

ANNUAL REUNION

The Thursday evening before the Grand Final is a popular time to be at the MCG, and it is fitting that this was again the stage

for the MFC P&PP&OA reunion. With over 100 in attendance, everyone enjoyed an evening of stories – tall and true – as well as catching up with former teammates and colleagues.

Luke Beveridge and Adem Yze braved the

lectern to be interviewed, and Daniel Ward again excelled in the role of MC. Some of the most popular in attendance were Ronnie Mather, Jeff Farmer and – as always – Ron Barassi. We thank everyone who joins us for this event, and encourage all members who can be part of it to be there in 2020.



WELCOME MARK JENKINS



All involved with the MFC P&PP&OA Committee would like to welcome our newest Committee member – Mark Jenkins. When asked for a few words regarding his appointment, Jenkins said:

'I'm honoured to join the committee of the MFC Past and Present Players' and Officials' Association, and look forward to contributing to the ongoing success of our group over the coming seasons. I am particularly motivated to ensure that the heritage of our great club and its former players are well looked after, and that the relationships with the MFC, MCC and AFL deliver meaningful benefits to all members of the Association.'

In detailing his involvement with the MFC, Jenkins detailed 57 years (and counting) of supporting, four years as an MFC board member (1996 to 2000), and one game – Geelong vs Melbourne, 2010 – as a trainer.



CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

- ROD GRINTER

Firstly to our sponsors for 2019 - the Melbourne Football Club, MFC Coterie, Dan Rogers (Rogers & Co Foods) - thank you all for your contribution to our Association during 2019.

Your Association has proved yet again to be highly productive and commercially successful during 2019. We have a healthy bank account, which enables us to subsidise events such as our match day family fun days and our annual reunion, as well as assist those in need. I would like to take this opportunity to thank your committee - Spike Harris, John Ahern, Paul Hopgood, Brad Green, Daniel Ward, Russell Robertson, Cam Pedersen, Lynda Carroll, John Stanaway, and Paul Burnham - for your assistance throughout 2019. I would also like to welcome our newest committee member, Mark Jenkins (welcome Mark).

On a very sad note, I would like to pass on my condolences to Brad Green and his family on the tragic passing of Brad's wife Anna during 2019. The support from the MFCP&PP&OA, the MFC, Melbourne Grammar, family and close friends was outstanding. We continue to support Brad and his two boys in many different ways.

Our match day functions continue to be popular, creating an area for our Association's families and friends to enjoy a day at the footy in comfort. In 2019, these were held in Round One vs Port Power, Rd 10 vs the Giants - where we acknowledged and celebrated Spike Harris for thirty consecutive years of involvement at



the MFC – Rd 20 vs Richmond and Rd 22 vs the Swans, which was a significant highlight with around 200 attending, including many Swans' past players and officials.



For Season 2020, we have locked in four games, giving you even more opportunities to join us on a match day:

ROUND TWO VS GWS GIANTS

ROUND TEN VS WESTERN BULLDOGS

ROUND 17 VS ST KILDA

ROUND 20 VS SYDNEY SWANS

Put these dates in your diary – details to follow.

On these occasions, our events are evidence of the imperatives around solid and well-structured camaraderie. The above highlight the number of events that have allowed our Association members, together with our Coterians, to engage 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.

Again, our sole major fundraising event was under the Ron Barassi Club banner, now in its fourth year, with over 120 attending the **Ronald Dale Barassi Address Dinner**, again held at the prestigious Queen's Hall Parliament House. The tradition of presenting the Ronald Dale Barassi Medal saw Steven Smith become the

third recipient of this award. His is a name that exemplifies all characteristics essential for a successful journey throughout life, and a significant contribution to the MFC both on and off the field, as well as the wider community. Who will it be for 2020? **The next Ronald Dale Barassi Address Dinner will be held on Friday, 8 May 2020**, at the prestigious Queen's Hall Parliament House.

Still on the Ronald 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 past players & officials"**. Again, every speaker and artist donated their services as a gesture of goodwill and support for the ever growing need to recognise that, as a player with the MFC, you are part of the MFC family for the rest of your life.



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Seasons Greetings & Have a Safe New Year





To ensure that MFCP&PP&OA is set up the best way possible moving forward, we offer our thanks to Chris Connolly and his business, **Advanced High Performance Solutions**, Chris facilitated a workshop during the year at The Bentleigh Club to pull together a Five Year Plan, aimed at ensuring our Association stays both relevant and productive. This is a work in progress, and you will see and hear more from us during 2020 regarding some upcoming initiatives. Again, a big thanks goes to Chris for volunteering his time.

My Annual Catch Up wrapped up 2019 on the first Friday in December, when we invited the current day players to join us for nine holes of golf at Albert Park Golf Club, followed by drinks at the Emerald Hotel South Melbourne. A great time was had by all eight current day boys, who **played golf only** (thank you very much boys for

fitting this into your busy schedules) as well as the 30-plus who caught up at the Emerald, all having a fantastic night.

Thanks again also to my Co-Chair of the Ron Barassi Club and our Association's Secretary/Treasurer, Spike Harris, for his incredible ongoing efforts with all facets of our groups. Thanks Spike.

For me, it is an honour to serve these groups, and I continue with a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement to embrace the upcoming challenges of 2020. With a disappointing season behind us, we approach 2020 filled with optimism and high expectations, both on and off the field, for the red and blue. Go Dees.

Merry Christmas to you all, and may 2020 be bigger and better.



Go Dees!

Regards

Rod Grinter
Chairman, MFCP&PP&OA



VALE TONY BULL

All involved with the Melbourne Football Club were saddened to hear of the passing of MFC Life Member Tony Bull at the end of November.

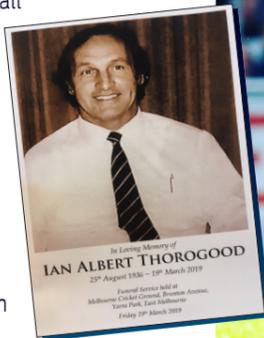
Tony was recruited from South Bendigo, wearing No. 29 between 1953 and 1957. He played 31 senior games for Melbourne, and was a member of the 1956 Seconds premiership team. Returning to the Club to coach the Under 19s in 1969, Bull served in a variety of roles, including as a recruiting officer from 1975 to 1977, specialist coach in 1978 and assistant Under 19s coach from 1979 to 1981.

In recognition of his extensive service, Tony was awarded MFC Life Membership in 1981.

Tony Bull will always be regarded as a valued part of the Melbourne Football Club, and as we reflect on 2019, we remember all those who are no longer with us. Along with Tony, we also pay tribute to:

Colin Sylvia, Ian Thorogood, Ian Johnson, Anna Green, Frank 'Bluey' Adams and Peter Hamilton.

We will always treasure them as part of our story.



Vale Colin Sylvia

ACU

On Friday, 6 December, Rod Grinter's 17th Annual Catch Up took place, combining golf at Albert Park with a later catch up at the Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne. Current players joined in for the golf component of the occasion, with past players coming from far and wide to be part of the occasion. Simon Eishold was a first time attendee, making his way from Echuca, while David Williams – always a regular – travelled from Rochester.

Off the front nine, the winners were Vince, Lovett and Eishold with a score of 25.7, while the winners off the back nine were O'Sullivan, O'Dwyer and Nichols, with 26.

It's a great way to round off the year, and everyone looks forward to another Catch Up to sign off 2020.



CONGRATULATIONS – CAMERON PEDERSEN

Heading to Phillip Island in 2019, P&PP&OA Committee member Cameron Pedersen signed on for two seasons to play with the Phillip Island Bulldogs. Not only did he play in a premiership in his first year, helping to deliver back-to-back flags for the team and senior coach Beau Vernon; Pedersen also dominated the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition. Playing mostly in the ruck, he won the competition's best and fairest award with a landslide result. Congratulations to Cameron and the Bulldogs, and best wishes for a brilliant season in 2020!



AFLPA RESOURCES

Don't forget that if you are a past player, and have played one game or more at senior VFL/AFL level, you qualify to be part of the AFL Players' Association Alumni. This gives you access to a wide range of benefits and services. The MFC P&PP&OA works closely with the Alumni, ensuring that our past players are looked after in times of need.

The Alumni can advise you regarding the following areas:
Health and Wellbeing
Financial Prosperity
Continued Education
Social Connections

And, through the AFL PLAYERS' AND HARDSHIP FUND, Alumni members can access care relating to:

Lifetime Health Care
Football Ending Injury
Delisted Injury Player Payment
Past Player Hardship
Hospital Excess Reimbursement

Further details can be found via <http://www.aflplayers.com.au/alumni/> - or call Brad Fisher (AFLPA Alumni Manager) on (03) 8651 4366.

MEMBER CARE

One of the most important roles of the Melbourne Football Club Past and Present Players' and Officials' Association – typically in conjunction with the AFLPA Alumni – is to care for our members and their families at the most difficult of times.

Following the recent passing of her husband, past player Peter Hamilton, Sandra Hamilton wrote the following to MFC P&PP&OA Chairman, Rod Grinter. This is reproduced with Sandra's permission:

The death of my husband Peter Hamilton at age 62 devastated our family both emotionally and financially. The last few months were a merry-go-round of medical and hospital appointments and just caring for him at home in the best way we could, so life was disrupted and so were financial commitments.

Hamma, as he was known, had a really relaxed but positive attitude to life, always said that no matter what happens it was going to be OK but no one is prepared for a death of a loved one and the burden that leaves behind on the family. So, my family is eternally grateful for the help and support given to us at this time from the Past Players Association. It has relieved a huge worry for us and helps to ease the pain and grief allowing us to move forward with happy memories.

We remember Peter Hamilton as a respected footy player at the MFC for nine years after coming over from Tasmania at 17 and then playing for another nine years at Bendigo North, Prahran VEA and Kilcunda-Bass, so football played a big role in his life which enabled him to enjoy this life with all the friends he made along the way. This is his legacy, and this football community is really so supportive of players past and present.

Heartfelt thanks is not enough but it has reassured me and my family that IT IS GOING TO BE OK!

THANK YOU so much,

Sandra Hamilton and Elyse, Steven and Alexandra

