



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' MEMBER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022 EDITION



FROM THE PRESIDENT

- ROD GRINTER

Dear Members

Welcome to our fourth newsletter for 2022. After a great start to the year with ten wins in a row for 2022, we hit a bit of a slump losing three in a row to the bye weekend, where the team took some time out and came back with a solid win over another top four side in the Lions, winning by ten goals. Leading into the serious stuff (finals!) the team turned up the heat with some outstanding performances, against Freo in Perth, a memorable win against Carlton at the MCG, and another win over the Lions, this time at the Gabba. We finished second at the end of the home and away season, and have the double chance and some red hot form, heading into the finals against the Swans with four All Australians in the side.

On a sad note, everyone would have heard that Noel McMahan passed away peacefully on Sunday 10 July, aged 96. Condolences to the McMahan family and friends of Noel, a great and distinguished MFC person. At the memorial service held in what better place - the MCG - a number of past players, Coterie members and executives from the MFC paid their respects. One of the most notable attendees was the oldest living MFC past player in Des Bell, aged 99, and looking forward to turning 100 in May next year. A big shout out and thank you to MFC P&PP&OA committee member Daniel Ward for going out of his way

to pick Des up, then chauffeur him to the service and home again.



I hope I'm looking as good as Des when I'm 99 - he's amazing.



The stage at Noel's service in the MCC dining room, was, much like Noel, spectacular in so many ways.

I would like to congratulate Jim Ahern on his efforts on pulling together a 50 year reunion of approximately 25 MFC past players from the U17s' premierships teams of 1971, 72 and 73; this reunion was part of our final MFC P&PP&OA Family and Friends Match Day function, held on the Friday night against Collingwood in Round 21. It was great to see this group reconnect to the MFC, as this is what we are all about - creating opportunities for togetherness.

This year, our four Family and Friends Match Day functions have been very well supported, and I thank everyone for coming along to make a special day out at the footy at our much loved home, the MCG:

- Rd 1 vs Doggies - 200 attended, unfurling of the 2021 premiership flag
- Rd 7 vs Hawks - 200 attended, with 75 as part of the MFC late 1960s & 1970s reunion
- Rd 12 vs Swans - 130 attended, this match is also traditionally attended strongly by the Swans' past players, and we also offer a huge thank you to member Brad Hodge for being our MC
- Rd 21 vs Pies - 150 in attendance, with 25 as part of the U17s 1971, 72 and 73 premierships team reunion

As mentioned previously, lock our annual reunion in your diaries, for the Thursday before the Grand Final - 22 September - in the Jim Stynes Grill at the MCG. Booking details are in this issue of the newsletter, and a separate flyer will soon be distributed, so don't miss out. We haven't been able to hold this event in person over the last two years, due to COVID. We did hold two online Zoom reunions, with over 100 logging on in 2020 and 2021 for some great interviews and laughter. Let's hope that this year we will be hosting this reunion with the Dees playing in two days' time in the Grand Final. I can't wait for it, and it will be sold out for sure.

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families fit and healthy; to those who have lost loved ones or are unwell, if there is anything we can do to assist you and your families during these difficult times, please reach out. We are here to support you when and where we can.

Rod Grinter
President, MFC P&PP&OA





PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

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MEMBER NEWSLETTER

BEN FORD - MCC LIBRARY



Past player Andrew Ford and son Ben recently made their way to the Melbourne Cricket Club Library, so that Ben could undertake interviews for his Media Studies assessment against the Library's city skyline backdrop. Brian Stynes and Spike Harris were

the interviewees, answering many detailed questions about their involvement to and connection with the Melbourne Football Club. It was a wonderful experience for all involved, with Andrew as the cameraman and technical assistant on the day.

Since that time, Ben has been adding footage and images to his presentation, and we wish him all the very best for his plans to undertake journalism studies.



ANNUAL REUNION - IT'S BACK!

If there's one thing that everyone has missed over the last two years, it's those special occasions – and in the world of the MFC P&PP&OA, one of the most memorable functions each year is the Annual Reunion.

So, it is with much rejoicing that we announce that, after two years of Zoom, we're back to the Jim Stynes Grill in 2022 for the MFC P&PP&OA and Old Acquaintance Annual Reunion.

Join us on the Thursday evening before the Grand Final, when we'll be looking out on the MCG, catching up with former teammates and colleagues, and enjoying entertainment and interviews.

Don't miss out – book now:

Thursday, 22 September 2022, 6.30 pm

**Jim Stynes Grill
Level 2, Olympic Stand - GATE 3**

Cost - \$100

Includes plated sit-down meal and drinks package

**To book your tickets visit
www.trybooking.com/CCBUR**

**BOOKINGS CLOSE COB
Thursday, 15 September 2022.**

Contact Spike Harris for any queries, on 0411 235 073.



FINALS TIME

As we head towards September action, it's worth reviewing Melbourne's form in finals from the beginning of the VFL in 1897, through to the start of the 2022 finals.

Overall, Melbourne has played in 90 finals, with 54 wins and 34 losses. The team that the Demons have played the most in finals is Collingwood, with 16 wins for Melbourne (including six premierships), and just five losses.

Throughout the history of the V/AFL competition, the Demons have played in just two drawn finals games. The first was a semi-final

against Collingwood in 1928, when each team scored 9.8.62 apiece, playing in front of a crowd of 41,423 at the MCG. The game was replayed the following week, with Melbourne unfortunately losing by just four points.

The other draw is much better known, being the Grand Final encounter with Essendon in 1948. The Bombers kicked 7.27.69 to Melbourne's 10.9.69, forcing a replay the following week. The Demons came through with the victory on this occasion,

running out premiers by 39 points.

When playing South Melbourne/Sydney Swans, the ledger stands at one win apiece. The first was an unfortunate Preliminary Final loss in 1936. However, redemption came in 1987, when the Demons thrashed the

Swans by 76 points in front of 80,292 at the MCG. Robert Flower led the way on the day, scoring four goals in his second ever final.

Now, red and blue is set to take on red and white at the MCG, as the 2022 finals head back home.



BENEVOLENT FUND

We've recently done a check of our records, and we're happy to confirm that the following are our donors to the MFC P&PP&OA Benevolent Fund in 2022. Through individual and group contributions, as well as ongoing sponsorships, we can provide welfare to members in need, as well as subsidise Association events, thereby upholding our ideals of benevolence and togetherness. Don't forget that you can also contribute, with any amount gratefully received.

Colin Barnes	Barry Bourke Motors <i>(Sponsorship)</i>
Don Baron	
David Cawsey	Melbourne Football Club Coterie <i>(Sponsorship)</i>
Chris Connolly	
Eric Dick	
Rod Grinter	Rogers & Company Foods Pty Ltd <i>(Sponsorship)</i>
Lachlan Harlow	
Les Hopgood	Melbourne Football Club <i>(Old Acquaintance Contribution)</i>
Steve Lansdell	
Michael Thomas	
Demon Army	Simon Johnson <i>(Match Day Sponsorship)</i>
Western Demons	

To make a contribution at any time of the year, our Association's banking details are:

Account name:
MFC Past & Present Players & Officials Association

BSB: 063 204

A/C: 1008 8589

Please use your name as the reference.

A full list of 2022 donors will be published on www.mfcpastplayers.com.au at year's end.

LEVER'S GOAL

Our game is full of memorable moments, and 2022 has been no different, particularly in the closing rounds of the season. From the Pickett goal against Carlton that delivered a win, to a certain defender making his way down the ground in the best traditions of Neil Crompton



in 1964; it's all been happening for the Demons. Of course, that certain defender was Jake Lever, who – in Round 23, against the Lions at the Gabba, kicked his first goal



in the red and blue. As the stats line up, it was his:

78th game for Melbourne

His first goal in 1931 days

His first goal since Round 7, 2017

With this goal, it means that Jake Lever has now kicked the 974th most amount of goals for Melbourne, joining the likes of Tony Sullivan, Ian Thorogood, Brian 'Doc' Roet and Chris Lamb (among many others!) to have kicked one goal for Melbourne. Of course, Jake may increase his tally, and we look forward to that possibility in games to come.



We wish this trio all the very best for their upcoming milestone games, while also noting that James Jordon is currently on 47 games, and Harrison Petty is on 46.

MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Season 2022 has been a very special and busy one for red and blue player milestones, and we would like to acknowledge the following from the last few rounds of the season, as well as those who have been honoured on the AFL stage:

All Australian: Max Gawn, Steven May, Clayton Oliver, Christian Petracca

AFL Coaches Association Champion Player of the Year (joint): Clayton Oliver



100 games – Bayley Fritsch (Round 16 vs Adelaide)

50 games – Luke Jackson (Round 23 vs Brisbane Lions)

50 games – Trent Rivers (Round 23 vs Brisbane Lions)

As this is being written on the eve of finals, Christian Petracca is on 149 games, Michael Hibberd is on 99 (career) games, and Tom Sparrow is on 49 games.



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS'
& OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

AFLPA – JOHN AHERN

In his role as the MFC P&PP&OA's liaison with the AFLPA, John Ahern has provided us with the most recent information regarding the AFLPA. We encourage everyone involved with the P&PP&OA to become as conversant as possible with these details; even if you are not eligible yourself to become an AFLPA Alumni member, you may be able to assist someone in the wider AFL community who needs to know more.

VISIT <https://www.aflplayers.com.au/players-home/alumni> for further information and to join.

BACKGROUND

As part of the most recent men's CBA negotiations, the AFLPA secured an annual amount of **\$4.2M** to fund our Alumni program. **This money comes from the current players' share of industry revenue and as such effectively comes from the current players.**

Prior to the agreement of this CBA in 2017, funding for past players was only **\$250,000 per year**. This CBA has provided a significant step forward in the support provided.

SUPPORT PROVIDED

There are **four main financial support programs** provided to Alumni members:

Lifetime Health Care Program

Assists Alumni members with reimbursement for **out-of-pocket medical expenses** (up to \$8,000 per procedure) for any **joint surgery** or **dental injury** incurred while training or playing with a VFL/AFL or AFLW club. The aim of the LHCP is to ease the financial burden on Alumni members who require joint surgery and to provide longer-term medical support. Alumni also have

access to free (bulk billed) visits to our associated GPs nationwide.

Football Ending Injury (FEI) Payment

Players who exit the game due to an injury sustained **during their employment** as an AFL footballer, which will prevent them from playing at senior level in any competition again, can apply for a Football-Ending Injury Payment. Where eligibility is confirmed, payments to individuals are calculated based on age and final year salary up to \$500,000 for any claim. Only players whose careers have ended since 2017 are eligible for this payment (*the payment replaced provisions in previous CBAs which earlier players may have been eligible for*).

Geoff Prior Hardship Fund

Assists those who experience financial hardship in retirement. Applications for funding support are **fully confidential** and are assessed on an individual basis. Areas of funding support include mental health, physical health, health insurance, accommodation expense assistance, utility bills and addiction rehabilitative programs, among others.

Hospital Excess Reimbursement

Alumni members required to pay an excess for any hospital stay or procedure are eligible to be reimbursed up to \$500.

Since the launch of our new Alumni program in 2017 we have assisted well in excess of 1,000 of our past players, including 263 during the 2021 calendar year through these four financial support programs.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

Hundreds of Alumni members, and their significant others, have been, and continue to, access our National Mental Health and Wellbeing

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Navigator service. This is **funded by the current players** from outside the aforementioned \$4.2M per year and is serviced by a **national network on a confidential basis**. *2,032 mental health and wellbeing consultations were delivered to 243 Alumni members, and their significant others, in 2021.*

Transitioning Players

In addition to the above, while players are still in the system, we offer a range of services to help them transition from the game including:

- **Education and Training Grants** (available to past players for three years post career)
- **Financial education** and one-on-one support (available also post career)
- **Mental health and wellbeing** support (as above)
- Access to **career counselling**
- Annual contribution to the **Player Retirement Account (PRA)** that is set up as an annuity payment to assist players transitioning from a financial perspective
- Access to **one-on-one support** from our **Regional Managers**, including formal transition meetings and ongoing follow-up once players are retired or delisted
- The option to continue your membership in the AFLPA's superannuation fund after you finish playing or leave the AFL industry. The fund includes default group **Death and Total and Permanent Disability insurance**

AFLPA – JOHN AHERN *continued*

cover up to \$1.19m depending on your age and individual circumstances.

There is a lot we offer to our Alumni members, and those who will soon become Alumni members. It is important to note that with an annual fund of \$4.2M we can't provide solutions for every problem that exists.

There are **individual caps** placed on the funding we provide so that we can **spread our support among as many members as possible**. With more than 5,000 Alumni members, we believe this is essential.

We are about to commence negotiations on a new CBA, and **increased support** for past players is one of our key priorities. We will keep members updated on our progress.

CONFIDENTIALITY

One of the core values of the AFLPA is 'Trust' and, as such, we take great care and pride in **maintaining the confidentiality** of any member who may come to us seeking support. This is of critical importance to us because

without the trust of our members we don't believe you will feel comfortable coming to us.

This commitment to confidentiality means we **will not speak about individual member circumstances**. At times this causes us problems because we won't talk to the good news stories that come from our support. *We also won't refute inaccuracies in stories about support we may or may not have provided.*

So that you are aware, our silence on individual player support issues is for the above reason.

CONTACT

Should any member wish to discuss the current or future support program for Alumni members, please contact **Tim Harrington** (tharrington@aflplayers.com.au) or **myself**. As always, we are here should you wish to access any of the support services we offer.

Paul Marsh
Chief Executive Officer
pmarsh@aflplayers.com.au
0413 801 644

VALE ARTHUR POUND

It was with much sadness that I all heard of the passing of past player, Arthur Pound. Arthur, who wore No. 34, played seven games for Melbourne in 1950. In a lean period for the team, he was part of five wins, including his first two games – against Collingwood and South Melbourne – in which he kicked two goals on both occasions. We offer our sincerest condolences to Arthur's family and friends, and assure them that he will always be a treasured part of the red and blue family.

VALE MARY COLLINS

The entire MFC P&PP&OA community was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Mary Collins, wife of Geoff. From P&PP&OA President, Rod Grinter:

While we fondly remember Geoff as a captain and 1948 premiership player, we are also thankful for the lifelong support Mary showed the Melbourne Football Club. Our hearts go out to the family, as we remember them both.

SAMANTHA LORD – SHARING THE PAST

Recently, a special piece of Melbourne's history was handed over to the club, when Samantha Lord – daughter of John – donated his guernsey, following the completion of its loan with the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Carrying as many stories as the man himself – from four premierships to a lifetime of involvement in the club – this guernsey represents a special time and memories that will forever be part of the Melbourne Football Club.

Then, of course, there's the experience of Samantha, who originally gave the guernsey off her back for display! We thank her for her enthusiasm and generosity, as well as offering our sincere thanks to Bryan Kenneally for giving a tour on the day.



AFLW – SEASON SEVEN

Congratulations to the Demons, who have started AFLW Season Seven with a Grand Final rematch win against the Crows! Played in Glenelg, it was a leading effort by Melbourne from the beginning, and the team ran out triumphant by three goals.

With the Association's support of Georgia Campbell, and with representation on the committee from Maddi Gay, we remain committed to fostering the development of our AFLW team in an eighteen team competition, and to seeing the red and blue flourish at all levels.



REV'S ROAMINGS

The Rev has continued to keep in contact with the P&PP&OA community throughout a long Melbourne winter, encouraging, advising and assisting with spreading proactive pastoral care wherever he goes. Always busy and always interested, his care and consideration is a highlight for everyone involved in the

Association, and is acknowledged by all as a vital ingredient.

With 62 contacts made in July, and 44 through half of August, Rev's lines of communication are always on the go, from Cameron Schwab experiencing snow in Daylesford to Frank Giampaolo at his pub in Horsham, and Haydn Robins moving from East Gippsland to Kew. Wherever



the red and blue population is, Rev is always in touch and happy to be so, with one constant comment made across the generations and around Australia.

GO DEES!

And so say all of us.

1970S REUNITED

The 1970s have had amazing representation at the Association's match day functions this season, and it was no different in Round 21, when around 25 members of Melbourne's Under 17s' 'threepeat' premiership victories in 1971, 1972 and 1973 gathered to celebrate and remember a very significant and wonderful time in their lives.

The general consensus was that 'it



was a great success', as stories and memories were shared going back half a century. Congratulations to Jim Ahern, who took charge of

tracking everyone down, along with Adrian Graham and Mark Pritchard. We look forward to seeing you for many match days to come.

VALE NOEL CLARKE

It was with much sadness that all involved with the Melbourne Football Club heard of the recent passing of Noel Clarke, Melbourne premiership player and Tasmanian footballing legend.

Originally from North Launceston, Noel Clarke played 77 games and kicked 155 goals for Melbourne between 1951 and 1955, wearing No. 26 throughout.

After Melbourne overcame transfer wrangles to secure him, Clarke's first game was against Carlton in Round Six, 1951. He had a great debut – including two goals - in what was Melbourne's only win for the season.

In 1952 and 1954, Clarke led the Demons' goal scoring; particularly remarkable when it is considered that he played his entire career with a serious knee injury.



Experiencing patchy form and injury in 1955, and not confident of his selection, Clarke decided to head to the pictures as the teams for the Grand Final were being named. He emerged to find that he was part of the Melbourne side that

went on to defeat Collingwood by 28 points, with Clarke scoring three goals of the Demons' eight.

Aged just 25, and with a premiership to his credit, Clarke decided to retire and head home. In Tasmania, he continued to forge a legendary status. He was instrumental at both North Hobart and New Norfolk, and would later be named as an Inductee in the Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame. He was also named as a 'Hero' for Melbourne's 150th celebrations in 2008.

We shall all remember Noel Clarke for his part in the Melbourne Football Club's story, and offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends.



1955 PREMIERS

Back Row - J. Egan, P. Watt, C. Williams, H. McPherson, R. Carter, R. Adams, J. McLaughlin, P. Edwards, D. Ratay, I. Grant, M. Adams, G. R. Scott, M. Chalmers, G. E. W. Hogg, E. McLean, P. Adams, T. Johnson, P. Stewart, R. Bunch, J. P. McGee, R. Hanning, J. Playford, A. Clouston, L. McLean, C. Wilson, D. Gordon, R. Johnson, G. Gordon.
Second Row - G. V. Hanning, P. J. Fisher, J. P. Wray, D. C. Luff, L. McLean, C. Wilson, D. Gordon, R. Johnson, G. Gordon, C. McGee, P. Murray, N. H. King, G. E. W. Hogg, J. P. Wray, D. C. Luff, L. McLean, C. Wilson, D. Gordon, R. Johnson, G. Gordon.
Front Row - G. Egan, M. Williams, J. Anderson, G. Carter, G. E. W. Hogg, N. McLean, J. H. Campbell, A. E. Chubbuck, N. Smith, K. Burtch, D. Williams, R. Cantrell, W. Spry, D. Grant, A. White.

VALE NOEL MCMAHEN

Part of the spirit of the Melbourne Football Club faded a little with the passing of Noel McMahon on Sunday, 10 July 2022. One of the few remaining players of the immediate post-war generation, he stayed strongly affiliated with the Melbourne Football Club until the very end, rejoicing in the 2021 premiership win, and riding the rollercoaster over many seasons along with everyone else in red and blue.

Born just three weeks after Melbourne won its second VFL premiership in 1926, and originally hailing from Mordialloc – outside any exclusive recruiting zones – McMahon was seized for the Demons by club secretary Jack Chessell. With his eye firmly on the prize, Chessell travelled to the family home by train on multiple occasions to make his case for the one-time Richmond supporter to wear red and blue. His dedication particularly impressed young Noel's mother, and the tough, bustling crash tackler became a Demon.

McMahon was one of nine players to make their senior debut in 1946, playing three games in his first season. He fell ill with Bell's Palsy, which meant that he missed a large part of the year, but then went on to play every game in 1947, being named joint winner of the Most Improved Player award, as well as winning the Best Utility Player award in 1948. This was a special season for the youngster, who was thrilled to not only play in a premiership side, but to also take part in two Grand Finals after a replay was forced when Melbourne drew with Essendon. Remembering the experience, McMahon would laugh at his joy. 'I thought it was wonderful, being able to play in a Grand Final again! Some of my older teammates disagreed with me; they were tired after a tough encounter.'



Maturing into a lynchpin of the side, McMahon was one of only four players to play every game in 1950, and again won the Most Improved Player award. He also played every game in 1951, and was winner of the Best and Fairest. These were trying times – the team only won one game for the season, and supporters were vocal in their distress – but the club was building for great achievements later in the decade.

In 1952, McMahon was only prevented from playing all games by Victorian representation. In 1953, he was named Melbourne's vice captain and in 1954, he came second in the Best and Fairest, as well as again being named vice captain. He was a Victorian representative in 1952 and 1954, and was made a Life Member of the Melbourne Football Club in 1955. In the same season, McMahon was the recipient of an Outstanding Service award. Appropriately, he was applauded by many from across the VFL community.

In 1956, McMahon – by this time best known for his big bumps and speed out of defence – led the way as captain of the eventual 'Olympic Premiers', achieving the rare back-to-back premiership feat. In 2004, this entire team was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame, a wonderful testament to their strength and achievement in this season. This was McMahon's last game, finishing his career on the highest possible note. In after years, he would recall that 'I played my last League game in front of a crowd of about 118,000, many of whom were actually sitting on the field, in a Grand Final where we beat Collingwood by

14 goals. What a way to leave.'

Appropriately, Noel McMahon was hailed upon his retirement in 1956:

'His inspiring leadership, his determination to achieve victory, and his relentless strength so often used to his side's advantage will be remembered by us all for many years.' (Melbourne Cricket Club Melbourne Football Club Annual Report, 1956)

After his retirement, McMahon took up a coaching position with country club Rochester, where his success – including premierships in 1958 and 1959 – led to a stint as coach of South Melbourne from 1962 to 1964.

Away from the playing arena, McMahon resumed his involvement with the Melbourne Football Club as a consistent and determined contributor, particularly during challenging economic times. He was a board member from 1969 to 1973, and in 1975, 1977 and 1978. During his tenure, he also served as the club's chairman of selectors, and director of football. From 1992 to 1994, McMahon was Vice President and director of business, playing an invaluable role in steadying the club's finances. Throughout this time, Noel also maintained a strong and enduring connection with Coterie, believing in the group's importance to the club.

Always a much treasured part of the Melbourne Football Club, McMahon was named as a member of the club's Team of the Century in 2000, as well as an inaugural inductee in the club's Hall of Fame in 2001, and was made a 'Hero' as part of the club's 150th celebrations in 2008.

A further honour was bestowed upon Noel McMahon in 2014, when he was named as the recipient of the Hans Ebeling Award.





VALE NOEL MCMAHEN *continued*

This MCC award recognises outstanding service by those involved in the MCC's Sections, and McMahan's contribution over nearly half a century certainly meant that he was a fitting recipient.

Ever concerned for his club even when he was far removed from it, McMahan would share his views on the team, and his hopes for the glory he had experienced as a player. One comment he made that stands true for every team was 'We won as many games off the field as we won on it.' His delight at the 2021 triumph was palpable, particularly when the premiership cup made its way to his Canterbury nursing home. With daughter Annie and granddaughter Katie among those in attendance, Noel hugged the cup that represented so much to so many after 57 years in the wilderness. 'I can hardly believe it's happened', he said afterwards.

Now, even though he has gone, the stories and memories that are Noel McMahan will forever stand as an integral part of the Melbourne Football Club's heritage. He will always be missed, treasured and remembered. To his daughters – Annie, Jenny and Karen - we extend our most sincere condolences, along with his wider family and many friends. As every heart beats true, so Noel McMahan's was one of the truest in the game.

Many people had memories to share and stories to tell about Noel McMahan. Below are just a few of the tributes received; we thank everyone for making contact:



What a gentleman and legend – sadly missed! **Paul Hopgood**

RIP Noel, a true gentleman. When Noel finished playing at Melbourne, he went to Rochester to coach and recruited my Dad from Box Hill, and our family never left. They've continued a good friendship ever since, with endless legendary stories told over the years about Noel.

David Williams

As tough as they come, always called a spade a spade, and loved his club and family. Lived a great life and would have few regrets if any. Condolences to the family. **Greg Wells**

None wore the red and blue with more passion, on and off the field. RIP Macca. **Stan Alves**

Noel was one of the very best Demons...always a pleasure to have a chat with him – a great man!

Ray Groom

RIP Noel McMahan.

Noel McMahan story.

CC: Noel, in 1948, Essendon were red hot favourites to win the premiership. Melbourne drew the Grand Final, kicking 10 goals 9 points, with Essendon kicking 7 goals and 27 points. In the replay Melbourne won by 39 points. How did you do that?

Noel: We did things a bit different.

CC: Noel, what did you do different?

Noel: WE BASHED THEM!

Chris Connolly

A great man, and easy to talk to. RIP.

Travis Johnstone

Such a great man! Always so kind to me whenever I ran into him. RIP Noel.

Jack Trengove

I really loved our chats when I visited him in his nursing home. A true Demon who will be sadly missed. RIP Noel.

Spike Harris

My old man was at the club with Noel during the mid '50s. They never played together, but he said he was a champion bloke and a champion footballer. RIP Noel. **Peter Tossol**

Such a gracious, humble man. I will always remember our chats dispersed with anecdotes filled with godly wisdom (once he knew I was a minister). I received sermon material that lasted for months! Plus his world experiences that would have filled countless books. I will miss our chats. It was like sitting at the Master's feet. You deserved your rest, Noel. Rest easy. **Rev (Paul Burnham)**



THE NO. 35s

Vale Noel. He was great to me, and always gave plenty of direct advice #35. **Anthony McDonald**

That's so sad. Noel gave me plenty of tough love to me because I wore his No. 35, but he only did that because he cared. I loved the man and will miss him. **Steven Smith**

One of the Dees' great No. 35s. Vale old friend. **Paul Callery**

