

The City of Preston : Cazaly Ward

Many ratepayers within the central part of Preston and surrounding the Park will be vaguely aware come Council election time that they reside within Cazaly Ward and will probably have some inkling that the name probably originates from the footballer made even more famous by Mike Brady's smash hit song of the 1970s (and 80s and 90s ...) "Up There Cazaly", or in more specific terms former St. Kilda and South Melbourne champion, Roy Cazaly.

Cazaly did in fact captain-coach the Preston Football Club in 1931 and there have been a few well-meaning but perhaps misguided accounts of what he did at Preston.

The intrigue surrounding Roy Cazaly's appointment as captain-coach of Preston for the 1931 season commenced, not in Melbourne where Cazaly made his name, but in Tasmania where he had coached the Launceston City club and was vice-captain of the state representative team at the Adelaide Carnival in 1930 at 37 years of age.

(Vice-captain was something of a sticking point - many thought he should have been captain and was a victim of the bitter rivalry between the Hobart-based and Northern competitions).

"R. Cazaly, the former captain and coach of the City Football Club, Launceston, in company with S. Joolen, the well-known rover, left Launceston on Saturday by the t.s.Nairana for Melbourne. Cazaly has accepted a coaching position on the mainland for next season". The Hobart Mercury, 11 November, 1930

The *Launceston Advertiser* added ... *"... the pair were farewelled by a large number of friends on the wharf ..."*

The Summer Months

Not a lot is known of Cazaly's exploits as a cricketer, but the Mercury noted he made 55 of South Launceston's total on the Saturday before he and his teammate Stan "Snowy" Joolen left for Melbourne.

Cazaly appears to have joined South Launceston early in March, 1930 and was part of their first-ever premiership in 1930-31. His performances late in the season seem to have been steady rather than spectacular - the *Launceston Examiner* suggested in one match he was unable to score freely because of an injured hand - but were sufficient for him to be included in the Northern Tasmania Association XI in what was effectively a second-level representative match against the North Easter Association, the "first" side playing the traditional North v South match in Hobart the same day.

(In assessing the merits of his inclusion in the representative team, it may be as well to add that there were only four teams on the competition, hence half of the players got a gig in one of the two teams)!

From early February, the pair were playing with the South Melbourne Footballers XI in the Victorian Junior Cricket Association (the Footballers were past their glory days, but they won something like ten premierships in twelve seasons between roughly 1905 and 1917).



Cazaly, 1931 PFC team photo

The Mystery Coaching Position

Undoubtedly the most important few words in the announcement were "Cazaly has accepted a coaching position on the mainland".

These the beginnings of the increasingly desperate times of the Great Depression when those blessed with some ability as sportsmen were as anxious as anyone else to supplement their income (if they were fortunate enough to have one) with an extra pound or two through their talents on a sporting arena.

[The Summer Months](#)
[The Mystery Coaching Position](#)
[A Marriage of Convenience](#)
[The Clearance Battle](#)
[An Unsung Hero](#)
[Cazaly at Preston : On-Field](#)
[Cazaly at Preston : Off-Field](#)
[Did Roy Make A Quid?](#)
["Snowy" and the Wharfies](#)
[The Cazaly Disappearance](#)
[Enter Harry Hunter](#)
[Switching Allegiances](#)
[Odd Spots](#)
[Memories of Cazaly](#)
[Cazaly – The Stats](#)

UPDATED November, 2017
["Cazaly's Return"](#)

With Cazaly leaving a successful coaching career in Tasmania and at least temporarily his wife and five children in November some five months before the start of the football season, it seems an almost inevitable conclusion that he believed that he had secured the position with a League club, but which one and why didn't the role eventuate?

An extensive search of contemporary publications do not reveal what club (if any) where Cazaly "accepted a coaching position" - and a reality check suggests that this may have been an unlikely claim by the *Mercury* given the realities of the day.

There a number of references to Cazaly having trained with Melbourne, but they had had champion player Ivor Warne-Smith as captain-coach in the three years leading up to the 1931 season and there was no suggestion that he had any intention of standing down (he continued in 1931 and then in 1932 as non-playing coach).

There was precious little coverage of football over the summer months - the media then adopting the rule that October through March was the cricket season, April to September for footy - the *Sporting Globe* bent the rule slightly by including a preview of Melbourne's prospects in April when it revealed that Cazaly at 38 years of age was training with the team, although there was no suggestion that he may be appointed as coach.

"Formidable Melbourne Line-up ... Roy Cazaly, looking particularly fit, showed that he still retains his judgement and marking ability, while his left foot kicks delighted the spectators. Roy will also need a clearance as he captained the Tasmanians in the last Carnival team in Adelaide ..."

The *Melbourne Herald* was rather more circumspect, suggesting Cazaly was *"another South Melbourne player" ... ".led Tasmania in Last year's carnival ..."*, and noting simply as *"... taking the field in the second half"*.

(Cazaly's appearance in only the second half came about because he had been batting with the Footballer's XI in a final the week before - he continued his innings and after he was dismissed went post-haste to the practice match).

Cazaly's appearances on the cricket field with the Footballers XI of his old club appear to be coincidental and more a case of catching up some old team-mates than a serious attempt at a coaching position..

He coached South Melbourne Football Club for around half of the 1922 season and returned in 1937-38, but again there was no suggestion in the press (including the *South Melbourne Record* which avidly followed the local team) that a change at the Lakeside Oval was in the offing.

A Marriage of Convenience

Around the same time, the *Globe* noted Preston's predicament

"Preston have not announced the appointment of a coach ...the committee, however, have a popular member of last year's eighteen in mind, but there remains a few matters to be finalised before a decision is made ... there is even a chance the position will be filled by a player acting in an honorary capacity ..." The *Sporting Globe*, Wednesday, March 7

Cazaly's original coaching position at the unknown club mentioned by the Tasmanian papers on his departure never to have materialised, and that his "pre-season" training with the Melbourne club seems to have come to nothing, the relationship between Cazaly and Preston may well have been a "marriage of convenience".

Preston later in March appointed Collingwood full-back, Charlie Dibbs, as captain-coach. Dibbs was a resident of Preston ¹ and ran the few weeks of training that constituted a "pre-season" in those days, but Collingwood refused him a clearance.

¹ The 1931 Electoral Roll shows Dibbs and his wife Dorothy at 87 William Street, Preston, the couple having married that year. Dibbs was born Charles William Heaton in 1905 - his father William died in 1909 at just 30 years of age. His mother, Sarah, re-married Dibbs in 1914, and Charles and his younger brother Edgar/Ernest were brought up under the latter family name. Charlie also applied for the captain-coaching role at Northcote, and it is perhaps not surprising that Collingwood were reluctant to clear him - 26 years of age at most, Dibbs had already played in four premierships at full back, despite standing just five feet nine inches in height. He added a fifth in 1935 before he took the role of captain-coach of Geelong in 1936, lasting just seven matches before being replaced by Reg Hickey.

Before that, the local club had approached giant North Melbourne ruckman, Norm Lewis to coach, but discovered that he was under a long-term suspension imposed by the V.F.A. before North Melbourne had joined the V.F.L. in 1925.

Just how and when Preston and Roy Cazaly came together and struck the deal for him to captain-coach the club remains a mystery, but the deal was done just three days before the opening round.

"Disappointed at its failure on Tuesday night to secure Dibbs of Collingwood as coach, Preston officials spent a busy day yesterday in finding another coach, and were so successful that R. Cazaly has accepted the position. Cazaly was approached early in the morning, satisfactory terms were agreed upon, the South Melbourne committee granted the clearance, and all that is necessary is for the clearance to arrive by Friday night, and Cazaly will lead the side in the first match next Saturday. By an agreement between the League and the Association, a special meeting of the permit committee may be held on the night before the opening matches to deal with any permits that may be necessary. An urgent telegram has been sent to Tasmania urging that the papers be expedited with that end in view".

"Cazaly has been one of the state's best footballers. As a follower in particular he played with South Melbourne and Victoria with distinction. He played in Tasmania last year and was vice-captain of the State team in Adelaide".

The Argus, Wednesday, 15 April

The Clearance Battle

At that stage, Preston had a clearance from South Melbourne, Cazaly's old League club, and by a strange twist of fate, Prahran were in a similar position with their appointed coach William "Bull" Adams.²

Both the Association clubs were also battling the calendar - the last Saturday of April was traditionally the opening round, but by a quirk of fate this in 1931 fell on April 25, Anzac Day and with no matches played - the League postponed their opening to May 2, but the Association, who were always keen to get a jump-start on their League rivals went the other way, bringing the opening forward to April 18.

"... although the clubs concerned did everything possible to enable the papers to come to hand last night, the permits for Cazaly and Adams, who have been appointed captain-coach respectively of Preston and Prahran could not be discussed last night by League and Association permit committees. They will therefore be unable to play on Saturday ..." The Mercury, Thursday, April 16



William "Bull" Adams
1928 PFC team photo

Cazaly was forced to stand down for the opening match; his experience sorely missed as Preston led the 1929 premiers and 1930 grand finalists Northcote at Westgarth Street by nine points with just over two minutes to play, but lost concentration and allowed their traditional round one rivals to snatch a three-point victory, the last kick of the day a goal off the ground after a boundary throw-in, ironically from Alex Gray, their top rover who moved to Northcote from Preston in 1928 after being unable to cement a place in the senior team.

(The Association's gamble on shifting the round forward came up trumps - 15,000 packed the Westgarth Street Oval for the Northcote v. Preston match and what the crowd may have been if it was known Cazaly would play is anyone's guess. Even as it was, the match was upstaged by the Coburg - Brunswick game which attracted 17,000).

Come Anzac Day a week later and there was still no clearance.

"Information received by the Preston secretary (Mr. E. Hannah) yesterday indicated that the Tasmanian club with which Cazaly was associated last year had held up his application for a clearance. Cazaly said that there was some misapprehension and as a result of telegrams sent yesterday, it as expected that the clearance would be endorsed and forwarded to Victoria in time to be dealt with by the permit committees of the League and Association on Wednesday night". The Argus, Saturday, 25 April, 1931

Unfortunately, there was no mention at any time either in Tasmania or Melbourne as to exactly what the "misapprehension" might have been - the City club were well aware of Cazaly's intentions, nor does there appear to have been any ill-will between the parties, in fact the club having held a dinner dance to farewell he and Joolen just before the pair left for Melbourne in November.

Even Hannah's comments proved optimistic, and it was only the fact that the V.F.L. scheduled a special Permit Meeting of the eve of the Second Association round that allowed Cazaly to play - but not without a super-human effort by an unnamed committeeman.

"Preston has hopes of including their new coach Cazaly, the former South Melbourne and Tasmanian player in the side on Saturday. A telegram was received from the Tasmania League yesterday to the effect that it was understood that the objection to the granting of his clearance has been overcome. On confirmation of that fact, it was proposed to forward the permit immediately. The Preston secretary (Mr. E. Hannah) sent a telegram asking that the papers be sent by air-mail, which is due in Melbourne at half-past one o'clock today. If the permit arrives, Cazaly will appear before the permit committee of the League and Association tonight". The Argus, Friday, May 1, 1931

² William "Bull" Adams was a former Preston player. He was a star in Western Australia, but after he signed with Fitzroy in 1923, he was refused a clearance and rather than stand out for the season, he joined Preston a captain-coach, his tactics in the last quarter when a man short credited with Preston's upset win in the Victorian Junior Football Association final. He re-joined in 1928 (V.F.A) as captain-coach, and trained at Richmond in 1929 before returning to Preston as a player. He later captained Melbourne Seconds to five premierships and (inter alia) South Melbourne in 1945 "blood bath" Grand Final against Carlton. He actually left Prahran mid-season and joined Melbourne where he played 16 games in 1931-32 and later coached their Seconds to five consecutive premierships.

An Unsung Hero

There are many unsung heroes around football clubs and certainly Preston had one, who remains anonymous, in 1931.

Preston were desperate to have Cazaly in the team for the second game against Coburg, and his clearance from Tasmania, which had to be ratified by a special V.F.L. Permits Committee that met on the Friday night was finally sent by air-mail on the Friday.

The flight was due at 1:30 p.m. in time for afternoon delivery to the V.F.L. On enquiry, a committeeman was told the mail had been delayed and would not arrive until 4.30, meaning that there was no possibility of the mail being delivered before Saturday morning.

However, the enthusiasm and zeal of the committeeman were amply rewarded.

Arriving at the Essendon aerodrome at 2.30, he waited till 4.30 for the arrival of the mail to ascertain whether there was anything for the Victorian Football League. He received little encouragement at the airport as the mail was loaded onto the P.M.G. wagon and hastily driven to Spencer Street.

The committeeman dashed off on a motorcycle in pursuit and he eventually landed himself in the sorting room at Spencer Street. After enquiring of the superintendent, he was told that the mail had been despatched to Elizabeth Street for delivery the following day.

In the meantime, the official met Messrs Cazaly and Hannah, who were lamenting their misfortune, but fresh hope sprang up as the ardent official wended his way to the sorting room at Elizabeth Street and ascertained that there was, in fact, a mail for the V.F.L.

He was advised that it would be necessary to obtain permission from the secretary of the League, Mr. L. H. O'Brien as authority to hand over the letter. This being done, the official rushed the correspondence to Mr. O'Brien's office just minutes before he left for the Permit Meeting, and on opening, it was discovered that it did indeed contain a clearance for Cazaly from Tasmania.

The League met that night and granted Cazaly his permit to play against Coburg the following day.

"After a lot of hard groundwork and some good airwork, Roy Cazaly's clearance arrived to the delight of all. The boys came into their own with the old saying "Up There, Cazaly", and the small boys say it's true, too!"

VFA Association Recorder, 9 May, 1931

Cazaly at Preston : On-Field

Preston's 1930 season had brought 10 wins, nine losses and a draw, the results predictably bringing a middle-of-the list finish of sixth of the twelve teams, although two and a half games from the final four.

Many of the reports on Cazaly's season at Preston follow along the line that Cazaly "sacked" half the "old" players and replaced them with juniors, but it appears that the process was as much a natural evolution as Cazaly's approach..

The Sporting Globe before the season remarked on the number of new players at the club before Cazaly was appointed, suggested they would prove welcome additions to a side which "has become a little long in the tooth".

Club records show 38 different players were used in 1931, compared to 41 in 1929, 36 in 1930 and 35 in 1932, hardly a significant difference.

Cazaly took the attitude that he could build a strong team at Preston by promoting the youngsters at his disposal, supporting them in preference to older players who were not pulling their weight.

It was during the 1931 season that Cazaly first came to know Hec de Lacy, who had joined the *Sporting Globe* as a football writer while Cazaly had been in Tasmania and later became perhaps the most respected journalist covering the local code. De Lacy visited Cazaly at Preston soon after he had replaced several key players, and suggested that he had taken a risk that may unsettle the side. "I'll take a chance," Cazaly replied.

"I've got 18 fighters behind me now - not one of these kids cares whether he plays on the Preston ground or away from home, he'll go down fighting. I can do something with kids like that."

Unperturbed, Cazaly kept on 'bleeding' young players, and the momentum gathered pace. From round 9, Preston had to win virtually every game to be certain of making the finals, and apart from a draw against Yarraville, they achieved the feat!

"The youngsters at Preston have done everything I have asked of them. That is why I am so confident that we will defeat Oakleigh and then go on to take the pennant. They have been set some severe tasks, but have never flinched under the severest punishment, and have come back to take the honours. We will not have a quitter at Preston. No matter what the trend of Saturday's game, Preston will be coming back asking for more."

ROY CAZALY, captain and coach of Preston The Sporting Globe, September 16, 1931

Oakleigh led early after a poor opening quarter by Preston, but the Preston fought back in the third quarter to lead by a point.

"I began to despair whether Preston would settle down. They were white with over-anxiety. I knew, however, that once they had started they would soon warm up. A semi-final in senior company is a big trial for a colt. The big thing about the play is that there was nothing wrong with their finish of the game"

Roy Cazaly, The Sporting Globe, September 16, 1931

The leadership of Cazaly and a dominant centre line allowed Preston to kick clear in the final quarter and record a 23 point win. Warr and Miller contributed three goals each; Smith, Warr, Underhill and Cazaly were noted as the best players. Significantly, this turned out to be Preston's only win in a finals match in 18 attempts before the Preliminary Final of 1963.

Northcote won the other semi and the two local clubs met in the final, with Oakleigh as the "minor premier" having the right to challenge the winner.

Two players, Taylor and Davie both missed the crucial game, Davie with rheumatics and Taylor with pneumonia.

Preston's inexperience showed and they blew their chance in the opening term when they could only score 1.3 to one point with the assistance of a near-gale force northerly wind. The more experienced Northcote capitalised in the second quarter, kicking 6.14 in the second quarter and kept Preston scoreless.

Preston lost champion rover "Bluey" Summers through injury at half time, and Cazaly was clearly also hurt in the second half but had to continue with then only a single replacement allowed. The third quarter saw Preston kick 5.6 to one point, but this still left them seven points in arrears and kicking to an end where only two points had been scored for the day. Ironically, Preston scored the only goal against the wind at the start of the last quarter, but Northcote ran away to win 7.9 to 11.22, only to lose to Oakleigh in the Grand Final.

"Preston had one hope - to keep the game open and the ball away from the Northcote big squad ... the wind upset their stab passing ... Preston lacked the experience of Northcote and paid the penalty"

The Sporting Globe, September 23, 1931

The *Globe* prior to the match printed a complete list of players, their number, height and weights, Cazaly was show as 5 feet 11 inches (180cm) and 12 stone 6 pounds (84kg). The official database of A.F.L. footballers confirms the height, but suggests he was 80kg, although there anecdotal reports that suggest 12 and half stone of around 85kg.

As a comparison to the vastly different physical dimensions of the day, the tallest player in the Preston side was Les Hughson (one of a rare breed that have played for five League clubs) who stood at 6 feet and one inch (185cm). Hughson featured on a 1933 Wills cigarette card which described him as "one of the biggest followers in the V.F.A".

The *Globe* flattered Cazaly a little, suggesting he was 35 years of age; he was born in Albert Park in 1893 and was 38 on the day of the final.

Cazaly at Preston : Off-Field

Just what the motivation was for the City of Darebin's selection of the ward to bear Cazaly's name isn't known, but it seems a fair bet that the propagators of the scheme didn't do a lot of research beyond his brief year with the local club.

"Our fortnightly dance in the City Hall was a fine success on Saturday evening last; but owing to a little misunderstanding, Roy Cazaly and Bill Summers were not present. A lot of our patrons were disappointed at not seeing Roy in the second heat of the fox-trot, but he has definitely entered for the third heat next Saturday night ..."

VFA Recorder, 9 May, 1931

"... Roy Cazaly, who played splendidly in last Saturday's match, danced exceedingly well in the fox-trot heat, being defeated by only three votes, and if the players and supporters had rolled up as promised and recorded their votes for him, he would have won a place in the finals ..."

VFA Recorder, 23 May, 1931

Cazaly's biographer, Robert Allan suggested his son, Roy junior said that his father "brought all his family into his sport with him" and described how everyone played an important role in his preparation:

My mother was his greatest critic and dietician [and] treated his injuries. Saturday night after a match was spent in getting dad ready for the next week's match. I looked after his boots and footballs, my sisters looked after his football clothes ... we were his trainers, masseurs, lackey[s] and we loved it.

Another way Cazaly involved his family was taking them along to the Preston club's social evenings. Eucre parties, fortnightly dances, a 'motor car picnic', a celebrity concert and a 'Popular Boy' competition were all held during the season, enabling Preston's players and supporters to mix socially and raise much-needed funds to meet team expenses. As well as the fox trot, Cazaly and provided the piano interludes during some of the mid-season card nights.

The Cazaly family name did not appear in the Sands and McDougall street directories during his brief stay in Melbourne, but there was a Federal Election in 1931 and knowing Cazaly's long history in the South Melbourne and Albert Park areas, it seemed a logical approach to check the Electoral Rolls for the seat of Melbourne Ports which show "Cazaly, Roy, mechanic" and "Cazaly, Agnes, home duties" at 67 Dundas Place, Albert Park.

Some deeper research reveals Cazaly at the time he was coaching Preston was working on the wharves in Port Melbourne. It is not clear when Agnes and the children joined him in Melbourne - Tasmanian papers noted their return the following year, but not their departure.

For all his then not-inconsiderable reputation as a footballer, the family's rented accommodation suggests that Roy Cazaly, like many of his time, had yet to reap any great financial benefit from the game.

South Melbourne Council Rate Books for the year show the address as a modest four-room brick single-story residence that Roy and Agnes and their five children co-shared with a George Allan, seemingly the owner of the property. Rental on the house is shown at £1 per week.

The house was demolished a year or so later for the construction by the Hoyts chain of the Park Theatre, then one of the largest in the metropolitan area.

Did Roy Make A Quid Out of Preston?

There are suggestions that Roy Cazaly was being handsomely rewarded at Preston and that the club simply could not afford his services in the following season in 1932.

Marc Fiddian's "The Bullants", the first history of the club makes an unsubstantiated claim that "it was suggested Cazaly was paid £8 per week at Preston", then more than double the basic wage, but do either of these claims stand up to closer scrutiny?.

The realities are that unless Cazaly was receiving money from someone outside of the club, he was in probability paid substantially less than a number of previous captain-coaches (remembering this was in the early stages of the Great Depression)

Preston Football Club Annual Reports reveal the following :

1929	Payments to players and coach	£1336/19/-	
	Payments to trainers and boot-studders	£ 215/10/-	£1,552/09/-
1930	Payments to players and coach	£1205/11/6	
	Payments to trainers and boot-studders	£ 196/01/6	£1,401/13/-

... and the Cazaly year (when the two categories were combined) :

1931 Payments to players and coach, trainers and boot-studders £ 715/16/-

The 1932 total (under Harry Hunter) dropped another £50, the club bottomed out at just over £475 in 1937 when players and captain-coach Bert Hyde played as amateurs for the second half of the season. In 1939, when economic conditions had improved, Preston lured perhaps it's second-most important League player, Footscray's Albie Morrison as captain-coach at a rate confirmed as £6 per match.

The maximum prescribed League payment at the time of Cazaly's appointment was £3 per match, but Johnny Lewis again was the proverbial "fly in the ointment".

Lewis, who captained-coached the North Melbourne League club in 1930 appeared in St. Kilda Court just before the 1931 season on a charge of deserting his wife and not providing for a child. In his defence, Lewis testified he had been unemployed since mid-1929, his only income for the rest of that year £2 per match with North, boosted to £6 when he was appointed coach in 1930.

Given the remarkable drop in payments, it is probably not surprising that Cazaly, with a wife and four children to support, opted to pick up some extra money by playing mid-week with the "Wharfies", which probably would have contributed to the family coffers rather more than what he received from Preston.

"Snowy" and the Wharfies

On checking League records, there is no record of an S. Joolen, although a Herbert Joolen ³ played briefly with Melbourne in 1912-13 and with South Melbourne in 1914.

"Snowy" was however an obviously talented footballer, having been one of the four representatives from the City club in the 1930 Tasmanian team, playing primarily as a rover to Cazaly's ruckwork.

There was fleeting reference in Tasmanian newspapers to Preston chasing an interstate rover "widely thought to be S. Joolen" and his clearance from Tasmania arrived in mid-May without any great fanfare.

But then the plot thickens!

The June 2 edition of *The Argus* reported that "*Cazaly (captain), R. Perrett and Joolen (Preston) are to represent the Waterside Workers in the Wednesday League*".

At a time when most men had the mid-week afternoon off (and worked Saturday mornings), the Wednesday League was a strong 'industrial' competition ⁴ that put a couple of extra pounds into pockets of League and Association players during the Depression.

The industrial teams were theoretically limited to four senior players ("senior" equating to having played at the League or Association level) and an earlier maximum of six was reduced in 1925. Players also had to be a financial member of the relevant union to be to qualify for team.

Some took fairly liberal views on just who qualified to play, but there was a "gentlemen's agreement" with the Saturday Morning Industrial League that players could not appear in both competitions.

Although most senior players abided by the restrictions, lesser-knowns, perhaps out-of-work and struggling for every shilling they could get, regularly switched between the two, initiating a number of protests by opposition teams in both competitions. (It also wasn't unknown for League players to take the field in the afternoon after a "warm-up" in the Saturday Morning competition).

Later reports confirm that Cazaly was appointed coach of the Waterside Workers, undoubtedly a "tough gig" given the somewhat rebellious nature of the group - *The Argus* noted before the first match in mid-May that "they had not trained together".

The team were based on the Port Melbourne ground, two reports during the season suggesting that spectators had kicked down the gates to gain free admission, on one occasion one lone constable responding to a call for help finding some 500 free-loaders enjoying themselves at the match. (The grand final, between Telegraph and Yellow Cabs at the Motordrome in Swan Street attracted a crowd of 6,000).

³ Herbert (born 1890) and Stan (1903) were brothers, sons of Henry VAN JOOLEN and Louisa MAYERS - the births of all their children were recorded under JOOLEN. Herbert in A.F.L. records is listed as having played 16 games with Melbourne, 1912-13 and another with South Melbourne in 1914, A.F.L. records show him as using the name JOOLEN. Both he and a brother Aubrey served in WW1, Aubrey as JOOLEN, Herbert as VAN JOOLEN. Stan was too young to have been accepted.

⁴ Comparatively strong it may have been on the field, the Wednesday League had limited facilities off the ground. The League's meetings were held at whatever rooms that the clubs in rotation could provide - obviously with some minor problems. A late-May meeting sat at the Fire Brigade head-quarters at Eastern Hill to discuss the usual business and protests, the agenda also including a proposal for a widely-anticipated charity match against arch-rivals, the Saturday Industrial League, but just before a crucial vote could be taken, the fire bell rang and the Fire Brigade delegates offered a hurried "excuse us" and made a hasty exit. The alarm proved to be false, and after several minutes, the red-faced Brigade delegates returned to record their votes.

The "Wharfies" resumed after a two-year absence in 1931, joining Yellow Cabs (the 1930 premiers, who withdrew before the season, but then reversed their original decision and competed), Post and Telegraph, Telephone Exchange, the Press, the Fire Brigade and the Railways

WEDNESDAY PLAY IN DISFAVOUR (from the same edition)

"The Preston committee at a meeting last night decided not to permit any player on its list to play in the Wednesday League. Already three of its players have been injured in such matches".

The "Oops Factor" obviously applied and the 'ban' was quickly overturned when the club discovered that Cazaly was one of those affected - he along with Joolen and Rupert Perrett continued with the "wharfies", the former pair listed as amongst the best on a number of occasions.

From our records, neither Joolen or Perrett had much impact with Preston - both played just two senior games with Preston. Joolen was noted as being injured in what may well have been his first match for Preston, but continued to appear regularly with the Waterside Workers in later months.

Both he and Perrett are known to have still been playing with the Waterside Workers in 1933 and Perrett again in 1934 when the club was suspended late in August of the following season after failing to field a team in a match against Victoria Markets after a particularly spiteful match against Yellow Cabs the previous week.

The Wednesday League appears to have disbanded the following season when the financial pressures of the Depression saw only two clubs - Yellow Cabs and the Press - of the seven from 1934 nominated. The League executive on 18 May rather bravely suggested the competition would continue with the pair to play one match each on their home ground and a third at an independent venue, but that was the last sighting of the competition

Nothing is known of Joolen in 1934 and 1935, but by 1936, he was back in Tasmania (now 34 years of age) and again a teammate of Cazaly, then captain-coach of the New Town club in Hobart. Cazaly by then was running a physiotherapy clinic and Joolen ran the business when Cazaly took up the South Melbourne coaching position the following year.

Coincidentally, Joolen and Perrett had previously played with Port Melbourne before linking up with Cazaly - Perrett for four games in 1929, Joolen two in 1923 before moving to Tasmania.

"Snowy" and the Second World War

Although too young for the First World War, "Snowy" did his bit during the Second World War.

Military archives show him born in Port Melbourne, 21 September, 1901, enlisting in Hobart 4 August, 1942 under the full family name of VAN JOOLEN, wife Ivy as next of kin and serving at 80 Australian Camp Hospital until being discharged on 5 September, 1944.

His one moment of fame came as a member of Australian Army Supply Company (AASC) Australian Rules football premiers of 1943. One of four pictured in Army uniform rather than football gear, he was the only one in the photo other than the donor of the image to the Australian War Memorial to be identified with his service number and given name " T102015 Stanley van Joolen". ⁵



Two elder brothers, Aubrey JOOLEN and Henry John VAN JOOLEN volunteered for First World War service; Aubrey served around six weeks in training before being declared medically unfit (curvature of the spine; Henry served as 674, Corporal, 1st Australian Light Railway Operating Company until returning in July, 1919.

Roy Cazaly did not enlist – in fact only one of his seven brothers, Albert George, born in Fitzroy in 1881 volunteered, his mother Elizabeth shown at 203 Montague Street, South Melbourne in March, 1916.

⁵ [Australian War Memorial](https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P05232.001) : <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P05232.001>

The Leader on the Cazaly Disappearance

Preston Leader, February 12, 1932

*"PRESTON CLUB
SELECTING A COACH*

"Having disposed of the annual meeting, the committee of the Preston Football Club is now concentrating on organizing a side for the coming season.

The first move in this direction was the question was the question of a coach. Consequently, it was decided to call for applications for the position, and when the applications closed, strange to say and quite contrary to expectations, not a single application was lodged.

Last season's coach, (Roy Cazaly) failed to make an application to coach the team that performed so well last season. Some of the committee propose to interview Cazaly, but it was decided that fresh applications be invited.

It is doubtful if the Preston club are in a position to pay the fancy prices that have been paid previously, so whoever may eventually be appointed, it is only fair to assume that he will have to accept the position at a considerably reduced figure.

In a number of cases, these football specialists have realized this and have offered their services to the club at a salary commensurate with the times. In fact there are coaches available of outstanding ability who have signified their intention of accepting positions at a greatly reduced salary.

As practically every player in the Association has submitted willingly to a substantial drop and as many have played as amateurs when funds were low, it is only fair to assume that the coach should be subjected to a similar treatment.

On Monday evening, the Preston committee will sit to consider the applications, and no doubt the salaries asked by the respective applications will, to a very large extent, be the determining factor in making a choice. There is no doubt Cazaly's coaching stood the team in good stead last season, and should he make application for the position, and his claims to be within reason, there is every likelihood of him being re-appointed.

The committee have also interviewed several prospective players and are confident and determined that the weakness that was apparent in last season's side will have to be strengthened before the club can hope to attain the success the committee are striving for.

Roy Cazaly is an applicant for the position of coach to the Melbourne Club".

The first advertisement for the coaching position appeared on the back page of The Sporting Globe on Wednesday, January 16, the notice along with advice of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting occupying around four column centimetres. Also advertised were the positions of head trainer, 20 shillings per week and two assistants at 15/-.

Several other clubs including Prahran and Coburg also had advertisements in the same issue which was the first in the new year that carried coaching positions.

The Leader, although undoubtedly in good faith, may have over-dramatized Preston's predicament.

The first article contradicted itself by suggesting in the second paragraph that no applications had been received and then later "...the Preston committee will sit to consider the applications" - and when The Globe on 9 February carried a notice extending the date for applications to 15 February, Yarraville, Geelong and North Melbourne were still advertising for a coach, Geelong's applications not closing until 29 February.

Preston Leader, February 19, 1932

"SELECTING A COACH

To Be Finalised Next Tuesday

"No less than 16 applications were received for the position of coach to the Preston Football Club for the coming season.

The Committee met until midnight last Tuesday considering the qualifications of the applicants. There were several players of repute offering, and after full consideration the applicants were narrowed to four, who are to be personally interviewed prior to next Tuesday's meeting when a decision will be reached. Cazaly, last year's coach, has not applied up to the present, but there is the possibility he may do so before next Tuesday".

Certainly, Preston's move to extend the deadline (probably flexible if the right candidate was found) threw Cazaly a life-line if he was interested in continuing - Melbourne's re-advertising after apparently receiving some 13 applications would certainly have made it clear that they were not interested in his services.

Preston Leader, February 26, 1932

"PRESTON CLUB'S DILEMMA

"It was confidently expected that the outcome of the committee meeting, which lasted until a late hour on Tuesday evening, would have been that finality would have been reached regarding the appointment of a coach.

The Preston club would not be experiencing their present position had Cazaly re-applied for the position offering his services on amended conditions. Up to the present, apparently he was not seeking the appointment as he had applied for a similar position at other clubs.

It is well-known that there were certain members of the committee who were strongly in favour of interviewing Cazaly and ascertaining whether he is prepared to accept the position at a certain figure. Other members did not feel disposed to fall in with this view, being prepared to consider the applications which had been reduced to four at a previous meeting.

The position of coach is, after all, a manufactured one, and the day is approaching when exorbitant salaries paid to certain players to coach the side will be a thing of the past, and the responsibility will be placed on the shoulders of captain thoroughly acquainted with the technical and other aspects of the game. To a very large extent, football clubs have themselves to blame for creating the anomaly by offering large emoluments to players of repute to coach a team.

"SELECTING A COACH

Choice favours Hunter of Yarraville

"The results of their deliberations have not yet been disclosed, but from well-informed circles we are advised Harry Hunter, of Yarraville, has been appointed as coach for 1932.

Tactful Leader Selected

The appointment of Hunter to lead the side recalls to mind the eventful match between Preston and Yarraville at the Cramer street park last season, when at the commencement of the last quarter, Preston had a substantial lead presenting every indication of winning.

However, the tactful moves of Hunter in creating a spare man and general leadership slowly overhauled his opponents and eventually snatched victory from the home side. It was unquestionably his tact that won the day for Yarraville. He is a resourceful captain, quick to see a weakness, and with his vast experience should prove an acquisition to the side. With the good material at his disposal, the prospects for the coming season were never brighter than the outlook for 1932 presents. All that is required now is the solid support of local enthusiasts.

Harry Hunter

Just how or why communications between Preston and Roy Cazaly fell apart remains a mystery, probably not helped by a number of somewhat contradictory reports that appeared in the *Leader* (overleaf).

With the uncertainty over Cazaly's intentions, the 1932 season saw another late appointment, the replacement Harry Hunter, who had played 109 games with Essendon before becoming captain-coach of Yarraville in 1931.

Although it is not generally recognised in League histories, Hunter briefly played with Preston in junior ranks in 1921 before switching to Essendon.

Overall, the season panned out much the same as in 1931, the club winning 14 of 20 home-and-away matches, but going down to Coburg in the First Semi-Final by seven points, despite having eight more scoring shots, 8.20-68 to 11.9-75.



Switching Allegiances

After some thirty years and twelve premierships (including nine in eleven seasons between 1906-07 and 1916-17) and being the incumbent champions, the South Melbourne Footballer's XI disappeared without a trace after the 1930-31 season, but thanks to the *South Melbourne Record*, we know Cazaly "*despite switching his footballing allegiances to other districts*" continued locally, turning out with the South Ports team in the Second Grade of the Victorian Junior Cricket Association.

The lower grade predictably attracted significant less coverage, but the *Record* noted in the matches leading up to the Christmas of 1931 noted Cazaly's "blazing 86" and on a later occasion, a "five-for" with the ball.

Just what Cazaly was hoping to achieve with his football career in the oncoming season remains largely a mystery.

Clubs at all levels were dramatically cutting payments to players and coaches - but it appears Cazaly may still have been holding out for the "good old days". (this appears to have been something of a pattern with Cazaly - he had something of a history over the years of either holding clubs to ransom or leaving suddenly, coaching stints at Minyip. North Hobart and Hawthorn all coming to a somewhat abrupt end).

From the exchanges below taken from the *Preston Leader*, we know the Cazaly did not re-apply for the Preston position despite the club advertising twice and possibly personal approaches by committeemen - if the reports are correct, without a single response the first time and some sixteen a week or so later!

The *Leader* suggestion that Cazaly applied for the coaching position at Melbourne is the only mention of any ambitions on this direction.

The position at Melbourne was advertised in Melbourne on Wednesday, 23 January, the week after Preston's, but after receiving applications from eight potential playing coaches and five non-playing, the also club decided to re-advertise on 11 February, finally appointing 1928-31 captain-coach Ivor Warne-Smith in a non-playing role.

The mystery here is firstly why Melbourne found it necessary to advertise (perhaps required by the club constitution), and secondly, then to repeat the exercise as obviously, Warne-Smith after four seasons as a playing coach where Melbourne generally finished mid-list was available.

Perhaps one of the reasons may have been a campaign by a candidate for the M.F.C. committee, Mr. E. C. H. Taylor, the sports master at Melbourne Grammar School who openly pushed a proposal for an amateur coach and the gradual transformation of Melbourne into a strictly amateur club.

Whether Taylor's opinions at the time would have carried much clout is a matter for conjecture, but in later years "Bully" as he was known was a formidable contributor to the club in conjunction with his duties at the Grammar School, credited as being the originator of the famed Coterie group, a member of the match committee and an identity around the club for many years. He was made a Life Member in 1945 and in 1958 published "100 Years of Football - The Story of the Melbourne Football Club 1858-1958", one of the earliest club histories and indeed one of the first hard-cover books on football of any genre.

Whether Cazaly applied for other positions in Melbourne is unknown (as is whether his application at Melbourne was as a playing or non-playing coach), but he would almost certainly have been aware that his chances at Melbourne were negligible when they asked for further applications, leaving him with sufficient time to respond to Preston's second advertisement.

It was left to Tasmanian newspapers to announce the return of their favourite adopted son.

"The North Hobart club at a committee meeting on Tuesday night considered a number of applications for the position of playing coach. No definite appointment was made, but it is understood that the selection was narrowed to Cazaly, the former Launceston City Club coach, and D. Ringrose, the Fitzroy player who the season before last was coach of that team ..." The Hobart Mercury, Thursday, 17 March, 1932

"That team" mentioned in reference to Doug Ringrose was in fact North Hobart. The *Mercury* continued over the next ten days with a running commentary on Cazaly's background, appointment to North Hobart, and more than once, on his expected arrival, but rather than the editorial content, it was the more mundane daily Shipping News that revealed the family's return to the Apple Isle ...

SHIPPING (Arrivals)
LAUNCESTON
ARRIVED, March 29

Nairana, 3,015 tons, J. McIntyre, Melbourne
Passengers - Saloon - Mesdames ... R. Cazaly and four children ...
Messrs ... R. Cazaly

(Cazaly had five children - the second "R. Cazaly" is assumed Roy junior, his only son, then 13 years of age and perhaps too old to share with his parents and four younger sisters).

"Players and supporters of the North Hobart Club are notified that that a welcome social to the newly appointed coach R. Cazaly will be held at the club rooms tomorrow night ... training will commence at the North Hobart Oval to-day at 4.30 p.m."

The Hobart Mercury, Tuesday, 5 April, 1931

Cazaly's appointment to North Hobart came with more than a hint of coincidence.

The Tasmanian club, like Preston the year before, had spoken with North Melbourne's Johnny Lewis, and went a step further by formally appointing him before North Melbourne announced that it would not clear him, Cazaly again becoming the second preference.

Odd Spots

Roy Cazaly's life is covered in a biography being compiled by an old acquaintance, Robert Allan (due for publication pre-season 2017)and contains a chapter on his season with Preston.

Despite being born in, and educated in Albert Park and playing his early football locally, Cazaly was an avid Carlton supporter and as a teenager, he played with Carlton Juniors, effectively the League club's second eighteen in the Victorian Junior Football Association.

He reportedly became disillusioned with Carlton over their handling of a shoulder injury and went instead to St. Kilda. Later, after some internal disputes there, he again tried to transfer to Carlton, but St. Kilda instead swapped him "across the pond" (Albert Park Lake) to South Melbourne.

Football history is dotted with a few men that were lucky, or unlucky, enough to play 99 games and just miss out on the "ton" - Roy Cazaly did it twice, credited with 99 games with St. Kilda, and then 99 with South Melbourne!

He remains somewhat short-changed - he also played 13 games with Victorian teams (as well as six with Tasmania) which were not included - this was altered in later years so that a player appearing for Victoria on the same day as his League team was credited with a club match - this would undoubtedly pushed Cazaly past 100 games with South Melbourne.

Even then, his career was probably a little overshadowed by one of his brothers, Ernest, who played just two games with St. Kilda, making his debut in 30 April, 1910, and then ("first-up" in horse-racing parlance), his second and final match in 1919 after an astonishing nine years and 52-day break!

(Both brothers played in the latter match, a loss to Fitzroy at the Junction Oval).

The longest interrupted journey was that of a former Northcote player, Sid Barker senior, who played two games with Richmond in 1908 and after a long V.F.A. career joined Essendon in 1921 when the club moved from East Melbourne to Essendon and the Essendon Association team where Barker had played disbanded.

Preston managed two of the top ten "holidays": Bill Twomey senior (with Preston in 1917) played with Collingwood from 1918-22 before going on a Cook's Tour of country coaching appointments and then joining Hawthorn as coach in 1933.

A lesser-known player, Bill "Bluey" Walsh, who seems to have never cemented a senior spot with Preston played three games with Melbourne in late 1934, and then with a shortage of players during the Second World War managed a single appearance with Fitzroy in 1944, their last premiership year.

Memories of Cazaly

In a *Sporting Globe* article in 1939, Hec. De Lacy nominated Roy Cazaly as the best all-round footballer that he had ever seen. Two years later, he wrote an article on Cazaly and included some reminiscences of a game he had watched at Preston:

"In one game, a big opposition follower stood off and threw a punch at a clever Preston wingman. Cazaly left the forward line and ran the follower to earth, spun him around and smacked him across the face with an open hand".

"While this was going on, another opponent and a former League man ran up behind and gave Cazaly a rabbit-killer and dropped him. He was up in a split second".

"The ball was kicked into a pack in which Cazaly and his assailant were the principals. Despite my closest watch, all I can report is that Cazaly came away with the ball, loping along in the long-striding way he had, while his assailant lay in a heap on the ground with his tongue hanging out over his cheek and was obviously seized suddenly with some sort of violent spasm".

"The rough stuff stopped in a trice".

The Sporting Globe, April 19, 1941

Cazaly's Return

Roy Cazaly's life story is covered in a biography compiled over nearly ten years by an old acquaintance, Robert Allan. "Cazaly - The Legend" was released in August, 2017) and contains a chapter on his season with Preston (largely a co-operative effort with the author of this document).

After coaching Newtown for five seasons, Cazaly returned from Tasmania in 1937 with a three-year contract to coach South Melbourne who had been premiers in 1933 and runners-up in the ensuing three years. With some internal bickering at South, they struggled early in the season and rumours started that Cazaly, then 43 years of age was planning to make a comeback as a player so he could direct his players on the field.

Cazaly refused to confirm or deny this at the time, but "Cazaly - The Legend" suggests that Cazaly did in effect request a transfer from Preston, necessary as a pre-requisite to him taking to the field again in Victoria.

There was no mention of it locally, probably not surprise given full seasons had elapsed since his sudden departure. Following another lean opening in 1938, Cazaly suggested that to the club that a more fruitful role would be for him to provide specialized coaching for their Seconds - Their captain, Herbie Matthews (brother of Norman who joined Preston in 1941 after 28 games with South) effectively took on the coaching of the seniors for both the remainder of the season and in 1939.

Cazaly took on the role of playing coach of the Seconds, and in the latter year played several games with his only son, Roy junior, thought to have been 14 years of age when the family came to Melbourne early in 1931.

Roy's great mate, Stan Joolen took over Cazaly's massaging business during his absence.

Cazaly - The Stats

It is a curious fact (but perhaps explainable) that Preston appointed captain-coaches every year from the time of its original entry into the V.F.A. in 1903 up until the last season before the competition went into recession in 1942 due to the Second World War, but from the time when the concept of a "best player" award was introduced in 1916, not one of the captain-coaches ever took out the award!

(In fact, during the 1920s and 30s, there were two awards, the club's President Trophy and the Porter Cup, donated by a local jeweller with the winner decided on the votes of *The Sporting Globe* reporter at each match. Even extending through to 1958, the only exception is in 1948 when Jack Blackman won both the Liston Trophy and President's Cup - Bert Hyde shared the Liston in 1936, but did not feature in either club award).

Both this and some statistics kindly provided by Robert Allan and part of the appendices in Cazaly's biography (compiled with the assistance of Andrew Robinson and Wal. Williams) perhaps indicate that it was a rule - written or unwritten - that the captain-coach as the senior and certainly best-paid player in the side was not considered eligible for the awards.

The following statistics certainly suggest that Cazaly would have had a strong case, at least for the Porter Cup, based on an assessment of *The Sporting Globe* reports which have him in the best players in 13 of the 19 matches in which he appeared. The award went to vice-captain, Jack Monohan, the President's Cup to key defender Gilbert "Bert" Taylor.

V.F.A. season 1931 : 12 teams, 18 rounds						
Game	Opponent	Round	Result	Goals	Position	Remarks
-	Northcote	1	L 3	-	-	Awaiting clearance
1	Coburg	2	W 3	2	Follower	Sixth best
2	Prahran	3	L 28	1	Follower	Preston's best
3	Brunswick	4	W 32	2	Follower	Second best
4	Port Melbourne	5	L 69	1	Half forward	Third best
5	Williamstown	6	W 19	-	Half forward	Seventh best
6	Oakleigh	7	L 60	1	Follower	Second best
7	Yarraville	8	L 4	1	Follower	Preston's best
8	Sandringham	9	W 26	5	Follower	Broke toe, played on
9	Camberwell	10	W 38	1	Forward	Played with broken toe
10	Brighton	11	W 27	1	Forward	
11	Yarraville	12	Drawn	-	Half forward	
12	Prahran	13	W 15	1	Follower	
13	Sandringham	14	W 72	3	Forward	Second best
14	Northcote	15	W 6	2	Forward	Fourth best
15	Brighton	16	W 48	3	Half forward	Third best
16	Brunswick	17	W 8	1	Forward	Third best
17	Coburg	18	W 6	-	Follower	Second best
18	Oakleigh	2nd semi	W 23	-	Follower	Preston's best
19	Northcote	Final	L 37	-	Follower	Injured leg but stayed on

(It is not known whether the two finals matches would have been included in whatever system was used to determine the awards).