



## PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018 EDITION

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 2018

### - ROD GRINTER

First, to our sponsors for 2018 - the Melbourne Football Club, MFC Coterie, Dan Rogers (Rogers & Co Foods) - thank you all for your contribution to our Association during 2018.

On a very sad note, I would like to pass on my condolences to the Sylvia family on the tragic passing of Colin Sylvia. Colin, who was a Life Member of the Melbourne Football Club, playing over 150 games, will be sadly missed. The representation from the MFC at Colin's funeral service was outstanding, showing the impact Colin had on many from our club. More than 20 past and present players attended, showing their respect.

Your Association has proved yet again to be highly productive and commercially successful during 2018. We have a healthy bank account that allows us to subsidise events like our match day family fun days and our annual reunion, as well as assist those in need. On field, 2018 was an exciting season for the MFC, with the boys making the finals, winning two finals against Geelong and Hawthorn respectively, then having to travel to Perth to take on the eventual premiers - the West Coast Eagles - in the preliminary final. What an exciting time this was for all Melbourne supporters.

Our major event - through the Ron Barassi Club - was in its third year in 2018, with over 150 attending the Ronald Dale Barassi Address Dinner, again held at the prestigious Queen's Hall, Parliament House. A highlight during this evening was having the 1964 premiers players in attendance. It was fantastic to see them all, and we also presented the Ronald Dale Barassi Medal. The recipient this year was Mike Kostos, a name that exemplifies all characteristics essential for a successful journey throughout life and contribution to the MFC and wider community. Who will it be for 2019???

Still on the Ron Dale Barassi Address Dinner, we now reflect on what an extraordinary compliment it is to us as individuals and to our club as a whole that such an array of Australians were pulled together to support the cause of one of our principal agendas - **'Life in the Fifth Quarter of MFC players and officials.'** Again, each and every speaker and artist donated their services as a gesture of goodwill and support to the ever growing need to recognise that, once you are part of the MFC family, the bonds continue throughout your entire life.

Our match day functions continue to be popular, creating an opportunity for our Association's families and friends to enjoy a day at the footy in comfort. In 2018, these functions were held in Rd 1 vs Geelong, Rd 15 vs St. Kilda, and Rd 21 vs the Sydney Swans. This last occasion was a significant highlight, with around 200 attending, including many Swans' past players and officials, engaging in an afternoon of great warmth, renewing old friendships and discussing our pursuits in the **"fifth quarter"** of our lives.

We have no doubt that these occasions create a sound foundation that assists in the development of truly great AFL clubs. On these occasions, our events are evidence of the imperatives around solid and well-structured camaraderie. The above example highlights the number of events that have allowed our Association members, together with our Coterians, to connect in a spirit of goodwill throughout the year. We continue to forge strong relationships with the MFC administration, and I thank all those in this area who have assisted, in particular Jackie Emmerton and Russell Robertson.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank your Association committee, with new



members Paul Hopgood, John Ahern and Brad Green joining this year. These boys add a wealth of knowledge and passion for this great club, as well as assisting in keeping the average age of your committee below 50. Sincere thanks also go to my co-chair of the Ron Barassi Club and our Secretary/Treasurer - Spike Harris - for his incredible ongoing efforts with all facets of our groups.

For me, it is an honour to serve, and I continue with a high degree of enthusiasm to embrace the upcoming challenges for 2019.

With an exciting year behind us on the field, next year promises to be filled with high expectations, both on and off the field for the red and blue.

**Merry Christmas to you all, and may 2019 be bigger and better.**

**Go Dees!**

Regards

**Rod Grinter**  
**Chairman, MFCPP&PP&OA**



Don't forget to book in for the

**2019 GOLF DAY**  
**"NINE & DINE"**

Friday 15 February 2019 - Albert Park Golf Course, starting at 5 pm.

Contact **Spike Harris** on 0411 235 073 or [spike.w.harris@gmail.com](mailto:spike.w.harris@gmail.com) for details and bookings.

**COST**  
**\$20.00**



## VALE COLIN SYLVIA

The entire MFC P&PP&OA community was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Colin Sylvia. A red and blue favourite throughout his 157 games wearing No. 12 between 2004 and 2013, followed by a further season at Fremantle in 2014, Sylvia excelled in the game from a young age. He made his senior debut with Merbein when aged just 15, playing in a premiership there in 2002.

A product of the Bendigo Pioneers, Sylvia was taken by Melbourne at No. 3 (priority pick) in the 2003 National Draft.

In his time at Melbourne, Sylvia was renowned for his commitment to training,

which – at his best – helped to make him a powerhouse in the midfield, recognised by regular high placings in the MFC Best and Fairest. Sadly, injuries also frequently frustrated his efforts.

Upon his departure from the club at the end of 2013, Sylvia said 'I will always consider myself a Melbourne person'. This link was reaffirmed with the awarding of MFC Life Membership in 2015.

Colin Sylvia was also well known for his generosity of spirit towards the wider Melbourne community, and his interest and connection with many supporter groups. He will be sorely missed, and always fondly remembered. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends.



Vale Colin Sylvia

## ANNUAL REUNION

On the evening of Thursday 27 September, around 100 guests of the MFC P&PP&OA gathered in the Jim Stynes Room, overlooking the arena where preparations were taking place for Grand Final Day.



The Annual Reunion was a welcome continuation of the Melbourne presence that had added so much to finals action at the MCG, with a wonderful atmosphere in the room. A great representation across generations and levels of involvement was a highlight. Some of those who came from near and far included the likes of Ron Barassi, Alan Jarrott, Ray Carr (from Echuca!) and Neale Daniher, with everyone's favourite – former property steward Ron Mather – also attending. Another feature of the evening was the presentations to Brian Dixon and Ted Carroll, honoured for their contributions to the Association over many years.

As always, we look forward to many occasions and chances for catching up during the year, with the Reunion being the highlight. We also look forward to sharing the reunion with as many as possible in 2019, on an evening when 'togetherness' – one of the key aims of the Association – can undoubtedly be found in the one room.

## BALLS GRINTER'S ACU

The 16th Balls Grinter's ACU (Annual Catch Up), held at Middle Park Bowls club on Friday 7 December, was enjoyed by the regular 20 to 25 past players on a very warm evening. A special mention goes to Earl Spalding for making the effort to fly in from Perth, Brad Sparks flying in from Noosa and Michael Seddon flying in from Hobart to join us - what a great effort from these three. We also welcomed and appreciated 15 to 20 current day players who found time in their busy training schedule to join us for the evening, a big thanks to captains Nathan Jones and Jack Viney for encouraging these boys to get along.

The venue provided the opportunity to roll down some bowls barefoot style, with past players competing with current players, enjoying each other's company and having a laugh. Seeing the current players relaxing and chatting with boys from the past is warming and shows the unpretentiousness of the current day playing group, who are on the brink of some very special times.

From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely thank all those who made the effort to come along and made my ACU another enjoyable occasion.

Merry Christmas and all the success for 2019.

**Go Dees.  
Balls Grinter**



The current crew, ACU 2018



Guy Rligoni, Brian Stynes, David Neitz, Jared Rivers and Alistair Nicholson, ACU 2018

