



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' MEMBER NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022 EDITION



FROM THE PRESIDENT

- ROD GRINTER

Dear Members

At the time of writing this welcome for our second newsletter for 2022, the Demons have played five games for five wins; what a terrific start to our premiership defence!

Our Round One Family and Friends Match Day function was enjoyed by over 200 guests in the Keith Miller Room, who all enjoyed witnessing the unfurling of the 2021 premiership flag. Past players were represented on the night, with Stan Alves, Greg Wells, Garry Lyon, Todd Viney, Nathan Jones, David Neitz, Hassa Mann and Ron Barassi all doing us proud with their involvement. The Melbourne Football Club should also be congratulated on the way it conducted this unfurling. Well done to everyone involved.

This was the first of four MFC P&PP&OA Family and Friends Match Day functions for this season, and we had a number of past players in the room. It was great to see them and their families enjoying the opportunity to get together while watching our mighty team play. During half time, I had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing a very special man – Jim Sandral – who played in the 1956 premiership side. Aged 89, Jim travelled from Corowa with his two sons – Jim Jnr and Denis – to be part of a very special night at the MCG. What a character Jim is! In a summary of Jim's football journey, after a couple of seasons in Melbourne playing with the Demons in 1956 and 1957, including the 1956 flag triumph, Jim returned to Corowa, playing in the Ovens and Murray Football Netball League.

In 1958 and 1959, Jim was captain-coach of Corowa. He won the League Best and Fairest three times between 1959 and 1964, as well as winning the



Jim Sandral, 1956, front row, second from right

Best and Fairest for Corowa five times in a row: 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964. Jim then returned home to play for Rennie for seven years. Between 1965 and 1970, Jim was captain-coach of Rennie, winning another Best and Fairest and being part of a premiership team in 1970; his last season, aged 37. During this time, Jim was also runner up in the League Best and Fairest on five occasions.

In 2005, Jim became an Ovens and Murray League Hall of Fame inductee. In 2013, he was elevated to Legend status, which is an honour held by only four people. Jim's son, Denis, played 348 games for Corowa-Rutherglen, winning the Best and Fairest five times, and being inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009.

What a wonderful family heritage, and what an amazing record from Jim's 21 years of playing from the age of 16 through to 37; what an amazing football career! **Jim Sandral: Corowa Royalty and Melbourne Football Club Premiership Player.**

As you can tell, being able to get to the MCG to connect with members and enjoy watching our team perform is very special.

To provide this opportunity, we are holding the following MFC P&PP&OA Family and Friends Match Day functions:

• Rd 7. vs Hawthorn

This will be another fantastic day at the MCG, as the room will be dominated by around 70 past players from the late 1960s & 1970s, brought together by Des

Campbell. This includes the likes of Carl Ditterich, Greg Wells, Stan Alves, Ray Biffin, Laurie Fowler, Gary Hardeman and Tony Sullivan, to name just a few MFC legends. Keep your eyes and ears opened for the booking details, which will be out very soon.

Dees v Hawks, Saturday 30 April, MCG, 4.35 pm game time, in the Keith Miller Room.

Our other two Match Day functions are booked for:

• Rd 12. vs Swans

This classic capital city clash, which marks our now traditional get together with our Swans' counterparts.

• Rd 22. vs Blues

Our encounter with the Blues rounds off the home and away season, giving everyone a great chance to catch up again before finals time.

Details regarding each of these functions will be made available as soon as possible leading up to each match. We look forward to having as many members, families and friends as we can joining us throughout the season.

To finish, I hope this newsletter finds you and your families fit and healthy; to those who have lost loved ones or are unwell, if there is anything we can do to assist you and your families during these difficult times, please reach out. We are here to support you when and where we can.

**Rod Grinter
President
MFC P&PP&OA**





REV'S ROAMINGS

The Rev continues to keep in touch and forge links with the MFC P&PP&OA community, as well as meeting a very special figure in its travels.

During March, he was in contact with over 50 past players and officials, as well as sharing some special occasions. Over to The Rev:

One highlight was attending the premiership legends lunch at the Bentleigh Club, where I caught up with John Beckwith, Clyde Laidlaw, Hassa Mann, Ron Barassi, Stan Alves, Graeme Jacobs, Bob Turner, Rob Dowsing, Gary Byers, Barry Bourke, Rod McNab and John Gallus.

The banter and storytelling went all day, and it was impossible to get away – not that anyone wanted to escape! It was a great occasion; thanks to Bryan Kenneally who arranged to open it up for a few extras to attend, including



me and Spike Harris from the P&PP&OA, as well as Peter 'Crackers' Keenan.

Others The Rev caught up with included Phil Gilbert in the west, former club doctor Kal Fried, Ray Groom and Wayne Lamb in Tasmania, Brent Heaver in Canberra, Len Mann, James McDonald and many, many others.

The Rev also met Melbourne's 2021 premiership cup late in March, comparing notes about adventures and travels, as well as sharing a very welcome and heartfelt hug. In the ultimate 'Rev's Roaming', The Rev also then helped to wheel the cup – in its specially made case – to its waiting transport.



BENEVOLENT FUND

- Jackie Emmerton

Our Association's committee is extremely grateful to those members and supporters who have donated to our Benevolent Fund over the past couple of years. These donations will enable us to continue to provide support for those members in need, while also delivering subsidised, affordable and inclusive events for our members well into the future. Donations can be made by direct deposit to our Association's bank account.

Our Association's banking details are:

Account name:
MFC Past & Present Players & Officials Association

BSB: 063 204

A/C: 1008 8589

Please use your name as the reference.

A full list of donors for 2020 and 2021 is listed on our website: www.mfcpastplayers.com.au

Add your name to the 2022 donor list by making a contribution now - any amount is appreciated!

We thank the following for their contributions to start 2022:

**Colin Barnes
Les Hopgood
Western Demons**



MATCH DAY FUNCTION SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

We are pleased to be able to offer a fantastic sponsorship opportunity for our remaining home game match day functions for the year. This is a great opportunity for your Demon supporting extended networks in business to attend a fun event, mingle with MFC greats and promote their business to the audience in attendance. Please share with anyone who may be interested.



Package includes:

- 4 VIP tickets to a MFC P&PP&OA match day function in the Keith Miller Room, Shane Warne Stand, MCG, including ground admission and premium reserved seats
- Company logo and promotion on all event communications - eg event invitation, electronic booking form, Association newsletter, Instagram
- Acknowledgement in MFC P&PP&OA President's welcome address at the match day function
- Interview with MC at the match day function to promote your business, products and services to Association members and guests
- Networking opportunities with Association members and guests at the match day function
- Opportunity to distribute business information/ brochures/ giveaways etc at the match day function
- Exclusive MFC P&PP&OA cap and long sleeved t-shirt
- Investment \$1500

Games available:

Round 7 Melbourne v Hawthorn
Saturday 30 April 2022 (4.35pm game)

Round 12 Melbourne v Sydney
Date and time tbc

Round 22 Melbourne v Carlton
Date and time tbc

Contact Jackie Emmerton on 0409 806 750 or jackie-e@live.com.au or Rod Grinter on 0419 497 906 or rod.grinter@ridley.com.au





ROUND ONE

Round One, 2022 was special even before it started on the night of Wednesday 16 March, and even before Melbourne won the Grand Final rematch with the Western Bulldogs. With the MFC P&PP&OA function full, and with an enthusiastic crowd in the stands, early proceedings set everyone up for a memorable experience.

As the flag was unfurled by legends of the Melbourne Football Club, and as the premiership cup was displayed proudly to the crowd, we welcomed a new season, a new challenge and a wonderful achievement, back at our home ground.

Here, we share a small gallery of special moments before the game, with thanks to the MFC's Matthew Goodrope.



Melbourne Football Club

AFLW - GRAND FINAL

Our sincere congratulations go to Melbourne's AFLW team for making the Grand Final. On Saturday, 9 April, they took on the Crows at the Adelaide Oval. While a late resurgence couldn't stop the locals from taking out their third AFLW flag, we know that the Demons will come back even stronger and more determined in 2023.

Congratulations also go to Daisy Pearce for winning the club Best and Fairest!



Melbourne Football Club

TEN YEARS ON



Just over ten years ago, we farewelled Jim Stynes. At the time, one of his former teammates – Marcus Seecamp – wrote a piece for the Melbourne Football Club website, paying tribute to Jim. Now, a decade on, he captures the memories of Jim and how much he is missed to this day.



Dear Jim,

It has been a long time since we said goodbye to you at your state funeral, but you still regularly come into our thoughts and compounded, more recently, our wishes that you were here with us. Over the past few months, all Melbourne Football Club supporters have celebrated a premiership so many years in the making. You, Jim, gave the club hope and a vision during a most challenging time. You gave us belief and a plan that would lead the club on a path to greatness, one that you so passionately championed and lived a life as such. It was befitting that one young man you had such a profound early effect on, Max Gawn, was captain of the premiership team and displayed many of the unique qualities you were blessed with, including the ability to dominate in the ruck.

You would have been incredibly proud to see your mighty Red & Blue team win the 2021 premiership. Of course, many celebrations have followed, including a most memorable day for all the supporters to be together at the MCG. We all know it was there that you spent many years working on your future vision of the Melbourne Football Club. The premiership celebrations then culminated in the unfurling of the flag at the first game of this season, with the past players' function sold out and many past champions in attendance, a place where you dearly belonged. I was there with my family to watch the flag return to our club, and you were always in my thoughts.

You will be pleased that our premiership success was built off the foundations of your DNA: hard work, commitment, resilience, selflessness, persistence, and, dare I mention it, perhaps our fair share of the luck of the Irish. Thank you for that! I felt your spirit when the siren rang to conclude the grand final, I felt it when able to get my hands on our premiership cup, I felt it when standing on the MCG with a large crowd of members (just like old times). I felt your spirit when watching the first game of this year with the flag being unfurled and carried by legends of the club. You were there, to be sure, watching down on your family and all of us who so dearly appreciate the times we spent together and saw you when you were at your very best. Like I did a decade ago at St Paul's Cathedral, I have cried, laughed, reflected, and remembered a gentleman who will live on in my memories forever.

I expect, as you rest in peace, you are still dominating. The brightest star, the person to still aspire to be like, as to me like many others, you always were and will be a part of what makes us good people, always considerate of others, regardless.

With much love and respect for you, Jim,

Marcus and family



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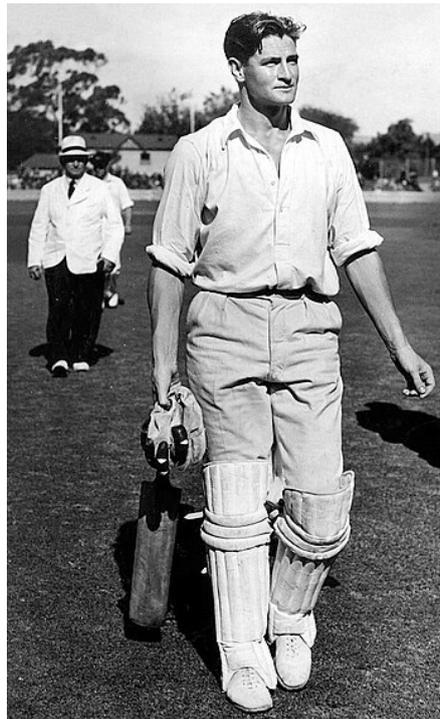
MEMBER NEWSLETTER

KEITH MILLER ROOM

This year, all MFC P&PP&OA match day functions are being held in the Keith Miller Room. What many may not realise is that this venue has a very special Melbourne Football Club connection, as well as a wonderful story of its own.

Keith Miller was – and remains – one of the legendary figures of Australian cricket, including being a member of the 1948 Invincibles. As well as this, he played 50 games for St Kilda, won the Best and Fairest with the Saints, and served with flair and distinction in the wartime RAAF.

Keith Miller was also a Melbourne High student, and was first helped along the road to cricket stardom by his school cricket and football captain: one Keith William 'Bluey' Truscott. Truscott was one of Miller's early sporting heroes, and his role in providing encouragement and inspiration in schooldays was never forgotten by Miller.

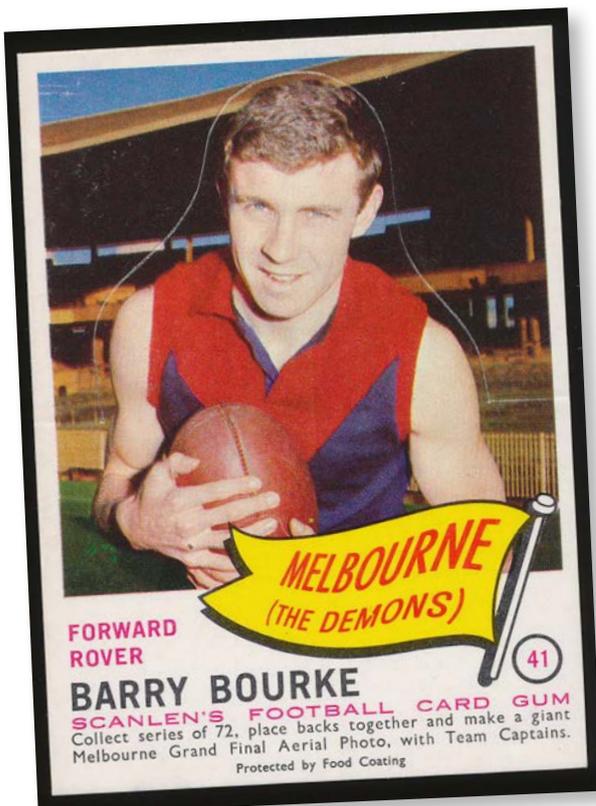


First XI Melbourne High School, 1934.
George M. Stirling (left), Bluey Truscott (centre), Keith Miller (extreme right).

As RAAF pilots, both had a motto that holds true to this day:

Par Ardua Ad Astra – 'Through Adversity To The Stars'.

BARRY BOURKE



Way back in April 1952, the write up of a special game appeared in *The Dandenong Journal*. It was reported that 'Dandenong Juniors scored a smashing victory over Freighters in the opening game', with Dandenong kicking 17 goals to the Freighters' two.

It was the start of a new season, and the leading goalkicker for Dandenong Juniors was one Bourke, with five, also named in the best for the winners.

This is what helped to make this a special game, and was further highlighted in the 'Snapshots' of assorted stars of the encounter:

Young Barry Bourke made an impressive debut at full

forward. Five goals is a fine effort, Barry. Notice you had a couple of the opposition 'tagging' you.

It was, of course, just the beginning of the story for young Barry Bourke, then aged nine. He had over two decades of playing achievement, challenges and honours ahead of him, and a heritage in the game that continues to this day.

Another connection that continues to this day is Barry Bourke Motors. Don't forget, whatever your motoring needs, all Association members are always welcome to contact Barry for assistance.



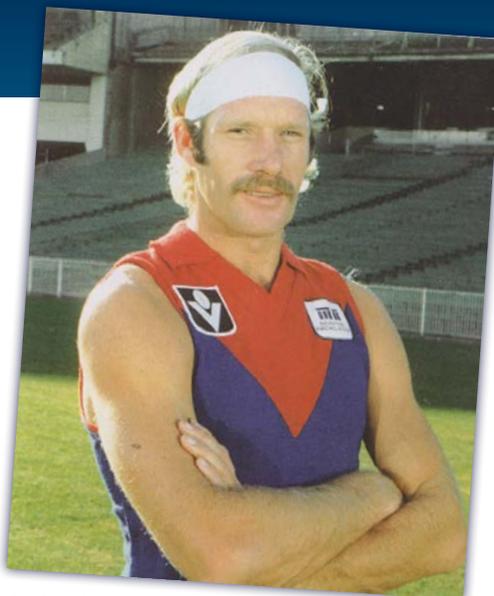
0418 999 101
barrybourke.com.au

LIVING IN THE 1970S

When everyone heads in through Gate 5 for Melbourne's Round Seven encounter against Hawthorn, and makes their way up to the Keith Miller Room for the second MFC P&PP&OA match day function of the season, it'll be a special occasion for all who attend.

This is when Des Campbell – who played 50 games in two stints between 1970 and 1977 – is looking forward to a gathering of past players from this era. 'It's a great chance to catch up, especially after the last couple of seasons!' He well remembers his record against Hawthorn – 'five games, five losses' – but also recalls the great camaraderie that grew despite lean times for the red and blue.

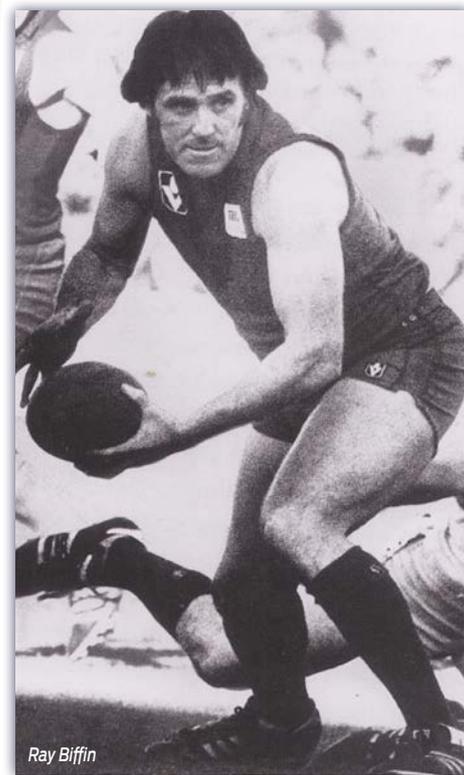
Going through the statistics, Des has figured that around 130 players were part of Melbourne during the 1970s, playing at least one game. He's been



Carl Ditterich

busy tracking down as many 'players, coaches and those involved' as he can for the occasion, and has made sure that the Keith Miller Room will have the 'Full House' sign above the door.

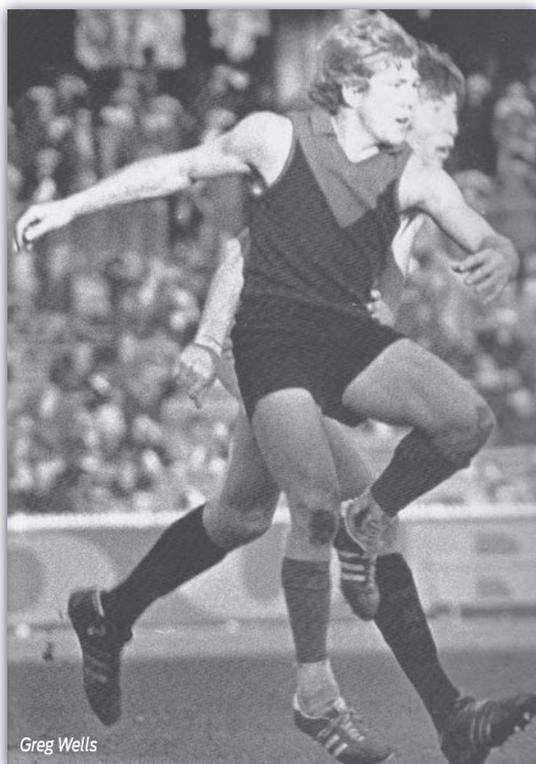
However, the quest continues to contact as many 1970s people as possible, simply to maintain contact and reinforce connections, so if you've been out of the loop - or know of someone from this era who has - feel free to contact Des Campbell or Spike Harris to update details and keep in touch.



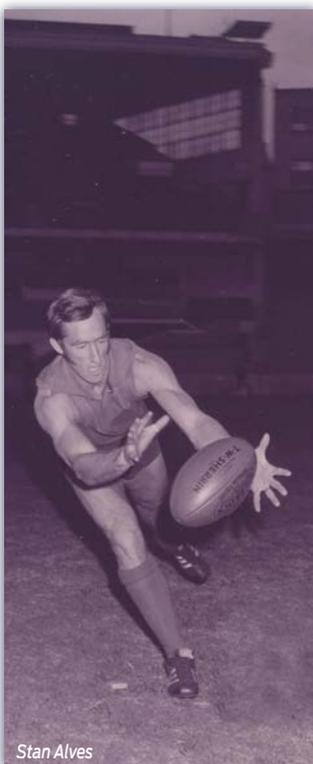
Ray Biffin

Des can be contacted via email on descampbell1950@icloud.com or mobile 0400 539 580.

Spike can be contacted via email on spike.w.harris@gmail.com or mobile 0411 235 073.



Greg Wells



Stan Alves



Gary Hardeman



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NEALE DANIHER – A LEGEND TO ALL!

Congratulations to Neale Daniher, who – just before the season started – was elevated to Legend status in the Essendon Football Club's Hall of Fame, alongside Dustin Fletcher, Gavin Wanganeen and the late Dr Bruce Reid.

With all four Daniher brothers in the room, it was a special occasion for everyone involved, with recognition given to Daniher's many connections, Essendon President Paul Brasher saying:

'Neale, I know you have a strong foot in the Melbourne camp as well, but the Daniher family, plenty of whom are here tonight, are true Essendon royalty.

'Your continued determination to live life to the fullest and face 'the Beast' of MND with your trademark



humour and fierce courage is nothing short of inspiring.

"And I would say the same of your family who are here tonight ... I can't properly convey how inspiring

you are to many people in this room tonight, and quite frankly, the AFL world and to the broader Australian community.'

Congratulations, Neale!

REMINDER – CELEBRATION DAY SPECIAL

Many who shared the special occasion of premiership celebrations on 5 December last year also took part in a wonderful photo shoot, up on the podium with the premiership cup.

You can now grab your own souvenir of this moment. If you were there, or if you'd just like to share the enjoyment, please contact Lynda Carroll (lynda_carroll35@hotmail.com) to organise your order.

For \$15 unframed, or \$30 framed, complete with date caption, don't miss out.



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