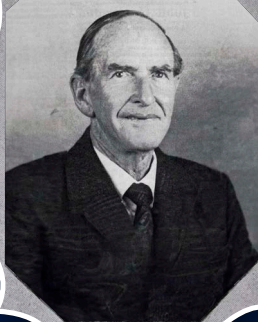


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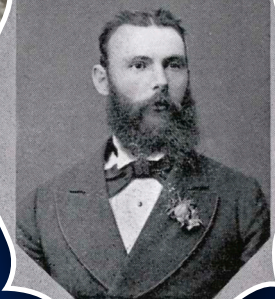
# *The* **YORKER**

Journal of the  
Melbourne Cricket Club  
Library

- *Stephen Gough  
on the MCC Library*
- *Rennie Ellis and  
the Bullring*
- *Merri Creek Soil*



*Mr Jack McEwen –  
The MCC's First  
Librarian*



*First Hop –  
Harry Boyle  
and Football*

Thanks to David Allen, Rosie Bushnell, Alex Chubaty, Edward Cohen, Gaye Fitzpatrick, Stephen Gough, Simon Huggard, Peter MacIver, Quentin Miller, Regan Mills, Eric Panther, George Petrou, Peta Phillips, Trevor Ruddell, Ann Rusden, Lesley Smith, and David Studham.

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*The Yorker* uses the Style Guide for MCC Library Publications. A copy of this can be viewed and downloaded from <https://www.mcc.org.au/my-mcc-membership/member-publications/the-yorker>. We always welcome submissions of articles and reviews for *The Yorker*, but please adhere to the new style.

Submissions 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)



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this journal contains images and names of people who are deceased.

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## NEWS FROM THE MCC LIBRARY

The Library's 150th anniversary celebrations continue with this issue of the *Yorker* featuring articles on the Library's operations. The editor is particularly grateful to Stephen Gough and Sarah Atkinson (granddaughter of Jack McEwen) for their generous contributions to the telling of your Library's story.

The librarians, match day casual staff and Library Volunteers have received great, and I must say somewhat envious, feedback on our 150 Years of the Library cricket vests, as pictured on the cover of this issue. Only 24 were produced and were ceremonially handed to the MCC Library Volunteers at the Library's 2023 Christmas break-up on December 20. Your Librarian David Studham acted as the herald and master of ceremonies, while his deputy Trevor Ruddell, pictured kneeling before Rosie Bushnell (right), was the Library's page boy. It was enjoyed by all.

Your Library also welcomes Simon Huggard who joined our cohort of Library Volunteers on February 27. Simon arrives with an extensive library background having worked in academic libraries for decades. Descended from a 1920s Richmond footballer, he has interest in Australian football, has produced a bibliography of the game in 1988 and published *Frank Huggard: The Untamed Tiger* in 1992. Simon, a MCC Member is also interested in cricket, rugby, tennis, golf and "many other sports".



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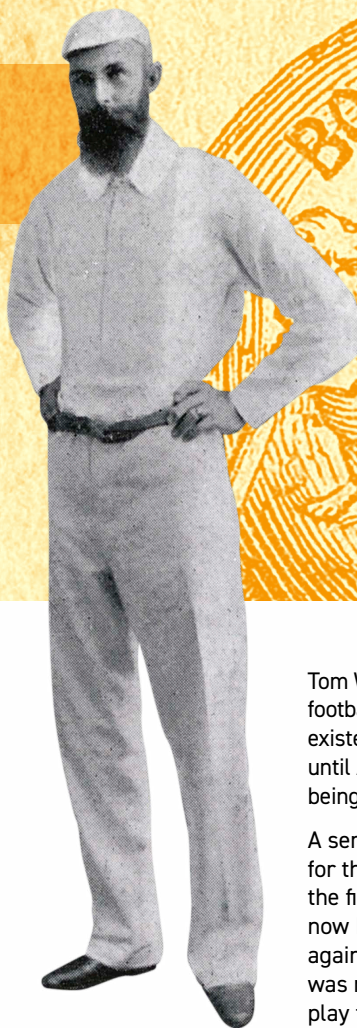


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# FIRST HOP

## HARRY BOYLE & FOOTBALL

By Peter Maclver



Some time back, my friend, Matthew Thompson, and I were visiting the grave of Henry Frederick Boyle at the White Hills Cemetery in Bendigo. Matthew, aware I was researching a book about Boyle, commented that people didn't know enough about him as a footballer and this might be worth looking at in detail. I knew Boyle had played for Carlton but did not think his involvement with football would provide much material of interest. Matthew insisted no biography of him would be complete without information about him as a footballer and, with reluctance, I agreed to look at that area of his life. This facet of Boyle's sporting life has been neglected by many cricket historians, but an examination of it demonstrates Boyle was not just a capable athlete generally, but was a major figure in the promotion and marketing of sport in Victoria during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

### THE CRICKETER

Henry Frederick "Harry" Boyle was one of the most important and influential Australian cricketers of the Victorian era. His feats on the cricket field are the stuff of legend. In December 1873 he was the first Australian to bowl W.G. Grace, playing for eighteen of Victoria against Grace's touring English eleven.<sup>1</sup> In 1878 the bowling of Boyle and Frederick Spofforth destroyed a powerful MCC team at Lords. Boyle took nine wickets for 17 runs in the match at an average of 1.88 per wicket. In the second innings he took six wickets for three runs.<sup>2</sup> He and Spofforth also famously partnered in the 1882 match on the Kennington Oval. The Australians' victory in this game created the legend of the Ashes, when in the match's wake a notice was placed in the English press announcing the death of English cricket.

Boyle toured England as a playing member of the 1878, 1880, 1882, 1884 and 1888 teams, and as manager in 1890.<sup>3</sup> Along with Billy Murdoch the Australian captain, Boyle would select the 1880, 1882, 1884 and 1890 Australian touring teams. With his business partner, David "The Almanac" Scott, he also organised the fixtures for those tours. While Boyle has received recognition as a cricketer, his time as a football player is not well known and did not receive a mention in the many obituaries written for him at the time of his death in November 1907.

### SANDHURST FOOTBALL CLUB - 1872

The Sandhurst Football team was formed on June 3, 1861.<sup>4</sup> One of this club's founding members was James Boyne Thompson. Thompson, along with William Hammersley, Thomas Smith and

Tom Wills, had codified the rules of Australian football in May 1859.<sup>5</sup> This Sandhurst team existed for a couple of years but fell dormant until April 22, 1872, when it was brought into being once more.<sup>6</sup>

A series of scratch matches were organised for the purpose of selecting the best team, the first taking place on the Camp Reserve, now Rosalind Park, on Wednesday May 8 against the Bankers and Brokers. Boyle was named among the players selected to play for the Bankers and Brokers, as was F.C. Liddle who would go on to become the captain of the Sandhurst club.<sup>7</sup>

The *Bendigo Advertiser* of May 9, reporting on the match, stated, it was an exciting game and a large crowd of spectators attended. The report recorded that: "The Bankers and Brokers were led by Boyle, who was a tower of strength in himself..." Another scratch match took place on Wednesday June 12, Fuller and Liddle choosing the sides. Boyle was noted as one of those who distinguished themselves for "athletic valour."<sup>8</sup> The following Saturday, Sandhurst Football Club played what the *Bendigo Advertiser* called a "regular match" when the "first 15 played the next 30."<sup>9</sup> The article mentioned Boyle as a member of the Sandhurst fifteen.

After the scratch matches, Boyle was named in the Sandhurst team for a game against the first twenty of the South Yarra Football Club on the Kangaroo Flat cricket ground on Monday July 1, 1872. The game was won by South Yarra by one goal to nil with Taylor, Liddle, McKellar and Boyle of Sandhurst being mentioned for their "fine play."<sup>10</sup>

Sandhurst's next game was against Melbourne who won by one goal to nil. Boyle, Liddle, and Fuller were said to have "fought gallantly" for Sandhurst.<sup>11</sup> The game was played by sixteen men on each side as some of the Melbourne players had failed to make the journey to Sandhurst.

Over the next two weeks, the Sandhurst team played a twenty-a-side match against the Foundry Football Club<sup>12</sup> and, following the postponement of a game against the Castlemaine Football Club, the *Bendigo Advertiser* reported a scratch match was to be played on the Pall Mall Reserve on July 31, 1872. While there was no mention of Boyle, he had been picked to play against Castlemaine and it is likely that he played in both games.



**Above:** The Bendigo United team that played W.G. Grace's All-England XI in 1874. **Standing:** Latham (umpire), T. McWhirter, J. Glen, Coffin (scorer), E.J. Hartley, A. Dalby, Daly, Brennan, Gibbs, Wyndham, C. Kinlock. **Sitting/Lying (Back):** Passfield, Aitken, J. Butler, J.H. McColl, W. Neil, J. Beswick, Bayliss. **Sitting/Lying (Front):** T. Aspinall, H.F. Boyle, W. Bruce.

The next mention of the Sandhurst football team was in the *Bendigo Advertiser* on August 22 which reported they would play twenty chosen from the banks. Boyle was one of the Sandhurst twenty. The final game of the 1872 season for Sandhurst was against Kyneton with the *Bendigo Advertiser* reporting they suffered a heavy defeat and it was a "second-rate" team who had travelled to Kyneton. Boyle was not in the team.<sup>13</sup>

#### SANDHURST FOOTBALL CLUB - 1873

During the 1873 season, Sandhurst only played three matches, Melbourne once and Kyneton twice being the games reported in the *Bendigo Advertiser*. I suspect the few games played by Sandhurst during this season might have been related to a decline in the popularity of football mentioned by the Addy's Melbourne correspondent:

"A number of football matches are notified for tomorrow; but seeing the average result of each match is that one at least is permanently injured, and two or three at least on each side more or less contused, the rage for this sport is not so great as it was."<sup>14</sup>

Boyle was not named in the Sandhurst team for the first game of the season against Kyneton on May 21 but was named in the squad for the game against Melbourne on July 1, and against Kyneton on August 6, although there is no mention of him in reports of the games. The Sandhurst football team lost

to Melbourne by three goals to one. In the first game against Kyneton, Sandhurst won by one goal to nil, while Kyneton won the second game by the same score.

#### CARLTON FOOTBALL CLUB - 1874

Following the cricket season of 1873/74, Harry Boyle moved to Melbourne<sup>15</sup> where he was employed as an officer in the Mines Department rental section.<sup>16</sup>

*The Footballer* of 1875 noted the Carlton senior team played 17 games during the season. There were 19 games arranged but one match was cancelled when Hawthorn failed to turn up to play, and another game against North Melbourne was abandoned after 20 minutes due to riotous behaviour by the crowd and the players. Of the 17 games counted for the 1874 season, Carlton won 12 and drew five.

Exactly why Boyle played for Carlton is not clear, but the first mention of him as a Carlton player appeared in the *Leader* on May 9, 1874. The first eighteen of Carlton would play the next twenty-five. Boyle was named as a member of the firsts for that game and for every other completed game of the season.

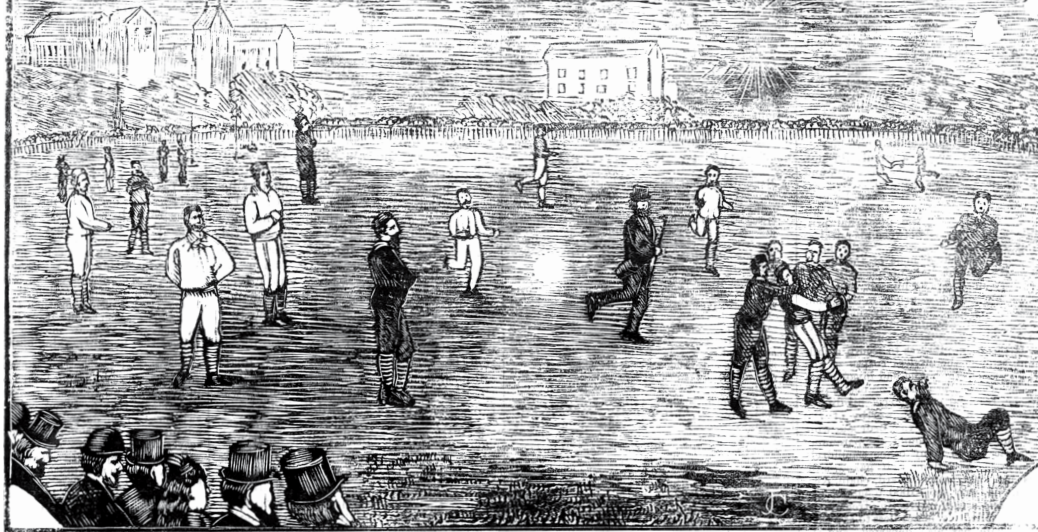
On June 13 Carlton played Albert Park at Royal Park. The home team won two goals to one. Boyle received two mentions, and was complimented for his "fine play" by "Cursor" in the June 20 edition of the *Leader*, while "Spotty", the football writer for the *Herald* wrote, "I might here state that Boyle's play was

**Below:** The Carlton football team in 1874 at Royal Park. Harry Boyle is the third man standing from the right. **Standing:** unknown, S. Wallace, O.T.L. O'Brien, unknown, J. Gardiner, Jas. Robertson, (H. Guy or W. Newing), J. MacGibbon, W. Dedman, G. Kennedy, H.F. Boyle, unknown, unknown. **Lying:** unknown, unknown, H. Rix, Williams, G. Robertson.



excellent, and the different attitudes that he went into during the game made the spectators enjoy many a hearty laugh."<sup>17</sup>

On June 20 Carlton played Melbourne for the first time in the 1874 season and won the game by one goal to nil. Boyle received a mention in the *Leader* for his defensive work, his position was goalkeeper and "Cursor" wrote: "The Melbourne would make a fine rush, and propel the ball down the right wing in the neighbourhood of the enemy's goal, whence the gallant defenders of the Carlton citadel, Harry Guy, our old friend Boyle and a few others would send it away to the middle of the play again..."<sup>18</sup>



The *Police News* of September 7, 1876, included this image of the football match between Carlton and the Western District. Harry Boyle, the umpire, is shown officiating in a suit.

The Blues' second game against Melbourne on July 18 garnered Boyle more coverage, with three mentions. The *Herald* indicated he was much involved in play, while "Tom Jones" of the *Australasian* wrote, "McGill, gives a chance to Boyle, which educes a splendid but vain kick for goal." Later in the same piece Boyle is described as bringing the ball forward, "but is pounced on by Charlie, and gets a nasty spill."<sup>19</sup>

The following week Boyle was not named in the team to play Hawthorn. This was the only game of the season for which he was not selected which suggests that he was injured in the tackle by Charlie. However, the game did not take place when Hawthorn failed to turn up, and Boyle was back the next week for a game against East Melbourne.

Mid-August there was an amusing spat in the press that was initiated by "Bat" in *Leader*. "Bat" reported gossip that Boyle, owing to his connection with the Carlton Football Club, had been offered the captaincy of the Carlton Cricket Club.<sup>20</sup> This gossip provoked a furious response from H. Jennings Jun., the honorary secretary of the East Melbourne Cricket Club, who denied the rumour and also claimed Boyle had been offered £10 and a better job if he would play cricket for South Melbourne.<sup>21</sup> The matter fizzled out the following week with a few more exchanges of letters by the parties involved, but it does raise the interesting issue of how much valuable sportsmen were "helped" by their clubs in the days of amateurism.

The next mention of Boyle came from the *Leader* of August 22, 1874, and the third meeting between Carlton and Melbourne. The former won two goals to nil. The report stated: "In the next few minutes no less than three goals were stopped by Boyle, the Carlton goalkeeper, right between the posts from kicks by Sillett, Carr and Cummings..."

The fourth and final game between Carlton and Albert Park that season was on August 22, and included a controversial incident involving Boyle and a disallowed goal. Albert Park was pressing when, "Baker, during a sudden lull in the wind, sends the ball by a splendid kick straight to the centre of the Carlton goal where, luckily for Carlton, Boyle is placed. This player, adding a yard or two to his by no means inconsiderable height, succeeds in touching the ball as it goes through the posts and the umpire calls, 'no goal.'<sup>22</sup> In an end of season round up on September 24 by "un Jouer a Ballon" for the *Record and Emerald Hill and Sandridge Advertiser*, stated, "the umpire and Boyle were hooted by the mob" because of the incident.

The disallowed goal provoked letters to the *Argus* with one on August 26 written by "T Baker" claiming the ball had clearly gone through the posts and questioning the partiality of the umpire. The day after a number of replies to Baker were published. One,

by "Spectator", implied the previous day's letter writer was Fred Baker, the brother of Charles Baker who had kicked the non-goal, and an Albert Park player. "Spectator" pointed out the crowd behind the goal had encroached onto the field and pushed Boyle several feet forward, so when he touched the ball it clearly had not gone through the posts. No newspaper report on the game suggested the ball had gone through the posts, but the incident does highlight the issue of spectator encroachment, interference with play and general poor behaviour. This is commented upon throughout the 1874 season and seems to have been the norm for all clubs, including Carlton.

The final mention of Boyle as a player for the 1874 season was by the *Geelong Advertiser* of September 26. In the last game of their season, Carlton played the Geelong Football Club at the Argyle ground in Geelong. The *Geelong Advertiser* summed up Boyle, thus, "Boyle with the bat and ball is a different man from the Boyle of football, that scarcely being his forte." While this questions Boyle's ability as a footballer, that Carlton selected him as their first choice as goalkeeper throughout the season indicated that club certainly thought he was good enough for first team football. The first ever edition of *The Footballer* in 1875 described Boyle: "As custodian of the goal, few to equal him", which implied that he was as good a player as any in the top clubs of the time.

#### 1875 TO 1877

During the 1875 football season Boyle no longer featured as a member of the Carlton first twenty. This may be linked to a May 1 report that, Carlton, "...will be, if anything, stronger than ever they were. It is said that their captain of last season has finally retired, which if true, would be a great loss to them; but on the contrary, they have secured many good fresh players."<sup>23</sup> The following week on May 8, the *Argus* reported Boyle as playing in a scratch match for the next twenty-five against the Carlton first twenty. This may suggest that one of the Blues' new recruits had replaced him as goalkeeper.

In the following years, Boyle made at least two confirmed and one possible appearance with Carlton's first twenty. One was a match against West Melbourne in 1876, where he played as a substitute for one of six Carlton players who failed to turn up.<sup>24</sup> The next week on September 16, the *Argus* named Boyle as an emergency for the game against Barwon. However, there is no mention of him having played. Another appearance was in June 1877. This was a Carlton team that was scratched for a match against Williamstown, after the Blues' regular first twenty players failed to return from Sydney, where they had played Waratah.<sup>25</sup> Boyle also played at least one game for Carlton's second twenty in 1876 against Kilmore and was one of the Carlton players to make a speech at the after-match dinner.<sup>26</sup>

Boyle also undertook officiating duties at least four times. He umpired a North Melbourne game on June 26, as mentioned in the 1875 *Footballer*, East Melbourne on August 5, 1876,<sup>27</sup> the Western District on August 26, 1876,<sup>28</sup> and against Geelong on July 28, 1877.<sup>29</sup> The September 7, 1876, edition of *Police News* included a rather crude engraving of the Carlton game against the Western District. It showed the central umpire top hatted and carrying what appears to be either a cane or an umbrella and running towards a ruck of players. This would have to be the only known image of Boyle as a football umpire or on a football field!

Harry Boyle was also involved with Carlton in an administrative capacity. The May 1, 1875, *Australasian* reported he had been elected to the club's committee of management. This was a position he also held in 1876, 1877 and 1879. In 1877, Carlton chose Boyle along with Thomas P Power to be the club's first two delegates to the newly formed Victorian Football Association (VFA).<sup>30</sup>

In Volume 4 of his *Origins of Australian Football*, Mark Pennings wrote that at a meeting of the Carlton Football Club in 1892, "Henry F Boyle claimed that his wife was the first woman to attend a Carlton football match." Although this was unlikely, surely some women would have attended matches from the early days of Carlton, it may be that Margaret Boyle was the first woman to attend a game in a formally recognised capacity.

#### THE EDWARD JACKSON RELIEF FUND

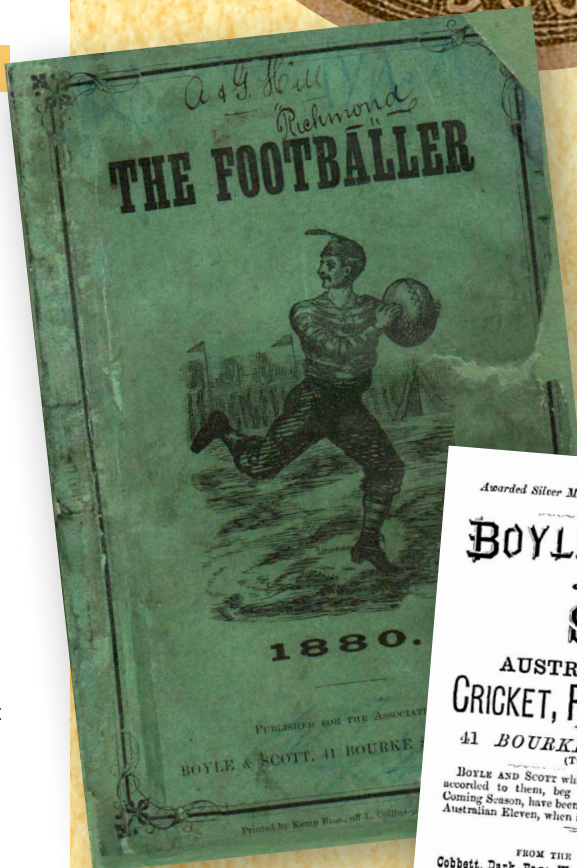
In 1875 a mining accident led to the severe injury of Edward Jackson, one of Boyle's Bendigo United Cricket Club teammates. This prompted Boyle to organise a fundraiser which was set for the third meeting of the season between the Carlton and Melbourne Football clubs on Saturday August 21, 1875. The two teams had agreed to play on the University ground as it had a good fence around it which would allow those organising the fundraiser to charge an admission fee of 6d. On May 30, 1889, *Melbourne Punch* surmised:

"It is a good many years ago now since Harry Boyle initiated the system of charging admission to witness a football match. The occasion was a Sandhurst cricketer named Jackson, who was also a miner, losing his eyesight through an explosion in the mine. Boyle conceived the idea that an excellent way of assisting his wife and family would be by fixing a tariff for admission to see Carlton (of which Harry was a tower of strength as goalkeeper) and Melbourne play... It was a brilliant idea, and all the more so because, as Boyle has been careful to enquire about on every occasion that offers, the Jackson family placed the amount to such good advantage that they have never been in want from that day to this. And from that time a charge has always been made to see senior football played."

The amount raised by the Carlton v Melbourne game was £97 3s 4d. Other fundraising efforts in Sandhurst (now Bendigo) resulted in a combined total of £300 13s 7d which the fundraisers gave to the Jackson family.<sup>31</sup> Members of the Jackson family still live in the Bendigo area and are aware of the efforts made by Boyle and members of the Sandhurst community on their ancestor's behalf.

#### BOYLE AND SCOTT

On Wednesday August 20, 1879, H F Boyle and Co., the firm that became Boyle and Scott in January 1880 when David Scott became a partner, opened their doors for business at 41 Bourke-street east, "two doors above the Albion Hotel."<sup>32</sup> On August 21 the *Herald* noted at the opening: "The cup for the best drop



**Top:** The Pavilion at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground featured on the Boyle & Scott trademark.

**Centre:** The *Footballer* of 1880. This annual was established in 1875, but in 1880 Boyle & Scott took over its publication. (MCC Library collection.)

**Right:** A Boyle & Scott advertisement that appeared in the 1879 edition of the *Footballer*.

kick at football, for the Carlton Football Sports, is on view in the window, and a really splendid trophy it is."

Throughout the existence of the business, Boyle and Scott were innovative in their introduction or adaption of sport-related ideas and applied them to sport in Victoria. In March 1880 the business (Boyle would have been in England with the Australian XI) announced its intention to provide a challenge cup for the best junior football club during the season of 1880.

On April 5, a meeting of the secretaries of the second twenties was held to consider the proposal for the Junior Challenge Cup. "Only about 14 secretaries attended and the majority of those were adverse to entering into the competition, believing the contest for a cup would have the effect of rendering the game even more rough than it usually is."<sup>33</sup> At the end of the meeting, Dave Scott confirmed the firm's willingness to proceed with the idea should a sufficient number of clubs confirm interest. It would seem there was no further interest in the idea as the competition never eventuated.

Boyle and Scott are credited for the idea of supporters wearing coloured ribbons attached to a hat or lapel to indicate support for their chosen football team. On May 4, 1887, the *Sportsman* noted, "the idea of sporting a club's colour was first suggested by the well-known firm of Messrs. Boyle and Scott upon the eve of an impending match between the Carlton and Melbourne, there were no less than 692 pieces of the blue and white of the former and 652 of the latter sold by them in the one day..."

The wearing of ribbons or particular colours to indicate which side you supported is not only pre-modern, it has precedents in antiquity, but it seems that Boyle and Scott were the first to market such supporter merchandise to Melbourne's football followers. A report that listed Melbourne's team for a match against Carlton in September of 1879 included, "Messrs. H.F. Boyle and Co. advertise that they have colors for this match for sale." This may suggest that wearing coloured ribbons to indicate your support of a team began that year.<sup>34</sup>

Boyle and Scott also sold tickets to football matches and their upstairs rooms seemed to be a place where footballers, cricketers and other sporting types came together socially to read newspapers, smoke tobacco, and relax. Meetings of various committees of the VFA were held at their premises, to arrange fixtures, appoint umpires and other general business. Besides producing the historically important five editions of *Boyle and Scott's Australian Cricketers' Guide*, the firm also produced football pamphlets which gave fixtures for the season as well as detailing the rules of the game.

## NUMBERS ON SHIRTS

Possibly the most interesting and important innovation Boyle and Scott brought to football was a trial of shirt numbers to help spectators distinguish one player from another. There are three possible sources from which they may have derived the idea. An *Argus* report on July 2, 1887, noted the previous year's successful introduction of saddle cloth numbers to horse racing in Victoria. The same report also suggested numbers were used in cycling races and had been used in some of the "principal football matches in the old country." Wherever the idea came from, the two games, Carlton v Adelaide and Adelaide v Tasmania were the first time shirt numbers were used in Australian football.

The innovation was reported upon by many newspapers, including the *Geelong Advertiser* of May 30, 1887, which gave the previous Saturday's news from Melbourne and noted:

## ATHLETIC SPORTS.

### FOOTBALL.

The following matches will be played to-morrow :-

Melbourne v. Carlton —The following players have been chosen to represent Melbourne, and are requested to meet at Oliver's Cafe, Collins street, at 2 p.m. sharp:—C. Baker, F. Baker, J. Booth, W. Boys, Cock, Crohan, Downes, E. Longden, W. Longden, Macdonald, Mackenzie, J. G. McKie, Murray, Oakley, Power, W. A. Sandilands, Sillett, Simson, Smart, Swyer. Emergencies — Lucas, Lempriere. Messrs H. F. Boyle and Co. advertise that they have colors for this match for sale.

Clifton v Studley, on the Melbourne Football Ground, for the premiership of Collingwood and Fitzroy.

West Melbourne v Albert Park, in the Royal Park. Young Railway v Young Rising, on the ground of the former.

The *Herald* of September 26, 1879, included a reference to H.F. Boyle & Co. selling "colors" to the followers of the Carlton and the Melbourne football clubs.

"A decided novelty was introduced this afternoon by Messrs. Boyle and Scott into the match between the Carlton and Adelaide football teams, in the shape of a card bearing the names of the respective players, with numbers against them. Each player wore a corresponding number to that against his name on the card. This arrangement was a decided improvement, and should be observed in all other important matches, as many people who attend such are quite ignorant of the respective players, and the card should serve as an excellent guide."

The *Sportsman* reported that at a meeting of the VFA on May 27, Arthur Stooke, one of the St Kilda's delegates, said that two or three gentlemen had asked him to raise the issue of players wearing numbers to enable spectators to distinguish them one from another. The article reported that, "The delegates thought the suggestion was a good one."

Two weeks later, at a meeting held on Friday June 10, a letter was presented on behalf of Boyle and Scott pointing out the success of the number system in the Adelaide and Tasmanian matches and urging the VFA to adopt the system. Presumably, the delegates had consulted their club committees by this time and a vote indicated that the clubs were opposed to the idea.<sup>35</sup> The *Leader* of June 18 noted that Boyle and Scott had offered to, "supply cards corresponding to the names and numbers, free of cost."

Why the clubs were opposed to such an idea is difficult to understand from a modern perspective where fans of all sports are accustomed to numbers on shirts, and will even seek out a shirt with a particular number on it. Back in 1887, the argument the delegates presented was, "everybody knew individual footballers, for this reason that those who were any good were speedily found out, and those who were not, did not want to be known."<sup>36</sup> On July 2 the *Argus* refuted the delegates' argument and pointed out that:

"Amongst football followers there is a minority who, during the winter, talk think, and dream of little else than football. They require no means of identifying the players, in whose honour they have established a system of hero-worship. But there are others, who having neither the time nor inclination to form the personal acquaintance of the 300 senior footballers of Melbourne, are yet lovers of the game, and to those [St. Kilda's] Mr. Stooke's excellent idea of numbering the players and publishing a penny card was the solution of a difficulty that has always detracted (more or less) from the pleasure of the game... There was a wonderful unanimity in

the rejection of the proposal. The delegates know that the people are so much infatuated with the game that numbers or no numbers they will still attend the matches, and under circumstances the convenience of a section of the crowd was scarcely worth consideration.”

The *Leader's* football gossip writer, “Follower” summed up the feeling of supporters on the issue, writing on June 18:

“The attendance at the Geelong and Carlton match could not have been less than 15,000, and I hope that some members of the Association had an opportunity of hearing the general disappointment expressed at the numbered jerseys and cards not being used. The non-adoption of this admirable suggestion by Messrs. Boyle and Scott is ridiculous, and I hope for the convenience of the thousands who attend football matches that the various secretaries of clubs will reconsider a matter affecting the convenience of the public, to whom the game owes everything.”

The VFA paid no attention to the views of those who wanted shirts numbered. It was not until the 1912 season that shirt numbers were finally mandated for Victorian Football League (VFL) clubs after an exploratory roll-out during the 1911 finals series.

### VALE HARRY BOYLE

In 1907 Boyle started to complain of problems with his eyes and pains in his chest. On August 30 that year he underwent surgery at Dr Springthorpe's Private Hospital in Melbourne.<sup>37</sup> Three weeks and one day later after recovering from the operation, the *Referee*, a Sydney sporting newspaper, noted his attendance at a Carlton v South Melbourne game on September 25, 1907. He was seated between his old cricketing comrades, Tom Horan and Jack Blackham.

Shortly after he had attended the football match, Boyle travelled to Bendigo to stay with his brother-in-law, Senator Hugh McColl,

to recuperate from the operation. But any hope of his recovery was dashed, and as his health declined Boyle was taken to Nurse McKinnon's Private Hospital on Wattle Street, Bendigo, where he died on November 21, 1907. Boyle, a lifelong smoker died from oesophageal cancer.<sup>38</sup>

### FIRST HOP

This article opened with a visit to White Hills Cemetery and my friend, Matthew, urging me to investigate Harry Boyle as a football player. Boyle's contributions to football, as a player and as an innovator, were important. He may be regarded as a forgotten giant of Australian sport both on and off the field. The *Leader* of October 3, 1874, captured something of the humour and enjoyment of Harry Boyle, and all those who played and watched football in those long-gone days:

“It may afterwards be seen along with Guy, who passes his opponents notwithstanding their forcible remonstrances, and by a neat kick lands it a yard or two in front, whence it hops through, unmolested by the goal keeper, making goal No. 2 for Carlton. ‘First hop’ cries Harry, amid much laughter and chaffing.”

### Author:

**Peter MacIver** is a retired teacher of Literature, English and History. He enjoys researching cricket in the 19th century and assisted Richard Cashman and Ric Sissons with research for their book, *Billy Murdoch: Cricketing Colossus*. Peter is currently researching material for a proposed book on Harry Boyle.

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# Mr. Jack McEwen

## THE MCC'S FIRST LIBRARIAN

By Trevor Ruddell

**Left:** Jack McEwen displays some of his MCC membership medallions in 1972.  
**Below:** The MCC's copy of a letter dated July 4, 1957, which identified Jack McEwen as the Club's "Hon. Librarian". [Melbourne Cricket Club Archives]

The appointment of the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) Library's first Honorary Librarian may be the result of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) being the main stadium for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. For a brief period in the mid-1950s the MCC's collection of books and publications were removed from the room that was dubbed the Library, due to building works at the MCG and for the duration of the Games. This room, initially intended but never used as the "Players Dining Room" when the Pavilion was built in 1928, served to store the Club's heritage items. A corridor was punched through this room to connect the Pavilion to the new Northern Stand (renamed the Olympic Stand in 1987) that was constructed for the 1956 Games. The room was thus divided in two by a corridor (that would formally become known as Bourke Street), with the portion on the north side becoming a part of a bistro, and that on the south side, the Library.

To facilitate the return to this small room of MCC's collection of books and publications, the *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for Season 1956/57* stated, "Mr. J.R. McEwen has been appointed Honorary Librarian and is restoring and tabulating all contents."<sup>1</sup> It was McEwen himself who initiated this work in a letter dated May 21, 1957, "suggesting that better use might be made of Library at M.C.G." This was tabled at a meeting of the Club's general committee the following week and was left in the hands of the MCC's Assistant Secretary, Albert Cuttriss. Within one month there were: "Arrangements made with Mr. J.R. McEwen to improve the Library."<sup>2</sup>

John Ridley "Jack" McEwen was publically acknowledged as the MCC's Honorary Librarian at the Club's 1957 Annual General Meeting on August 20. However, Ian Johnson, the Club's recently appointed secretary, had referred to "the Hon. Librarian, Mr. McEwen" in a letter dated July 4, 1957.<sup>3</sup> Jack would be a diligent and meticulous worker for the MCC. Within a year of his appointment, "the Library has been restored and a comprehensive and historical collection of old Australasians [newspapers] rebound, together with a wide selection of cricket books and records."<sup>4</sup>

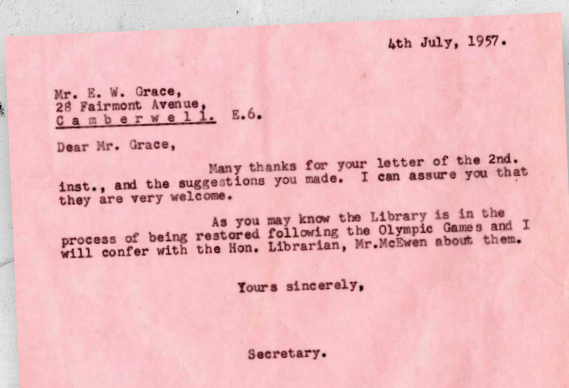
Jack was born on December 28, 1895. He was an ideal volunteer for the Club, being an MCC member from the 1918/19 membership season, who lived nearby at 62 Jolimont Street, East Melbourne. The diminutive Jack was already regarded as a fantastic organiser through his employment at the State Savings Bank of Victoria. He had a lot of time to explore his personal interests following his resignation from the bank after 46 years of service on May 3, 1956. By then Jack had nurtured a decades-long interest in Melbourne's heritage. Warren Perry wrote in the May 1972 edition of the *Royal Historical Magazine* that Jack was,

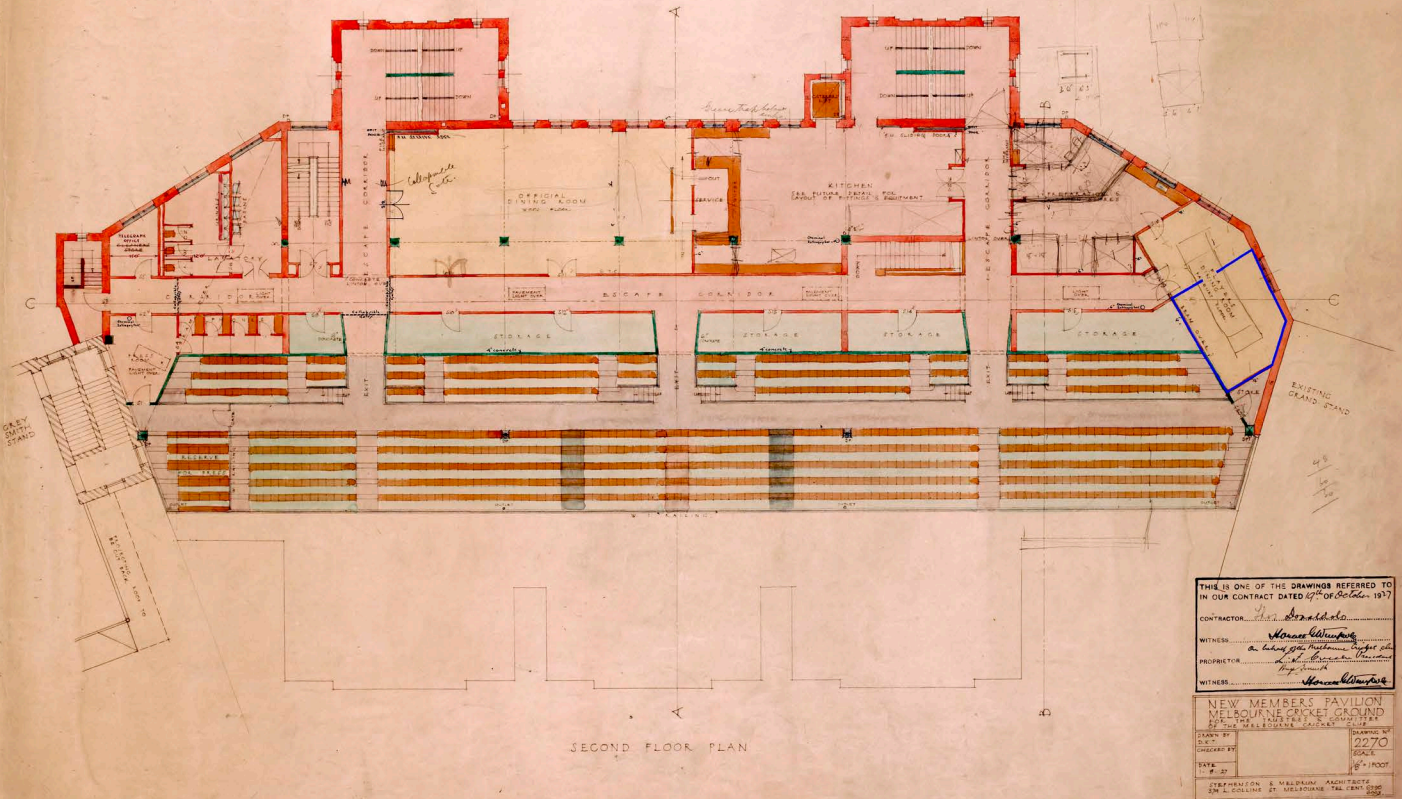
"... employed in the Accountant's Department of the Bank's head office in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. There he cultivated a taste for historical research and writing. He had an interesting article, 'When Australia Hailed the Gas Lamp', published in *The Herald* of Melbourne on the 14 March 1936. In the following year he had another article of an historical character published in *The Age* of the 18 September 1937 entitled 'Seven Times Melbourne's Mayor'.<sup>5</sup>

Shortly before his retirement Jack became a member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) in August 1952. This enthusiasm for historical study and his honorary role at the MCC did not go unnoticed by the Society. "At the [RHSV] Council's meeting on the 11 November 1958 it was decided to request Mr. McEwen 'if he would be prepared to assist the Society in getting its Library into order'." A position he accepted. For eight years he visited the RHSV rooms daily to assist with "other work of the Society" too. He resigned from the RHSV Council in April 1966.<sup>6</sup>

Jack may be best remembered for his research and various activities in Melbourne connected with the February 1961 celebration of the centenary of the birth of famed opera singer Dame Nellie Melba. Thereafter, Jack was regarded as an authority on Melba, as well as a variety of other historical subjects. He promoted the foundation of local historical societies, and contributed greatly to the historiography of the theatre, the church and banking in Victoria.

Jack also had a keen love of sport, and the Melbourne Football Club in particular. In the September 1972 issue of *Football Life*, he said he first saw the Redlegs play when he was seven in 1903, though he admitted "Melbourne were so bad in those days he used to go home crying most weeks." He also claimed that he had "not missed a single Melbourne game at the MCG in the last 57 years — every Saturday the Demons have played he's





The MCC Library space allocated in 1957 is superimposed in royal blue, over a plan of the Second Floor of the 1928 MCC Members' Pavilion [State Library of Victoria]. As the Library was on an upper level and was located at the far east of the Pavilion, it was somewhat out of the way.

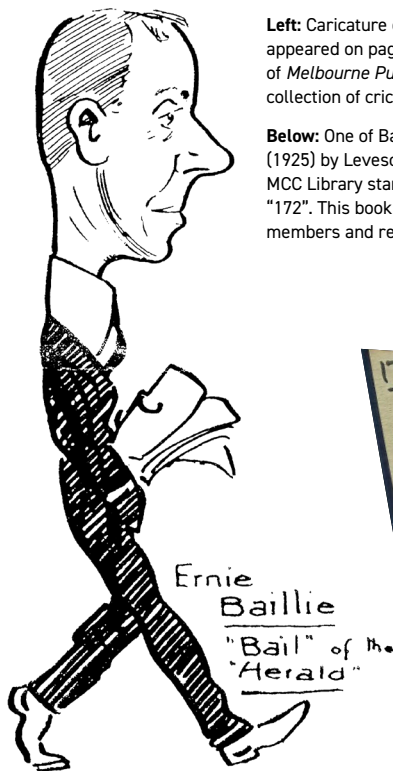
been there to cheer them on." This would date from the first year of the Great War – 1915! Further, over this period he had only missed a handful "probably four or five" of Melbourne's away games.<sup>7</sup> While Jack had a deep affection for his footy club, Alf Batchelder would recall that his opinions about the game's governing body in Victoria, the Victorian Football League (VFL,

now the Australian Football League), were often scathing.<sup>8</sup>

This passion may be another indication of his affection for football. Elie Wiesel, the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, said: "The opposite of love is not hate; it's indifference."<sup>9</sup> And Jack, it may be surmised, was not indifferent to sport. Sport does transcend its role as an amusement. It is not superficial and its organisation and its accompanying literature are important socially. It is through Jack, as the MCC Library's first Hon. Librarian, the Club's collection of bound newspapers and sporting books was first properly collated, organised, and made available systematically to researchers.

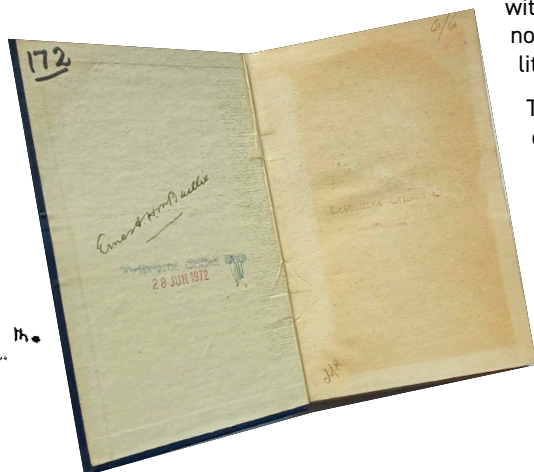
Peta Phillips recalled that, "Mr McEwen was an old-fashioned gentleman", who was "particular about manners" and was always courteous to female members of staff and guests. "He was a good man," she said. "He was very conscious of his honorary role and, though it was unpaid work, he took it extremely seriously."<sup>10</sup> His gentlemanly charm, coupled with the organisational capability he demonstrated, no doubt helped to grow the Club's holdings of sports literature.

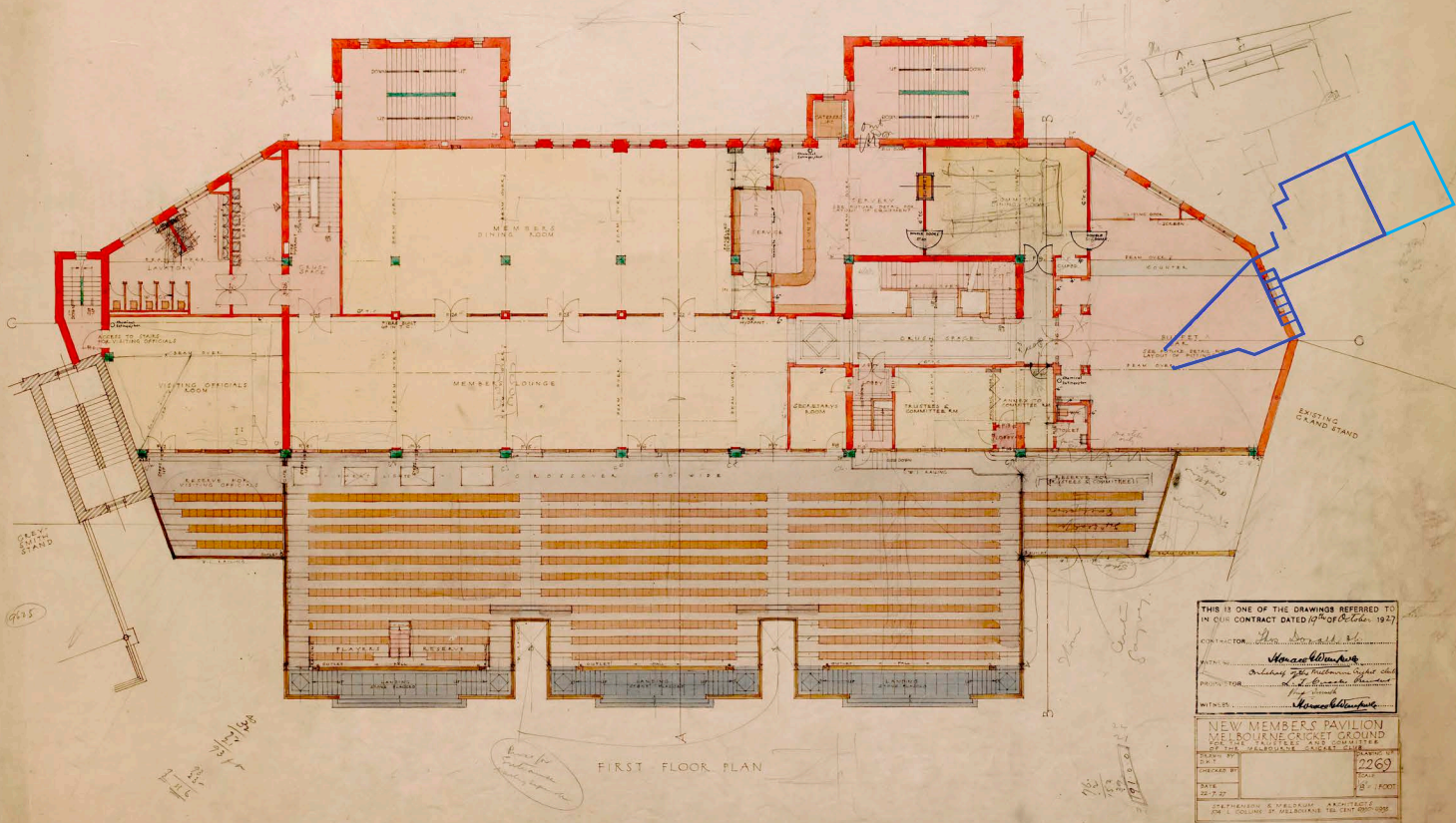
The Library's collection expanded greatly with the donation of over 200 cricket books to the Library by E.H.M. "Ernie" Baillie in 1961. Baillie, an MCC member since the 1914/15 membership season, was a leading sports journalist who wrote under the penname "Bail" for the *Herald* and the *Sporting Globe*. The Baillie Collection was kept separately until it was incorporated within the Library's other holdings in the early 1980s. Many books from the Baillie Collection may still be browsed among the Library's stacks, and are instantly identifiable by the Elastoplast on their spines. Soon after the



Left: Caricature of Ernie Baillie by Sam Wells that appeared on page 18 of the February 24, 1921, edition of *Melbourne Punch*. Baillie would donate his extensive collection of cricket books to the MCC in 1961.

Below: One of Baillie's books, *Cricket Personalities* (1925) by Leveson Gower, with Baillie's signature, its MCC Library stamps and 1972 card catalogue number "172". This book is still on the Library's stacks for members and researchers to browse at 915.1 LEV.





The MCC Library space allocated in 1982, and its extension in 1985, are superimposed over a plan of the First Floor of the 1928 MCC Members' Pavilion [State Library of Victoria]. The 1982 space is superimposed in royal blue, while the 1985 extension is in light blue. The Library's foyer was still located at the far east of the Pavilion, and the main book room was in a portion of the MCC Members' Reserve that connected to the Northern Stand. However, it was more accessible than the Library that preceded it. The 1982 Library was on the same Level as the Club's Long Room and Members' Dining Room (the level below the old 1957 Library), and therefore, it was easier for members and researchers to find, or stumble across.

Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for Season 1963/64 recorded:

"Jack, who was indefatigable in carrying out his honorary duties, and his work in the library is much admired by Members and visitors alike. One visitor from England, Colonel G.H.M. Cartwright, after visiting the Library, has arranged for issues of the 'Cricketer' to be forwarded for which the Club is most appreciative."<sup>11</sup>

In the early 1960s Jack also inaugurated "photographic and other displays in the Library on function days"<sup>12</sup> and was described as, "tireless in introducing visitors to the Library."<sup>13</sup> Due in large part to this growth and usage, Jack reorganised the MCC Library space during the mid-1960s. In 1965/66 the MCC Library's annual budget was £100<sup>14</sup> and the Club's *Annual Report* for that financial year stated that: "Renovations have been made to the Library and additional books added to the collection. Mr. J.R. McEwen continues his splendid work as Hon. Librarian and the various improvements made are a tribute to his enthusiasm."<sup>15</sup>

Still, the space itself was small. Alf Batchelder said that in the 1970s it was less of a library than a storage room filled with books.<sup>16</sup> While Peta Phillips remembered it being full of shelves. Shelving lined the walls so the space was squeezed to no more than "maybe 10 yards deep and five wide."<sup>17</sup> She wrote that it, "...was situated in a very small room in the old Pavilion, locked away from prying eyes as they say. I often smile when I think of the days I went looking for Mr McEwen in that magnificent old Pavilion. To get there you had to go up the back stairs and navigate along corridors to get to the Library. It was a very dark room filled with books up to the ceiling. A quick call on my part, 'Mr McEwen where are you?' A muffled voice would reply, 'Over near the second row at the back'. We would often laugh about that."<sup>18</sup> Horrie Webber first used this incarnation of the MCC

Library in 1965. He recalled: "That old Library was not too good from the point of view of being weatherproof and some of the books became water damaged."<sup>19</sup>

Other important collections acquired by the MCC Library during Jack's tenure as Hon. Librarian were the printed publications from the Anthony Baer Collection. This was acquired in the late-1960s and included 250 of cricket's rarest books, pamphlets and ephemera, including what is currently the Club's oldest possession, Randle Cotgrave's *Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues* that was published in London in 1611. The Sir Robert Menzies Collection was acquired in 1975, when Sir Robert offered to help fill gaps in the MCC Library's collection from his personal library. Over 50 items were accepted, including 42 presented by their authors to Sir Robert. These are on permanent display in one of the Frank Laver cabinets in the current Library.

Another notable donation was the Collection of the Rev. Frank Chamberlin, the former Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral. He had offered "to leave his cricket library as a legacy to the Club" as early as 1963.<sup>20</sup> His renowned book collection for other sports was later accepted by the MCC Library on April 1, 1982. His residual cricket books that were not needed by the MCC Library formed the basis of the Australian Cricket Society's Library. Today the MCC Library holds over 350 items from the Dean's collection.

John Weickhardt assisted Jack as another honorary librarian from 1967, and Howard Head joined them from 1972. Weickhardt was instrumental in establishing the MCC Museum in 1969 and with Jack McEwen he co-authored a handwritten index for *Cricket: A Weekly Record of the Game* in the early 1970s. This was a herculean task by the pair, and involved manually reading, noting, and organising thousands of articles in hundreds of issues of the magazine dating from 1865 to 1914. It was a landmark work. In an era before the advent of optical



**Above:** Jack McEwen (left) with his son-in-law Anthony "Tony" Jessop, a prominent cricket collector, examine items that were stored in the 1914 Frank Laver Cabinets. These cabinets are now in the MCC Library. Jack is holding one of the Club's bound *Australasian* newspapers that inaugurated the Library in 1873. In 2000 Helen Jessop, Jack's daughter and Tony Jessop's widow, donated 573 of Tony's books to the MCC Library through the Cultural Gifts Program. Over 60 of Tony's cricketing prints were donated to the MCC Museum. [Image courtesy of Sarah Atkinson (Jack's granddaughter)]

character recognition (OCR), a tool of the 21st century, this was *the* important reference resource to navigate half-a-century of cricket's history and the sport's personalities.

The collection was still relatively small in the early 1970s. In 1972 it had about 300 monographs, and in October that year MCC members were first permitted to borrow books – but only on match days. This was agreed to by the MCC Committee on August 29, after a suggestion by the three honorary librarians who introduced a card index system. McEwen, Weickhardt and Head then voluntarily staffed the library on match days, one hour before the start of play and during major intervals.<sup>21</sup>

The "lending library" scheme was discontinued within a few years. The books that were "on loan" but had not been returned within the 14-day limit, were recalled in 1975. However, this scheme started a tradition that the Library was open to MCC members and their guests on all match days at the MCG. By then the Library, with the MCC Museum, had become key pillars in the Club's commitment to the heritage and the study of sport in Melbourne. Your Library under Jack had progressed from a random collection of cricket books and bound newspapers, to the germ of a respected sports research hub and a welcoming space for the Club's members.

Jack McEwen was honoured for his service to the "History of Victoria" with the British Empire Medal on June 3, 1978. Jack maintained an involvement with the Library into the 1980s. Although he was less engaged with librarianship in this decade, with Horrie Webber, the pair were still nominally regarded as "honorary librarians" as late as 1982.<sup>22</sup> In that year the Library had been relocated to a more spacious area in the Members' Reserve north of the Long Room, between the 1928 Members' Pavilion and the Northern Stand (renamed the Olympic Stand in 1987). Its running by then was effectively under Rex Harcourt, the MCC's Honorary Research Consultant, who was ably assisted by a professionally qualified librarian in Ross Peacock. Jack died on August 2, 1985, after decades of advancing the Melbourne Cricket Club's heritage and historiographic research generally.

### Author:

**Trevor Ruddell** is the Melbourne Cricket Club Deputy Librarian.

## Endnotes

1. *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for Season 1956/57*, p.13.
2. Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held at M.C.C. Office, 314 Collins St., Melbourne on Tuesday 28th May 1957 at 3.15p.m. Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held at M.C.C. Office, 314 Collins St., Melbourne on Tuesday 25th June 1957 at 3.15p.m.
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6. *Ibid.*
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8. Conversation with Alf Batchelder at Brighton, March 16, 2024.
9. Wiesel, Elie, quoted in Sanoff, Alvin P., "One must not forget: Interview with Elie Wiesel", *U.S. News and World Report*, October 27, 1986, p.68. While this quote is famously attributed to Wiesel, Wilhelm Stekel, an Austrian psychologist, had earlier expressed this idea in his 1921 German language book, *Die Geschlechtskälte der Frau: Eine Psychopathologie des Weiblichen Liebeslebens*.
10. Conversation with Peta Phillips in the MCC Library, March 24, 2024.
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12. *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for Season 1962/63*, p.9.
13. *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for Season 1964/65*, p.6.
14. Minutes of a General Meeting of the Melbourne Cricket Club Committee held at 26 Jolimont Terrace, Jolimont on Thursday 31st August 1965, at 4p.m.
15. *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for Season 1965/66*, p.6.
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17. Conversation with Peta Phillips in the MCC Library, March 24, 2024.
18. Phillips, Peta, "The Melbourne Cricket Club Library is so Special to Me", *Yorker: Journal of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library*, iss.80, Summer 2023/24, pp.18-19. <https://www.flipsnack.com/melbournecricketclub/the-yorker-issue-80-summer-2023-24/full-view.html>
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20. Minutes of a Meeting of the Melbourne Cricket Club General Committee held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday 26th February 1963 at 4p.m.
21. "Library Books Available to Members", *Melbourne Cricket Club News Letter*, no.50, October 1972, np.
22. *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for Season 1981/82*, np.



# Elevating the MCC Library:

## OR WHY IT IS WHERE IT IS

By Stephen Gough

Left: Stephen Gough in the Club's Chief Executive's office in the second Olympic Stand.

Stephen Gough was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO, known as Club secretary/General Manager from 2000-2004) of the Melbourne Cricket Club from March 2000 to March 2017. Throughout the previous 18 years he had worked for the Carlton Football Club, the final six-and-a-half of which he was the Blues' CEO. Very much a modern sports administrator, who instilled in his staff a "can-do" attitude, he was approachable but always on top of the Club's extensive business interests. For over 17 years with the MCC, Stephen was responsible for the financial, legal, and contractual operations of the Club which manages the MCG (currently Australia's biggest amphitheatre). The Club manages a world class arena, with a multi-million dollar budget, and was numerically the largest private club in Australia throughout Stephen's tenure. As the CEO, Stephen had regularly sought input from your Library – which is effectively the Club's deep memory. He would also consult the librarians for personal sports related research too. For his transformative work for the Club and its ground, Stephen was elected an MCC Honorary Life Member on August 15, 2023. Stephen's many achievements include the redevelopment of the northern side of the MCG, in time to play host as the main stadium for the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. These massive works saw the progressive demolition and replacement of the W.H. Ponsford Stand, the MCC Members' Pavilion, and Olympic Stand from 2003 to 2006. With the project Stephen conceived and advocated for the MCC Library's current location in the Members' Reserve. The following is the story of Stephen's role in your Library's journey to its current site.

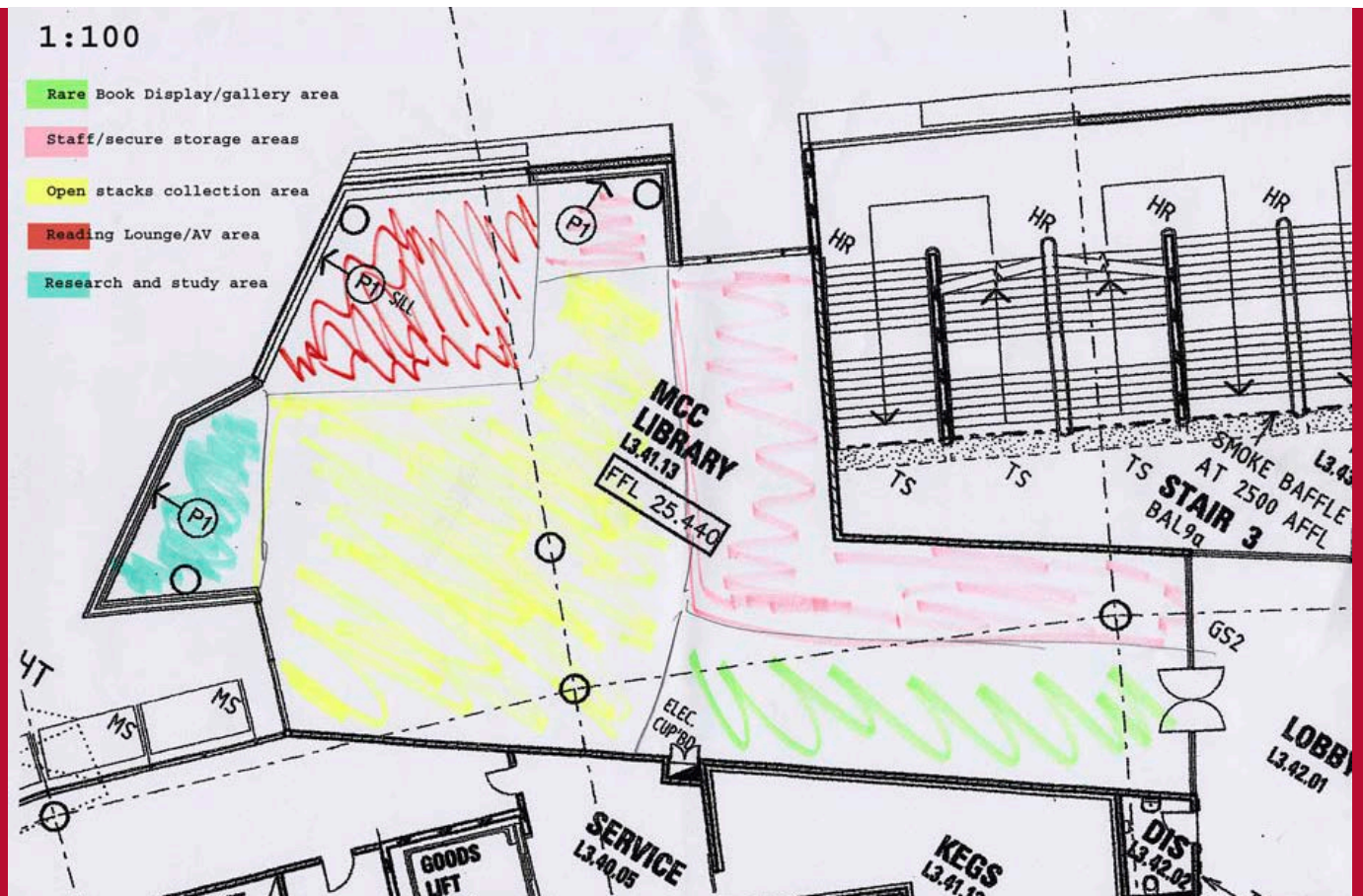
I was introduced to the previous Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) Library as a guest of a member many years ago. We had lunch in the Pavilion before a cricket match and then we went for a wander. I couldn't believe this little thing. It was a cedar-panelled room that was floor to ceiling books. It was also cramped. Members I know from this period tell me that they "sort of might go into the Library", but it was not spacious and so, "you couldn't really sit down." But on that afternoon, when I first set foot on the squeaky floor of the old Library, I could not have anticipated that a few years later I may have a role in the MCC Library's story.

I had trained as a teacher, but it was not a love of scholarship that enabled me to affect the direction of the MCC Library and its current position in the Members' Reserve. It was a love of football that led me to a career in sports administration, and placed me a position to influence the facilities in the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

In the 1970s I taught and played footy in Bendigo and Echuca before I went overseas in 1978. Upon returning I completed a Level 2 Coaching Course at Melbourne University and coached an under 16's team. I was soon advised that the Victorian Football League (VFL, now the Australian Football League) was going to initiate football development positions in the country and metropolitan zones of each VFL club. Given that I had played footy in Bendigo, and knew the area well, I successfully applied for the Carlton country zone job in 1982. About one year later, after Carlton's football manager left for another club, I replaced him in Melbourne. I worked for Carlton for 18 years, and was CEO of the Blues for six-and-a-half, before I was appointed by the MCC in 2000.

As the General Manager of the MCC I had to have a more considered look at the Library. I thought that in the early 2000s the then Library space was no longer fit for purpose. The public facing part of the Library was split level, with a lower display foyer and an upper main Library that was accessed by a half dozen or so stairs. The collection in the upper part had outgrown its space. Many of the bookshelves were double stacked and this made it uncondusive for browsing. In this upper area was also squeezed a microfilm reader-printer, two large tables for researchers and staff to process books, and a photocopier. The librarians' work stations were hived out and crammed in there too. As for its three small store rooms, they were located in a variety of areas in the Members' Reserve. I understood that the main Library was in an oddly-shaped mezzanine space between the old 1928 Pavilion and the Olympic Stand. I realised that despite such restrictions the Library's staff and the Club's architects had to craft a library out of the space allocated as best they could. But it was not ideal.

The redevelopment of the northern side of the MCG from 2003 to 2006, in time for the staging of the 2006 Commonwealth Games, presented a great opportunity for the Club and its heritage collections including the Library. The project would involve the demolition of the old W.H. Ponsford Stand, the 1928 Members' Pavilion and the old Olympic Stand – including the old Library of course – and their replacement. The Library is an institution that the Club respects, and members of the MCC Committee, such as Stephen Spargo, were very keen to make sure that due respect was paid to the history of the Club. This entailed that the northern side redevelopment included new sport and Club museums, and a new MCC Library, along with appropriately located heritage store rooms with temperature and humidity controls.



**Above:** David Studham and John Owen's early layout for the present MCC Library space. The allocation of more space for the Library would see it reconfigured, with the Library's office space and a kitchenette on the eastern side by Goods Lift 4 (shown at the bottom of this plan).

Despite the physical limitations of the old Library, it was my view that it was an essential part of the Club. It provided a great service to members as well as researchers. Therefore, I thought it should be elevated, and located in a prime position in the Members' Reserve. I did not want to build something and then, maybe five years on, the people who use it say, "this doesn't work and we need to do something." So I pushed to have it in a good space with enough room. Unlike the MCC's previous library spaces, reading rooms and stores, it was not to be a repurposing of otherwise unused odd and disparate rooms. The MCC Library and its store were to be located and designed with their purpose in mind.

My vision for the new Library was reinforced by a visit to Lord's, the Marylebone Cricket Club's hallowed ground in London. I was looking at the elements of their history and their museum, and how Marylebone presented it. In terms of the space and how you access their pavilion, it was possibly not as good as what we had at the MCG, but I think that their priorities about their club and club activities, and its celebration of heritage through their library, museum and archives, was great.

The Pavilion at Lord's had a room called the Writing Room. It is a great room with a big window view of the ground. On non-match days members also used it to write or read. This reinforced my opinion that prime spots make a difference, and the old MCC Library and the MCG's museums prior to the redevelopment were a bit disjointed. The Writing Room gave me that inspiration to argue that a prime spot in the MCC Members' Reserve doesn't need to be a "commercial" space. Like the Writing Room it can be a space for members, the people who fund the Club through their annual subscriptions, and guests of the Club too. And like the Writing Room in the Pavilion at Lord's, it has got to be in a

good position. My visit to Lord's reinforced the importance of spaces like this to club life.

Today, I get a great thrill when I see people using the MCC Library, and particularly so on Test match days. It has been a great success. People come in between sessions, they sit down and use the place to read or peruse books, or just enjoy the ambiance. I believe this is largely due to its location in the MCC Members' Reserve. It is at a mid-point of the Reserve being directly above the Members' Dining Room. It is also by a stairwell and, by being situated on Level 3, the Library is mid-level too. People seated in the Reserve on Level 4 can use it as easily as those on Level 1. So, besides being far more spacious than the previous Library, I think members are more aware of it due to its elevation within the Reserve. It is in a more prominent position than the previous one. It is close to where people are, and it has become a part of many people's match day routine.

With a reasonable space allocated I trusted the staff to configure the room and determine what was needed to suit its various functions. It was best to give this responsibility to those who know. We were on a pretty tight timeline and had to keep things moving. So I considered that it was best to say: "Here's your space, now go away and make it work." And that's exactly what happened. The Librarian, David Studham, with his assistant John Owen, surveyed other libraries, looked at their layout and operations, but also their resources and even the collateral they distributed. With this knowledge, David and John then tailored the space to suit the MCC's needs, not only as a members' space on match days, but as a sports research hub, and as a part of the MCG Volunteer Tour Guides' route.



**Above:** The present MCC Library is a popular rendezvous for many MCC members and their guests on event days. This photograph was taken prior to the AFL's second qualifying final between Richmond and Geelong on Friday September 8, 2017.

The librarians and the architects did a wonderful job that exudes club, with dark wood panels complementing the MCC furniture that had been retained from the old Members' Reserve. As a result we have a beautiful layout with our rare books in a foyer away from natural sunlight. These are stored in glass-faced cabinets so tourists may view our treasures in the foyer without invading the stacks, disturbing researchers and delaying the tour group. In the foyer the Library also safely displays its treasures in bespoke flat top cabinets. Past the reference desk, thousands of books are arranged in stacks for browsing, and there is the Melbourne Football Club's old leather inlaid boardroom table and carrels for use by researchers and staff. Its office area is adjoining but separate from the "public" spaces, and the current Library has a spacious lounge area by large windows overlooking the practice wickets and a green space towards the city. This is very popular on match days.

However, the space that would be allocated to the Library was regarded by some as valuable commercial real-estate, and there were lots of ideas about how it could be used for other purposes. I hold that the MCC Library has an intrinsic value to the Club, but also to Melbourne's heritage and the people of Victoria. If you look at the history of the Club it virtually parallels the settlement of Melbourne, and so we are an inseparable part of the city's sporting story.

Our Club pays due homage to this through its museum collections, the Library, to cricket, to community sport, and the like. Over the 186 years of the Club's existence it has evolved in to a social and cultural position that is unique. There is no club in Australia like our Club. It is prestigious but it also builds stands and funds facilities for members and non-members too. And there is no club that has something like this Library in terms

of its reputation and as a facility. It is an important part of our ongoing preservation as a Club, but is also accessible to all people as a research institution. The Library is a sports history research hub and we are beautifully positioned to link writers and scholars, as the Library's clients are often the who's who of sport researchers. And this is what you want your Club to be. You want it to be relevant.

The Library sets the Club up as the custodian of sports heritage. Over my years with the Club, there have been countless numbers of authors, journalists, sports writers – overseas and local – who have made use of the Library and told me, "thank goodness this exists", or say, "how great your staff are when I come to them" with a research problem. But essentially they all say it's brilliant. I have had my own experience where someone will ask me a question about something in regard to football or cricket and I go to the Library staff. I'll get a definitive and very comprehensive answer – with regards to everything surrounding that particular question and the answer.

We have such a treasure trove of material and people love it. People with real status in sports writing and research fields attended and spoke at the Library's 150th Anniversary Luncheon in the Long Room on November 1, 2023. They spoke from the heart of what the MCC Library meant to them. How it helped and influenced them. This reinforced totally that it is a very good investment by the Club. If you need any reference points for what the MCC Library's purpose is, just refer to the key speeches from that luncheon – it was just perfect. You would understand the Library is a great space that is well positioned. The Library is well used. The Library is well respected. When you hear those comments the whole Club is elevated.



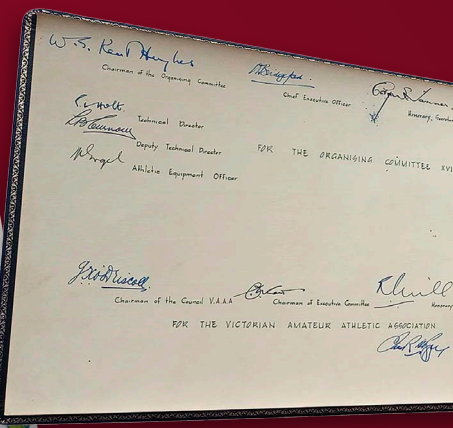
# 150% 150 TREASURES

The 150th Anniversary of the Library collection is being celebrated across 12 months and commenced with the launch of the MCC Library – 150th Treasures exhibition on September 6. These treasures are being posted on the @MelbCCLibrary Instagram account on 150 weekdays across the year.

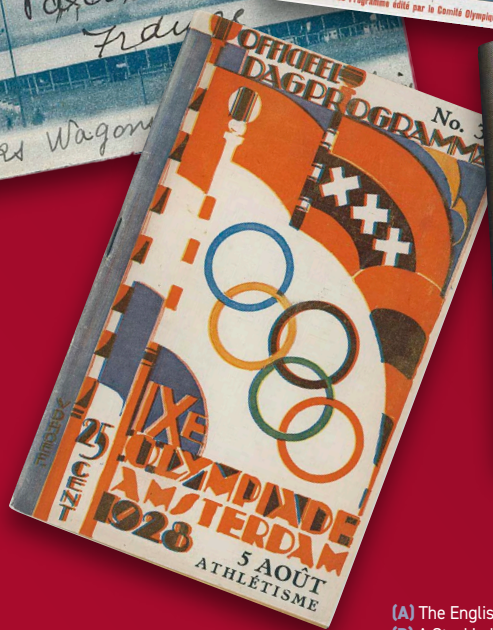
Highlights of the exhibition will be displayed in the MCC Library foyer, with three rotations across the 12 months. We started with predominantly football-themed items in September 2023, cricket-& summer themed

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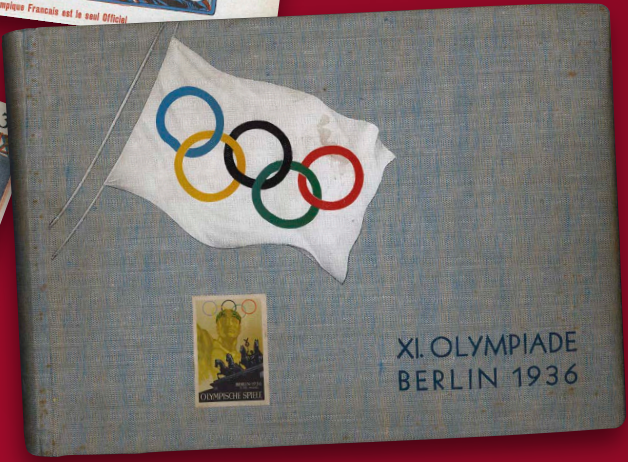
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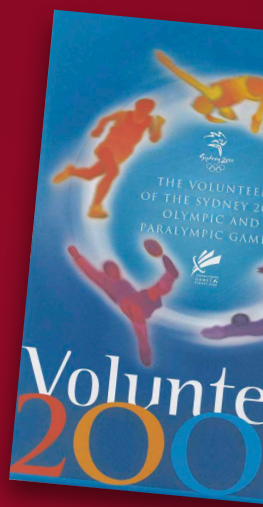
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M

(A) The English Penny Magazine published an article on the history of the ancient Olympic Games across two issues in 1838. (B) A Stockholm 1912 Olympic Games programme in the Art Nouveau style of the era. (C) The book of Gauges for Field Games Implements for 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. It was kindly donated to the MCC Library by William Galbraith's descendants in 2012. (D) "Car Pass" for the "XVIth Olympiad, Melbourne, 1956." (E) Staff Duty Pass that permitted the "Masseur – Greek Team" entry to the "Main Stadium – MCG" for the duration of the 1956 Olympic Games. (F) German Olympic Committee's report for the 1956 Olympic Games. (G) A souvenir programme for the 1956 Olympic Games. (H) An official invitation of Melbourne's bid to host the 1956 Olympic Games that was presented to the International Olympic Committee in 1949.



# Years asures

items across the summer from December 2023 to April 2024, and finally Olympic and general sport-themed items from May to August 2024. There are specific Melbourne 1956 displays as well as Olympic Games across the years comparisons of items such as programmes, invitations Official Reports and tickets.

Tours of specific groups of Library treasures are taking place across the year, and are advertised on the MCC Library's social media and website.



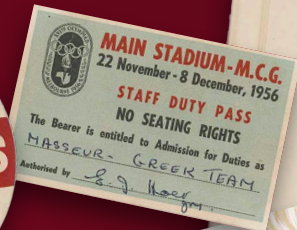
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(I) Official invitation for Australia to compete in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. (J) A guidebook issued by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to promote the 2020 Games. (K) The official invitation to compete at the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympic Games. (L) The official invitation to compete at the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games. (M) Information booklet for prospective volunteers for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic games. (N) This photographic album of the 1936 Berlin Games recorded the participation on the Australian team. (O) A 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games programme design that reflected the Art Deco style of the 1920s. (P) This rare aerogramme commemorated the anticipated Helsinki Games of 1940, and was posted in August 1939. After being cancelled due to the Second World War, Helsinki would host the Games of 1952. (Q) This programme for the 1924 Paris Olympic Games was printed in the French Republic's red, white and blue, and its Classical style evoked the ancient Olympic Games.

# The

## • FRIDAY CREW •



By Gaye Fitzpatrick

Gaye Fitzpatrick shelving books in the Library's Children's Section in 2017.

Gaye Fitzpatrick began volunteering at the MCC Library in June 2008. She was an ALIA accredited teacher-librarian and her professional experience has been invaluable. No library task that has been asked of her has been shirked, whether it be technical such as consolidating authority files on the catalogue, to the practical such as assisting with indexing the *Football/AFL Record*, to the physical such as the rearrangement of shelves in the stacks. She has an adept eye for detail and her proofreading of your Library's publications has been invaluable. Many clients will recognise her as a casual staffer at the reference desk on match days beginning June 2015. Gaye ably fulfils any and all roles asked of her with diligence and good humour.

Almost exactly 70 years ago, I stepped on to the "hallowed turf", dressed as a spinning top. My primary school was one of the many taking part in the Welcome to the Queen in 1954. Our segment was one where toys came to life. Fairy dolls, toy soldiers (I think), spinning tops and other toys stood in circles, waiting for their turn to perform inside each circle. Naturally the spinning tops had to spin while completing the circuit, a challenge for a non-athletic child prone to motion sickness. All that I can remember of the day is the feeling of intense relief that I hadn't fallen over or worse.

Only recently I discovered another girl was also somewhat tense when her school's Maypole dance was, she believed, totally ruined because one of her classmates went the wrong way. This little girl was Peta Phillips, a pillar of the Club and now a Library Volunteer and friend. Quite possibly we weren't the only ones who didn't fully enjoy the experience.

After I retired, I was looking for voluntary work when, in the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) information bulletin then published weekly in the papers, I read the MCC Library was asking for volunteers. As a former teacher-librarian I had valued the assistance given by parents and students, and I knew that libraries always needed willing helpers to stamp and shelve books, so I put in an application.

On my first Friday, I was introduced to Stephen Flemming, who started on the same day. Our job was down in the basement, where we were shown a filing cabinet filled with newspaper clippings collected by Ron Carter, and we were asked to sort them into alphabetical order. Over the years, we teamed up on many tasks as well as undertaking individual duties. Five years later, Edward Cohen started as a member of the Friday crew, and he and I have had great fun accomplishing all manner of different jobs from sorting and preparing serials for binding, checking the contents of items in storage boxes in the basement, indexing *Football Records* and proofreading *MCC Library Fact Sheets* and the *Yorker*. Proofreading is a job which, to my surprise, I discovered that I enjoy enormously. Similarly, folding

and stapling of booklets such as the *MCC Library Record* is quite satisfying, especially on the Friday before the grand final, as it adds to the build-up to the big day.

In the early years we spent much of our time in the basement in the delightful company of three special ladies - Deb Schrader (cataloguer extraordinaire), the highly skilled technician Cathy Poon, and the busy archivist Trish Downs who was bringing order to the Club's treasures. Occasionally Peta "Pip" Phillips and Marie Pernat joined this talented group. I certainly miss those days.

I did stamp a few books occasionally, but the list of tasks undertaken over the years is very long, and I have lost count of them. A memorable, and hopefully never to be repeated one, was the day the Library leaked badly above one of the Laver cabinets in October 2022 and there was a mad panic to rescue the books from what could have been a lot of damage.

Working as a match day casual meant that I had the wonderful chance to meet and work with the incomparable Ray Webster, the human cricket database, and it also gave me the opportunity to get to know other Library Volunteers who worked on different days.

David Studham and Trevor Ruddell provide a warm and welcoming environment for us all, and it is a privilege to be a small part of the Library family under their excellent stewardship.



Gaye is dressed as a spinning top for HRH Queen Elizabeth II's visit to the MCG in 1954.



# A SPECIAL PART of My Life

By Edward Cohen

Edward Cohen joined the MCC Library's cohort of volunteers in May 2013. Ed is blessed with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Melbourne Football Club and sporting events that have taken place at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Like a walking, talking Demons' reference book, he can not only describe Melbourne matches from the 1960s in detail, but the results, odd incidents in them and even the weather and ground conditions. Ed is the embodiment of why the knowledge housed by your Library is not just contained in books, but in the paid and unpaid people who staff it. He is an enthusiastic worker for your Library, albeit with a dry wit, and his love of just being present in the place is always in evidence.

My first experience of the Melbourne Cricket Ground was as a seven year old in 1963. My great uncle had a spare ladies ticket having been a Melbourne Cricket Club member before 1936. My brother used our father's ladies ticket. We soon became fanatical Melbourne Football Club supporters, which was only enhanced by being present at the Demons' 1964 premiership.

There followed mostly dark days for the club but eventually we became MCC members having been enrolled at birth. From early on I loved sporting books – particularly cricket and Victorian Football League (VFL, now Australian Football League) football. I came to visit the Library regularly, particularly after the reconstruction in 2006. I noted that there was an opening for volunteers and in 2008 I completed the application form and quickly put it out of my mind.

In early 2013, I received a surprise letter from the MCC, inviting me to come in for a chat/interview. I met David Studham, Trevor Ruddell and Deb Schrader. I was told there was an opening on Fridays, and started promptly.

I had the pleasure of working with Stephen Flemming and Gaye Fitzpatrick as one of the Friday team. One early highlight was Stephen locating membership records from 1851. He was able to establish that my great, great grandfather, Edward Cohen, and the great, great uncle of Ann Rusden, a fellow volunteer, were accepted as members on the same day! Ann and I were both present for Stephen's discovery and this made it more special.

Subsequently, I have worked on a variety of projects, including book reviews for *The Yorker*. Gaye and I have been close colleagues and have been involved in a number of tasks. This includes indexing the Library's collection of the *Football/AFL Record*, collating scrap books from Roy Hay's huge soccer collection, proof reading the *Yorker* before publication, checking *MCC Library Fact Sheets*, periodic shelf reads, and sorting periodicals for binding.

**Above:** Edward Cohen folding issues of the *MCC Library Record* in preparation for the 2023 AFL grand final.

**Below:** In 2013, Edward and fellow MCC Library Volunteer Ann Rusden, discuss the 1851 membership inductions of their respective ancestors.



In recent years it has been a pleasure to meet Lynda Carroll. Her vast knowledge of the Melbourne Football Club has contributed to so much conversation and debate. We are hopeless Dees tragics and *Dee-brief* whenever we catch up. It is wonderful to meet the person behind the words.

A constant throughout has been the stewardship of David Studham and Trevor Ruddell who readily inspire with their thirst for knowledge and enduring enthusiasm – as likewise do the volunteers.

The recent 150th celebration was a fitting tribute to all those past and present that had made the Library what it is today – one of the world's pre-eminent sporting collections. My volunteering at the MCC Library has been a special part of my life for the past ten years.



## TREASURES OF THE COLLECTION

### Rennie Ellis (1940 – 2003)

By Alex Chubaty

## *The Long Bar, Melbourne Cricket Club*

1983 (printed 2008) C-Type photograph

Although it is titled *The Long Bar, Melbourne Cricket Club*, Rennie Ellis' photograph actually depicts the interior of the Bullring Bar in the old 1928 Members' Pavilion, which was demolished in 2003. A new Bullring Bar was opened on Level B1 of the current Members' Reserve. The Ellis photograph currently hangs in the upper level of the Long Room on Level 2.

At the MCG, the Club displays photographs that are formal portraits, team line ups, and key sporting moments on the ground, but this is a unique image of socialising at the MCG during event days, but away from the seating bowl and arena. Two men lean against the bar, caught in the glow of late afternoon sunlight, while in the background a group of men talk over their drinks. It's a peaceful, relaxed and comfortable place to be for these MCC members.

But, this scene may be somewhat misleading and does not reflect the Bullring's centrality to the drinking MCC Members'

experience at the MCG before 2003. The Bullring Bar's position in the Pavilion at ground level made it a very popular watering hole during breaks in play, as well as before and after events. When this photograph was taken in 1983, sporting events at the ground could only be viewed live from the seating bowl or in rooms with a view of the arena – not on screens. Therefore, it seems likely that this photograph of a largely empty Bullring was taken while play was underway.

Many older MCC members may remember this room being crowded, as members and their guests filled it wall to wall, and cheek by jowl. The Bullring had the aroma of stale beer and the carpeted floor was sticky. Thirsty members, some half-a-dozen or so deep, would crush and jostle around the two oval bars. Most carried banknotes in hand as they sought the attention of, and service from, hectic staff. Most would recall the old Bullring being very busy and very loud. Hints of its popularity are betrayed by the cigarette butts that litter the floor by the bar in the print.



The room was initially designed and laid out in 1928 with one large oval bar in the center, hence the epithet "Bullring". Such was the room's popularity in 1969, twin diamond shaped "bullring" counters with canopies "illuminated by indirect fluorescent lighting", replaced the older "huge space wasting island bar". The 20 extra feet of counter space allowed patrons greater access to a tippie or two, or maybe a round, between sessions. The 1969 configuration by Moushall & Marshall Pty. Ltd. also included a false ceiling, and the clear glass windows along one side were "reglazed in an amber cathedral bronze." According to the *Melbourne Cricket Club News Letter* the, "effect was subdued and intimate."<sup>1</sup>

On the original plans for the 1928 Members' Pavilion by Stephenson & Meldrum Architects the room was simply identified as "Members Bar". The March 1969 *Melbourne Cricket Club News Letter* referred to it as "The Pavilion Bar more commonly known as the Bull Ring".<sup>2</sup> However, in Club publications and documents it would be usually written as one word, the "Bullring" or as the "Bullring Bar". It was an apt and descriptive moniker of what until 1983 was a male only domain.

The photograph was taken in 1983, as the MCC was preparing to admit women as members for the first time, so this image captures a scene not only in the twilight of an afternoon, but from the twilight days of an exclusively male environment. In July that year women were able to enter the Members' Pavilion as guests of (male) members on match days, but it

was not until 1984 that they were allowed to join the Club as Provisional Members.

Before it was donated in 2016 by Phillip Ellis, Rennie Ellis's brother, this print was originally created for the exhibition "No Standing, Only Dancing - Photographs by Rennie Ellis" that was held at the National Gallery of Victoria from October 31, 2008, to February 22, 2009.

Rennie Ellis was one of Australia's most prolific photographic artists. He initially aspired to become a photo journalist, but he soon moved beyond that, losing the detached eye required for this and becoming fully immersed in the life of sports, music festivals, nightclubs and street life as he observed it. A large collection of Ellis' photographs has been digitized by the State Library of Victoria and is available through its online catalogue. While so many of his photographs capture the excitement and movement of a particular event, here Ellis has observed a moment of stillness. *The Long Bar, Melbourne Cricket Club*, is a beautifully composed visual document.

Ellis's work is collected widely in Australia and overseas, especially as he travelled extensively to find international as well as home grown subjects. After he died suddenly in 2003, The Rennie Ellis Photographic Archive was established here in Melbourne. The Archive releases limited edition photographs, collaborates with public and private galleries to produce exhibitions, and is an education resource for anyone.

**Top Right:** Another image of the Bullring Bar, looking across the north or "rear" side of the room in 1975. *Souvenir View Folder: Melbourne Cricket Ground: Home of the Melbourne Cricket Club: Melbourne, Australia.* [MCC Library collection]

### Author:

**Alex Chubaty** was an Assistant Curator of the Melbourne Cricket Club and Australian Sports Museum.

### End Notes:

1. "The Old Bar Yields to the New", *Melbourne Cricket Club News Letter*, no.36, March 1969, p.1.
2. Ibid. Though informally dubbed the "Bull Ring" it was formally designated "The Pavilion Bar" in the Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club held at 26 Jolimont Ter., Jolimont, Tuesday, Oct. 28, 1969 at 4.00pm.



# Merri Creek Soil,

By Trevor Ruddell

## the MCG's Cricket Pitches and its Turf

Much has been written of soil used for the cricket pitches at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). The rich black earth has developed its own mythology. Keith Dunstan described Merri Creek soil as:

“The mysterious soil used for the wicket at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and other Victorian wickets. It sets black and hard and looks like overcooked plum pudding. Its ways are varied and strange. Even trained psychiatrists have been unable to explain the behaviour of Merri Creek Soil.”<sup>1</sup>

For over a century this has been the chosen soil for many cricket pitches throughout Greater Melbourne, including the Melbourne Cricket Club's (MCC) other cricket pitches south of the Yarra River, at the Albert Ground and Beaumaris Secondary College. It also top-dressed a short-lived MCC tennis court at the northern end of the Albert Ground reserve (then called the Warehousemen's Cricket Ground) opened on February 2, 1907.<sup>2</sup> During the 1890s and 1900s the MCC helped facilitate the soil's export to create top-quality cricket wickets in regional centres and other Australian colonies/states.

Merri Creek has its source at Heathcote Junction, about 50 kilometres due north of the MCG. A tributary to the Yarra, the creek winds southwards through Melbourne's northern suburbs of Epping, Campbellfield, Fawkner, Coburg and Northcote, to Clifton Hill. The Yarra River and its tributaries have their origins in the late Tertiary period. Around 10 million years ago the Nillumbik Terrain was uplifted and tilted towards the sea. This caused streams to form and their courses to cut through the Tertiary sands and Silurian bedrock to form valleys.

Therefore, the area between the Yarra Ranges and Port Phillip Bay consists of a series of rivers, creeks and interconnected historic wetlands forming a resource rich landscape. The

**Above:** Melbourne Cricket Ground staff 1920. **Left to Right:** Dolly (horse), George Lewis, Jack House, Jack Browne, Ernie Tout, Herb Fry, Charlie Over, Alan Davidson, Ted Morton, Bert Lutterell (curator)

MCG is situated within the Gippsland Plains Bioregion that is typified by flat low-lying coastal and alluvial plains with a gently undulating terrain dominated by barrier dunes, floodplains and swampy flats. The bioregion has a temperate climate and the majority of rain falls in winter. Thus, the area around Melbourne and its soils were created geologically, but the country has a mythological origin story too.

Since time immemorial the area of Greater Melbourne north of the Yarra River, including the MCG and Merri Creek, was a portion of the country of the Wurundjeri-willam, a Woi wurrung speaking Kulin clan. In 1878 R. Brough Smyth wrote they believed that Bunjil “made the earth (Beek-nareen) and all



things besides." The closely related Bunurong clans south of the Yarra held Bunjil with, "a large knife... went all over it, cutting it in many places, and thereby formed creeks and rivers, and mountains and valleys."<sup>3</sup>

A location by Merri Creek in Fitzroy North is thought by some to be the site where John Batman and Kulin clan heads signed their treaty on June 6, 1835. A region near the confluence of Merri Creek and the Yarra River at Yarra Bend was the site of a Native Police encampment, as well as an Aboriginal mission school and station under William Thomas during the 1840s. The school was officially closed in 1851 and the Native Police Corps was disbanded in 1853.

The MCC was granted the current MCG site by the Victorian government on September 23, 1853, and the Club's first cricket match here was played on September 30, 1854. This entailed the removal of red gums, their stumps, and hundreds of tons of bluestone for the site before "topdressing was applied to the area".<sup>4</sup> The MCG arena was first properly surveyed in 1861 by MCC committeeman Robert Bagot. Bagot, a civil engineer, changed the ground's configuration from an irregular hexagon shape into what is today's conventional oval, and made plans to install drainage too.

Under Bagot's supervision during the winter of 1862, the Club's curator, Rowland Newbury and his men were busy "ploughing, sowing, mowing and rolling the sward". *Bell's Life in Victoria* reported that into the ploughed area "200 loads of well-rotted manure" were worked.<sup>5</sup> The following winter the well-drained outfield, "which in former years nothing would prevent getting barren during the summer months... [was] ploughed up to the extent of two-thirds of the circumference of the ground, and sown with English grasses".<sup>6</sup>

It would not be until the 1880s that Merri Creek soil was first recorded being used at the MCG. In 1883 it was reported that the ground's "turf itself has been top-dressed all over with about 500 loads of splendid loam, obtained from the Merri Creek."<sup>7</sup> Ted Morton would credit the generous application of the soil at the MCG to Walter McAlpine, stating that, "During McAlpine's term as curator [from April 1880 to April 1888] a determined effort was made to improve the ground. Each year for a period of seven years 400 loads of Merri Creek soil was spread over the ground." Of McAlpine, Morton stated, "He knew the temper of a wicket better

than any other man I ever knew."<sup>8</sup> It was also under McAlpine's stewardship in 1881 that the MCG's cricket pitches, which had previously run east-west, were realigned to run north-south.

In December 1928 Morton reflected that, "The actual preparation of a wicket in the old days usually started on the Monday morning for a match commencing on the following Friday or Saturday; the result was that a natural, fast turf wicket was prepared, which gave equal opportunity to both batsmen and bowlers. The best part of three weeks is now required to prepared [sic.] a first-class wicket."<sup>9</sup>

The field, as distinct from the wicket table, remained virtually unchanged from the nineteenth century until 1955/56 when it was re-modelled to fit international athletics specifications and a cinder track was installed for the Olympic Games in November 1956. Well in advance of the Games, during the spring of 1955, the field was regraded. Thousands of cubic yards of Merri Creek soil was replaced with "a typical 'red' mountain soil"<sup>10</sup> from Lilydale in the upper Yarra Valley, Wurundjeri Country. This was laid to a depth of about 60cm.

Compaction over the years gave this soil the consistency of clay and major drainage problems began to arise by the 1980s. It affected the growth of couch grass on the cricket wicket area and, therefore, the saturated 32-inch bed of Merri Creek soil was replaced. A new wicket table was built, five pitches were laid in 1982 and another five in 1983, consisting of eight inches of the old Merri Creek soil, traversed by heating cables six inches down to promote root growth, that was laid on top of four inches of sandy loam.<sup>11</sup>

The use of the soil was proving particularly unsatisfactory for football in winter. Dunstan wrote that: "On most cricket grounds it has built up in the centre, anything up to a metre deep. Come wet weather it turns into an impenetrable bog, so awful even a Leopard tank would fail to make its way through. Umpires would not dare bounce a ball on it. The ball would be swallowed into its murky depths."<sup>12</sup> After years of pounding and rolling the MCG's drainage system was compromised throughout the 1980s. In 1989 it was in such an atrocious state that four Victorian Football League (VFL, now Australian Football League) games, and a number of reserve-grade fixtures, were switched from the MCG to other venues in order to "protect" the surface. On July 14 that year the MCG Trust agreed to the ground's resurfacing

**Below:** Three slides combined into a panorama of the MCG. Taken on September 29, 1955, it shows the regrading of the MCG and construction of the Northern Stand for the 1956 Olympic Games. [Ken Smith collection, MCC Library]





A grader digging a trench in the middle of arena in 1982. The MCC Members' Pavilion and the Northern Stand (later Olympic Stand) are in the background. [MCC Museum collection, M1842.1]



**Below:** In 1992 MCC President John Mitchell stands as work proceeds to rectify pitch problems under the Club's curator Tony Ware. *MCC News*, no.92, November 1992.

after the grand final. However, a more permanent remedy would require a structural change to the subsurface.

In the spring of 1992 the arena was completely reconstructed. The "red" mountain soil was removed in order to create a sand based profile, enhancing the ground's drainage characteristics and load-bearing ability. The various grades of sand used in the project were a by-product from the glass manufacturer ACI. Alf Batchelder explained that, "The Ground's new surface would have at least 100mm of fine gravel at the base and then 165mm layer of medium-screen sand and Tasmanian peat moss, mixed at ACI's Lang Lang plant, formed the final 100mm layer. The mixture was held together with Netlon, strips of nylon mesh that would prevent sand movement and provide a stable surface..."<sup>13</sup>

Atop this was the new turf that consisted of three types of couch grown at StrathAyr's Tallarook farm. This was transplanted by hand in pre-washed strips over the 23,000 square metre surface of the MCG arena during November 1992. Tallarook is in the Shire of Mitchell, and the StrathAyr turf farm is south of Seymour in the upper Goulburn valley. This is in the traditional lands of the Taungurung clan Buthera-balug. The responsibilities of this Eastern Kulin people have been inherited and exercised by the Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation.

In 1999 and 2000 the MCG's surface was entirely replaced by a partially synthetic Motz System turf, that was grown at the HG Turf Group Farm, south-east of Alexandra, off the Goulburn Valley Highway.<sup>14</sup> Like StrathAyr's farm, the traditional owners of the land where this turf farm is located are Taungurung, in this case in the estate of the Yowung-illum-balug clan. After the 2014 AFL season,



the ground's surface and sand-based profile were removed and totally rebuilt. This project used HG Turf's patented Eclipse Stabilised Turf System. Since 2017 HERO Hybrid Grass, that is 5% artificial, 100% recyclable, and grown/prepared at Alexandra by HG Turf, has served as the ground's annually replaced playing surface.

Soil dredged from the bed of Merri Creek was used for the MCG's permanent cricket pitches until they were finally removed from the centre in February 2000. From the summer of 2000/01 "drop-in" portable wickets have been used exclusively. These also utilised Merri Creek soil. The MCC had trialled portable pitches on the ground since October 1996, and they were successfully used in first-class cricket at the ground from 1998/99. The pitches are prepared in Yarra Park where "horticultural film is used over the famous Merri Creek clay

cricket pitch to help the couch grass sprigs survive over winter and jump away on spring," when they are placed back into the MCG's centre wicket after each AFL grand final.<sup>15</sup>

By 2017 the portable wickets were getting poor reviews, as their soil was getting somewhat tired and compacted. In the summer of 2017/18 Alastair Cook made a ground record innings by a visiting Test cricketer with a score of 244\* on turf rated "poor" by the International Cricket Council (ICC). Due to this assessment the concrete block under the wicket table was removed and some older drop-in pitches were systematically replaced with younger, livelier ones.

As a result the MCG pitch used for the 2022 Boxing Day Test with South Africa got the best possible rating of "very good" from the

## "Portable Pitch Trialled" from *MCC News*, No. 104, December 1996

The *MCC News* of December 1996, included a pictorial of the MCG's first installation and trial of a portable cricket pitch. It was installed "without a hitch" on October 3, 1996. Developed by turf specialists StrathAyr in conjunction with MCC Arenas personnel, the portable pitch was laid in an extra bed at the eastern end of the wicket table. It was a start of a long process as portable wickets would not be used in a first-class cricket match at the MCG until December 1999. The program would see the MCG become a more flexible host of major events, eliminate the boggy Merri Creek mud from the centre throughout the football season, and our Arenas staff become recognised globally as leaders in the technology's application.

### How it was done in 1996:

1. A bed was excavated on the edge of the wicket table, fine screenings laid and laser levelled.
2. The 16 tonne half pitch arrives from Tallarook with lifting frame attached.
3. A fine mesh "wrap", secured by tiny wooden pegs, helps keep the 35cm-deep black soil slab intact.
4. Arena damage by heavy equipment is minimised by using heavy plywood squares to spread the load.
5. A porous sheet is laid to prevent contamination of the wicket slab by screenings and other material below. The pitch is lifted into position. (pictured below)
6. The lifting frame is simply but ingeniously attached to the slab by steel rods threaded through the eyelets of heavy gauge corkscrews embedded in the pitch. It employs the same principle as wine bottle openers.
7. With the slab in position the rods are removed and the frame lifted off.
8. The final task is removal of about 500 cork-screws from the wicket. Surface markings disappeared after the first roll.



ICC's match referee, the former West Indian batter, Richie Richardson. In the wake of such a positive assessment, the MCC's CEO, Stuart Fox, was quoted by Daniel Brettig of the *Sydney Morning Herald*,

"It really does solidify the investment and tireless work undertaken by our arenas team led by Michael Salvatore and Matt Page. I'm so pleased for the team that they've achieved this rating as we had a lot of confidence going into Boxing Day. With some noise about pitches leading into the match, we tried to block it out and kept our focus on what we wanted to deliver."<sup>16</sup>

That there is a mythology that surrounds Merri Creek soil is undoubted, and it does have properties that make it eminently suitable for the production of top wickets for cricket. But it is the MCG's curators and horticultural engineers that maintain and draw these properties out.



### Author:

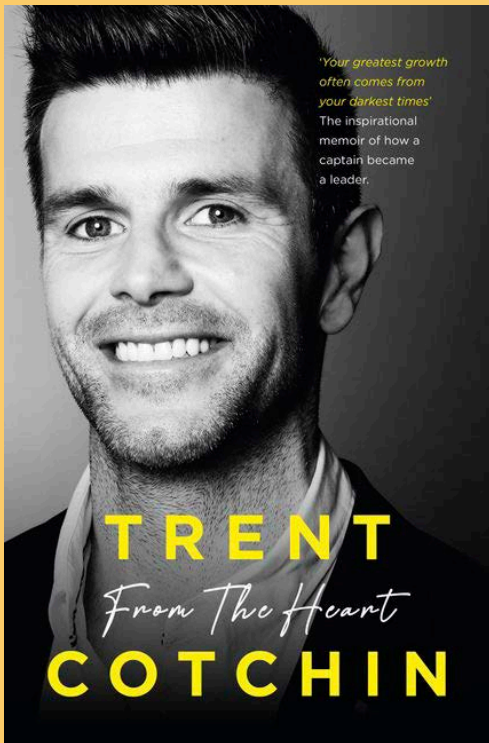
**Trevor Ruddell** is the Melbourne Cricket Club Deputy Librarian.

**Below:** The MCG arena in October 2004. As in the mid-1950s and the early 1990s, the construction of new grandstands allowed for structural changes to the ground's subsurface and soil. The "typical 'red' mountain soil" that was laid in the 1950s, was revealed by the 2004 excavations and is visible in the foreground.

### End Notes:

- Dunstan, Keith, *A Cricket Dictionary*, Sun Books, Melbourne, 1983, p.48.
- The site of this tennis court would be a part of a strip of land that the MCC cleared and handed over to the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria just shy of 15 months later. "Lawn Tennis", *Leader*, February 9, 1907, p.16. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article196650155>
- Smyth, R. Brough, *Aborigines of Victoria*, John Ferress, Melbourne, 1878, p.423.
- Batchelder, Alf, *Pavilions in the Park: A History of the Melbourne Cricket Club and its Ground*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2005, p.42.
- "Cricket: The Melbourne Ground", *Bell's Life in Victoria*, August 30, 1862, p.4. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article199060148>
- Argus*, August 1, 1863, p.5. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article6487841>
- Batchelder, Alf, *Pavilions in the Park: A History of the Melbourne Cricket Club and its Ground*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2005, p.185. The MCC's request "to remove a few loads of soil" adjacent to the Merri Creek, was earlier denied by the City of Collingwood on March 3, 1880. "Councils", *Mercury and Weekly Courier*, March 6, 1880, p.2. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59576802>
- "Ted Morton Has Spent 50 Years on the Melbourne Cricket Ground", *Sporting Globe*, December 29, 1929, p.6. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article183972277>
- Ibid.
- Batchelder, Alf, *Pavilions in the Park: A History of the Melbourne Cricket Club and its Ground*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2005, p.610. *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for the Season 1954-55*, Melbourne Cricket Club, Melbourne, 1955, p.7.
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- Dunstan, Keith, *A Football Dictionary*, Sun Books, Melbourne, 1983, p.48.
- Batchelder, Alf, *Pavilions in the Park: A History of the Melbourne Cricket Club and its Ground*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2005, pp.756-757.
- "Big Turf Project is On Time and On Track", *MCG News*, no. 7, November 1999, np. HG Turf Group has worked with the MCC to create a "lay-and-play" turf system for the MCG since 1998.
- "Pitch Perfect", *Fact Sheets, Gardening Australia*, series 30, episode 34, ABC, 20 September 2019. <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/pitch-perfect/11533546>
- Brettig, Daniel, "Very good' MCG Test pitch is a tale of two double tons", *Sydney Morning Herald*, January 16, 2023.

# Book Reviews



## Trent Cotchin with Glenn McFarlane *From the Heart*

Harper Collins Publishers, Sydney, 2023  
ISBN: 978046075829

## Jack Riewoldt with Adam McNicol *The Bright Side*

Simon & Schuster, Cammeray (NSW), 2023  
ISBN: 9781761102202

As a Richmond Football Club supporter, I set out to compare these two books written by longstanding Tiger heroes who had retired recently while still at the top of their game. Though their football careers ran parallel, and they shared football careers at the same club, these biographies are different and distinct.

Trent Cotchin's book is about the growth of a boy to man who put great pressure on himself to be perfect. However, he would grow to realise that, as much as he could strive for perfection, he like his teammates, could never achieve such lofty standards. Therefore, the goals Trent set himself became less centered on "me" and more on "we".

It is a story of a young, skilled footballer who was appointed to the captaincy of an AFL Club at 23. He reflects on the 2016 season, when he had self-doubts and many were questioning the commitment of the team, his leadership and the culture of the club under him. Under this pressure he bared his feelings to the team and encouraged his teammates to do the same. The openness and honesty worked.



His mix of leadership, his integrity and the willingness of all to participate, meant that all felt true to themselves and each other. A commitment to each other that held steadfast. Trent was a brave captain who showed love and empathy, and he emboldened his teammates to follow his lead.

The book is written in two parts. Doing and Being. Each chapter is preceded with an inspirational quote to set the tone. *From the Heart* is filled with Trent's honesty as he tells of his growth from a young, skillful star to embracing the captaincy, maintaining his exquisite skill, but bringing the team with him in a new and open culture of honesty and gratitude, resulting in three premierships

The thank you at the end is very indicative of the man. His gratitude for everyone on his journey is awesome and demonstrates he is both an exceptional yet everyday man.

Jack Riewoldt's book also is about growth from a mischievous sports mad youngster, to a leader of the Tigers, a triple premiership player, and a triple John Coleman Medallist – the AFL's leading goal kicker in a season. Jack's natural competitive drive, flair and mischievousness led him to becoming a Richmond fan favourite and revered at the club. The biography is warts-and-all, and tells a story of a lad who grew up a proud Tasmanian playing various sports. "If soccer was winter," he wrote, "then indoor cricket and Little Athletics were summer." (p.15)

When Jack's cousin Nick Riewoldt was drafted to St Kilda in 2000, Jack decided footy was to be his chosen sport. Jack had followed Nick's career in Queensland, from a reserves grade footy premiership with Southport in QAFL at 16, and a few reserve games for the Brisbane Lions.

Jack's book outlines his career and growth in the game. He recount's Richmond's important wins including the premierships, as well as the losses and setbacks that helped to make him the man that he is today. Some setbacks are deeply personal and tragic. He survived a brush with cancer, a melanoma on his back, and was heartbroken by the untimely death of his cousin Maddie, sister of Nick. He remains a spokesman for the charity in her name. There are also mentions too, of the misperceptions of him that had occurred during his career.

It is his family and the community that have enabled Jack to become the player, AFL legend, and the man he is today. Much of this support is from his life partner Carly. They met as youngsters and grew up together. Jack gives much credit to Carly as a mentor who lifted him up when he was down and who pulled him back to reality when needed. This is an engaging read. It would appear nothing is left out of his story, and Jack comes across as a genuinely nice person. You also see into the inner sanctum of the club and participants.

To quote Dan Ruffino, managing director of Simon & Schuster Australia: "All the charisma and intelligence you see Jack Riewoldt display each week on the football field is written large on every page of his entertaining and thought-provoking autobiography. As a lifelong, die-hard Richmond supporter who was at the MCG for their breakthrough grand final, it is a huge honour to publish the life story of one of its favourite sons and all-time legends."

As was I, and who can forget Jack on stage after the game singing his heart out with The Killers' song *Mr Brightside* after the 2017 AFL grand final. He is a memorable man indeed!

#### Rosie Bushnell

#### Ross McMullin

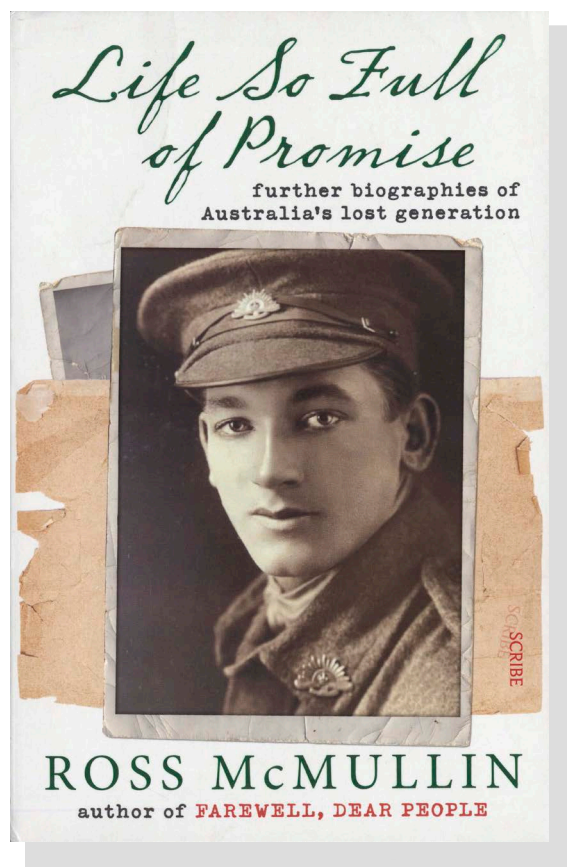
### *Life so Full of Promise*

Scriber Publications, Brunswick (Vic), 2023  
ISBN: 9781922585820

Ross McMullin has delivered an incredible book which explores the lives of three extraordinary and talented young men, all with enormous potential. Brian Pockley, Norman Calloway and Doch (Murdoch) Mackay were all killed in a war that denied so many young men their futures. Some are mentioned.

Brian, educated at the patrician Shore School and Sydney University, enjoyed a privileged lifestyle. He was highly respected and popular. An unassuming young doctor based at Sydney Hospital, he was known for his empathy and ability to relate to all members of society. However, his skills on the Rugby field, as well as his bowling prowess at cricket, along with his administration skills in Sydney's social circles, were also appreciated. Brian was the first Australian Officer to be killed in the Great War. By giving his brassard to another soldier, the protection it would have given him was gone.

Born in Hay, Norman's background was vastly different to that of Brian's or Doch's. His father and uncle both enjoyed significant cricket successes in Hay, but Norman was in a different category altogether. His working class family made the decision to leave all they knew in Hay, move to Sydney and give Norman every



opportunity to enhance his cricketing career. Norman did not disappoint. A record breaking 207 runs hinted he was destined to play for Australia. Norman enlisted in 1916. He was killed at Bullecourt, and a colleague later recalled his appalling death. The Calloway family's aspirations were gone.

The Mackays held a prominent position in Bendigo society. The family owned and controlled, through several generations, the *Advertiser* newspaper. Doch's death had a profound impact on the city. He had matriculated from Scotch College and, at the age of 16, began his law studies at Melbourne University where he excelled. His career as a brilliant barrister and future Australian leader seemed assured. A Melbourne Cricket Club Member, he enjoyed cricket and tennis. He is credited with leading the attack on, and the removal of, the enemy from the Pozieres heights, his guidance there commended by both his superiors and men, in a battle believed to be the turning point of the war.

McMullin manages to inject family, social, sport, political, and war histories into the mix, which not only makes the work interesting, but is done in such a way that it is an easy read. This is buttressed by a comprehensive 44 pages of bibliography and notes, a testament to his research.

Excellently written, the reader is drawn into the lives and dynamics of each man's family. There are accounts of maiden aunts and their roles within the family and community. We see the three mothers who could not have been more different. One hid behind illness and humiliation, another was very shy, while Mary, the Bendigo dynamo, was a political activist, conscription lobbyist and fundraiser for the war effort. The politics of the age are also

referenced; Billy Hughes' expulsion from the ALP, conscription issues, and Bob Menzies' emergence as a political entity.

McMullin includes a wealth of information on everyday life, such as young Doch's method of dealing with his induction at Ormond College. His deeply personal correspondence with his young wife, makes the reader feel somewhat of an intruder into a couple's private thoughts, but offers insights into the times.

Even transportation is touched on. Brian's father was one of very few who owned a car; the Melbourne Cricket Club cricket team travelled to Bendigo by large coach, rail travel was far reaching, while Doch describes his luxurious accommodation on board his troop ships. Cricket was certainly a distraction of the times. Blackham, Spofforth, Trumper, Clem Hill and many others are mentioned, while the Autumn Tennis Carnival (MCC) with Tom Brookes and Pat O'Hara Wood are included.

The descriptions of war vary, from the horrific conditions, the stench and the terrifying sounds, to a watered-down version by Doch in his letters, to spare his family. The reader will navigate the heart break of each family on receiving the dreaded pink telegram; the months the Calloways waited for confirmation, the search for graves, and the battles waged to have their sons' possessions returned. A sense of obligation and responsibility prevail, daughters caring for elderly parents: young boys feeling a duty to serve, knowing the sacrifice; his obligation to his father Angus and the newspaper, foregoing the opportunity to play cricket for Australia; Mary serving her local community.

What happens to each of these families in the aftermath is just as compelling. This book is all substance and detail, probably the most engaging book I have read. Highly recommended.

**Lesley Smith.**

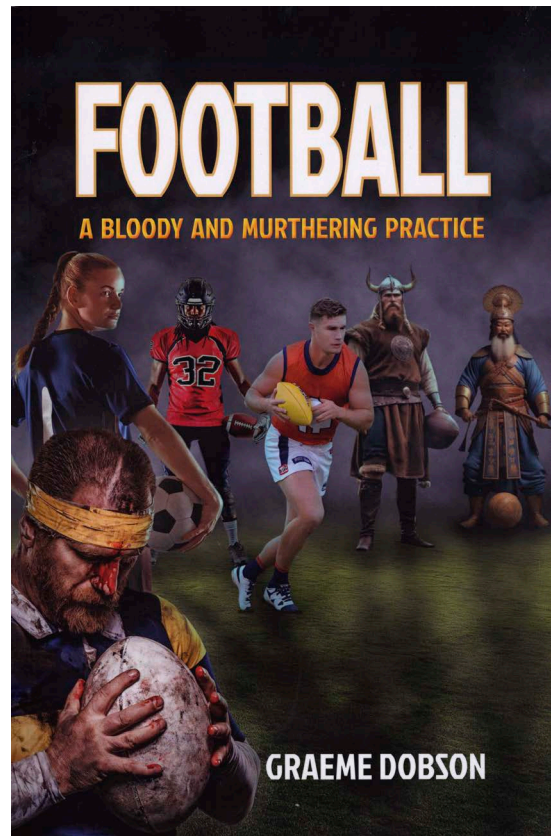
**Graeme Dobson**

### ***Football: A Bloody and Murthing Practice: Tracing Football's Family Tree***

Boolarong Press, Tingalapa (Qld), 2024  
ISBN: 9781922643995

One must admire the ambition to undertake a book on the world's major football codes, "their histories, development, and how they relate to each other and their predecessors." (p.x). Attempts have been made previously, notably John Corder's *World of Football* (2002) and Mike Roberts' multi-volume *The Same Old Game* (2011). Unlike these earlier books, Dobson does not just collate and consolidate the work of other researchers, but proposes one or two novel and probably conjectural suppositions while demonstrating an extensive amount of research. The book is well written in a conversational tone that is at times amusing, maybe even cheeky, and though it lacks a scholarly rigor, is still engaging and intelligent. Do not expect footnotes or even an index. This is a book to be enjoyed and is not an academic reference resource.

Dobson divided his book into two parts. Part 1: "The Latest Generation" examines each of the modern football codes with mass spectator appeal, association football (soccer), rugby union, rugby league, American (and Canadian) football, Australian football, and Gaelic football. This part is an



entertaining summation of their origins and development of each code, as well as their playing characteristics. He also discusses variants of these sports too.

As a person who has spent the best part of three-and-a-half decades researching the origins and development of Australian football, and its connections (or lack thereof) to other football codes, I found myself wincing and grimacing as hoary old myths are presented casually as fact. Given the physical constraints of his undertaking, a massive project covering 5,000 years and a multiplicity of football cultures that he has squeezed into 241 pages, Dobson presents what may be best regarded as pop histories of the codes. Research and reading about each code's origins and evolution is evident, but scholarly and academic it is not. These are abridged histories with general sweeping statements. Having given himself a very ambitious task, one may excuse Dobson for overlooking nuance or the myriad of people who had roles in a sport's origins and early development. I found it frustrating reading when he discussed one of my areas of speciality – Australian football in the 19th century.

Dobson privileged Tom Wills' role in the birth of Australian football to the exclusion of his contemporaries, who are referred to as "Tom Wills and others" or as "he and a couple of friends" (p.127). It is easy, but it is also lazy and misleading, to focus on the mythological figure of Wills as the game's "father", even if this admittedly attractive narrative has been widely popularised. Australian football did not begin as an extension of Wills' ego alone. Playing a football match of any code requires a community, and Australian football was no different. It was

codified in committees who were drawn from a community of men, with each man bringing their own ideas about "football" onto the field, and to rule negotiations. I can imagine academics and scholars of other codes being as frustrated as I am when Dobson gives their speciality similar shrift.

Whether or not Dobson's discussions in Part 1 are accurate or misleading, most, if not all, of these ideas have been well hashed in other popular football histories. However, Part 2 "The Ancestors" offers a new perspective, and one idea may be particularly contentious. This part looks at pre-modern types of "football" from a variety of regions and times. He discusses ball kicking games from ancient China and Japan, to the South Seas and the Americas. He also looks at the antiquity of folk football in Europe, and ball games in Classical Greece and Rome.

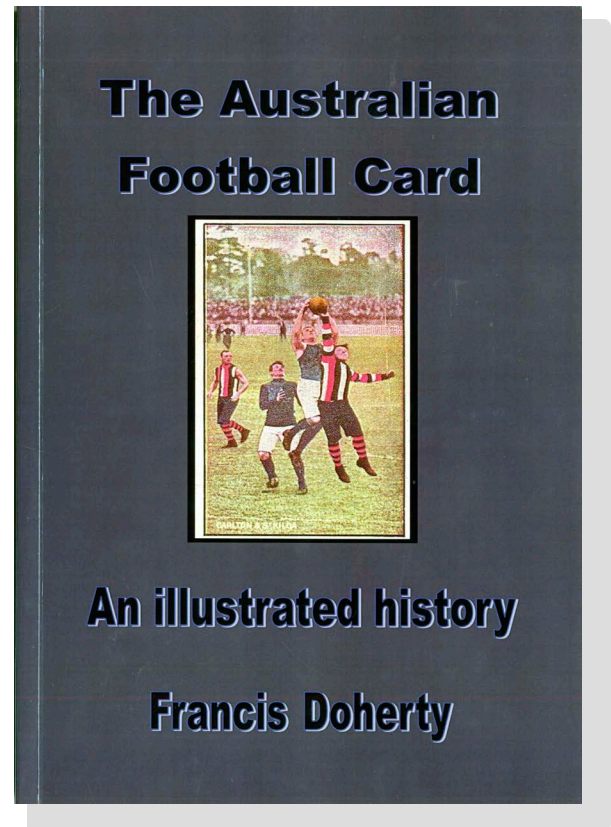
The overwhelming takeaway from Part 2 as a whole is that games that seem football-esque were played by numerous and quite distinct cultures "right across the world for a very long time". (p.239) Dobson contends, and I think this is new, that "it looks like" these games may be related to each other, and as a result are the ancestors of the today's mass-spectator football codes. (p.239) However, Dobson's "looks like" qualification betrays his lack of evidence, as does his acknowledgement that, "we'll never know football's origins for sure." (p.239) Therefore, it seems to be less of a scholarly hypothesis than a riff. Still, such suppositions are worthy of examination and one of Dobson's suppositions may be particularly contentious.

Again, this concerns the origins of Australian football and a supposed influence of an Aboriginal ball game called *marn grook* on Tom Wills. This idea, which I regard as dubious, is not novel and has been purported since 1983. However, Dobson, whose previous book concerned the pre-colonial trade between northern Australia and Makassans of the Indonesian archipelago, supposed that Makassan fishermen exposed a football-esque game called *sepak takraw* to northern Australian Aboriginal tribes sometime during the last 1000 years. This is novel indeed. He also contended as a matter of fact that *sepak takraw* was a version of the ancient Chinese game of *tsu' chu* (kick ball).

Dobson's hypothesis that *sepak takraw* is a precursor of *marn grook* relies on superficial similarities. That *marn grook* evolved from a "non-competitive keeping a rattan ball in the air by kicking to non-competitive keeping a possum-skin ball in the air by kicking... Something that much fun would have travelled across the continent like wildfire via intertribal trade and corroboree." (pp.197-199) Again, Dobson concedes that his reasoning is reliant on speculation: "There's no way of proving this one way or the other, but it's entirely possible that Australian Rules football has strong roots in China or Japan." (p.199)

That is the problem with Dobson's book. It is well written, it is entertaining, and it is stimulating as there are new ideas in it. But it draws weak conclusions based on misconceptions and suppositions. It was a frustrating read for me at times, yet it was always enjoyable.

**Trevor Ruddell**



Francis Doherty

### ***The Australian Football Card: An Illustrated History***

Francis Doherty, 2023

ISBN: 9780646882208

It is not often that I can boast that I have read every word in a book, but this is my claim after finishing Francis's latest and most informative, footy-related publication, *The Australian Football Card – An Illustrated History*.

What struck me most was the impeccable research he has undertaken for the book, both regarding the cards themselves and the social history behind the many issuers of these nostalgic little gems. The football-related anecdotes and potted histories of many of the issuers, coupled with a marvellous array of coloured illustrations, have provided the reader with a depth of football knowledge not often available.

The tobacco-related cards and the trade cards are both extensively covered and, in some instances it was a "trip down memory lane" for me as I fondly read about cards and football incidents of my youth that had been long forgotten.

Having been almost uninterruptedly involved with footy card collecting for almost eighty years since the late 1940s, this beautifully produced book has made me realise how little I know about the subject and I am richly rewarded as a result of having read this publication.

As mentioned in Bob Ferris's excellent foreword, the book is a compilation of 37 articles which takes the reader through Australian football history, from its earliest form in the mid-to-late 1800s through to almost the present day, with the footy card providing the link.

The book will appeal to both card lovers and the football public alike and it incorporates references to all the major footballing states.

Our footy heroes, from the earliest, such as the American Candy Co. cards of Arthur Rusden and Peter Burns in the 1890s to the Colemans and Abletts of later eras, are well documented, as are the 38 footballers who played at the elite level and also proudly wore the coveted "Baggy Green" as Australian Test cricketers.

Whilst football cards are the main focus of the book, peripheral items such as football on vinyl, television coverage, stickers and postcards as well as petroleum company decals, add to the romance of our wonderful game.

It is not often that a book on a specific subject, in this case football cards, is also a little goldmine of the history of many of Victoria's businesses that, like MacRobertsons, sprang from "A Young Man and a Nail Can" to a goliath in Australia's confectionery industry, or Marjorie Campbell's home-based, backyard jam-making enterprise in the 1940s, that grew into, the still operating and popular, Fyna Foods business. The Greathead's "quackery" story and the 1920s "illegal competitions" connected to the Don Photo Series, are two shady little gems with a football card association, while the author's informative coverage of the 1904 set of the six Hamilton cartoon action football post cards is a good read. These are but five of many football card-connected/business history stories that are well told in this easy to read book.

This well-written book is copiously and colourfully illustrated, looks good, feels good and will appeal to the footy card collector, whichever team they barrack for, as every club gets its share of a mention.

Without doubt, this evocative, 117 page book is a "must" for the rusted-on footy card collector and would be a treasured addition to their library shelf.

**Eric Panther**  
**David Allen**

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# MCC Library ANZAC Biscuits

By Gaye Fitzpatrick

There was a great response to the MCC Librarian David Stuhm's boiled Christmas cake recipe in the previous issue of the *Yorker*. Therefore, to recognise the ANZAC Day release of this issue, the editor offers a recipe for ANZAC Biscuits by one of the MCC Library's Volunteers. Gaye Fitzpatrick, whose profile features on page 18, shares this recipe which she learned from her mother.

## INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup rolled oats
- ½ cup plain flour
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup coconut
- 65g butter
- 1 tablespoon golden syrup
- ¼ teaspoon bicarbonate soda
- 1 dessertspoon boiling water

## METHOD

1. Combine oats, flour, sugar and coconut.
2. Melt butter and golden syrup together.
3. Mix soda and boiling water.
4. Add wet ingredients together and add to dry ingredients.
5. Mix well.
6. Place teaspoonfuls on greased oven trays.
7. Bake at 170°C or 350°F for about 15-20 minutes, depending on oven.
8. Cool slightly on tray, then transfer to wire rack to cool completely.

Store in an airtight container.



## The YORKER

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