



PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

PAST & PRESENT PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS'

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION



FROM THE PRESIDENT

- ROD GRINTER

Welcome to our fourth newsletter for Season 2023, after our team securing a top four finish. Congratulations to the MFC - we are all very excited for what's to come in September.

In Rd 23 against the Hawks, the MFC Coterie hosted their annual MFC Life Members function, with over 180 Coterie members and guests in attendance. What a great day it was in the Harrison Room. Before the game, MC Ralph (Racetrack Ralphy) Horowitz interviewed past player and Melbourne Cup winning trainer Rob Hickmott; it was great to both see and listen to Rob. You may not realise that Rob is also the trainer of a 2 year-old stallion, owned by a group of MFC Past Players and Mental Demons. The racing name of this horse is 'Big Jimma' after our own champion, the late Jim Stynes. Big Jimma will race in MFC colours and is being set for the 2023 Sandown Guineas, Group

Two race over 1600 metres, to be held on 2 December. Keep your eyes open for Big Jimma performing like his namesake! 😊

With the Dees finals bound, purchasing AFL finals tickets is something we want to try and make as clear as possible, any MFC past player who has played a minimum of one VFL/AFL game will have a membership barcode that will allow you access to purchase finals tickets.

The following hopefully makes sense to all those eligible for finals tickets through the MFC. When purchasing or going into a ballot, to be able to obtain tickets together you must include all barcodes together, and the lowest ranked barcode will be used. Eg. *If a life member's barcode is used with a past player's barcode, the entitlement of the past player's barcode takes precedence.*

As a past player your membership entitles you to priority access to Weeks 1-3 of finals as well as Priority 2 access to purchase a Grand Final ticket (life members will have Priority 1 GF access).

You will receive an email from the Club each week once the fixture has been announced with your membership barcode and details on how to purchase tickets during finals. You will need to enter your barcode number into Ticketek to purchase

tickets, if you wish to sit with other past players or club members you must purchase tickets in the same transaction. There may be the opportunity to purchase additional guest tickets for Weeks 1-3 of finals, the amount of additional tickets available to purchase will depend on the team we are playing.

When we make it into the Preliminary Final, you will have the opportunity to enter the Grand Final Ticket Ballot with your membership barcode. Again, if you wish to sit with other past players or Melbourne FC members you must put your barcodes into the same registration. There is not the ability to purchase additional tickets for the Grand Final - it is strictly one ticket per barcode. Further information will be sent from the Club in relation to the GF registration process, so please keep an eye on your emails in the coming weeks.

We will receive specific details as the finals progress, and will keep you informed throughout.

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you all at our annual reunion on Thursday 28 September, in the Jim Stynes Grill at the MCG. Keep an eye out for the invitation, which will be with you soon.

Go Dees!

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





1989

- ROD GRINTER

When the commentators looked back on the eve of the 2023 finals, they found that, despite a treasured rivalry, Melbourne hasn't actually played Collingwood in a final for well over 30 years. One who remembers that winning occasion is P&PP&OA President, Rod Grinter:

My memories of the last time the Dees played the Pies in a final – the 1989 Elimination Final - are very vague.

It was played out at the old VFL Park, Waverley, in front of a very noisy crowd of 63,000 fans on a sunny day. I was playing in defence on Craig Kelly, who ended up with two goals for the game, out of only nine touches for the match. I'm sure I wasn't on Craig when he kicked these two goals! My stats for the game were 12 touches, nine kicks and three handballs, as well as laying the most tackles for the game with six.

Tony Campbell kicked our first goal after the Pies had two on the board. At half time the Pies were in front by nine points. After a fantastic third quarter, with the Dees kicking nine goals, we were in front by four goals, and held this lead during the last quarter, winning by 23 points.

179.111 v 13.10.88



500 GAMES, ONE POINT CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN STANAWAY

When Melbourne took on and defeated Brisbane in the narrowest of wins in Round 18, there was more than one reason to celebrate. One point contrasted with a wonderful milestone, accumulated largely along the boundary line and in the change rooms.

It was indeed time to mark a remarkable and typically unassuming career, as John Stanaway registered his 500th game working as trainer with the Melbourne Football Club. The start of his career was way back in 2000, after dipping the toe in during 1999.



So, 500 games later, it was more than time to see the name on the banner, don the celebratory guernsey, admire the decorated t-shirts and admit 'It was nice to be recognised, but I was hoping to get away with it.' As Max Gawn dragged him into the circle, and as a video starring both past and present players featured, there was little chance of that. 'There were a few of the 'old boys' – Bruce, Junior, Russian, Jonesy' – and it was a highlight for everyone involved, from the rooms to those who sent their congratulations on such an achievement.



Over nearly quarter of a century, John has only missed three games. He's been there for good, bad, and everything in between. As was shown by Angus Brayshaw's and Christian Petracca's parents taking part in the celebrations, John is an integral part of the match day structure, and hopes to be so 'for a bit longer, anyway!'

Starting back in 2000, John says that he's always 'had a great time. Even in the dim, dark times, we've still had fun.' He's reinforced that to the players of today, and reiterates that 'If I hadn't loved it, I wouldn't still be there!' While he's not looking for another 500 games to be added to his career total, there is no doubt that John Stanaway will be there, taking care of business, for as long as he possibly can.



AFLW SEASON OPENER

On the evening of Monday 14 August, Spike Harris and Paul 'The Rev' Burnham represented the MFC P&PP&OA at the MCG.

With the hallowed turf as the backdrop, AFLW Season 8 was being launched for the Melbourne Football Club.

With the Season 7 premiership in their keeping, the team is ready to reach great heights again, and coach Mick Stinear is delighted to again be guiding the players throughout, hopefully to take their place on another premiership dais at season's end.

It was a very special occasion for Rev and Spike, as the Association is continuing to sponsor Georgia Campbell, daughter of past player Adrian. Wearing No. 1, and having played her first game late in 2022, an exciting time is ahead of the young ruck/forward in 2023.

Congratulations to our AFLW side for starting the new season with a win!!!



A CATCH UP WITH (THE OTHER) COACH

Mick Stinear
Coach - AFLW Melbourne Demons
2023 Reigning AFLW Premiers

As most members are aware, the MFC P&PP&OA supports all players and officials who have represented the club; this, of course, includes our colleagues from the MFC AFLW sides.

To expand on this theme, we sat down with the inaugural and current MFC AFLW coach Mick Stinear to talk about his experiences in leading the team to this year's AFLW Premiership – an exciting and proud achievement for our club.

Mick followed the traditional path as a young footballer, playing for Beaconsfield Football Club as a junior and then graduating to the Dandenong Stingrays in the Under 18 competition. He was selected by Carlton in the 2003 Rookie draft and spent a year on the Blues' list.

At the completion of his first season, he was unfortunately delisted, then moving to Queensland where he accepted the position of AFL Development Officer. It was in this role that Mick recognised that his contribution to the AFL and its broader organisation could be more significant than that of an individual footballer. His journey toward being an AFLW coach began in earnest at this time.

Over time, Mick eventually progressed through the coaching ranks at various levels, including stints with St Kilda City and the Oakleigh Chargers where he was coach of their Under 16 Boys team, taking them to back-to-back premierships in 2015 and 2016.



At the end of 2016, he was appointed the inaugural coach of the MFC's AFLW team and has led them ever since. There have been many highlights over this time, including the significant achievements of the on-field team and the 2023 premiership. Mick is quick to point out that these could never have been achieved without the contribution of many others.

When asked about his team's connection to the legacy and history of the MFC, Mick stressed how important it is to each member of the team, and that it is the constant focus of all involved with Melbourne's AFLW lineup. While most of the players and staff are relatively new to the MFC, they all recognise the significance of the establishment and success of the most recent addition to the club, and are honoured to play a part in it.

With Mick in charge of a highly motivated team, the future of the MFC's AFLW program is extremely exciting, and promises to deliver more success to our great club.

The Association encourages all members, family and friends to get right behind our AFLW teammates and to make them feel welcome as part of the larger MFC community!!



COTERIE

As the 2023 home and away season disappears, and we prepare for a deep run into the finals, we would like to thank to all club players and officials, both past and present, who have given their time so generously throughout the year at our many Coterie functions. The relationship between Coterie and the P&PP&OA is as strong as ever, and something that Coterie members cherish.

In **Round 18** against the Brisbane Lions, we had the partners of our current players and coaches enjoying the game as guests of Coterie. Thanks to **Tom and Ruby McDonald** for giving us an entertaining insight into the life of an AFL family, and there was plenty of excitement and noise in the room as the boys stormed home for a memorable win.

For **Round 19** we were in the best room at the MCG - the MCC Committee Room - thanks to our privileged relationship with the MCC. We were lucky enough to have past player and the current CEO of the AFL Coaches Association, **Alistair Nicholson**, take us through his journey in life after football.



In **Round 20** we had a huge turnout for Life Members Day. This is a Coterie favorite, mixing with the greats of the club and honouring and thanking them for their contribution to the Melbourne Football Club.

Former player and Melbourne Cup winning trainer **Rob Hickmott** gave an update on 'Big Jimma', a horse that needs no introduction, with many of the P&PP&OA having an interest in the future champion. Things are looking good to peak in late spring.

We also had current AFLW captain **Kate Hore** and AFLW Premiership coach **Mick Stinear** in attendance to give an update on how the reigning premiers are preparing for AFLW Season 8.

The season kicks off against rivals Collingwood under lights at Ikon Park, in front of what should be a huge crowd for the season opener.



Coterie has a proud history of supporting the Melbourne AFLW, and we are again sponsoring two AFLW Players for AFLW Season 8. We are continuing our support of Casey Sherriff #18 and we welcome young recruit Georgina Fowler #12 to the Coterie family. We hear Georgina has already made a great impression on the playing group, having joined this year from GWS.

We also look forward to the return of 'George's Lunch'. First started in 1998 by George Simon - an MFC Life Member, past MFC Director and Coterie Chairman - this lunch became legendary over the years. We look forward with much anticipation to honouring George and thanking him for his contribution to Coterie and the Club, as well as ensuring George's Lunch will be held long into the future.

With a top four finals spot locked in, Coterie is offering a special membership package that includes guaranteed access to Grand Final tickets. The Coterie Grand Final Day function is the most affordable hospitality package on the market, so please contact John Crisara - john.crisara@melbournefc.com.au - for more information.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

DOUG KOOP

We recently had the chance to catch up with past player and former Victorian policeman Doug Koop to see what he has been up to. On the day we spoke, it was exactly 44 years since he made his VFL debut for South Melbourne (the forerunner of the Sydney Swans) at the Lake Oval.

Doug was recruited from Springvale's Under 18s squad and started with the Swans' Thirds – a similar journey to his good mate, David Ackerly. Doug's time with the Swans saw him move from the Thirds to the Seconds, and eventually to their senior team. He went on to play a total of 15 senior games over three seasons.

During this time, and for a number of years to come, Doug balanced a VFL career with a full-time job as a landscaper and paver; tough work that required plenty of strength and endurance, qualities that became a feature of his game.

As opportunities at South became limited, and with Doug not being ready to hang up the boots, he took the opportunity to move interstate and played with Woodville West Torrens in the SANFL for three seasons.

Not satisfied with what may have been perceived as a lost



opportunity at the VFL level, Doug was enticed back to Victoria by North Melbourne stalwart Laurie Dwyer, playing in the blue and white for two seasons.

Doug's next move - to the mighty Demons - coincided with arguably his most impressive output, as he became somewhat of a regular, playing 24 games over two seasons. Unfortunately, injuries from a combination of senior football and his hard work in the landscaping business impacted his final year with the Demons – 1989 - and at the end of that season he was delisted.

While Doug remained involved in football as a player and then coach, he did not return to the V/AFL again.

In 1993, Doug joined the Victorian police force, and over the years he became a mainstay of their representative football team, which played many interstate matches

against forces from around the country. He also forged a successful career as a policeman who was highly regarded by colleagues and the public he served.

Sadly, in 2017, Doug lost his son Josh, which had a profound impact on his and his family's lives. Throughout the years that followed, Doug struggled to deal with Josh's passing, to the extent that he was unable to work and remain in contact with many of those around him.

Doug's search for answers to his loss took him to many places; however, it was a chance meeting with a person who understood his situation better than anyone else he had met that began to make a definite change to his life.

Doug is thankfully now in a much better place and attributes his improved mental and physical state to his mentor and friend, who took the time and had the skills to show him what he needed to do to make the positive steps back towards full health.

For those interested in hearing more from Doug about his journey and the changes he has put in place to better cope with the loss of his son, he invites you to call him on his mobile – 0400 607 407.

Please Note: While the MFC P&PP&OA does not endorse any particular treatment and/or program, we are right behind Doug, and wish him well as he continues to build resilience and help others.





REV'S ROAMINGS

Throughout July and August, the Rev continued to traverse the country, with well over 130 contacts made across the two months. However, he found himself struggling towards the end of August, when his faithful phone, having kept up the pace for five years, decided it had had enough. As the Rev himself said upon obtaining a new phone and transferring substantial amounts of data, he is now ready



to 'get into it' and keep in touch with everyone, whether it's to offer greetings, support or just lend a listening ear. From Carl Ditterich on the Murray, to Kerry Rattray in Tasmania, from the retired to the new AFLW playing group, the Rev is an integral part of the Association, and we – as always – thank him for 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.

AFLPA ALUMNI



If you're a past player, you should be part of the AFLPA Alumni. As MFC P&PP&OA Vice President (and AFLPA liaison) John Ahern says, 'Being part of the AFLPA Alumni costs very little, but can help a lot. It's a great resource, and I encourage everyone who's eligible to join up.'

BECOME A MEMBER

Past players who have played at least one senior AFL/AFLW game receive access to all services, plus a range of lifetime benefits.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Joining the AFL Players' Association as an alumni member involves a one-off payment that gives past players lifetime membership.

For recently retired or delisted players, membership cost is the same as for a listed AFL player. This amount is deducted from your retirement fund.



For further information, please contact Tim Harrington (tharrington@aflplayers.com.au) Head of Alumni.

Membership focuses on support in the following areas:

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING
FINANCIAL PROSPERITY
CONTINUED EDUCATION
SOCIAL CONNECTION**

To read more about it, visit [Alumni | AFL Players' Association](#)

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

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

Our most recent and profound thanks go to the Demon Army, with recognition of their fundraising efforts for the MFC P&PP&OA during Retro Round against Hawthorn.

MILESTONES, DEBUTS AND CONGRATULATIONS

AFL SEASON 2023 - ROUNDS 13 TO 24



Round 13

Melbourne vs Collingwood
Melbourne won by 4 points

Round 14

MFC Bye

Round 15

Melbourne vs Geelong
Geelong won by 15 points

Round 16

Melbourne vs Greater Western Sydney
GWS won by 2 points
Jake Lever - Played 150th career game
James Harmes - Played 150th game

Round 17

Melbourne vs St Kilda
Melbourne won by 21 points
Christian Salem - Played 150th game
Taj Woewodin - Played 1st game

Round 18

Melbourne vs Brisbane Lions
Melbourne won by 1 point

Round 19

Melbourne vs Adelaide Crows
Melbourne won by 4 points
Ed Langdon - Played 150th career game

Round 20

Melbourne vs Richmond
Melbourne won by 32 points

Round 21

Melbourne vs North Melbourne
Melbourne won by 32 points

Round 22

Melbourne vs Carlton
Carlton won by 4 points

Round 23

Melbourne vs Hawthorn
Melbourne won by 27 points
Alex Neal-Bullen - Played 150th game
Max Gawn - Played 200th game

Round 24

Melbourne vs Sydney Swans
Melbourne won by 21 points

Congratulations to:

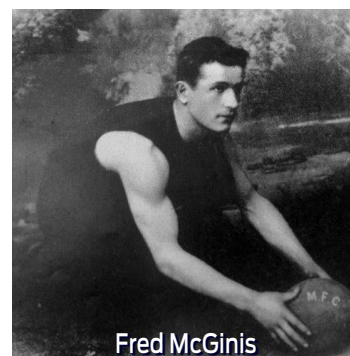
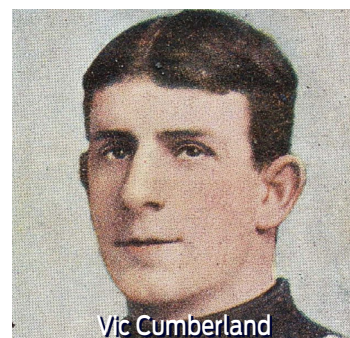
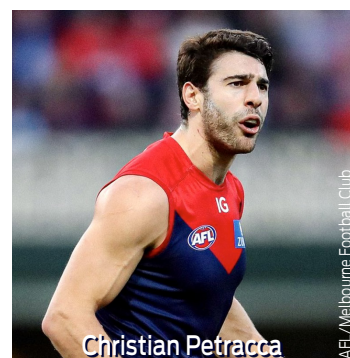
Christian Petracca – All Australian, 2023

Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame:

Icon – Robert ‘Tassie’ Johnson

Legend – Chris Fagan, Fred McGinis

Inductee – ‘Vic’ Cumberland





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IT'S REUNION TIME!

See the attached flyer to book in today:

Thursday, 28 September 2023

Jim Stynes Grill, 6.30 pm

VALE JEFF HILTON

It was with much sadness that everyone involved in the Melbourne Football Club heard of the recent passing of Jeff Hilton. A member of the 1993 Reserves premiership side who originally hailed from Dromana, Jeff played 43 games for Melbourne, as well as six for St Kilda, and was a valued

teammate to all from the 1990s. Part of the side that played deep into the 1994 finals series, as well as a regular selection in 1995, Jeff followed his time at Melbourne with a move to WA side Peel Thunder, before returning east to play with Beaconsfield. We offer our most sincere condolences to Jeff's family and friends, and to all those who knew and will never forget him.

1994 Melbourne Football Team



BACK

Greg Doyle, Brad Campbell, David Neitz, Brad Hall, David Schwarz, Andrew Lamprill, Jeff Hilton, Dean Irving, Daniel Clarke, Paul Prymke, Damien Gaspar

MIDDLE (STANDING)

Andrew Obst, Kevin Dyson, Stephen Tingay, Glenn Lovett, Wayne Lamb, Phil Gilbert, Peter Rohde, Andy Lovell, Neil Balme (Coach), Adrian Campbell, Allen Jakovich, Paul Ridley, Glenn Molloy, Brett Lovett

MIDDLE (SEATED)

Jason Norrish, Jim Stynes (Vice Captain), Garry Lyon (Captain), Martin Pike, Sean Wight, Graeme Yeats, Todd Viney, Paul Hopgood, John Carroll

FRONT

Steven Febey, Chris Sullivan, Darren Kowal, Matthew Febey, Rod Grinter

ABSENT: Michael Prentice, Sean Charles, Ivan Bartul, Trent Ormond-Allen

VALE DICK SEDDON AM

One of the instrumental administrative figures of the Melbourne Football Club in the 1980s, the recent passing of Dick Seddon marks the end of many special achievements. He oversaw the breakaway of the Melbourne Football Club from the MCC in his role as Chief Executive/Executive Director, helping to bring the club into a new age as a commercial

and corporate entity. Later going on to serve as an AFL Commissioner, Dick was always a true Melbourne supporter, and was delighted to see the 2021 premiership, many years after the often lean seasons over which he presided. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his wife Carol, and to his family and friends. He will forever remain integral to the heritage of the Melbourne Football Club.



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