



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' MEMBER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020 EDITION



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

- ROD GRINTER

Dear Members

Welcome to another informative newsletter from the MFPP&PP&OA. If you are like me, you would be well and truly over hearing about restrictions and Covid-19; as mentioned in our last newsletter, it has been a tough six months. However, we are getting closer to being able to get out and about and live our lives in a "New Normal" way. Contact with our family and friends is to be celebrated and - after a torrid seven months - understanding not to take the simplest of things for granted, like dropping in on family, going to the footy, attending a luncheon and many other occasions. We have to cherish these times when we are able.

This leads me into what we would have already enjoyed at this time of year - our annual reunion on the Thursday evening before the AFL Grand Final. Of course, 2020 has been very, very different.

During our last monthly committee meeting it was raised that we should still have our annual reunion! AND - it's still on the Thursday evening before the Grand Final. Thursday 22 October!



An invitation with all details will be emailed out on how to join us VIRTUALLY on the evening of Thursday 22 October, when we hold our first (and hopefully last) ZOOM REUNION. Feel free to call in and catch up, with a packed agenda hosted by past players including Russell Robertson and Daniel Ward. We'll have special guests such as Chris Fagan, Chris Heffernan, Brad Green and Neale Daniher, along with key personnel including club CEO, Gary Pert.

If you'd like to be part of this special occasion, contact Spike Harris on 0411 235 073 or spike.w.harris@gmail.com before COB on Monday 19 October, so that we can send you the link.

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.

Regards

Rod Grinter
MFC P&PP&OA Chairman



MARK JENKINS – SECRETARY

One of the newest members to take his place on the Association's Committee, Mark Jenkins knows his dates and

times. 'I've followed Melbourne since birth. My father regaled me with the stories of the 1950s and 1960s, and I happened to win a Melbourne jumper with the No. 29 on the back – so the great Hassa Mann.'

Despite living in a Richmond zone – Mount Waverley – Mark held fast to his red and

blue affiliations, going on to regular game attendance after he finished school. His attachment to the Demons deepened over the year, in concert with the ties held by his brother, Tony. Player sponsorship followed, first of Daniel Clark, then – 'for two or three years' – of Anthony Ingerson. Friendships were forged, and 'we started attending more functions, especially the monthly luncheon, which was hosted by people like Lawrence Money and Neil Mitchell.'

The participation and enthusiasm of the Jenkins brothers flowed through to their technology company, and ultimately landed them with the job of sorting out the club's

computer system. Having received a batch of computers as part of a sponsorship from Toshiba, Mark and Tony had to rescue the situation when 'nobody knew how to put them together!' Further to this, rather than being paid, the brothers arrived at a function attendance deal. 'We didn't want to get paid – instead, we had credit to put towards attending functions.' It was an arrangement that suited all involved.

This continued until – as Mark puts it – '1996 happened along'. The tumult of the time saw him become strongly involved in the 'Demon Alternative', opposing Melbourne's proposed merger with Hawthorn. Mark and brother Tony had good, valued relationships at the club,

continued



MARK JENKINS *cont.*

which made the mad merger months 'a very challenging and emotional time.' Ultimately, Joseph Gutnick and Mark – then 34, with a young family – were co-opted to the Melbourne board. This came as a surprise to Mark's wife, Linda, as Joseph Gutnick announced the move at a celebration at the RACV Club. 'She just looked at me – life had turned upside down.' Of course, this was only the start of the adventure.

Following this, Tony stayed involved with technological work at the club, while Mark – avoiding a conflict of interest – turned his attention to other areas in his role as director. He was particularly involved in the membership and marketing spheres, and forged further connections, including with the likes of Andy Lovell, who established and took charge of a running club. Once Andy shifted to West Coast, Alastair Clarkson took over the reins with enthusiasm, before he moved to work with Port Adelaide. The final player/coach in charge was Josh Mahoney, who 'trained us up so well, it enabled me to run my first marathon!'

For Mark, his time in the director role could be likened to a marathon with very few breaks. In 2000, he decided that enough was enough. The juggling of business,

family and club meant that something had to give. 'I left of my own accord. I'd seen changes in coaching, I'd seen Hassa Mann leave – I actually had to type up his resignation, because I could use the computer.' His son Tom was then an infant, and, as well as functions, match days incorporated treks across Yarra Park to the creche on Berry Street. 'The kids were at sport, I was exhausted, it was enough.' It was time to step back.

Of course, being part of the football world, whether a director or a pure spectator, can be addictive. After spending 2001 watching the game in the outer, Mark slowly took a step back into involvement. Working with board members Peter Dohrmann and Greg Sword, and through forums and many discussions, he played an integral role in reshaping the club's constitution. At the heart of this was the resolution – stemming from 1996 – that 75 per cent of the membership would need to vote in support of a merger in the future if it was to have any chance of being implemented.

Mark's ongoing links to so many groups – particularly the trinity of the MFC, MCC and MFC P&PP&OA – meant that he was unlikely to stay remote for very long. Observing the activities of the P&PP&OA, he already appreciated that it was 'a great way to connect with the guys; a good way to re-engage.' Further, 'I saw how hard the core group worked.' The main connector

there was Spike Harris. Mark 'offered to help with the raffle', which was but a short step to conferring with Spike and Rod Grinter. Both agreed that Mark could play a valuable role on the committee, after which he took his place there last October.

Naturally, world events have curtailed Mark's meeting and function attendance, as has been the case for everyone in the bizarre pandemic world that is 2020. But he has been part of an energetic group, and is the Secretary of the Association, alongside Spike in the Treasurer's role. 'I look after ASIC paperwork, take minutes, work with Spike on administration tasks – it really gives you an insight into the great work done by the Association, and the requirements of the past players.'

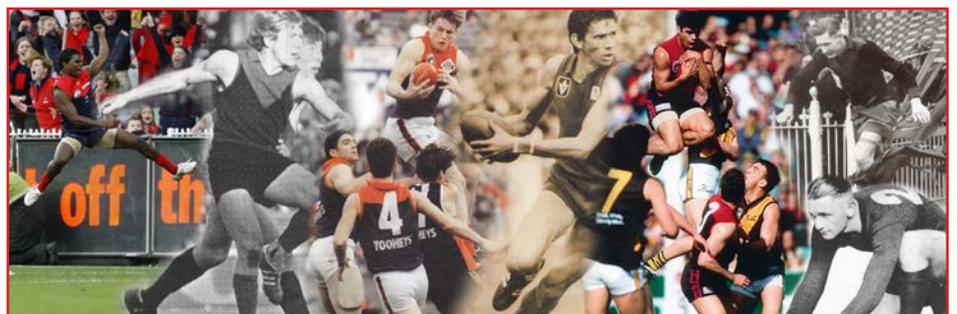
Being the Zoom controller of the committee, Mark maintains his ancient technological connections to the red and blue. His enthusiasm is as unabated as it was in the 1990s, and his belief in the club flows through to the Association. 'We're responsible for the heritage of the MFC. Our past players and our history are the major assets of the club, and what the Association does delivers back to and supports those people.' With this, it seems appropriate that Mark has a virtual reunion to plan. It's a long way from untangling office computers, but as close to the club he loves as he has ever been.

LOOKING FOR....

The search continues for those with whom we have lost contact, and we're pleased to report a fair amount of success each month.

Our most recent batch of Disappeared Demons is:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Darren O'Brien | Martin Pike |
| Trent Ormond-Allen | Michael Polley |
| Paul Payne | Robert Pyman |
| Phil Pinnell | Ross Brewer |
| Steven Pitt | Dion Johnstone |



We also have a special family request to make contact with the **Elliott brothers**, all of whom played for Melbourne in the late 1970s and early 1980s – **Robert, Bruce and Glenn**.

So, if you are any of the above, or if you can help us to track anyone down, please contact Spike Harris via spike.w.harris@gmail.com or 0411 235 073 to assist with updating details.

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.

Two of those who have recently contributed to the Benevolent Fund share their stories:

KAREN HAYES AM



Karen Hayes has been a constant and valued part of the Melbourne Football Club for over a decade, involved on all levels, whether board member or keen supporter. Her Order of Australia – awarded in January 2019 – was conferred ‘For significant service to the community as an advocate for gender equity, and to women in sport.’ This provides a small insight into what Karen has contributed, and is testament to her dedication.

From someone who describes herself in early days as ‘not a footy expert’, Karen – now CEO of Guide Dogs Victoria – has made her mark on both the club and the footballing landscape. She is a Foundation Hero, was the first female to make a bequest to the club, and has a great understanding of the red and blue community. From attending the National Draft at coach



2 x Anonymous	Chris Connolly	Karen Hayes AM	Jeremy Nichols
Melbourne Football Club	Penny Connolly	Chris Heffernan	Guy Rigoni
The Demon Army	Ray ‘Smokey’ Dawson	Ben Holland	Russell Robertson
Western Demons	Eric Dick	Paul Hopgood	Cameron Schwab
Don Baron	Simon Eishold	Mark Jenkins	Steven Smith
Paul Burnham	Jackie Emmerton	Clyde Laidlaw	Brian Stynes
Lynda Carroll	Bernadette Grinter	Phil Madrick	Janette Sutherland
Dave Cawsey	Rod Grinter	Gary Marchant	Daniel Ward
Liz Coningsby	Spike Harris	David Martin	Ken Whitfort
		Diane Mountney	

Neale Daniher’s invitation (‘an amazing experience!’) to proudly presenting Daisy Pearce with her first Melbourne guernsey, Karen has touched all points of the footballing compass.

It is no wonder, then, that Karen is a strong advocate of the work being undertaken by the Association, and understands the rationale behind the Benevolent Fund’s establishment, appreciating the necessity to ‘provide support beyond playing days. During their careers, players bring so much joy, and we see their highs and lows. Their lives are so wrapped up with the club, but they can go from superstar to feather duster very quickly.’

Like everyone else, Karen is ‘missing footy at the moment’, and understands all too readily how lives are affected. As with everyone else who gives to the Benevolent Fund, the empathy and sense of connection is there, in the names and all the stories that accompany them.

DAVID MARTIN

The Martin family and Maxx Pro Solutions have a long and close association with



the Melbourne Football Club and former players spanning over 120 years and four generations.

Our father, Ian Martin AM, who held 77 years’ consecutive MFC membership, was also an active Gold Pass Member during the 1980s. His passion for the Dees was passed down to his sons – David and Jonnie – who have both played significant roles in various sponsorships and marketing initiatives for their beloved Dees over a number of years.

The Melbourne Football Club has a rich and significant history that needs to be continually nurtured and its story told. We are and will continue to be proud supporters of the MFC P&PP&OA and support its tireless work to connect and provide welfare assistance to all the past and present Melbourne family.

With this background, and diversity of involvement, it is evident that the Association and its activities are at the heart of the Martins’ connection to the club. Their contribution to the Benevolent Fund via GoFundMe is an important means of providing support. So, it is fitting that they sign off with:

Go Dees!



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



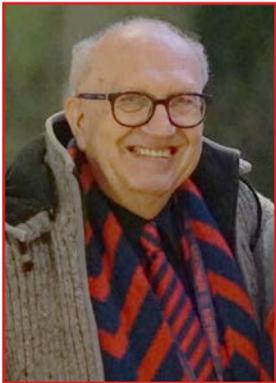
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POSITIVE PASTORAL CARE – PAUL BURNHAM



So 'The Rev' again provides the contact needed to keep everyone together in this time of uncertainty, reaching out to over

30 past players and officials across all generations this month. His calls provide a valuable link, including everything from birthday greetings to welfare checks. As well as a batch of 50th birthday calls, 'The Rev' caught up with Glenn Lovett, who recently turned 51. Happy Birthday, and best wishes to all!



DEMONS NETWORK PROGRAM

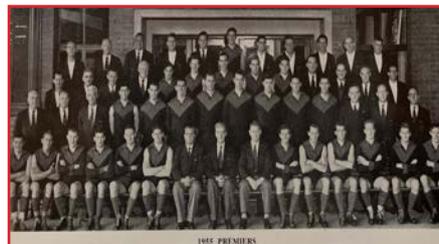


A reminder to all in the business community or seeking employment opportunities; if you require assistance, or would like to promote your business,

please email Daniel Ward at danielsward10@gmail.com

VALE FAY SPENCER

Since the early 1950s, the name of Fay Spencer has been inextricably linked to the red and blue colours – not only as the wife of Stuart, but as a strong personality in her own right. From those premierships in 1955 and 1956, through to Stuart's time as club president and well beyond, Fay was a valued part of the Melbourne Football Club community. She and Stuart worked as a team on functions, speeches, publications and supporter groups, helping to create an energy and enthusiasm that accompanied the late 1980s and early 1990s resurgence, along with the return to red and navy blue.



Fay's death on 23 September has left all of us saddened, but with many treasured memories. We offer our sincere condolences to her daughters Shelley and Loretta, and to her wider family and friends.



MERCHANDISE CORNER

SNOODS



Already proving popular, MFC P&PP&OA snoods are the latest addition to our range. Made from sweat wicking fabric, offering COVID

protection and priced at just \$39.95 plus \$10 postage. Contact Jackie Emmerton via jackie-e@live.com.au or 0409 806 750.

T-SHIRTS

Our best sellers – don't forget to grab one of the few remaining Association t-shirts, sizes from S-3XL, priced at \$40 plus \$10 postage. Contact Jackie Emmerton via jackie-e@live.com.au or 0409 806 750.



TIES



The latest addition to an ever expanding catalogue, this is one for the slightly more formal occasion. Tastefully adorned with the P&PP&OA logo, these are in extremely limited supply, priced at \$50 plus

\$10 postage. Contact Spike Harris via spike.w.harris@gmail.com or 0411 235 073.



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