



# In this issue

This issue has a strong pre-Great War theme with all of our articles relating to sports history and publishing from the 1890s through to 1914. Assistant librarian Trevor Ruddell explores the introduction of guernsey numbers into Australian football and the VFL as we celebrate the centenary of the last match to feature numberless players.

MCC archivist Patricia Downs highlights some of the material displayed in the *Hidden History of the MCG* exhibition, currently on display in the National Sports Museum's ISS Exhibitions Gallery. Library volunteer Stephen Flemming details his work indexing the library's rare set of *Snowy Baker's Magazine* and reveals some of the treasures it contains.

The other feature article, *Silent Voices from the Lord's Pavilion*, was written by Dr Howard Hanley, a Marylebone Cricket Club member, currently a research scientist in Research and Graduate Studies at Texas A&M University at Qatar. Howard has resided in Melbourne in the past and visited our library over the summer to research this article.

His initial work had been undertaken with assistance from the Marylebone Cricket Club Library's Neil Robinson and Howard was thrilled to find Neil on secondment here during his visit. Neil, Howard and I spent a few days looking through our library's holdings of newspapers of the period as well as some of the photographs in the Laver collection.

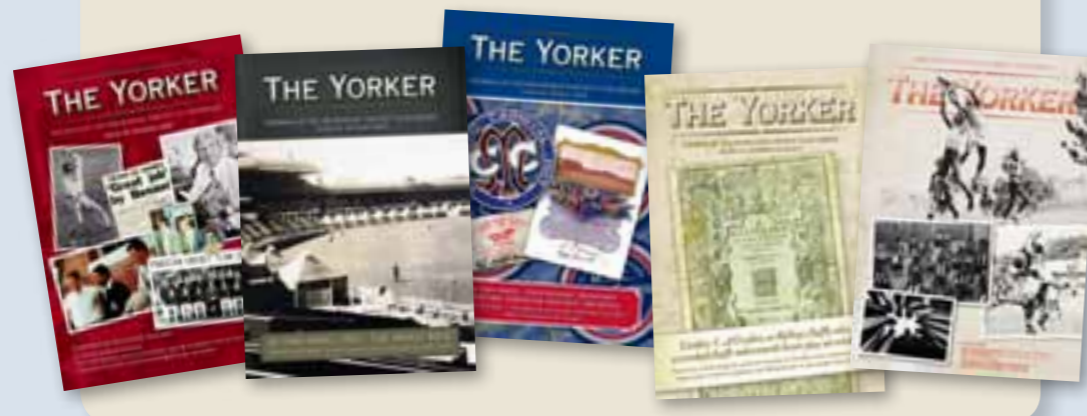
The images we found in our copies of *The Australasian* were missing pieces that helped to solve the mystery for Howard. The resulting article is an example of true collaboration between a researcher and the two MCC Libraries. Accordingly, the article is being jointly published both here and in Marylebone's *MCC Magazine*.

As noted on the back of this issue, we are pleased to announce a new annual subscription to *The Yorker*, commencing with the Summer 2011/2012 issue, due out in early December. To ensure your copy is home delivered, please consider subscribing.

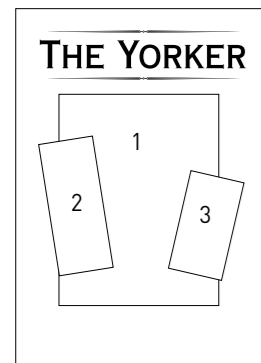
David Studham, Librarian

## STOP PRESS

As this issue was under final preparation it was announced that *The Yorker* has won the International Sports Heritage Association's 2011 communication award for "programs, annual reports and magazines". The award will be made in October at the ISHA annual conference to be held in Canada. *The Yorker* will be competing against all other category winners for the grand prize. Full details will be contained in the Summer edition of *The Yorker*.



### COVER IMAGERY



1. Carlton's Vin Gardiner (left) and captain Fred "Pompey" Elliot (centre) with a mascot prior to the 1911 VFL second semi final at the MCG. Gardiner wore guernsey number 13, Elliot donned number 1, while number 6 is Ernie Jamieson. *Australasian*, September 23, 1911. p.852. [MCC Library Collection]
2. Cover of the program for the first VFL match in which players wore numbers. *Grand Premiership Football Match Collingwood v Fitzroy Official Programme*. May 23, 1903. [From a private collection]
3. The names and numbers of South Melbourne, Fitzroy, Carlton and Geelong as they appeared in the *Football Record* for the first matches of 1912. *Football Record*, No 1 April 27, 1912. pp.18-19. [Australian Football League Collection with kind permission]



# Centenary of numbers

## THE INTRODUCTION OF GUERNSEY NUMBERS TO LEAGUE FOOTBALL

By Trevor Ruddell with the assistance of David Allen

**A century ago, the last Victorian Football League (VFL, now AFL), match took place in which neither side wore numbers. It was the first semi final at the MCG between Collingwood and South Melbourne. Both Carlton and Essendon players carried numbers in the second semi final the following week and players in all VFL/AFL games have worn them since.**

The permanent introduction of numbers had some teething problems. The numbers in 1911 were small and Essendon's were difficult to distinguish. However, the experiment was the catalyst for the numbering of all VFL players in 1912 and was intrinsic to the successful establishment of the *Football Record*. Still, even as early as 1911 numbers had a long history in the game with many precedents and missed opportunities.

Before 1911 numbering Australian rules players was often associated with touring teams. It was a means to assist spectators identify unfamiliar footballers from other cities, and for entrepreneurs to sell this information. In May 1887 two teams from neighbouring colonies, a Tasmanian representative side and the Adelaide Football Club, arrived in Melbourne.

Their presence allowed a sporting goods company owned by Frederick Boyle and David Scott to act on one of Scott's ideas. The company decided to issue each player with a number and sell small one penny cards identifying them.

Scott's numbers debuted at the MCG on Saturday May 28 for Adelaide's game against Carlton. Both sides wore them but the turf was heavy and it was unsuccessful. *The Argus* wrote: "The day was so dull, however, that this experiment hardly received a fair trial."<sup>1</sup>

A *Melbourne Punch* columnist suggested that the numbers' location was more devastating to its initial test. "The breast proved a bad place to have a number placed on a player; you could never decipher it plainly."<sup>2</sup>

Boyle and Scott learned this lesson and rolled out their numbers again two days later on Monday May 30 for a match between Adelaide and Tasmania at the MCG. This time the players did not wear small digits on their left breast, but enlarged numbers on their backs. It was a great success.

Scott had his list printed on satin and framed as a presentation copy for Victoria's Governor, His Excellency Sir Henry Brougham Loch, who attended. "Rover" in *The Australasian* was emphatic in his approval, particularly given his unfamiliarity with the players, writing: "... there being no difficulty in distinguishing it [the number] at a reasonable distance."



Top: A scene from the 1911 VFL grand final. Essendon 5.11 (41) defeated Collingwood 4.11 (35). Number 5 for Collingwood is Paddy Gilchrist and number 15 is Paddy Rowan. *Australasian*, September 23, 1911. p.918. [MCC Library Collection]

The last numberless VFL/AFL match. On September 9, 1911 Collingwood 11.11 (77) defeated South Melbourne 6.11 (47) in the first semi final at the MCG. The western scoreboard is in the background. *Melbourne Punch*, September 14, 1911. p.420. [MCC Library Collection]



He believed wearing numbers should be optional but reported that St Kilda's delegate Mr Stooke, "... wishes the association to pass a bye-law making it compulsory for teams to appear in the field with these numbers affixed."<sup>3</sup>

Journalists liked the numbers but some players objected. *Melbourne Punch* reported: "Some of our footballers are getting rather fastidious. They object to having distinctive badges affixed to their backs."<sup>4</sup> "Goal Post" in *The Sportsman* wrote: "Rumour has it that opposition to the 'numbering' system comes from players who do not wish to be 'spotted' by their match committees. Surely not!"<sup>5</sup>

The previous week "Goal Post" appealed to the footballers' virtues writing: "... Victorian players are rather shy, and prefer to blush unknown rather than have their fame heralded by means of numbers sewn on their backs. Be this as it may, the spectators heartily appreciated the innovation, and there can be no doubt



The ball is airborne after a Melbourne kick at goal on May 28, 1904 at the SCG. Melbourne (dark knickerbockers) defeated Essendon, 9.17 (71) to 6.3 (39). As in 1903, the teams donned numbered back patches. *Australasian*, June 4, 1904. p.1279. (MCC Library Collection)

The first VFL match in Sydney was also the first in which league players wore numbers. Fitzroy 7.20 (62) defeated Collingwood 6.9 (45) at the SCG on May 23, 1903. *Australasian*, May 30, 1903, p.1205. (MCC Library Collection)

players would conduce to the further enjoyment of on lookers if they would consent to this means of ascertaining their identity when on the football field."<sup>6</sup>

The message was carried beyond Victoria and "Roland" in *The Launceston Examiner* stated that the "numbered saddle cloths" would be successful and suggested his local association adopt them, arguing: "... the cost cannot be urged as an obstacle, and the sale of cards during the season would defray all expenses and leave a balance in addition."<sup>7</sup> However, it would be some time before a senior Victorian club wore numbers again.

The first VFL match that used numbers also involved two teams playing in a foreign city, although this time it was two Melbourne clubs playing in Sydney. In 1903 the New South Wales Football League was established in the city to revive Australian Rules there, the previous competition having dissolved a number of years earlier.

To help promote the code, two of the VFL's strongest clubs, Fitzroy and Collingwood, travelled at their own expense to the Harbour City and played a premiership match at the SCG on May 23. The previously unbeaten clubs drew about 20,000 curious spectators and a one-penny program that included the code's laws and team lists was published.

This booklet identified the numbers of the players and their positions for the unfamiliar crowd.<sup>8</sup> The following year, Melbourne and Essendon also played in Sydney for premiership points and both teams also donned back patches with numbers to identify the players.

Other competitions during the Edwardian era trialled numbers as well. A representative match between the Victorian Football Association (VFA) and South Australia at Richmond's Punt Road Oval in June 1905 used them. The *Melbourne Argus'* Donald McDonald commented that although the black and white numbers contrasted well with the royal blue Victorian jumpers, they were "jumbled up and lost on the black and white stripes of the South Australians."<sup>9</sup>



A numbered Port Melbourne plays the unnumbered Richmond in a VFA match at the Punt Road Oval on August 19, 1905. Richmond 5.11 (41) defeated Port 6.2 (38). *Melbourne Punch*, August 24, 1905. p.260. (MCC Library Collection)

The first senior Melbourne club to habitually wear numbers as part of its uniform was the VFA's Port Melbourne in 1905.<sup>10</sup> There are examples of other clubs who unilaterally decided to wear numbers while opposing teams in the same competition played without numbers. During May 1912 Subiaco pioneered numbers in Western Australia and photos of the era show numbered Subiaco footballers playing against unnumbered opponents.<sup>11</sup>

However, the VFL prevented its clubs undertaking similar initiatives. On July 14, 1905 the VFL's Melbourne Football Club applied for permission to wear numbers on their backs in premiership matches but after "some discussion" by league delegates the motion was put and lost.<sup>12</sup> It seems many delegates believed that it would disfigure the uniforms and "players had a strong objection to the scheme."<sup>13</sup>



The VFA (sash) and South Australia (stripes) both wore numbers for their interstate match at Richmond's Punt Road Oval on June 26, 1905. South Australia 8.14 (62) defeated the VFA 6.19 (55). *Melbourne Punch*, June 29, 1905. p.812. (MCC Library Collection)

In some regions numbers were well established before 1911. On June 5, 1909 the Hobart-based Tasmanian Football League (TFL) decided that all players should be numbered in club and representative matches.<sup>14</sup>

All state teams wore numbers at the second Australasian Football Council Carnival in Adelaide in early August 1911. The tournament included teams from Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales, Western Australia and Victoria (VFL). This appeared to be successful, although it seemed to reduce established football personalities to a number.

The reporter for the *Adelaide Advertiser* noted that spectators who were unfamiliar with the players appreciated the numbers, but he thought it odd hearing references to "Number ten" instead of "Good old Tom Leahy," and "Number fourteen" for "that popular idol Oliver".<sup>15</sup> VFL football in Victoria was still free of numbers but it would only be a little over a month before that changed.



A scene from the opening game of the Australasian Football Carnival played on August 2, 1911 at the Adelaide Oval. New South Wales (royal blue) wore back patches with dark numbers while Victoria (navy with a white V) used white numbers. Victoria won 13.18 (96) to 11.6 (72). *Australasian*, August 12, 1911. p.439. (MCC Library Collection)

## ODD NUMBERS

**Irregular Numbers** Player numbers have been altered occasionally when unauthorised publications breached the *Football Record's* exclusive right to print them. This caused the change in guernsey numbers for the 1922 finals series. (*Football Record*, Vol. 11 No. 24, October 7, 1922. p.3.)

Such alterations were particularly prevalent in the 1910s. In 1914 all Geelong's numbers except Alex Eason's (26) were changed one week prior to their finals campaign. (*Football Record*, Vol. 3 No. 20, August 29, 1914. p.27. Col Hutchinson, *Cat's Tales: The Geelong Football Club 1897-1983*, The Geelong Advertiser, Geelong, 1984. p.41.)

Possibly the most dramatic example was for the 1958 VFL grand final. The *Melbourne Sun* challenged the *Football Record's* exclusive right to publish player numbers and printed each footballer's usual number on the morning of the match.

However, to protect the *Football Record* the league forced the Melbourne and Collingwood players to change their guernseys before the game – except Collingwood's Ray Gabelich who wore his usual number 13 because his size prevented a suitable replacement.

The *Football Record* still carried the old numbers and the crowd was advised of the new "official" ones through the MCG's scoreboard and public announcement system prior to the game. (*Football Record*, Vol. 40 No. 35, September 20, 1958. p.3.)

Eight years later, during the 1965 final series, some players' numbers were changed after a publication went to press listing the numbers for the four qualifying clubs. The league announced that alterations were to be made, but the new numbers were leaked and printed on sheets that were distributed freely to patrons before the second semi final. (*Football Record*, Vol. 54 No. 30, September 18, 1965. pp.1-2.)

**Leading Numbers** From 1936 to 1978 Collingwood's captain received guernsey number 1 and his vice-captain was allocated number 2. The tradition began during Harry Collier's term and ended in 1979 when Ray Shaw replaced Len Thomson as captain but retained his number 23 jumper.

Richmond's number 17 guernsey has been reserved for its captain since 2004 and the number the captain wore previously is retired during his term. The tradition was established as a tribute to Jack "Captain Blood" Dyer who wore number 17 throughout his career.

He played with Richmond from 1931-49 and in 312 games he captained the Tigers 160 times. Dyer passed away on August 23, 2003 and the decision to honour him was made in November that year. The first Tiger captain to inherit the number under this system was Wayne Campbell.



A scene from the 1911 VFL second semi final. Essendon 9.15 (69) defeated Carlton 6.12 (48). The Blues' number 13 (Vin Gardiner) is clearly distinguishable. The western scoreboard in the background carries the names and numbers of the Essendon team. *Australasian*, September 23, 1911. p.852. (MCC Library Collection)

The numberless VFL first semi final match had already been played and won by Collingwood when, on September 13, 1911, league delegates decided to accept the recommendation of its Umpires and Permits Committee and use numbers for the remaining finals.<sup>16</sup>

Three days later, numbers provided by the league graced the backs of the Essendon and Carlton sides as they entered the field for the VFL's second semi final. The *Hobart Mercury*, referring to this innovation, commented: "Tasmania leads Victoria in some things in football."<sup>17</sup>

The VFL asked the MCC to display the players' names on the MCG's two scoreboards, with one dedicated to each team. Although the system was welcomed, like Boyle and Scott's 1887 initiative, it was

not a pronounced success. The numbers were small and while Carlton's white ones were quite visible, Essendon's red digits were hard to distinguish on their dark guernseys.

*Argus* columnist Donald McDonald called it "an excellent idea badly carried out." That Essendon's red number "... may have been artistic, was useless excepting at short range."<sup>18</sup> "Follower" for *The Age* saw merit in the numbering of players and opined: "The system of numbering the players was much approved by the spectators, and it might well be practised in all matches of importance throughout each season, as well as in finals and semi finals."<sup>19</sup>

Essendon won the semi final and faced Collingwood wearing black numbers on white patches the following week in the grand final. Photographs of the match are curious as numbered

Collingwood players appear alongside unnumbered teammates.

An inability to distinguish Essendon's numbers in photos may be excused because of their red hue, but this cannot be the case with Collingwood. However, it may be explained by a guernsey change at half time. A majority of Collingwood footballers began in short-sleeved jerseys, but the first two quarters of the match were beset by rain and after half time many changed into long-sleeved woollen jumpers.<sup>20</sup>

Prior to 1912 the numbering of VFL players was inconsistent and shambolic. But the concept of numbering all players had broad approval and on April 24, 1912, days before the opening of the new season, the league decided to make numbers compulsory and designed them for each club.



A scene from the 1911 VFL grand final. Collingwood's number 18, Jim Sadler, waits behind an unnumbered Collingwood player. *Melbourne Punch*, September 28, 1911. p.502. (MCC Library Collection)



Collingwood and Essendon players contest a throw-in during the 1911 VFL grand final. Collingwood's number 22, Percy Wilson, awaits the drop of the ball. The eastern scoreboard in the background listed the names and numbers of the Collingwood side. *Melbourne Punch*, September 28, 1911. p.502. (MCC Library Collection)

## ODD NUMBERS

**Muddled Numbers** Soon after numbers were made mandatory by the league, it was reported that players would change wet guernseys for dry ones at half time and reappear with another player's number or no number at all. Such events became very rare by the First World War and although similar incidents may have happened on occasion many were not recorded for posterity.

**Duplicate Numbers** Two players wore the same number in a match on July 20, 1940. Collingwood's Albert Pannam spilt tea over his kit containing his number 20 guernsey while travelling to Geelong for a game against the Cats. Caught without a replacement, he borrowed Magpie teammate Harry Powell's spare and therefore both men played the match in number 22 jumpers with the umpire's consent.

In 1990 there was a similar occurrence at Geelong. North Melbourne's Brett Allison changed from his usual long-sleeved number 33 into a sleeveless 32 jumper during the opening quarter against the Cats. However, Shaun Smith was already wearing the number and it was a short while before the mistake was corrected.

**Missing Numbers** Geelong's Russell Renfrey had his number ripped from his back in two consecutive matches in July 1956. Fred Wooller had his number torn from his guernsey during the first half of Geelong's game against Carlton at Princes Park in Round 1, 1962. Despite an opportunity to change his guernsey at half time Wooller played the remainder of the match without a number. (Col Hutchinson, *Cat's Tales: The Geelong Football Club 1897-1983*. The Geelong Advertiser, Geelong, 1984. pp.78, 82.)

**Small Numbers** In 1977-78 Geelong wore small numbers on the front right leg of their shorts – white digits on navy shorts for home matches and navy on white for away matches.

A distinctive feature of state league football in Western Australia since the 1970s is small numbers on players' chests in addition to large numbers on their backs. It was pioneered by Claremont in 1976 who donned such numbers on their right breast. The design was also used by the 1977 Western Australian interstate teams, including the side that defeated Victoria in the inaugural state of origin match at Subiaco Oval.

In 1982 all the other Western Australian Football League (WAFL) clubs began using chest numbers too. The small number was shed by some clubs during the early 1990s. Claremont and West Perth were the first to drop them in 1990 and other teams followed suit.

It has since been reinstated by these clubs and all WAFL clubs currently wear the small additional numbers. Small numbers on player's chests have graced the state teams at the Under 18 National Championships since 1999 and TAC Cup Under 18 teams in Victoria since 2006.

White numbers were to be worn by Carlton, Essendon, Fitzroy and Melbourne, while Richmond, St Kilda and University were to don white numbers on a black "ground" (patch). It was decided that Collingwood would wear black numbers on a white ground, Geelong red numbers, and South Melbourne red on a white ground. It was the clubs' responsibility to allot a number to each player and register it with the league.<sup>21</sup>

The meeting also determined that the digits would be large – 12 inches high and one and a half inches thick. Uniformity of the numbers' design was likely when the production was entrusted to one supplier. The league accepted advertising agent Alfred Wood's offer to supply them all "... in return for the right of publication of numbers in Football Record for one year."<sup>22</sup>

The idea of publishing the *Football Record*, a matchday program to sell at league venues, apparently originated with *Melbourne Herald* columnist Tom Kelynack. He was inspired by the numbering system used during the 1911 finals and the manner of identifying numbered horses at race meetings with cards.

Kelynack approached George Cathie of the printing company Wilke, Mitchell & Co. who thought of using a booklet, not cards. Therefore, in 1912 – with Wood as publisher and Wilke, Mitchell & Co. as printer – the *Football Record* was born.<sup>23</sup> The first issue was released on April 27, 1912 and it celebrated the numbering of players and its exclusive right to publish them:

"An innovation this year on the part of the League will meet with favour. Players are to wear numbers conspicuously on each man's back. This will facilitate the identification of the players by the general public, and to know who's who when one is watching the game is to add to the interest of the proceedings. The "Record" has secured sole right to the publication of the numbers, and this will be a feature of these pages, which will be appreciated by readers who for one penny each Saturday will be able to glean the



Collingwood played Essendon early in the 1912 season at Victoria Park. Unlike the numbers used in the previous year's grand final, they are large and clear. Collingwood's Jim Sharp wears number 22, while Essendon's George McLeod (14) and Jack Kirby (11) are at the back of the pack. *Australasian*, May 11, 1912. p.v. (MCC Library Collection)

latest news, as well as the "correct colours" so to speak."<sup>24</sup>

The decision to number all players clearly was likely to be popular. Kelynack commented: "A big percentage of the patrons who attend matches each week don't know a big percentage of players ... [and] this ready means of recognition will like a newly-started country newspaper fill a long felt want."<sup>25</sup>

The *Football Record* was rapidly established in football's culture and after its first year the program's editorial was bullish. "The public looked for what they now call 'The Little Blue Book' Saturday after Saturday, and the pleasure of the afternoon was increased when the play started by their being able to recognise the different players on consulting numbers in the book."<sup>26</sup>

The numbers were not just for fans' enjoyment and to assist the sale of programs. They were also associated with policing the game. Another innovation in 1912 was the introduction of on-field stewards to watch for foul play. "Raggles" for *Melbourne Punch* reported the VFL was hopeful that the numbers would help lessen on-field violence and make rogues easily identifiable, adding: "...conscience (another name for punishment) doth make cowards of us all."<sup>27</sup>

Following the first match of the season the *Geelong Advertiser* commented: "The red figures on the blue and white jerseys of Geelong showed out clearly but Carlton's numbers were even more distinct."<sup>28</sup>

*Argus* columnist Donald McDonald was also favourable but cautious: "As to the advantage of having conspicuous numbers upon the backs of the players there can be no two opinions. If it were only to lessen the amount of solid falsehood heard in the past during the investigation of charges of rough play, it would be an advantage. With fine weather and the clean grounds on the opening day the numbers were clearly seen – they may be of less service when football, as often happens, is being played in the mud."<sup>29</sup>

Not all team lists were included in the *Football Record's* inaugural issue. Essendon's players were not going to learn of their number until the afternoon of the opening match. However, the program promised all teams would be included in the next edition and thanked the clubs' secretaries for their co-operation.<sup>30</sup>

At the start of 1912, some clubs generally allocated numbers according to where a player's surname fell alphabetically. A name beginning with an early letter in the alphabet tended to be (but not always) given a low number. Other clubs determined numbers by drawing lots. The *Football Record* noted that many players were superstitious and some club secretaries found it hard to allocate number 13, "the devil's number".<sup>31</sup>

However, numbers changed rapidly, even weekly, messing up the alphabetical systems. The *Football Record* zealously guarded its right to publish player numbers and footballers were instructed to wear alternatives as need arose. Early volumes of the program reminded patrons regularly that numbers listed the previous weekend may not be this week's numbers.



Issue No. 1 April 27, 1912 of the *Football Record*. Its success was partly due to its exclusive right to publish guernsey numbers. In 1999 it changed its name to the *AFL Record* and is the official program of the AFL. *Football Record*, No1 April 27, 1912. (Australian Football League Collection with kind permission)

A 1913 editorial stated emphatically: "Last season some minor publications issued lists of players with numbers, but the public was at a loss to recognise players from such numbers ... the numbers are to be altered frequently in order to defeat the objects of anyone unscrupulous enough to copy them from the "Record," which bought and paid for the right."<sup>32</sup>

The *Football Record* was not just frustrated by rival publishers but also by the quirks and comforts of footballers. On June 7, 1913 it noted that some players changed their jumpers for dry ones at half time and returned with numbers similar to teammates or with no number on their guernsey at all.<sup>33</sup>

However, numbers became identified with particular footballers and evolved rapidly beyond a simple means of identification. Some guernseys are famous as symbols of champion players such as Ron Barassi's number 31 at Melbourne, and children have donned replica guernseys emblazoned with their favourite player's number for decades.

## ODD NUMBERS

**Designer Numbers** Prior the 1980s, the numbers of VFL/AFL clubs were solid and monochrome with the only major design distinctions being whether or not they were on a back patch and their colour. In 1981-82 St Kilda used a thin white number surrounded by a white line on black. In 1983 the Saints returned to the solid white digits they had used previously.

The first multi-coloured number in the AFL was unveiled by the Brisbane Bears in 1992. That year the club played in a new guernsey design that featured a gold V outlined in white on a maroon ground. The Bears' numbers mimicked this, being primarily gold but bordered by white.

When the Bears merged with Fitzroy in 1997 to form the Brisbane Lions, the union retained the Bears' number design. West Coast copied this design in 1995 and Adelaide in 1996. Since then a number of clubs have used outlined numbers of varying colour combinations. All AFL numbers are now technically multi-coloured after AFL trademarks were added to the base of each digit in 2007.

**High Numbers** According to the *Richmond Guardian* on July 11, 1925, Richmond's Ernie "Fishy" Taylor donned number 82 against North Melbourne at Arden Street. He was a late inclusion for the match and it was his first since the previous year's finals series. Taylor had used number 7 previously but this was allocated to Stan Yates.

The highest verified number worn in a VFL/AFL match is 65 by Collingwood's Andrew Witts in 1985. He wore it on debut at Victoria Park in Round 15 on Saturday July 6 against Essendon, but for the following week Witts was given a more respectable number 49 guernsey.

However, possibly the highest number used in senior football is 100. This was donned by Mal Brown, Claremont's flamboyant captain-coach in the Western Australian National Football League (WANFL), on June 21, 1975.

The mid-season match was Brown's first that year, and teammate Kevin Worthington commented: "Brownie is so overweight he could easily add another nought to his back and make it 1000." (Scott Nicholls, "Brown's Back" in *Inside Football* June 28, 1975. p.2.) After another week in 100, Brown used the number 2 jumper.

**Numerous Numbers** Jack Regan wore 11 different numbers during his time at Collingwood from 1930-41, 1943 and 1946. No other player in VFL/AFL history is known to have donned such a variety. From 1912 to 1949 Collingwood used an alphabetical system to allocate numbers at the start of each season and from 1936 the captain and vice-captain received numbers 1 and 2 respectively.

With Collingwood's list changing yearly, Regan's name late in the alphabet and his short stints as captain and vice-captain, his number changed regularly. Regan's guernsey numbers were: 1930-31 (27), 1932 (32), 1933 (20), 1934 (24), 1935 (25), 1936 (16), 1937 (22), 1938 and 1939 (18), 1940 (23), 1941 and 1943 (1) and 1946 (2).

Therefore, it stands out when leading footballers play in anything but their usual guernsey, such as when North Melbourne's Barry Cable carried number 44 in the 1975 grand final instead of 9. Numbers accrue history and players are reminded of past greats who wore their guernsey through jumper presentation ceremonies and lists on their lockers.

Guernseys at clubs that have been inherited by a string of champions have developed a mythical status, like number 23 at Hawthorn or 5 at Geelong. The Cats' number 26 is often presented to a high marking forward, and even a father-son combination, Jack and Tom Hawkins, have carried it.

Numbers are regularly passed down in this manner, another famous father-son example being Sergio and Stephen Silvagni's number 1 Carlton jumper.<sup>34</sup>

Other numbers hold an air of pathos and have been "retired" by clubs for a period. Hawthorn rover Peter Crimmins died of cancer soon after the Hawks won the 1976 grand final and his number 5 guernsey was "retired" until 1995. Andy Collins was offered the jumper when it became clear Crimmins' boys would not play league football. Collins noted: "This was the greatest honour the club and the Crimmins family could give me."<sup>35</sup>

After the large format numbers were rolled out by the league in 1912, *Melbourne Punch's* "Raggles" rejoiced: "On all hands the innovation was hailed with delight."<sup>36</sup> But today numbers are more than a delight or a way to identify players. Guernsey numbers are full of meaning and their stories have become an important part of football lore.

**Trevor Ruddell is the MCC assistant librarian. David Allen is a MCC library volunteer.**

**We thank Michael Coligan, Paul Daffey, Anne Heywood, Col Hutchinson, Michael Roberts, Cameron Sinclair, Jed Smith and Ken Williams for their input into this article.**

The Claremont team list from the Western Australian Football Budget for June 21, 1975. Claremont's captain-coach Mal Brown is allocated the number 100 guernsey. *Football Budget: The Official Publication of the Western Australian National Football League Inc.* Vol. 40 No. 14, June 21, 1975. p.23. (MCC Library Collection)

CLAREMONT		G	B
(Dark Blue & Gold)			
Coach: Mal Brown			
1—Murray, J.			
4—Cattalini, F.			
6—Lewis, J. (VC)			
7—Bell, D.			
8—Viney, K.			
9—Thomas, J.			
10—Salomons, N.			
11—Bridgwood, J.			
12—Malcolm, K.			
17—Allford, G.			
20—Hartfield, B.			
21—Carlson, M.			
23—Melville, R.			
25—Worthington, K.			
27—Spry, J.			
28—Trew, K.			
29—Ditchburn, R.			
37—Uncle, N.			
39—Watson, R.			
44—Gooding, D.			
46—Woolley, F.			
50—Melville, V.			
100—Brown, M.			

## Endnotes:

- The Argus*, May 30, 1887. p.10.
- Melbourne Punch*, June 2, 1887. p.261.
- "Rover", *The Australasian*, June 4, 1887. p.1078.
- Melbourne Punch*, June 9, 1887. p.273.
- "Goal Post", *The Sportsman*, June 15, 1887. p.2.
- "Goal Post", *The Sportsman*, June 8, 1887. p.2.
- "Roland", "Football Notes", *Launceston Examiner*, June 10, 1887. p.3
- Grand Premiership Football Match Collingwood v Fitzroy Official Programme*. May 23, 1903. np. On August 15, 1903 the first trans-Tasman rugby Test match was played at the SCG with both the Australian and New Zealand teams wearing numbers. A programme for the Test was created that identified player, position, and number. Bob Howitt and Dianne Haworth. *All Black Magic: 100 Years of New Zealand Test Rugby*, Harper Sports, Auckland, 2003. pp.14-17.
- "Observer" (Donald McDonald), *The Argus*, June 26, 1905. p.9. Tom Kelynack commented that when the VFA made numbers mandatory in 1912 they referred to the "great success" of its use in the 1905 interstate match. Kelynack pondered: "The strange thing is that it has not been brought into vogue long ago by both League and Association." "Kicker" (Tom Kelynack), *Herald*, April 26, 1912. p.2.
- On April 19, 1912 the VFA made player numbers mandatory and also decided that: "the numbers be provided by the Assn, size 10 inches, on calico a foot square." *Victorian Football Association Minute Book 1911-1919*, April 19, 1912. p.50. (Melbourne Cricket Club Library. No. 34939) However, there is a dubious claim that the VFA introduced numbering in 1907. Others have claimed that, besides Port Melbourne in 1905, numbers were used by "several" VFA teams in 1910, 1911, and 1912. I am yet to find evidence to support the 1907, 1910 and 1911 claims. Marc Fiddian, *The VFA: A History of the Victorian Football Association 1877-1995*, s.n., Melbourne, 2004. p.25. Norm Sowden, "The Numbers Game" in *The Australian Footballer*, No.5, Australian National Junior Football Council, Melbourne, 1980-81. in Ken Piesse, *Great Australian Football Stories*, Five Mile Press, Scoresby, 2011. pp.213-214.
- Ken Spillman. *Diehards: The Story of the Subiaco Football Club 1896-1945*, Subiaco Football Club, Subiaco, 1998. pp.43, 56.
- Victorian Football League Minute Book 1903-1908*, July 14, 1905. p.221. The entry reads: "Mr Norcott [Melbourne's delegate] moved and Mr Copeland [Collingwood's delegate] seconded that permission be granted to allow numbers to be worn on back of players of the Melbourne team in premiership matches. After some discussion the motion was put and lost."
- The Argus*, July 15, 1905. p.17.
- Hobart Mercury*, June 7, 1909. p.8. Earlier in 1909 an anonymous letter-writer to the *Mercury* suggested: "... teams that play on the top cricket ground be numbered on the back, the number to correspond to that on a card which is handed to all that pass through the gates." "Sport", *Hobart Mercury*, March 12, 1909. p.7. In August 1911 player numbers for a match between Launceston's Northern Tasmanian Football Association and the North West Football Union at Devonport were published in the local press. *North West Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, August 4, 1911. p.2.
- "The People's Game: Fine Carnival Football" in *Adelaide Advertiser*, August 7, 1911. p.7. The official souvenir of the carnival did not include lists of player's numbers. *Souvenir of Australian Football Carnival Adelaide August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 1911*, Australasian Football Council, Adelaide, 1911. Numbers were used in South Australian club games during the 1912 finals series and the team lists were published on the morning of each match in the *Adelaide Advertiser*. In 1913 numbers became mandatory for all South Australian league games. The *South Australian Football Budget*, the Adelaide equivalent of the *Football Record*, was first published on May 2, 1914. *Adelaide Advertiser*, September 4, 1912. p.16. *Adelaide Advertiser*, April 8, 1913. p.13. Bernard Whimpress, *The South Australian Football Story*, South Australian National Football League, West Lakes, 1983. p.24.
- Victorian Football League Minute Book 1908-1912*, September 13, 1911. p.390.
- Hobart Mercury*, September 18, 1911. p.7.
- "Observer" (Donald McDonald), *The Argus*, September 18, 1911. p.6.
- "Follower", *The Age*, September 18, 1911.
- The Age*, September 25, 1911. *Referee*, September 27, 1911. p.12.
- Victorian Football League Minute Book 1908-1912*, April 24, 1912. p.428-429.
- Victorian Football League Minute Book 1908-1912*, April 24, 1912. p.428-429. Wood had gained this right before the VFL ratified it on April 24, 1912. On April 20 a possibly envious *Richmond Guardian* columnist noted: "Alfred Wood has secured the right from the league to publish programmes with the names and numbers of the players, which is a fine thing - for Alfred Wood." The *Richmond Guardian* was a publication that printed numbers in 1912 breaching the *Football Record's* right.
- Michael Lovett, "A Special Place in History" in *AFL Record*, Round 5, April 25-28, 2002. pp.14-15. According to P.T. Kelynack, as related to Percy Page: "...his father [Tom Kelynack] first thought of the idea of numbering players' jerseys, and printing and selling cards with the names and numbers thereon. The numbering of horses' saddle cloths had prompted the thought. The League's approval of the idea was sought and obtained by his father. He then approached Mr. George Cathie, associated with the printing firm of Wilke, Mitchell, to print the cards, eventually inviting Mr. Cathie to enter into the venture on a 50/50 basis. He further said the idea of a printed booklet, in lieu of cards, was Mr. Cathie's, who advised his father that the additional cost would be met from advertising." Percy Page, *Transcript of Address made to the Victorian Football League by Life Member, Mr. P. Page, on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1957*. [Chadwick Collection: MCC Library No. 31365]

- Football Record*, No.1. April 27, 1912. p.6.
- "Kicker" (Tom Kelynack), *Herald*, April 19, 1912. p.2.
- Football Record*, No.1. April 26, 1913. p.3. There was a great demand for knowing the numbers of new players at the start of the 1914 season. An "enterprising spectator" at St Kilda's opening game against Richmond on April 25, bought all the *Football Records* before the match at the recommended price of one penny each to sell inside the ground for threepence. *Football Record*, [Vol.3 No.2], May 2, 1914. p.28.
- "Raggles", *Melbourne Punch*, May 2, 1912. p.704.
- Col Hutchinson, *Cat's Tales: The Geelong Football Club 1897-1983*. The Geelong Advertiser, Geelong, 1984. p.39.
- "Observer" (Donald McDonald), *The Argus*, April 29, 1912. p.11.
- Football Record*, No.1. April 27, 1912. pp.16, 26, 29.
- Football Record*, No.2. May 4, 1912. p.16.
- Football Record*, No.2. May 3, 1913. p.3. For example Richmond had five guernsey changes/swaps listed in consecutive issues of the *Football Record* in May 1913. *Football Record*, No.3. May 10, 1913. p.18. *Football Record*, No.4. May 17, 1913. p.17. The *Football Record* also drew patrons' attention to such changes regularly, nominating the teams affected and reminding them: "These changes will be made frequently, and will only appear in the officially recognised organ, the 'Football Record,' which holds the sole right from the League for their publication." *Football Record*, No.4. May 10, 1913. p.9.
- Football Record*, No.7. June 7, 1913. p.5.
- Some other number oddities and curios were listed by Paul Daffey, "The Ten Best Football Guernsey Number Oddities" in *Sunday Age*, April 3, 2005.
- Ron Carter, "Non-stop Collins" in *Football Record*, Vol. 83. No.18, July 22, 23, 24, 1994. p.13
- "Raggles", *Melbourne Punch*, May 2, 1912. p.704.



Bill Eason, Victorian (VFL) captain for the 1911 Australasian Football Carnival in Adelaide. *Australasian*, August 12, 1911. p.439. (MCC Library Collection)

# Hidden History UNVEILED

By Patricia Downs, with assistance from Helen Walpole

*Hidden History of the MCG* is a new exhibition presented by the National Sports Museum at the MCG. On display you will see many treasures from the collections of the Melbourne Cricket Club. The exhibition reveals a fascinating behind-the-scenes history of this vibrant stadium spotlighting the contributions of those who have lived, worked and played at the People's Ground.

The exhibition introduces us to early groundskeepers and scoreboard operators, to security staff and first aid volunteers, athletes and caterers. It uncovers stories never told before, acknowledging forgotten people and shining a light on a past that makes us smile, reflect and wonder.

*Hidden History of the MCG* draws its material from the ground's vast collections of museum artefacts. Research expertise and identification of stunning imagery has been contributed by the MCC Library. The MCC Archives has supplied primary source material from its burgeoning treasure trove of documents, letters and exquisite receipts giving illuminating historical detail for unexpected and often quirky stories.

MCC Archives has been working assiduously for the past two years rediscovering archival treasures which have been locked away for decades. One eye-catching archival item on display in the *Hidden History* exhibition is this 1911 receipt for the purchase by the club of a "new fangled" ride-on lawn mower for the sum of £258-10-0.

During the early days of the club the ground had been maintained by hand and scythe which was hard, back-breaking, labour-intensive work. This new mechanical equipment would have been greeted with eager speculation. Suppliers of the day competed to sell their new and often innovative wares. Brochures and flyers advertising new goods for sale – including a concrete roller that could be filled with water to make it heavier – are preserved in MCC Archives.

The ground has always been the focus of the club's endeavours and MCC Archives has a wealth of primary-source material to evidence the dedication of all who have cared for the ground. In our times of high-tech, streamlined operations, such documents prompt speculation on the ingenuity of our forebears and the times in which they lived.

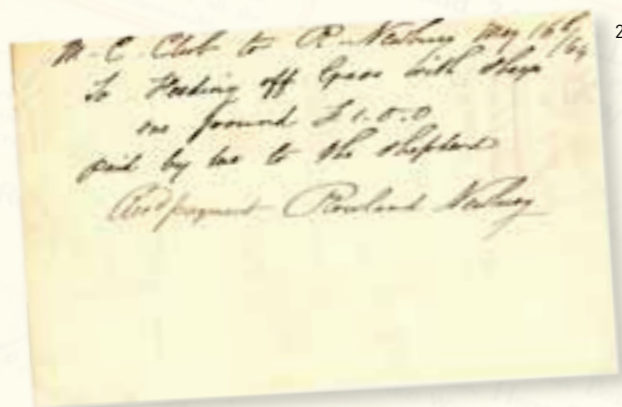
When the first match was played on the site of the present Melbourne Cricket Ground on September 30, 1854, its appearance was very different to today's manicured sward. In 1903 Harry Hillard remembered it vividly: "there was no grass on it; iron hurdles were placed round the ground to keep out the non-playing portion of the public." Alf Batchelder in *Pavilions in the Park* comments that cattle, sheep and "erratic" goats were a common sight eating the grass and lying on the wicket.<sup>1</sup>

Rowland Newbury, the MCC Pavilion keeper, who you will see featured in the *Hidden History of the MCG* exhibition, paid shepherds to graze their sheep on the ground. It was the most inexpensive means of clipping the grass in 1864 and saved some arduous work.

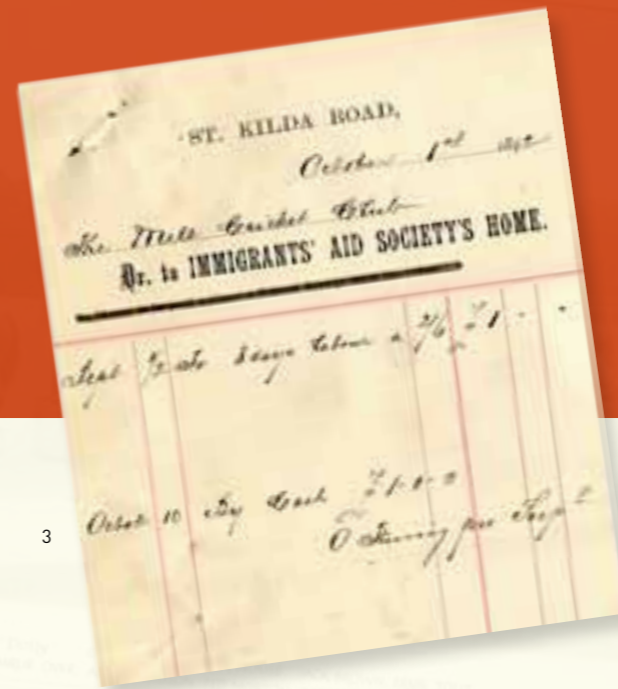
Sometimes impoverished men from the Immigrants' Aid Society's Home were paid to weed the grass or pick up stones at the various club grounds. "Dear Sir," wrote Major Ben



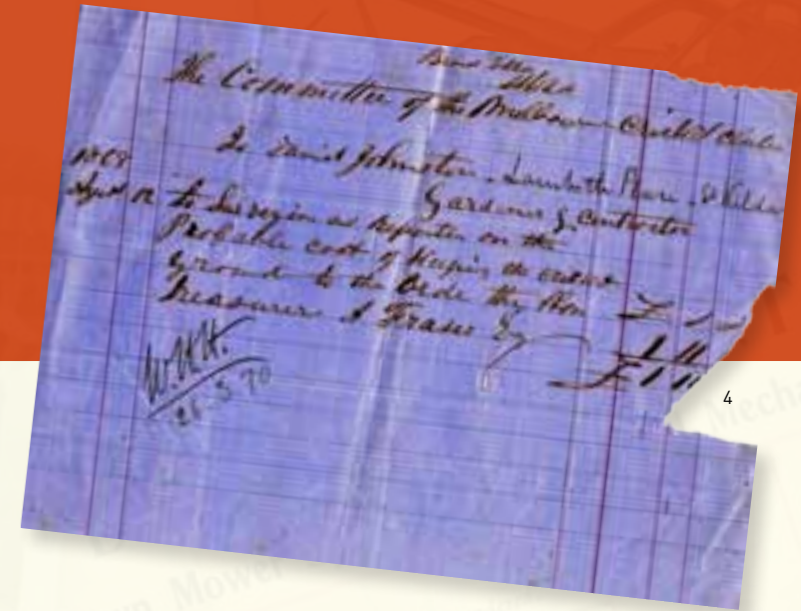
1. Receipt, Shank's ride-on mower, 1911. (MCC Archives, early financial papers)



2. Receipt from the MCC to the Pavilion Keeper, Rowland Newbury, being shepherd's fees for grazing his sheep on the ground, 16 May 1864. (MCC Archives, early financial papers)



3. Receipt, Immigrants' Aid Society's Home, 1892, (MCC Archives, early financial papers)



4. Receipt, Fees for advice on keeping the cricket ground, 1868, (MCC Archives, early financial papers)

5. Melbourne Cricket Ground Staff, 1920, (MCC Museum, M122)

6. Insurance receipt, Live Stock, 1893, (MCC Archives, early financial papers)



5



6

Wardill, the MCC honorary secretary, "Will you please send 10 good men for weeding the MCC ground tomorrow, Friday 6 September 1889."<sup>2</sup> The Immigrants' Aid Society's Home cared for "houseless and destitute persons" providing relief and shelter for newly arrived immigrants and the Melbourne Cricket Club provided these men with work for many years.

Many Melbourne Cricket Club receipts in the early days are simple handwritten pieces of roughly torn paper made out to casual employees, some of whom carried out several duties for the club from bowling to the members ("talent money") to painting and digging trenches for night soil to carrying out odd jobs. Some regularly occurring names are Sam Cosstick, Jerry Bryant and Rowland Newbury.

The services of more specialised people were also sought. The receipt, above, dated August 12, 1868, made out to David Johnston, gardener and contractor of Lambeth Place, St Kilda, states: "To surveying and reporting on the probable cost of keeping the cricket ground to the order the Hon Treasurer, A Fraser, Esq."

A body of men was employed permanently at the club for many years. A photograph featuring an MCC Museum artefact depicts some of those forgotten faces. One long-standing employee was Bert Luttrell, curator of the ground for many years, standing on the extreme right. The staff members in this image are pictured with Dolly, a favourite workhorse. You will see this image on permanent display in the MCG-focused "Peoples Ground" gallery of the National Sports Museum.

Horses have always had a special place at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. In the early days, draughthorses contributed much to the history and culture of the MCG. Dolly was one of many.

Horses were also important members of the club during the tenure of MCC secretary, Major Ben Wardill, and were insured by the Australasian Mutual Live Stock Insurance Society.

On display in the *Hidden History of the MCG* exhibition is an 1894 receipt from MCC Archives for insuring two MCC workhorses who pulled the carts on the ground. They were



7 named after the legendary Melbourne Cup winner Carbine, who was also affectionately known as "Old Jack" for his cheeky personality. A nice touch is that Major Wardill insured Jack and Carbine from August 1, 1893 to August 1, 1894, the official birthday for thoroughbred horses in Australia.

The horses "employed" by the club wore custom-made leather boots to protect the hallowed turf from being damaged by the horses' hooves. One of these boots has survived both the use and the years. It belonged to Dolly and is on display in the National Sports Museum.

Also displayed in the exhibition is a receipt preserved in MCC Archives dated October 16, 1919 and signed by Thomas W. Sherrin of Wellington Street, Collingwood, acknowledging the club's £1-5-6 payment for repairs to a set of horse boots.

The *Hidden History of the MCG* details the 1907/08 visit by the Bau Island Fijian Cricket XI captained by Prince Ratu Penaia Kadavulevu. The members of the team had many distinctive nicknames including Punch, Ping-Pong, Friday, Bunny, The Wild Man, King Billy, Wee McGregor, Tit Willow, Flibbertigibbet and Cockroach<sup>3</sup>.

The Fijian Cricket Team played 26 matches over four months against top Australian state sides including Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales at the best cricket grounds in Australia including the Sydney Cricket Ground, the MCG and the Adelaide Oval, drawing packed-out crowds in excess of 10,000 because of their exciting brand of big-hitting cricket.

Other first visits to the MCG include Australia's first international lacrosse match against Canada played in 1907 before a crowd of 30,000. In 1959 another first was the visit of a combined US lacrosse team from Virginia and Washington Lee universities. There had been a growing interest in Australian sport following the very successful 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games and the occasion was seized on as an opportunity to build our Australian game. The event precipitated Australia's entry into international lacrosse.

Many letters herald new inventions. Improvements meant higher costs and it was always a case of weighing the cost of the product with the value of the outcome. The letter at far right reveals the state of 35 MCC flags in 1959. In the manufacturer's opinion they were beyond repair. A "new" material was offered containing 75 per cent nylon – a fabric said to be used with success by the Armed Forces and government departments following tests which showed that "its flying life is far longer than that of the wool bunting".

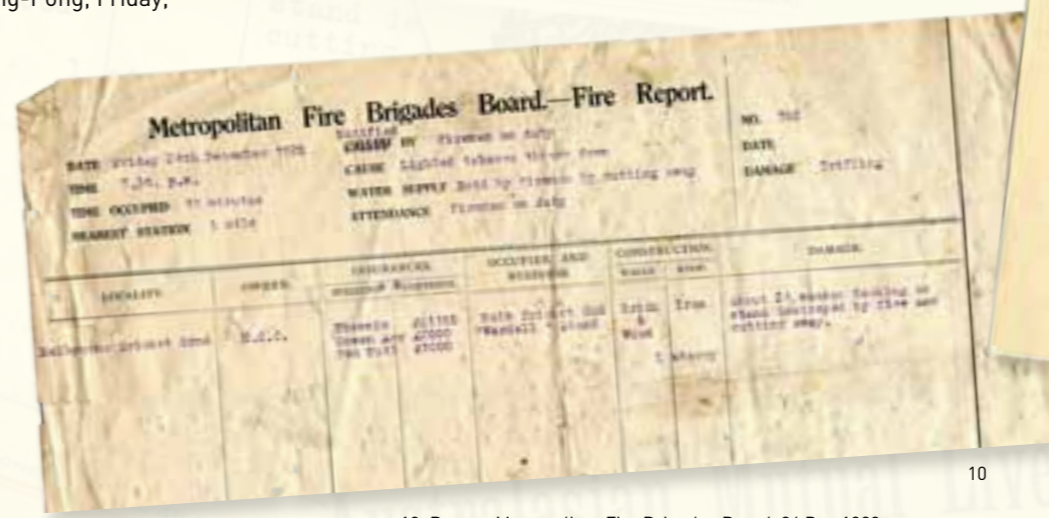
7. Receipt, issued by T.W. Sherrin for horse boot repair worn by draughthorses to protect the grass, 1919. [MCC Archives, early financial papers]

8. The Fijian cricket team who played on the MCG, 1907 and E.J. Marsden, who organised the 1907-08 Tour to Australia. [MCC Museum, M16037]

9. Letter, from Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association applying to use the MCG for the first visit of a US lacrosse team, 23 Mar 1959. [MCC Archives, Series A5, acc 103]



9



10. Report, Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, 24 Dec 1920, [MCC Archives, early documents]

10

Also on display is correspondence from the archives revealing the development of health and safety standards. Some letters concern quirky facts such as this letter from the Public Health department regarding a faulty pie warmer. A fire broke out underneath the wooden grandstand in 1948 due to the inappropriate use of the pie warmer and a report from the Fire Brigade details modifications to be made before the equipment could be allowed back in use.

Accidental fires were perhaps inevitable in the days when smoking was culturally acceptable. In fact, a fire in the reversible stand completely destroyed the structure. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade often attended the ground. Sometimes it was simply to check equipment such as faulty hoses but at other times to deal with fires.

Here is a report in 1920 from the Metropolitan Fire Department on a minor fire in the Wardill Stand. Fortunately, an on-duty fireman prevented extensive damage.

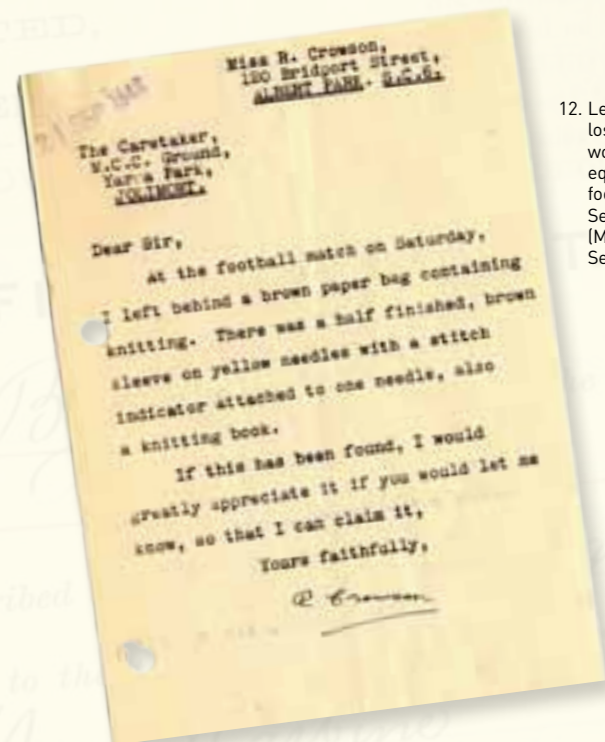
There are many stories told in the *Hidden History* exhibition. All illuminate the past and enrich our understanding of the lives touched by the Melbourne Cricket Ground. These hidden stories bring to life the individuals who visited the ground, sitting in the stands, watching the game or just relaxing in an environment of camaraderie. The letter reproduced here tells of a lost, partly finished knitted garment – a labour of love no doubt created by hands that were never idle. MCC Archives may one day be able to report a happy ending to this 1948 inquiry.

Sometimes the letters took the form of a complaint. Such correspondence was always considered by the club secretary and replied to. One writer criticised vehemently the dry powdered mustard being served at table. This practice was the result of perceived health hazards of the time involving premixing mustard powder with water.



11. Letter from manufacturer reporting on the disrepair of MCC flags and providing samples of material for replacement flags, May 8, 1959. [MCC Archives, Series A5, acc 103]

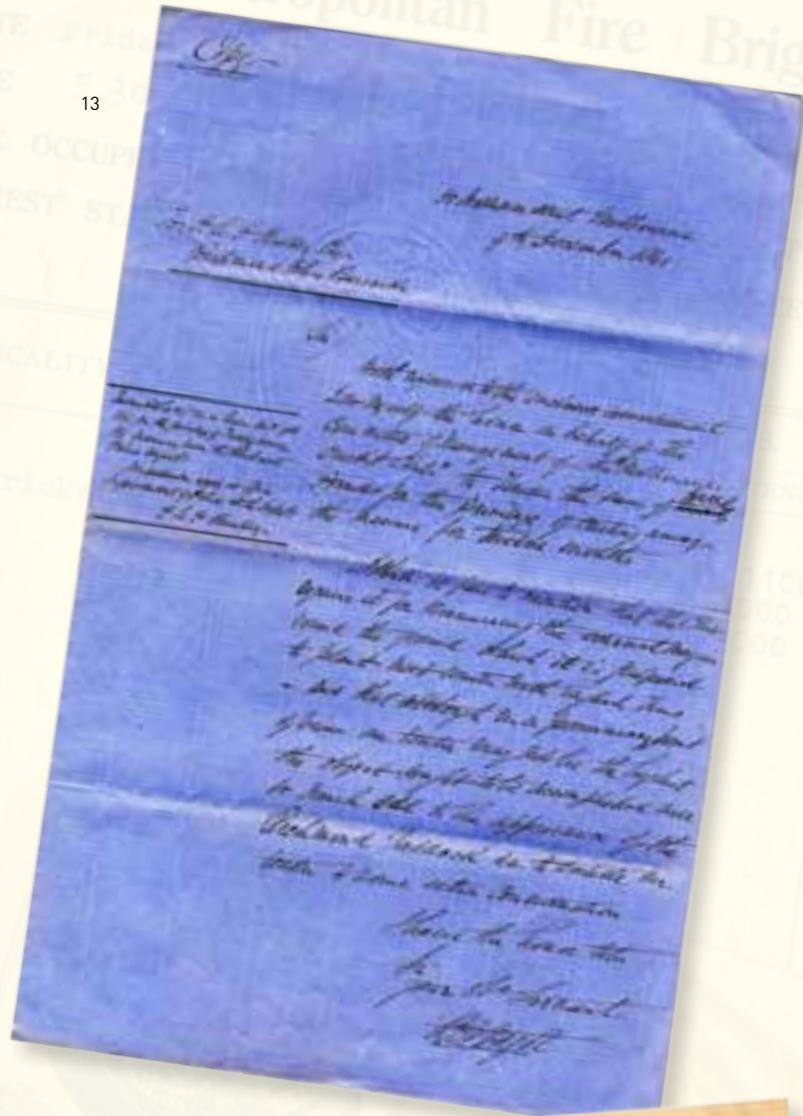
11



12. Letter, reporting loss of knitting wool, needles and equipment at a football match, 21 Sept 1948, [MCC Archives, Series A5.29]

12





13. Letter, from Robert Bagot to Richmond Police Barracks, 1861. (MCC Archives, early correspondence)

14. Letter, Department of Health, 1 Feb 1948. (MCC Archives, Series A5.29)

A detailed letter from MCC Archives written in 1861 by Robert Cooper Bagot to the Richmond Police Barracks tenders the sum of five pounds "for the privilege of carting away the manure for twelve months". The manure was to be used on the perimeter of the ground for the planting of English trees. Nothing was wasted in those days.

A surveyor and civil engineer in Melbourne, Bagot's survey of the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1861 gave the oval the shape and dimensions it has today.

The *Hidden History of the MCG* is a must-see event for all who love this special place. It conjures up the beginnings and the historical timeline in ways that are very different to our usual thoughts of the cricket ground. The exhibition causes us to speculate and dream about the ghosts of the past who have rested unseen for so many decades in the boxes that store the untold history of the club. *Hidden History of the MCG* enriches us with some of these wonderful stories.

In *Pavilions on the Park*, Alf Batchelder describes how Tommy Horan delighted in the view of the ground from under his favourite elm and how as the years passed he would drift off into the past and relive cherished moments. Horan enjoyed being there for "the place has always cast its spell on those who love it"<sup>4</sup>. So it is with *Hidden History of the MCG*. For those who love the ground, the stories unravelled in this fascinating exhibition will cast a spell on all who visit.

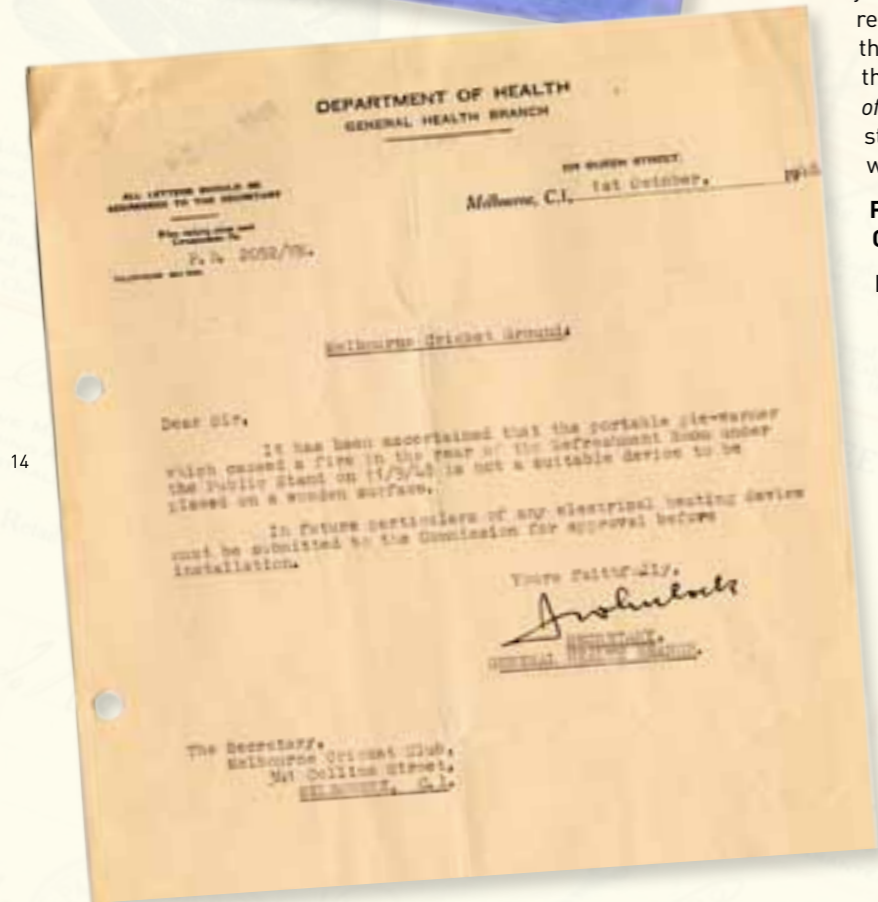
**Patricia Downs is the Melbourne Cricket Club Archivist.**

**Helen Walpole is the Melbourne Cricket Club Curator.**

*Hidden History of the MCG* has been curated by Helen Walpole. It is on display in the National Sports Museum's ISS Exhibitions Gallery until late May 2012.

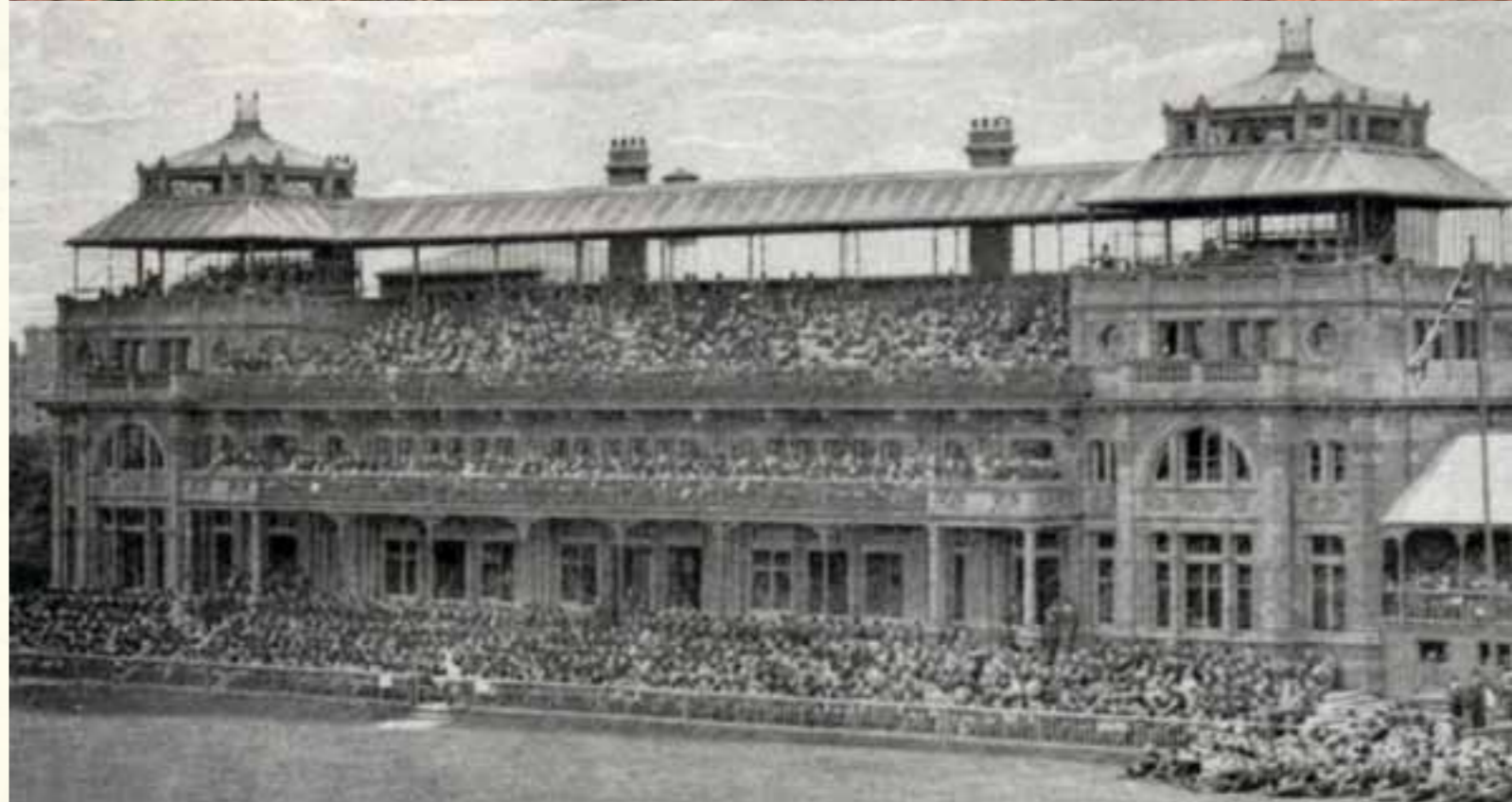
Endnotes:

- 1 Hillard, Harry. "Reminiscences of Mr. Harry Hilliard", in *Old Times*, Vol. 1, No.2, Sydney, May 1903, p148.
- 2 Batchelder, Alf. *Pavilions in the Park: A History of the Melbourne Cricket Club and its Ground*. Melbourne, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2005, p45.
- 3 MCC Archives, Letter Book A1.8 1889-1900 p194.
- 4 James, A., *Ratu Kadavu's Fijian Cricket XI in Australia, 1907/08*. Mahroonga, NSW: Alfred James, 1993.
- 5 Batchelder, Alf. *Pavilions in the Park: A History of the Melbourne Cricket Club and its Ground*. Melbourne, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2005, p xxi.



# SILENT VOICES • FROM THE LORD'S PAVILION •

By Howard Hanley



The Lord's Pavilion on the first day of the June 1896 Test. The signatures are on the face of the balcony on the second floor of the south turret (left side of the image). The balcony fronted what was the Australian dressing room before 1902 but is now the Members bar. (Marylebone Cricket Club Library collection.)

**Cricket historians will argue which of the two epic Ashes contests was the best: that of 2005, or the series of 1902 with the unbelievable record of Victor Trumper, the three-run Australian victory in the Manchester Test, the one-wicket English victory in Jessop's match at The Oval, and more.**

Because the players are so fresh in our memory, the 2005 series might get the vote, but the Australians who played in 1902 have also left their mark – literally – beyond the faded photographs and the pages of Wisden.

They inscribed their signatures or initials on the facing of the balcony outside their changing room in the pavilion at Lord's. The inscriptions are there today. Despite being covered with a century of mould and dirt, those of Victor Trumper and Warwick Armstrong are clear, as are those of future captain

Monty Noble and the nickname "Eva" of the great off-spinner Hugh Trumble.

Sid Gregory, R.A. Duff, and A.J. Hopkins are grouped together; W.P. Howell had two tries to get the date right. Of the others, E. Jones, J.J. Kelly, and J.V. Saunders are eroded but readable, while initials corresponding to Clem Hill and Hansen (Sammy) Carter are faint. In short, only the captain Joe Darling appears to be missing, and even he may be hidden under the grime.

In reality, the first-time 1902 tourists were not doing anything new because it was a tradition for Australian players to engrave their names on the Lord's dressing room balcony. We can see that the veterans of the team already had: Eva in 1893, Noble and others in 1899, for instance.



Above: The Australians in England, 1902. (MCC Museum collection, M15366.)

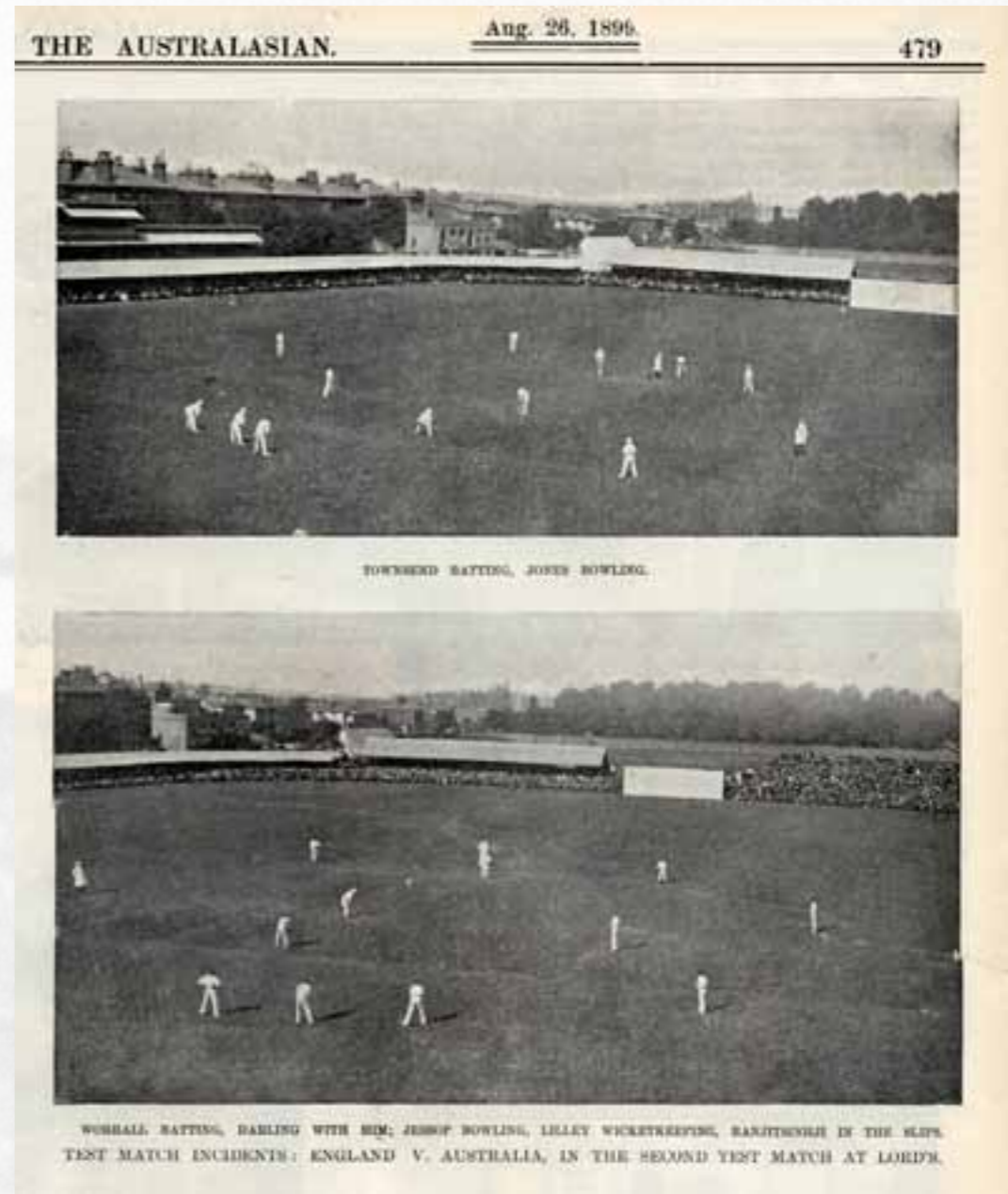


Left: Test cricketer Frank Laver, an avid photographer, supplied images from the tour for use by the colonial press. Published in *The Australasian*, July 15, 1899, page 139. (MCC Library collection.)

Indeed, the sequence started within days of the opening of the great pavilion. London architect Thomas Verity designed the pavilion and the MCC Properties and Works subcommittee recommended in March 1889 that his plans be adopted. Construction began that autumn, and was completed in time for the first MCC match on May 8, 1890. The Australians played there twice in early June. The distinction of who first blessed the new pavilion belongs to J.J. Lyons who made his mark while the paint was still wet, so to speak.

The balcony signatures are part of the record of Ashes history. That the signatures exist is a fact. But speculations surrounding them are intriguing. In the first place, why are they where they are? They are inscribed on a balcony outside a room which was an office for many years and is now the Members' Bar.

It's not obvious today that the area was ever a dressing room, especially as one associates the Lord's dressing rooms with the white wrought-iron balconies so familiar in the media.



The 1899 team must have been watching these opening overs from their dressing room high in the pavilion (Worrall and Darling opened, but were dismissed early. Hundreds from Clem Hill and Victor Trumper – his landmark first Test century – rescued the innings). Image taken from page 479 of the *Australasian* magazine of August 26, 1899. The bottom photo was very probably shot by Frank Laver, who was playing in this game. (MCC Library collection.)

These balconies first appeared in 1907. Verity's original plans for the pavilion would presumably specify the location of the dressing rooms at the time but, unfortunately, no copy can be traced. Nevertheless, *The Times* of May 8, 1890 in describing the pavilion says:

*"The Saloon [the Long Room].... [is] on the ground floor...the first and second floors are devoted to bath and dressing rooms &c."*

So, the Australians did change there. They went onto the balcony and looked out to a playing field that, although now ringed with the modern stands, is recognisable today.

And in their idle moments they scratched. We cannot say when because the Australians played many times at Lord's in a touring season around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. But there is no harm having some guesses.

For instance, the 1902 Lord's Test was a wash-out after England batted for only 38 overs on the first day leaving plenty of time for Armstrong and the others to do their work.

Victor Trumper inscribed his initials in 1899 and it would be nice to think he did so during the match in which he made first Test century. More likely he scrawled during the Marylebone match of July 31. He was dismissed at the end of day one, then had nothing to do for several hours on the next day while his teammates piled on the score.

# NAMES CARVED IN STONE ON THE LORD'S PAVILION

The man who began the balcony signature tradition a few days after the Verity pavilion opened in May, 1890, boisterous opening batsman J.J. Lyons.



And his signature....



Warwick Armstrong with "Lightning" (Charles McLeod) who toured in 1899. We can see that Armstrong scratched over an 1890 signature - early evidence of the ruthless side of Armstrong's character.



The club cricketer's dream - to be recognised at Lords. Here is the carving of E. Reeves who had one game at Lord's appearing for the London Playing Fields Association against the Marylebone in 1903.



The sign of Affie Jarvis. It is much eroded and better reproduced by this crude graphite rubbing, slightly enhanced. Jarvis had only one game at the post-1890 Lord's and bagged a pair from the terror of the time, C.J. Kortright.



It would add spice to the article if this was the signature of Arthur Coningham who played one game at Lord's in 1893 and "reportedly started a fire in the outfield during one match to keep warm."



Sid Gregory, Trumper's opening partner R.A. Duff, and A.H. Hopkins group together. Assuming these were scratched during the 1902 Test, Hopkins would have been very happy having dismissed the two greatest English batsmen, C.B. Fry and K.S. Ranjitsinhji, for ducks.



The great off-spinner Hugh Trumble (nicknamed "Eva"), 1893.



The immortal Victor Trumper, who made his mark on his first tour of 1899.



Future captain Monty Noble carved his signature on his first tour of 1899.



W.P. Howell. Note the backward numerals.



Ten years later Frank Laver returned as both a player and the team manager. He photographed the 1909 Test match at Lord's from the new players balcony, directly below the old. (MCC Museum collection: left, M11218; right, M10974-84; and below, M10710-33.)

Monty Noble, too, would have had time to carve his name during that game – incidentally the game in which Albert Trott drove him over the pavilion.

Parenthetically, it is tempting to couple Trumper's initials with the legend of W.G. Grace barging into the Australian dressing room at Lord's and giving Trumper one of his bats (now in the National Museum of Australia) with the words, according to Trumper's biographer, Peter Sharpham, "From today's champion to the champion of tomorrow." Possibly, Grace played in this game and Trumper, virtually unknown in England at the beginning of the tour, was now in July recognised as an exceptional batsman. In any case, it's almost a sure bet that we now know which dressing room W. G. barged into.

There are other signatures that tell their stories and not necessarily of the famous. Wicketkeeper A.H. "Affie" Jarvis is on the balcony. Jarvis had a good Test career between 1884 and 1895 although, as subordinate to Blackham, his matches were limited and he only played once at Lord's after the pavilion was built, against Marylebone in 1893. He had no luck, being bowled for a pair by the ferocious Kortright.

Then there is the mark "A Con (i,n?)." It is perhaps too much to hope that this is of Arthur Coningham who had one game at Lord's in 1893 because, as Martin Williamson writes for the website, *espnricinfo*, "he was undoubtedly one of the game's more colourful figures" who "was awarded a medal after saving a boy from drowning in the Thames, (and) reportedly started a fire in the outfield during one match 'to keep warm'." Williamson has more scurrilous anecdotes.

Neither are the signatures only of Australians. Quite the contrary because the many carved names and initials also indicate that the dressing room was the place for minor English teams playing at Lord's. One of these players is notable. Prominent on the balcony, rivalling the great Victor Trumper in visibility, is E. Reeves.



As far as we can tell he had one game at Lord's, on August 29, 1903 for the London Playing Fields Association against MCC: nought not out in the first innings, did not bat in the second, no catches, and he did not bowl. Not much of a game, but he had his moment in the sun and, more than a century later, we know who he was. Any club cricketer would be happy with this memorial.

I owe much to Neil Robinson of the Marylebone Cricket Club Library and to David Studham of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library for being so interested in this topic and giving me their support. My niece, Lynne Hanley, photographed several of the signatures and, in so doing, had the rare privilege of having the famous pavilion almost to herself.

**Howard Hanley is a Senior Research Scientist at Texas A&M University at Qatar.**



## AN ENTREPRENEUR EXTRAORDINAIRE : "SNOWY" BAKER'S MAGAZINE 1912-1913

By Stephen Flemming

In October 2010 I was given the pleasant task of returning some rare books to their appropriate place in the glass cabinets of the MCC Library. Doing so, I happened across a smallish volume covered in brown corduroy! An unusual cover material found in combination with a book demanded further viewing.

Browsing through the bound volume I soon realised that this corduroy "book" was a series of 12 monthly editions of *Snowy Baker's Magazine*, first published in 1912. On leafing through the monthly editions it became apparent that the articles used in the compilation of each edition lent themselves towards further research and recording. A new project beckoned.

With David Studham's support I set out to record and index the articles, photographs and advertorials included within the corduroy-covered Volume One and its companion edition Volume Two, which was less distinctly, but perhaps more professionally, covered in blue leatherette.

The MCC Library collection holds these two volumes and within them the 24 editions of *Snowy Baker's Magazine* issued in 1912 and 1913. National collection databases provide information suggesting at least two further monthly editions of Volume Three exist, but no verifiable date of the publication's cessation is recorded.



**Impressions of the McVea-Langford Fight.**  
By Reg. L. (Snowy) Baker.

It was the best contest I've ever witnessed. Both McVea and Langford were symmetrical in harness and gallantry in their tactical methods during the whole of the twenty grueling rounds. As men and athletes any country might be justly proud of two such chivalrous and manly fellows, regardless of creed or race.

It seems a pity that such true athletes could not both be awarded the coveted laurels of victory in the magnificent struggle decided on Boxing Day. It could not be. The better boxer had to receive his due.

A few days prior to the contest it had been my privilege to see both McVea and Langford training. What I saw was not sufficient strenuous to enable me to form a sound opinion as to their actual physical condition. Yet what I saw was enough to convince me that the battle would be a great one. And it was. Since the clang of the final gong at the contest a number of people have expressed their disappointment at the contest not being so interesting as they had expected.

Now was it in a certain sense. Yet had these self-chosen people been in a position to see the clever warding-off of blows by head and shoulder moves, arm and hand blocks, body work and foot work (a great essence of which the skilled boxer does instinctively), he would have gone away delighted with the extraordinarily skillful exhibition of scientific boxing that was the outstanding feature of the contest.

These, partly premeditated, but mostly un-conscious, moves of attack and defence were very much in evidence during this famous "All Black" encounter.

Therefore, the seeming lack of outstanding points of cleverness in eloquent strategy in all its phases—an excellent show by years of practice with similarly skilled opponents, plus the developed ability of a natural boxer.

The forceful and aggressive methods adopted by Langford are the tactics naturally suited to his build. He did not show the insouciant brass-work for avoiding knocks that McVea did. In fact, he seemed content to take all that was shot, provided it enabled him to get in close enough to be at short range.

Langford, like Burns, is ideally built for close work. It was the short range position he was always striving for when opposed.



Some of the Boys who attend Reg. L. Baker's Physical Culture Rooms regularly each Saturday morning.

Third Row—G. Fred Baker, J. Laidley, A. Carter, A. Genge, R. L. Baker, J. Barnes, C. Reynolds, Frank C. Baker.  
 Second Row—A. Stone, L. McKay, G. Ras, W. Franks, S. Allard, L. Cross.  
 Front Row—H. Crawford, B. Edbeck, L. Albert, R. Fisher, J. Meers, T. Kelly, B. Hay.

218

SNOWY BAKER'S MAGAZINE

October 1, 1913.

### My Recreation Exercises Nerves and make you



HAROLD BURRE, Principal Burre, White Horse St.

My Recreation Exercises will cheer up your jaded nerves and make you stronger and healthier.

There's no need for you to be depressed or suffering from the "blues" through nervous or other worry.

Adopt my methods of Hacking and interesting Domestic Exercises and you will be able to do more with your energy than before. You will build your physique with a light touch because your body will be elastic and mental strain will be removed. These exercises, and it only remains for you to try to succeed equally as well as the Australian Eleven and Edward Burt.

Your wonderful system of Recreation Exercises has been my pastime during my stay in Sydney. I understand your system with the rapidity of lightning, and I am glad to say that I am now able to do more with my energy than before. I am glad to say that I am now able to do more with my energy than before.

(Signed) HAROLD BURRE.

**R. L. ("Snowy")**  
 PHYSICAL  
 Belmont Buildings,

### will cheer up your jaded Stronger and Healthier.



THE AUSTRALIAN ELEVEN.

"I wish to thank you very much for your kind letter in playing your well-earned name in the Australian Eleven. I only wish you were here to see the advantage of your advice in relation to keeping the Australian Eleven in better condition than they are now."

"I fully expect that if the new club in your town they will be in England in good time for their long message. I only wish you were here to see the advantage of your advice in relation to keeping the Australian Eleven in better condition than they are now."

"There is nothing in what you have written which would do more to cheer up your jaded nerves without knowing it."

(Signed) "E. THORNTON, Manager."

**BAKER**  
 CULTURE SPECIALIST  
 15 Castlereagh St., Sydney

Included in this article are a selection of pages from articles and advertisements from the MCC Library's bound volumes of "Snowy" Baker's Magazine. Issues and pages noted in the images. [MCC Library Record # 11763]

Each of the volumes is complete with Baker's view on various sporting topics of the time, and those associated with the sporting passions of his outstanding career – boxing, horse riding, swimming, diving, tennis, athletics and general fitness through exercise, or "physical culture" as he termed it.

Each of the articles is usually accompanied by superb photographs, drawings or caricatures depicting the subject or supporting the view promoted as the central theme of the article.

Scattered liberally among the articles are advertorials for many of the leading retail suppliers to the sporting industry. The businesses advertised were mostly Sydney-based organisations.

Baker's own articles are augmented by other leading writers or exponents in various different sports and pursuits of the day.

Contributors included Annette Kellerman (swimming), George Towns (Australian world champion sculler) and Eugene Corri (referee of many pre-World War 1 world boxing title fights).

There are also articles written on aspects of male and female health by authors whose anonymity is preserved by their nom de plumes – "M.D.", "A well known medical authority", "A leading medico" et al. These offer instructive commentary on diet, keeping the liver clean, exercising the lungs, avoiding headaches and battling fatigue and tiredness, to name just a few.

Perhaps the most significant feature of the two volumes, however, is the vast range of sporting interests covered in each edition, with many of Australia's leading sporting events of the era recorded in some detail. These articles have been contributed directly to

*Baker's Magazine* and reflect different commentary and content to that of more readily available works on the same subjects.

For the general sports researcher, articles appearing in volumes such as *Baker's Magazine* often hold treasured tidbits of information or facts not recorded elsewhere. This has proven to be the case with these two volumes.

Among the highlights are:

- An overview of the 1908 World Heavyweight Boxing Championship, which took place in Sydney between Jack Johnson and Tommy Burns and further reviews associated with other Australian title bouts of 1912-13.
- A preview of the 1912 Triangular Test Match contests played between Australia, England and South Africa.
- An overview of the halcyon days of pre-war world tennis including commentary on the careers of Norman (later Sir Norman) Brookes, Anthony Wilding and a detailed review on the 1912 and 1913 Davis Cup ties.
- Debunking the mythology surrounding the "googly" or "bosie" (Australians refer to it as the "wrong-un")
- How to learn the Australian Crawl (written by Cecil Healy – gold and silver medallist at the 1912 Olympic Games and generally regarded as a "giant" in Australian surf life saving history.
- Origins of Australian surfing and surfing in Hawaii and Australia.

### MISS MILLCENT MAHY Extols Rexona Skin & Facial Soap



Miss Millicent Mahy uses Rexona Soap.

The famous, cleanest and gentlest beauty preparation of the world is Rexona Soap. It is a wonderful thing for the skin and face. It is so gentle that it can be used by the most delicate skin. It is so effective that it will remove all dirt and grime. It is so pleasant that it will make you feel like a new woman. It is so simple that it can be used by every woman. It is so good that it will make you feel like a new woman. It is so simple that it can be used by every woman. It is so good that it will make you feel like a new woman.

(Signed) MILLCENT MAHY.

REXONA SOAP FOR HEALTH AND BEAUTY  
 Price, 1s. per Tablet.  
**Rexona**  
 MEDICATED SOAP

### CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE



Special Cadbury Soap, Ltd., 111, Strand, London, W.C.2.  
 Dear Sir,  
 I have been using Cadbury's Soap for some time and I find it to be a wonderful thing for the skin and face. It is so gentle that it can be used by the most delicate skin. It is so effective that it will remove all dirt and grime. It is so pleasant that it will make you feel like a new woman. It is so simple that it can be used by every woman. It is so good that it will make you feel like a new woman.

**CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE**



# Book Reviews

## Reginald "Snowy" Baker

Reginald "Snowy" Baker was born at Darlinghurst on February 8, 1884 and died in Los Angeles (USA) on December 2, 1953. Between these dates he established himself as probably the greatest all-round sportsman in Australian sporting history.

Baker's physical prowess, temperate attitude (he never smoked or drank) and versatility saw him reach a peak in international competition at more than 20 sports, ranging from boxing at the Olympic Games (he won the 1908 middleweight silver medal) to water polo (as a member of an Australian team that won matches in Finland and Holland).

In between he competed in Australian and international events associated with athletics, diving, fencing (foil, sabre and duelling), sculling (in four and eight-oared boats), swimming, athletics and rugby union (for Australia against the 1901 touring British Lions).

Today, he would be regarded as a sporting superstar in anyone's eyes. After he retired from multiple fields of play he took up acting and stunt work in the post-war era of Australian silent movies before moving to the United States.

His good looks, physique and charm soon saw him land in Hollywood and he became a confidant and tutor to many of the Hollywood set of the 1920s, '30s and '40s. He could count among his friends Rudolph Valentino, Douglas Fairbanks Snr, Mary Pickford and Tom Mix – all of whom he taught better horsemanship.

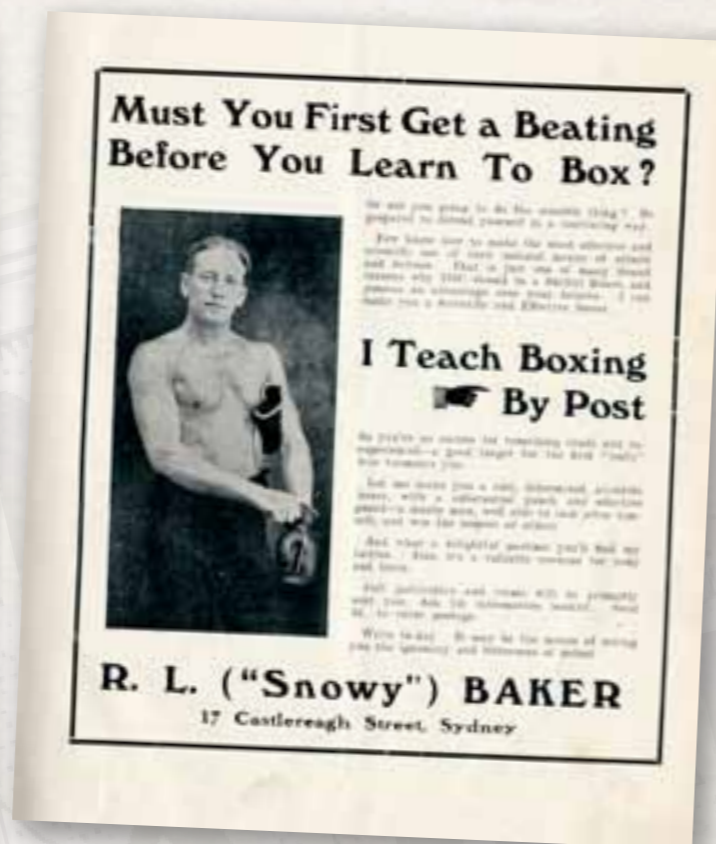
He followed this up by providing riding lessons and experience to a young Elizabeth Taylor before she debuted in MGM's 1944 classic "National Velvet".

A self-promoter and sporting marketer of the highest level, he spawned large-scale sports event management when he took ownership of Sydney Stadium (Rushcutters Stadium) and Festival Hall and used these as bases to stage some of the era's most talked-about social and sporting events, the highlight of which was the 1908 World Heavyweight Boxing Championship between Tommy Burns and Jack Johnson.

For more reading on Snowy Baker's outstanding sporting career, I suggest:

- Crowden, Greg. *The Snowy Baker Story*. Milson's Point, NSW : Random House, 2003.
- Malies, Jeremy. *Sporting Doubles: The colourful characters who represented their country at more than one sport*. Sydney : Robson, 1998.
- Whittington, R.S. *The Champions*. Melbourne : Macmillan, 1976

Stephen Fleming



Above: Advertisement from first issue of "Snowy" Baker's Magazine, January 1912.



Elliot Cartledge

### *The Hafey Years: Reliving a Golden Era at Tigerland*

Melbourne: Weston Media and Communication, 2011  
ISBN: 9780646557120

*The Hafey Years* is easily the most meticulous and comprehensive study of the Richmond Football Club during the 1960s and early 1970s. The book charts the club's rise from mediocrity and analyses the community, individuals and attitudes that created one of the most powerful teams ever to grace the VFL/AFL. Between 1967 and 1974 the Tigers won four premierships.

Prior to the appointment of Graeme Richmond (also known as "GR") as club secretary in 1962, the club had not won a premiership since 1943 and its last finals appearance was in 1947. Its home ground was diminutive and its training methods and playing style were antiquated. GR oversaw the club's revitalisation.

In 1965 Richmond moved from the cramped Punt Road Oval to the spacious MCG, the biggest stadium in Australia and a VFL finals venue. The administration was energised. President Ian Wilson said they were "pissed off, angry young desperadoes". They recruited Len Smith and later Tom Hafey to introduce modern coaching and training techniques that emphasised fitness and continuous improvement.

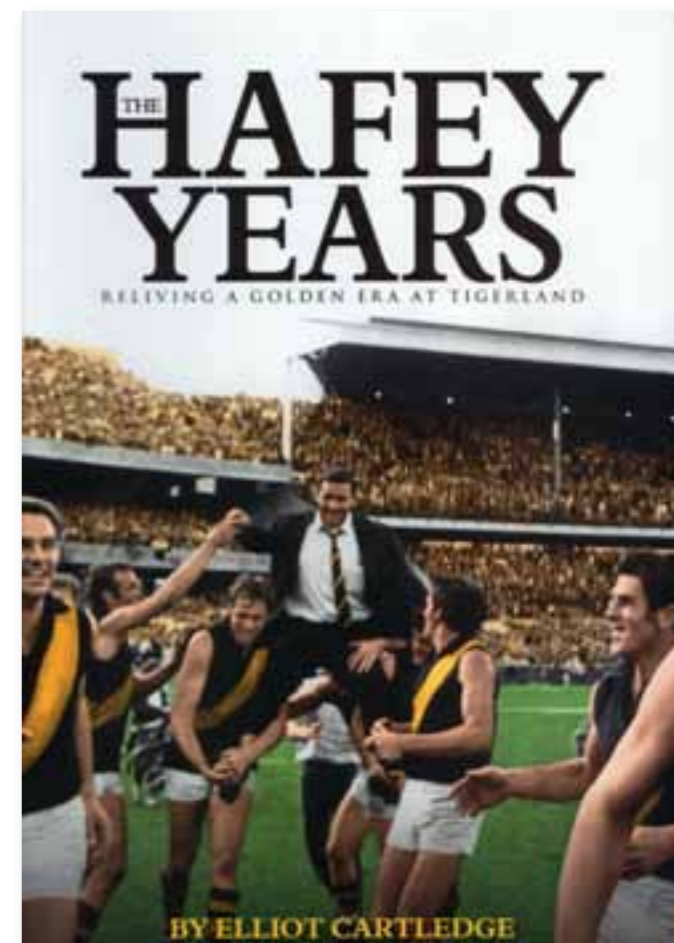
The club embarked on an aggressive recruiting campaign that identified and signed many players with potential. Some such as Royce Hart, Francis Bourke, Barry Richardson and Dick Clay became champions. Its culture was predatory and ruthless, and in time an "us against the world" attitude permeated the club. This mind-set allowed little room for failure and bred internal competition among players and staff.

GR's waning support for Hafey led the club's most successful coach to leave Tigerland in 1977. The Tigers finished seventh in 1976 and it was Hafey's worst season. That he had coached the club into the top three for five consecutive years before that disappointing year apparently meant little to GR. Ruthlessness built the club and demolished it.

The book is not a biography. Tom Hafey is important to the story but all prominent players and officials at the club are profiled with respect and without sentiment. As well as Hafey, Smith, Wilson and GR, footballers such as Royce Hart, Kevin Bartlett, Dick Clay, Roger Dean, Francis Bourke, Bill Barrott, Neville Crowe, Kevin Sheedy, Ian Stewart and Barry Richardson, plus many, many more players and administrators, figure.

Richmond's team was star-studded but Cartledge's style presents them all at a human level. He is sensitive to individual character traits, personal challenges and changing club dynamics. Kevin Sheedy's complicated recruitment by Richmond and his fight for a position in the first XVIII is an example of this.

Had Sheedy not succeeded at Tigerland his football career would effectively have been over, but who would willingly make way for the disqualified VFA player? Cartledge's subjects were very good footballers or ruthless officials but they were also men with egos, agendas, foibles and eccentricities.



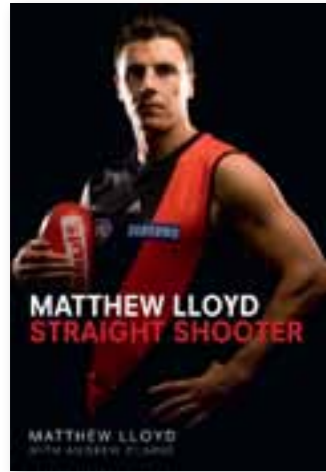
Cartledge records the stories, reflections and opinions from insiders at Richmond and allows the reader to understand the club from a variety of informed perspectives. In this way the operations of the club are also illuminated.

It seems that although GR would not necessarily terminate a playing career at the club – that tending to reside with the selection committee – he was called on to break the news. Cartledge notes that "to this day, a number of players admit they were scared of GR."

At 400 pages (including the index) it is content-heavy but flowing and well written. Cartledge includes gems like a transcript of Len Smith's "Rules of Football", and personal reflections of Tom Hafey's training methods by Tom and his players.

All the premiership seasons are analysed and other milestone matches are described. The book is an important addition to football historiography and will allow long-suffering Richmond supporters to remember, or if they are under 40, comprehend what it was like to support the most powerful and feared club in the league.

Trevor Ruddell



Matthew Lloyd with Andrew Clarke

**Matthew Lloyd  
Straight Shooter**

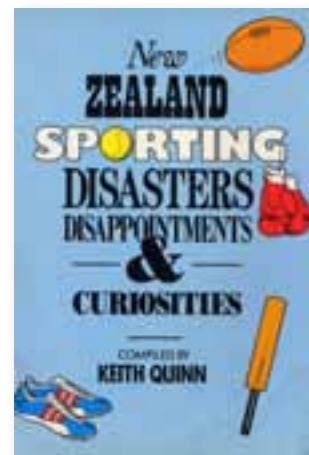
North Sydney:  
Ebury Press, 2011  
ISBN: 9781864712933

Through the duration of Matthew Lloyd's prolific playing career as a champion full forward for Essendon, the only thing that mattered to me about him was that he kicked goals, and lots of them.

Additionally, I have a wariness of sports biographies with silly titles. For these two reasons I was at first reluctant to read Lloyd's autobiography *Straight Shooter*. But being an Essendon supporter, it was a book I could not ignore and overall it was an entertaining read.

As friend and teammate Scott Lucas attests in one of two forewords written for the book, "Matthew Lloyd is one of the true greats of the Essendon Football Club and the AFL." Amassing 270 games, he was selected in the All-Australian team on five occasions, was a three-time Coleman Medallist, twice kicking 100 goals in a season, and was part of the 2000 premiership side.

Lloyd recounts these milestones as well as other notable events that occurred during his playing days, including his feelings on becoming captain of the club, and how his attitude shifted from playing the game for himself to playing for the team.



Compiled by Keith Quinn  
Cartoons by George Martin

**New Zealand Sporting  
Disasters, Disappointments &  
Curiosities**

Auckland: Century Hutchinson  
New Zealand, 1986  
ISBN: 0091675103

At 119 pages, this is a surprisingly slim book. Then again it was published in 1986 so there have been a few more disasters since. Like every sporting nation, New Zealand has had its share of ups and downs,

and this book provides a wryly humorous look at some of the moments that a traumatised nation has done its best to forget.

In a rugby-mad nation, not surprisingly the first disaster recalled is the All Blacks' effort in September 1949, when they managed to lose two Test matches in one day. This was only part of a devastating year in which the All Blacks played six Tests and lost all of them.

Australia has had a hand in some of New Zealand's worst defeats including the cricket tour of 1913. Australia racked up some remarkable totals including a morale-shattering 922 for 9 against South Canterbury.

Lloyd reveals some entertaining anecdotes such as wagging school when Tim Watson was waiting there for him to conduct an interview after his first AFL match, and hiding in a Southbank car park from Garry "Buddha" Hocking after giving evidence against him at the tribunal in 1997. He also tells of the rule change regarding the time taken to shoot for goal as a result of his now infamous kicking routine.

It was very enjoyable to relive a great memory I have in the more recent history of the Essendon Football Club – that of the club's dominance in 1999 and 2000. Particularly entertaining was Lloyd's in-the-thick-of-it recollection of the 2000 season when Essendon dropped only one match for the season (against the Western Bulldogs in Round 21) and went on to win the flag.

Not only a book about his on-field success, *Straight Shooter* emphasises the importance and influence of Matthew Lloyd's family and close friendships with teammates including James Hird and Mark McVeigh.

Lloyd's wife Lisa writes a heartfelt foreword. A chapter titled "Other People's Thoughts" provides a window into the subject's character with recollections from coaching great Kevin Sheedy as well as members of Lloyd's immediate family.

Also insightful were Lloyd's reliving of injuries such as his sickening ruptured spleen in 1996 against Sydney and how this affected him, as well as his feelings towards football leading up to his retirement in 2009.

Yes, there is also detail on his recent much-publicised relationship with Matthew Knights, but this is only part of Matthew Lloyd's story.

**Celia Drummond**

If that wasn't bad enough, in 1946 Australia played its first cricket Test match against the Kiwis. Sadly (or happily, depending on which side of the Tasman you're on), New Zealand scored only 42 in their first innings and they did little better the second time around. Australia's unimpressive first innings total of 199 still inflicted defeat on the Kiwis by an innings and 103 runs.

It's not all disaster and devastation though. Interspersed with the catastrophes are the curiosities and trivia questions which throw a fascinating light on the more obscure events in New Zealand sport.

The most interesting is probably an extended account of the tour in 1888-89 of Great Britain by the Natives, so called because all the players were New Zealand-born. A team of mainly Maori rugby players toured for an astonishing 14 months, playing 74 games in Britain and winning 50 of them.

On their way home, they played several games in Australia, winning all of them, and finally undertook a farewell tour of New Zealand. Their final game, played in Auckland on August 24, 1889, was the 107th of the tour.

It's to be hoped that some day this book inspires something similar about Australia. Never let it be said that New Zealand could beat us in the number and scale of our sporting disasters.

**Deborah Schrader**

Anne Jackson

**William Philpott: Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer**

Malvern: Malvern Historical Society, 2011  
ISBN: 9780957958661

Copies available from the Society, contact P.O. Box 184, Malvern, Victoria, 3144.

William Philpott's first-class cricket career may have consisted of just two matches, but each gained him a unique place in the history of the game in Australia.

He captained Victoria against Tasmania at Launceston in February 1851, a game recognised much later as the inaugural first-class match to be played in this country, and five years later also led the colony at the MCG in its first encounter with New South Wales. Although not keeping wickets in either game, his skill with the gloves was well regarded by his contemporaries in an era in which teams rarely chose a specialist in this position.

Philpott arrived in Victoria in 1844 from his native England, joining his brother Richard as a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club soon after and establishing himself as a merchant with premises at 18 Collins Street.

He was identified with the Malvern area from 1856 until his return to England early in 1872. His property "Rosehill", which occupied 20 acres at the intersection of what is now Glenferrie and Toorak roads, has a most interesting history and one of the original buildings remains.

Ken Piesse

**Football Legends of the Bush: Local Heroes & Big Leaguers**

Melbourne: Penguin, 2011  
ISBN: 9780670075584

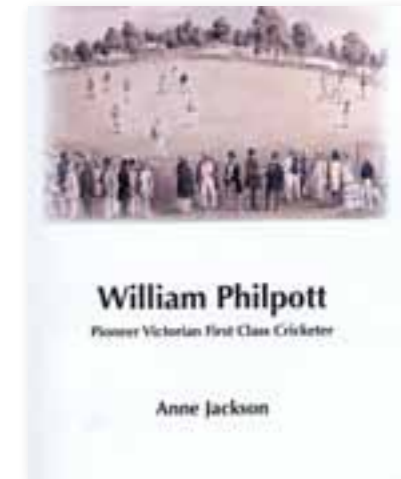
My history with Australian Rules football has included a brief stint as a Collingwood supporter in primary school but not a lot since. So reading a book about football legends 20 years on was not something I had ever imagined myself doing.

But the personal histories in *Football Legends of the Bush*, even to a football illiterate like myself, genuinely drew me in. The characters Ken Piesse brings to life in his "smorgasbord of yarns" makes for great reading and offers an insight into our rural communities and their much-loved football clubs.

The foreword is by the legendary four-time premiership coach Allan Jeans who sadly passed away recently. Jeans sets the scene in times when football had less money and media glamour attached to it.

Describing himself as a "chubby kid from Tocumwal" back in the 1940s, he goes on to tell us of his time with St Kilda. His VFL career began under the coaching of the "vitriolic" but excellent Alan "Killa" Killigrew who became the first full-time coach for the team due to his being on a TPI pension.

Piesse kicks things off with the story of the "once-in-a-lifetime footballer" Haydn Bunton Snr, a man described as being "as influential and inspiring in the inner suburbs of Melbourne as Don Bradman and Phar Lap". His on-field prowess combined with his remarkable charisma gave Bunton a celebrity status throughout Victoria during the depression years.



As the author explains, it was a request from the Malvern Historical Society to write a history of the Mayfield Centre, which occupies a portion of Rosehill, that aroused her interest in Philpott.

Her in-depth research has resulted in a most interesting portrayal of a successful businessman during early Melbourne's rapid expansion and a cricketer most likely only known by name to even the most avid student of the game. Recommended reading for any history buff.

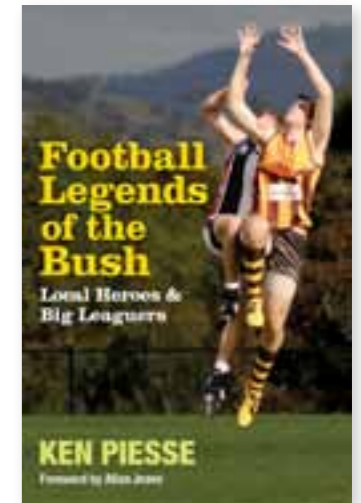
**Ray Webster OAM**

More iconic footballers feature throughout the book, among them such notables as Wayne Carey, Terry Daniher, Doug Wade and Tim Watson. Every player mentioned, no matter whether they made it to the top of the AFL or stayed home playing in small country towns, left his mark on football in some way. Piesse does a wonderful job in re-telling their histories with humour and respect.

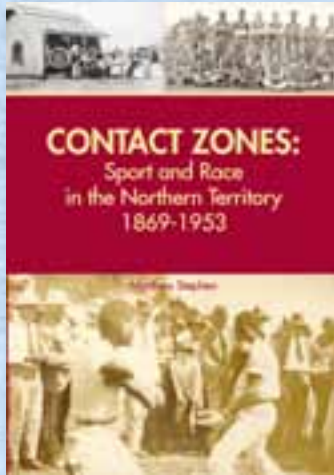
As well as being a great read, there are detailed lists of country team line-ups going back nearly a century, plus statistics including individual player scores and Piesse's lists of the all-time top 10 players from different leagues across Australia. There are also photos galore, stretching back to the 1920s, my favourite being of Sam Kekovich taking a high mark off the back of a Richmond player in the 1970s.

Through Piesse, we read of the ongoing legacy that football and sporting clubs have brought to our country. Australian society has greatly benefited from this rich contribution. *Football Legends of the Bush* celebrates some of the great players and shows that, whether in the bush or the city, sports and sporting clubs have been holding our communities together.

**Madeline Lawrence**  
(Box Hill TAFE Library Technician student)







Matthew Stephen

**Contact Zones: Sport and Race in the Northern Territory 1869-1953**

Darwin: Charles Darwin University Press, 2010  
ISBN:9780980665079

Matthew Stephen first went to the Northern Territory (NT) in 1987 as a physical education and history teacher at Katherine High School before moving to the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in 1990. At the time this book was published,

Matthew was manager of the Oral History Unit, Northern Territory Archives Service.

Divided into three main sections, the book begins with an interesting and informative overview of NT history. Although the Territory covers an area of more than 1.35 million square kilometres, it has a population of just 229,000, about a third of whom are Indigenous Australians (by far the highest proportion of any state or territory).

The borders were established after South Australia (SA) received Royal Letters Patent in 1863. The SA government then administered the area between 1869 (white settlement) and 1911, during which time the town now known as Darwin was called Palmerston.

The name change was made in 1911 when the Commonwealth took over NT administration. About half of the Territory's population resides in the Darwin area. I mention these details partly because I was unaware of most of them before reading the book.

The story of race relations in the Territory is, of course, a disturbing one. Central to the book is the claim made by the author in his introduction that "to a great extent the story of sport has been the story of race relations in the Territory". My view is that Stephen mounts a very convincing case to back that claim in the rest of the work.

In the second of the three parts, "The Untold Story", he examines sporting contacts between 1869 and 1911 which followed a familiar pattern in British colonisation, namely initial involvement of the indigenous people while contact was being established followed by a lengthy period of exclusion as part of an overall regime of suppression.

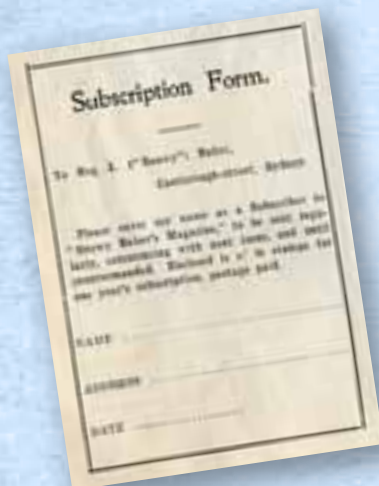
The third section, "The Often Told Story: Australian Football in Darwin", covers the period from 1911 until the modern era. Organised football in the Territory began in 1916, but indigenous players were excluded until the 1947/48 season, before that time having to be satisfied with playing the game among themselves within the confines of their restricted areas.

In 1952 the St Mary's team, captained by Ted Egan, gained entry to the NTFL competition. It would become dominant, winning 26 premierships between 1952 and 2007/2008.

Eventually a succession of indigenous players would make their mark on the national football stage but, as the author points out: "The battle for sporting equality in the Northern Territory from 1869 had been tortuous and hard fought. The advances on the sports field took until the late 1960s and early 1970s to translate into a political platform for legislative freedom."

Matthew Stephen has written a very readable, carefully researched and convincing work on a crucial aspect of Australian history. Highly recommended.

**Dennis Carroll**



## THE YORKER

### Read all about it!

**Subscriptions are a new way of ensuring you do not miss out on an issue of *The Yorker*. Have it home delivered!**

While it is no longer possible to subscribe to Snowy Baker's Magazine (the two shillings price would have been a bargain) we are pleased to announce that you can now subscribe to *The Yorker*.

MCC Members are able to subscribe for \$30.00, the Australian general public's subscription price is \$40.00 and overseas general public subscription price is \$60.00

More details and the subscription forms are available at <http://tinyurl.com/mccyorker>



### MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB LIBRARY

Level 3, Members Pavilion,  
Melbourne Cricket Ground, Yarra Park Jolimont  
Telephone 9657 8876  
Facsimile 9654 6067  
Email [library@mcc.org.au](mailto:library@mcc.org.au)  
Mail PO Box 175 East Melbourne 8002

### PUBLISHING DETAILS

*The Yorker* is edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.  
Graphic design and publication by George Petrou Design.

Thanks to David Allen, Alf Batchelder, Margaret Birtley, Jim Blair, Dennis Carroll, Michael Coligan, Paul Daffey, Patricia Downs, Celia Drummond, Stephen Flemming, Howard Hanley, Lynne Hanley, Anne Heywood, Gillian Hibbins, Col Hutchinson, Ian Kerville, Madeline Lawrence, Regan Mills, Marie Pernat, George Petrou, Peta Phillips, Quentin Miller, Michael Roberts, Neil Robinson, Trevor Ruddell, Deborah Schrader, Cameron Sinclair, Jed Smith, David Studham, Simon Telfer, Helen Walpole, Ray Webster OAM, Helen Will and Ken Williams for their contributions and assistance.

The views expressed are those of the editors and authors, and are not those of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Submissions of research articles and book reviews can be made to The Editor, *The Yorker*, MCC Library PO Box 175 East Melbourne 8002 or via email to [library@mcc.org.au](mailto:library@mcc.org.au).