



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS'
& OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS'

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022 EDITION

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- ROD GRINTER

Dear Members
Welcome to our
fifth newsletter for
2022.

Well, it was a season of excitement and then disappointment. Not that long ago finals footy for us was a dream, so as much as going out in straight sets is disappointing it is still exciting. Finishing second means we had a very good year, so congratulations to Gawny and Goody for backing up. We all know how much the players and coaches wanted to replicate 2021 in front of the red and blue faithful at our home, the MCG. I'm sure they will rest up, then put their heads down and work their asses off to be contenders again in 2023.

Congratulations on an individual level to the following:

Harrison Petty – winner of the Harris Mather Unsung Hero Award

Clayton Oliver – Best and Fairest

Christian Petracca – Second Best and Fairest

Steven May – Third Best and Fairest

Jack Viney – Fourth Best and Fairest

Angus Brayshaw – Fifth Best and Fairest

Congratulations to all those who made the All Australian team –
Max Gawn, Steven May, Clayton Oliver, Christian Petracca



With the National Trade period just finishing, and without naming them, to those who have retired, left to join other clubs or have been delisted, on behalf of the MFC P&PP&OA, thank you for what you achieved while being part of this great club, and remember you are all very much

welcomed back to be part of the MFC Past Players group. To all those who have joined the mighty Red and Blue during the trade period, congratulations on joining the oldest sporting club in the world, and may your time here be one of excitement and success.

I would also like to give thanks to all those who attended our Annual Reunion face to face for the first time in three years; it was an outstanding success. Thank you to the committee for all your hard work on pulling this together, and a big shout out to the Rev Paul Burnham for being MC on the night. We all know he is a star. It was great to spend time over a beer catching up with you all.



Special thanks to Kate Roffey and Alan Richardson for being there; it was fascinating to hear from both of them, giving an insight into the different workings of the club, and reflecting on the premiership success of 2021. Another special mention should also go to Barry King. It was fantastic to see Barry in attendance; one of the best doormen ever in the V/AFL.

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

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

VALE KEITH CARROLL

All involved with the Melbourne Football Club were saddened to hear of the passing of dual premiership player, Keith Carroll, on 23 September.

Originally hailing from Romsey, Keith was a tough half-back flanker, who wore No. 19 throughout his 58 games in the red and blue between 1953 and 1958.

In a special achievement, Keith played every game in 1956, and was noted for playing 'with the brilliance we all have known him to possess'. In later years, Melbourne's entire 1956 team – the 'Olympic Premiers' – would be inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in recognition of the players' domination of the competition.

Keith was part of this, and – despite being hampered by injury – took his place in 1957 to play in a second premiership for Melbourne.

In 1958, he again persevered with injury, playing in the Grand Final loss to Collingwood. It was hoped that he would return to full health and form, and be able to continue playing; indeed, the 1958 annual report stated that:

Keith in form is a dashing, brilliant player, and is determined to be back in the side in the near future.

This was a wonderful tribute, but Keith Carroll had decided to hang up his boots. However, he was part of a memorable era, and was one of those who maintained strong connections with his teammates over the following decades. In 2008, he was named a 'Hero' of the Melbourne Football Club for



its 150th birthday, and in 2021, he was delighted to greet a new premiership cup.

With his passing, the red and blue family has lost one of its own. Keith was farewelled with a private cremation, and we offer our deepest condolences to his wife, Edna, to his son, Rob, and to his five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

CONGRATULATIONS

At the time of writing, our AFLW team is heading towards a Preliminary Final, having overcome Adelaide. The Crows defeated the Demons in last year's Grand Final, but this time it was a red and blue triumph, with Melbourne 7.6.48 to Adelaide's 4.3.27. We wish the team all the best for the rest of the finals.

In the VFL Grand Final, it was all about the Casey Demons on a cold, wet day at Ikon Park. Up against Southport, Casey 10.10.70 defeated Southport 5.8.38.

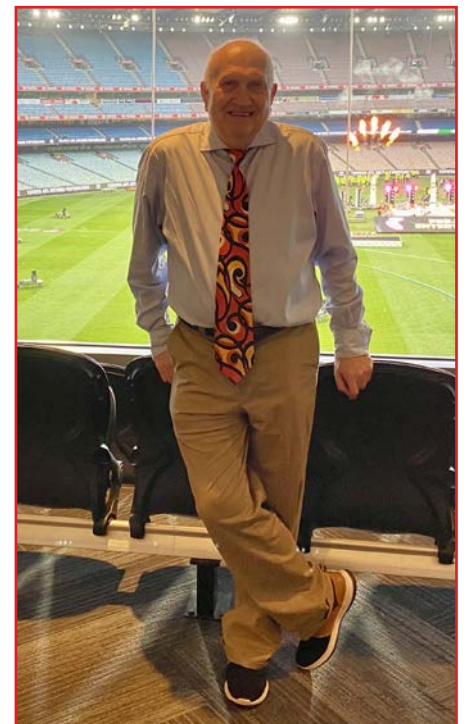
Congratulations to the VFL Premiers, and all good wishes to the AFLW Demons for the remainder of their finals campaign.



REV'S ROAMINGS

Even though the football season has come to an end, the Reverend Paul Burnham keeps making contact with the multitudes, continuing to forge and foster connections throughout the P&PP&OA community. In a highlight, Rev also took to the lectern in a celebratory setting, working as MC at the annual reunion.

In the month that followed the reunion, Rev made contact with nearly seventy people, whether via text message, phone call or email. One definite highlight was hearing that former coach John Northey is writing a book about his coaching career. The Rev was also able to keep in touch with those caught up in the floods around Echuca, including Simon Eishold, Ray Carr, Ray Dawson and Carl Ditterich, who had to evacuate.



All of this goes to show that, whether it be at the MCG, or reaching out to those in regional or interstate Australia (and beyond), Rev roams wherever he is needed, and is a valued part of many lives.

BOOK REVIEW

BETWEEN THE FLAGS: MAKING SENSE OF 57 YEARS OF HEARTACHE

By Ian Munro

Since September 2021, Ian Munro has been living the dream that most Melbourne supporters have enjoyed: supporting the reigning premiers for the first time in 57 years.

It's been a long and sometimes tortuous journey for all involved, from the middle of the arena to everyone sitting in the stands. As someone who has seen the story unfold, Munro delivers a range of perspectives. He is able to traverse the end of the 1960s, when – as a student – he took 'some solace in examining the reserves ladder. That was where Melbourne was still winning.' (p. 71) At the same time, his ongoing interaction with club figures and events means that he can also deliver the perspective of those more closely involved in these tumultuous and trying times.

One fascinating example is that of Ray Biffin, recruited from Tasmania in 1968 and connecting generations of Melbourne people as he recalls 'Checker' Hughes conferring with him after an incident at Waverley, saying:

"Checker grabbed me and said to me, "Biff, we need someone like you playing in the seniors. We've got nobody who's prepared to use their body and look after any of the players. We need you to become that sort of player." Which is something I had never been asked to do before or had to do...So Biffin became the player the club needed him to be, and

made himself into a cult hero before anyone had heard of the term. (p. 71)

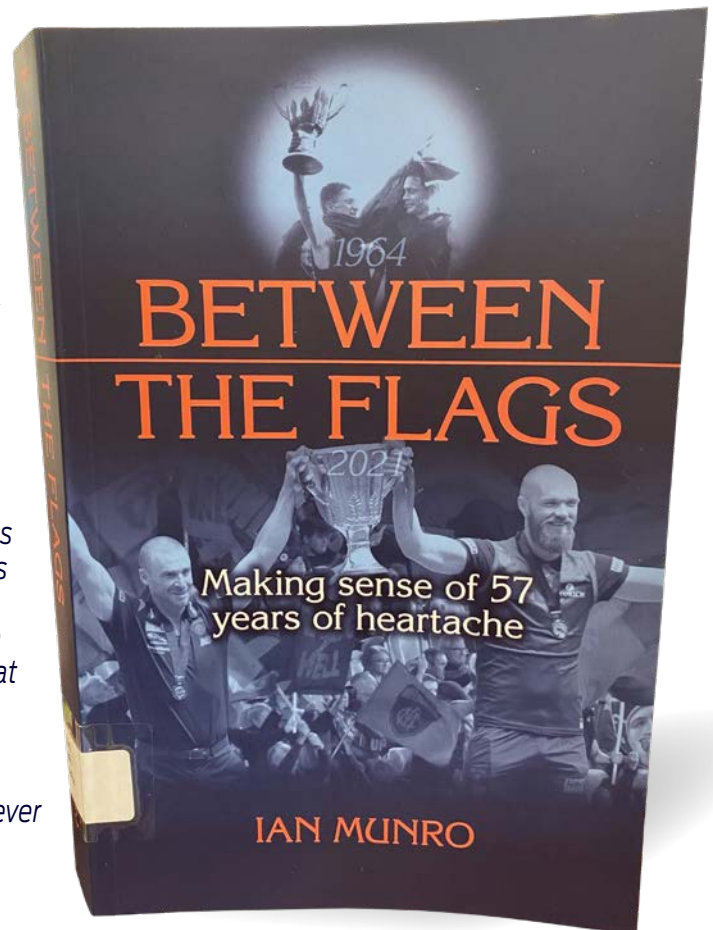
Forces that have created headaches for everyone involved with Melbourne over 57 seasons naturally include the merger mayhem of 1996, when even then first year player Andrew Leoncelli 'told all my friends they had to come because of it could be my last game.' (p. 166) This was the 'merger game', which saw Hawthorn narrowly defeat Melbourne mere weeks before the membership vote.

Following this, the appointment of Neale Daniher as coach at the end of 1997, complemented by Danny Corcoran as football manager, gave hope to the many, but highlighted the challenges faced by Melbourne players in inadequate and overcrowded facilities, which he recalls thus:

There were machines twenty or thirty years old...Money was perennially the issue at this small club that had this wonderful tradition that they all lived off from the halcyon days, and never moved into the real world of the AFL. (p. 195)

These are just examples of the challenges – cultural, financial and structural – faced by the Melbourne Football Club over many years, and Munro goes on to revisit momentous episodes such as the Debt Demolition campaign of 2008, when 'The club was \$5 million in debt...had won just two of

its nineteen games', and was now seeking to find '150 'foundation heroes' to save the club'. (p. 218) That these people were found is a triumph. That they had to be found – as Munro details – is a tragedy. But that is Melbourne, and that is the 'making sense' element of Munro's investigation. It's certainly not a relaxing or amusing volume; in common with being involved with the Melbourne Football Club and hoping against hope for the team's success no matter what forces may batter it, you find yourself constantly on edge through conflict, craziness



and, ultimately, success in 2021.

Overall, it is a compelling read. Ian Munro provides a fascinating insight into the red and blue world, as well as how the machinations of assorted governing bodies have influenced all clubs throughout.





PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL REUNION 2022



For the first time in three years, nearly 100 people gathered in the Jim Stynes Grill on the Thursday evening before the Grand Final.

This, of course, was the Association's much treasured annual reunion. While circumstances in 2020 and 2021 dictated that it was conducted via Zoom, and while those two reunions produced their own special moments, nothing could quite beat the in person get together, complete with The Reverend Paul Burnham as

star MC, Russell Robertson adding a musical note to proceedings, and addresses from Kate Roffey, Alan Richardson and Garry Lyon, as well as entertainment from the very drily witty Titus O'Reily.

Everyone who spoke captured a note of what the last few years have meant, and particularly what the 2021 premiership – and on

this reunion evening, we were still reigning Premiers! – held for them. For Garry, it was the appreciation of club, and the special role he held in representing all those who were locked down in Victoria, far from the immediacy of celebrating the red and blue triumph. For Alan and Kate, it was looking behind the scenes and sharing the effort and dedication that went into the achievement, and will need to continue being regenerated in order to be replicated in future seasons.



ANNUAL REUNION 2022 *continued*

The 2021 Premiership cup was definitely the guest of honour, treated with much affection by all present, while everyone took the opportunity to catch up in person, with a huge group photo showing the numbers in attendance (thank



you to Steve O'Dwyer for his photography). Away from this large gathering, a special 'team photo' – particularly given recent flooding disasters – was taken of all those who originally hailed from the Goulburn Valley.

It was an evening to treasure, and we look forward to seeing everyone again (plus those who couldn't make it this time) during next season, and as we all reunite in Grand Final Week, 2023.



The Goulburn Valley Team:

Adem Yze, Garry Lyon, Stephen Tingay, John Ahern, Des O'Dwyer Kelly O'Donnell, Rod Grinter (and the 2021 Premiership cup) and Chris Connolly at the 2021 Annual Reunion

LET'S LUNCH

In the middle of finals time, a special catch up took place at the Matthew Flinders Hotel. This, of course, was the quarterly lunch held by generations of past Demons, truly painting the place red and blue with their presence. Committee members Spike Harris and Paul 'The Rev' Burnham were fortunate enough to attend, and – as you

can see – shared the occasion with some wonderful company. It shows the strong connection held by Demons across the years; long may it continue.



BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund facilitates many important facets of the Association's activities. 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. All contributions are welcome, with any amount gratefully received.

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 mfcpastplayers.com.au at year's end.



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

2022 DANIHER'S DRIVE

Thank you to Jackie Emmerton for sharing a memorable, eventful and sometimes unpredictable Daniher's Drive, 2022.

The highly anticipated Daniher's Drive returned this year after a hiatus of 2 years due to the COVID pandemic. The event is a 4 day, 3 night fundraising drive throughout country Victoria in support of our inspirational friend and Association member, Neale Daniher, as he continues to bravely fight 'the beast' of MND, while raising awareness and funds to find a cure for this insidious disease.

Originally scheduled from 13 – 16 October, unfortunately due to challenging weather events that unfolded across NE Victoria, Day 1 of the Drive was cancelled due to sections of the route being closed and risks of landslips and floods. This meant that participants missed out on a visit and overnight stay in

Myrtleford. Most disappointed was our own local hero Guy Rigoni, who is considered a legend of the region. Under strict instructions from Neale, and an insistence to "Play On", tweaks were made to the itinerary and a "Meet and Greet" event was quickly arranged to bring the Drive family together on Thursday night at the Albion Hotel in South Melbourne. There was such an incredible atmosphere in the room, with participants meeting for the first time, reconnecting and catching up on the past three years. Live entertainment from the Screamin' Eagles, a karaoke competition and Neale on stage for what has become the Drive theme song, "Mr Brightside", were highlights of the night.

With the delayed start to the Drive, Day 2 commenced bright and early as participants made their way to Yarragon for a morning tea mostly consisting of good coffee, local sausage rolls and vanilla slices. A convoy of 80 vehicles and 300 participants was then formed and teams then enjoyed lunch and refreshments in various local venues in Stratford and Bruthen on their way to Lakes Entrance. The support from these small communities who have endured so much over the past three years, was overwhelming. The Gala Auction and Comedy night held in



Lakes Entrance on Saturday night raised \$200,000 through fundraising activities, which included an amazing live auction, containing some wonderful donated items.

Day 3 commenced with a hearty, delicious breakfast at the Lakes Entrance Foreshore, provided by the local CFA. Following the obligatory team photo, complete with 300 participants, the convoy made their way to Metung for lunch at the picturesque Metung Hotel before making their way to Warragul to prepare outfits for the infamous costume night at Lardner Park. This year the theme was Halloween, and what a fantastic effort was made by everyone to embrace the occasion and get involved. Once again, Neale made an appearance on stage for an incredible rendition of "Mr Brightside". Neale also generously made himself available for photographs with guests in attendance, which was a treat for everyone.



2022 DANIHER'S DRIVE

continued

The Drive wound up on Sunday morning with breakfast at Lardner Park. A huge congratulations to team



Maxxpro Brewmanity who were recognised as the team that raised the most funds, with a total over \$150k raised. A number of our Association members are part of the winning team, including David Neitz, Rod Grinter, John Ahern, James McDonald, Anthony McDonald, Paul Hopgood, Ben Holland, David Williams, Brad Sparks, Clint Bizzell and Steve O'Dwyer, along with Andrew Freeman, Tim Brideson, Mal Foard, Jamie Fox, Sam Tresise, Peter Rahilly, David Martin, John Trotter, Paul Martin and Kyle Power.

We are extremely proud that 23 of our Association members participated in the Drive, which collectively raised a total of \$2m. In addition, the Victorian Government contributed a further \$1m in an announcement at the MCG on Sunday 16th October, to bring the Daniher's Drive 2022 total to \$3m.

A shout out to other members of our Association who participated in the Drive - Brad Green, Adem Yze, Cameron Bruce, Daniel Ward, Guy Rigoni, Stephen Powell, Simon Godfrey, Andrew Leoncelli, Brett

Lovett, Nathan Brown, Darrell Fenton, Bill Nadj, Liz Coningsby and Jackie Emmerton. Thank you to all involved for your support of this important cause and assisting Neale in his quest to find a cure – you are all superstars! This is a wonderful example of the power of people coming together and supporting each other.

Now, planning begins for the 2023 Daniher's Drive! If you would like to be involved in this wonderful event please contact one of those mentioned in this article, who will be happy to provide you with more information.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023

When the new season dawns, it will also be the anniversary of a long ago triumph. For 2023 marks 75 years since Melbourne achieved a very special victory. It was 1948, and the Demons' opponents were Essendon. That season, Essendon had held sway in all three encounters between the two teams. But, as Don Cordner met Dick Reynolds in the muddy middle of the ground for that most important fourth game of the season, Reynolds suggested that it could be a draw.

Surely not? Don Cordner would, many years later, shake his head in



disbelief. For a draw it was, courtesy mainly of Essendon's grossly inaccurate kicking. The scoreboard read Melbourne 10.9.69 to Essendon

7.27.69. It was the first time that there had been a draw in a VFL Grand Final.

The next week, however, there was no doubt. With no goals in the first quarter, Essendon made a valiant effort thereafter, scoring five goals in the second term. But it was all to no avail, as Melbourne continued to build on a six goal first quarter. When the final siren sounded, it was Melbourne 13.11.89 to Essendon's 7.8.50, in front of an MCG crowd of 52,226.

This was Melbourne's sixth VFL premiership, joining those already achieved in 1900, 1926, 1939, 1940 and 1941. Three-quarters of a century later, it remains a memorable achievement, and one to continue celebrating.



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

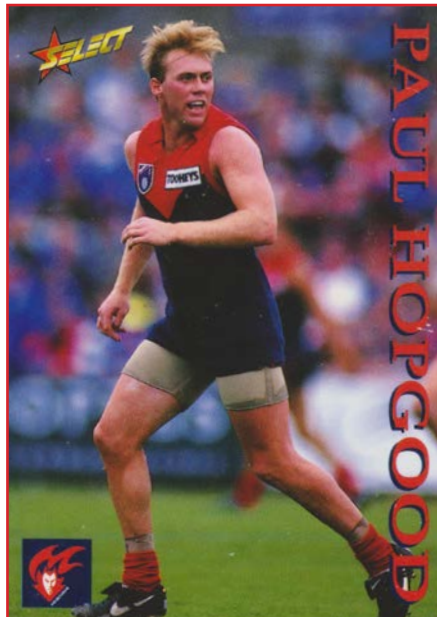
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022

ARTHUR'S GOAL

As regular newsletter readers may have noticed, we recently commemorated the death of a past player called Arthur Pound. In communications with his family, the statement was made by Arthur's son Haydn that Arthur had kicked a goal with his first kick in VFL football.



Upon checking the list of first kick goals for Melbourne, Arthur did not appear. He played his seven games in 1950, which means that statistics are not comprehensive. After consulting the AFL's Col Hutchinson, we found in a Herald report of Melbourne's Round 8 win over Collingwood that Arthur kicked his first goal nine minutes into the game. Given the preceding description of the ball not really going into either forward line, it is considered a near definite that Arthur did indeed kick a goal with his first VFL/Melbourne kick.



Arthur then went on to score his second goal to close the game – as it was explained in *The Argus*:

Melbourne obtained the winning break in the third term, when they held Collingwood to one goal.

Neither side slackened in the last quarter, the highlight being a beautiful goal by Arthur Pound, the new Melbourne full forward, after the bell had sounded.

With that, Arthur Pound's relatively brief time at Melbourne had started on the best possible note. He will be added to the AFL's official records for his first kick goal achievement.

The list of 'first kick goal' players for Melbourne is an interesting one:

- Col Deane – Round 4, 1925
- Arthur Pound – Round 8, 1950
- Bill Smeaton – Round 1, 1951
- Kevin Webb – Round 12, 1951
- Frank Davis – Round 13, 1964

- Ray Carr – Round 1, 1970
- Tony Dullard – Round 19, 1973
- Des O'Dwyer – Round 17, 1978
- Dave McGlashan – Round 4, 1981
- Peter Tossol – Round 6, 1982 (2)
- Andy Lovell – Round 3, 1988
- Stephen Tingay – Round 1, 1989
- Brent Heaver – Round 11, 1990
- Andrew Lamprill – Round 2, 1992
- Paul Hopgood – Round 4, 1993
- Jeff Farmer – Round 6, 1995
- Leigh Newton – Round 3, 1997
- Cameron Bruce – Round 1, 2000
- Troy Broadbridge – Round 8, 2001
- Brock McLean – Round 11, 2004
- Colin Sylvia – Round 21, 2004
- Matthew Bate – Round 5, 2006
- James Magner – Round 1, 2012 (2)
- Billy Stretch – Round 6, 2015
- Sam Weideman – Round 20, 2016 (2)

(2) – first two kicks, two goals.

VALE RAY JONES



We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ray Jones, who played one game for Melbourne in 1949. His short time in red and blue was preceded by three seasons and 22 games for Collingwood. We offer our sincerest condolences to Ray's family and friends.



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION



mfcpastplayers.com.au
Instagram @mfcpastplayers