



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS'

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021 EDITION

FROM THE PRESIDENT



- ROD GRINTER

Welcome all to our November 2021 newsletter.

Well, it's been two months since that famous last Saturday in September. I still cannot believe that it happened in the way that it did, and I'm sure that, like me, you all will have watched the replay and highlights many many times; it still gives me goosebumps. I hadn't seen the Fox Footy post-game celebrations and interviews until late October. Wow, how special were these! The interviews carried out by our own Garry Lyon were raw, and you could certainly see the joy in Gazza's eyes during the whole thing. It was amazing stuff, and it felt like we'd just won the premiership again after watching these, but a month later.

From the many reconnections that have occurred between past players and supporters during that wonderful

finals series, there is one special group called the Old Dilapidated Demons group (ODD on WhatsApp), started by Neale Daniher back in 2020. It includes players he coached, along with support staff - about 34 in total. Neale, again always thinking of others, came up with the idea of a special award that he has asked the MFC P&PP&OA to own. This annual award is the UNSUNG HERO award, with 2021 being the inaugural year. It was voted on Brownlow style - 3, 2, 1 - by those on the ODD WhatsApp group. It also needed to be named. Suggestions were called for from the ODD group, and from a wide range of worthy candidates, we decided upon the **Harris Mather Unsung Hero Award**, honouring Spike Harris and Ronnie Mather, who were both overwhelmed and graciously accepted this honour. After counting all the votes, the winner of the Harris Mather Unsung Hero Award for 2021 was Harrison Petty. I have contacted Harry, and he was very excited and honoured to receive this award. Well done to all involved, and a big thank you to Neale Daniher. Moving forward, the voting for this award will expand to every member of our Association.

As we have seen, our Club is doing the best it can to get the Premiership Cup in the hands of as many MFC supporters as possible, and there are some brilliant photos below. As has been advertised, there will be a day at the MCG - Sunday 5 December - when everyone will have the opportunity to see the Premiership Team and the Premiership Cup and - it won't be missed this time - hearing from our Premiership Coach, Simon Goodwin. We look forward to MFC P&PP&OA members, family and friends joining us in the Jim Stynes Room on this special day in order to celebrate such an auspicious occasion together.

As always, a big shout out to Lynda Carroll for pulling this fabulous newsletter together. To all those who have donated items and funds to our cause a big thank you, and to your hardworking committee, thank you.

Finally, enjoy being out of lockdown, stay safe and we will be back in touch with you soon.

Rod Grinter
President
MFC P&PP&OA



REV'S ROAMINGS



In traditional style, Paul 'The Rev' Burnham continues to maintain contact with the multitudes, keeping the connections

going and fostering Positive Pastoral Care. In the month around Melbourne's premiership win, he contacted over

50 people, from Hassa Mann to Craig Smoker, Brad Miller, Todd Viney and Garry Lyon. In fitting style, Garry responded with 'How good can it get!', a sentiment echoed by many correspondents.

One of the best 'Rev's Roamings' stories involves perennial favourite, Des Bell. Des - 98, and with a new hip - was honoured by a visit from Angus Brayshaw, complete with premiership cup and medal. As The Rev relates it:

'Des was greatly pleased to hold the cup, but when Angus placed the medal around his neck, Des thought this was a good time to make a dash for it up the

hallway, with Angus in tow. Suffice to say, the younger man overtook Des before he could make a clean getaway with the medal. Des thought it was worth the effort, with a new hip and all.'

Des's response to Angus - 'Well, at least I had a go!' Well done by Des - and Angus, of course!





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BENEVOLENT FUND

- Jackie Emmerton

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our generous donors who have donated to the MFC P&PP&OA Benevolent Fund via our GoFundMe page - we are truly grateful for your ongoing and loyal support. The GoFundMe online donation page is now closed for accepting donations, although we will continue to **welcome and encourage donations via direct bank deposit.**

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.

Our Association's committee is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our members. As restrictions ease and things return to normal, we will continue to strive to provide accessible, engaging and fun opportunities and events. In line with our mantra

of creating "benevolence and togetherness" for our members, your donations help us with keeping event costs affordable, as well as assisting with supporting members in need.

We would like to thank and recognise our generous donors of 2020:

Melbourne Football Club, The Demon Army, Western Demons, Ron Barassi AM, Don Baron, Clint Bizzell, Barry Bourke, Graeme Brassington, Paul Burnham, Lynda Carroll, Dave Cawsey, Andrew Chrapot, John Collett, Liz Coningsby, Chris Connolly, Penny Connolly, Ray 'Smokey' Dawson, Eric Dick, Colleen Dooley, Simon Eishold, Jackie Emmerton, John Gallus, Ian George, Simon Godfrey, Bernadette Grinter, Rod Grinter, Spike Harris, Karen Hayes AM, Chris Heffernan, Ben Holland, Paul Hopgood, Mark Jenkins, Graeme Jones, Darren Kowal, Clyde Laidlaw, Ralph Laurie, Harold Lubansky, Phil Madick, Gary Marchant, David Martin, Peter McKenna, Mike McShane, Diane Mountney, Jeremy Nichols, Stephen Powell, Guy Rigoni, Russell Robertson, Cameron Schwab, Troy Simmonds, Steven

Smith, Brian Stynes, Janette Sutherland, Tricia Thorne, Daniel Ward, Ken Whitfort, Anonymous x 3

Our list of Benevolent Fund donors for 2021 to date is as follows:

Anonymous x 2, Deluxe Print, Demon Army, Melbourne Football Club, MFC Coterie, VFL Club Foundation, Peter Ashton, Don Baron, Wayne Bynon, Lynda Carroll, David Cawsey, Elizabeth Coningsby, Chris Connolly, Chris Cooper, Eric Dick, Jackie Emmerton, Darrell Fenton, Phil Goldberg, Rod Grinter, Lachlan Haig, Kaye Hargreaves, Spike Harris, Mandy Horsburgh, Alan Jackson, Kevin Jones, Torsten Kasper, Peter Lawrence, John McMahon, Darren McMenaman, Mike McShane, David Martin, Alistair Nicholson, David Peel, Guy Rigoni, Matt Taylor, Paul Thompson, John Trotter

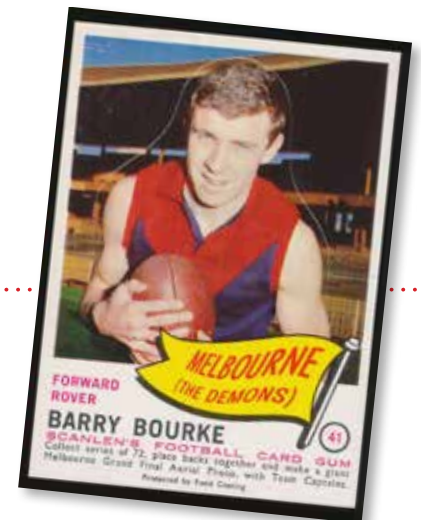
BARRY BOURKE

Barry Bourke has a special place in the story of the Melbourne Football Club, crossing eras and expanding his roles into everything from chairman of selectors to Foundation Hero, Hall of Fame inductee, and a strong supporter over many seasons.

In his time playing at Melbourne between 1963 and 1973, Barry also had the chance to experience many venues that were part of the

suburban VFL. While he played 93 games at the MCG (47 wins, 46 losses) and just six at Victoria Park (six losses!), the names of other grounds conjure memories of a different time. From Arden Street to the Lake Oval, Glenferrie to Moorabbin, the Junction Oval, Waverley and Windy Hill – to mention just a few – Barry travelled far and wide across the suburbs to represent Melbourne through 175 games.

Now, Barry can help you to go places, no matter your destination.



Association members, don't forget to contact Barry for assistance with all your motoring needs.



0418 999 101

barrybourke.com.au

BEHIND THE SCENES – SOPHIE GALER

She wears her red and blue heart on her sleeve, and has done so since the late 1980s, when the Galer family landed in Australia from England. 'We came to Australia in October 1987... I barracked for Essendon for six weeks!' That early error of judgement aside, Sophie



Galer has been a Demon ever since.

There have been many highlights and challenging moments since that time, along with the cementing of great friendships and memories, culminating in hugging and shedding a tear over the 2021 premiership cup.

From being a member at the end of 1988, and ultimately finding that 'all my friends were in the Cheer Squad', Sophie, along with her Demon Army cohorts, has become an integral part of the club's spirit, colour and heartland. Along with Ryan Sinclair, she was approached in 2012 by Don McLardy and John Trotter to take charge of the group, as both were seen to be equipped with 'skills that we can't pay someone for'. Along with these intangibles – love of club and ability to galvanise prime amongst them – came around 500 hours of voluntary work, and the birth of son Ben at the end of the same year.

This means that Ben has grown up with the same red and blue commitment, and has members of the Demon Army as something of an 'extra family'. It is, of course, a family that has been on a virtual footing for the past two seasons, transforming into Zoom, WhatsApp and the like in order to maintain at least a shadow of match day.

Sophie is one of the few who has been able to express what so many have felt during these times, with the world and routine as we know it completely

knocked off kilter. Speaking via Zoom for the Association's annual reunion, the Grand Final just days away, she said, 'I realised it's the experience I miss – the idea of being at the MCG on the day, the colour and the excitement, and sharing it with my friends.' The emotion of the game is never far away, and having even a skerrick of 2021 to hold close – being able to experience a match day, thinking with a buzz that 'we could win this game' – has been a precious thing during lockdowns and border closures.

Curtailing movement has also meant that Sophie has missed meeting up with members of the extended Melbourne 'family', from Jeff White in Queensland to Dean Irving in Western Australia. This is complemented by the dedication of so many Melbourne supporters, and Sophie knows – perhaps better than most – that 'fans can drive a lot of things – sometimes clubs underestimate the depth of their attachment to the club.'

With that, it's time to return to November 2021, and to Sophie; the happiest, most effusive and most heartfelt of all supporters, there in the queue at the Australian Sports Museum, getting ready to meet the premiership cup with that long-awaited hug. More than a simple gesture, it sums up everything for her. From working as relief reception at



Jolimont Terrace during school holidays, to doing data entry and assisting with footy clinics, through to bringing the next generation on board and literally leading an army of people, Sophie Galer is in her element, and that red and blue heart is beating true.





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PREMIERSHIP CUP ON TOUR

If there was ever a well travelled premiership cup, Melbourne's 2021 trophy would be it. While its 'big brothers' from 1959, 1960 and 1964 sit in state at the MCG, the 2021 premiership cup has been out and about, seeing the sights and meeting the people. It has had many hugs, suffered a few dints, and is the focus of much joy and celebration.

Of course, it has met – and is due to meet – many members of the P&PP&OA. Here are some photos of it (and its family members!), and some comments made along the way.



'This is really bringing everyone together.'



'Unbelievable!'





'This is just the best.'



'So happy to see this.'



'Great to see it coming home!'



1964 – THE (SECOND) MOST RECENT

For so long, 1964 has been the most recent premiership won by the Melbourne Football Club. It has been the measure of our story, and the shape of our heritage. Now, that has changed. 1964 is the twelfth premiership, followed 57 years later by the 2021 victory.

Two of those who were part of the 1964 team gave their view on 2021, and what it is like to now be part of the second most recent premiership win.



Bryan Kenneally

It had to come, it just hadn't come quickly enough! It was inevitable – we've gone close before, making the Grand Final twice.

I'm looking forward to it happening on the MCG. It was a comprehensive win, and it

was something quite special to see us kick sixteen of the last seventeen goals.

When we were twenty points down, I thought we were gone.

But we weren't, and it really was special.

Hassa Mann

It was terrific to hand the banner over. We've had it long enough, and they really earned it!

I think that the current team is setting

something special up, and I hope – I think – that they can pinch another one in the next year or two.

I hope that the current group can meet up with the remaining 1964 players at some stage soon.



OUR FOURTH PREMIERSHIP CUP – 2021

As everyone knows, the Melbourne Football Club won its thirteenth premiership in 2021. A main focus of this has – naturally – been the premiership cup.

However, this is just the fourth premiership cup presented to the club upon winning a premiership. Before the late 1950s, the pennant was the prime form of victory acknowledgement, unfurled at the first round of the season following the premiership win.

After Melbourne was presented with a trophy in 1957, Collingwood was similarly honoured in 1958. But then came 1959, and the decision – emanating from then

VFL President (later Sir) Kenneth Luke – to create something monumental. The cup that we know today was the result, and with victory over Essendon in the same season, Melbourne captain John Beckwith became the first to ever lift the premiership cup in its modern form.

Around a decade ago, the AFL gave every club the chance to have cups made to honour all their premierships, including those won before 1959.

Meanwhile, the 1959 premiership cup can be seen in the Australian Sports Museum, while 1960 and 1964 are side by side in the (soon to reopen) Melbourne Cricket Club Museum, and 2021 is still travelling everywhere, becoming well acquainted with the red and blue population.



NEALE DANIHER, AO

The press release from Government House on 20 November reads – in part – that:

Mr Neale Daniher AM was promoted to an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to people with Motor Neurone Disease and their families through advocacy, public education and fundraising initiatives.

Everyone involved with the MFC P&PP&OA and the Melbourne Football Club offers their most sincere congratulations to Neale Daniher, who has also been instrumental in uniting the past player and official community, from the establishment of the ODD (Old Dilapidated Demons) WhatsApp group, to organising for a group of past players and officials to meet the 2021 premiership cup in a special gathering.



As the coach himself said in 2019 at the launch of *When All Is Said And Done*,

‘Life’s not about finding yourself, it’s about creating yourself.’ Every day, in every way, Neale Daniher, AO, continues to do just this.

CELEBRATIONS

Memories are made of this – our newest premiership victory, and the one from 57 years ago.

In 1964, Ron Barassi can be seen accepting the cup from VFL President Sir Kenneth Luke, the Melbourne captain a brilliant island on a small platform in front of the Collingwood players.



Now, in 2021, the stage is bigger and the celebrations louder – and Ron Barassi was delighted to meet the premiership cup with ‘You little beauty!’

DEPARTURES

Having acknowledged the departures of much loved and long serving Melbourne personnel in Nathan Jones and Neville Jetta in our Grand Final edition, along with Aaron vandenBerg,

Jay Lockhart, Aaron Nietschke, Austin Bradtke, we now also farewell Marty Hore and Kye Declase. Thank you to all for your service, and everyone in the Melbourne Football Club Past and Present Players’ and Officials’ Association wishes you the very best.

WELCOME TO:

LUKE DUNSTAN

Picked up during the trade period, Luke becomes yet another player to transition from being a Saint to a Demon.



NATIONAL DRAFT

JACOB VAN ROOYEN (PICK 19)

BLAKE HOWES (PICK 39)

TAJ WOEWODIN (PICK 65 – FATHER-SON)



ROOKIE DRAFT

JUDD MCVEE (ROOKIE)

ANDY MONIZ-WAKEFIELD
(CATEGORY B ROOKIE)



ACADEMY - GET INVOLVED

As we head towards Season 2022, it's time to remind all of the Academy, and its criteria:

Sons must have had their father play 100 games

Daughters must have had their father play a single senior game

We look forward to sharing more information regarding Academy training sessions and activities in 2022 via the newsletter, as well as email and text message.

No matter the age of your child, or if they are not currently playing football, we encourage you to register them. In this way, they won't miss out on any game experiences or gift packs that may be on offer.



For further information or to get your child involved, please contact Todd Patterson (AFLW/Melbourne Academy Talent Manager) on email (todd.patterson@melbournefc.com.au) or via mobile (0408 445 966).

AFLPA

aflplayers.com.au

We continue to encourage all eligible P&PP&OA members to join the AFLPA, which – for a one-off joining fee – provides access to a vast range of assistance and advice mechanisms to those who may be in need, particularly through wellbeing services.

These are 'completely confidential, and offer great support':



WELLBEING SERVICES

Reminder that the AFLPA's Mental Health Navigation Service is a service specifically designed to support the unique wellbeing needs of all AFLPA members, including past VFL/AFL players.

How players benefit from this service:

- The AFLPA wellbeing network has more than 300 psychologists and psychologists with a variety of specialisations and approaches (e.g., sport, mental health, relationships, communication, personal development)
- Players who utilise this service spend time talking with our team to ensure that they are connected with someone who is a great 'fit' for them
- AFLPA wellbeing network practitioners are independent from club and AFL

- Session can be accessed face to face, via phone or online (i.e., Zoom, Skype Facetime) to suit your availability and preferences.
- AFLPA wellbeing support is free for members, meaning that they do not experience out of pocket expenses
- There are no limits or caps on sessions, so you can continue to access support as long as you require

How do I connect with one of the AFLPA's in-house psychologists?

Our friendly Wellbeing staff are available weekdays during standard office hours (AEDT) to discuss your needs and help you arrange individualised and confidential support.

Telephone: 1800 448 903

Email: wellbeing@aflplayers.com.au

VALE BOB CARROLL

The Melbourne Football Club community was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Bob Carroll. Bob, who made his way from the Fourths, played 14 senior games for Melbourne



between 1961 and 1964. In his last season with the Demons, Bob was both captain and leading goalkicker for

the Reserves team. He went on to play at both Hawthorn and Fitzroy in 1965, before finishing with Fitzroy in 1966. Bob also played with VFA side Waverley in 1967. We pass on our most sincere condolences to Bob's family and friends.

