



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

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MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020 EDITION



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

- ROD GRINTER

Dear Members
As I write to you again, I reflect on the

many challenges we're currently facing as a community, none more so than those living in Victoria, with the increase in positive COVID-19 cases causing alarming concerns and locking us down. As always, our thoughts are with those members who are struggling during this time from COVID-19 restrictions as well as any health concerns. Don't ever forget that we are here for anyone that needs someone to talk to, so just pick up the phone or flick us an email, we are here to support you.

In very sad news, we heard of the passing of a stalwart of the MFC, G N (Mike) Kostos, part of the club community for over fifty years. Mike was a key figure of the MFC Coterie, Club Director, No. 1 ticket holder, Foundation Hero member and - in 2018 - was acknowledged for his service, being the recipient of the Ronald Dale Barassi AM Medal, presented to his son Tony at the Ronald Dale Barassi AM Annual Address Dinner, held at Queens Hall, Parliament House. Mike was a wonderful ambassador for our Club. RIP

Today, I wanted to touch on another one of our five pillars - **BENEVOLENCE**. The MFC P&PP&OA is a non-profit organisation that has created a benevolent fund to support its less fortunate members suffering hardship. Back in January 2016, approval was given by Ron Barassi to use his name for 'The Ron Barassi Club', under the umbrella of the MFCP&PP&OA. This club was launched during the year of Ron's 80th birthday with a function in the MCC Dining Room in front of 400 people, with the Ron Barassi Annual Address Dinner now being held annually. The main focus of this dinner, apart from collegiality, is to

raise funds for the **BENEVOLENCE** of the MFCP&PP&OA. In 2020, with COVID-19 hitting the world, getting together at events held to assist financially hasn't been possible. In conjunction with the AFL Past Players Alumni, our benevolent fund aims to support past players and officials suffering challenges in Mental Health, Addiction, Financial Hardship, Medical Conditions, Illness and General Wellbeing.

We are very proud that we have been able to support members in a number of different ways; the response is heartwarming and justifies why we do what we do. Over the last five years, we have financially assisted twelve past players and officials, to which end we have paid out \$62,000, not to mention the large number of connections and support outside of financial support provided by our Association. This shows that we are proactive, and we need everyone to assist by donating what they can for us to be able to continue to support what makes the MFC great - our past. On the Heritage front, we have met and are working with MFC board member, Steve Morris, in order to coordinate various forms of recognition, and to ensure that we can protect our club's precious memorabilia. For those who have already kindly donated to our cause, I sincerely thank you for your contribution, which is acknowledged further in this newsletter.

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

As always, stay safe and healthy.

Regards

Rod Grinter
MFC P&PP&OA Chairman

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.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2 x Anonymous | Spike Harris |
| Don Baron | Paul Hopgood |
| Paul Burnham | Mark Jenkins |
| Lynda Carroll | Gary Marchant |
| Dave Cawsey | Jeremy Nichols |
| Chris Connolly | Russell Robertson |
| Penny Connolly | Cameron Schwab |
| Ray 'Smokey' Dawson | Steven Smith |
| Simon Eishold | Brian Stynes |
| Jackie Emmerton | Daniel Ward |
| Bernadette Grinter | |
| Rod Grinter | |

Thanks!



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





While we are all staying at home, Paul 'The Rev' Burnham continues to keep in contact with the P&PP&OA community, contacting 33 past players and officials in the past month. We send best wishes in particular to Bob Skilton, who had a chat to The Rev while in hospital, recovering from surgery.

Where welfare is concerned, we encourage all past player members to consider joining:

AFLPA ALUMNI - <http://www.aflplayers.com.au/alumni/> for further information and links.

The AFL Players' Association has more than 4,000 past players as Alumni members.

Alumni members have access to a range of benefits and services to recognise the contribution that past players have made to the game.

WELFARE/PROACTIVE PASTORAL CARE

THE ALUMNI PROGRAM FOCUSES ON PROVIDING SUPPORT VIA THE FOLLOWING:

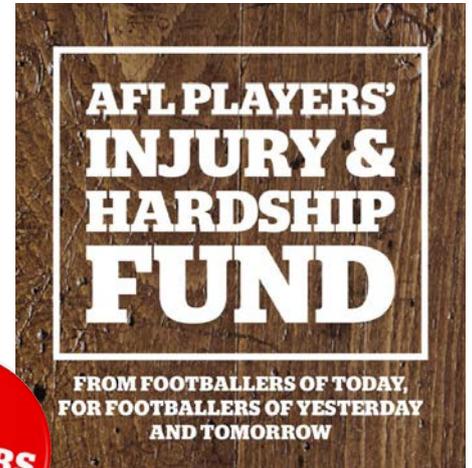
- Health and Wellbeing
- Financial Prosperity
- Continued Education
- Social Connections

AFL PLAYERS' INJURY AND HARDSHIP FUND

This fund aims to support players who transition out of the game with career ending injuries, and those who need longer-term medical support, or suffer illness or financial hardship through retirement. Areas addressed include:

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

Contact **Tim Harrington** (tharrington@aflplayers.com.au or 0419 152 411) for Lifetime Health Care, Past Player Hardship and Hospital Excess Reimbursement. Senior Legal Counsel **Laura Sigal** (lsigal@aflplayers.com.au or 0419 008 821) is the primary contact for Delisted Injury Player Payment and Football-Ending Injury claims.



ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Former players who played at least one senior AFL game receive access to all our services, plus a range of lifetime benefits.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Joining the AFL Players' Association as a past player member is a one-off payment that gives past players lifetime membership. For recently retired or delisted players, membership cost is the same as a listed AFL player. This amount is deducted from your retirement fund.

For further information, please contact Tim Harrington:

Head of Alumni

E: tharrington@aflplayers.com.au

LOOKING FOR....

With a strike rate of over 50 per cent in tracking down people from our last two newsletters, we're aiming even higher for this issue. So, if you know of any of those from the G-M section of the MFC missing in action files; or if you are one of those named here – we'd love to update your details and keep in touch.

Contact Spike Harris via spike.w.harris@gmail.com or 0411 235 073



Tom Gillies
Shane Grambeau
David Grant

Brent Heaver
Tom Kavanagh
Chris Lamb

Troy Longmuir
Matthew Mahoney
Tony Martyn

Craig McKellar
Glenn McLean



Daniel and his daughters.

DANIEL WARD – DEMONS NETWORK PROGRAM

One of the most important roles in the Association – particularly at the moment – is to keep people in touch with each other, and to foster networking opportunities, vital to unearthing business and employment opportunities. While there are many challenges in doing so, the person putting their hand up to take charge in this area is Daniel Ward, committee member and coordinator of the Demons Network Program.

It has been a long road from his senior debut in Round 10, 1998. Having been elevated from the rookie list following the retirement of Brett Lovett, Daniel played four games in his first season, and was hailed as ‘a promising running back... is expected to grab his opportunities next year.’ From this beginning, he went on to play 136 games before retirement at the end of 2007, becoming an integral part

of Melbourne’s defence throughout his career.

Daniel admits that he ‘struggled with the transition’ once his playing days were over, and knows that – as much as anything – adjusting to the outside world is a matter of ‘finding what works’. He wants to be able to give others like himself assistance to make progress in their lives, and hopes that ‘if I try and help, hopefully it can give that person more of a chance.’ Apart from that, it lets those who may be battling along know that they’re not on their own.

For Daniel, who describes himself as ‘not an extrovert!’, the challenge of connecting with the past player community is a welcome one. ‘It feels good helping others.’ As he also points out, it’s not just for past players, and ongoing interaction ‘helps present players to know that there is a

comfortable environment to help them beyond their playing days.’

Besides his role with the networking program, Daniel can be seen as a regular MC at match day functions, as well as controlling the lectern at the annual reunion. He is also a premiership coach of long standing at Old Haileybury, renowned by the club for having ‘plenty of experience as a player and people manager.’

Of course, none of the immediate football activity is happening in 2020, with the time being filled by new experiences, ranging from working at home to sharing home schooling duties with wife Mel. With daughter Rylee in high school, while Autumn is in primary school, there is no doubt that the variety of content adds an extra layer of interest to the equation.

Like so many others, Daniel is all too aware of the ongoing and emerging challenges in the football community. Now is the time that – despite any obstacles – he is taking the time to build a vital networking facility that is integral to the Association’s community.

If you can assist any member mentioned in this segment, require assistance yourself or would like to promote your business, please email Daniel Ward at danielward10@gmail.com



DECLAN KEILTY

Declan, who made his senior debut for Melbourne in 2019, and was a regular for Casey throughout his time with the Demons, is currently studying psychology at Swinburne. He is looking for part-time work to accompany his studies, which are based online. Declan is available to work for three or four days a week.

Originally signed to play with Bentleigh in 2020, Declan is one of many players who has suffered the shutdown of suburban and regional competitions throughout Victoria this season. However, he plans to look to the VFA for opportunities in 2021.



DANIEL BREESE



Originally selected in the 2000 National Draft, Daniel – highly regarded for his defensive abilities and endurance – suffered a series of knee injuries which curtailed his senior AFL career. However, he was a regular player for Sandringham – then Melbourne’s affiliate side – and went on to continue playing with Box Hill (VFL), Lilydale and Heathmont.

Now Director of Growth at A.S. White Global (ASW), Daniel is keen to work with interested parties looking to adapt their staffing needs in the current economic climate.

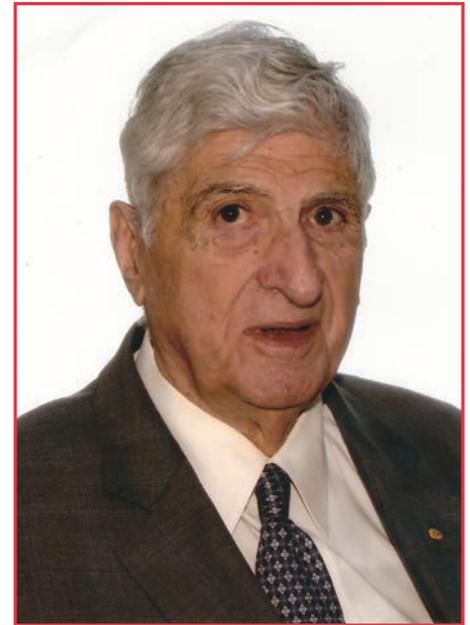
ASW is an Australian based offshore and outsource staffing provider, partnering with businesses aiming to build offshore teams across South East Asia. With its head office in Sydney, ASW has contemporary offices located in Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia, working with over 1200 staff, and providing 160+ unique specialist roles.

ASW's key industries and strengths include: Insurance, Finance, IT, Medical and Logistics, among others.

If you would like more information regarding virtual staffing capabilities and how ASW may benefit your business, you can reach Daniel at d.breese@aswhiteglobal.com

VALE MIKE KOSTOS

All involved with the Melbourne Football Club were saddened to hear of the death of G N (Mike) Kostos. Part of the club community for over fifty years – particularly through Coterie – Mike filled a number of roles. Chairman of Coterie between 1979 and 1981, he served as a club director in 1984, being made a Life Member in 1986. The club’s No. 1 ticket holder in the early 1990s, Mike was Foundation Hero No. 165, and the recipient of the Ronald Dale Barassi AM Medal in 2018, all acting as testament to his love of the Melbourne Football Club. Mike received an OAM in 2016, with the



citation reading: ‘For service to the community through a range of sporting organisations.’ No truer word was spoken. We will all miss Mike very much, and offer our sincerest condolences to his wife Loula, his family, and his friends.

ASSOCIATION T-SHIRTS - NOW AVAILABLE!

Thanks to those who ordered a new Association t-shirt in our pre-sale promotion. Your t-shirts are on the way!

We have limited additional stock available for those who are still interested, priced at \$40 + \$10 postage. Sizes available from S-3XL in a unisex style.

Contact Jackie Emmerton at jackie-e@live.com.au should you wish to place an order.

Don't delay - the remaining stock won't last!



Russell Robertson in his new shirt.

