



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' MEMBER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2020 EDITION



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

- ROD GRINTER

Welcome to another

informative newsletter from the MFC P&PP&OA.

All the hard work our community has faced over the last six weeks, especially those living in Victoria, means that we are reaping the reward, with positive COVID-19 cases decreasing. It has been a tough few months, I feel we have all learnt a lot about each other over this period, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, families and friends for all the support they have shown our Association, and the support they have given throughout these trying times. Thank you.

As always, our thoughts are with those members who are struggling. Don't ever forget that we are here for anyone who needs someone to talk to, so just pick up the phone or flick us an email, we are here to support you.

A big thank you to all those who have contributed to our monthly newsletters, none more so than our own Lynda Carroll for pulling them all together.

Keep an eye on our website and Instagram, and feel free to pass on this newsletter to help ensure constant communication among our members.

As always, stay safe and healthy.

Regards

Rod Grinter

MFC P&PP&OA Chairman



ALUMNI CONNECTION

Recently, we told you the story in the newsletter of Steve 'Strawba' O'Dwyer, who was looking for employment opportunities. Since that



Peter Rahilly

time, he has connected with a 'mad Demon' – Peter Rahilly – who runs building company 2Construct, and now has Strawbs as a new employee.

2CONSTRUCT

Here's what Peter had to say:

Why and how long you have been a mad Demon

Since I was born (I blame my father!) Used to throw the ball back from the Ponsford Stand most Saturday afternoons – only went to see the great Robbie Flower play (more often than not he was a one man band). I do recall Stan Alves, Greg Wells and Gary Hardeman back in the black and white TV days.

What your business does

2Construct are a Building Company that generally work in the Tier 2/3 construction space. We do a lot of Education, Sports, Industrial, Retail, Aged Care and Civil projects, mainly in the Melbourne metro area but also some in some regional areas. We employ around 70 people to manage the projects and generally have around 20 to 25 projects running at any one time. With our sub-contractors on board, we would have up to 400 people on our jobs each day. Our website is www.2construct.com.au

How did Strawba become an employee of yours?

Big Strawba was in a spot – like many others through this COVID year. We were fortunate enough to have work and a position available in Contract Management on some of our Sports Field Redevelopment projects – good timing in the end.

The role Strawba has in your business

He's currently working at home !!!...like everyone else. His role is to assist with the Project Management of three projects (two large Sports Field and Pavilion Developments in Casey and Cricket Practice Facility at Toorak Park).

Strawbs was delighted to respond, even while checking the security fences at Toorak Park, saying:

“ I'd been out of work since December, and when I reached out to Peter Rahilly, he came back, saying 'I've got something if you're interested.' I'd met him in Darwin a few times before. I'm part of contract admin, helping out, being on site, keeping an eye on things, sorting out tendering. I've been working in construction for 25 years.

It's a bit difficult being at Stage 4 right now, but I'm quite excited, and looking forward to everything with 2Construct.



Steve 'Strawbs' O'Dwyer



RUSSELL ROBERTSON

If you caught a snippet of Russell Robertson in the Herald Sun recently, here are some more interesting and expanded thoughts that he has shared with us.

'Welcome to the strangest party baby'

Those of us who know 80s and early 90s music will know the reference, and certainly those of us who appreciated decent music will also know it.

Although this song by INXS - arguably Australia's greatest international band - refers to the band's lifestyle during their boom years, when sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll were as common as breathing and more than likely the tamest part of their day, it also speaks to change and how one person holds his or her fate in their own hands.

I find myself singing the opening line to their song almost three times a day. Like a square meal, I am constantly reminded that we are living in unprecedented times. Everything is different, and nothing will be the same for quite some time, but we are getting used to it.

Our day to day has changed in ways we could never have imagined a year ago, and we are forced to change our perspective of what is normal, for if we do not, we are going to find life very hard. For myself and my circle of friends, checking in and asking 'are you OK?' has become the new normal. As a man, I can categorically say that is not normal.

As men, we tend to keep our emotional conversations brief and a long way between. We get caught up in our own worlds, our own families and our own work. We have an intense singular focus, problem solving by nature, and find it difficult to look too far outside



Russell Robertson - first season headshot, 1997

our own eco-systems to ask a mate if he is going OK. We are all acutely aware that our friends may have issues, but we don't like to burden them with our own, or create emotion when there is enough already. Our youth was spent 'toughening up' and 'not crying'. We knew we had to lead our families, protect and support them - that's a lot, and there isn't much left over to give our mates, much less ourselves.

But that was a year ago, now we have to change, and change we have.

I am part of an amazing group of men, the past players and coaches of the Melbourne Football Club, and we are taking control back. We who played in and around the same era have all joined a WhatsApp group or two, and we talk to each other daily. It's mindless chat, it's political, hilarious, sometimes sad, but always wonderful. We call each other when we read something that concerns us, and we actively try to find as many people as we can to get involved.

We have time now, because we are forced indoors and forced to do less. We have time to think, and that can sometimes be dangerous. I encourage people, especially you blokes, to take the time to think of others, start a group chat or be part of a video conference. I guarantee it

will bring a smile to your face, and the beautiful thing is that you will bring a smile to someone else.

This is the new direction of the MFC Past and Present Players' and Officials' Association. We 'meet' once a month, not to chat and reminisce, but to seek out and find all of those who played a part in the story of the Melbourne Football Club. We are trying to raise funds along the way to give where there is nothing but hopelessness. We are trying to help our extended family to be 'ok' when there are hard times, and we are charged with the duty of bringing together those who were once front of mind for the red and blue faithful, but now may have drifted to other places or been forgotten.

We won't forget, and we will do our best to make sure you are included.

That is why I am part of the MFC P&PP&OA. I am a small part of a very large group of extraordinary people, and it is an honour and always a privilege to be involved. We are superbly led on this charge by our Chairman, Rod 'Balls' Grinter. He has been nothing short of phenomenal in his efforts to explore every avenue to provide that support to his fellow comrades of the red and the blue, without the desire for anything in return.

So now, in this different world with all its challenges, we are finding new ways to connect and, if I put my positive hat on, maybe I believe there will be some good come out of this maybe we might connect on a deeper conversational level than ever before.

Like Stephen Tingay once said to us (those who were there will know exactly what I am talking about):

'Welcome to the strangest party baby, everyone's got their invitations, hoping that you're gonna come, yeah!'

Stay safe, and Go Dees!

WELFARE/PROACTIVE PASTORAL CARE

Despite the ongoing challenges of lockdown, Paul 'The Rev' Burnham has again been the key correspondent of the P&PP&OA community, estimating contact with nearly 30 people a month.

In his own words, The Rev is 'still touching base with many of our players, and Allen Jakovich and Cam Butler – ex chaplain of the MFC – both send their regards to all.'

A note to all Association members who are also AFLPA members - you should recently have received an email to join The Players' Network Group.

Please invite other AFLPA members who you feel will benefit this group, be it to promote their own business, look for work or to upskill.



*Please note, this group can only be joined via LinkedIn and is available for all current and past players.

We understand these are uncertain times. We're all in this together and it's important we work towards ways in which we can help each other out.

In this group you'll find a one-pager of important resources including AFLPA Regional Manager details, Alumni

support, job seeking services and mental health and wellbeing navigator services.

If you have any questions, suggestions for the page or need some additional support, please contact Michael Jamison.

Michael Jamison

Business Development Manager & Alumni Manager

mjamison@aflplayers.com.au



JACKIE EMMERTON – FUNDRAISING AND HERITAGE

For over 80 years, Coterie has been a mainstay of the Melbourne Football Club, and one of the pioneering groups of its kind in the competition. From supporting players – and famously pledging to care for Ron Barassi Jnr and his mother when Ron Snr was killed at Tobruk – Coterie has continued to uphold benevolence and camaraderie throughout the Melbourne Football Club. Their links to the Past and Present Players' and Officials' Association are many and strong, right through to being one of the group's main sponsors, and holding the annual Life Members' Lunch.



Within my role, Coterie became a major feature. Their connection to players steadily morphed into a connection with past players, as the club became better resourced and provided more welfare for current players. I enjoyed the

involvement, and about six years ago, picked up the link to the past players, especially with offering support to in turn support the Association's events.

Very soon after I finished working at the club, Rod Grinter contacted me, saying 'we want you on the Committee'. I was coerced – or gently nudged – into being on the Committee.

I finished working at the club on 26 February, and two weeks later I was at the Coterie Golf Day. Players and staff pulled out due to the danger of the coronavirus. Sure enough, it was the start of the pandemic here in Victoria.

These last six months have been a challenging time for everyone, and for me, being involved with the Committee has been a godsend during lockdown. I've been able to work on fundraising projects that can assist well into the future, and can help everyone to stay connected.



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NEW! ASSOCIATION SNOODS

Get the coolest face covering on the market - a MFC P&PP&OA snood! Made from sweat wicking fabric, offering COVID protection and warmth. Priced at \$39.95 + postage (\$10). **Pre-orders now open.**

ASSOCIATION T-SHIRTS - STILL AVAILABLE!

Thanks to all those who have purchased one of our very popular Association t-shirts. Limited stock is available, priced at \$40 + \$10 postage, sizes from S-3XL.

Contact Jackie Emmerton at jackie-e@live.com.au or 0409 806 750 to place your orders today - **don't miss out!**

LOOKING FOR....

We continue to track down a number of members and past members, and here, for your perusal, is the latest batch:



Sherrie Krampel Bill Nettlefold
Todd McHardy Ray Nilsson
Craig McKellar Barry Norsworthy
Craig Nettelbeck

Contact Spike Harris via spike.w.harris@gmail.com or 0411 235 073 to help us with updating details.

INDIGENOUS GUERNSEY

One highlight of every season comes with the release of every AFL club's indigenous guernsey - and while 2020 is a very different season, Melbourne's indigenous guernsey is again undoubtedly the cream of the crop. Designed by our very own Neville Jetta and worn for both the Doug Nicholls Round (vs Western Bulldogs) and the Heart of the Nation game (vs St Kilda), it is still possible to purchase (limited quantities!) this guernsey in both youth and adult sizes, via <https://shop.melbournefc.com.au/indigenous/>



BENEVOLENT FUND UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to the MFC P&PP&OA Benevolent Fund, via our GoFundMe page. We appreciate the contributions made by everyone from all sectors of the MFC P&PP&OA community, as we work towards reinforcing our ability to support members in need, both now and into the future.



Or go to:

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 x Anonymous | Rod Grinter |
| Melbourne Football Club | Spike Harris |
| The Demon Army | Chris Heffernan |
| Western Demons | Paul Hopgood |
| Don Baron | Mark Jenkins |
| Paul Burnham | Clyde Laidlaw |
| Lynda Carroll | Gary Marchant |
| Dave Cawsey | David Martin |
| Chris Connolly | Jeremy Nichols |
| Penny Connolly | Guy Rigoni |
| Ray 'Smokey' Dawson | Russell Robertson |
| Eric Dick | Cameron Schwab |
| Simon Eishold | Steven Smith |
| Jackie Emmerton | Brian Stynes |
| Bernadette Grinter | Daniel Ward |
| | Ken Whitfort |

GENERAL GARDEN MAINTENANCE

WEEDING • EDGING • MOWING

CONTACT SPIKE HARRIS
0411 235 073

~ SOUTH EASTERN SUBURBS ~



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Instagram @mfcpastplayers