



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

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MEMBER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020 EDITION



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

- ROD GRINTER

Welcome all, I wanted to start

with the things that have assisted me getting through this year – firstly, my family and then the connection I'm fortunate to have through the MFC. I'm part of a number of WhatsApp Groups where we share what we are up to, funny stories, banter, political discussions around what decision we would make during this pandemic, all the expert footy coaches and administration managers on what we would do at the MFC, and groups trying to pick a Saturday Quaddie as well as some footy bets. These groups are the Saturday morning running group, the ODD group (Old Dilapidated Demons) chaired by our own Neale Daniher, my Daniher Drive team and a non-footy group.

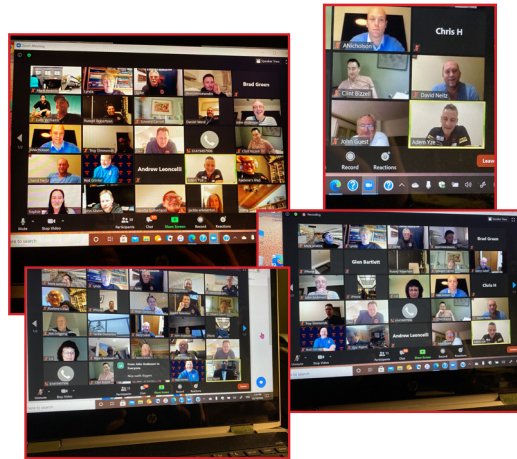
Thank you to each and every one of you for helping me get through this year.

2020 Annual Reunion via Zoom

Our MFCPP&OA committee member, Paul Hopgood, came up with the idea of still holding our Annual Reunion on the Thursday before the AFL Grand Final, but via Zoom. To be honest, I was sceptical as to how this would work, but thanks to so many, it was a great night in front of the computer with over 85 members joining in to listen and

see Russell Robertson do a wonderful job as MC, Mark Jenkins administrating behind the scenes, special guests in Neale Daniher via a prerecorded message, Glen Bartlett, Simon Goodwin, Chris Fagan, David Neitz, Shane Woewodin, Adem Yze, Brad Green, Daniel Ward, Troy Simmonds, Chris Heffernan, Paul Hopgood and funny man Titus O'Reilly. As difficult as it was to engage with others online, it started at 6.30 pm, running through our agenda to around 8.30 to 9 pm, after which members stayed online chatting and laughing until about 11 pm.

It was an awesome effort by all those who got involved to make it happen - albeit over a computer - well done.



A tough three months in Vic Metro is now paying off with Stage 4 restrictions easing, which has allowed us to get out and about re-connecting with extended family. Of course, catching up with mates at the pub has also been great.

The focus from your committee moving forward is to:

- Ensure we keep connected with our members
- Keep raising much needed funds, (*please dig deep if you can via the GoFundMe page or directly via any committee member*)
- Refining our structure and strategy to continue supporting the MFC P&PP&OA
- Planning events for 2021

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.

To finish off, in case we don't get another newsletter out before Christmas - Merry Christmas to one and all, stay safe and enjoy the festive holiday period with your families and close friends. May 2021 be the year we all prosper and enjoy the continued connection we all have via the Mighty Demons, and may the MFC have a successful 2021.



Keep an eye on our website and Instagram, and pass on this newsletter to ensure 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 all those who have continued to contribute to our GoFundMe campaign, providing invaluable resourcing to help support members in need. This list shows the cross-section of the MFC P&PP&A community who have donated so far in 2020.

3 x Anonymous
Melbourne Football Club
The Demon Army
Western Demons
Ron Barassi AM
Don Baron
Clint Bizzell
Barry Bourke
Graeme Brassington
Paul Burnham
Lynda Carroll
Dave Cawsey
Andrew Chrapot

John Collett
Liz Coningsby
Chris Connolly
Penny Connolly
Ray 'Smokey' Dawson
Eric Dick
Colleen Dooley
Simon Eishold
Jackie Emmerton
Ian George
Simon Godfrey
Bernadette Grinter
Rod Grinter

Spike Harris
Karen Hayes AM
Chris Heffernan
Ben Holland
Paul Hopgood
Mark Jenkins
Clyde Laidlaw
Harold Lubansky
Phil Madick
Gary Marchant
David Martin
Peter McKenna
Mike McShane

Diane Mountney
Jeremy Nichols
Stephen Powell
Guy Rigoni
Russell Robertson
Cameron Schwab
Troy Simmonds
Steven Smith
Brian Stynes
Janette Sutherland
Tricia Thorne
Daniel Ward
Ken Whitfort



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





GUY RIGONI

If there was ever a sight to entertain the virtual crowds who gathered to the Association's Zoom reunion on the night of 22 October, it undoubtedly had to be past player Guy Rigoni, decked out in full black tie – or so we thought.

'I figured everyone needed a bit of a laugh', he explains. 'We've all been locked down, we're all going a bit crazy! I had jeans on the bottom, though.'

It was this sort of ingredient that helped to make the reunion something special, particularly as everyone taking part had no idea of how it would all work. 'The people who spoke were great', says Rigoni. As well as that, he thoroughly enjoyed keeping an eye on former teammates, keeping them on their toes as the evening continued. 'I was texting in the background, then watching



Ray Carr and Guy Rigoni

them check their phones', he laughs.

Reunions, and getting together, are as important to Rigoni as they are to most of the past player population. 'They're a great way to stay in contact, and to share stories – and the stories get better as you get older.' Like many, Rigoni is looking forward to a real life reunion in 2021, particularly to catch up with the likes of fellow past player – and former Association committee member – Ray Carr.

'Ray's a great fella. We always used to play together at the golf days before he moved to be up on the river.' The connections are important, and reunions create the ideal platform to maintain them, no matter how much time has passed.

As well as being a star of the reunion, Rigoni has been working hard at Williams Adams, where he has been for fifteen years now, starting in a part-time role through the AFL's 'Next Goal' program, before moving to a full-time position even as he was still playing at Sandringham. Rigoni is also a recent donor to the Association's Benevolent Fund. 'I've been able to keep working during COVID, right through the lockdown, and so many people have lost their jobs. I thought it was a good idea, to support those who are not so fortunate as I have been.' It is a thought shared by many, as the growing parade of donors shows, and we welcome Guy Rigoni – black tie and all – to the list.

LOOKING FOR....

As our quest continues to track down and confirm contact details for as many past players and officials as possible, we'd like to thank everyone who's helped out this season, when it has been so important to keep in touch. Every month, we have managed to add at least a few complete details to the list, which wouldn't have happened without the involvement of the wider P&PP&OA community. We are now seeking:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Russell Richards | Troy Shannon |
| Clay Sampson | Nicholas Smith |
| Dannie Seow | David Rodan |
| Scott Simister | Byron Pickett |
| Pete Roberts | |



FOOTY ALMANAC

Recently, our very own John Gallus featured on one of the best footy community websites around - [Almanac Footy: John Gallus - The journey through football \(footyalmanac.com.au\)](http://Almanac Footy: John Gallus - The journey through football (footyalmanac.com.au)). Enjoy the read, and congratulations to John on such a wonderful football life.

DEMONS NETWORK PROGRAM



ROHAN BAIL - ENCOMPASS FIRST AID

Encompass First Aid was founded in early 2020 with the vision to provide industry leading public safety courses for businesses who need them for compliance purposes.

Our founders and trainers are all first responders with real life industry experience in emergency medical response scenarios.

Learners will walk away with the knowledge and confidence to respond to similar

situations. At the very least, they will be first aid qualified and compliant to take on the role of a workplace first aider.

Our nationally recognised courses can be designed to suit the timetables and location of any business.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

info@encompassfirstaid.com.au

www.encompassfirstaid.com.au

Toni - 0422 639 312 | Rohan - 0402 708 569

VALE BEN NANCARROW

It was with great sadness that we heard of the recent passing of Ben Nancarrow, trainer in the lean era following the club's 1964 premiership. Being bestowed with Life Membership in 1980 was the ultimate testament to Ben's countless seasons of service, and his dedication to the red and blue family over many years. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and long remembered for his friendship and good humour, both on and off the field.

We pass on our most sincere condolences to Ben's wife, Catherine, and to his family and friends.

MERCHANDISE CORNER



Association long sleeved t-shirts are selling well, with only a limited quantity of sizes still available - S, M, L, XL & XXL. \$40 +\$10 postage. Order now to avoid disappointment!

We also have Association ties and COVID-compliant snoods available. To purchase, contact

Jackie Emmerton on 0409 806 750 or jackie-e@live.com.au

