



The Club is established in 1980 under the name of AICA, or Australian Italian Cultural Association. In keeping with its Italian heritage, the Club adopts the colours of green, white and red and is based at Wordsworth Reserve in Yokine.

## 1980

The Club joins the West Australian Amateur Football League (WAAFL) and commences regular competition in the Sunday Division. The Club loses its first game to Fire Brigade by 81 points, and has to wait until Round 11 for its first victory, which is a 36-point win against Doubleview. The Club finishes its first year with the wooden spoon with just two wins.

## 1981

Under the guidance of captain coach Leo Italiano, the Club finishes the season as minor premiers. After defeating Graylands in the Second Semi Final, the Club defeats Fire Brigade in the Grand Final by 5 points to complete a fairy tale turnaround from wooden spoon to Premiers in only one year. The final scores were AICA 11.13 (79) to Fire Brigade 10.14 (74).

## 1982

After finishing the season as minor premiers, the Club wins its second consecutive premiership under Leo Italiano by defeating Swan Athletic in the Grand Final by 40 points - the final scores being AICA 21.12 (138) to Swan Athletic 15.8 (98). The Club also introduces a Reserves team competing in K-Grade of the WAAFL. The Reserves also finish minor premiers, but lose the Second Semi Final and Preliminary Final (to Scarborough and Mt Hawthorn-West Perth respectively) to finish its first season in 3rd position.

## 1983

Leo Italiano guides the League team to their third consecutive Sunday Amateurs premiership and the Reserves team win the I-Grade premiership, resulting in the most successful year in the Club's history. For the second year in a row, the League side defeats Swan Athletic in the Grand Final by 3 points, after being behind by as much as 26 points in the third quarter - the final scores being AICA 12.13 (85) to Swan Athletic 12.10 (82). The Reserves team defeats the City of Perth in the grand final by 44 points - the final scores being AICA 16.19 (115) to City of Perth 10.11 (71). Given that the League and Reserves teams play their Grand Finals on different days, four players - Charlie Bertilone, Steve Buxton, Aldo Dellasanta and Vic Ioannou - are able to play in both premiership sides.

## 1984

The Sunday Amateurs division of the WAAFL is discontinued and the League team is placed in C-Grade. The club also fields a Colts team competing in C-Colts of the WAAFL. All three sides make the finals, but all three are knocked out in their respective Elimination Finals. The League team lose their Elimination Final to Morley by 37 points, the Reserves team lose their Elimination Final in H-Grade to Innaloo and the Colts team lose their Elimination Final to Forrestfield. Brian Smith wins the WAAFL C-Colts Fairest & Best Medal.

## 1985

The Club changes name to become Northbridge-AICA. The League side lose the Elimination Final to Morley, Reserves finish 8th in H-Grade and Colts lose a replay of the First Semi Final to University after playing out a draw the previous week. Con Zaekis wins the C-Colts Leading Goal Kicker award with 76 goals for the season.

## 1986

The League and Reserves sides finish the season at the bottom of the C-Grade and H-Grade ladders respectively. The Colts side make the finals for the third consecutive year, but loses the Elimination Final to Whitford.

## 1987

Due to a fall in player numbers, the reserves team is discontinued. The league team is demoted to D-Grade and finish the season in 5th position. Rockingham are defeated in the Elimination Final and Brentwood are defeated in the First Semi Final, but the Club is beaten in the Preliminary Final to WACAE. The Colts team also suffer a drop in player numbers and are forced to withdraw from D-Colts grade after 14 rounds.

## 1988

The Club's homeground at Wordsworth Reserve is made unavailable by the City of Stirling, forcing the relocation of its home ground to Jones Paskin Reserve in Balcatta. The club is back to competing with a single team, with no reserves or colts teams. The league team finishes the season in D-Grade in 6th position. Aldo Dellasanta wins the WAAFL D-Grade Fairest & Best Medal.

## 1989

Given the club's new home in Balcatta, a decision is made to change the club name to Balcatta-AICA. The first year of the new club name is unfortunately not successful, with the League team finishing in last place in D-Grade.

## 1990

The AICA name is dropped from the Club name and the official club colours are changed to navy blue and white. The Club is relegated to E-Grade. After finishing the regular season in 5th position, the Club defeats St Norberts in the Elimination Final and Sawyers Valley in the First Semi Final before losing to West Coast in the Preliminary Final. Club captain Charlie Bertilone wins the WAAFL E-Grade Fairest & Best Medal.



## 1991

The Club finishes the E-Grade season in 5th position again and loses the Elimination Final to University. This is the lowest position ever reached by the club.

## 1992

The Club wins the Qualifying Final versus Dianella-Morley and the Second Semi Final versus Redcliffe to reach another Grand Final. However, the team is unsuccessful on the day and loses the Grand Final to Redcliffe by 40 points - the final scores being Redcliffe 12.12 (84) to Balcatta 5.14 (44).

## 1993

Despite losing the 1992 Grand Final, the team is promoted back to D-Grade, and a Reserves team is re-introduced, competing in J Grade. Both teams make the finals, but both lose their respective Elimination Finals to North Beach (in D-Grade) and Wanneroo (in J-Grade).

## 1994

Under new coach Andrew Rottigni, the League team finishes the season in 3rd spot and then progresses to the D-Grade Grand Final after wins in the First Semi and Preliminary Finals. The Grand Final is a hard fought battle and the Club loses to Cowan University by 9 points - the final scores being Cowan University 12.5 (77) to Balcatta 9.14 (68). The Reserves team makes the finals but loses the Elimination Final to Wembley.

## 1995

The League team is promoted again to C-Grade and finishes the season in 4th position. After defeating Brentwood in the Elimination Final, the Club loses to Wanneroo by 12 points in the First Semi Final. The Reserves team progress through to the Preliminary Final but are defeated by High Wycombe. In a rare double, League coach Andrew Rottigni wins the WAAFL C-Grade Fairest & Best Medal and Dragi Kostadinovski wins the WAAFL J-Grade Fairest & Best Medal.

## 1996

The appointment of former AFL and Swan Districts player Kevin Caton as captain coach brings immediate success to the Club. The League team breaks a premiership drought to win the C grade Grand Final versus Redcliffe and earn automatic promotion up to B Grade - the final scores being Balcatta 13.5 (83) to Redcliffe 3.8 (26). Paul Sanzone wins the WAAFL C-Grade Fairest & Best Medal. The Reserves team, who were promoted to I-Grade, make the finals but are knocked out by Melville in the First Semi Final.

## 1997

The Club makes the Grand Final in B-Grade but is narrowly defeated by Mt Lawley by 4 points - the final scores being Mt Lawley 8.7 (55) to Balcatta 7.9 (51). In a restructure of divisions in the WAAFL, the reserves side competes in the newly formed B-Reserves grade, but finishes the season in 8th position.