



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

# PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023 EDITION

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

- ROD GRINTER

Welcome to our third newsletter for Season 2023, following our King's Birthday blockbuster win against the Pies, and witnessing the amazing efforts of Neale Daniher, which are just simply astounding. Our team have been doing the right thing on the field, with lots of improvement to come; since our last newsletter we've played eight games with **W, W, W, W, L, L, W & W**, and we are sitting a game clear in third place on the ladder. 😊

Rd 12 versus the Blues was our third Family & Friends Match Day function, and was held in the Harrison Room, Ponsford Stand, on Level 2. This function aimed to focus on encouraging as many past players as possible from the 1980s to come along, following on from the success of Des Campbell pulling together a function last year for past players



from the 1970s. We also promoted a couple of premiership reunions at this function: 40 years since the MFC U19s premiership, and 30 years since the MFC Reserves premiership, with both teams being well represented on the day. The photos below say it all; we had over 270 people in attendance. There were around 75 past players there, with some travelling from interstate, and one that requires a special mention - Darren Louttit - travelling 13,000 km from California to catch up and celebrate a 40-year reunion with his 1983 U19s premiership teammates. Outstanding effort, Head!



Darren Louttit and Cameron Schwab (former MFC CEO)

Talking of these functions, I am so proud to be able to be a part of these wonderful occasions. Having the opportunity to indulge in the frivolity and reminisce from our times 'back in the day' with so many who have a very similar connection to the mighty MFC is very special. The smiles on all the faces say it all, and I would like to sincerely thank everyone who made the effort in turning up to make this night one to remember. THANKS.

*As I always say, 'if you don't turn up, it doesn't make it what it should be, SPECIAL.'*



Rod Grinter, Darren Louttit and Roger Ellingworth



Past Players, Round 12

We also had the pleasure of former coaches in John Northey and Peter Russo (coach of the 1993 Reserves premiership) joining us for the night. Continuing the photo theme of past players connecting at the MCG, the following are a couple from Rd 11 v Dockers.



Peter Russo and Graeme Years



John Northey, Darren McMenaman and Graeme Ludbrook



Andy Lovell and Rod Grinter







# FROM THE PRESIDENT *continued*



Brent Grgic, Jeff Farmer and Andrew Leoncelli

Again, to work and support our club, if you are not already a member can I encourage all Association members, family and friends to become MFC members? The MFC are chasing an MFC record target

of 70,000 members after 2022's record of 66,484 members. Get on board the Dee Train by contacting the MFC Membership Department on 1300 336 667 or [membership.melbournefc.com.au](mailto:membership.melbournefc.com.au)

I look forward to seeing you all at our last Match Day function for 2023: Rd 19 v Crows, Sunday 23 July, 3.20 pm Game Time.

Go Dees!

**Rod Grinter**  
**President**  
**MFC P&PP&OA**



# KING'S BIRTHDAY

Back in late May of 1900, Melbourne – on the way to a premiership win - played Geelong at Corio Oval. It ended in a 66 point loss for the visitors, with Frank Langley their only goal scorer, kicking two. This game took place in the last year of Queen Victoria's reign as part of the Queen's Birthday festivities, played on a Thursday rather than the now familiar Monday.

In 1901, Edward VII was the new monarch. Melbourne played Fitzroy at Brunswick Street on the King's Birthday – the first Monday in June at this stage - and drew against their Grand Final opponents from 1900.

As we're focusing on the move between King's and Queen's Birthdays, that means that we pass through the reigns of King George V and King Edward VIII. King George VI's ascension to the throne then marked the cementing of the public holiday to the 'second Monday in June' in the state of Victoria; it has been that way since 1938.

The last King's Birthday of George VI's reign was in 1951. As Noel McMahan later recalled, this was 'an unbelievably tough season' for the Demons, with only one win. Unfortunately, it wasn't in Round 7 - King's Birthday Monday - when Melbourne took on Richmond. The result against the Tigers was a 14 point loss.



In 1952, with Queen Elizabeth II's reign in its infancy, Melbourne played Collingwood in Round 7. It didn't take place on the Monday – that honour belonged to Carlton and Geelong – but the Saturday result made the occasion festive. Melbourne ran out victorious by 32 points, thanks primarily to a five goal last quarter. That, of course, brings up another

part of the Queen's/King's Birthday tradition. While Melbourne and Collingwood have often met on the public holiday Monday, it wasn't until 2001 that it became a familiar part of the fixture, and from 2008 grew in stature with the 'Walk to the 'G', later adopted as the lead in for the Big Freeze and FightMND.

So, in the last season of Queen Elizabeth II's reign – 2022 – Collingwood was victorious by seven points. But, in 2023 – the first King's Birthday game since 1951 - the Demons triumphed by four points. There were some fitting echoes, four points replicating the final margin in Melbourne's 1964 premiership win against Collingwood. The crowd also had a 1964 feel to

it – 83,578 in 2023 coming close to 86,664 for the Queen's Birthday clash in 1964. However, the crowd that sits above all in that regard is 99,256 for the Melbourne vs Collingwood Queen's Birthday clash in 1958.

The Queen's/King's Birthday story is one that has become integral to the history of the game, and of Melbourne and Collingwood in particular.

## VALE BERNIE MASSEY

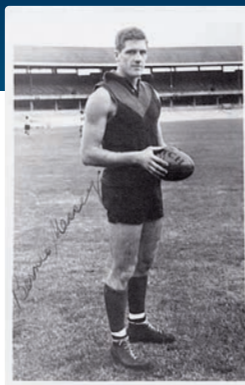
**B**ernie Massey remains a rare statistical speciality, with 99 senior games and no goals to his credit; fitting for a full back, and representing the most games played by a Melbourne player without scoring a goal. Wearing No. 37 throughout his career, Massey is also the player who has worn this number in the most senior games for Melbourne.

Making his way to Melbourne from Glen Iris, Bernie Massey spent one season in the Fourths before finding out that, to continue his VFL career, he would have to change club. His home address meant that he was in Hawthorn's zone. However, his grandmother lived in Murrumbeena, which was in Melbourne's zone. So, Bernie changed his registered

address, and made his way into Melbourne's Thirds.

Massey was on Melbourne's list for four seasons before gaining a regular place, which came with perfect timing; he was a member of the 1964 premiership side. He played on for another three seasons, battling against a burst blood vessel in his thigh on multiple occasions before realising that his time was up, and moving into coaching.

Massey's time in charge at Port Fairy and Eltham was followed by a stint as Melbourne's Reserves coach, as well as assistant to senior coach Ian Ridley. This meant that Massey was in charge for Melbourne's 1971 night grand final, as Ridley was overseas. Melbourne's victory gave Massey



another statistical tick, with a perfect senior coaching record to his credit.

Ern Massey – Bernie's father – continued the family's involvement throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s, holding various roles with the Reserves and Under 19s sides. Ern Massey was named a Life Member of the Melbourne Football Club in 1984.

Bernie Massey was honoured with Melbourne Life Membership in 1968, as well as being named a '150 Hero' of the club in 2008. We farewell him, and pay tribute to both his story and his red and blue legacy. Our sympathies and condolences go out to his family, friends and former teammates.

\*Massey's total games have often been adjusted, as night games during his playing tenure were typically included. He can be found with anything from 99 to 102. However, AFL review determined that he played 99 senior games as part of home and away seasons.

## VALE GARRY PEARCE

**O**ver more than half a century, Garry Pearce was a constant in the life of the Melbourne Football Club. From his time as bootstuder to Norm Smith's premiership teams of the late 1950s and early 1960s; from his stint as a club director in the turbulent late 1990s, and through to his long and dedicated service as Secretary of the MFC P&PP&OA, Garry was ever devoted and enthusiastic. A committed contributor to the P&PP&OA, he played a major role in establishing communication links, and in creating a solid database of member details that is the foundation even today.



*Garry Pearce - second back row, far left*

Always delighting in seeing his Demons succeed, it is fitting that the last game before his passing was Melbourne's win over Collingwood for the King's Birthday. Garry was also a Life Member of the P&PP&OA, and we honour his memory and involvement, while passing on our most sincere condolences to his family and many friends.

## VALE FRANK VEARING

**I**t was with much sorrow that we heard of the recent passing of Frank Vearing. Originally from Epping, Frank played eleven games and kicked five goals for Melbourne across 1965 and 1966, wearing the No. 26 guernsey throughout. Twice Reserves Best and Fairest in 1965 and 1966, Frank – described as a 'smart rover' – went on to play in South Australia, before returning to Epping. While his career was affected by injury, Frank retained a strong love for the Melbourne Football Club. We will all remember him fondly, and pass on our deepest condolences to his family, friends and teammates at all levels.

## VALE DR DONALD MCDONALD



**A**ll were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Dr Donald McDonald. Club doctor between 1972 and 1978 – sometimes solo, sometimes in a joint capacity – he played a vital part in ensuring the well-being of players

as the physical pressures of the game increased during the decade. Such roles are integral, and he will remain at the heart of the Melbourne story. We offer our most sincere condolences to Donald's family and friends.





PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

## PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

# MEMBER NEWSLETTER



## REV'S ROAMINGS

With around sixty contacts – email, text messages, phone calls –

each month, The Rev continues to Roam far and wide, catching up with the Melbourne community where and whenever he can. From Darren Kowal in Western Australia, Darren McMenaman in the Yarra Valley, and Shane Zantuck and Peter Rohde at the Match Day Function against

North Melbourne, Rev is a welcome constant.

Closer to home, he is also a regular part of the quarterly 'Legends Lunch', held at the Matthew Flinders Hotel. His report from the June lunch read:

*'A great luncheon again...the regulars included Stan Alves, Bryan Kenneally, Paul Callery, Graeme Jacobs, Neville Stone, Barrie Vagg, Hassa Mann, Rob*

*Dowsing, Ted Carroll, John Gallus, Frank Davis...Dan Rogers, Clyde Laidlaw. We had some new ones today, too...Ray Groom and Kerry Rattray from Tassie!...'*

It's a wonderful gathering, covering a variety of generations and involvement in the Melbourne Football Club, and we thank The Rev for being part of it.



## BENEVOLENT FUND

As always, we thank those who have contributed – and continue to contribute - to the MFC P&PP&OA Benevolent Fund. The Association benefits immeasurably from the support given so generously by both Association members and those involved with the wider football community. All donations help us to conduct our events and activities, as well as assisting with providing member support. We welcome donations

year round to our Benevolent Fund, as we keep working to build both camaraderie and care.

**To make a contribution at any time, our Association's details are:**

**Account name:**

MFC Past & Present Players & Officials Association

**BSB:** 063 204

**A/C:** 1008 8589

*Please use your name as the reference.*

We acknowledge our donors so far in 2023; thank you for adding your names to the list:

- Western Demons
- Colin Barnes
- Don Baron
- Chris Connolly
- Eric Dick
- Lachlan Haig
- Spike Harris
- Brian Marks
- David Peel
- Shaun Perry
- Michael Thomas



## MELBOURNE IN THE MCC MUSEUM

Perfect for school holidays, match days and any time in between, there's a strong red and blue presence these days in the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum. Two large permanent showcases and an interactive portal are now dedicated to the Melbourne Football Club, traversing the story of



the club from founding seasons to the current day. If you want to revisit some wonderful times, see beautiful trophies, amazing and amusing photos, quirky memorabilia and much more besides; indeed, if you want to

generally delight in the Demons, this offers supporters of all ages a great chance to do just that.

Visit <https://mcc.org.au/mcc-reserve/mcc-museum> for more information.

## COTERIE

A lot has been happening in Coterie coming into the halfway point of the season.

For our recent Match Day events, we have been privileged to raise awareness for a couple of great causes. We had the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation at the North Melbourne Game with some truly brave and inspiring speakers. Ovarian Cancer has affected so many lives yet is still underfunded, so if you can, please donate to ensure the much-needed research continues. <https://www.ocrf.com.au/>

For Sir Doug Nicholls Round, we learnt about the Yiyili Aboriginal Community School (remote WA near Fitzroy Crossing) and the quest to upgrade the footy oval so the children of the Yiyili community can play on a grassed oval. (The nearest grassed oval is about a 2-hour drive away). The Coterie will have ongoing support for this project, so if you would like to contribute to the fundraising efforts go to <https://gofund.me/1c9c6d3d>.

With tax time around the corner, there is no better time to donate to either of these great causes if you can.

A big thank you to the past players who have attended and been guest speakers at the recent Match Days. We had Nathan Jones and Brett Lovett at the ANZAC Eve Game, and Byron Pickett and Andy Lovell at Sir Doug Nicholls Round. It is always great to catch up with past champions of the club.

Speaking of champions, as part of the Coterie Inner Sanctum Experience, we were lucky enough to have current Melbourne Midfield Coach, Adem Yze, give a great presentation and share an insight into the strategies being used. To see and hear firsthand how Adem goes about looking after

our star midfield group was brilliant. Thank you Adem for an amazing experience.

Earlier in the year we were lucky enough to host the 'First Year Players' at our pub lunch and introduce them to the Coterie family. This was a new initiative, which was well received by all involved and got us thinking about what more can we do to support these young players as they begin what is often an uncertain part of their life.

Along with MFC Player Development Manager Reece Conca, the Coterie and P&PP&OA will be looking at ways we can offer support when needed that extends outside the current playing and coaching group. This could be simple things such as a game of golf or a home cooked meal if someone is living nearby, or providing an opportunity to gain an understanding or experience when deciding on an educational/career path from those who may already be in that field. We will continue to develop this over the coming months, and welcome any ideas from those who are interested.

## Upcoming: Round 16:

If anyone is heading to Alice Springs for the round 16 game against the Giants, feel free to reach out as we often have Coterie members travelling to interstate games.

With a finals spot looking good, and fingers crossed a spot in the Grand Final, why not take advantage of the Past & Present Players & Officials 3 Game member offer, this includes access to Grand Final tickets. Please contact John Crisara [john.crisara@melbournefc.com.au](mailto:john.crisara@melbournefc.com.au) for more information on the membership package, or if you are interested in purchasing a ticket into our match day functions.







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# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

## 100 NOT OUT – HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DES!

There are always occasions and events happening around the Melbourne Football Club, and this was one of the highlights for all concerned. Past player Des Bell turned 100 on 23 May, and shared the celebrations with many people, including two of the current team in Angus Brayshaw and Max Gawn.



Another who was in attendance was MFC P&PP&OA committee member, Daniel Ward. Daniel had this to say about Des and his day:

Des is a real treasure of our footy club, and someone to be valued. The look on his face when he went out to training last year, and when Angus and Max visited him for his birthday, was priceless. These boys also need to be commended for driving out to visit on their day off. It meant the world to Des!



Thank you to all those who were part of such a memorable Melbourne milestone. Huge congratulations to Des on his 100th birthday, and for being such a special part of the Melbourne Football Club.

## MARK'S NOTEBOOK – SEASON 2023 ROUNDS 5 TO 12

As the season progresses, your P&PP&OA committee member and 'Roving Reporter'- Mark Jenkins – has been keeping track of what's going on, and took on the task of reporting in for the Round 8 win over Gold Coast.

Here's the season so far, from Round 5 to King's Birthday and the bye.



### Round 5

#### Melb vs Ess

Bombers won by 27 points  
James Jordon - Played 50th career game (MFC - started as Sub)

### Round 6

#### Melb vs Rich

Demons won by 18 points  
No Milestones or Debuts

### Round 7

#### Melb vs Kangas

Demons won by 90 points  
Angus Brayshaw - Played 150th career game (MFC)  
Debut - Josh Schache (MFC)

### Round 8

#### Melb vs GC Suns

Demons won by 5 points  
No Milestones or Debuts

### Round 9

#### Melb vs Haw

Demons won by 54 points  
Steven May - Played 200th career game (GC/MFC)

### Round 10

#### Melb vs Pt Adel

Port won by 4 points  
No Milestones or Debuts

### Round 11

#### Melb vs Fre

Fre won by 7 points  
No Milestones or Debuts

### Round 12

#### Melb vs Carl

Demons won by 17 points  
No Milestones or Debuts

### Round 13

#### Melb vs Coll

Demons won by 4 points  
No Milestones or Debuts



## MARK JENKINS, THE ROVING REPORTER



### Gold Coast 2023

What attracts a rampant group of Demon supporters away from the MCG?? A match on the Gold Coast – that will do it.

The Round 8 match against the Gold Coast Giants proved a wonderful opportunity for many diehard Demons to escape the Victorian winter and enjoy a weekend on one of Australia's favourite travel destinations.

Not being one to miss out, your roving correspondent joined the exodus from Tullamarine on a 6:30 am flight, leaving behind a frosty morning to then land at a sun-soaked Coolangatta airport a couple of hours later.

Two hours mightn't seem a long time (unless you are heading to Casey!) but the Gold Coast is a lifetime away from a winter's day in Melbourne with its sunshine, long white beaches and warm(ish) water – who couldn't have fun up there??

For those in the know, the match itself was preceded by a function at the nearby Emerald Lakes Golf Club where our President spoke to the group and raffle prizes were drawn (luckily enough, your correspondent won the first prize - an MFC guernsey signed by the 2021 squad



– something to keep my autographed

Stynes, Lyon and Viney woollen MFC jumper....)

As the temperature rose into the comfortable mid-twenties, it was time to venture over to The Suns' Heritage Stadium and its three-quarter built grandstands. Cool drinks and Fairy Floss were the order of the day and served as a reminder that we were away from the 'G and its warming Shiraz and meat pies.

The match itself was a tussle that has become a hallmark of our Demons in 2023 – with end to end pressure, we were unable to break clear from the opposition and, apart from a few individual highlights, the team seemed to struggle to get into its rhythm.

A desperate, attempted swipe at the ball would eventually earn Jacob Van Rooyen a couple of trips to the tribunal; thankfully, the last visit resulted in a 'no suspension' to the delight of all Melbourne supporters.

Towards the end of the last quarter, that familiar 'not again!!' feeling confronted most Demon supporters

around Australia as the game seemed destined to slip from us. However, fate is a funny thing, and this time round the football gods were on our side – a five point win.

Unlike our MCG based experiences, where a warm bar with a log fire is the next logical step for our supporters, those who had made the trip 'up north' were treated to a very pleasant evening of outdoor dining in the light sea breeze.

While the weekend ticked most of the boxes, the return home on Sunday evening did nothing for our spirits – a bottle of water left in the console of my car gave me an ice cream headache and my bare legs (you only wear shorts in Queensland) looked whiter than a goal umpire's flag.

On reflection, an investment in a trip away from Victoria for warmer climes during a Melbourne winter tops all similar contributions to cryptocurrencies and gold mining combined. To see a Demon win when wearing a polo top and shorts, while our friends fight back the cold in North Face puffy jackets and RM Williams boots makes it all worthwhile – so long as we have a WIN!!!



# FINDING STEVE

Over the last two editions of the newsletter, there has been mention of finding Steve Arnott, following a request from Michael Roberts, of the Collingwood Football Club.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of Kel Clarke, as well as email correspondence from Earl Spalding, we can report that Steve has now undoubtedly been tracked down. While Steve was on Collingwood's list before changing to red and blue, Michael was also seeking details of Steve's father, Jack. Jack played at Collingwood during the war, so the assistance given was multi-generational and much appreciated.

As Steve remembers, 'Kel and I were in the Seconds together at Melbourne, and we played in a premiership one year before I came west.' That was 1969, when the likes of Barrie Vagg, Bryan Kenneally and Ken Emselle were also in the lineup, making it a powerhouse combination as they rounded off their brilliant careers in winning style.

Steve considers that both his football career and life have been a series of sliding doors moments. With one senior game in red and blue to his credit, he was injured. This ultimately led to him heading to Western Australia, where he studied commerce at university, as well as playing for West Perth, where the legendary 'Polly' Farmer was in

charge of proceedings as captain-coach. Steve played in the 1971 premiership, and spent three seasons there, before bowing out at the age of 24.

His path to West Perth was an interesting one, and part of a triangular deal. John Wynne from West Perth – inducted into the WA Football Hall of Fame in 2015 - went to Norwood, where he played for thirteen seasons. 'Diamond Jim' Tilbrook went to Melbourne from Norwood, while Steve took up the place at West Perth.



Since that time, Steve has become fully embedded in Western Australia, and is today the CEO of the Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science. This important medical research organisation has a special link, being involved in research as part of FightMND, showing that the battle is Australia-wide and beyond. Steve also points to the 'Big Freeze', with West Coast

and Collingwood undertaking the Western Australian 'MND Mini Freeze' in 2023, the round before the King's Birthday blockbuster between Melbourne and Collingwood, tacitly acknowledging Neale Daniher's links to both Melbourne and West Coast.

In many ways, it all comes back to football. Steve was 'thrilled to see the 2021 premiership' in Perth, and recalls meeting many other WA based Melbourne players during this time to enjoy the atmosphere, and to be standard bearers on behalf of all those marooned over the other side of the country. His heritage, it turns out, is even deeper than first thought. Not only does he hold great pride in having worn the No. 29 – the same as Hassa Mann, who also made his mark in the west, albeit with South Fremantle – but Steve's uncle was Billy Deans. Deans, who played 151 games for Melbourne, was a member of the 1948 premiership side, and was made a Life Member of the club in 1970.

Now, and with a fair amount of mirth, Steve figures that he can count himself as being 'well and truly' found. His is indeed a special Melbourne story, and

the efforts of those who helped to join the dots have even compelled Michael Roberts, as Collingwood as ever you'll find, to say 'I'm even more impressed with Melbourne past players now.' This is a fair compliment, and one that all those who continue to weave the threads of the red and blue community can adopt with a certain amount of satisfaction.

