

# Historical Happenings

## SUPER SID

Super Sid's real name was Sidney Richard Goodfellow. He lived up to his surname.

Sid was born at Summertown in the Adelaide Hills on 2nd March 1918 at the end of World War I. He enlisted for service in the Australian Army in World War II and was sent to Malaya with the 8th Division. When Singapore fell to the Japanese, Sid was sent to work under appalling conditions on the Burma Railway.

Eventually Sid returned to Australia and worked initially as a nurseryman. Later he was employed by the Mitcham Council as a driver of a water-carrying truck. His fame came not from his paid employment or even as a prisoner of war survivor but from his charity fund-raising and his promotion of sport among young people.

Sid loved football. He founded the Hectorville Football Club and was a trainer with the Norwood Football Club. He raised money for all the South Australian Football League clubs despite being a committed supporter of his beloved Norwood. He attended uncounted matches by teams in the Australian Football League bedecked in his unique football jumper with the Adelaide Crow's colours on one side and the Port Adelaide Magpies colours on the other, fund-raising at every opportunity.

Sid's activities were not confined to Adelaide but stretched from the southeast of the State to Eyre Peninsula. The surf lifesaving clubs benefitted from his generosity and were able to purchase significant amounts of equipment from his donations. He was made a life member of Surf Lifesaving SA, received a citation of merit from the World Lifesaving Organisation based in Belgium and was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1980.

Barry Duhne wrote an obituary about Sidney Goodfellow which was published in The Advertiser on 15 September 2012. Much of the information in this brief biography comes from that source. Duhne stated that Sid was 'an active member of St John Ambulance'.

There is no record at St John to confirm this but he certainly was an avid collector of funds for St John. The St John Historical Society has a boxed Air Viva resuscitation kit donated by Super Sid. It contains various sized masks that can be attached to a nonreturn valve and a self-inflating bag. It will be on display when the museum re-opens.

Sadly Sid died on 20 May 2012. He was aged 92 years, a remarkable age given his horrific War-time experiences. Sid was a character who overcame those horrible years to get on with his life. Even though he was not a signed-up St John member, he lived up to the St John motto '*Pro Utilitate Hominum*'.

Vale Super Sid.

**Question: What company produced the Air Viva used by St John in Australia?**

**Brian Fotheringham**  
Chairman



# historical society



**Answer to previous question: The most common venomous snake in South Australia is a brown snake.**



**The St John Ambulance  
Historical Society  
of South Australia**