



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS'
& OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' MEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022 EDITION

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- ROD GRINTER

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2022. We hope you have enjoyed reading it throughout the year, and we offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the Association in 2022.

Firstly, to our sponsors for 2022 - the Melbourne Football Club, Barry Bourke Motors, MFC Coterie, Dan Rogers (Rogers & Co Foods) - thank you all for your contribution to our Association during 2022. With 2021 signalling the breaking of our club's AFL premiership drought, 2022 was an exciting season on the field. While we missed out on the big dance, going to the footy was always full of optimism. Congratulations to all involved in our first Casey Demons VFL Men's premiership, also to those who were part of our AFL Women's much-celebrated first AFL Women's premiership. It's been a memorable 18 months for the red and blue, and



the new additions to our playing list as we approach 2023, all make for continued optimism. Bring it on.

The performance off the field continues to be outstanding; the report just released shows an outstanding year, and we all offer our congratulations to all involved off the field.

This no doubt provides great support to all those staff and coaches pulling our teams together for on field success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your committee - Spike Harris, John Ahern, Paul Hopgood, Daniel Ward, Russell Robertson, Lynda Carroll, Paul Burnham, Mark Jenkins and Jackie Emmerton - for their assistance throughout 2022. Your Association has worked very hard and proved yet again to be highly productive and commercially successful during 2022. We have a healthy bank account, which enables us to subsidise events such as our match day family fun days and our annual reunion, as well as to assist those in need.

Our match day functions continue to be popular, creating an area for our Association's families and friends to enjoy a day at the footy in comfort. In 2022, these were held in Round 1 vs Bulldogs: seeing the unfurling of our first premiership flag in 57 years, this was a sold out event, with around 200 people in attendance. For Round 7 vs Hawks, we hosted a 1970s reunion, which was run by Des Campbell with an amazing turnout of 70-80 past players from this era, plus around another 50 attending. In Round 12 v Swans, for which it has become a tradition to have members from the Swans' Past Players attending, we had a former MFC player and Australian cricketing legend, Brad Hodge, as MC for the afternoon, with around 150 in attendance. Our final match day event was Round 21 v Collingwood, and it was no surprise that this was also well attended.

Thank you to everyone for offering your support by attending these match day events, and special acknowledgement to Simon Johnson for being the sponsor of two. On these occasions, our events are evidence of the priorities around solid



We look forward to sharing more stories, news and information with the MFC P&PP&OA membership in 2023. Our first newsletter for next year will be with you in late January/early February, updating what's ahead for another exciting season. Until then, wishing all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.





FROM THE PRESIDENT *continued*

and well-structured camaraderie. The above highlight the number of events that have allowed our Association members, family and friends - together with our Coterian members - to engage in a spirit of goodwill throughout the year. We continue to forge strong relationships with the MFC administration and I thank all those in this area who have assisted, in particular Kelly O'Donnell.

As mentioned in the past, our sole major fundraising event, under the Ron Barassi Club banner, the **Ronald Dale Barassi Address Dinner**, hasn't been able to be held due to COVID for 2020 and 2021. To replace this Dinner, we have been able to hold -

when not in lockdown - a lunch with a select group of dedicated MFC supporters enjoying each other's company. We have a guest speaker in attendance, and as President of the MFC P&PP&OA, I give an update on how our Association is going and ask for donations to our cause; very bold, I know, but if you don't ask you don't get. Thank you to Peter McKenna (MFC Coterian) for pulling these lunches together. The generosity of these people in supporting our Association is humbling and personally appreciated.

That being said, on behalf of all members of our Association, I thank everyone dearly for your support of the cause of one of our principal agendas - **"Life in the Fifth Quarter of MFC past players and officials"**.

Again, we are focused on generating the goodwill and support for the ever

growing recognition that, as a player or official with the MFC, you are part of the MFC family for the rest of your life.

For me, it is an honour to serve these groups, and I continue with a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement to embrace the upcoming challenges of 2023, filled with much optimism and high expectations, both on and off the field, for the red and blue.

To anyone who has lost loved ones throughout 2022, our deepest sympathies, thoughts and prayers are always with you.

Merry Christmas, and may 2023 be bigger and better.

Go Dees!

Rod Grinter
President
MFC P&PP&OA



REV'S ROAMINGS



As the year winds to a close, there is one person who keeps on keeping on, no matter what. The Reverend Paul Burnham has continued in his rounds of contact, conversations, encouragement and positive pastoral care. Throughout November, he was in touch with over 90 people, from Graham Molloy on holiday in Port Pirie (SA) to Ray Groom in Tasmania playing golf twice a week, as well as all those hit hard by recent floods around Echuca - 'thousands of mozzies, snakes...' - Rev keeps those vital connections maintained.

In closing for 2022, Rev says that he 'wishes all contacts - players and officials - a very happy Christmas and a purpose filled New Year. Go Dees!'

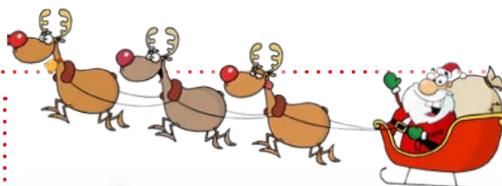
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VALE ROBERT MCKENZIE



It was with much sadness that we heard of the recent passing of Robert McKenzie. Robert, whose father (also Robert/Bob) played for Melbourne in the 1948 and 1955 premierships, himself played 42 games for Melbourne between 1969 and 1972. He wore three guernsey numbers during this time - 50 in 1969, 10 in 1970, and 2 in 1971 and 1972. The next player to wear No. 2 was Robert Flower, from 1973 to 1987, while Robert Snr wore the number for 125 games between 1948 and 1955.

Robert is undoubtedly a treasured part of our red and blue heritage, and we offer our most sincere condolences to his family and friends at this difficult time.



GOLF DAY

While the Association's Golf Day has been delayed a couple of times, there's good news for early 2023.

It is now scheduled for Friday, 17 February 2023, at Albert Park Golf Course, with the main event starting at 5 pm.

Further details and booking information will be provided in January, and we look forward to seeing you there.





ACU

On Friday 2 December, a welcome annual event that has hit the two decade mark took place, with around 50 people gathering at Bells Hotel in South Melbourne for 'Balls' Grinter's ACU'. While it's hard to believe that it's now been going for twenty years, it's in the diaries of many, and enjoyed by all.

This means, of course, that the ACU is turning 21 next year. Naturally, that also means that there are plans taking shape for extra celebrations! In the interim, here is a small gallery of those who gathered this year, and who will no doubt be back again in December 2023.

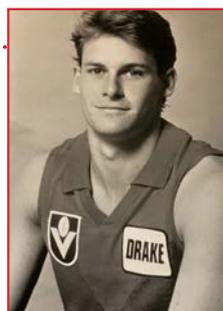


FIRST KICK GOAL – ADDITIONS

When our list of first kick goal achievers was published in the last edition of the newsletter, we were delighted to hear from a couple of past players who had previously been acknowledged in some publications, but not in others, which led to their being overlooked.

We are very proud to acknowledge both

Kelvin Clarke and Jeremy Nichols, and to add them to this extremely select lineup.



First was Kelvin Clarke, who – wearing No. 17 – kicked a goal with his first kick. He was playing in Round One of 1968, against Fitzroy at the MCG. The

result was a four point win, and Kelvin contributed three goals and two behinds to the victory.

Then, nearly two decades on, came Jeremy Nichols. Wearing No. 39, he played all four of his senior games in the red and blue in 1986. His first game was in Round Eight, against Footscray at the MCG. Melbourne registered an overwhelming 52-point win against the Bulldogs, with Jeremy's one goal with his first kick a special feature.

BENEVOLENT FUND

We recognise and thank all of those who have donated generously to our Benevolent Fund in 2022. All donations help to facilitate everything from functions to urgently needed welfare, and we welcome all contributions, at all times of the year.

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

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COTERIE – CELEBRATING 87 YEARS IN 2023

As past players, it is likely you have encountered the Coterie at some stage, whether it be a young lad from the country making his way in the big city, gaining employment with a Coterie member when a football wage couldn't cover the cost of living, seeking advice on starting a business, falling on tough times or just having a few laughs and a beer on the annual golf day.

Formed in 1937, amid the Great Depression, the main objectives of Coterie were to provide player assistance and employment, and to raise money for the Melbourne Football Club, objectives that are still strong today.

Coterie has adapted with the times and will continue to do so.

With the introduction of AFLW, Coterie will be ensuring our women get the same assistance afforded to our male players over the years, especially during the semi-professional phase of the league.

In 2022, after contributions and assistance to our past players when needed, Coterie was able to contribute over \$200k to the Melbourne Football Club at year end. This wonderful contribution is funded by our growing Coterie membership and many functions throughout the year.



recently the use of the magnificent facilities of the Harrison and Hans Ebeling Rooms in the MCC and Ponsford Stands. The legendary golf day continues and is much loved by the current playing group, as I'm sure it was back in your day.

2023 sees the election of Penny Collins as the first female President of Coterie, and as we embark on our 87th year, we look forward to continuing to strengthen the relationship with the Melbourne Football Club players, whether emerging, established, past, AFL/VFL or AFLW.

If you would like to join us at these events to catch up with old acquaintances, meet new contacts as you embark on a life after footy, or just enjoy a game of footy with the most passionate of supporters in a relaxed atmosphere, Coterie has a tailored 3 game past players membership package available. Contact mfccoterie@gmail.com for more information.



The Melbourne Football Club has always had a following of keen businesspeople from all walks of life, anxious to help in whatever manner they could, and it is those people that make up Coterie, and those people have continued to carry out those core objectives from 1937 to this day, 87 years on.

From the Great Depression to the Coterie pledge to Mrs Elza Barassi to take care of herself and son Ron following the wartime death of Ron Barassi Snr., and then to the evolution of full-time professional footballers,

Each year, on game days, you'll find Coterie hosting match day events honouring our Players' Partners, Players' Parents, our First Nation Players, Past Players and MFC Life Members, Women in Football and more recently our MFC AFLW Players. We can host these events thanks to our privileged relationship with the Melbourne Cricket Club, a relationship that, in the 1970s, saw Coterie being allocated exclusive use of the old gymnasium, located under the Long Room in the old Members Stand and fitted out for Coterie use, to more



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