

Inside the... Melbourne Cricket Ground



Information Pack

Melbourne Cricket Club
www.mcc.org.au

Melbourne Cricket Ground
www.mcg.org.au

National Sports Museum
www.nsm.org.au

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INTRODUCTION - WELCOME TO THE MCG

The Melbourne Cricket Ground is one of Australia's greatest assets. It is the country's biggest and most popular stadium and an extremely busy venue accommodating international cricket, Australian Rules football, concerts, dinners and other major functions on its natural turf arena.

The MCG is very heavily utilised. There are more than 80 days of football and cricket each year and more than three million people visit the ground annually.

The Melbourne Cricket Club manages the stadium and has progressively expanded the MCG's role as both an entertainment centre and a world-class tourist destination.

Today it sits proudly alongside other internationally recognised attractions as a venue uniquely symbolic of Melbourne, Victoria and Australia generally.

A Major Tourist Attraction

Even when the huge grandstands are silent there is plenty of activity at the MCG. It is a major tourist attraction, with much of Australia's sporting and social history residing within the walls of the National Sports Museum, which opened in March 2008.

Tours of this magnificent stadium are undertaken on all non-event days, taking visitors behind the scenes to get a glimpse of some of the magic and history within the walls of the mighty MCG.

The Melbourne Cricket Club, as ground manager on behalf of the Victorian Government-appointed MCG Trust, has always been mindful of preserving the ground's wonderful heritage and devotes substantial funding to its various museum activities.

However, event days remain the principal focus for stadium management in providing modern, comfortable facilities for an increasingly demanding public.

Ground Capacity

- The total capacity of the MCG is **100,018**.
- This includes 95,000 seats and approximately 5000 standing room spaces.

Superior Spectator Facilities

The advent of the Great Southern Stand in 1992 set many benchmarks for the construction of sporting stadiums in Australia.

This marvellous structure, accommodating approximately 47,500 people and covering 45 per cent of the stadium's perimeter, brought state-of-the-art comfort, convenience and hospitality facilities to all levels of Melbourne's sporting society.

The redevelopment of the northern side of the MCG between 2002 and 2006 transformed the stadium and reaffirmed its standing as one of the world's great sporting icons.

About 55 per cent of the ground - embracing the Ponsford and Olympic stands and the MCC Members Pavilion - has been rebuilt. Demolition commenced in October 2002 and the entire project was completed in time for the Commonwealth Games in March 2006, when the MCG acted as the main stadium.

A major feature is the relocation and expansion of the Australian Gallery of Sport as part of the National Sports Museum, a seven-day attraction featuring interactive devices and a museums precinct embracing the history of Australian sport. For more information, visit www.nsm.org.au

- ♦ The northern stand is markedly different to the Great Southern Stand. Transparent walls engage approaching patrons as they arrive at three major entry points. Each entrance features a grand atrium serviced by escalators taking patrons to the upper levels.
- ♦ Facilities and finishes are superior throughout. The male/female toilet ratio has been significantly improved and, for comfort and ease of access, individual plastic bucket seats are fixed on broader plats.
- ♦ Sightlines from all seats are uninterrupted and, because the new structure is much closer to the arena than the stands it replaced, spectators are also closer to the action.
- ♦ Seats are approximately 30% bigger than the previous northern stand and about 80% of seats are under roof cover.
- ♦ Dining room capacity has almost doubled. Large, deep rooms enable tenant sports and clubs to accommodate up to 500 guests.
- ♦ Big new change rooms service the needs of both football and cricket and the coaches' boxes are situated on Level 2 on the wing position, ensuring that facilities for players also meet the demands of modern-day sporting personnel.
- ♦ Underground car parking increased greatly. Extensive landscaping and a new access road enhance the sense of arrival for visitors.
- ♦ Capping the new stand is a hybrid roof, part metal and part glass. This considerably increases the brightness of the seating areas.

A City's Heart and Soul

The MCG always has been a focal point of activity for Melburnians. If there was an important event in the city the odds were that the cricket ground would play host.

There have been several royal pageants and religious gatherings held at the ground. State-of-Origin rugby league and international rugby union and soccer have been played before big crowds and visiting teams of baseballers and lacrosse players first demonstrated their skills on the MCG.

The country's first major cycling event, the Austral Wheel Race, was held there and experimental aeroplane flights used the arena as a runway, not always successfully.

School sports were staged at the MCG and the entire stadium was transformed to host the 1956 Olympic Games. One way or another, the green sward has been extremely busy. It is used one day in four and is subject to year-round wear and tear unlike any other natural turf surface in the world.

The Finest Amenities

The MCG is a very popular venue for local and interstate visitors and a prime destination for international tourists. Its many attractions include a wide range of well-appointed function rooms, most of which offer splendid, restful views of the arena below.

On event days many of these facilities are utilised for corporate dining and entertainment packages. At other times the rooms may host a variety of functions such as business meetings, wedding receptions and cocktail parties, all handled by the functions team at Epicure Catering.

With exceptional new facilities, wireless internet by Internode throughout most parts of the MCG, luxurious internal design, and breath-taking views, the MCG offers a superb range of possibilities for corporate and private events unrivalled in a premium function venue.

Only minutes from the heart of the city, with underground parking and in easy reach of public transport, the people's ground is famous for its convenience and accessibility.

Coming to Melbourne? Don't miss the MCG!

MCG accessibility is a management priority at all times. While access is restricted to event patrons when matches are in progress, the National Sports Museum is always open for inspection daily between 10.00am and 5.00pm (except Christmas Day and Good Friday).

Visitors looking for the ultimate MCG experience are encouraged to attend action-packed AFL or cricket matches while in Melbourne. Bookings are advised through Ticketek on 132 849 or www.ticketek.com.

Tours of the ground are offered on non-event days between 10am and 3pm. Casual visitors are shown traditional highlights such as the Long Room, players' changerooms, cricket practice facilities and viewing areas, as well as a walk on the arena if the weather permits. Special group tours may also be arranged.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE MCG

The Melbourne Cricket Club was founded in November 1838 when the population of the Port Phillip District was only about 2000. The first cricket match was played between the civilian and military members of the MCC and a military team near the Old Mint site in William Street, Melbourne.

However, in January 1839 the club started to play matches on the public parkland at the foot of Batman's Hill, now Southern Cross rail yards and Etihad Stadium at Docklands. This was Melbourne's recreation area until October 1846 when impending acquisition for railway use forced a transfer to the southern bank of the Yarra near the present Crown Casino site, where they established their first official home ground.

John Pascoe Fawkner had planted the colony's first wheat crop on this field, but it was susceptible to flooding and the club had to advertise more than once for the return of its dressing shed when the Yarra broke its banks!

This ground, the first to be known as the Melbourne Cricket Ground, was the site of Victoria's first inter-colonial match (Port Phillip versus Van Diemen's Land in 1852). This was a return fixture as the Port Phillip team had played Van Diemen's Land at Launceston a year earlier to celebrate the separation of the Port Phillip District from New South Wales and the creation of the Colony of Victoria.

In 1853 the club was advised that the route of Australia's first steam train to Sandridge (Port Melbourne) would pass around its ground and coupled with the regular flooding and the establishment of a tent city of itinerant arrivals heading to the gold fields, the club sought to move elsewhere.

On appeal to Governor La Trobe the club was given the choice of three sites – adjacent to the existing ground, at the junction of Flinders/Spring streets or an area within the Police Paddock at Richmond.

An MCC sub-committee chose the third because "the situation was quite as level as desirable yet afforded sufficient slope that without interfering with the game would ensure its always being free from floods". Posterity has applauded the wisdom of this choice.

No major stadium in the world is better situated than the MCG to promote sport and to serve the community through easy access and superior spectator facilities.

The MCC really started something in January 1856 when it challenged any team in the Australian colonies to a serious game of cricket. Sydney publican William Tunks accepted the challenge on behalf of NSW which played at the MCG on March 27 and won the game.

Having launched regular inter-colonial cricket, the MCC's next initiative was in the international sphere. With the club's encouragement, catering firm Spiers & Pond invited an English cricket team to tour Australia. On New Year's Day 1862 H.H. Stephenson's XI played a Melbourne and Districts XVIII before a crowd of more than 25,000.

The England captain said the ground was better than any in England and there was no cricket pavilion in the world to compare with the MCG's first public grandstand, a 200-metre temporary structure built in 1861 to seat 6000 people.

A second permanent grandstand seating 2000 and facing both the ground and the parklands (for football viewing) was built in 1876 for the 1877 visit of James Lillywhite's English team. The MCG was the venue for the first England-Australia combination match (Test Match) on March 15-17, 1877 which Australia won by 45 runs – a result to be duplicated precisely in the Centenary Test played on March 12-17, 1977.

The Lillywhite tour stand burnt down in 1884 and was replaced by a fine new structure which catered for 450 members and 4500 public patrons. In 1897 second storey wings were added, doubling capacity. Invariably referred to as "The Grandstand", this building of great character was demolished to make way for the Northern Stand which was opened in 1956 to coincide with the Olympic Games.

On the MCG's southern side the Harrison Stand was built in 1908 with a seating capacity of 4000. The Wardill Stand, added four years later, had a seating capacity of 8000. Both were replaced by the giant Southern Stand complex of 1936-37 which accommodated 48,000 (18,200 seated under cover and 13,000 seated in the open).

The 1906 Grey Smith Stand, seating 2500 in the Members Reserve, and the open concrete stand on its southern side were removed in 1966 to make way the Western (now Ponsford) Stand.

Apart from the Northern (now Olympic) Stand, towards which £100,000 was advanced by the State Government as an Olympic Games commitment, all grandstands at the MCG were financed entirely by Melbourne Cricket Club members' subscriptions, until the advent of the Great Southern Stand in 1992 when revenue from corporate entertainment facilities also became an important income stream.

The massive \$150 million Great Southern Stand project required special financial arrangements based on a long-term contract with the MCG Trust, the Australian Football League and the State Government. The stand accommodates 44,500 spectators and corporate clients, with more than 40,000 comfortably seated on four levels.

The redevelopment of the northern side of the MCG between 2002 and 2006 transformed the stadium and reaffirmed its standing as one of the world's great sporting icons. About 55 per cent of the ground - embracing the Ponsford and Olympic stands and the MCC Members Pavilion – has been rebuilt. Demolition commenced in October 2002 and the entire project was completed in time for the Commonwealth Games in March 2006.

The MCC Members Reserve always has occupied only a minor section of the viewing area. The original wooden members' stand of 1854 was sold in 1881 for £55 to Mr J Maguire and moved to Gippsland in March 1882. The stand was replaced by a brick structure recognised at the time as the world's finest cricket facility.

This in turn was replaced by the Pavilion built in 1928 for £60,000 and again in 2005 as part of the northern stand redevelopment. The Members Reserve, which embraces adjoining sections of the Olympic and Ponsford stands, has seating capacity for 21,700 people and standing room for about 1000. The MCG is Australia's biggest stadium with an overall capacity of 100,018.

MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

The Melbourne Cricket Club is a unique organisation. It is a private club, incorporated under the Melbourne Cricket Club Act 1974, boasting by far the biggest membership of any sporting club in Australia.

The MCC also has the public responsibility of managing one of the largest and the most successful stadiums in Australia and the world – the MCG.

Assuming occupancy of the MCG's present site (its second) in 1853, the MCC has 102,500 members (comprising 61,180 Full members and 40,329 Restricted members) as at August 2011. At this time, there were 205,732 people on the waiting list. Between 10,000 and 15,000 people are nominated for membership each year.

Along with the playing of cricket, today's MCC is an umbrella organisation for hundreds of participants in 11 sporting sections - baseball, bowls, croquet, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse, real tennis, target shooting, squash and tennis – along with a number of special interest groups, such as the XXIX Club, Long Room Wine and Food Society, Young Members Club, Women of MCC and Bridge Club.

The club's principal public role, however, remains the progressive management and development of the MCG - a stadium which shares a unique relationship with its local community and boasts a rare magnetism in attracting visitors from all corners of the globe.

Management of the ground is vested in the MCC by the government-appointed MCG Trust and an Act of Parliament guarantees the club's occupation of about 20 per cent of the stadium for its Members Reserve.

The keenness of Melburnians to belong to their cricket club and retain membership, usually for life, has been a major factor in enabling the club to develop the stadium, until the early nineties, almost exclusively through the use of members' funds.

MCC Membership Details

Honorary Life membership - recognises outstanding service to the club. It has been bestowed sparingly and, apart from visiting royalty, only 81 members have been honoured since the club's foundation in 1838. Former MCC president David Jones is the club's most recent Life Member, receiving his honour in August, 2008.

Full membership - encompasses metropolitan, country and interstate members, whose annual subscriptions vary for age and geographic reasons. There are no restrictions on access to the Reserve for cricket and football and entry charges normally are not payable, except for special events where a nominal entry fee may be charged.

Full members elected prior to November 19, 1986 who have not already given up their entitlement by nominating a female for Full membership (this process ceased in 2006) are entitled to purchase an annual Guest card that will allow a male or female of any age to access the Members Reserve for all

events in which members are able to attend. Full members elected since November 1986 are not entitled to a season card for a guest.

Restricted membership is made up of various categories based on the member's age and place of residence. They are not entitled to attend meetings of the club or nominate committee or office-bearer candidates. Nor can they vote on club affairs, nominate new members or receive privileges at interstate and overseas reciprocal clubs. Restricted membership does not carry automatic eligibility to enter the Members Reserve for the AFL Grand Final.

In nearly all other respects, however, they are "Full" members of the club. They may enter the Members Reserve, including the Long Room and all 'member-only' seating areas, upon presentation of their card without charge on all cricket and most football days. As is the case with Full members, they have extensive rights to introduce visitors.

Restricted members may be admitted to AFL preliminary finals and semi finals at the MCG (although this is not automatic), but their card does not automatically admit to the grand final.

A decision on admittance to the grand final for an additional entry fee is usually made in the days leading up to the match.

Playing membership - may be offered to non-members while they play in organised competition in cricket and the Sporting Sections of the club. The MCC fields teams in cricket, shooting, football, tennis, hockey, lawn bowls, golf, real tennis, croquet, lacrosse, squash and baseball.

Overseas membership - is a 'holding' membership available to Full and Restricted members who are residing outside Australia for a period in excess of 12 months. A member may make application to the club office for placement on the Overseas membership list once they have been residing overseas for three months. A reduced subscription rate will then apply for the following membership season.

50-Year membership - The MCC provides a reserved seating area and the John Landy Room, both on Level 2, for the exclusive use of MCC members of 50 or more years standing.

Honorary Cricket membership - The committee may, from time to time, elect as an Honorary Cricket Member such person or persons who it considers is or has been a prominent international cricketer.

Honorary Cricket Members may be issued with a membership card allowing them admission to the Members Reserve and are not required to pay any fees, subscriptions and levies except as specifically determined and fixed by the committee. They are not, however, entitled to other rights and privileges of being a member of the club, unless that Honorary Cricket Member is also a member in another capacity.

MANAGEMENT OF THE MCG

The government-appointed MCG Trust vests administration of the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the Melbourne Cricket Club, led by president Paul Sheahan and chief executive officer Stephen Gough.

The MCC ensures the MCG remains the leading major events sports stadium in Australia for the benefit of patrons and the public of Victoria, while recognising its location in major public parklands.

The MCC has managed this world class venue since September 23, 1853 when Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe granted the present site of the MCG to the club. Its current agreement with the Trust expires in 2042.

There are about 150 permanent club employees and event staff are drawn from a pool of 1000-plus for match-day duties at the ground. The MCC manages the ground through seven departments responsible to the chief executive officer:

Member and Customer Services

The Member and Customer Services (MACS) Department is responsible for the servicing of the club's members and waiting list, as well as the club's 11 sporting sections, club functions, MCC cricket, special interest groups and other important stakeholders.

The MCC communications team sits within the MACS Department and is responsible for a variety of publications, media liaison, publicity, website maintenance, email campaign management and internal communication channels.

Events

The Events Department is responsible for the securing and operation of all major events at the stadium and other MCG venues. The department liaises with event promoters on all aspects of the event delivery and acts as the conduit to other departments.

The event team is responsible for arranging and managing ticket sales through ticketing contractor Ticketek, staffing, liaising with internal departments in relation to event matters such as activities on the arena, logistics and building services and the staffing and operation of the MCC Members Reserve.

Apart from maintaining an ongoing operational relationship with our two major hirers the Australian Football League and Cricket Victoria, the Events Department also liaises with external bodies such as the City of Melbourne, Public Transport providers, entertainment producers and the media.

Facilities

The Facilities Department is responsible for the management, maintenance and efficient operation of the built environment at the MCG and other MCC-managed sites, such as the Albert Ground and the Swinburne Avenue bowls and croquet complex.

Duties include turf management, repairs and maintenance, security and cleaning as well as more highly technical services required for the efficient operation of the MCG and MCC managed sites.

Finance and Information Systems

The MCC Finance Department administers the full finance function for the Ground Manager, MCC Foundation, National Sports Museum and the MCG Trust. This includes, reporting of financial performance and risk management.

The IT branch is composed of two teams: Network and Systems and Business Support. The IT team's mission is to "Embrace technology enabling the efficient, responsive and secure delivery of services to the MCC and continue delivering a world-class MCG."

Commercial Operations

The Commercial Operations Department handles leasing of corporate suites, selling MCC suites and dining rooms on an event by event basis, marketing strategies for the MCG and the National Sports Museum, management of Icon partnership agreements, preferred supplier agreements, sponsorship and commercial opportunities, commercial venue access including film and photo shoots and custodian of the club's brand guidelines.

Heritage and Tourism

The Heritage and Tourism Department has several responsibilities:

- Operating the National Sports Museum.
- Operating the MCC Museum and Library.
- Operating the MCG Tours.
- Managing the collections of both museums and the Library.
- Stadium dressing and public art management.

Human Resources

The HR Department provides an extensive range of services that support the club and its people in achieving its operational and strategic goals.

These include recruitment, performance management and development, employee benefits and payroll, employee relations and health and safety management.

MCG TOURS

As the super stage of Australian sport, the Melbourne Cricket Ground is an unforgettable experience.

Traditionally the MCG has provided the live drama to thrill millions worldwide... memorable events such as the Olympic Games, Test cricket, Commonwealth Games and Australian football's incomparable Grand Final.

But backstage, the MCG Tour gives the visitor the opportunity to relive their great sporting memories through a comprehensive tour of this marvellous stadium, where so many champions of yesterday and today have performed.

A fully accredited sports heritage complex and tourism destination, the MCG also houses the National Sports Museum.

The National Sports Museum is home to the Olympic Museum, Sport Australia Hall of Fame, Australian Cricket Hall of Fame along with much more, including the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum.

See all this and more on a visit to the MCG - visitors can choose between an MCG Tour, a visit to the National Sports Museum, or both!

MCG Tours, which take approximately one hour and includes a tour guide, depart regularly from Gate 3 on all non-event days from 10am-3pm (except Christmas Day and Good Friday).

Bookings are not essential. Please phone (03) 9657 8879 for details.

NATIONAL SPORTS MUSEUM

The Melbourne Cricket Ground is one of Victoria's leading tourist attractions and a "must see" destination for sportslovers throughout the world.

Widely recognised as the home of Australian sport, the MCG has outstanding heritage value to Australia and in December, 2005 was included in the National Heritage List so that these values may be protected for generations to come.

In March 2008, the MCG added a new dimension to its significance with the opening of the National Sports Museum (NSM), Australia's only truly dedicated multi-sports museum.

The National Sports Museum celebrates the contribution that sport has made within the development of our uniquely Australian culture.

The achievements of Australian sportsmen and women at all levels are showcased within interactive exhibitions including sports memorabilia. Their stories and imagery represent all sports played within Australia.

The National Sports Museum is a national focal point for achievements and values in sport, in particular the notion that the pursuit of excellence at all levels is consistent with a commitment to fair play - a philosophy that has contributed to the evolution of our beliefs and culture.

Located on two levels of the Olympic Stand, the National Sports Museum displays more than 2500 items from Australia's rich sporting history. These permanent exhibitions offer visitors an insight into Australia's extremely diverse sporting history:

- **Faster, Higher, Stronger** (Olympics)
- **The People's Ground** (MCG)
- **Spirit of Sport** (Sport Australia Hall of Fame)
- **Backyard to Baggy Green** (Cricket)
- **Australia's Game** (Australian Football)
- **Multi-Sports** exhibition
- **Game On** (Interactive gallery)
- **MCC Museum** (Melbourne Cricket Club)
- **Champions – Thoroughbred Racing Gallery**
- **ISS Exhibitions Gallery**
- **NSM Cinema Sport**



This is a vibrant, exciting and attractive mix of sporting heritage and entertainment aimed at match day patronage as well as catering for the MCG's traditional tourist groups seven days weekly.

The National Sports Museum opens from 10.00am – 5.00pm daily (except Christmas Day and Good Friday), with last admission at 4.00pm.

We recommend you allocate at least 90 minutes to fully experience the National Sports Museum.

YARRA PARK

Yarra Park has a significant indigenous pre-history, and is also noted for both its landscape and sporting heritage, dating back to the 1850s.

Initially known as the Police Paddock, the parklands were used for housing the horses of the mounted police and it also became a recreation area in the late 1840s and early 1850s.

With the establishment of the MCG and the proliferation of events staged there from the 1850s onwards, the area's popularity for sporting activities increased. As crowds grew, Melburnians used the park to tether their horses and carriages when attending events.

With the increased ownership of motor cars, Yarra Park has also been used for car parking for events held at the MCG for more than 80 years and more recently for major events held at Melbourne Park. During this time, the parkland in Yarra Park has been managed by City of Melbourne.



In recent years, the grounds and trees in Yarra Park have deteriorated in condition due to Melbourne's continued drought. Urgent attention, especially through the harvesting and application of non-potable Class A water, is required to restore the health of Yarra Park.

In September 2009, the MCC reached agreement with the State Government to transfer the management of Yarra Park to the MCG Trust, who in turn will delegate operational management to the MCC, with a key water project and landscaping project to secure the future of the trees in the park and preservation of existing car parking entitlements.

From March 15, 2010 management of the parkland became the day-to-day responsibility of the MCC.

The MCC has developed a Yarra Park Improvement Plan to greatly improve the parkland and protect the gardens from the effects of the drought. It will invest \$16m to undertake the water recycling project and the implementation of the plan.

In addition to the club's investment, the Victorian Government will contribute \$6 million towards the water-saving project in Yarra Park. It will also provide \$30 million towards a major refurbishment of the AFL Members Reserve in the Great Southern Stand.

The Yarra Park Improvement Plan will see the addition of new avenues of trees, selected tree planting, mulching on avenues, significant tree protection measures introduced, lawn upgrades, improvements to the playground, additional garden beds established and new pedestrian paths.

It is intended to commence construction of the plant in December 2010 and for completion during the summer of 2011. Further details at www.mcg.org.au or email yarrapark@mcc.org.au.

“A SUSTAINABLE, MULTI-USE YARRA PARK”

The framework for the MCC’s Yarra Park Implementation Strategy, which will guide the future development, enhancement and operation of the park over the next 5-10 years and beyond, is as follows:

1. Protect, restore and enhance park health

- Invest \$22 million over the next 3-4 years on water, tree, soil and grass improvements.
- Commit to increased annual expenditure to maintain and enhance park health.
- Enhance the visitor experience to the sports precinct.

Priorities

- Provision of water.
- Improve tree health, soil and grass condition.

2. Improve community parkland

- Maintain Yarra Park as a community park.
- Enhance the amenity of the park.
- Invest the operating surplus from parking activities back into the park.

Priorities

- Enhance the passive recreation experience.
- Improve park facilities for community interaction.
- Construct a low-impact water recycling plant.

3. Responsible, managed car parking

- Continue to provide controlled car parking for precinct events.
- Advocate alternative transport modes for patrons to the sports precinct.

Priorities

- Improve controlled car parking and traffic management.
- Support alternative transport modes.

4. Effective governance arrangements

- Establish a governance framework to deliver the Yarra Park Improvement Plan in accordance with legislation.
- Engage stakeholders in open consultative processes.

Priorities

- Comply with legislation.
- Foster strong stakeholder relationships.
- Rigorous contractor management.



MCG AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The MCC is extremely conscious of its social and community responsibility with regards to the way it operates the MCG and its other venues.

Water conservation and waste management, in particular, are issues that the MCC is working hard with stakeholders and experts to ensure the club remains a socially responsible stadium manager.

Environmental initiatives include the installation of timer controlled taps in the public toilets of the Great Southern Stand and the introduction of hand dryers to reduce paper towel waste. The club is also an active participant in the Closed Loop recycling program.

Lighting and air conditioning are controlled via a building management system at the ground and therefore can be controlled to be only on when required.

Other environmental initiatives being looked at are energy efficient fittings and plant for heating, ventilation and cooling and electrical and hydraulic services, revised sports lighting to reduce light spill and the use of natural ventilation and daylight.

Waste Management

The Melbourne Cricket Club is aware of its environmental responsibility and recognises that best practice waste management must be performed and promoted to meet public expectations.

The MCC adheres to five key guiding principles to continually improve its performance in waste management:

- Reduce unrecyclable waste
- Reuse materials where possible
- Promote recycling by providing appropriate infrastructure
- Educate employees, patrons and contractors
- Use landfill as a last resort.

The MCC co-ordinates its employees, contractors and patrons so as to maintain the maximum effectiveness of the waste management strategy.

Water Conservation

Despite its commitments to the upkeep of the MCG turf and stadium for the hosting of major events, the MCC understands that it is not immune to the current drought and subsequent water shortages affecting Victoria.

The club, responsible for the maintenance of 20,000 square metres of MCG turf, has operated under a water conservation plan for some time.

The sand profile on the ground has helped reduce water usage by more than one million litres annually without reducing turf quality.

The MCC is extremely conscious of its social and community responsibility towards the use of water for our operations. There are a number of measures either in place or being examined to ensure the MCC remains a responsible user of this precious resource.

One of the most significant water saving projects in the club's history will involve the installation of a water recycling plant in Yarra Park which, when completed in late-2011, will reduce the MCC's consumption of potable water by 50% or more.

Other water-saving measures being used include the harvesting of rainwater from the northern stand roof (via a 1.5 million-litre storage tank) to clean the seating bowl and concourse, re-engineering the end of hose pipes to increase pressure, implementing toilet flush reduction techniques and the installation of water-saving shower heads.

The MCC is working with City West Water to develop its water management action plan and has also commissioned Arup to undertake a water conservation study, centred on identifying and investigating potential water saving initiatives at the MCG.

This study concentrated on identifying and assessing short-term and long-term water conservation strategies via an integrated water management approach whereby traditional stand-alone practices of stormwater drainage and wastewater disposal were integrated to meet non-potable water demands within the stadium.

Arup has also been engaged to develop an Environment Management Plan for the MCG.

A NATURAL TURF ARENA

The MCG was first surveyed in 1861 by Melbourne Cricket Club committeeman Robert Bagot, who changed the ground's configuration into what is today's conventional oval. It previously was an irregular hexagon with a band rotunda in the northern corner.

The arena remained virtually unchanged until 1955-56 when it was re-modelled to international athletics specifications and a cinder track installed for the Olympic Games in November 1956.

After the Games much of the arena was reconstructed and red mountain soil laid to a depth of about 60cm. Compaction over the years gave this soil the consistency of clay and major drainage problems began to surface in the late 1980s.

In the spring of 1992 the arena was completely reconstructed with a sand-based profile, giving the ground remarkable drainage characteristics and superior load-bearing ability.

Dimensions

The MCG arena has a total of approximately **20,000** square metres in area and measures 171 x 146 metres in length, from fence to fence. The boundary line measures five metres from the fence.

The volume of the MCG is 1,700,000 cubic metres, or 1.7 million cubic metres.

The goal posts for AFL matches are 15 metres in height (point posts are 10 metres high) and the length of the cricket pitch is 22 yards, which in metric terms is 20.12 metres.

Other AFL-specific measurements are:

- Centre Square - four lines are each 45 metres in length.
- Goal square width is 6.4m.
- Goal square length is 9m.

The ground holds 96 sprinklers and the fall of the ground is 1%. The grass is a mixture of couch and rye grass.



Arena Grow Lights

In mid-2009, the MCC installed an arena lighting system at the MCG, designed to improve turf growth during the winter months.

Since the completion of the new northern stand, the MCC has been faced with a lack of light and sun on the turf on the northern side of the stadium. During winter, only 10% of natural sunlight reaches this area of the ground.

As a result, the MCC procured a product called Stadium Grow Lighting, a mobile supplementary lighting unit produced by Netherlands-based company SGL Concept and used around the world.

The shipment, comprising 11 lighting rigs each measuring 12m x 2.5m x 2.5m and two smaller rigs, arrived from the Netherlands on May 4 and was operational a fortnight later.

It is proposed that the \$2 million system will be used as required throughout each football season, from early-April until the end of September.

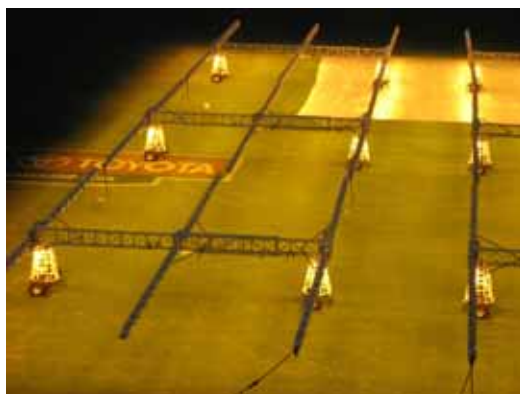
“The lighting rigs are placed above the grass to provide light and heat, which stimulates turf growth,” says Tony Ware, MCC executive manager environment and turf development. “This will enable us to achieve year-round quality turf in all weather conditions, and ensures that the MCG remains at the forefront of stadium management.”

Similar systems have been adopted at numerous venues around the world, including Emirates Stadium, Twickenham Stadium and Wembley Stadium in London, Millennium Stadium in Cardiff and Melbourne-based Etihad Stadium.

The redeveloped northern grandstand has presented new challenges to arenas operations manager Cameron Hodgkins and his ground staff.

The roof on the new stand has reduced the amount of natural sunlight available. This leads to lack of growth on a patch of turf that, during the AFL season, is an area of high traffic around the interchange benches and changerooms. The new system will reduce the amount of turf replacement required.

It is estimated that the use of the lights will add approximately five percent to the MCG’s energy consumption levels. However, this will be offset by a number of energy-saving initiatives being implemented throughout the stadium.



Portable Cricket Pitches

The MCG is one of Australia's greatest assets. It is also one of this country's biggest and most popular stadiums and an extremely busy venue accommodating cricket, Australian football, rugby, soccer, concerts and other major functions on its natural turf arena.

The volume and variety of events played at the MCG requires a versatile surface that enables the stadium to switch from one sport to another in a short period of time.

The MCG has developed perhaps one of the finest turf maintenance systems in the world. It has led the field in a range of turf management techniques designed to develop a playing surface which can be used efficiently and meets competition demands.

The 1992 reconstruction of the oval utilising a revolutionary sand-based profile boosted drainage capacity and introduced a more durable turf cover so that more events could be scheduled at the MCG.

More recently, however, the MCG pioneered the world's first successful portable cricket pitch technology.

The revolutionary system involves growing and nurturing cricket pitches off-site and "dropping" them into the centre of the arena at the start of the cricket season. The absence of cricket pitches in the centre of the MCG during the winter months enabled the MCG to produce a FIFA-standard soccer pitch for Olympic football at the ground just 10 days after the 2000 AFL Grand Final.

The absence of cricket pitches from the centre in the winter months provides a safer playing surface for AFL players and allows events such as international soccer and Bledisloe Cup rugby to be played on a world-class surface.

An example of this flexibility came in December 1999 when an AFL exhibition match between Carlton and Collingwood was staged just 24 hours after the conclusion of the Boxing Day Test.

The new wicket area covers 700 square metres and sits on a giant concrete rectangle. At 28 metres in width, it is only slightly narrower than the traditional wicket table, which was 30 metres wide.

The key benefit from the new technology is that it allows for more mature grass and root systems to develop, untouched by sand or other debris from the football season.

MCG SUPER SPORTS

Occupancy of the Melbourne Cricket Ground is shared equally between Australian football (April to September inclusive) and cricket (October to March), although by mutual agreement the sports' controlling bodies may vary arrangements slightly from time to time.

The MCC has a long-term agreement with the Australian Football League that expires in 2037 to schedule a minimum of 45 home and away matches annually, plus a minimum number of finals matches, including the grand final.

Around three million fans watch football at the MCG annually, with approximately 3.1 million clicking through the turnstiles in the 2010 AFL season. The Grand Final usually attracts a crowd of at least 98,000 and in most seasons five or six home and away matches draw 80,000-plus to the ground.

Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria stage interstate and international cricket at the ground on about 30 days each summer.

The Melbourne Test, which starts on Boxing Day, draws crowds of 60-80,000 for what is always a very special day for fans of the traditional game. Overall attendances for cricket, including one-day internationals and the popular new Twenty20 format average more than 300,000 each season.

The tenancy of football and cricket authorities does not preclude other events such as concerts and rugby and soccer matches being staged at the ground when fixturing allows.



BIG CROWDS AT THE MCG

Ever since the Melbourne Cricket Club encouraged its entrepreneurial caterers to sponsor the first visit by an England cricket team to Australia, big crowds have flocked to the MCG.

H.H. Stephenson's XI first took the field here on New Year's Day 1862. The attendance was estimated at 25,000 - nearly a third of the total population of Melbourne at the time.

Ironically it is not a sporting event which holds the attendance record at the MCG. This honour belongs to American evangelist Billy Graham, who in 1959 attracted an estimated crowd of more than 130,000 (some estimates go as high as 143,750), many of whom had spilled onto the arena.

The biggest football crowd (121,690) almost certainly will never be exceeded. The demands of modern day spectators for comfortable seating and uninterrupted viewing come at considerable cost to capacity. On the world stage, the MCG's most notable attendance record (still standing) is 1.153 million patrons for the 15 days of the 1956 Olympics.

Another remarkable crowd (120,000) attended the 1973 final ceremony of the Eucharistic Congress at the ground. The largest cricket crowd for a single day's play is 90,800 for the third day of the Australia-West Indies Test in 1961.

In 1994, an Australian record 87,161 watched a Rugby League match between New South Wales and Queensland. And there was another huge crowd for the 1995 World Police and Fire Games, which attracted more than 65,000 for the opening ceremony at the MCG.

By the mid-nineties annual attendances at the MCG exceeded 3.5 million – more than the population of Melbourne. It is doubtful that any other stadium in the world could make a similar claim.

Noteworthy attendances:

1,153,000	15-day aggregate for 1956 Games (an Olympic record)
350,534	Record Test match attendance (third Test 1936-37 over six days)
130,000	Billy Graham crusade, 1959 (Est.)
121,690	VFL Grand Final, Carlton v Collingwood, 1970
120,000	Final ceremony Eucharistic Congress, 1973 (Est.)
100,016	2010 AFL Grand Final (Collingwood v St Kilda)
100,012	2008 AFL Grand Final (Hawthorn v Geelong)
99,256	VFL first round match 1958 (Melbourne v Collingwood)
90,800	Record daily cricket attendance Aust v West Indies 1961
90,119	Bledisloe Cup rugby union (Australia v New Zealand) 1997
89,155	2006 Boxing Day Test, Day 1 (Australia v England)
87,182	A then world record limited-overs attendance (1992 World Cup final, Pak v Eng)
87,161	State-of-Origin rugby league (NSW v Queensland) 1994
85,513	World Cup Soccer Qualifier (Australia v Iran), 1997
84,041	Twenty20 International, Australia v India, 2008
80,518	Sound Relief Concert, 2009
43,125	Record crowd for Australian domestic cricket, Twenty20, Vic v Tas, Jan 2010

MCG FAST FACTS

- ♦ The Melbourne Cricket Club manages the Melbourne Cricket Ground on behalf of the Victoria Government – appointed MCG Trust.
- ♦ The first football match was held on July 9 and 23, 1859 and was played between Melbourne Football Club and South Yarra.
- ♦ The first cricket match on the current MCG was held on September 30, 1854 and was played between the MCC members.
- ♦ There are more than 80 days of cricket and football played at the MCG each year.
- ♦ More than three million people visit the ground annually.
- ♦ The MCG sits proudly alongside other internationally recognised attractions as a venue uniquely symbolic of Melbourne, Victoria and Australia generally.
- ♦ The highest **official** attendance for a sporting event recorded at the MCG was in 1970 when 121,696 packed the stadium to watch Carlton and Collingwood contest the 1970 Victorian Football League (VFL) Grand Final.
- ♦ The MCG played host to the Melbourne Olympic Games in 1956 and hosted several Olympic Football (Soccer) matches as part of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.
- ♦ The MCG underwent major redevelopment of the northern side of the stadium, at a cost of \$465 million, which was completed prior to it hosting the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games.
- ♦ The total capacity of the MCG is 100,018.
- ♦ The MCG has hosted many major events outside of the sporting arena such as international artists like Paul McCartney, Madonna, U2, The Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson, the Three Tenors, David Bowie, Linda Ronstadt, Elton John and Billy Joel and The Police.
- ♦ In 2009, the Sound Relief concert raised more than \$7 million for Victorian bushfire victims.
- ♦ The MCG's vast collection of sporting and cultural artefacts is housed in the National Sports Museum, which opened in March 2008.
- ♦ The current AFL tenant clubs at the MCG are Melbourne, Richmond and Collingwood and Hawthorn.

FIRSTS FOR THE MCG

- ♦ World's first full-colour cricket scoreboard with instant replays
- ♦ World's first electronic sightscreens
- ♦ First international cricket contest between Australia and England (1862)
- ♦ First ever Test match (1877), played between Australia and England
- ♦ The first stadium in the world to have its annual number of visitors equal to the city's population
- ♦ World's first scrolling signage at an oval-shaped ground
- ♦ Biggest attendance in the history of Test cricket: 90,800 in 1961 (Australia v West Indies)
- ♦ World record first class cricket score: 1107 Victoria vs NSW in 1926
- ♦ Record Australian Rules Football Grand Final attendance: 121,696 in 1970
- ♦ World's first one-day international cricket match in 1971
- ♦ Record one-day international crowd: 87,182 – 1992 World Cup Final (England v Pakistan)
- ♦ Australian record soccer crowd: 104,700 – Olympic Games final, 1956
- ♦ Australia's first international lacrosse match against Canada: 30,000 in 1907
- ♦ Billy Graham crusade – estimated attendance of 'at least' 130,000 (closer to 140,000) although an exact figure cannot be given as records were not kept) in 1959
- ♦ First time in the world a Test match was played on a one-piece portable pitch - Boxing Day 2000
- ♦ Australia's biggest-ever concert – a crowd of 80,518 attended the Sound Relief concert on March 14, 2009.

GRANDSTANDS OF THE MCG

If a substantial but unroofed concrete stand and an open wooden stand are counted, there have been 18 grandstands erected at the MCG since the first Members Pavilion of 1854. From early photographs this appeared to have a seating capacity of about 60.

A more substantial edifice for the members was built in 1881. It was extended in 1886 at a cost of just under £6000 and demolished in 1927 to make way for the Third Members Pavilion, which was completed in 1928 at a cost of £60,000.

The first grandstand on the MCG's northern side was built in 1876 but was destroyed by fire eight years later.

A fine new structure, which came to be known simply as "The Grandstand", replaced it. This stand catered for 450 members and 4500 public patrons. Another deck, added in 1897, doubled capacity.

It was demolished in 1955 for the Northern (later Olympic) Stand which had a capacity of 43,200 before a series of modifications from 1984 reduced standing room and some seating areas to accommodate dining rooms, corporate suites and a second scoreboard.



To the western end of the stadium was the Grey Smith Stand (1906) which was demolished in 1966 for building of the Western (later WH Ponsford) Stand. The Harrison Stand (1908) and Wardill Stand (1912) made way for the 1936-37 construction of the Southern Stand, a huge project which accommodated 48,000 spectators, 18,200 of whom were seated under cover. This stand saw an explosion in attendances as a sports-hungry population emerged from the Depression years.

Its eventual replacement, the Great Southern Stand of 1991-92 and boasting a similar capacity, has had an even bigger impact with superb sightlines, comfortable seating and provision for public and corporate dining and entertainment facilities. This \$150 million project was completed on time and below budget and, despite many site difficulties, only one football grand final had to be transferred away from the stadium and no major cricket fixtures were forfeited during the construction period.

In late-2002, work commenced on demolition of the Ponsford and Olympic Stands, along with the Members Pavilion, to make way for three new conjoined grandstands that encompass the entire northern side of the stadium. Complete with improved sightlines, amenities and comfort, the redevelopment was completed in time for the Commonwealth Games in March, 2006.

FIRST MEMBERS PAVILION

Erected 1854
Architect unknown
Builder unknown
Cost unknown
Internal capacity 60 people. Clock gable added in 1860s. Purchased for £55 by Mr J Maguire and removed in March 1882

FIRST GRAND STAND

Also known as the Reversible Stand seating reversed in winter to face the football games in [Yarra Park]
Erected 1876
Architect, George Browne
Builder, Peter Cunningham
Cost £4500
Capacity 2000
Destroyed by fire 1884

SECOND MEMBERS PAVILION

Erected 1881
Architect, William Salway
Builder, Goss and Masson
Foundation stone laid by Princes George and Edward of Wales, July 4, 1881
Original Cost £3875
Capacity 500
Extended 1887 Total Cost £5928
Demolished 1927 for the building of the Third Members Pavilion

SECOND GRAND STAND

Erected 1884
Architect, William Salway
Builder, Joseph Holloway
Cost £13,719
Capacity 450 members, 4500 general public
Extension - double deck added 1897
Additional cost £15,094
Additional capacity 900 members, 1100 public
Demolished 1955 for building of Northern Stand

SMOKERS STAND

Erected 1884
Architects unknown
Builders unknown
Cost unknown
Roofed structure open on all sides
Seating or standing capacity unknown

Seats added by William Salway 1886
Removed in 1905 for the building of the Members Reserve (Grey Smith) Stand and presented to Richmond Cricket Club.

MEMBERS RESERVE STAND

Renamed in 1912 after former MCC President Francis Grey Smith
Erected 1906
Architect, William Pitt
Builder, Mr. R. McDonald
Cost £15,700
Capacity 2500
Demolished 1966 for building of Western (Ponsford) Stand

Open Wooden Stand

Erected circa 1904
Architects unknown
Builders: MCC's ground men
Cost £206 18s. 8d.
Capacity: designed for approx 2000, held 1920.
Demolished 1936 for building of Southern Stand

HARRISON STAND

Named after MCC Vice-President HCA Harrison
Erected 1908
Architect, William Pitt
Cost £1850
Capacity 4000
Demolished 1936 for the building of the Southern Stand

WARDILL STAND

Named after MCC Secretary Major Ben Wardill
Erected 1911
Architect, William Pitt
Cost £5256
Enlarged 1920s
Capacity 8000
Demolished 1936 for building of Southern Stand

OPEN CONCRETE STAND

Erected 1926
Architects, Mr Knox with Mr BA Smith
Builders, T. Donald & Co.
Cost £9842
Capacity 10,000
Demolished 1966 for building of Western (Ponsford) Stand

THIRD MEMBERS PAVILION

Erected 1928
Architects, Stephenson and Meldrum
Builders, T.Donald and Co.
Foundation Stone laid by MCC President Sir Leo Cussen February 25, 1928
Cost £60,000
Capacity 5000
Demolished 2003/04 for northern side redevelopment

SOUTHERN STAND

Erected 1936-37
Architects, Stephenson and Meldrum
Builder, E.A.Watts
Cost £100,000
Capacity 48,000 with 18,200 under cover
Demolished 1990 to allow for the building of the Great Southern Stand.

Northern Stand

Erected 1955-56
Renamed the Olympic Stand in 1987
Architect, AW Purnell and Associates
Builder, EA Watts Pty. Ltd.
Cost £700,000
Capacity 43,200
Demolished December 2003/04

WESTERN STAND

Erected 1967-68
Renamed WH Ponsford Stand on December 6, 1986 for former Test and MCC cricketer Bill Ponsford.
Architects, Tompkins, Shaw and Evans with Milton Johnson and Associates
Builder, A.V. Jennings Industries Ltd.
Foundation Stone laid by The Duke of Edinburgh March 3, 1967
Opened by Lt Governor Sir Edmund Herring August 9, 1968
Cost £2,315,656 contract price
Capacity 31,000
Demolished in 2002

GREAT SOUTHERN STAND

Erected 1991-92
Architects, Tompkins, Shaw and Evans with Daryl Jackson.
Builder, John Holland Constructions Pty. Ltd.
Opened March 25, 1992 by MCC President Dr Donald Cordner
Cost \$142,000,000
Capacity 47,500 including 2000 standing
Still in use

Northern Side Stands

- Erected 2003-2006
- Opened February 17, 2006
- Architects, MCG5
- Builder, Grocon Constructions
- Rebuilding of Ponsford Stand, Members Pavilion and Olympic Stand
- Capacity 52,500 including 3000 standing
- Cost: \$465 million
- Still in use

SCOREBOARDS

MCG patrons have been well served by scoreboards. There was a large informative board erected at the western end of the ground in 1881 and a more sophisticated brick scoreboard replaced it in 1895.

In 1907 another scoreboard, of timber construction and operated by a bicycle chain mechanism, was erected at the Punt Road end. It was later relocated to the city end and informed spectators for more than 70 years before it was replaced by the country's first full-colour video replay scoreboard in 1982.

The video board and its successors became an integral part of a visitor's experience at the MCG.

TIMELINE

Pre-1874

Small, rudimentary scoreboards were erected from time to time in various locations.

1874

Scores were recorded on a fixed board adjacent to the telegraph box.

1881 – 1895

A scoreboard, showing the batsman's name and how he was dismissed, stood at the western end of the ground.

1895 – 1925

A brick structure replaced the 1881 board at the western end. It was the first permanent scoreboard at the MCG. It stood until 1925 when it was demolished to make way for the Open Concrete Stand.

1907 – 1982

A second permanent scoreboard was erected at the eastern end. It was moved in 1936 to make way for the Southern Stand and placed atop first, the Open Concrete Stand (1927), and then the Western Stand (1967).

1982 – 1992

The ground's first electronic scoreboard, a Mitsubishi Diamond Vision video replay colour screen, replaced the 1907 board on the Western Stand. It was only the third such scoreboard in the world. Its manually operated predecessor was relocated to Manuka Oval in Canberra, where it remains in constant use today.

1992 – 2002

The first electronic scoreboard was superseded by another Mitsubishi board five times brighter and boasting a 40 per cent increase in display area. It was dismantled in 2002 to allow redevelopment work to commence.

1994 – 2004

A second videoboard, a Sony JumboTron, was installed in the Olympic Stand to afford more than 90 per cent of patrons access to an instant replay screen. It was dismantled in 2004 as part of the redevelopment project.

2002 – 2005

Temporary scoreboards were provided for major fixtures throughout the redevelopment period.

2006 – now

Two video screens located on Level 4 of the Ponsford Stand and Olympic Stand respectively.

LIGHT TOWERS

While there was an ultimately futile attempt to introduce football under lights at the MCG in 1879, it wasn't until a century later that the prospect of lighting the arena for sporting events again came under serious consideration.

Cricket authorities in particular wanted to promote day/night matches for television audiences, but the initiative also proved extremely beneficial for football, and both sports played their first matches under the MCG lights in 1985.

Now an instantly recognisable landmark of Melbourne, the lights have revolutionised sport at the ground and become an integral part of stadium operations, night cricket and football proving immensely popular with the sporting public.

1879

On August 6, Collingwood Rifles played East Melbourne Artillery under electric lights. A week later, Carlton defeated Melbourne under lights but the experiment was deemed a failure with players and spectators unable to see the ball clearly.

1984

Six light towers averaging 75 metres in height (plus 10m high head frames) were erected outside the stadium perimeter. The towers are made of 20mm steel plate and are 4.2 metres in diameter at the base. They were commissioned on December 3.

1985

The first cricket fixture under lights was a match between Australia and England on February 17 as part of the World Championship of Cricket tournament. The MCG's first League football match under lights was between North Melbourne and Collingwood on March 29.

2005

As the northern grandstand was built, additional lighting was installed in the Great Southern Stand to fill in grey spots created by the taller structure blocking lighting from the towers. The new stand also incorporates stadium lights.

Construction

The light tower system comprises of six light towers which stand approximately 75 metres high (equivalent to a 24-story building) with the head frame a further 10 metres higher (85 metres overall).

The foundations for the towers consist of four reinforced concrete piers which are set down in depth from seven to 12 metres depending on the sub surface structure. Each of the hollow tubular steel towers contains about 130 tonnes of steel. The diameter reduces from 4.2 metres at the base to two metres at the top.

There are between 12 and 14 landings connecting ladders inside each tower. The head frames of the towers are angled in at 15 Degrees in order to provide optimum levels of light.

Power

Power to the light towers is supplied off an 11kV electrical ring main into a transformer inside the base of each tower, which reduces the voltage down to 415 volts. The total power consumption at any given time is approximately 1800Kilowatts.

Total Consumption for a year would be approximately 360,000kWh, this is based upon a running time of 400 hours over a twelve month term.

Due to the configuration of the power supply at the ground it is a highly unlikely that power would be lost to the whole ground as we have multiple feeds supplying the ground. Portions of Melbourne would also lose power if there were to be an interruption of power supply.

Lamps (Light globes)

Each light tower has an average of 140 no. 2KW (2000-Watt) Metal Halide lamps within the head frame. The number of lamps in each tower varies relative to their position to the central wicket area. The lamps have an effective life of approximately 5000 running hours and about 30 lamps on average are replaced each year.

The vertical design level of illumination is 1500 lux. The levels of lighting are achieved by the computer generated individual setting of all 844 lamps to predetermined angles to provide maximum coverage of the arena without any shadowed or dark spot areas. Computer simulation of tower shadows was used to position towers so as to minimise shadows on the pitch area.

The number of running hours for the light towers for a year depends upon the number of events held at night or over a day/night period i.e. football and cricket as well as other one off events like soccer, international rules, concerts, rugby etc.

Where are the lights turned on? The light towers are controlled by computer program which when activated stages lighting on level by level. The Light Tower lighting system has two built in redundancies should the computer system fail:

- (a) Manually turn the system on via a console located in a Plant room in the Great Southern Stand, or
- (b) Turn each tower on individually at the tower's own dedicated controls located in each tower.

The lights take approximately 10 minutes to become fully illuminated. If the lights are turned off they cannot be turned back on for another 15 minutes as they require time to cool down and then warm back up (re-strike time).

A GREAT CONCERT VENUE

The MCG always has been a very popular venue for concerts. Soon after the MCC was granted tenure of the MCG in 1853 it became the social centre of the city, a favoured place for the ladies to “promenade”, and soon a band rotunda was erected on the arena perimeter.

The MCG has seen a number of modern-day concerts at the venue since David Cassidy first graced the stage on March 10, 1974. In 1978, David Bowie held a concert there and Linda Ronstadt followed suit in 1979.

In 1993, Paul McCartney (March), U2 and Madonna (both November) held concerts, each drawing crowds between 40,000 and 55,000.

The Rolling Stones held concerts in 1995, Michael Jackson toured in 1996 as part of his “History” tour, the 3 Tenors (Placido Domingo, Jose Carreras and Luciano Pavarotti) performed in 1997, while Elton John and Billy Joel provided a compelling double act in March, 1998.

In November, 1998 more than 55,000 people filled the MCG to watch more than 60 artists performing for nine hours to celebrate 25 years of great Australian music at the Mushroom Records 25th anniversary concert. Artists included Kylie Minogue, Paul Kelly, Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs, Hunters ‘n Collectors and Jimmy Barnes.

On Australia Day in 2008, the MCG hosted its first concert in almost a decade when The Police Reunion Tour, supported by Fergie and Fiction Plane, played in front of 30,000 fans.

On March 14, 2009 a crowd of 80,518 people braved wet conditions to help raise more than \$7 million for those affected by the Victorian bushfires, as music icons such as Midnight Oil, Paul Kelly, Hunters and Collectors, Kings of Leon and Split Enz put on the Sound Relief concert at the MCG.



MCG CORPORATE PARTNERS/FACILITIES

Icon Partners

Coca-Cola Amatil

The principal Coca-Cola licensee in Australia and independently manufactures its own soft drinks and mineral waters. CCA is fast becoming a broader-based beverage and food company by being the supplier of choice for carbonated and non-carbonated beverages, and by expanding in the high growth health and wellbeing segment.

Herald and Weekly Times

A division of News Limited that produces a number of newspapers and magazines including the Herald Sun, Australia's most popular daily Mon-Fri newspaper. Through its custom publishing division, it also produces specialist magazine titles.

National Australia Bank

Founded in Victoria in 1858, NAB is an international financial services group providing a comprehensive range of banking and financial services in its core markets of Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Asia.

Foster's Group

A premium global drinks company delivering beer, wine, spirits, cider and non-alcohol beverages. Foster's Australian favourites include the nation's No.1 beer, Victoria Bitter, Australia's leading premium beer, Crown Lager, and the region's finest wine brands.

Corporate Facilities

Corporate Suites

MCG Corporate Suites are available for leasing on an annual basis. The MCG has 122 corporate suites ranging in capacity from 10 -52 seats. Licence fees and terms differ depending on the size and location of the suite.

Corporate suite holders are guaranteed access to all AFL matches at the MCG, including the grand final, and all international cricket and special events.

Corporate Functions

The MCC offers match day corporate hospitality for all AFL, cricket and special events. The all-inclusive package incorporates three-courses, beverages, souvenir programs and guest speaker. Its key function spaces can be sold as private dining rooms or a shared facility for up to 50 guests.

FUNCTIONS AT THE MCG

One of the world's great sporting venues is now an unrivalled function centre.

The hallowed turf of the MCG has been the location of many famous sporting events and now the newly redeveloped 'G' has outstanding function spaces including spectacular views of the city skyline and over the arena.

The 'G' is only minutes away from the heart of the city, with all forms of transport within easy access including a pedestrian bridge connecting to Federation Square.

Epicure catering has prepared comprehensive menu packages for functions and events in the Members Reserve, Olympic Stand and Great Southern Stand.

Our menus range from plated dinner and lunch menus to banquet and grazing, party menus and food stall concepts to conference packages, breakfast, meeting and more!

Beverage packages have been designed with balance and quality at the forefront, incorporating a range of interesting wines from the very best growing regions of Australia, from both large suppliers to smaller boutique wineries.

Our services also extend to specialised theming and entertainment options to create a memorable event for any size function.

For all function and event enquires please contact Epicure.

MCG Function Rooms Capacity

The MCG has a wide variety of fabulous function rooms to suit your needs. The available rooms and their capacities are as follows:

Room	Banquet	Cocktail	Cabaret	Theatre	Total Area (Sq metre)
Members Reserve					
Members Dining Room	500	1000	400	760	900
Long Room	270	800	136	280	708
Hans Ebeling Room	90	180	72	80	148
Percy Beames Bar	80	600	N/A	N/A	207
Frank Grey Smith Bar	70	300	56	60	600
Bullring Bar	N/A	350	N/A	N/A	257
Hugh Trumble Cafe	200	350	160	200	691
Committee Room	100	200	80	100	189
Blazer Bar	N/A	100	N/A	N/A	292
John Landy Room	40	80	32	40	60
Ponsford Stand					
Harrison Room (total)	430	600	160	180	526
- Harrison Room A	210	300	168	70	264
- Harrison Room B	220	300	176	110	262
Ponsford Atrium (Level 2)	120	500	96	120	325
Dean Jones Bar	N/A	200	N/A	N/A	349
Ponsford Lounge	N/A	200	N/A	N/A	497
Olympic Stand					
Olympic Room	430	800	344	740	779
Jim Stynes Room	330	350	264	155	746
Yarra Park Room	320	600	256	300	535
Olympic Atrium	120	400	96	N/A	365
Olympic Lounge	N/A	150	N/A	N/A	531
Betty Cuthbert Lounge	N/A	400	N/A	N/A	606
Great Southern Stand					
Tom Wills Room	110	200	88	72	183
Legends Room	160	200	128	200	320
Keith Miller Room	160	200	128	90	234
Jack Ryder Room	300	400	240	200	386
Medallist Bar	160	250	128	N/A	239
Lindsay Hassett Room	190	250	152	112	300
Ron Barassi Room	90	60	72	64	140

MEDIA AT THE MCG

The MCC understands that the media has a legitimate interest in the MCG's activities and considers it important to disseminate newsworthy information to its stakeholders via the media.

Media requests for interview or access to the stadium on non-event days must be submitted to the communications manager for approval and coordination. Media wishing to access the stadium on an event-day are required to have a media accreditation pass as provided by the event promoter.

Filming and photo requests

The MCC receives numerous requests to access the venue on non-event days. The communications department is the first point of contact to manage these requests. Please email communications@mcc.org.au, detailing the nature of your request and preferred date/time. An assessment will then be undertaken as to the suitability of the request.

Media facilities

The MCG is equipped with state-of-the-art media facilities to accommodate a variety of media personnel. The Ron Casey Media Centre, located on Level 3 of the Olympic Stand, is the central hub of the media facilities available on event days at the MCG. Access is via Lifts 9,10,11 in the Olympic Stand.

Written press

The main press box at the MCG is located on Level 3 of the Olympic Stand, with unimpeded views of the playing arena and a capacity for 48 people. Wireless internet access and power outlets are available at each seat, while catering facilities are available at the rear of the room.

Press conference room

The press conference room is located in between the team changerooms on Level B2 of the Ponsford Stand. The area has a capacity for 40 people and wireless internet is available. The procedures in this room are at the discretion of the media liaison officer representing the event promoter.

Radio

There are eight radio commentary booths on Level 3 of the Olympic Stand, located adjacent to the press box in the Ron Casey Media Centre. Wireless internet is available.

Photographers

The photographers' work room is located at the rear of seating area M23 on Level 1 of the Great Southern Stand. The room provides space and facilities for photographers (capacity 30). Wireless internet is available in this room, as well as on the arena itself.

Television

The TV studio is located on Level 3 of the Olympic Stand in the Ron Casey Media Centre.

Media Contacts

Shane Brown, MCC communications manager, 0418 353 431 or communications@mcc.org.au
Katy Plumridge, MCC communications coordinator, 0407 773 346

THE MCC IN BIG CRICKET

As the Port Phillip District's pioneer club, the Melbourne Cricket Club's early role was administrative and promotional as well as competitive.

The MCC was most prominent in developing the colony's cricket and played a major role in guiding the game's destiny until after the turn of the twentieth century when what is now the Victorian Cricket Association took over the reins. The club sponsored four Australian teams to England and eight visits to Australia between 1879 and 1905.

Melbourne also has been a most successful member of the Victorian Cricket Association pennant competition, winning a record 19 First XI premierships, its most recent in 2009/10.

The MCC, however, initially did not accept the residential qualification rules and was not permitted to compete for the premiership until the 1914/15 season.

The MCC has been synonymous with cricket success, measured in numerous premierships, club championships and state and national representatives.

In its long and prestigious history, the MCC has been home to many fine players who wore the Australian Test cap: Fred 'Demon' Spofforth, Jack Blackham, Warwick Armstrong, Bert Ironmonger, Hugh Trumble, Vernon Ransford, Bill Ponsford, Keith Rigg, Colin McDonald, Lindsay Kline, Paul Sheahan, Max Walker, Dean Jones and Brad Hodge, to name but a few.

Blackham, Spofforth and Ponsford were three of the 10 inaugural inductees to the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame.

Andrew McDonald is the club's latest Test debutant, having made his debut against South Africa in January 2009, while fast bowler Shane Harwood played a solitary one-day international in the same year.

Among the many other fine cricketers to feature prominently at club level with the Demons include Percy Beames, Ian Huntington, Jeff Moss, Robert Templeton, Richard Herman, Peter King, Steven McCooke, Warren Ayres, David Broad, Michael Sholly, Bob Lloyd and fast bowling pair Jack 'Dasher' Daniel and Clive Fairbairn.

Fairbairn's involvement as an administrator after his playing days were over is legendary. Such was his impact, the club decided to recognise his achievements in 1991 by naming the Pavilion at its home ground - the Albert Ground - in his honour.

THE MCC IN FOOTBALL

The MCC's association with football can be traced to 1850 when "Foot Ball" was played on its ground at South Bank as one of many activities to celebrate Victoria's separation from New South Wales. This was not the game we recognise today as Australian football.

The Australian game may be traced to ten rules drafted by a subcommittee of the Melbourne Football Club at the Parade Hotel, on Wellington Parade across the road from the MCG in May 1859.

The first match between clubs under Melbourne rules was on the MCG when Melbourne defeated South Yarra over two Saturdays in July 1859. Football has been played either on, or in the vicinity of the MCG since that year, and the parkland immediately north of the MCG was regarded as the Melbourne Football Ground until the mid 1880s.

The Melbourne Football Club was independent for the first three decades of its existence but, burdened by debt it asked to be absorbed within the Melbourne Cricket Club in 1890. It remained a section of the cricket club until 1980 although the relationship was formally reestablished in 2009.

The Melbourne Football Club was a foundation member of the Victorian Football League (VFL, now the Australian Football League - AFL) in 1896 and won its first VFL premiership in 1900 and was not successful again until 1926. However, after two golden eras (1939-41 and 1955-64) the club had won 12 flags.

The MCC is the manager of the spiritual home of football. The ground has hosted all but five VFL/AFL Grand Finals since its first in 1902, and no venue has had more finals games. The MCG has a long history of multiple tenancies beginning in the late 1870s and 1880s when Carlton, Hotham and Melbourne played on the arena. From 1911 to 1914 the short-lived League team University joined Melbourne at the ground.

The MCG was the core facility that supported the sport's modernisation and development in the second half of the Twentieth Century. In 1965 it was decided in favor of the Richmond Football Club initiative that Richmond could adopt the MCG as its home ground on alternate Saturdays. The move proved beneficial to all parties and was the forerunner to today's multiple-club home ground usage of the stadium.

North Melbourne (1985) and Essendon (1992) vacated the MCG to become tenant clubs at Docklands Stadium. The current MCG tenant clubs are Melbourne, Richmond, Collingwood (1999) and Hawthorn (2000).

Many of the most thrilling and dramatic events in the game's history have taken place within the confines of the MCG. The establishment of the independent VFL commission in 1985 gave the League latitude to alter the competition's fixture and therefore permit "big games" to be transferred the MCG irrespective of the clubs involved.

The AFL plays a minimum of 45 home and away matches plus finals every season between late-March and September. The culmination of this season on the last Saturday in September is one of the biggest days on Australia's sporting calendar – the AFL Grand Final.

DATES WITH HISTORY

MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND

CHRONOLOGY

1853

- Permissive occupancy of the present site of the MCG in the 'Police Paddock' was granted to the Melbourne Cricket Club by Lt-Governor CJ La Trobe on September 23.

1854

- The land for the ground was cleared and levelled and the First Members Pavilion was erected at the MCG.
- The first cricket match on the current MCG was played between the members on September 30.

1856

- The inaugural first-class cricket match on the MCG is the inaugural Victoria vs. New South Wales match played March 26 and 27.

1859

- The first football match on the new MCG was played over two Saturdays, July 9 and 23. The Melbourne Football Club defeated South Yarra three goals to nil.

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1860

- The MCG was connected to the Yan Yean Reservoir water supply.

1861

- A celebration of Caledonian Games, including "football" was held on the ground from December 26-28.

1862

- The first international cricket match in Australia, XVIII of Victoria versus H.H. Stephenson's All England XI, was played on the MCG (January 1-4).
- Major ground improvements were undertaken by MCG caretaker Rowland Newbury and supervised by civil engineer Robert Bagot.

1866

- An Aboriginal team under TW Wills played against an MCC team on the MCG before 11,000 spectators on December 26-27. The Aboriginal team played on the MCG a further three times to 1869.

1867

- RW Wardill made the first century in an Inter-colonial match against NSW at the MCG, on December 26.
- Royalty visited the ground for the first time: Prince Alfred the Duke of Edinburgh was received at the MCG in March.

1868

- On November 30, Scotch College held its first sports meeting on the MCG. This was the first Public School Sports meeting ever held in the colony.

1869

- In July, the first bicycle race in Victoria, in tandem with a race at Croxton Park, was held at the MCG.

1874

- A skittle alley was first erected at the MCG in the old cow shed.

1876

- The 'reversible' stand was built at the northern end of the ground.

1877

- Teams representing Australia and England played what is regarded as the first Test match (March 15-19). During the match, Charles Bannerman scored the first century in Test cricket.

1878

- In March, the Moonlight concerts run by Julius Herz were held on the ground for the first time.
- On June 29, Waratah from Sydney played Carlton at the MCG under Rugby rules. On July 1, the two teams played under Victorian Rules at the same venue.

1879

- On January 4, FR Spofforth took the first hat-trick in a Test against England at the MCG.
- Night football was first played on the MCG under electric light on August 5, Collingwood Rifles v East Melbourne Artillery. Melbourne played Carlton under lights on August 13.

1881

- A new Members Pavilion was constructed alongside the first MCC Pavilion. The Foundation Stone was laid by Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales on July 4. The Pavilion was opened in time for the match between Victoria and Alfred Shaw's English XI on December 16.
- Sightboards first used on the MCG for the first time.
- Wickets and goal posts which previously ran east-west were changed to run north-south.
- A telephone was installed at the MCG.
- A scoreboard, reputed to be the first of its type in the world, was erected. It showed the batsman's name and how he was dismissed.
- A two-table billiard salon was opened on the first floor of the Second Pavilion.

1883

- In January, Billy Bates becomes the first bowler to perform a hat-trick for England during the second Test. This is the only hat-trick performed in a Test at the MCG by a member of the visiting team.

1884

- The reversible stand was burnt to the ground.

1885

- Building works commenced on the replacement public grandstand that survived until demolished in 1954 for the construction of the Northern (later Olympic) Stand.
- On October 8, a team from the USS *Enterprise*, played the first recorded baseball match at the MCG against a team of MCC members.
- Carlton Football Club plays its first home matches on the MCG.

1886

- On November 13, cyclists competed at the MCG for the Drummond Trophy, forerunner to the Austral Wheel Race.

1887

- On July 18, the first recorded British Football Association rules (soccer) match on the MCG was played between Victoria and New South Wales, resulting in a 2-0 victory to Victoria.

1888/89

- During December 1888 and January 1889 the MCG host baseball matches as part of AG Spalding's 1888/89 world tour by the Chicago White Stockings and an "All-America" team of Major League Baseball players.

1890

- In March, the Melbourne Football Club affiliated into the Melbourne Cricket Club. Melbourne Football Club abandoned playing its matches at the Friendly Societies Ground (in Yarra Park, south of the railway line) and played its home matches at the MCG from 1890.

1893

- The first Australasian Athletic Championships were held on the MCG in October. Future Olympic champion Edwin Flack won the mile race.

1894

- MCC Bowls Section was formed. Two greens were laid outside western end of MCG. In November, MCC members began using the new bowling greens at the MCG.

1897

- An extension (double-deck) was added to the Grandstand.

1900

- The Grandstand at the MCG was wholly lit by electric light.
- The first lawn bowls Championship of Australia was staged at the MCG in November.

1902

- Hugh Trumble, a MCC player, performed the hat-trick to conclude the match against England at the MCG on January 4.
- Moving pictures were being shown at the ground.
- The first year that the VFL Grand Final was held at the MCG.

1904

- On March 8, in his final Test and first-class match, Hugh Trumble repeated his hat-trick feat of 1902: the only bowler to take two hat-tricks in Ashes Tests.
- The open wooden stand on the southern side of the ground was erected.

1906

- The New Stand (known from 1912 as The Grey Smith Stand) was erected.

1907

- Australia's first international lacrosse match against Canada was played at the MCG before a crowd of 30,000.

1908

- The first Australasian Football Jubilee Carnival is hosted at the MCG in August. The carnival commemorated 50 years of Australian football and the competing teams represented all Australian states and New Zealand. The tournament was won by Victoria.
- The Harrison Stand was built in the Outer Reserve and named in HCA Harrison's honour during the Football carnival.
- A second scoreboard was erected at the eastern end of the MCG.
- On September 1, an exhibition American football (gridiron) match was played between teams from the visiting Great White Fleet of the United States Navy.

1910

- First Australian lacrosse carnival was held on the MCG.
- South Africa played its first MCG Test match, December 31 to January 4.

1911

- With the closure of the East Melbourne Cricket Ground, University Football Club played its home matches at the MCG until the end of the 1914 VFL season.
- The Wardill Stand, built in the public section on the southern side of the MCG, was opened on the first Day of the Second Test match against England (December 30-January 3).

1912

- In the Davis Cup challenge round held on the MCC's Warehouseman's Ground, Australasia were represented by three MCC members: Norman Brookes, RW Heath and AW Dunlop.

1914

- Rugby League (NSW v England) played on MCG for first time.
- Major League Baseball teams, the New York Giants and Chicago White Sox play at the MCG.

1916

- On February 24, in Yarra Park at the back of the Grandstand, the Minister for Defence, Senator Pearce unveiled a memorial to the Soldiers who had fallen in the Great War. The temporary memorial, believed to be the first in Melbourne, was in the shape of a broken column. It was designed by A Phipps Coles and was a gift of the Timber Merchants' Association and other groups.

1917

- The MCC Patriotic Carnival held over a period of 11 days, included the sale of "The Blackham Ball", the ball souvenired by Australian wicket keeper JM Blackham at the end of the famous Ashes Test match at the Kennington Oval in 1882.
- On December 10, a crowd estimated at 75,000 attended a pro-conscription meeting at which the Prime Minister, WM Hughes, was the main speaker.

1920

- On May 31, HRH The Prince of Wales visited the ground for a children's display

1921

- Arthur Mailey took 9/121 in a Test against England at the MCG, the best bowling figures by an Australian in a Test at the MCG.

1923

- On October 9, a touring Chinese soccer team defeats Victoria three goals to one at the MCG.

1924

- Radio station 3AR received MCC committee approval to broadcast two MCG Tests against England.
- On July 2 an Australian soccer XI graces the MCG for the first time when it plays a touring Canadian team.

1925

- On May 23, Australia plays an England professional soccer XI before 10,696 spectators. It was the second of two practice matches before a five "Test" series.

1926

- Victoria made 1107 against NSW, a world record score in a first-class match.
- TRH The Duke and Duchess of York (Later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) visited the MCG for a children's display on April 26.

1927

- WH Ponsford scored 437 for Victoria against Queensland, the highest individual score in a first-class match on the MCG.

1928

- Sir Leo Cussen laid the foundation stone of the third Members Pavilion on February 25.

1931

- On February 13-14, the West Indies play their first Test match at the MCG.

1934

- A Victorian Women's Centennial Sports Carnival was held at the MCG.
- HRH The Duke of Gloucester visited in October for a children's display on the MCG as part of the Victorian Centenary Celebrations.

1935

- First women's cricket Test to be held at the MCG, Australia v England, January 18-21 ends in a draw.

1936

- On February 1, a memorial service held at the ground, following the death of King George V, an Honorary MCC member since 1881. A week later, 3900 members of the armed services honoured the King in a dignified but colourful parade on the ground.

1937

- The Third Test between Australia and England (January 1-7) drew the current world record crowd of 350,534 over six days, despite the new Southern Stand still being incomplete.
- The Southern Stand was finished in time for the Fifth Test (February 26 – March 3), which was celebrated as the Diamond Jubilee of Test cricket.

1938

- First-class cricket match between DG Bradman's XI and KE Rigg's XI held to commemorate the Centenary of the MCC. Referred to in the Press as "Australia v The Rest" the match ran from December 9 to 13 and was a draw.

1940

- On New Year's Day the Victoria v South Australia match drew a crowd of 30,837, a Sheffield Shield record.

1942-45

- On April 3 the club's ground was requisitioned by the Commonwealth for use as a base for quartering service personnel. The MCG was occupied by:
 - The 11th Replacement Control Depot of the United States Army Air Forces, to whom the ground was known as Camp Murphy (April 3, 1942 – late 1942).
 - About 1500 personnel from the RAAF's No.1 School of Technical Training from December 3, 1942 to January 5, 1943.
 - The First Regiment of the First Division of the United States Marine Corps (January 6, 1943 – October 1943).
 - The Royal Australian Air Force's No.1 Embarkation Depot (November 3, 1943 to April 30, 1944). During this period, the site name RAAF Ransford was introduced in honour of MCC secretary Vernon Ransford. From May 1, 1944 to October 29, 1945, No.1 Embarkation Depot was known as No.1 Personnel Depot.

1945

- RAAF vacate MCG on October 27.

1946

- League Football returned to the MCG when Melbourne played Hawthorn on August 17.

1948

- India played its first MCG Test match.
- First drawn VFL Grand Final in match between Melbourne (10.9.69) and Essendon (7.27.69). Melbourne won the replay 13.11.89 to 7.8.50.
- Testimonial to Don Bradman on the MCG. Bradman scored a total of 19 first-class centuries at the MCG, nine of them in Test matches.

1951

- On June 9, an attendance of 29,652 watched the Victorian Soccer team play an England XI.

1953

- On January 12, the MCC committee resolved unanimously "to give wholehearted support to the Government for the use of the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the Olympic Games in 1956..."

1954

- Lindsay Hassett Testimonial Match on January 15, 16, 18 and 19.
- Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, visited the MCG, where an assembly of ex-servicemen and women's organisations took place on February 25. The Duke was made a life member of the club.
- On March 4, the Queen and Duke returned to the MCG for the Education Department Children's display. Admission was by ticket only and there were 17,000 participants. The total crowd of 92,438 was, at this time, the second highest ever for an event at the MCG. (Tickets were so highly sought after that 28,971 attended the rehearsal by the 17,000 children on February 26.) All proceeds went to children's charities. For many of the people in attendance, these Royal events marked their only visit to the MCG.

1956

- The Northern (later Olympic) Stand was completed. MCC Membership was increased to 9,800 to help finance the new stand.
- A crowd of 115,802 attended the VFL Grand Final between Melbourne and Collingwood on September 15. It is the first event at the MCG to draw in excess of 100,000 spectators.

- MCC Honorary Life Member, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, opened the Games of the XVI Olympiad at the MCG on November 22. The MCG was the main arena for the Olympic Games and hosted the Opening Ceremony, athletics, hockey, soccer, demonstration baseball and Australian Rules matches and the Closing Ceremony.
 - 107,700 attended the opening ceremony on November 22.
 - On November 23, up to 85,001 attended the first day of the Athletics.
 - 102,800 attended the second day of the Athletics on November 24.
 - 103,800 attend the third day of the Olympic Athletics on November 26.
 - Up to 95,423 people attended the fourth day of the Athletics on November 27
 - 107,100 attended the fifth day of the Olympic Athletics Carnival on November 28.
 - A crowd of 100,100 watched the sixth day of the athletics on November 29.
 - 101,000 attended on November 30, the seventh day of the Olympic Athletics carnival.
 - December 1, the final day of the Athletics saw a crowd of 104,400 in attendance. A demonstration baseball match was played between an USA services team and an Australian, earlier that day.
 - 10,805 tickets were sold for the semi-finals of the Olympic Hockey tournament on the MCG on December 3. India beat Germany 1-0 and Pakistan beat Great Britain 3-2
 - The Bronze medal playoff for the Hockey was held on December 4th before 15617 (plus officials and athletes). Germany defeated Great Britain 3-1.
 - 16,626 tickets were sold for the Gold medal final in the hockey (with additional officials and athletes in attendance) on December 5. India defeated Pakistan 1-0.
 - 21,079 paid to watch the Olympic soccer semi finals on December 6. The USSR defeated Bulgaria 2-1 and Yugoslavia defeated India 4-1.
 - 21,236 tickets were sold for the Bronze medal match in the Olympic soccer. held on December 7. Bulgaria defeated India 3-1. This was preceded by an Australian Rules football demonstration match between amateur players from the combined VFL/VFA and the VAFA.
 - 104,700 attended the Olympic Soccer final and the Closing Ceremony of the XVI Olympic Games on December 8. The USSR defeated Yugoslavia 1-0.

1958

- On March 3, HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited the ground for a children's display.

1959

- The religious leader, Billy Graham, held a crusade setting an all-time record for attendance at the MCG of at least 130,000.
- HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent visited the ground for the VFL Preliminary Final on match on September 19.

1961

- A world record 90,800 people attended the second day of the fifth Test of the Australia vs. West Indies series. On February 15, Sir Donald Bradman made the inaugural presentation of the Frank Worrell Trophy at the conclusion of the Fifth Test.

1962

- To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first English cricket tour to Australia a recreation match was held during New Year Test match.

1963

- The first VFL/AFL premiership match held at the MCG on Anzac Day is played between Melbourne and Hawthorn.

1964

- On December 4-8, Pakistan played its first MCG Test match.

1965

- Richmond Football Club played its first home match at the MCG against St Kilda.

1966

- Bob Cowper made the highest Test score in Australia (307) v England at the MCG.
- St Kilda won its first VFL premiership with a one-point win over Collingwood.

1967

- On March 3rd the foundation stone for the new Western Stand laid by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.
- The "Bushfire Test" between "Australia (South Africa)" and "Australia (New Zealand)" was held at the ground from April 7-10. Arranged between the two Australian touring teams to raise money for Tasmanian Bushfire Relief Fund.

1968

- The Western Stand (from 1986 known as the Ponsford Stand) was completed.
- The MCC Squash Section is established following the creation of courts in the new Western Stand.
- On March 11, Gaelic football was played on the MCG between County Meath from Ireland and a team of Australian footballers (some recently retired) called "the Galahs". A crowd of 28,636 attended.

1969

- The MCC Cricket Museum was opened.

1970

- On April 5, Fitzroy defeated Richmond in the first VFL match on a Sunday, playing before HM Queen Elizabeth II, and TRHs The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and The Princess Anne and a crowd of 38,617.
- Carlton defeated Collingwood before a record VFL Grand Final crowd of 121,696. It is the largest match attendance of any football code in Australia.

1971

- After the Third Test was abandoned, the first official International one-day limited-overs cricket match was played between Australia and England on January 5.

1973

- The Eucharistic Congress was held at the MCG with three crowds over 100,000 in seven days. A crowd estimated at 120,000 attend the finale on February 25.
- First Test match at the MCG against New Zealand.

1974

- The David Cassidy concert was held, first rock concert on the ground.

1977

- The Centenary Test match was held at the MCG from March 12 to 17. Australia won by the exact same margin as the First Test match 100 years previously.
- Drawn VFL Grand final between Collingwood and North Melbourne. North won the replay.

1978

- David Bowie concert was held.

1979

- Linda Ronstadt concert held on February 24 (crowd 28,307).
- First Melbourne Military Tattoo held.

1982

- First diamond vision electronic scoreboard was unveiled.
- A new wicket area was laid, the first Test pitches to have an underground heating system to stimulate grass growth.

1983

- 125th anniversary of Australian Rules football was celebrated at a conference of sporting historians held at the MCG.

1984

- On January 22, a one-day International cricket match crowd record of 86,133 was established at the Australia v West Indies match.
- Four soccer matches between Australia, Manchester United, Glasgow Rangers, Nottingham Forest, Juventus and Iraklis played on the MCG as part of the World Series Soccer from May 27 to June 17.
- When Victorian Premier and MCG trustee John Cain switched on the newly installed arena lighting on December 3, cricket was played under lights at the MCG for the first time. Members of the MCC First XI provided the entertainment.

1985

- On February 17, the Australia v England limited overs match as part of the World Championship of Cricket was played under lights: the first time since 1879 that a major sporting fixture had been played under lights at the MCG.
- North Melbourne Football Club played their first home game, under lights, against Collingwood.
- A "double-header" night of soccer was played under the MCG lights on May 26. Vasco da Gama (Brazil) v Udinese (Italy) and Australia v Tottenham Hotspur (England).

1986

- Opening of The Australian Gallery of Sport at the MCG on November 22, the 30th anniversary of the Opening Ceremony of the XVI Olympic Games.
- During his Australian visit HH Pope John Paul II held an Ecumenical service at the ground on November 27 and also hosted the Polish Community celebration at the MCG on November 28.

1988

- Melbourne Cricket Club's 150th celebration dinner for 2220 members and guests held in a marquee on the MCG on November 15.
- The final of the Shell Bicentennial Women's Cricket Cup was held on December 18.

1989

- 91,960 people attended the Victoria v South Australia State-of-Origin football match on July 1.

1990

- First Test match at the MCG against Sri Lanka.
- Hawthorn's Michael Tuck plays his 400th VFL game on August 3 and his 404th on September 1 to break Kevin Bartlett's record as the League's most prolific player.
- Demolition of the Southern Stand following the VFL Grand Final (roof removed before the VFL finals).

1992

- Opening of the Great Southern Stand and final of the cricket World Cup, March 25, a crowd of 87,182 people watched Pakistan defeat England.
- Collingwood celebrated its centenary with a Thursday evening match under lights against Carlton on May 7. A crowd of 83,262 watched Carlton 16.9 (105) upset the Magpies 9.18 (72).
- Essendon Football Club played their first home game at the MCG.
- Kimberley played Tiwi in an all-Aboriginal Australian Rules match on September 13.
- Upgrade of the Mitsubishi Scoreboard.

1993

- Paul McCartney concerts held on March 9 (crowd of 49,816) and 10 (40,578)
- U2 concerts held on November 12 (crowd of 44,339) and 13 (35,742).
- Madonna concerts held on November 26 (crowd of 50,933), 27 (50,974) and 29 (45,332).

1994

- Rugby League State of Origin match, Queensland v NSW, played at MCG, June 8, before a crowd of 87,161.
- Collingwood Football Club played its first MCG home match.
- Second electronic scoreboard installed in the Olympic Stand.
- In the Boxing Day Test match against England, Australian spin bowler Shane Warne took first Test hat trick on the MCG since Hugh Trumble in 1904.

1995

- The Rolling Stones' 'Voodoo Lounge' concerts held on March 27 (crowd of 50,934) and 28 (37,500).
- Opening Ceremony of the World Police and Fire Games was held on February 26 before an estimated 65,000 people.

1996

- VCA and AFL centenary celebrations.
- AFL Centenary Ball held on the Arena on April 16 for more than 3000 guests.
- Footscray Football Club played four home matches on MCG.
- Michael Jackson concerts held on November 22 (43,014) and 24 (48,689).

1997

- "3 Tenors" Concert, held on March 1 before a crowd of 44,730.
- Bledisloe Cup, Rugby Union Test Match, Australia v New Zealand on July 26 set a new record Australian Rugby crowd of 90,119.
- World Cup Soccer qualifying match between Australia and Iran on November 29 before a crowd of 85,022.

1998

- Elton John and Billy Joel Concerts were held on March 20 (crowd of 43,272) and 21 (32,956).
- Mushroom Records 25th Anniversary Concert was held on November 14 before a crowd of 55,447.

1999

- Manchester United exhibition match against Socceroos was played on July 15 in front of 71,215.
- Australian played Ireland in International rules football Test on October 8 before a crowd of 64,404.
- On November 17, Australia played a soccer friendly against Brazil in front of 79,795.

2000

- Hawthorn Football Club played its first MCG home match.
- Return of the Olympic Flame to the MCG July 30.
- Olympic Football (Soccer) at the MCG. 327,010 attend 12 men's and women's matches played over seven days between September 13 and 26.

2001

- Australia played soccer friendly against France on November 11 before 53,178 followed on November 20 by a World Cup soccer qualifying match between Australia and Uruguay before a crowd of 84,656.

2002

- Grocon named as building contractor for the Melbourne Cricket Ground northern side redevelopment by the Victorian government on June 27.
- Demolition of the Ponsford Stand after the AFL Grand Final as construction begins on the MCG northern side redevelopment.
- The MCG light towers are included on the Victorian Heritage List for their cultural significance.
- Opening Ceremony of the 2002 World Masters Games on October 6 with a crowd of approximately 50,000 spectators and competitors.

2003

- The MCG celebrates its 150th birthday on September 23 with a black-tie dinner in the MCC Long Room attended by a who's who of Australian sport.
- The MCG Tapestry, seven metres wide and two metres high, is unveiled on September 23 as the Melbourne Cricket Club's contribution to the ground milestone.
- More than 35,000 people attend MCG Open Week from September 28 to October 4, a chance to farewell the Members Pavilion and Australian Gallery of Sport & Olympic Museum before demolition later that month.
- Statues of Australia's golden girl Betty Cuthbert (August 8) and Australia's greatest ever cricketer, Sir Donald Bradman, (May 14) are the first two of 10 to be unveiled as part of the *Tattersall's Parade of the Champion* project.
- A total of 179,662 people attend the Boxing Day Test to witness Australian captain Steve Waugh's penultimate match, and his final act at the MCG. Ricky Ponting made 257 as 29,262 took advantage of free admission on the final day to say goodbye to their hero in a nine-wicket win over India.

2004

- The Victorian Bushrangers win their first Pura Cup title since 1990/91 with a comprehensive win over Queensland by 321 runs.
- The Olympic Flame returned to the MCG on June 5 at half-time of the Hawthorn-Essendon match, as part of the build-up to the 2004 Athens Olympic Games in Greece. Torchbearers inside the MCG on the day were Betty Cuthbert, Matt Welsh, Herb Elliott, and Brooke Hanson.
- Statues of Australia's finest all-rounder Keith Miller (February 16), former Essendon champion Dick Reynolds (June 20) and Melbourne legend Ron Barassi (September 22) are unveiled as part of the *Tattersall's Parade of the Champion* project.
- On September 23, one year after the ground's 150th birthday, Victorian Premier Steve Bracks announced that the new western grandstand would again be named after Australian opening batsman, Bill Ponsford. Relocated foundation stones from the old Ponsford Stand and the 1906 Grey Smith Stand were unveiled by Governor John Landy.
- Port Adelaide, watched on by 77,671 fans, win its first AFL Grand Final and in the process denies the Brisbane Lions the chance of a record-equalling fourth premiership.
- Three days after the AFL Grand Final, on September 28, the MCG turf is ripped up as works commence on installation of the athletics track for the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

- Demolition commences on the final stage of the redevelopment project, the eastern end of the Olympic Stand, in October.

2005

- On January 10, a crowd of 70,101 watched an ICC World XI defeat the Asian XI in a charity match that helped raise \$14.6 million for victims of a tsunami that struck south-east Asia two weeks earlier.
- On April 1, the MCC and MCG Trust unveiled a collection of football paintings by indigenous artist Peggy Napangardi Jones to be displayed in the completed MCG redevelopment.
- Statues of Fitzroy champion Haydn Bunton (April 16), Hawthorn dynamo and premiership coach Leigh Matthews (August 28) and cricket legend Bill Ponsford (December 16) were unveiled outside the MCG, as part of the *Tattersall's Parade of the Champions* project.
- As part of the Breast Cancer Network Australia's Field of Women event, thousands of women from around the country transformed the MCG's hallowed turf into a sea of pink prior to the Melbourne-Adelaide game on May 6.
- On August 5, the AFL, MCC and MCG Trust announced a revision to their current long term agreement that will allow preliminary finals to be hosted by the teams that earn the right to do so.
- In the MCG's 100th VFL/AFL Grand Final, Sydney ended a 72-year drought with a four point win over West Coast, in front of 91,898 fans.
- On Boxing Day, the MCC honoured former Australian captain Bill Lawry, announcing that the new indoor cricket centre at the MCG would be known as the *Cricket Victoria Bill Lawry Centre*.
- On the same day, the MCG was given Australia's highest heritage honour - inclusion on the National Heritage List - in recognition of its outstanding significance to the nation.

2006

- On February 17, the first of 19 heats in the men's 100m marked the return of athletics to the MCG for the first time since the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, with the staging of the Victorian championships.
- On the same day, the completion of the \$445 million MCG northern stand redevelopment project was commemorated with the unveiling of a set of plaques at an official ceremony featuring Governor John Landy and Premier Steve Bracks.
- The MCG was one of six winners of the Victorian Heritage Icon Awards, for its outstanding contribution to Victoria's cultural identity, on March 2.
- On March 15, The MCG skyline erupted in a blaze of fireworks as the city celebrated the groundbreaking Opening Ceremony to mark the start of the XVIII Commonwealth Games.
- The XVIII Commonwealth Games were held from March 15-26. The MCG was the main stadium for the Games and held the Opening Ceremony, 10 track and field sessions and the Closing Ceremony.
- In a late start to the AFL season, football returned to the MCG on Anzac Day, with the arena transforming from an athletics track into a grass oval in as little as 30 days.
- On April 22, the Federal Government announced \$15 million in funding for the development of the National Sports Museum at the MCG.
- Australia prevailed 1-0 over Euro 2004 champion Greece in their friendly match in front of a record 95,103 fans on May 25.
- On August 30, a small fire broke out on the top level of the Olympic Stand, causing minor damage.
- In front of 97,431 fans, West Coast claimed the third flag in the club's history after seeing off a heroic Swans challenge to claim a stunning one-point win in the 2006 Grand Final.
- On October 10, the MCG was awarded the Sport Australia Hall of Fame's "Spirit of Sport" award for its role in the staging of the Commonwealth Games in March.
- The Melbourne Cricket Club's new museum – a magnificent, world-class facility that showcases the rich history of the club and the ground it manages – was officially opened by MCC president David Jones on November 15.
- On November 22, more than 300 athletes from almost 30 countries turned out at the MCG to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the Melbourne Olympic Games. The touching ceremony, included runner Ron

Clarke recreating his lighting of the Olympic cauldron, while fellow 1500m athlete John Landy, again read the Athletes' Oath.

- The final statue in the *Tattersall's Parade of Champions* project was unveiled on December 22, when Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee was installed outside Gate 1.
- Shane Warne captured his 700th Test wicket in front of 89,155 fans on the opening day of the Boxing Day Test against England. Warne, Justin Langer and Glenn McGrath played their final MCG Test, as 244,351 people watched Australia beat England inside three days.

2007

- Thousands of people took the opportunity to view the Ashes Urn in the MCC Museum between January 9 and 14, part of Marylebone Cricket Club Travelex Ashes Exhibition.
- On January 15, Victoria won its second KFC Twenty20 Big Bash trophy in succession against Tasmania in front of 28,960 fans.
- In front of 79,322 fans, the Wallabies have come from behind to record a stirring 20-15 victory over New Zealand in the Bledisloe Cup at the MCG on June 30.
- On October 7, the *Samsung Melbourne Marathon* celebrated its 30-year anniversary by allowing all runners to finish with a lap of the MCG.
- In front of 88,468 fans, Richmond ruined Essendon legends Kevin Sheedy and James Hird's last game in Melbourne by defeating the Bombers by 27 points on August 26.
- Argentina overcame a determined effort from the hosts to win its friendly against the Socceroos 1-0 in front of a crowd of 70,171 on September 11.
- A crowd of 97,302 witnessed Geelong break its 44-year premiership drought by crushing a hapless Port Adelaide by a record 119 points in the AFL Grand Final on September 29.
- The MCG etched its name further into the record books, becoming just the second cricket ground in history to reach 100,000 Test match runs during India's second innings of the 2007 Boxing Day Test on December 29.

2008

- On February 1, the MCG hosted its first international Twenty20 cricket match. Australia defeated India by nine wickets before 84,041 spectators.
- Sir Jack Brabham's legendary race car, the Repco BT19, is installed in the National Sports Museum ahead of its March 13 opening.
- Hawthorn upset Geelong in the AFL Grand Final in front of 100,012 people, the first time more than 100,000 people had attended the MCG for an event since 1985.

2009

- On March 13, a crowd of 80,518 people braved wet conditions to help raise more than \$7.1 million for those affected by the Victorian bushfires, as music icons such as Midnight Oil, Paul Kelly, Hunters and Collectors, Kings of Leon and Split Enz put on the Sound Relief concert at the MCG.
- On June 17, Australia defeated Japan 2-1 in a 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifier before 74,100 to finish top of their pool.

2010

- On January 15, a crowd of 43,125 attend Victoria's Twenty20 match against Tasmania. This was a record crowd for a day's attendance at a domestic cricket match in Australia.