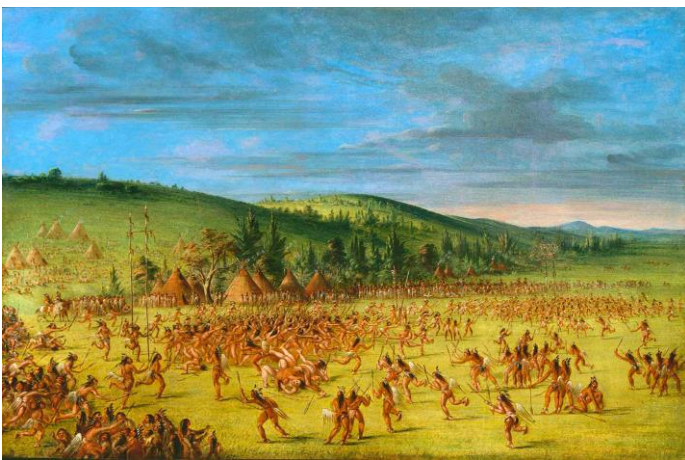# LACROSSE

Lacrosse is one of the oldest team sports. The sport was originally played by the Native Tribes in North America. It was originally known as "Baggataway" which translates to "Younger Brother of War" and was used by the tribes as an alternative to war. The games took place over several days and were played over huge open areas between villages. The goals, which might have been trees or other natural features, were anything from 500 meters to several kilometers apart. A large number of players were involved with estimates of between 100 and 100,000 participating in a game at any one time!

The game was observed by French missionaries working in the area. As a result, interest in the game began to develop in Canada. They believed that the sticks used resembled a bishop's crozier (in French "la crosse d' évêque") and hence called the game Lacrosse. The game developed into the game as we know it today, which is played on a field of similar size to a hockey/soccer pitch, by two teams with ten players on the field at one time. The first club, Montreal Lacrosse Club was founded in 1856. Since then Lacrosse has spread all across the Americas, Europe, Asia, Australia and even parts of Africa.

Lacrosse first came to Australia 1876. It is a largely armature sport in Australia with competitions in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland.

MENS LACROSSE IN VICTORIA

The pioneer of lacrosse in Australia was a Canadian, Lambton L. Mount. He came to the Victorian goldfields as a fourteen year old with his family in 1853 but it was not until 1875 that he was moved to revive his early boyhood memories of lacrosse. After watching the football final between Carlton and Melbourne in that year it occurred to him that lacrosse was a superior game.
In April of 1876 Mount wrote to the Australasian Newspaper to announce that he was arranging to import forty lacrosse sticks from Canada and intended to start lacrosse and establish the Melbourne Lacrosse Club. He succeeded and the first practice match of this club took place on 22nd June 1876 between 15-20 players at Albert Park. The Melbourne club continued to promote the sport and arranged matches between the "Reds" and "Blues" in Albert Park during 1877-78. By 1879, four clubs had been formed with some 120 players. These four clubs - Melbourne, Fitzroy, South Melbourne and Carlton formed the Victorian Lacrosse Association in July 1879 for the purpose of coordinating matches. His Excellency, the Governor of Victoria The Most Hon G.A.C. Phipps, was the inaugural Patron.
The History of Men's Lacrosse in Victoria is a fascinating read, and can be downloaded here. This book follows the progress of men's lacrosse in Victoria from 1876 until 1994.

WOMENS LACROSSE IN VICTORIA

The Victorian Women's Amateur Lacrosse Association was formed in 1936. The Association comprised two teams, Williamstown and the YWCA and the first coaching session saw 30 girls in attendance.
As a result of the Second World War, the Association went into recession at the conclusion of the 1940 season. Although the War finished in 1945, for various reasons, the competition did not resume until 1962. Three clubs were formed, Williamstown (two teams), Footscray and Malvern.
Matches commenced on Sunday afternoon 29th April 1962 at 1.30pm at Albert Park and teams comprised 8 players. The first official match of the Association was played at Lauriston Girls School in Malvern.

Chadstone Lacrosse Club was founded by Bill Gray Senior and David Cohen in 1960, originally as a Junior Development Club for Melbourne Lacrosse Club. Chadstone grew as a club of its own and now has many teams in Mens, Womens, Junior Boys and Junior Girls competitions. Chaddy is always striving to provide a fun, safe and welcoming environment for new players of both genders, any age and playing ability. If you would like to know more about Chadstone Lacrosse Club, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us:

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