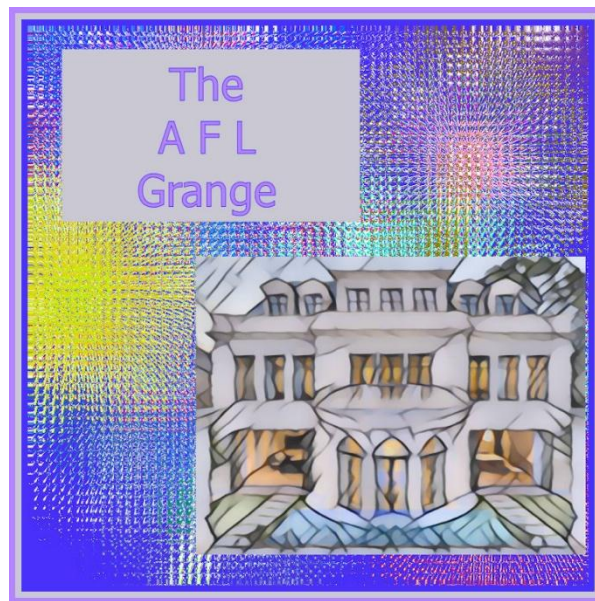


**MAIN CHARACTERS:**

Emelia Ingpen.

Judge Frank Hewitt.

Harry and Mitch Hewitt (nephews of the judge).

Herr Fritz Hämlich, the German coppersmith.

Laurie and Beryl Ingpen who made a pile digging for opals in Coober Pedy in the early 1920's.

The MacPherson family of Sydney in the 1920's: Beryl, Dulcie (her sister), Mum (Lainie) and Dad (Jock) along with the maid Ada.

At the opal mine: jovial Rumpty, misogynist Wal and young Cal.

The gang from popular footy show "Not A Round Ball":

journalists Howard (Howard Whitely) and Robbo (Mick Robertson),

past footballers Whaler (Ted Edwardson) and champion Austen Hampton,

assistant Brendi (Brendi Angland)

along with other back-room people.

Those at AFL Grange: Mitch Hewitt, Lachlan McGill, Mirivale Cortez, Mrs Lucy Thomas, Professor Littany.



Anyone who loves AFL football in Australia tunes in (during the footy season) to watch "Not A Round Ball" on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night.

The 3 presenters are journalists Howard Whitely and Mick Robertson along with retired player Whaler (Ted Edwardson). Another ex-player (Austen Hampton) is the director. Several other behind-the-scenes people get a guernsey in this yarn.



Ever since her bereavement, Emelia Ingpen has been firing-off emails that seem to criticize every facet of "Not A Round Ball".



Emelia Ingpen had a long-time lover (Terry Woods) who unfortunately passed away.

Terry Woods was a well-respected backman who played for St Kilda.

The news of Terry's demise caught the attention of Melbourne judge Frank Hewitt, who is discussing a cold case with his feckless nephew Harry Hewitt.

This cold case involves the untimely death in Port Augusta South Australia of Fritz Hämlich.

Our problem is that the re-investigation of the Fritz Hämlich murder stirs-up the Underworld to the extent that the ghost of a Richmond footballer reappears, haunting Emelia's home AFL Grange.



Judge Frank Hewitt KC:

Frank (a solid unit) is larger than life. He's in his 60's and is a by-word in Melbourne for "good value". Go to a cricket game, or to the races, or to the footy with His Honour Frank Hewitt and you are guaranteed a top-notch day out. You have never played golf unless you've caddied for Frank. Legend!

Frank progresses the plot with regard to the requirement to find DNA samples of the German coppersmith.

His two nephews (brothers) are integral to this aim:

Harry Hewitt and **Mitch Hewitt**.

Everything ties in.

Emelia has only just lost the love of her life: St Kilda backman Terry Woods to illness. This happened 6 weeks prior to our kick-off.

In his very swish office in Collins Street, Melbourne, Judge Frank Hewitt learns of the demise of Terry Woods. His nephew Harry Hewitt enters this scene.

We see in pride-of-place on the wall a large framed football guernsey (signed) in the St Kilda colours (in honour of their only Grand Final win of 1966.)

Background: Frank (a solid unit) is larger than life. He's in his 60's and is a by-word in Melbourne for "good value". Go to a cricket game, or to the races, or to the footy with His Honour Frank Hewitt and you are guaranteed a top-notch day out. You have never played golf unless you've caddied for Frank. Legend!

Harry has found himself a "career" -- he is about to be seconded to the Victoria Police Cold Case squad. His first item of interest is the unexplained death in 1924 of a German immigrant: a master coppersmith.

At Russell Street, Frank rocks up and advises Harry to follow through with obtaining DNA samples of the German coppersmith. As well as giving advice to his nephew, Frank enables the quest to take place.

Further, Harry's brother Mitch (an employee at AFL Grange) is to be kept in the loop.

Keeping the plot boiling along ...

Several vital plot points would be unavailable but for the work of Harry and Mitch.

Snatches of detail fall into place. The exhumation of the German coppersmith coincided with the appearance of the Ghost in public. Prior to this, the Ghost tended to focus on Emelia and AFL Grange.

Harry and Mitch have nailed the fact that the German was born in 1890. He was too big and too "old" to be the Ghost.

Harry and Mitch need to link the German's DNA with the DNA of the Ghost. This does not eventuate as there is no link.

However, the tooth in the matchbox gives a 100% match.

Returning to the opal mine ...

There is a pleasant by-story (set in the 1920s) relating to Beryl's family (the MacPhersons).

Beryl is not permitted to go opal mining if she remains unmarried. Thus, to pursue her dreams of wealth, Beryl (who by the way is a great admirer of the German coppersmith) must marry. As the wife of Laurie Ingpen Beryl achieves the wealth she craved. Along the way, Beryl and Laurie have 3 children. One of these children is the father of Emelia.

The tie-in to the Ghost comes directly because Laurie and Beryl worked on mining

opals at Coober Pedy with Rumpty, Cal and Wal.

Professor Littany Steals The Show

The Professor was simply an interesting character who would try to bring culture and refinement to AFL footballers.

He achieved neither.

However in dealing with the Ghost, the Professor shines.

BACKGROUND NOTES:

BACKGROUND TO THE HAMMERHEAD CHARACTER (1920's)

In addition to a rough-house band, the proprietor of Rushcutters Hall provides some entertainment in the shape of a very indifferent baritone: Herr Fritz Hämlich (whose nickname is "Hammerhead").

Fritz (in his early 30's in 1922) has a very rich German accent. Most of the time, he does not sing but rather intones the words of songs. Full of fun, Fritz points to members of the audience as he "sings". Fritz may actually sing the last few bars of his feature song – loudly and wildly.

To add no decorum at all, Fritz appears on stage in a shimmering grey suit. On his head he wears an outrageous rubber cap meant to replicate the head of a hammer-head shark.

We discover (in passing) that Hammerhead is a coppersmith by trade.



BACKGROUND TO THE WAL CHARACTER (1920's)

In a way, Wal reminds me of the dwarf named "Grumpy" in Walt Disney's "Snow White". He gives the impression that he is a cantankerous hard nut, but underneath he is as mooshy as a marshmallow.

Wal is extremely uncomfortable in the presence of any female.

He gets around this by acting as if the female is not there.

In order to converse with the female, Wal speaks to the nearest male such that that male is able to pass on information to the female. Or ask questions of her. And always Wal's back is turned to her.

This method might work for Wal, but not for the female.



BACKGROUND TO THE BERYL AUSTRALIS (1920's)

The amazing opal known to history as the "Beryl Australis" is 99% gem opal, weighing 17,000 carats and is 27.94 cm (11 inches) long and 11.43 cm (4.5 inches) high.

BACKGROUND TO "NOT A ROUND BALL" (Current Day)

AFL football shows are unbelievably popular. Foxtel provides all manner of footy-related coverage; the games themselves are interspersed with panel shows. The most revered footy panel show is "Not A Round Ball" (aka N.A.R.B.). Directed by AFL great Austen Hampton (who appears every Wednesday night to explain AFL rules) the show itself has 2 topline sports journalists (Howard and Robbo) along with one-time footy champion Whaler. Behind the scenes are backroom people, most of whom we meet along the journey.

"Not A Round Ball" airs at 6:30 pm Monday to Wednesday, and occasionally on Thursday (if there is not televised game). Each show runs for 1 hour. On Grand Final eve, there is a special 2-hour tribute with live audience.