



Essendon Historical Society Inc.

Why is the Essendon Football Club sometimes referred to as the “same olds”?

Answer

The Essendon Football Club was one of the teams that formed the Victorian Football Association in 1897. Its victory song at this time was:

“The Same Old Essendon we used to be,
The same old Essendon we are you see
At the end of the season, that premiership flag,
The same Old Essendon will have it in the bag
For the Same Old Essendon are we.”

Initially the team played in Kent Street Ascot Vale, but this ground was not enclosed and therefore became unsuitable. The Football Club was refused use of the Windy Hill ground in 1892 as Essendon Councillors considered football as no game for gentlemen and referred to the players as “muddied oafs”.

They went to a ground in East Melbourne in 1882 and were not allowed access to Windy Hill until 1921.... however, they were still the same old Essendon!!

"The same Olds" was sung when the team played at East Melbourne to remind supporters that even though they were playing at East Melbourne, they were still the same old Essendon!

Source *The Stopover that Stayed: A History of Essendon* by Grant Aldous. This book is for sale at the Courthouse Museum.