter could and should be successfully tackled. In 1937 he visited the United States of America to investigate methods of control. President (1935-36) of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association, he became a foundation fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1938.

His constant pressure and forthright statements resulted in the establishment at (Royal) Adelaide Hospital of a chest clinic, with a ward for tuberculosis patients, of which Cowan was physician-in-charge (1938-50). In 1943 he criticized one tuberculosis ward in Adelaide for being located next to a dusty coal-dump and with a full view of the hospital mortuary. That year he founded the South Australian Tuberculosis Association, devoted to the welfare of patients, to public education and to the study of the disease. In 1947 in London he emphasized the importance of providing economic and psychological relief for sufferers and for their families. Returning to Adelaide, he introduced the use of *Bacillus Calmette-Guérin* vaccine which was prepared by Dr Nancy Atkinson. Next year he helped to form the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in Australia and forged links with kindred societies in Britain and America.

Virtually single-handedly, Cowan founded Bedford Industries, a new factory (opened in 1950 at Panorama, Adelaide) which offered opportunities for the rehabilitation of those afflicted with tuberculosis; it developed into a broad-based enterprise and the main building was named after him. Assisted by Sir Josiah Symon, Cowan had earlier set up Northcote Home, a residence for children whose parents were in hospital with tuberculosis. Although he found the task 'stupendous' and 'almost frightening', he never allowed politicians to forget the tuberculosis issue and maintained his relentless advocacy until the success of the National Campaign against Tuberculosis was assured. In 1947-57 he assisted the James Brown Memorial Trust which owned and managed Kalyra Sanatorium and Estcourt House, Grange.

Cowan's obsession and his public pronouncements earned him opposition, even occasional enmity, from some professional colleagues, public servants and politicians. Rather belatedly, he was knighted in 1955. Plump, bald and bespectacled, with a benign, quizzical smile, he possessed an equanimity which calmed his patients' fears and showed a concern for their condition which extended beyond the province of medicine.

Despite a busy life, Sir Darcy enjoyed gardening and was an office-holder in the South Australian Lawn Tennis Association; he had helped to organize the Davis Cup challenge rounds at Memorial Drive in 1952 and 1956. He belonged to the Adelaide Club (from 1929) and was a life member of the B.M.A. Survived by his wife; Cowan died on 9 June 1958 at Calvary Hospital, North Adelaide, and was buried in Payneham cemetery. The Australian Laennec Society commemorated him by the Sir Darcy Cowan prize for research into respiratory disease.

Select Bibliography

- G. L. McDonald (ed), *Roll of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians*, vol 1 (Syd, 1988)
- A. J. Proust (ed), *History of Tuberculosis in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea* (Canb, 1991)
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- *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 May 1943, 16 Sept 1946, 12 July 1947, 17 Oct 1969
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Citation details

Philip Woodruff, 'Cowan, Sir Darcy Rivers Warren (1885–1958)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/cowan-sir-darcy-rivers-warren-9845/text17415>, published first in hardcopy 1993, accessed online 30 April 2017.

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COWAN Sir Darcy Rivers Warren

MB BS FRACP



1885 - 1958



Darcy Rivers Warren Cowan was born on the 8th August 1885 at Norwood, Adelaide. He was one of eight children of James Cowan, a merchant from Ireland, and his wife Sarah Ann, nee Warren. His father was a prosperous flour miller and investor in Broken Hill; subsequently he was a Member of Parliament in South Australia. Cowan was educated at Prince Alfred College and studied medicine at the University of Adelaide where he won a triple Blue in lacrosse, football and tennis, and also played cricket. He married Effie Hewitt Cox on the 19th April 1910; they were to remain childless. Cowan was in England with his wife at the outbreak of WWI; on the 5th November 1914 he was appointed temporary lieutenant in the RAMC. Returning to South Australia, on the 22nd May 1916 he joined the AAMC Reserve as an honorary captain.

Cowan was an honorary physician to the Adelaide Hospital in 1924-35 where he furthered his interest in tuberculosis, and was especially concerned that the disease was infecting nurses and doctors occupationally exposed to it. He visited the United States of America to investigate methods of control of tuberculosis in 1937. As a result of his determination in the control and treatment of tuberculosis the Chest Clinic at the Adelaide Hospital was established. This included a ward for tuberculosis patients, of which Cowan was physician-in-charge from 1938 to 1950. He founded the South Australian Tuberculosis Association in 1943. Then in 1948 he helped to form the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in Australia and forged links with kindred societies in Britain and America. Cowan founded Northcote Home, which

was a residence for children whose parents were in hospital with tuberculosis. He also founded Bedford Industries, which offered work opportunities for the rehabilitation of those afflicted with tuberculosis. This later became a factory at Panorama, SA, which provided those with different mental and physical disabilities with work opportunities. He was involved with the James Brown Memorial Trust which owned and managed Kalyra Sanatorium and Estcourt House, Grange from 1947 to 1957. Cowan was also President (1935-36) of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association. He became a foundation fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1938. Cowan was knighted in 1955 for his work on tuberculosis. Despite a busy life he enjoyed gardening and was an office-holder in the South Australian Lawn Tennis Association; he had helped to organize the Davis Cup challenge rounds at Memorial Drive in 1952 and 1956. He belonged to the Adelaide Club from 1929 and was a life member of the BMA. Sir Darcy Rivers Warren Cowan died on 9 June 1958 at Calvary Hospital, North Adelaide, and was buried at Payneham cemetery. He was survived by his wife Effie. He was commemorated by the Australian Laennec Society with the establishment of the Sir Darcy Cowan prize for research into respiratory disease.

Sources:

Med J Aust, 1959, 1, 612-14.

Photo the PAC collection.

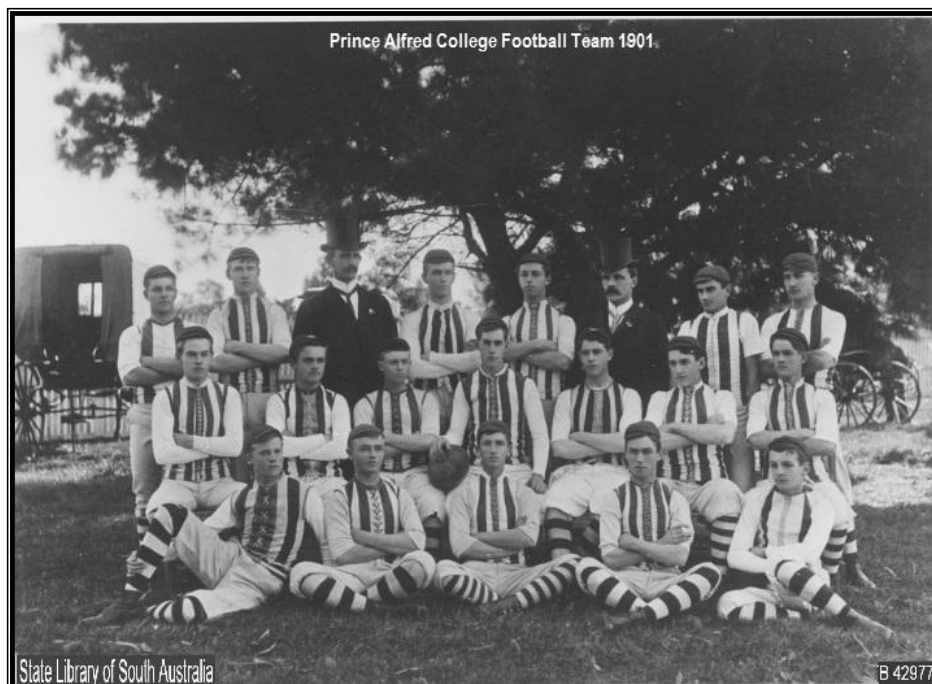
Woodruff P., 'Cowan, Sir Darcy Rivers Warren (1885-1958)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/cowan-sir-darcy-rivers-warren-9845/text17415>.

Additional Biography

Education and Sport

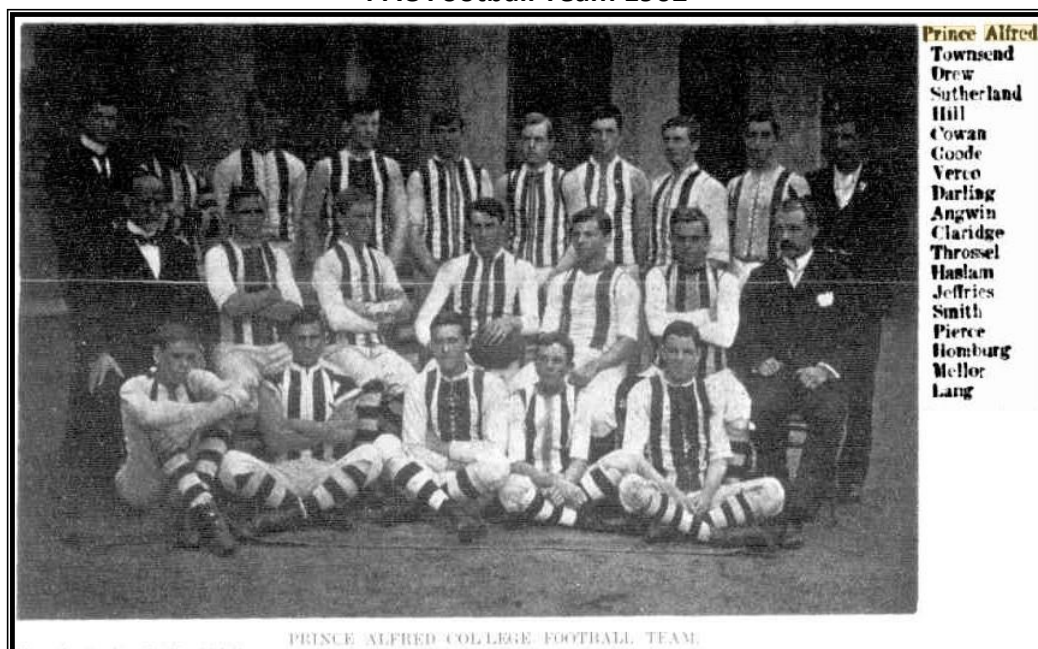
Prior to studying medicine at Adelaide University (1903 - 1908), Darcy Cowan was educated at Mrs. Hübbe's Knightsbridge School (Knightsbridge is now Leabrook) and Prince Alfred College (PAC). A solid but not brilliant student at PAC, he completed the Junior Examinations in 1900, University of Adelaide Senior Entrance Examinations in 1901 and Higher Examination in 1902.

Sport was a greater interest and while at PAC he played 1st XV111 football (1900, 1901 & 1902).



Darcy Cowan (seated 1st on left)

PAC Football Team 1902



Darcy Cowan (Standing 6th from left)

Darcy also played 1st X1 Cricket for PAC in 1901 (awarded silver medal) and 1902. In his two intercollegiate matches against St Peter's College he had three innings for three ducks!

1902 PAC Intercollegiate Cricket Team



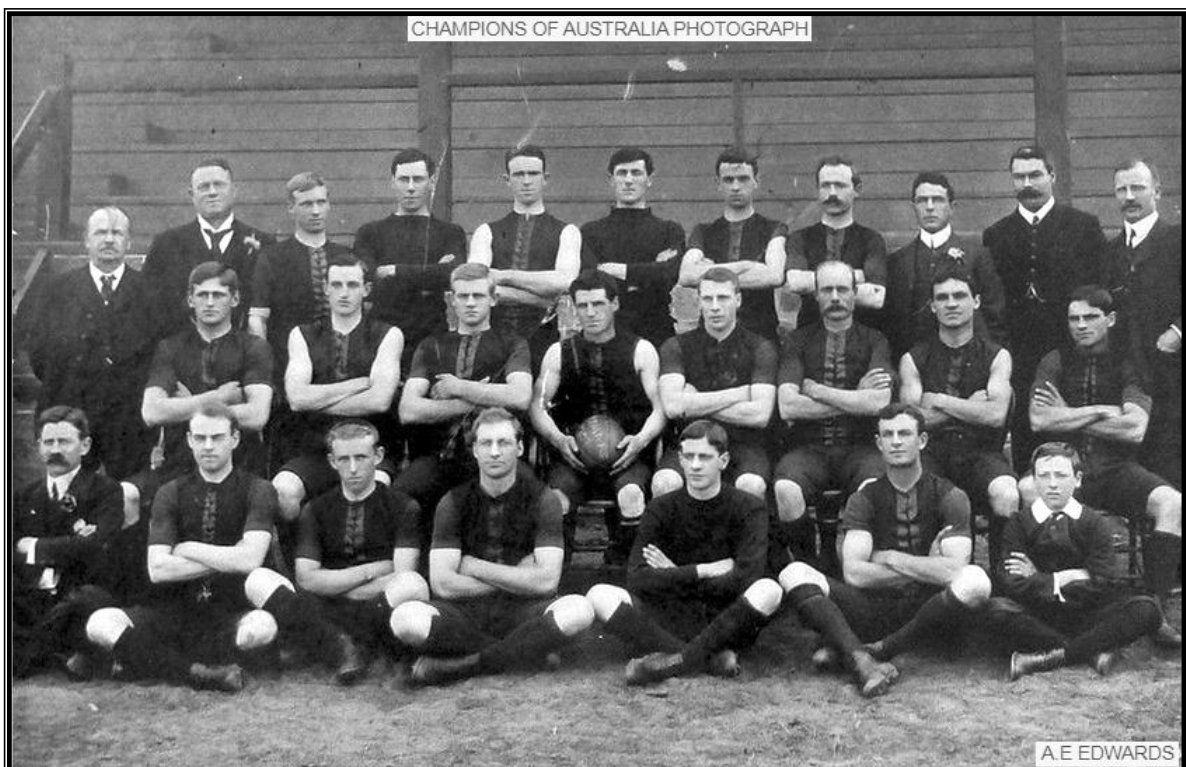
Darcy Cowan (Seated 1st on left)

While at PAC he also participated in the intercollegiate athletics contests, and finished 2nd in the Long Jump.

While still in his final year at PAC, Darcy was considered good enough to be selected to play a League Football game for Norwood against Sturt on 2nd August 1902. His older brother Leslie was also in the side at the time (at various times three other brothers also played football for Norwood).

Darcy was a dual premiership player in 1904 & 1907 (both times Norwood defeated Port Adelaide) and played a total of 29 games. In 1907 Norwood went on to defeat Carlton, the Victorian premiers, on Adelaide Oval to become Champions of Australia.

Norwood Football Club 1907



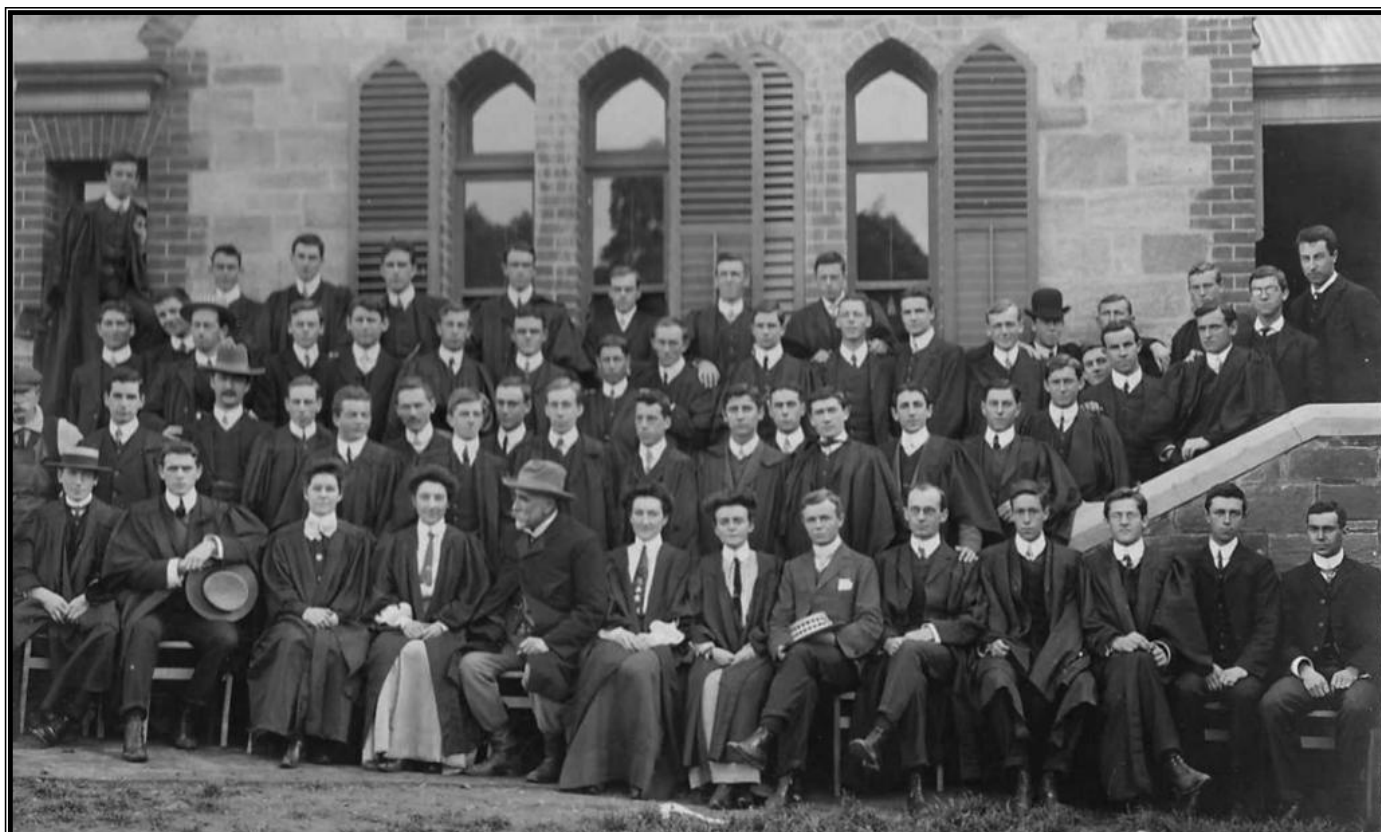
Darcy Cowan (Front Row 2nd from left)



Norwood Football Club Player 1902 - 1908 (Premiership Player 1907 - 29 games)

Adelaide University

Darcy enrolled in the Medical Faculty in 1903 and graduated MB. BS. in 1908.



Mounted sepia photograph. Photographer: H. Krischock. 1st row: N. Shierlaw, Catchlove, Miss M. George, Miss Delprat, Prof. Watson, Miss Delprat, Miss M. Moffat, R. A. Goode, St. John Poole, C. Yeatman, E. C. Black, S. L. Corry, E. J. R. Holder. 2nd row: J. Dyer, Thomas, J. J. O'Grady, D. M. Steele, Drew, E. Arnold, H. M. Jay, W. Ray, G. R. West, L. G. Muirhead, J. Leon, H. Powell, E. B. Jones, W. D. Rosengarten, N. E. Seppelt, W. R. Reynell, T. H. Donnelly, R. Trudinger, Everard. 3rd row: H. Elkan, C. D. Pitcher, F. E. McAree, E. H. Lewis, J. L. Jona, E. A. H. Russell, G. Harvey, W. H. Stevenson, C. Dolling, W. A. V. Drew, W. Jacobs, T. G. Fleming, M. Erichsen, R. J. Verco, L. O. Betts, L. W. Jeffries. 4th row: E. J. McGlashon, H. Fry, P. T. S. Cherry, R. Plummer, H. W. D. Stoddart, D. R. W. Cowan, Sinclair, D. Parkhouse.

University Archives / Series 1151 University Photographs and Glass Slides

<http://hdl.handle.net/2440/27201>

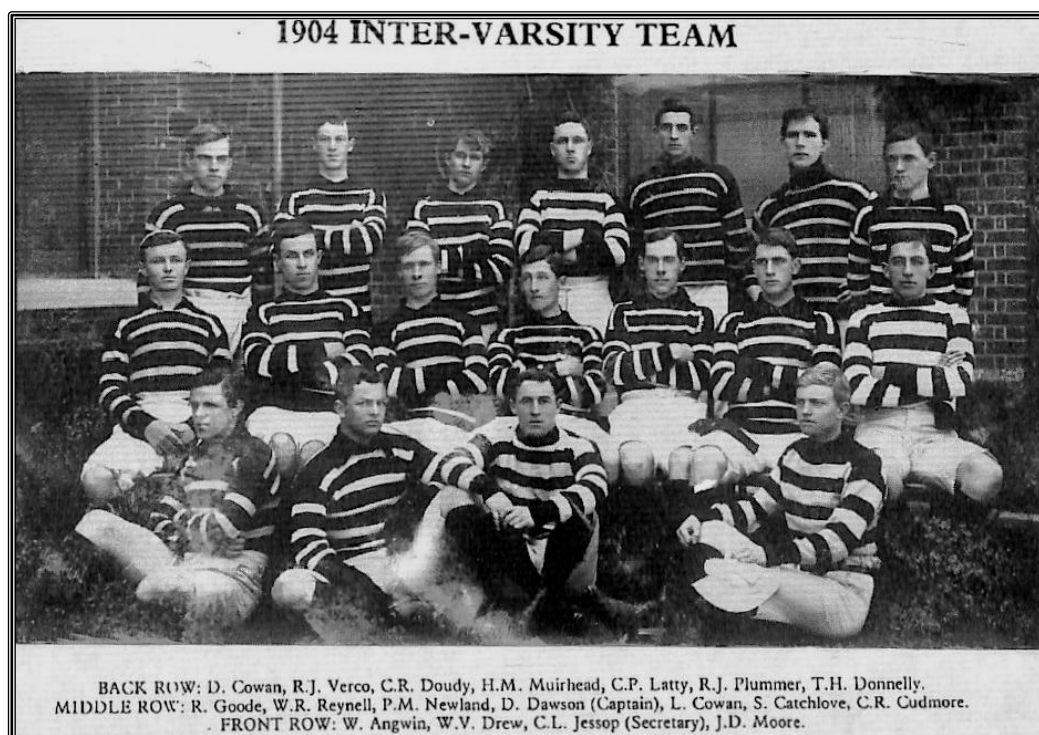
1906 Medical Students - Darcy Cowan back row 3rd from right hand side

Sport for University

On leaving school at the end of 1902, he continued with all his favorite sports; playing cricket, football for Norwood and University and participating in athletics, winning the Adelaide University Championships Long Jump event in 1903. He also played in tennis tournaments and lacrosse while studying medicine at Adelaide University.

Football

Although playing league football with Norwood he also played in the four intervarsity matches (1904, 1905, 1907 & 1908) played between Adelaide and Melbourne Universities.



In 1907 Cowan played only 5 games for Norwood (including the winning grand final team), deciding to play the majority of the football season with University and was awarded a Blue for outstanding performances. In 1908 (his final year of medicine), he only managed one league game with Norwood and that years Intersvarsity contest against Melbourne. His sporting priority was now Lacrosse.



1908 Intersvarsity Football Team

*Back row: G. Earle (boundary umpire), B. Hand (Hon. Sec.), H.V. Lampe, W.J. Ford (boundary umpire).
3rd row: H. Humphries, R.H. Begg, S.W. Jeffries, H.S. Annells, V. Cresdee, W.W. Cooper, W.B. Angwin.
2nd row: J. Jona, C.F. Drew, D.R.W. Cowan, H.W.D. Stoddart (Captain), W.A.V. Drew, A.C. Wilton, E. Holder.
Front row: J.W. Blackett, R.A. Goode, H.R. Reynolds (Central umpire), L.H. Haslam, O.J. Murphy.*

Lacrosse

By 1905, it was apparent that Lacrosse had also become one of Darcy Cowan's favourite winter sports. He played in the local competition for University and the Intersivity matches from 1905 - 1909. The first grade team included many of his cricket team mates. He was awarded a Blue for Lacrosse in 1908.



1909 Intersivity Lacrosse (DRW Cowan Front Row 2nd from Left)

Tennis

Cowan was also a fine tennis player and from his earliest years at Adelaide University competed in the annual tennis championships and represented the University in the Intersivity tournaments of 1908 and 1909. In 1909 he was awarded a Blue for tennis which made him the first "Triple Blue" for Adelaide University.



1908 Intersivity Tennis (DRW Cowan Front Row 3rd from Left)

Cricket

In the summer, with Adelaide University not yet having an official team, he joined the Erindale Cricket Club. In February 1905 he and Brother Leslie were members of an "unofficial" Adelaide University team that played a match against his old school. Many of the players from both sides would soon become regular University players after their admission to the South Australian Cricket Association competition in 1908/09.

P.A.C. VERSUS UNIVERSITY.
On Wednesday afternoon the Adelaide University cricket eleven played a match against the Prince Alfred first eleven on the college grounds.
Scores:-

P.A.C.
H. W. D. Stoddart, b. Dawson 10
R. Middleton, b. Nesbit 34
G. P. Goode, b. Dawson 6
H. Rankine, b. Plummer 12
C. F. Drew, not out 61
R. F. Osborne, run out 11
C. E. Dolling, not out 63
Sundries 4

Total for five wickets 201
Steele, none for 49; Dawson, two for 47; Nesbit, for 23; L. Cowan, none for 19; V. McAree, none for 18; F. McAree, none for 2.

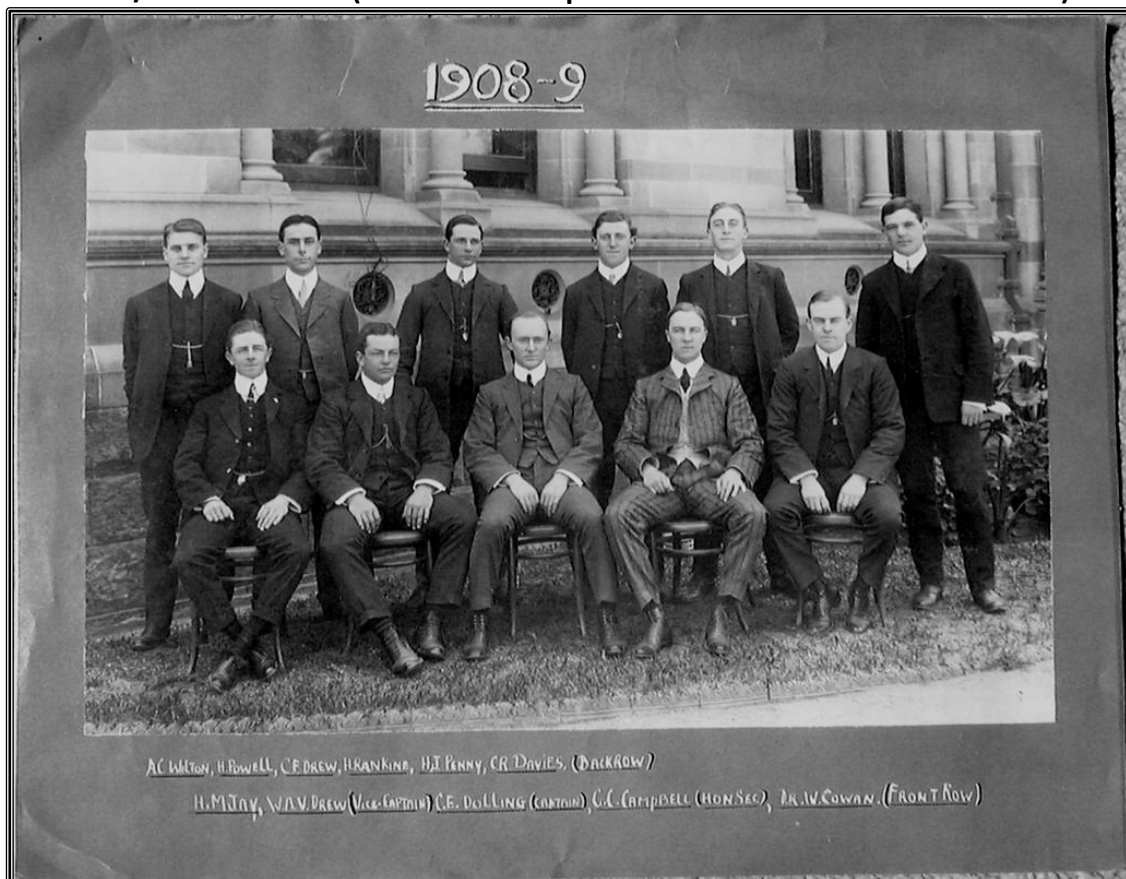
UNIVERSITY
W. A. V. Drew, c. Seppelt, b. Stoddart 11
R. Brummitt, b. Dolling 1
E. Chapple, b. Stoddart 0
L. T. Cowan, b. Dolling 0
R. G. Plummer, b. Dolling 1
D. Dawson, b. Stoddart 27
V. McAree, c. Steele, b. Dolling 2
F. McAree, c. Dolling, b. Stoddart 2
D. Cowan, not out 1
D. M. Steele, b. Dolling 10
W. J. Nesbit, b. Dolling 0
Sundry 1

Total 56
Dolling, six for 30; Stoddart, for for 25.

Having regular success with both bat and ball, Darcy was proving to be a useful all-rounder while continuing to play with Erindale through to the end of the 1907-08 season.

In 1908/09 season he was a member of the first Adelaide University Cricket Club team. Although nearing the end of his medical degree he was able to play two seasons for University and claimed 57 wickets with his medium pacers and occasional leg-breaks but had little satisfaction with the willow.

1908/9 Cricket Team (First team to represent AUCC in SACA District Cricket)



GLENELG VERSUS UNIVERSITY.

The match between the Glenelg and University teams, begun on Saturday afternoon on the Glenelg Oval, was of especial interest, as both teams made their initial appearance in A grade cricket. The turf wicket was somewhat dead, but will improve under the influence of warmer weather. The University captain (O. E. Dolling) won the toss and elected to bat. H. Rankin and G. C. Campbell were the first batsmen, the bowlers being J. Laycock and F. T. Hack (captain of Glenelg). The duty of wicket-keeping was entrusted to C. Keaneally, and he carried it out well. The first wicket to fall was Campbell's, his stumps being scattered by Laycock after he had compiled 27 runs out of a total of 45. Dolling made things merry by opening his account with a boundary hit. With the score at 53 Rankin was run out. Drew followed, and helped Dolling to increase the total to 105. W. A. V. Drew soon fell a victim to Laycock's bowling. With the score at 177 Wilton became associated with Dolling, who had collared the bowling, and was giving a masterly exhibition of batting. At this stage Dolling passed the century, and received an ovation. On bringing his total to 112, and with the total at 201 he gave the wicketkeeper a chance, which was accepted. Included in his score were 15 boundary hits, and the seven bowlers who were tried received the same impartial treatment from him. Wilton and Davies remained not out with 21 and 27 to their credit respectively. Scores:—

UNIVERSITY.		
H. Rankin, run out	19	
G. C. Campbell, b. J. Laycock	27	
C. E. Dolling, st. Keaneally, b. Candy ..	112	
C. F. Drew, st. Keaneally, b. Laycock ..	27	
W. A. V. Drew, b. J. Laycock	6	
A. C. Wilton, not out	19	
C. R. Davis, not out	27	
Sundries	2	

Total (for five wickets) 239

Bowling.				
	R.	M.	W.	R.
J. Laycock	136	2	3	87
Hack	78	1	0	29
Candy	72	2	1	45
Measday	54	0	0	28
Heddie	18	0	0	24
Jacobs	24	0	0	20
Yuill	6	0	0	6

Heddie bowled one no-ball.

GLENELG AND UNIVERSITY DRAW.

The University eleven, who had lost five wickets for 239 runs on the Glenelg Oval on the previous Saturday, declared their innings closed. F. T. Hack and H. Candy opened the innings for the seaxiders, but after a few runs had been made Candy was cleverly caught by Jay off the bowling of Davis. D. McRae stepped into the vacant crease, and after compiling 11 he fell a victim to Cowan. M. Jacobs (a Geelong College batsman) and Hack then became associated, and runs came freely from the bat of the former. On reaching 60 Jacobs was smartly caught by Wilton. When stumps were drawn Glenelg had lost five wickets for 210 runs, and the game ended in a draw in favor of Glenelg. The chief feature of the game was the good fielding of the University men. Scores:—

First innings.**GLENELG.**

J. T. Hack, b. Dolling	47
H. Candy, c. Jay, b. Davis	2
M. Jacobs, c. Wilton, b. Rankin	60
D. McRae, stpl. Campbell, b. Cowan	11
P. Laycock, c. Jay, b. Penny	21
H. Measday, not out	27
T. M. Waddy, not out	18
Byes, 6; leg-byes, 6; wide, 1; no-balls, 2	15

Total (for five wickets) 210

Bowling.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
C. R. Davies	10.4	2	27	1
D. R. Cowan	16	1	50	1
H. Powell	6	1	21	—
C. F. Dolling	12	1	33	1
H. M. Jay	3	—	15	—
H. Penny	8	—	27	1
H. Rankin	8	—	10	1

C. E. Dolling bowled one wide and H. M. Jay two no-balls.

Reports of Adelaide University Cricket Club's first match in the SACA A Grade District Competition

After finishing with the University Club, and completion of his medical residency he appeared briefly for East Torrens in the first three A Grade matches of 1912-13, but failed to create much of an impression. In 1914 he travelled to England with his wife Effie (nee Cox) who he had married in 1910.

War Service, Medicine & Latter Years (Refer to published biographies above)

Although medicine then dominated Cowan's life, he showed an enduring interest in tennis, being a founding member of the Kensington Gardens tennis club. During his office of chairman of the South Australian Lawn Tennis Association, the Memorial Drive courts were brought to a state of excellence. His love for cricket also endured and he put on the creams for the occasional game, including matches where the Adelaide Hospital Consultants took on the Resident Medical Officers. In the 1930s, interstate cricket teams often played tennis at Cowan's residence at North Adelaide.

CRICKET

DOCTORS AT CRICKET

Yesterday afternoon a cricket match was played between the honorary medical staff and the resident medical staff of the Adelaide Hospital.

Scores:—

HONORARIES

L. C. Lindon, c. Hanson, b. Downing ..	77
D. Cowan, b. Hodby	2
H. M. Jay, st. Dwyer, b. Pridmore ..	33
B. H. Swift, st. Dwyer, b. Pridmore ..	16
J. B. Jose, c. Dwyer, b. Pridmore ..	34
T. S. Messent, b. Pridmore	0
H. Newland b. Downing	3
S. R. Burston, retired	24
C. T. Turner, c. Hanson, b. Lennon ..	22
A. Hobbs, not out	4
R. Matters, b. Lennon	3
Sundries	6

Total 226

Bowling.—Hodby, one for 57; Hanson, none for 56; Pridmore, four for 77; Downing, two for 12; Hughes, none for 15; Lennon, two for 4.

RESIDENT STAFF

R. V. Pridmore, retired	86
J. M. Dwyer, c. and b. Messent	29
J. E. Hughes, b. Newland	27
L. D. Hodby, absent	0
B. S. Hanson, st. Turner, b. Burston ..	17
S. C. Downing, b. Burston	7
D. K. McKenzie, (b.w., b. Burston ..	7
E. J. Hamp, c. Messent, b. Burston ..	3
K. F. Cooper, b. Newland	1
V. Lennon, not out	6
A. Hinchley, (b.w., b. Burston	7
Sundries	15

Total 193

Bowling.—Swift, none for 18; Jay, none for 49; Newland, two for 51; Jose, none for 23; Messent, none for 16; Cowan, none for 7; Burston, five for 16.

Sir Darcy Rivers Warren Cowan was knighted for his work in tuberculosis research in 1955. He died on 9 June 1958 at Calvary Hospital, North Adelaide, and was buried in Payneham cemetery. He was survived by his wife. They had no children

Profile compiled by: Rob O'Shannassy - AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee

Sources and Acknowledgements:

Published Biographies (reproduced in full):

- **Cowan, Sir Darcy Rivers Warren (1885–1958):** Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 13, (MUP), 1993; Philip Woodruff
- **Blood, Sweat and Fears, Medical Practitioners and Medical Students or Served in World War 1:** Christopher Verco, Annette Summers, Tony Swain & Michael Jelly. (Army Health Services Historical Group)

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- **PLAYERS - Cowan, Darcy:** (Those Who Served), Website: Redlegs Museum - History of the Norwood Football Club) - Photo and Career Details
- **Copies of Reports and Results:** Trove (Digitised newspapers and More): National Library of Australia
- **Series 524 Sports Association Members and Intervarsity Team Photographs:** Adelaide University Archives