

BOB ALDRIDGE PARK

Originally the site of the Temora Municipal Council pound, these grounds were named for Mr Robert Bartlett Aldridge, the “Father of Rugby League Football” in Temora.

Popularly known as “Bob” he was one of the greatest all round sportsmen, gentlemen and citizens of Temora for the first half of the 20th century.

The Aldridge family came to Temora in the late 1800’s, Bob learning the trade of saddlery. Leaving Temora for the Boer War, Saddler Robert Aldridge No 1459, served with the 3rd Battalion of the Commonwealth Horse (NSW). Returning to Temora about 1905 he continued in the saddlery business.

A natural sportsman, he immediately involved himself in district sports, in particular playing Rugby Union which was the code played in Temora at the time. As five eighth and centre three-quarter, he was one of the best players in southern NSW. He also became coach and referee and when Rugby League came to Temora in 1914, was instrumental in establishing its success.

Bob was involved with schoolboys Rugby League, coaching ‘his boys’ and refereeing their matches. He was the coach of St Joseph’s and St Anne’s teams for over forty years. Many of Temora’s top footballers, especially in the Maher Cup competitions, owed their later success to Bob Aldridge.

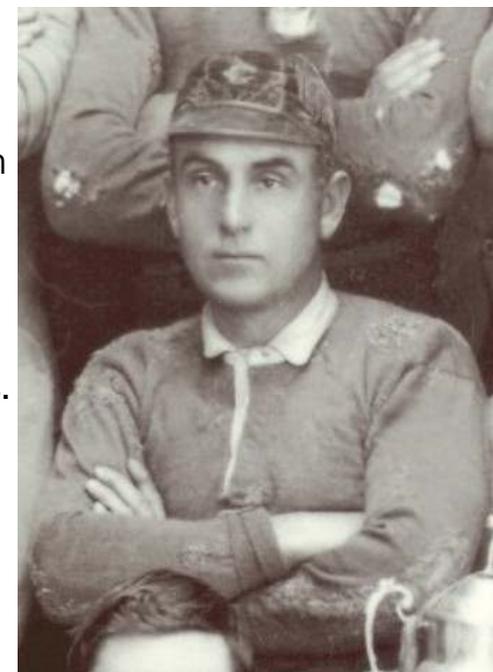
An excellent cricket batsman, it was said “it is a pity Bob Aldridge allowed football to interfere with his cricket, with his stroke-making he’d be a champion’.

Bob was not just an authority on Rugby Union and Rugby League, but also on athletics (training successful runners for the gift races), horse racing (as owner and trainer) and billiards.

He was also a champion ballroom dancer, winning numerous waltzing competitions.

Following the death of his wife, Florence, he was left with three sons, whom he raised to manhood, each becoming successful career makers.

Forever a gentleman, Bob’s advice was “Always boys, attend church and school first, and then play football”.



*BOB ALDRIDGE
1876–1950*

Erected by the Temora Heritage Committee and the Temora Districts Sports Council, 2011