

## ICI Women's Footy Team

The I.C.I. (Imperial Chemical Industries) women's football team was a prominent works team, particularly active in Australia during the late 1930s and 1940s, often associated with the war effort.

Context: Works teams in war-related industries flourished in Victoria during World War II.

Success: The team, originally known as Nobels (which was league champion in 1938), changed its name to Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) and completed a "hat-trick" of league successes in the following two years.

History: The team competed in Victorian football leagues during the 1930s-1940s and continued playing during the Second World War as part of an attenuated league of eight clubs.

1950s: There are records of an "ICI women's soccer team" in Victoria, Australia, in the 1950s.



*The Deer Park ICI Women's Football Team 1949, umpire Charlie Sutton.*

The 2017 AFL Women's season was the first season of the elite women's Australian rules football competition. Eight teams competed in the league, all of which are associated with existing Australian Football League (AFL) clubs. There were clubs and competition for Womens Football going back over 60 years ago.

The women took time out from their basketball (now known as netball) competition to represent Deer Park ICI in footy. It is one of my favourite photos of my sister, Maureen Turner sitting on the left, with one of her Footscray Football Club (Bulldogs) heroes standing behind her.

*Donated by Barb Stevens*



ICI women's football team 1950s - Irene Doherty of St Albans on the right



ICI girls football team 1951 from Who Remembers the Old Western Suburbs Pa Rambo