



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

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MEMBER NEWSLETTER

March-April 2021 EDITION

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



- ROD GRINTER

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2021. I can happily report that finally we are

back to the MCG. How good is it that we are now able to return to watch our team live? We enjoyed the match day function in Round One; while numbers were a bit lower than hoped, the result was brilliant, and we look forward to having more people join us for our next function. Once we find out what is happening, we will notify Association members.

Much to everyone's relief, we are now into the footy season. Of course, back in early February it wasn't looking good, with the state going into a snap lockdown for – thankfully - only five days. Unfortunately, this meant that we had to cancel our first event for 2021, which was our annual Nine & Dine Golf evening. This event will return in early 2022.

Fingers and toes are all crossed that we now have an uninterrupted year, that the Dees find some consistent good form, and that all our other planned events can go ahead.

The focus from your committee moving forward is:

- Ensuring we keep connected with our members
- Raising much needed funds



Go Dees

(please dig deep if you can, via the [GoFundMe](#) page or directly via any committee member) - support of fundraising is also possible through purchasing some past player merchandise

- Continually refining our structure and strategy to support the MFC P&PP&OA
- Planning events to keep connected for 2021

Once again, a big thank you to all those who have contributed to our monthly newsletters. We also thank everyone who attended our recent

AGM (Monday 22 March), and offer our most sincere congratulations to Paul Burnham on being awarded Life Membership of the Association.

Keep an eye on our website and Instagram, and please pass on this newsletter to ensure constant communication to and with our members.

As always, stay safe and healthy.

Regards

Rod Grinter

MFC P&PP&OA Chairman





PAUL BURNHAM – THE REV AT LARGE



Paul Burnham's contact with the huge MFC past and present player and official community continues apace,

as he regularly calls over 60 people a month, spending more than seven hours checking in with everyone.

From Ray Biffin and Frank Davis, sharing a beer on the back verandah, to Nathan Carroll, living in the Pilbara and working in the mines for the last ten years, The Rev has heard some memorable stories and had discussions that reflect the diversity of the P&PP&OA community.

From Des Bell, aged 98 and waiting for a hip operation but considering others 'more in need' than him, to Andrew Lamprill, who has 'missed all our catch ups', it's all about reaching out and keeping in touch.

From recent generations – Daniel Bell with a young baby and working as a 'firey' alongside Rohan Bail – to all corners of Australia – Ray Groom holding the fort in Tasmania and writing a book, the lines of communication cross in an invisible link, playing a valuable part in keeping everyone together.

In tribute to his universal contribution to the well-being of all involved with the Melbourne Football Club community, we are all extremely proud to announce Paul Burnham as a Life Member of the MFC Past and Present Players' and Officials' Association. A presentation was made in recognition of this at the recent AGM, with the response from The Rev being:



I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive Life Membership of the Association, as I see it coming from my peers and friends at the Club; so greatly appreciated.

JOHN AHERN – AFLPA NEWS

Our delegate to the AFLPA, John Ahern was pleased to report that the Melbourne Football Club had the most attendees at that organisation's AGM, recently held on Zoom. As well as John himself, the Melbourne representatives were Tom McDonald, Neville Jetta and Alex Neal-Bullen.

A highlight of the AGM was Neville Jetta being voted onto the Board of the AFLPA; a huge testament to his capabilities, commitment and involvement, and a strengthening of the Melbourne presence in this vital partnership between MFC, AFLPA and MFC P&PP&OA. Congratulations, Neville!

Information and services available to AFLPA Alumni members include:

Alumni Handbook - a one-stop shop for all the programs and services you can access simply by being an Alumni member.

Included within the handbook is information on the first-class Injury

Fund, written pieces from former players Russell Greene and Anthony Stevens and the 2021 Membership Form.

Please take the time to read through the Alumni Handbook, we guarantee there'll be at least one thing you didn't know you could access.

The Alumni Handbook can be accessed by visiting <https://www.aflplayers.com.au/resources/alumni-handbook> and downloading the free PDF resource.

Another vital role played by the AFLPA is in the area of:

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.

As an ongoing reminder, we strongly encourage all MFC P&PP&OA current and past player members to join the

FIT MINDS KICK GOALS. OUR TEAM ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT.

The AFLPA offers a free, confidential and professional counselling service for all current and past players.

This is a dedicated member service delivered by AHPRA registered psychologists, who specialise in elite sport and are located near you.

This service is independent from other wellbeing support options that may be offered by Clubs and the AFL (although it can be a connected service if members choose).

This same service offer also extends to families, partners and significant others.

Contact: 1800 448 903

(AEST office hours) or email:

wellbeing@aflplayers.com.au

AFL Players' Alumni in order to access all the services and resources of the AFLPA.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED? It costs a one off fee of \$50 (\$25 for pensioners) for lifetime membership.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? ... JACK TRENGOVE

As the player profile goes, Jack Trengove was Melbourne's No. 2 draft pick in 2009, finished fifth in the Best and Fairest in 2011, represented Australia in the International Rules series in the same year, became the youngest captain in the game's history aged 20 years and 211 days, co-captaining alongside Jack Grimes in 2012 and 2013, battled persistent injury, went to Port Adelaide in 2018, also played for the Port Adelaide Magpies in the SANFL, and was named the AR McLean Medallist (SANFL Best and Fairest) in 2019. It's been a roller coaster decade for the former No. 9, to say the least.

Now living and working in Adelaide, Jack Trengove is achieving great things for himself and others. He is working for Lanyon Asset Management, which focuses on funds asset management, investing in equities and ASX listed companies. This, of course, is an area of interest to the AFL community, particularly those of Jack's generation, and he is perfectly placed to provide guidance and valuable information.

This move has been some time in the planning; as Jack says, 'I did a commerce degree [Bachelor of Business (Banking and Finance), Monash University], and I was working one day per week while I was still playing. It made the transition smoother, and I did that for two years.'

Even further, Jack has applied his knowledge and experience to create the Lanyon Elite Athlete Fund. This caters for elite athletes, who potentially deal with substantial earning potential at a young age, contrary to typical life patterns. In the first year of the fund's existence, it achieved a 43.3 per cent return, and Jack is dedicated to helping get the word out about sound financial management.

Meanwhile, Jack's immediate footballing involvement continues. Having attended Prince Alfred College in Adelaide, he is now playing for Prince Alfred Old Collegians, but, as he says, 'it's time to devote myself to work, as opposed to footy.'

That doesn't mean, of course, that he's distant from the game and its people. 'My fiancé is from Melbourne, and we get over there as much as possible.' There has been a recent dinner with former teammates in Max Gawn and Jack Watts, and Jack – like everyone with red and blue affiliations – is delighted to see the game back on the MCG, and Melbourne starting the season with a win.



Lanyon Asset Management



Jack Trengove (on right)

THANK YOU!

As everyone involved in an organisation such as the MFC P&PP&OA knows, it takes assistance from many quarters to make everything run smoothly. It's no different in 2021, with Julie Lockhart and Liz Birnie volunteering



to assist at the match day function, and Lyn Harris taking on the photography role on the same day. Thank you for your ongoing dedication, and to everyone who plays a part in helping out with Association activities and events.



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BENEVOLENT FUND 2021

In 2020, contributions to the Association's Benevolent Fund via our GoFundMe page provided the greatest signs of everyone working together, despite all obstacles. The generosity of so many has meant that your Association has a solid foundation to support members of our community in need.

We are continuing the campaign in 2021! Our contributors to date are:

- **Deluxe Print**
- **Paul Galway**
- **Kaye Hargreaves**

If you would like to join the list

DONATE NOW



Or go to:

[gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search **MFC P&PP&OA**

We look forward to welcoming all contributors during 2021, and sharing some of their stories with you.



VALE RAY HUTCHINS

It was with much sadness that we heard of the recent passing of Ray Hutchins, a name that was integral to the Melbourne Football Club across multiple decades.

Ray started out playing for Melbourne in the Under 19s immediately post-war, joining the team in 1946. His father, Merv, had started the Under 19s program at Melbourne, laying the foundations of one of the primary stepping stones for many players. Merv was made a Life Member of Melbourne in 1961.

Progressing to the Reserves in 1948 – a memorable year for Melbourne – Ray was part of a premiership team in 1949, and was named Reserves Best and Fairest in 1950.

Making it to senior ranks, he played five games in 1950 and 1951, wearing No. 24. It was said of him in early 1951 that 'Ray Hutchins, a newcomer, showed plenty of football knowledge when playing in a back pocket' (The Argus)

After this, Ray continued to apply his football knowledge in continuing the family's coaching tradition, starting out with Melbourne's Under 17s, before coaching the club's Under 19s from 1957 to 1960.

We offer our most sincere condolences to Ray's family and friends; he will always be remembered as a special part of the Melbourne Football Club community.



MERCHANDISE CORNER



What better way to show your Association allegiances than to add a new cap to the wardrobe? Perfect for all seasons, not just footy season, so order one today.

Contact Spike Harris – spike.w.harris@gmail.com or 0411 235 073 – **just \$35 plus \$10 postage.**



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