

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT ▶ AVENUE OF LEGENDS REVEALED

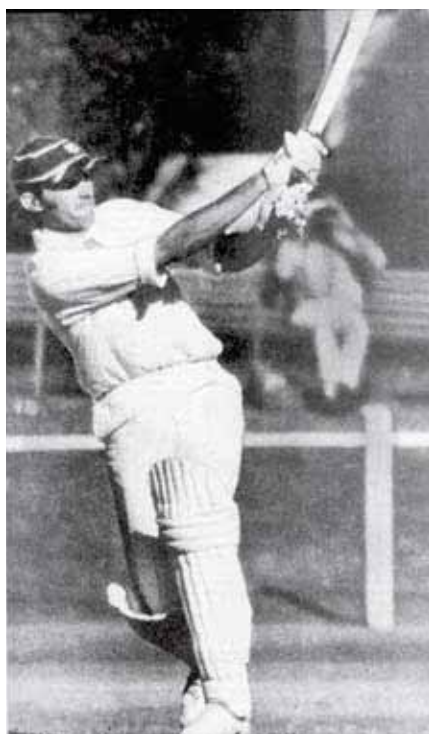
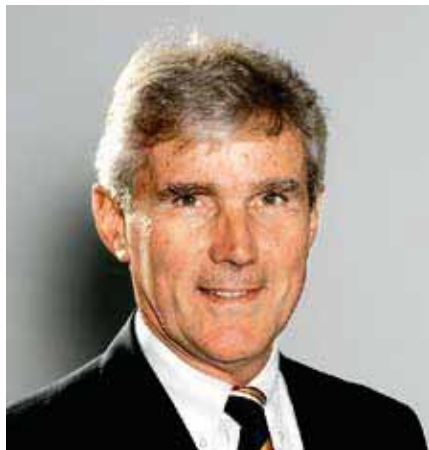


MCC News



Reciprocal clubs
SHARE SPORTING SPIRIT

Sheahan pads up for presidency



Former Australian cricketer and headmaster Paul Sheahan has been elected the 26th MCC president, following David Meiklejohn who reached the end of his four-year term in February.

He has been a member of the MCC Committee since 1987 and a vice-president for the past eight years. He has chaired the Club Sub-committee since 2007 and been a member of the Cricket Sub-committee since 2004.

Interestingly, he becomes just the second MCC president to have played Test cricket, joining Hans Ebeling who played one Test in 1934.

An MCC member since 1983, Sheahan has strong ties to the cricket club. A First XI premierships player, he is also an Honorary Cricket member, XXIX Club member and in 2000 was selected in the MCC Team of the Century. He is also a Life member of the Marylebone Cricket Club.

A talented right-hand batsman and brilliant fieldsman, Sheahan played 31 Tests between 1967 and 1974, scoring 1594 runs at 33.91, including two centuries. For Victoria, he scored 3988 runs in first-class matches at the excellent average of 59.52. His great-grandfather William Henry Cooper played two Tests for Australia in the 1880s.

Seemingly on the verge of becoming Australia's regular Test opening batsman, Sheahan retired at the relatively young age of 27 to concentrate on his teaching career. He rose to principal of Geelong College and later headmaster at Melbourne Grammar School, a position he held until retirement in 2009.

ABOVE, LEFT: New MCC president Paul Sheahan.

LEFT: Paul in his District Cricket playing days for MCC at the Albert Ground.

The 64-year-old is the latest in a long line of Test cricketers who have served as office bearers during the MCC's 173-year history. Vernon Ransford and Australian captains Hugh Trumble and Ian Johnson each held the position of club secretary (now CEO), while William Moule, William Bruce, John McIlwraith, Robert McLeod, George Alexander, Francis Allan, Keith Rigg, Lisle Nagel and Warwick Armstrong served as committeemen.

During his time on the committee, the club has overseen a complete redevelopment of the Melbourne Cricket Ground, along with growth in MCC membership numbers from 44,000 to more than 101,000.

"It is an enormous honour to be the 26th MCC president and I look forward to working with our members and all stakeholders of the MCG to ensure that we enhance our position as one of the greatest clubs and sporting venues in the world," said Sheahan. "On behalf of our members and the committee, I pay tribute to David Meiklejohn for the outstanding contribution he made as president over the past four years and during his 24 years of loyal service as a committeeman of the club."



Support for flood victims

The horrendous weather conditions that descended on much of Queensland in January touched everyone in the community. To help those in need, the MCC and its hospitality partner Spotless Services Limited donated \$50,000 to the Queensland Premier's Flood Relief Appeal.

MCC staff also volunteered to rattle tins and collect donations from cricket fans at the Twenty20 international (January 14) and one-day international (January 16) at the MCG, raising a further \$20,000.

"The thoughts and best wishes of the MCC and its members are with all those affected by this disaster," MCC president David Meiklejohn said at the time.

"The response from around the world has been extraordinary and we welcome the generosity of the cricket community."

Donations to the Queensland Premier's Flood Relief Appeal can be made via <http://www.qld.gov.au/floods/donate.html>.

ABOVE: MCC staff members Mark Kenna, Jodie Jinnette and Paul Mudge rattle the tins at the Twenty20 international at the MCG on January 14.

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Our Cover



• The MCC hosted two reciprocal clubs, Marylebone Cricket Club and Hong Kong Cricket Club, in a variety of sporting contests over summer.

See full story on pages 4 and 5.



David Meiklejohn signs off

This is my final communication to members of a club which I have been very pleased to serve since 1987 as a committeeman, treasurer, vice-president and, for the last four years, president, and I'll take this opportunity to comment on both recent and past events during my time in office.

Firstly, however, I congratulate Paul Sheahan on being elected the 26th president of our great club. There will be many interesting challenges to face up to over the next four years and I know that Paul will provide sound leadership to both the club and the ground.

Looking back over 2010, we experienced another outstanding year for both the Melbourne Cricket Club and the Melbourne Cricket Ground. We had an excellent program of sporting and social events during the year and I estimate that close to four million people visited the MCG.

We commenced and concluded the year with international cricket matches and in between had a very well-attended and successful Australian Football season. The result of the Boxing Day Test against England was disappointing but the overall attendance figures were satisfactory. We did get some revenge in the Twenty20 and one-day matches in January, but unfortunately the main prize had eluded us.

We are now gearing up for the 2011 AFL season and it is going to be a challenge to build on the successes of 2010. However, with a revival in the fortunes of our home clubs, including our own Melbourne Football Club, it should be a bumper year.

Looking back, I joined the committee in February 1987 and soon became involved in the discussions at that time with the then VFL which culminated in the historic agreement between the league and the club for them to move their members to the MCG.

My main involvement was with the financing and planning of the Great Southern Stand but I was very pleased to be part of the team that secured Australian football at the MCG for a then 40-year term.

There has been quite a bit of arm wrestling to tweak, refine and vary this original agreement but the core principles which now extend to 2037 remain in place.

Over the years we have also negotiated and renegotiated arrangements with the now Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria to secure international cricket at the MCG. I was particularly pleased that we have been able to secure international cricket at the 'G until the end of this decade and that we are now involved in the evolution of the Twenty20 format at the ground. The club started life in 1838 as a cricket club and

cricket remains a core activity of the club and the ground today.

In addition to cricket, I have been very pleased to see the steady growth in both the number and types of sporting sections and special interest groups within the MCC.

We now have close to 2000 players and members competing in activities under the MCC banner and hopefully this number will continue to expand. As an example of the growth, when I commenced playing with our Hockey Section in 1967 we had four teams and about 50 members, whereas today hockey has 29 teams and close to 350 members.

All of our sporting activities have the opportunity for similar growth and I have always been pleased to support the committee in funding these activities.

An important part of the club's role has always been to manage the growth and expansion of the MCG. As we moved into the current century, we embarked on the very interesting and challenging redevelopment of the northern side of the ground in the run up to the Commonwealth Games in 2006.

This was an immense project costing \$465 million which occupied a great deal of the time of many of us for about four years. I was delighted to be a member of the overall project management committee, although it did provide some testing – and testy – moments.

However, recognising that the Great Southern Stand project had secured sporting content at the ground and provided an AFL members' reserve without directly benefiting members, we were keen to ensure that the northern side redevelopment delivered a payback for members in the form of top quality facilities.

Although the process was arduous and very time-consuming, I am very proud of our Members' Reserve and, to my mind, the success of the Commonwealth Games in 2006 was helped by the quality of the facilities delivered in the redevelopment.

In more recent years during my term as president, I have enjoyed being part of many important projects and events. The creation of our world-class National Sports Museum gives Melbourne an outstanding tourist destination and probably the best sporting museum in the world.

The return of the Melbourne Football Club to the MCC family was an important milestone and I congratulate Jim Stynes and his team on the rejuvenation of their club. The arrangement entered into with the AFL under which the ground provides substantial new funding to our MCG home footy teams was also a signal event, as was the signing of the new agreement with Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria to extend international cricket at the MCG.



Outgoing MCC president David Meiklejohn and wife Wendy outside the Long Room during David's final days as president.

As part of an arrangement with the Victorian Government, in 2009 we secured management rights to Yarra Park and are installing a water recycling facility in the park to generate some 180 million litres of water each year.

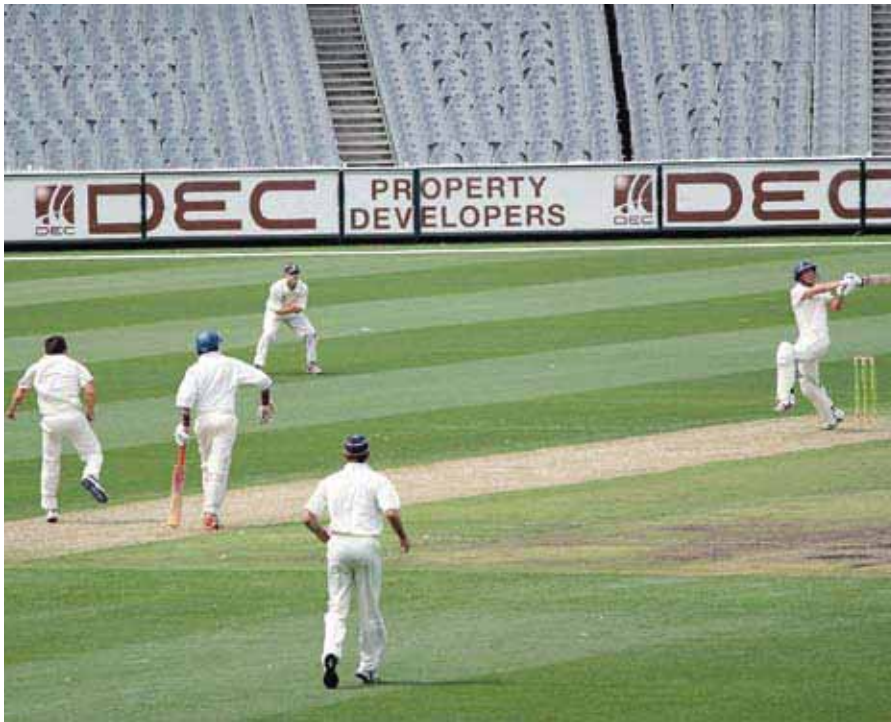
This is of immense value as it will allow substantial greening of the park and the precinct and will reduce substantially the amount of potable water being used by the MCG. We are also well advanced with the planning of the \$55 million upgrade of the Great Southern Stand with work due to commence towards the end of the year.

In delivering all of the above, I have been privileged to work with a committed and dedicated team of both committee members and management. I thank them all for their support during my term as president. The club and the ground are both in sound operational and financial shape and I consider that we have very good relationships with all of our stakeholders.

In conclusion, I congratulate Stephen Gough and his team on the excellent job they do in managing the club and the ground and I thank John Wylie and the MCG Trust for their support of me and the committee over recent years. And a special vote of thanks to all of the people with whom I have sat around the committee table over the past 24 years. It has been a very enjoyable and rewarding journey.

And a final thank you to our 101,000 members for their support of me and the committee over the years and I wish all of you well for the future.

David Meiklejohn AM



Reciprocal clubs, kindred spirits

The Ashes series was not the only hotly contested sporting battle held in Australia in recent months. Two of the MCC's reciprocal clubs – Marylebone Cricket Club and Hong Kong Cricket Club – separately visited our shores to enjoy some hospitality from their kindred club. Here's a snapshot of the activities and events from a most enjoyable summer.

HONG KONG CRICKET CLUB

The club was delighted to host reciprocal counterpart Hong Kong Cricket Club on a six-sport tour from January 30 to February 5 across several prominent Melbourne sports venues. The 70-strong touring party, led by Hong Kong CC president Tony Melloy, competed in cricket, squash, golf, tennis, hockey and netball. The visit was topped off by a dinner hosted by the MCC on February 2 in the Members Dining Room.

It was an extremely successful tour showcasing the sporting pursuits of the club, with some fantastic battles across the six sports. We thank all members who participated and represented the club proudly and we look forward to a return visit in April when the club's cricketers and golfers will help Hong Kong CC celebrate its 160th birthday.

The tour was also significant in that for the first time in the club's history the MCC fielded a representative team in netball. We were delighted by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the 60 female members who initially answered the call and the final squad that took the court represented the club with distinction.

While the ladies couldn't topple their Hong Kong opponents in any of the three matches, the official trophy match at the State Netball and Hockey Centre was a thriller. The MCC hauled back an

eight-goal half time deficit to level the scores, only for the visitors to score in the final five seconds of the match to secure a one-goal victory.

Our cricketers suffered a heavy defeat in their match at the MCG on February 2, copping an eight-wicket hiding in a high-quality display by the visitors. The club was left to find solace in the XXIX Club's win at the Albert Ground two days earlier!

Our golfers had one of the busiest itineraries, with five playing days scheduled over the six-day tournament. The official match was held at Victoria Golf Club, with the MCC taking home the Melloy Cup six matches to two, with one match halved.

We played two hockey matches against Hong Kong CC, both held at Melbourne High School. The MCC won the warm-up match, while the official match proved to be a great tussle, with scores tied 3-3 with five minutes remaining.

The game's hero was MCC hockey secretary Tim Herringshaw, who hit the winning goal with a great assist from Paul Turk in the dying minutes.

The MCC also ran out winners in tennis action at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. In warm and windy conditions, the home side prevailed three rubbers to one. To round out proceedings, our squash team took a clean sweep of their official matches at the RACV Club.

MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

One month earlier, the club also hosted a 40-strong complement of Marylebone Cricket Club sportsmen visiting Australia as part of the Ashes Test series. The local MCC played the traditional "enemy" at cricket, golf and real tennis.

Our first match against Marylebone was at Lord's in 1993. The success of that tour saw the Englishmen field a side in an MCG rematch following the Boxing Day Test of 1994. Both clubs have toured with Ashes teams ever since.

The first golf match between the clubs was at St George's Hill, Surrey, in 2005, while a recent addition to our Sporting Sections family, real tennis, met Marylebone on January 21 this year and for the first time were playing for a trophy contributed by Melbourne CC.

The results for 2010/11 were mixed. On





Action from several of the sporting contests held between MCC, Marylebone CC and Hong Kong CC in Melbourne over summer. Of particular note are (opposite page, bottom) Bob Cowper with real tennis captains Ronald Paterson and Melbourne's Andrew Shelton with the Cowper Cowdrey Trophy. At right, below, are John Lill and Stephen Gough with Marylebone's Keith Bradshaw and Roger Knight. Bottom left are Rod Sitlington, John Emburey and Max Walker, while at bottom right captains Michael Jamieson and the MCC's Andrew Kent shake hands before the MCC v Hong Kong match at the MCG.



a very hot day when overs were reduced to 45 a side, Marylebone emerged comfortable winners on the MCG. Led by former Tasmanian skipper, now Marylebone CEO, Keith Bradshaw, the visitors compiled a handy 8/234.

Third top score was Dodemaide's 43. The appearance of Tony in the visiting side was cause for comment. An Australian Test player, former Melbourne Cricket Club marketing manager, Marylebone cricket manager and now CEO of Cricket Victoria following a stint as chief of the WACA, Dodders may have lost track of where he was meant to be!

The home side never looked like catching their opponents and finished with 9/195. On the previous evening a dinner was held for the Marylebone tourists in the Long Room, where prolific cricket author and current Marylebone

president, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, was among 170 guests enjoying the hospitality of president David Meiklejohn.

The golf competition covered two days and two courses – Peninsula and Royal Melbourne. The home side really turned it on at the latter course and surged clear of Marylebone to win 10.5 matches to 5.5 overall.

The real tennis clash, played at the Royal Melbourne Tennis Club in Richmond, had the Cowper-Cowdrey Trophy at stake.

The locals won the match four rubbers to two and the handsome trophy will be on display in the Pavilion.

John MacKinnon, a member of both MCCs, was prominent during the Marylebone visit. Not only did he umpire the cricket match, he also marked the real tennis match! With impartiality, of course.



From the CEO's desk

Stephen Gough

The past six months have seen the MCG in all its glory, hosting two grand finals and a Boxing Day Test that attracted enormous public interest. The thrilling drawn AFL Grand Final attracted 100,016 people – just two short of the ground's capacity – with the Members Reserve packed to the rafters and our facilities fully utilised.

Unfortunately, attendance by our Full members at the grand final replay and by all members for the opening day of the Test match did not meet expectations. This led to plenty of discussion in the media – and feedback from our members and the public – about the method of allocating tickets into the Members Reserve for major events such as the grand final and Test match.

We welcome this feedback as we strive to improve the amenity of the Reserve for all our members.

With the benefit of hindsight, it is clear that the decision to not allow visitors to attend on Boxing Day contributed to the Reserve being well short of capacity. This decision was made in June when member demand for Boxing Day was expected to mirror that of the public parts of the ground, as it did in the 2006 Ashes series.

While the number of members electing to enter the ballot for a reserved seat in November was far short of the corresponding event four years ago it was felt that, with the series locked together at one all, enough members would walk-up on Boxing Day to not warrant the sale of visitor tickets. This didn't occur and, combined with 6000 vacancies in the AFL/corporate areas, we fell short of breaking the 90,800 world record crowd for a Test day.

We were very pleased, though, to see the Reserve almost at capacity for the next two days as members took the opportunity to introduce guests. After reviewing member attendance on Boxing Day, the club made additional visitor tickets available and

increased the limit per member in a bid to maximise attendance.

The grand final replay, however, was a more complex situation, given the rarity of a drawn grand final and the short turnaround between events. With not enough time to conduct a typical ballot for 55 per cent of the seating in the Reserve, the club made the same number of seats available for sale through Ticketek and at the club on the Tuesday before the game.

Demand for these seats was extraordinary, with the last ticket sold inside an hour. Again, this indicated that we could expect our members to fill the remaining walk-up seating on the Saturday morning, as had occurred seven days earlier.

Although walk-up numbers at gate opening time were lower than for the first grand final, we were confident that Full members would continue to stream in later in the day. Consequently, we elected not to afford Restricted members the opportunity to purchase a ticket. The final attendance in the Reserve was 3900 short of capacity.

Research was conducted in November last year among MCC Full members who had attended the first grand final to explore factors that contributed to our inability to fill the Reserve for the replay. Of those who had queued for a grand final seat but did not attend the replay, more than 60 per cent cited prior commitments on the day as the primary reason.

This data further cements our view that the replay was a unique set of circumstances and we remain confident that the present arrangements in the Members Reserve will ensure we maximise capacity in the Reserve at future grand finals. However, based on our research data, in the event of a drawn grand final we will change the ticketing model for the subsequent replay.

Stephen Gough



Final siren for football's leading lady

Everyone connected with the MCG was extremely saddened by the passing of AFL ground operations manager Jill Lindsay in early-February.

Jill was one of a kind, a tremendous character who forged close relationships with many MCC people to facilitate the smooth running of AFL matches at the ground for more than 20 years.

She began at the VFL in 1970 as an office clerk and held various positions in the ensuing four decades. She was VFL membership manager from 1986 and then took on the broader role of AFL ground operations manager from 1991, a post she filled until her passing.

Last October's grand final replay between Collingwood and St Kilda represented her 43rd VFL/AFL Grand Final in an official capacity, including both grand finals in 1977.

A memorial service was held, fittingly, at the MCG in the Olympic Room on February 10, the same day that Australian Football Hall of Fame inductee and St Kilda legend Darrel Baldock was honoured with a state funeral in Tasmania.

"Jill's spirited approach, definitive positions, delights and frustrations at the MCG are legendary for many of us," said MCC CEO Stephen Gough in a tribute on the club's website. "Recently, at long-serving MCC operations manager Ken Parker's retirement function, Jill spoke fondly of her times with the MCC staff on match days.

"Her final words at the function emphasised her love of the MCG and its staff, including her wish to hold a gate attendant's role at the MCG when she ultimately retired from the AFL. I'm sure that the MCC staff will run the MCG as if Jill is still here and we know that her presence will remain forever at her favourite MCG."

The MCC salutes Jill's contribution to football and offers its condolences to her family, friends and AFL colleagues.

Warne opens bowling in Australia Post Avenue of Legends



of the MCG and the surrounding precinct.”

The program builds on the collection of 10 statues already adorning the perimeter of the MCG - the Tattersall's Parade of the Champions featuring cricketers Sir Donald Bradman, Keith Miller, Bill Ponsford and Dennis Lillee, Australian Rules footballers Ron Barassi, Leigh Matthews, Dick Reynolds and Haydn Bunton and athletes Shirley Strickland and Betty Cuthbert. The Warne unveiling is scheduled for the end of 2011.

“Australia Post has always been a great supporter of celebrating Australian achievement and our sporting heroes are so important to the fabric of Australian culture,” said Ahmed Fahour, managing director of Australia Post.

“The MCG truly is the people's ground and we are proud to support the concept of the Avenue of Legends that people from all walks of life can enjoy for years to come.”



ABOVE LEFT: Shane Warne is congratulated by MCC president David Meiklejohn (right) and Australia Post managing director Ahmed Fahour after the announcement that Warne's statue will be placed outside the MCG as part of the Australia Post Avenue of Legends program. ABOVE: Warne in familiar pose at the MCG, celebrating his 700th Test wicket on Boxing Day in 2006.

On the corresponding Boxing Day four years ago, spin king Shane Warne stole the headlines with his 700th Test wicket to help demoralise the England batting line-up in his last MCG Test.

He returned to the 'G in December as the MCC announced its latest tribute to our sporting greats – an expansion to the list of sporting statues placed around the MCG precinct, in partnership with Australia Post.

The Australia Post Avenue of Legends project will see a minimum of one statue per year for the next five years placed in Yarra Park, extending from the Gate 2 MCC members entrance up the avenue towards Wellington Parade.

In announcing the concept at the official Boxing Day Test luncheon in the Olympic

Room, MCC president David Meiklejohn also revealed that Warne will be the subject of the first statue in the series. With 708 Test wickets, the second highest in history, and 293 limited overs scalps along with countless memorable moments, the blonde leg spinner is a fitting choice as a permanent feature of the MCG landscape.

“It is appropriate that on Boxing Day – four years on from his last Test match at the MCG – we announce that the first statue in the Australia Post Avenue of Legends series will feature Shane Warne,” said Mr Meiklejohn. “Shane's playing record is unparalleled and he will sit comfortably alongside the sporting greats already honoured outside the MCG.

“We are most grateful to Australia Post for supporting the sporting and cultural heritage

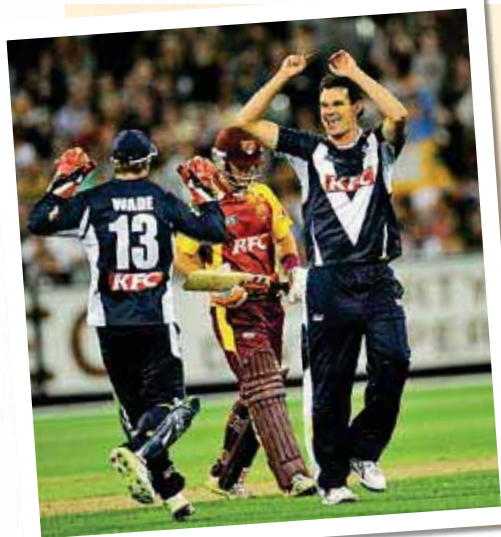
Cricket's shortest form expands

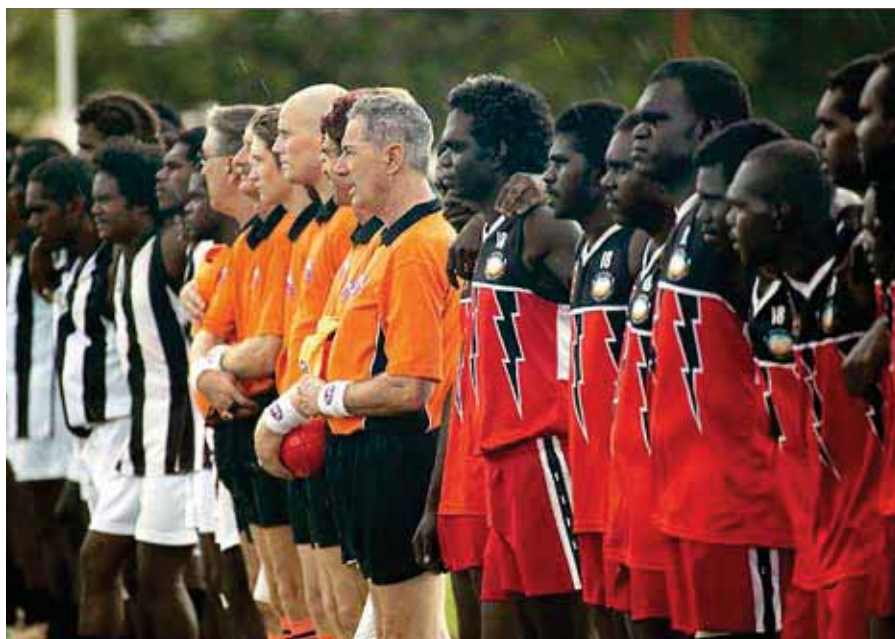
The success of the domestic Twenty20 Big Bash competition in Australia since its inception six years ago has prompted Cricket Australia to broaden its horizons from next summer.

The Big Bash League (BBL) will be an expanded domestic T20 competition to replace the Twenty20 Big Bash, moving from the traditional state team competition to a “club” city-based league. The BBL will initially be played in the December/January holiday season and continue to feature international players, along with the next generation of Australian stars.

There will be eight teams, with new team names and colours, and the MCG is set to host the matches of one of these teams, subject to a commercial arrangement being reached with Cricket Victoria. Finalisation of team names and colours was expected to be announced as we went to print and we'll provide an update for members on this concept in the months ahead.

Cricket fans will be supporting Twenty20 teams with new names and colours in next summer's domestic Big Bash League.





Tiwi footy celebrated

A new exhibition at the National Sports Museum will explore the influence and importance of Australian Football in the lives of a small indigenous community in the Timor Sea.

Yiloga! (meaning “footy” in the local Tiwi language) is an exhibition dealing with the place of footy in Tiwi indigenous culture. Photographs, guernseys and memorabilia highlight the Tiwi community’s passion for the Australian game as well as its positive impact on community life.

The calibre of the footballers who have come from the Tiwi Islands is remarkable. Renowned players such as Michael Long and the late Maurice Rioli, who both forged outstanding careers in the VFL/AFL, have thrilled crowds with their sporting prowess, athleticism and style on the football field.

Photographers Peter Eve and Monica Napper have worked collaboratively with the community to produce a remarkable series of

The Tiwi take their obligations to conduct a proper pre-match ceremony extremely seriously. No one talks during the anthem. (Source: Peter Eve.)

documentary-style photographs that endeavours to break down barriers and redress stereotypes about indigenous communities. The images explore the cultural and social aspects of “yiloga” and the prominent place of footy in the social network of the region, referencing the tribal/clan alliances which form the basis of football on the Tiwi Islands.

Yiloga! Tiwi Footy, open from April 11 to July 17, is a touring exhibition from Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring in conjunction with the Australia Council for the Arts and the Northern Territory Government Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport. Entry is included in general museum admission prices.



Museum showcases a sporting institution

The National Sports Museum has marked the 30th birthday of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) with an exhibition that celebrates the role it has played in the success of elite sportsmen and women.

Launched appropriately on Australia Day, the AIS exhibition runs until June 2011. Highlights include the recently banned LZR Speedo suit that saw many swimming world records tumble, the first letters to the original AIS scholarship holders and examples of high-tech sporting equipment developed by the institute.

Established in response to Australia’s failure to win any gold medals at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, the AIS has produced such sporting superstars as Rob De Castella, Alisa Camplin, Michael Milton, Clint Robinson and Lauren Jackson.

It has also helped develop champion paralympic athlete Russell Short OAM, who visited the exhibition to view the display of the two gold medals (discus and javelin) and one bronze (shot put) he won at the 1988 Paralympic Games in Seoul. Russell has competed in every Paralympics since Seoul, as well as every World Championships event.

“We are excited to bring this exhibition to our many visitors, reminding them of the important role the AIS has played in developing our country’s sporting stars and building a strong profile for the industry, both in Australia and abroad,” said National Sports Museum general manager Margaret Birtley.

ABOVE: Paralympic athlete Russell Short OAM with his medals from the 1988 Games in Seoul, which are on display in the Australian Institute of Sport exhibition at the National Sports Museum.

Racing stars now museum ambassadors

The National Sports Museum is delighted to welcome racing industry greats Greg Miles and Michael Rodd as its latest ambassadors, in recognition of their fine contributions to the racing industry.

Known as the voice of Australian racing, Miles has enjoyed a highly successful career in the media since 1981 when he called his first Melbourne Cup for the ABC. Likewise, jockey Rodd has forged an impressive riding career, the highlight being his win on Efficient in the 2007 Melbourne Cup.

The NSM ambassador program includes individuals who have made a significant impact in their chosen sport as participant, coach or administrator or have made a considerable contribution in the reporting of sport through the media.

The list of ambassadors is impressive, with Ron Barassi, James Hird, Liz Ellis, Shane Gould, Cathy Freeman, Wally Lewis, Alisa Camplin and Shane Warne among many big names representing the NSM.

National Sports Museum general manager Margaret Birtley, jockey Michael Rodd, race caller Greg Miles and NSM director Michael Andrew at the announcement of Rodd and Miles as museum ambassadors on February 12.



A quadricentennial of cricket in print

For those who missed the MCC Library's *The Crooked Staffe* exhibition over summer marking the 400th anniversary of publication of its oldest book, fear not. A second related exhibition – of similar quality given the depth and breadth of the library's superb collection – is in preparation and will run through to July.

The ancient book is Randel Cotgrave's *Dictionaire of the French and English Tongues*. It was published in 1611 and contains the first printed reference to cricket, defining the French noun *crosse* as, inter alia, *the crooked staffe wherewith boyes play at cricket*.

The first exhibition was officially opened on December 9 by Richie Benaud who, while being quizzed by renowned journalist/author Gideon Haigh on all things cricket, delighted in recounting his French roots and talked of various aspects of his life, writing and reading in the game he has served so well.

The sheer magnificence of the items on display was breathtaking, Richie being particularly taken by the bound volume of the *Sporting Times* of 1882 which contains the obituary that gave birth to the Ashes legend. He had never seen a bound copy of the publication before.

The library displays, at each end of the



ABOVE: Former Australian captain Richie Benaud and writer Gideon Haigh were on hand to officially launch the MCC Library's *The Crooked Staffe* exhibition in December.

Frank Grey Smith Bar and in several showcases within the library itself, celebrate "the history of cricket in print" through the medium of books, magazines, programs, lithographs, menus and the like over the past four centuries.

Stage two of the exhibition expands on three themes from the original – cricket in

Subscribe to *The Yorker*

Members will soon have the opportunity to subscribe to the MCC Library's signature publication *The Yorker*. Appearing thrice annually, this impressive magazine is usually 32-plus pages and features a number of in-depth articles on sport and MCG-related topics, plus reviews of sporting books.

An invitation to subscribe will be included in the membership renewals mailing in July. Cost is \$30.00, including postage. Those who haven't seen *The Yorker* can view back issues on the MCC website. Alternatively, please phone the library on (03) 9657 8876 or email library@mcc.org.au for a complimentary copy to be posted to you.

children's books, match programs and cricket annuals. The exhibition will allow the club to display a rich variety of items such as programs from 19th century Ashes contests, the first women's Test series of 1934/35, the first Test at the WACA and other material that might normally spend much of its life in storage.

Stage three, from late-July to end-October, will focus on cricket in literature, from romantic novels to mysteries, biographies and poetry. There will also be a large display of menus for cricket functions, many of which have been lavish productions indeed.

English invasion builds relationships

The Barmy Army may have gained all the publicity, but two other English visitors to our country this summer have gone home with experiences difficult to match anywhere else.

Neil Robinson, a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club's Arts and Library Department in the UK, joined the MCC Library team as a research officer on an employee exchange placement during December and January. The placement continued the strong relationship that has seen several staff cross the globe in this co-operative initiative between the two clubs.

Neil assisted with curating the second rotation of displays in the *Crooked Staffe: Four Centuries of Cricket in Print* exhibition (see above), something he was very keen to be involved in given Marylebone's plans for a cricket exhibition to coincide with the 150th edition of *Wisden* in 2013. And with Lord's set to undergo a transformation in the near future, he's been soaking up the knowledge of head librarian David Studham about the challenge of operating a library during a redevelopment.

"There are lots of things to think about," he reflected, on the eve of finishing his stint.

"It's not just planning for the new facility, it's also about coping with the interim stage, something you experienced at the MCG a few years ago."

Neil was full of praise for all facets of the MCC Library, clearly impressed with its appearance and function. "The MCC Library now, in terms of facilities, is the best cricket library in the world," he said, noting that among our support staff and volunteers are some of the most respected authorities on the history of cricket.

During his time in Melbourne, which he "enjoyed immensely", Neil has been exploring potential co-operation between the two clubs' libraries in the creation of a comprehensive online bibliography of cricket, as well as the possibility of forming a global inquiry response team. He is also seeking to develop further lines of potential co-operation between the two libraries and other partners such as the C.C. Morris Cricket Library in Pennsylvania, USA.

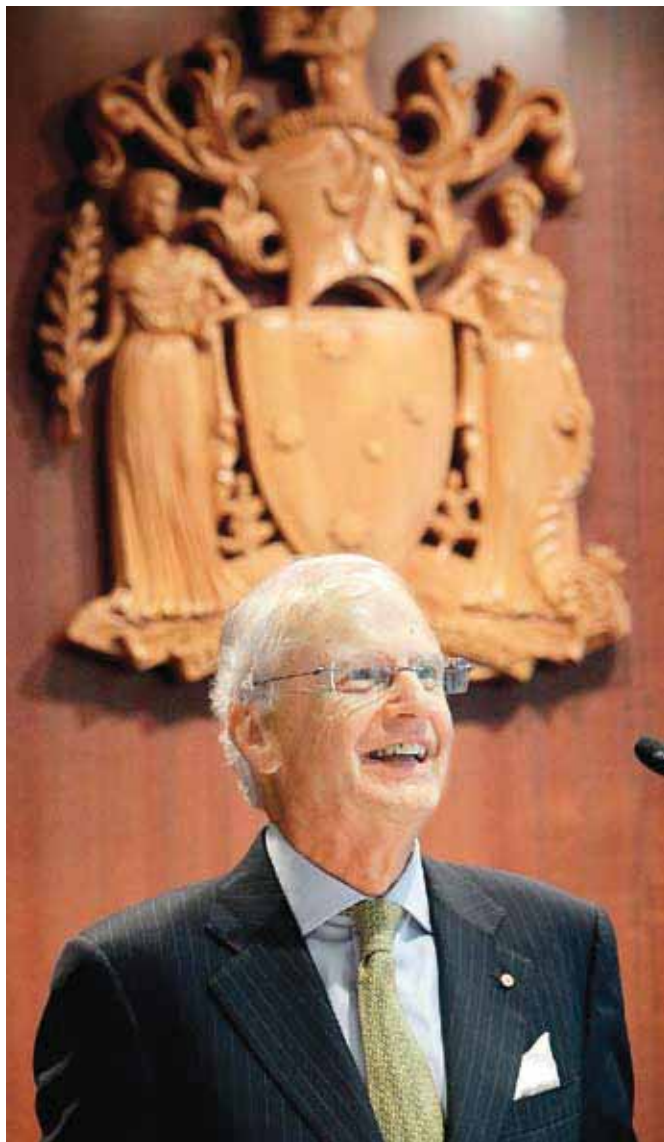
Another Englishman to experience life in Australia over summer was Adam Cutmore, an assistant groundsman with Yorkshire County Cricket Club at Headingley. Adam worked with Cameron Hodgkins and his MCG arenas staff



for three months, including preparations for the Boxing Day Test.

Adam is clearly a young man with a bright future. In 2008 he was named Young Volunteer of the Year at the England and Wales Cricket Board's Outstanding Services to Cricket Awards. In 2009 he was the youngest recipient of an ICC Centenary Medal.

He can now add to his impressive resume the boast of having presided over the Test pitch that helped his country retain the Ashes!



Member to govern for all Victorians

It was a case of simply passing the baton from one MCC member to another in late-February when Alex Chernov AO QC was anointed as the next Governor of Victoria.

The chancellor of Melbourne University and former Supreme Court judge, who has been a member of the club for almost 25 years, will take over from another member, David de Kretser, whose five-year term ends in April.

The 72-year-old Lithuanian-born Mr Chernov (pictured above), who has three children and six grandchildren, has quite a story to tell about his humble beginnings. His family fled the Red Army, who had murdered his grandfather and shot his father, and eventually settled in Australia in 1949.

He attended Melbourne High and Melbourne University and forged a distinguished legal career, first as a leading commercial silk and then as a Supreme Court judge, before being appointed to the Court of Appeal.

As for Governor de Kretser, he leaves the position with praise for the community support he displayed, particularly during the harrowing aftermath of the Victorian bushfires in 2009.

He became a 50-year member of the club last year, but was unfortunately a late withdrawal from the new 50-year members' luncheon in December. He had a good excuse though – he had to preside over the swearing in of Premier Baillieu!

Dad's words were music to his ears

The passing in January of Dr Robert Trumble at 91 drew the curtain on a rich life that embraced a love of music, polished authorship and a fascination with the career of his father, the great Test bowler Hugh Trumble.

A Doctor of Music who worked for the ABC for more than 30 years, Robert self-published several books, among them recollections of his time with the public broadcaster, his dad's "golden age of cricket", a history of Trinity Grammar and two books on his favourite composer, Frenchman Vincent d'Indy.

He was a genial host and priceless source of information and encouragement for MCC Library volunteer Alf Batchelder during his extensive research for Hugh's biography, published in 2009.

"He was a very friendly, welcoming person who had an enormous love of music. Whenever you visited his home there would be classical music in the background. He had incredible powers of recall and in his later years he became devoted to studying his father's career," said Alf.

Robert, the youngest of eight children, told Alf the story of his father's declining years before he passed away in 1938. For three or four years Hugh suffered terribly from cataracts and the very rare and risky operation available was beyond his financial reach.

So when Hugh returned home each evening from his job as secretary of the MCC, he would sit in an armchair and ask his teenage son to read to him, as often as not requesting a particular edition of Wisden.

Not only would Robert read the match reports to him, he also would be asked to go through the scorecard, with Hugh recounting further details of each dismissal. If Trumper had caught one off him, Hugh might add that it was a sharp chance, taken low down to Victor's right, he'd done such and such with the ball, and so on.

The son absorbed everything, as the family scrapbooks confirm. Robert's annotations are all over them, a lasting epitaph for a man of many talents.

Robert is pictured in the MCG's Hugh Trumble Café admiring a full-length image of his famous dad.



Cricket Hall of Fame welcomes Taylor, Walters

The Australian Cricket Hall of Fame (ACHOF) at the MCG welcomed another two icons of the game in February with the induction of former captain Mark Taylor and dynamic all-rounder Doug Walters.

Both very popular players, they were inducted formally at the Allan Border Medal night on February 7 following a media announcement at the MCG the previous day. It brings to 34 the number of players to be honoured since the MCC established the Hall of Fame in 1996. This shrine to Australia's cricketing greats is on permanent display in the National Sports Museum.

"Mark Taylor and Doug Walters both originated from country New South Wales and, in their own distinctive way, have each had an enormous impact on Australian cricket," said selection panel chairman and MCC vice-president, Bob Lloyd.

"Both have outstanding playing records, Mark as an opening batsman, brilliant slips fieldsman and one of Australia's greatest captains and Doug as an exciting batsman who had a knack of breaking partnerships with his medium pacers."

Selection philosophy for the Hall of Fame focuses on the players' status as sporting legends in addition to their outstanding statistical records. All Hall of Fame inductees must have been retired from international cricket for a minimum of five years to be eligible for selection.



Doug Walters (left) and Mark Taylor visit their inductee display in the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame at the National Sports Museum.

MARK TAYLOR

Left-hand opening batsman b. 1964
104 Tests (1989-1999) 113 ODI (1989-1997)

A highly dependable opening batsman and brilliant slip fieldsman, Mark Taylor was also one of Australia's finest Test captains.

His greatest attributes were his concentration, courage and remarkable reflexes which enabled him to hold some astonishing catches.

In his first Ashes series in 1989, Taylor amassed an impressive 839 runs in six Tests. Taking over the captaincy in 1994, his calm authority and tactical astuteness made him an outstanding leader, the highlight coming in 1995 when Australia won a series against the West Indies for the first time in nearly 20 years.

With his position on the line after a miserable run of outs, Taylor responded with a century in the opening Test of the 1997 Ashes

series in England. He later equalled Bradman's record Test score of 334 against Pakistan at Peshawar in 1998.

7525 Test runs at 43.49 (19 centuries)
3514 ODI runs at 32.23 (one century)

DOUG WALTERS

Right-hand middle order batsman b. 1945
Right-arm medium bowler
60 Tests (1965-1981) 28 ODI (1971-1981)

One of the most popular cricketers of his generation, Doug Walters became something of a cult figure through his nonchalant manner, disdain for practice and liking for beer and cigarettes.

He was a natural strokemaker and an effective medium pacer who frequently broke partnerships with his gentle but deceptive outswingers.

Walters made a brilliant start to his Test career in the 1965/66 season, scoring hundreds in his first two Tests against England. Against the West Indies in 1968/69 he made 699 runs at 116.50 and became the first player to make a double century and a century in the same Test.

His most memorable hundred was against England at Perth in 1974/75, when he scored 100 runs in the final session of the second day, reaching his century by hooking the last ball of the day for six.

5357 Test runs at 48.26 (15 centuries)
49 Test wickets at 29.08
513 ODI runs at 28.50

LARGE CROWDS, BUT MCG RECORD STANDS

While the 2010/11 summer of cricket promised a lot and delivered plenty – well, at least for England fans – the anticipated world record attendance for a day of Test cricket again proved an elusive mark.

The record figure, which was also set at the MCG on February 11, 1961 when 90,800 watched the second day of the Australia v West Indies match, looked within sight in the lead up to Boxing Day, with strong public ticket sales and a much-anticipated

Test series locked at 1-1. However, on a cool, slightly damp day the record stood, as a not-too-shabby 84,384 people watched the home team endure one of its worst starts to an MCG Test in memory!

With strong second and third-day Test crowds – including a near-capacity Members Reserve on Day 3 – and a healthy Twenty20 international gathering in January, the MCG hosted more than 350,000 cricket fans at international matches. It also recorded the four highest single-day attendances for the

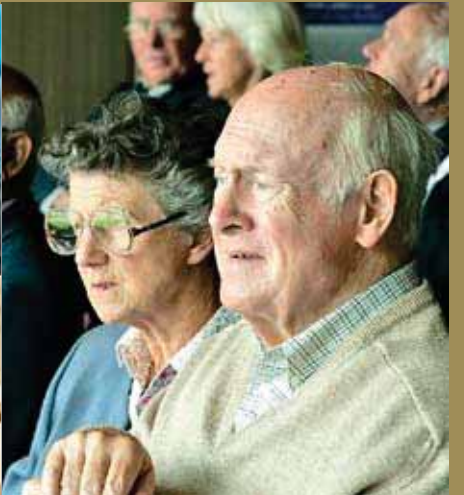
summer, again underlining its importance to the national game.

The two 50-over internationals, however, attracted smaller audiences, continuing a recent trend in that form of the game. The Twenty20 Big Bash, too, did not live up to the record numbers of the previous summer, despite almost 30,000 attending the first game on January 2. The Bushrangers' rare form slump and unavailability of marquee players were certainly contributing factors.



2010/11 MCG CRICKET CROWDS

84,384	Boxing Day Test (Day 1)	Aust v Eng	Dec 26
68,727	Boxing Day Test (Day 3)	Aust v Eng	Dec 28
67,155	Boxing Day Test (Day 2)	Aust v Eng	Dec 27
58,846	Twenty20 international	Aust v Eng	Jan 14
34,854	One-day international	Aust v Eng	Jan 16
29,449	Twenty20 Big Bash	Vic v Qld	Jan 2
19,324	One-day international	Aus v SL	Nov 3
18,899	Boxing Day Test (Day 4)	Aust v Eng	Dec 29
17,138	Twenty20 Big Bash	Vic v NSW	Jan 22
13,344	Twenty20 Big Bash	Vic v SA	Jan 28



England's Ashes joy, Aussies barely get out of a Trott

Never has a build up to a Boxing Day Test at the MCG fallen so flat, so quickly. With the Australia-England Test series locked at 1-1 with two to play, and the home side bouncing back from a slump to comprehensively win in Perth just six days earlier, the battle for the Ashes urn could not have been better poised than on the morning of December 26. With public tickets virtually sold out, hopes were high that the world record crowd of 90,800 could be toppled.

Media reports in the days leading up to the Test had focused on the decision by MCC arenas operations manager Cameron Hodgkins to select a pitch for the match that was not in its traditional position in the centre of the table. With England being trounced on a grassy WACA pitch, conspiracy theories from the UK media abounded.

"Tricky Ricky in pitch switch!" boomed *The Daily Mail*, backing up with "Australia skipper Ponting in bouncer plot for the fourth Test". *The Daily Telegraph* went with "Australia change Melbourne pitch to expose England's weaknesses", while the *Guardian* reported fears of "an Ashes trap". Hodgkins, though, put that speculation to bed at a packed media conference before the Test when he explained that it was his decision alone and was made a fortnight earlier, well before England's Perth defeat. It all added to the Ashes intrigue.

With Christmas out of the way, members gathered early to enjoy the festive atmosphere of the Boxing Day Breakfast in the Members Dining Room. Former England batsman and Sky Sports commentator David "Bumble" Lloyd was in typically entertaining form as guest speaker, while Victorian all-rounder Andrew McDonald was grilled by MC and former teammate Darren Berry about the Bushrangers' performances. Renowned poet Rupert McCall also regaled the audience in his unique style.

The sell-out crowd got more than they bargained for, though, when actor Hugh Jackman appeared on stage to auction a cricket bat signed by Australian one-day batsman Cameron White, which he also signed himself for good measure. Hugh happily posed for photographs with guests and also kindly agreed to draw the door prizes. It was then time to focus on the cricket.

England captain Andrew Strauss won the toss and sent the Aussies in under cloudy skies, ideal for his fast bowling trio of James Anderson, Chris Tremlett and Tim Bresnan, who wreaked havoc on an Australian team low on confidence. They were bundled out for 98 and watched as Strauss and man of the series Alastair Cook waltzed to 0/157 at stumps in the most one-sided Boxing Day in memory. By day's end, many of the 84,384

in attendance had made an early exit.

Spare a thought then for Australian batting coach and former opening batsman Justin Langer, who had committed to speak at the Women in Cricket Test Breakfast the following morning. To his credit, Langer not only fronted but he refused to shy away from responsibility for the team's predicament. Most memorably, though, his re-enactment of his Test debut against the West Indies in Adelaide in 1992/93 was one for the ages, involving several members of the audience as fielders.

Fine weather and early wickets to Peter Siddle, who would eventually take 6/75 to earn a spot on the dressing room honour board, gave Australia hope of a revival on the second morning. But England's Jonathan Trott put the issue beyond doubt with a determined, patient 168 not out as England piled on 513.

Australia's misery was made official early on the fourth morning as England inflicted defeat by an innings and 157 runs. To put that result in context, it was Australia's eighth worst loss in Test history and its second biggest losing margin ever at the MCG. The only pleasing aspects were the high praise for the MCG pitch and an attendance of 239,165 for the three-and-a-bit days, the second-highest MCG Test crowd since 1974/75.

Fortunes turned for the home side when the two teams returned to the MCG on January 14 in the Twenty20 format of the game. After two days of heavy rain, the MCG showed its amazing drainage capacity by being ready for play just two hours after the rain stopped. A crowd of 58,837 saw Australia win a tight struggle by four runs.

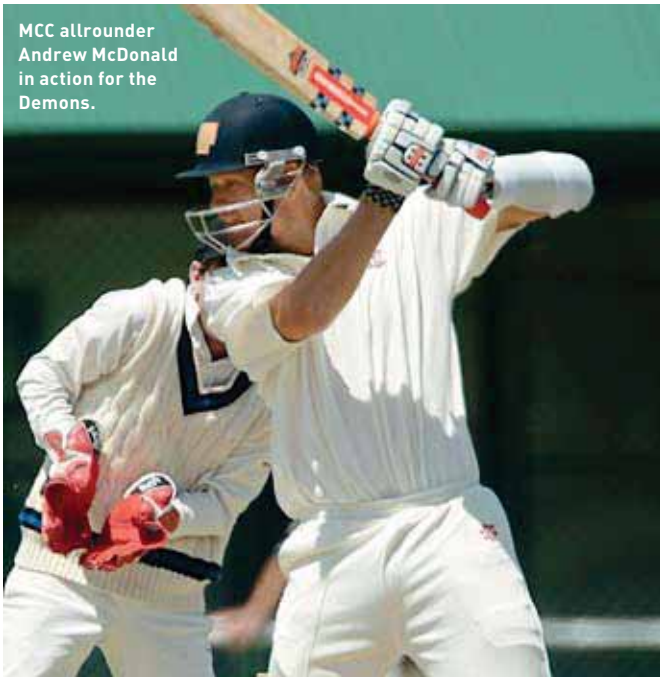
Perhaps the individual highlight of the summer was Shane Watson's innings in the one-day international against England on January 16. In pursuit of 295 for victory, Watson's unbeaten 161 – the second highest ODI innings at the MCG – spearheaded a six-wicket win with five balls to spare in the highest successful run chase in MCG limited overs history.

It had been a summer of records. Amidst the Ashes hoopla, though, it could be easy to forget that the first international match of the season broke another record.

On November 3, Sri Lankan lower-order batsmen Angelo Matthews and Lasith Malinga compiled the highest ninth-wicket partnership in ODI history (132) to rescue their team from 8/107 chasing Australia's 240 in the 50-over format. In the process, the visitors secured an improbable one-wicket win and set Australia's season down what became a familiar path.



MCC allrounder Andrew McDonald in action for the Demons.



Cricketers firing on all fronts

The cricket season is drawing to a close, with several MCC players shining at both first-class and Premier Cricket level.

Left-hander Michael Hill scored his maiden first-class century during the Victoria-England match at the MCG on December 10-12. It was a fine effort against an attack that included pacemen Chris Tremlett and Tim Bresnan, who would return to the 'G a fortnight later to help dismiss the Aussies for 98 on Boxing Day.

Fellow MCC rising star Alex Keath made his Victorian debut in the same match, notching 46 in his only innings to underline his promise. Time will tell whether his decision to choose cricket over being drafted to the AFL via Gold Coast Suns was the right one for him, but the early signs are encouraging.

Brad Hodge's plundering of Australian domestic attacks continued in 2010/11. Hodge was the competition's leading run scorer in the Ryobi One-Day Cup, scoring 499 runs in the preliminary rounds at an average of 62.38, prompting much discussion (again) as to why he continues to be overlooked by Australia's selectors.

All-rounder Andrew McDonald's promising season for Victoria may have been hampered by injury, but a recent performance for MCC had long-time observers scurrying for the record books.

Playing against Melbourne University on January 29-30, "Macca" – who played four Tests for Australia just two years ago – scored 134 and took 5/41 to help retain the Michael Sholly Cup. It was the first time an MCC First XI cricketer had snared five wickets in an innings and scored a century in the same match since Lisle Nagel achieved the feat in 1937!

Also keeping an eye on the history books is captain-coach Andrew Kent, whose consistent run-scoring has propelled him to the heights of some of the greatest names in the club's history.

After bringing up his fourth century of the season in the aforementioned match, Kent not only became this season's leading Premier Cricket batsman, but his career aggregate of 7485 runs has seen him skip past Fred Vaughan, Horrie Sanford and Vern Ransford into fourth place on the all-time MCC list. With good fortune, he can expect to surpass Percy Beames (7638) and Warwick Armstrong (8197) in the near future, leaving only Warren Ayres (11,154) to chase.

Seeking to defend its First XI premiership title, the MCC needed to win the final match of the home and away season to secure a home final. The Third XI was also well placed to make a run at back-to-back flags as we went to print.

Recognition for Rob's outstanding service

The club has always been sparing in its handing out of gongs for services rendered, so the MCC Certificate of Merit awarded to hockey's Rob Jenkins late last year is all the more significant. The list of those honoured since inauguration in 1991 is commendably brief – Percy Sitch, Geoff Swan, Dudley Phillips, Brian Adams and Tony Charlton are the previous recipients – with the certificate recognising loyal and long-standing service to the sporting sections.

When MCC president David Meiklejohn welcomed guests to the Sporting Sections Annual Dinner in November he reflected on the growth of the club's sections through his own experience playing hockey.

"When I started playing in 1967 there were four teams and about 50 players. Today there are 29 teams and about 350 players. How extraordinary."

As it happened, one of those 1967 players was Rob Jenkins, 14-years-old at the time but already a "veteran" of the section, having first taken the field in 1962 as a nine-year-old in the under-13 side.

When he dons the MCC guernsey next winter, Rob will chalk up his 50th year as a player with the hockey section. As the president might say, how extraordinary!

Nowadays a member of the super-veterans team to whom training is foreign, Rob played often and well at the top level when in his prime but ultimately the pursuit of a career and an MBA kept him in the lower grades.

Rob's contribution off the field has also been substantial. He was treasurer of the section during his 12 years on the committee and he has represented the hockey section at MCC sporting sections meetings since the early 1980s, when president-to-be Donald Cordner was in the chair. Initially, meetings were only held three or four times a year but by 1985 they were monthly (now bi-monthly).

The Jenkins family has been part of MCC hockey since inception in 1961. Rob's father Lew was a playing member in the first year and was treasurer from 1962 to 1965. He later served as chairman (1970-1975), while Rob's brother Peter also was a committeeman of the section.

Rob says there have been many outstanding contributors to the section over the years, most notably Ian "Doc" McDonald, an MCC Honorary Life member and co-founder of the section, and Ken Sparks, a captain, coach and chairman and "integral to the whole shooting match for 15 years or so."

Many others have rendered outstanding service over the years, both on and off the field, "people like Frank Hill who scored the first-ever goal for MCC hockey."

A senior public servant, Rob Jenkins has no plans for retirement so his half-century of on-field service is sure to grow, especially since he's missed very few games through injury, perhaps observing his own dictum that "the closer you are to the ball, the safer you are."



MCC Certificate of Merit recipient Rob Jenkins receives his accolade from Sporting Sections chairman Peter Mitchell at the Sections Annual Dinner in November.

Recognition for champion “squashie”



MCC president David Meiklejohn (right) presents the Hans Ebeling Award to squash section stalwart Peter Wright.

Masters Squash Association since 1986. All in all, he’s been on committees for 50 years.

You get the picture. Or at least half of it, because Peter has been a champion performer both on and off the court. He played State Grade 1 until age 47 – a rarity – and has been world masters squash champion three times and runner-up on four occasions. For good measure, he switched rackets to win silver and bronze medals for tennis at the World Masters Games in Denmark in 1989.

No wonder Peter was a recipient of an Australian Sports Medal for sports administration and achievements in 2000. And no wonder he now boasts an Ebeling Award for services to the MCC Sporting Sections.

It was the MCC’s great good fortune that in 1988 Squash Section secretary Keith Atkins (he’s still playing) rang Peter’s partner Irene during his absence overseas. Would Peter like to join the MCC to help them get back into A1, inquired Keith. Yes, he would, said she.

And so began a wonderful association that has seen Peter participate in 17 top-level premierships, direct countless tournaments, serve as committeeman (17 years) and chairman of the section (since 2006) and generally put his hand to anything that would benefit the sport.

Hans Ebeling Award winner for 2010, MCC Squash Section chairman Peter Wright, is a born administrator. At 15 he joined the Sunshine Park Tennis Club committee and at 20 he was on the committee of Sunshine’s VFA club!

He’s been president, secretary, treasurer or trustee of the Albion Tennis Club since 1970, committeeman and president of the Sunshine Squash Club for 20 years from 1962 and president of the Australian

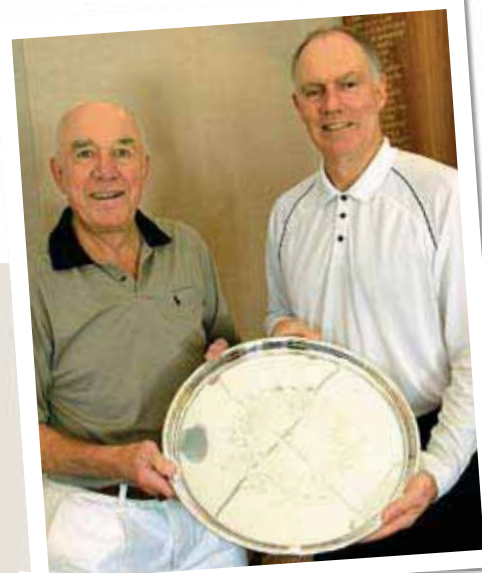
For instance, he has been a World Squash Federation (Masters) committee member since 2000, was director of the world masters championships held in Melbourne in 1995 and 2001 and was MCC Pennant team organiser for a dozen years while all that was going on.

His motivation? “I get particular satisfaction from my association with people who benefit from the game,” he says. “We like to look after the lower grades and the oldies ... see that they’re enjoying their squash and enjoying the social side as well.”

Peter says the introduction of ladies to MCC squash (Irene was first aboard) was a terrific boost for the section and regrets only that there aren’t enough courts available to allow further expansion across all grades and into junior sides.

They’re working on that, but meantime the chairman is “loving every minute of it”.

Footnote: A tip for asthmatics. Peter suffered terribly as a youngster but his condition improved as soon as he took up squash. “The more I played the better I got. I was playing seven days a week at one stage and by 25 my asthma had disappeared.”



Chappell proves a multi-sport talent

Former Australian cricket captain and current national talent manager Greg Chappell was back on the winners list in November when he took out the MCC President’s Plate at the Members’ Golf Day. Playing off an eight handicap, Chappell scored 40 stableford points on an overcast day at the famous Royal Melbourne layout.

The win was light relief for the man now charged with overseeing selection of our national cricket team, coming the day after Australia’s cricketers had spent two long, fruitless days in the field during the first Ashes Test at the Gabba – a forerunner to a lean summer.

Chappell was part of a very cricket-oriented foursome that won the team aggregate, ably assisted by MCC vice-president Bob Lloyd (pictured here, presenting the President’s Plate to our winner), former club secretary Dr John Lill and Tony Waller. The best performed lady at Royal Melbourne was Susan Macmillan who had 31 points off a 30 handicap.

The traditional Kingston Heath golf day was held on February 15, with James Young scoring 41 stableford points off a handicap of 24 to secure the President’s Cup. Libby Day was the leading female with 36 points (off four).

Members at both days heard from interesting guest speakers at the post-play presentation dinners. Matt Kamienski, executive director of The President’s Cup, spoke at Royal Melbourne about the much-anticipated event to be held in Melbourne later this year.

At Kingston Heath, The Surf Coast Knockout event director Rod Leembruggen outlined the success of this new Order of Merit Event on the Australasian PGA Tour, which was held in January.

Anyone for tennis?

The Australian Open tennis tournament is a busy fortnight in Melbourne, and this year there were several tennis links to the club and the MCG that attracted more than passing media interest.

It all began on January 20 when world number one Caroline Wozniacki visited the MCG to take a few cricketing pointers from Victorian Bushrangers Aaron Finch and Peter Siddle. The Danish blonde was a dab hand with the bat and her form continued over at Melbourne Park, reaching the semi finals before losing to China's Li Na after failing to convert a second-set match point.

The National Sports Museum did not prove such a lucky charm for Russian tennis ace Svetlana Kuznetsova, who took time out after defeating Justine Henin to visit the museum's Game On interactive gallery on January 22. Alas, she was bundled out of the Open in her next encounter.

Australian Open tennis men's champion Novak Djokovic chose the MCG as the venue to show off his silverware, speaking

to media from a Ponsford Stand balcony overlooking Melbourne Park and our great city on January 31.

Finally, the club received a welcome surprise when Owen Davidson was inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame on Australia Day.

One of only three players (alongside Ken Fletcher and Margaret Court) to achieve a

calendar-year mixed doubles grand slam, Davidson's acceptance speech on Rod Laver Arena referred happily to his days as an MCC tennis player in the 1950s and 1960s, playing alongside fellow hall of famer Brian Tobin in pennant matches for the club.

A quick scan of the MCC Library records confirmed the news, locking in another piece of the MCC's sporting history puzzle.

RIGHT: Owen Davidson is inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame.

BELOW LEFT: Svetlana Kuznetsova tests her netball skills in the National Sports Museum.

CENTRE: Caroline Wozniacki with Bushrangers Aaron Finch (left) and Peter Siddle; BOTTOM RIGHT: Novak Djokovic with his Australian Open trophy.



Bill's Bin 0 was best bottle

The Long Room Wine and Food Society calendar for 2011 kicked off with the now traditional Old Bottle Day and, as we record annually, the quality of wine brought along by members again outgunned the previous year's line-up.

St Henri, Hill of Grace, Mount Edelstone, Mount Mary and their ilk were thick on the ground, as was a superb array of older whites that surprised the tippers. Who would have thought that a 1989 chardonnay from Best's would still be alive and kicking, asked Jeremy Oliver, who again amazed us with his brilliant summation of the wines on offer.

Jeremy has been central to the Old Bottle Day's success since 1999, the year after about 40 members assembled for the first such function in the Ponsford Stand's dining room annex. The house full sign went up at 86 this year, with several on the waiting list for this members-only affair.

While a superb wine offered by society

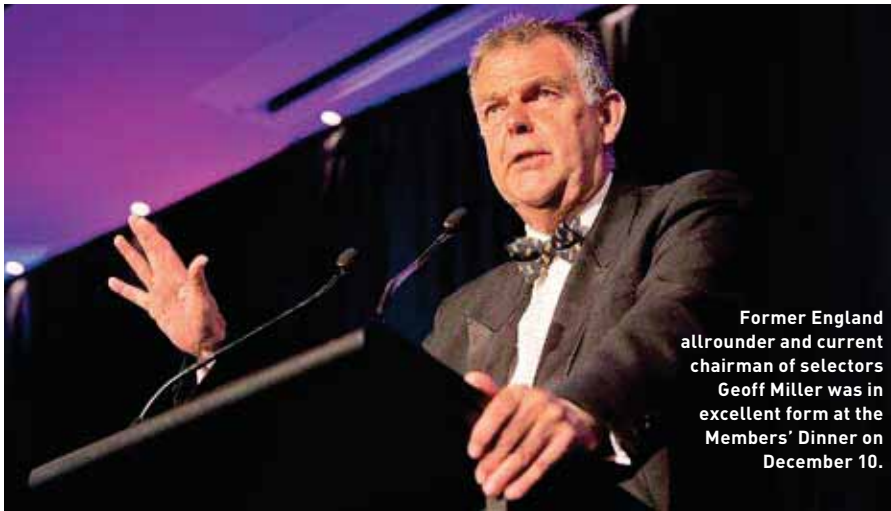
guests Bud Collins and wife Anita – a 1966 Chateau Lascombes from the Margaux appellation in Bordeaux – was decreed the top bottle of the day, it was declared ineligible because the tennis-writing doyen and Anita aren't members.

So Bill Forrest's name and his offering –

a 1977 Best's Bin 0 Hermitage Esparte – will adorn the Old Bottle Day trophy for 2011. Michael Dwyer brought along the day's top white, a 1994 Mount Pleasant Elizabeth Semillon from Tyrrells.

The society is going from strength to strength. Membership stands at 259 and the waiting list is an MCC-like 362. Those in the latter category should put a nice bottle or two away immediately.





Former England allrounder and current chairman of selectors Geoff Miller was in excellent form at the Members' Dinner on December 10.

A windy wind-up to the year

With the ranks of 50-year members swelling considerably since the 1956 Olympics intake to about 2400 late last year (and with an additional 356 formally welcomed at a function the following week), it is now necessary to have two luncheons to accommodate those wishing to celebrate their status as senior members of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

The functions were held in the Members Dining Room on November 25-26. There were 430 present for the first luncheon with a similar number opting for the following day.

There was plenty of talk about wind on the first day, the type of wind you bowl and take off into. First was president David Meiklejohn's story about his flight the previous afternoon from the notoriously windy New Zealand capital, Wellington.

The plane was full and fully laden with baggage and maximum fuel. But alas, Wellington on this occasion failed to live up to expectations and the plane waited and waited on the tarmac for some wind. It couldn't take off without it.

Finally a gentle breeze sprung up but it was a good news/bad news situation, said the captain. The plane could take off into the wind but only if all the passengers' baggage was offloaded, as it soon was.

The flight eventually proceeded to Melbourne, no doubt with some exasperated passengers aboard. It was a breeze, however, for president Meiklejohn, who only had carry-on baggage and a briefcase with him!

Don "Diddles" Douglas, a 51-year member, had another story about wind in Wellington. He was on a Melbourne University Cricket Club tour of New Zealand and the capital was living up to its reputation.

"We were playing a local side and it was hard work just getting the ball up to the batsman," recalled Don. "I remember the skipper got a thick edge to one but it died half-way to the slips, courtesy of the wind.

"When it really gusted, a ball on middle stump could end up off the pitch. True story! The area was so windy that on some days planes couldn't take off so we had to use buses to get around."

Many tales are told at these gatherings and we suspect that those lucky enough to be on the table with Ron Barassi, Noel McMahan, John Lord and Bluey Adams would have been royally entertained.

Clyde Laidlaw also was a guest, as were Neale and John Fraser, John Landy, Lindsay Kline and MCC squash champion Ken Mitchell, who was sitting on 1062 games as we dined.

A black-tie affair to remember

At a time when the game of cricket was under unprecedented pressure from all corners and on all fronts, it was timely to have Cricket Australia CEO James Sutherland present the toast to cricket at the Members' Dinner on December 10.

Acknowledging the issues of the day and highlighting the pernicious threat of corruption, James nevertheless sought to accentuate the positive. He spoke of the evening being the 50th anniversary of the climate-changing Tied Test series, with Frank Worrell as the first black captain of a flamboyant West Indies team that rejuvenated cricket when it was at a low ebb.

He recalled one of many special occasions at "cricket's most famous coliseum" when as a wide-eyed 11-year-old, autograph book in hand, he soaked up the rarefied atmosphere of the 1977 Centenary Test, surrounded by the greats of the game.

But the evening's message was that cricket is a game for all Australians. "As administrators, my colleagues and I will be judged by whether or not Australia's kids of today become cricket fans of tomorrow," said the CEO.

"Cricket means different things to different people. It is a great strength that it offers fans three different formats of elite cricket, each fabulous in its own right, and each of which helps keep cricket alive."

In responding to the toast, England chairman of selectors Geoff Miller showed us why he is regarded as one of Britain's finest after-dinner speakers.

Painting himself as the enemy, the man who in 1982 caught Jeff Thomson in slips on the rebound from Chris Tavare when Thommo and Border were within a few runs of snatching the most unlikely Test match victory, Miller went on to deliver a rollicking, hilarious address that celebrated all things good about cricket.

"The last time I was here, I ran off having taken quite a significant catch. I played 34

Tests and I'm remembered for one catch," was the opening line. And then, "My cricket statistics read thus: scored over 18,000 runs, took over 1000 wickets, held over 400 catches and dropped 627, two of which were difficult."

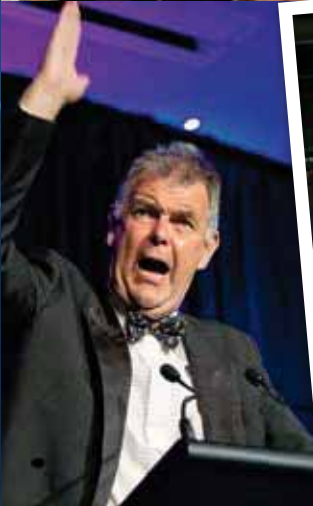
A parting observation was that: "The game of cricket has changed in one dramatic way. It is called the support staff, the backroom boys. Biomechanics, mental strategists, psychoanalysts, dieticians, physicians, doctors, nurses, lifestyle analysts and masseurs. When I played, one fella did all that lot – he was a semi-skilled chiropodist from Belper."

In a night of many highlights, Tony Charlton's response to a presentation for his contribution to the Members' Dinner since inception in 1994 was outstanding. Without a note, he delivered a brilliant staccato synopsis of his time at the club and the ground, a swan-song performance that was greeted by the most sustained standing ovation in memory.

In typically modest fashion, he regarded his MCC career as "a privilege to be part of the passing parade."



Fifty-year members Jonathan Crawford, John Fraser, Clyde Laidlaw (standing) and Neale Fraser reminisce at the Annual 50-Year Members' Luncheon on November 25.



Fun and games aplenty as summer rolled on

Time flies when you're having fun, as the saying goes. That being the case, members and guests who involved themselves in any of the club's functions over summer must wonder where that time went, as it's been a cracking pace.

Since our last edition, there have been no fewer than 15 official club functions, starting with the Australian Masters Golf at Victoria Golf Club from November 11-14. Members had exclusive access to an MCC hospitality marquee at the course, in between watching a few holes from a high-class field that included Sergio Garcia and Tiger Woods. While Tiger didn't repeat his previous year's triumph, golf fans were still left to marvel at being up close to one of the world's greatest sportsmen.

The MCC Sporting Sections held their annual dinner in the Members Dining Room on November 16. The night is always packed with fun, as each of the club's 12 sports gather to review the year and enjoy each other's company. Peter Wright was a very popular Hans Ebeling Award recipient, as was Rob Jenkins, who collected a Certificate of Merit [see pages 14-15 for details]. Melbourne footballers David Neitz, Colin Sylvia and Jared Rivers were among those to receive a Player's Tie or Pin to acknowledge long-standing service to their sport.

As we reported on the previous page, in late-November the club hosted two 50-Year members' luncheons which drew a combined attendance of well over 700 members and guests. On December 2 it was time for the latest group of new 50-Year members to be the club's luncheon guests.

Undoubtedly a highlight on the calendar each year is the Members' Dinner, held on December 10 after the first day's play in the Victoria-England tour match. Cricket Australia CEO James Sutherland passionately laid out his views on where the game is heading in proposing the toast to cricket, while England's chairman of selectors and former all-rounder Geoff Miller's response earned top marks for a performance high on wit and sharp delivery.

Christmas arrived in no time and hundreds of members and their families – as well as a large number of the Marylebone Cricket Club touring party – packed the Members Dining

Room for lunch with Santa on the eve of the Ashes Test.

The Boxing Day Breakfast in the Members Dining Room was again the perfect way to usher in the start of the Test. Former England batsman and TV commentator David Lloyd recalled the agony of facing the pace duo of Lillee and Thomson, which resulted in his protector ending up in several pieces. There was barely a dry eye in the house, at least among the males gathered!

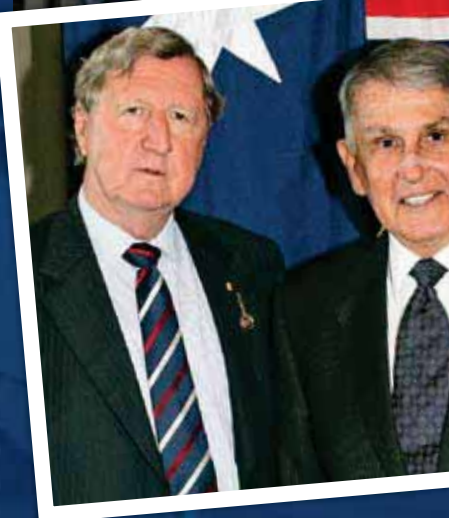
On day two of the Test in the same room the Women in Cricket Breakfast was hosted by Angela Pippas. Former Australian batsman and current batting coach Justin Langer worked through the embarrassing batting performance of his charges the previous day, before recounting with flair his Test debut. Vic Spirit all-rounder Kristin Beams and former Australian batsman Melanie Jones also contributed to the morning's entertainment.

"Mid pints of beer and camaraderie" XXIX Club members and guests enjoyed plenty of hospitality during the Test match with successful luncheons on Boxing Day and on Day 3.

Rounding out December, our Marylebone friends were wined and dined in the Long Room at a dinner preceding the traditional Ashes tour cricket match between our two clubs on December 30. This was the first of two reciprocal club functions, with a Hong Kong Cricket Club dinner on February 2 featuring representatives from six sports who competed in Melbourne in a week-long tournament. You can read more about the visits by these two clubs on page 4-5.

The Young Members Club gathered at the MCG for the Twenty20 international (January 14) and domestic Big Bash (January 28) to mingle and network over a drink or two in the Hans Ebeling Room and Jim Stynes Room respectively, while one of Australia's greatest athletes, Ron Clarke, was an appropriate choice to address the Australia Day Luncheon on January 26 in the Members Dining Room.

As we went to press, a whirlwind summer of functions was set to conclude with the Women in Wine evening in the Long Room on February 24. Australia's first female Master of Wine, Meg Brodtmann, was our special guest.



Young members' functions galore

The Young Members Club (YMC) is gearing up for another busy football season, full of social activities and opportunities to meet and mingle with fellow members.

YMC events are open to any MCC member and their guests aged between 18 and 40 and if recent evidence is any indication, the group's popularity is certainly not on the wane.

The YMC committee hosted cricket functions at the MCG during the Twenty20 international on January 14 and the Twenty20 Big Bash on January 28.

In coming months there is much for young members to enjoy. The annual Anzac Ball will be held on April 21 (note: not on Anzac Eve due to a clash with the Easter weekend). Bookings open on March 15, so we suggest you move quickly to secure a table.



There are also five football functions in the Hans Ebeling Room during the season, with the first two of these (on Friday April 1 at the St Kilda-Richmond match and on Saturday April 16 at the Carlton-Essendon clash) now available for booking via the club's website at www.mcc.org.au.

Cost for this all-inclusive package comprising cocktail food and beverages is \$52 (members) and \$56 (guests), which includes an internal reserved seat on Level 2 to watch the

match. Members may bring up to four guests, provided visitor tickets have been purchased to grant your guest entry to the Reserve.

The website has more details on these functions and those being held later in the season (June 11 and 25 and August 13). You can also check out the details on the MCC and YMC Facebook pages. It's a great way to meet other members with similar interests and to tap into the social side of club life.

Your functions calendar

WEDNESDAY MARCH 23
Footy Season Launch Luncheon
▶ Members Dining Room

SUNDAY MARCH 27
MFC/MCC Game Day Function
▶ Jim Stynes Room

FRIDAY APRIL 1
Young Members' Club Footy Function
▶ Hans Ebeling Room

SATURDAY APRIL 16
Young Members' Club Footy Function
▶ Hans Ebeling Room

THURSDAY APRIL 21
Young Members' Anzac Ball
▶ Members Dining Room

SUNDAY MAY 8
MFC/MCC Game Day Function
▶ Jim Stynes Room

SATURDAY JUNE 11
Young Members' Club Footy Function
▶ Hans Ebeling Room

SATURDAY JUNE 25
MFC/MCC Game Day Function
▶ Jim Stynes Room

SATURDAY JUNE 25
Young Members' Club Footy Function
▶ Hans Ebeling Room

SUNDAY JULY 24
MFC/MCC Game Day Function
▶ Jim Stynes Room

SATURDAY AUGUST 13
Young Members' Club Footy Function
▶ Hans Ebeling Room

THURSDAY AUGUST 18
Annual General Meeting
▶ Members Dining Room

FRIDAY AUGUST 26
The Bradman Luncheon
▶ Members Dining Room

SUNDAY AUGUST 28
Women in Football Luncheon
▶ Committee Room

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 26
Sporting Sections Grand Final Week Luncheon
▶ Members Dining Room

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 26
Brownlow Dinner with the Coodabeens
▶ Members Dining Room

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30
Members' Dining – Grand Final Eve
▶ Members Dining Room

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24
Annual 50-Year Members' Luncheon
▶ Members Dining Room

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25
Annual 50-Year Members' Luncheon
▶ Members Dining Room

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28
Members' Golf Day
▶ Royal Melbourne Golf Club

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8
New 50-Year Members' Luncheon
▶ Members Dining Room

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9
Members' Dinner
▶ Members Dining Room



All aboard the Demons bandwagon

The club was delighted that almost half of the 20,000 MCC members who support the Melbourne Football Club purchased a dual membership of both the MCC and MFC last season and we hope that number is boosted even further this season.

The off-field revitalisation of the Dees' fortunes is now being played out on-field, with plenty of optimism about Melbourne's prospects in the 2011 AFL season.

Those looking to pledge their support for the Dees, but who have not yet paid up for this season, can do so by purchasing one of two MFC membership packages. The premium membership (\$160) and AFL-recognised membership (\$50) options were included on the renewal form sent to all MFC-supporting members in July last year. If you wish to take up an MFC/MCC membership, please check the membership renewal link on the MCC website or contact the MFC.

In addition to playing a part in the club's future success, dual MFC/MCC membership provides the opportunity to access a range of functions during the footy season. The first of these is the MFC/MCC Game Day Luncheon in the Jim Stynes Room for the opening round match against Sydney Swans on Sunday March 27.

Members and their guests will enjoy a two-course luncheon, half-time afternoon tea, pre-game beverages and entertainment. A cash bar will operate during the game.

Located in the Olympic Stand, the Jim Stynes Room is one of the stadium's premier facilities and offers a superb dining area with behind-glass, theatre-style seating that boasts magnificent views of the ground. If you prefer outdoor seating, reserved seats on Level 2 will also be available.

Guests will require a visitor ticket to access the ground so members should ensure they pre-purchase their visitor tickets early.

Book now and get on board the Demons bandwagon before it's overloaded. Other functions will be held for matches against

Adelaide on Sunday May 8, Richmond on Saturday June 25 and Hawthorn on Sunday July 24, so mark your diaries!

MFC/MCC GAME DAY LUNCHEON

When Sunday March 27

Match Melbourne v Sydney Swans

Time 12.00pm

Where Jim Stynes Room

Cost \$90 (dual MFC/MCC members)

\$105 (other MCC members and guests)



Bomber legend heads footy launch panel

Former Essendon champion Tim Watson will be one of several prominent football identities appearing at the MCG Footy Season Launch Luncheon on Wednesday March 23 in the Members Dining Room.

Watson, who played in three premierships and won four best and fairests with the Bombers during his 307-game career, will lead a panel of experts in a discussion on the hottest issues in footy on the eve of the opening game of the home and away season, and there is no shortage of material.

Watson is still heavily involved in the game, with prominent media roles on SEN 1116 and Channel 7's AFL coverage, while his son Jobe is, of course, current Essendon captain.

Former Richmond coach, St Kilda defender and the Saints' longest-serving captain Danny Frawley will also join what will be a highly entertaining line-up overseen by our host, broadcaster Tim Lane.

The luncheon includes a two-course meal with beer, wine, sparkling and soft drinks, plus plenty of footy giveaways. Bookings opened on February 22 and tickets were selling

rapidly as we went to press. Please check the website or ring the club for the latest news on availability or to make a booking.

MCG FOOTY SEASON LAUNCH LUNCHEON

When Wednesday March 23

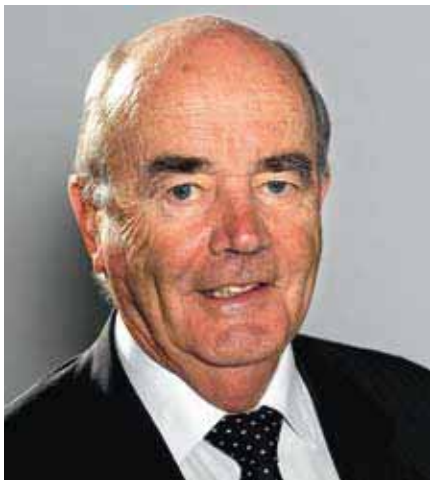
Time 12.00pm for 12.30pm

Where Members Dining Room

Cost \$90 (members) and \$100 (guests)



Members honoured on Australia Day



Former MCC vice-president and eminent jurist Allan McDonald (pictured left) was among 16 club members recognised in this year's Australia Day honours. Allan's contribution to sport, the law, education and community service in general has been outstanding.

A champion junior hurdler who later ran 9.9 for the 100 yards at Melbourne University, he was elected chairman of what is now Athletics Victoria as a 25-year-old solicitor and served in that post for 14 years to 1976. He later was chairman of Athletics Australia (1978-83).

His sporting career continued when Allan joined the MCC committee in 1997. He was

an active and earnest servant of the club on various sub-committees and was elected vice-president in 2007. He retired in 2009.

Meantime, he had been a Queen's Counsel since 1977 before being appointed in 1988 to the Supreme Court, of which body he was principal judge of the Commercial and Equity division on retirement in 2002.

Allan's off-court interests centred on Deakin University, where he was a key figure in the development of its Law Library and from 1991 to 2002 chaired its Law School Advisory Board. It was fitting that an Honorary Doctorate of Laws was conferred on him in 2004.

Other MCC members honoured included former federal Treasurer Peter Costello and philanthropist Sidney Myer, grandson of the Myer retail chain founder.

If you or someone you know doesn't appear on the list, please advise the club on (03) 9657 8888 or email membership@mcc.org.au.

MCC members honour roll

AC (General Division)

COSTELLO, Mr Peter Howard

AO (General Division)

McDONALD, Mr Allan William

AM (General Division)

ARGALL, Mr Darryl Lawrence
DAY, Mr Arthur Joseph
MYER, Mr Sidney Hordern
STRASSER, Mr Roger Peter

OAM (General Division)

COPOLOV, Mr David Leon
GLINDEMANN, Mr Robert Sydney
HIRT, Mr Barry John
KILLEN, Mr James Anthony
KIMPTON, Ms Zara Margaret
MACKNIGHT, Mr John Hamilton

PSM (Public Service Medal)

GULBIN, Dr Jason Paul
LEVERETT, Mr Frank Anthony

AFSM (Australian Fire Service Medal)

DE MAN, Mr Alexander Gerard
HALE, Mr John Paul

South African tour gathers pace



Previous participants on MCC tours have described their experience as a once in a lifetime opportunity and a great way to meet and mingle with other members who have since become lasting friends. Now, there is another opportunity – a new frontier for the club that involves a tour of that great cricketing nation, South Africa.

While exact details cannot be confirmed until the ICC releases a playing schedule in March, it is likely that the tour will be held

in October/November and incorporate Test match action from the South Africa-Australia series at the beautiful Newlands Ground in Cape Town. In addition, we hope to see some wildlife on a safari/game park tour, visit Sun City, Soweto and an Apartheid Museum.

While several members and guests have already expressed interest, we welcome further enquiries via email at membership@mcc.org.au or phone (03) 9657 8888.

Website offers more for members

The club has placed much importance on refining its online offering for members, and this has continued in recent months with an upgrade to the www.mcc.org.au website.

With a membership as large and demographically diverse as the MCC, combined with society's shift online and into social media forums, a big proportion of our members rely on the website to stay in touch with the club.

In addition to offering the latest club news, the ability to book into functions,

apply for Long Room and Balcony passes, update contact details, renew subscriptions and the like, members can now make comments on pages, view a video gallery and read exclusive members' blogs. Feeds from our social networking sites on Twitter and Facebook now stream directly from the homepage.

We welcome feedback on these changes, as well as any other ideas you feel will enhance the online experience. And remember, if you have an email address, please sign into the website and add it to your profile so we can stay in touch.

Baseballers earn promotion

Some good news from the MCC Baseball Section in February with confirmation that the men's first nine will return to Division 1 in 2011/12. The boys sealed promotion by claiming top spot in Division 2 with two rounds remaining in the home and away season.

Reciprocal access to AFL venues for members

With football season fast approaching, it is timely to remind members of some of the reciprocal access afforded at other stadiums during the 2011 AFL season.

The club again has an agreement with ANZ Stadium that enables members and up to three guests to attend the Sydney Swans' home matches against Essendon (April 3), Collingwood (June 25) and St Kilda (August 21). MCC members may gain free entry for themselves to these matches.

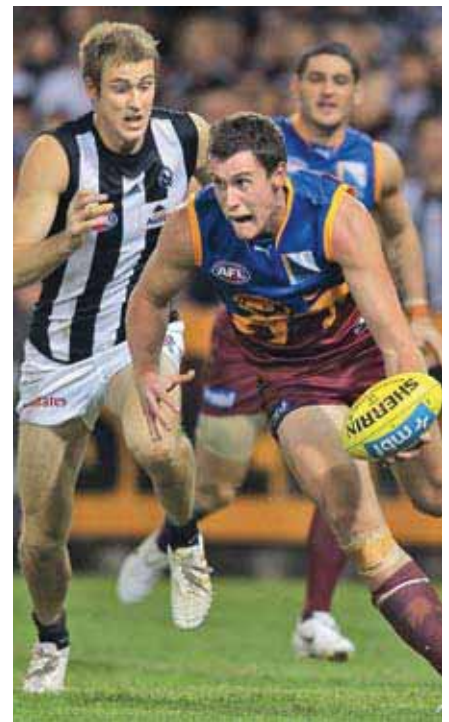
MCC members who live outside New South Wales are asked to pre-register their attendance at ANZ Stadium a minimum of five days in advance of the match either online at www.anzstadium.com.au or phone 1300 136 006 (option 2) during business hours. Proof of residence and MCC membership is required.

Members are also able to purchase a ticket to access the members areas of the Sydney Cricket Ground (eight matches) and at the Gabba in Brisbane (12 matches involving Brisbane Lions and two Gold Coast Suns home games). Again,

you must reside outside the state you wish to attend and be on a short stay in the city.

Finally, the club's reciprocal arrangement with Etihad Stadium in Melbourne allows members to purchase one ticket for themselves and one guest ticket (subject to availability) to Level 2 Gold Reserve seating in the Axxess One members' area for home and away matches. Please refer to the 2011 Football Season Guide and the club website for full details.

Members may access the members area at the Gabba to watch up to 14 AFL home and away matches this season.



Walshe bows out on top



Retiring Stadium Management Centre supervisor Gary Walshe enjoys a rare quiet moment on his beloved MCG prior to the start of the 2010 AFL Grand Final.

Are you MCC's best footy tipster?

Back for a third successive year, the MCC website AFL tipping competition is your chance to pit your tipping skills against fellow members and win some great prizes.

Our inaugural winner Gavin Hooper and last year's defending champion Peter Tanner will no doubt be keen to return to the winner's podium, but there is bound to be plenty of opposition. First prize this year is a Sharp 46-inch LCD television, with some excellent supporting prizes from NAB, Herald Sun, Epicure and The Promotions Factory. We are grateful for their support.

Entry is free and registrations are now open to all MCC members. Remember, you'll need a valid email address in order to register. Simply visit www.mcc.org.au and log in with your user name and password to be taken to the tipping registration page. (If you have yet to create your login details, you'll need to do this on the website first.)

Last year almost 3000 members took part and by the time the ball is bounced for the start of Round 1 we hope to exceed that number. Good luck to all who enter.

One of the many unsung heroes of the MCC's Events Department, long-time Stadium Management Centre supervisor Gary Walshe, completed his final duties in late-February before heading into retirement with many fond MCG memories.

Having previously worked at Waverly Park, Gary has been with the club for more than 20 years, starting as an event day casual who then worked an increasing number of hours until he was appointed to a full-time position in December 1991.

His role at the MCG has always been to help prepare the venue for an event – firstly in the Bay 6 Administration Office in the Olympic Stand and then in the re-badged Stadium Management Centre when it opened in the redeveloped Ponsford Stand in 2006.

While ensuring the radios and supervisors' cases were ready for use, Gary particularly

focused on the key safety aspects of event preparedness. He was also well known as the keeper of an extensive range of event-related statistics. He became particularly adept at the all-important task of predicting MCG attendances.

"Gary has been an enormously valuable member of our events team at the MCG," said MCC events general manager Trevor Dohnt. "His ability to continually get the job done with minimum fuss and a bubbly personality is a major reason our events have been staged without too many dramas. We wish him well in retirement."

A passionate Collingwood supporter, "Walshe" presided over his final AFL Grand Final last year which, of course, saw his team draw with St Kilda and then triumph in the replay. An appropriate lasting memory for a man whose dedication to all things MCG is unmatched.

Bumper footy season awaits

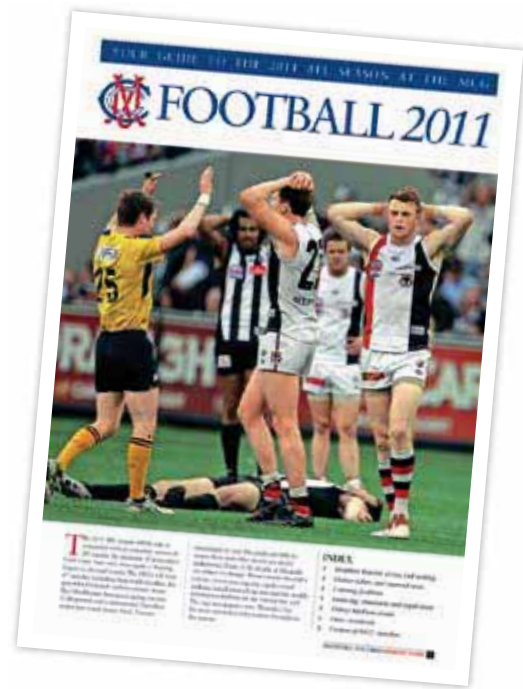
Although the absence of a Sheffield Shield final allows an extra few days rest for the hallowed turf, it won't be long before the ball is bounced to kick off the 2011 AFL season, which this year will extend to 24 rounds due to the inclusion of the Gold Coast Suns for the first time.

The MCG will host a triple-header in the opening round, starting with the season opener between Carlton and Richmond on Thursday March 24 at 7.10pm. Two of last season's top four teams, Geelong Cats and St Kilda will go toe-to-toe the following evening, while on Sunday March 27 Melbourne will kick off its campaign against the Sydney Swans.

Members may purchase reserved seats for themselves and their guests on levels 1 and 4 for all home and away matches this season.

Visitor tickets and reserved seats for the first 23 rounds will go on sale on Thursday March 3 at 9.00am. There is a limit of four visitor tickets per member for all matches except Anzac Day (two per member). Tickets to Round 24 will be available from Monday August 1 at 9.00am, after the AFL finalises the schedule for that round.

Further details about all arrangements for members during the football season are contained in an eight-page guide accompanying this newsletter and also on the website.



Behave or be dealt with: President

The club's Discipline Sub-committee continues to meet on a regular basis to deal with cases of alleged misconduct or card misuse by members or guests.

Penalties for those found guilty have included the suspension of membership,

withdrawal of visitor ticket privileges and expulsion. In some of these cases, the offence has been committed by the guest of a member. However, as all members are responsible for the behaviour and actions of their guests in the Reserve at all times it has been the member that has suffered the consequences.

In a welcome message to members upon his appointment as president, Paul Sheahan had some strong views on the deterioration of behaviour in the Reserve in recent times.

"As the outgoing chairman of the Club

Sub-committee, I can tell you that we had to deal with far too many instances of behaviour that, in some cases, fell little short of outrageous," Sheahan wrote. "Members deserve to see their sport in comfort and without disturbance.

"If you find your way in front of the Discipline Sub-committee, having been reported for a misdemeanour, you will be dealt with fairly but very firmly. Adherence to dress standards, as outlined in seasonal guides and on the website, will also be expected."

50% Off
2010 AFL MERCHANDISE!

MCG Superstore is offering all MCC members 50% off marked prices on 2010 AFL products*.

To redeem, present your membership card in-store or enter the code MCC SALE along with your MCC membership number when placing your order online at www.mcgsuperstore.com.au

*Offer ends 22/03/2010 and excludes footballs, player badges and scarves. No further discounts apply.

AFL stats book special offer

Statisticians, history buffs and people who love their footy trivia will have a field day with the AFL Record Season Guide 2011, which is now available.

A club-by-club potted history, every Australian Football Hall of Fame inductee in profile, Brownlow medallists, All Australian teams, draft selections – it's all here. Perfect to wade through before the game or on the train.

As a special offer to members, the club has a limited number of copies for sale at the discounted price of \$25 (RRP \$39.95).

For further information, please contact Member and Customer Services on (03) 9657 8888.

