



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

Military Veterans' Group



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022-23

Having reminded myself that this report covers the Group's reporting year, which corresponds to the Financial Year, it is indeed pleasing to put my heart attack the disruptions of COVID behind me and to report on a 'full' year's activities.

Our guest speakers for the year continued and perhaps exceeded, the standards set in previous years. We were privileged to have as our guests:

- Mr. Matt Anderson PSM – Director of the Australian War Memorial;
- MAJGEN Liz Cosson AM CSC – Secretary, Department of Veterans' Affairs;
- Mr. Fred Smith – Diplomat and storyteller/singer/songwriter.

In December we held our first 'Members Only' event in the form of a cocktail style function. The evening was rated a significant success with several suggestions forthcoming in respect of the level of formality ranging from casual through to Black Tie. Your Committee has decided to stay with the Jacket and tie format for the time being in consideration of those working in the city. Of course we look forward to the response to the 2023 function.

During the year, in response to the MCC Recognition Action Plan, we introduced the Acknowledgement of Country protocol to our lunches. Not unexpectedly, this has met with a degree of disappointment from some members. However, your Committee feels that, as a Special Interest Group within the Club we, as members, are bound to conform to the spirit and intent of the RAP.

This year saw the adoption of new Rules for the Group with several necessary minor changes identified and to be submitted to members for consideration at a forthcoming Special General Meeting. (These changes were subsequently adopted at a SGM in July 2023).

We were saddened during the period to hear of the passing of two of our members and we extend our sympathies to the families and friends of the following:

John Telford RICHARDSON VALE 17-Nov-22

Harold MacKinlay FORD VALE 21-Feb-23

On the positive side it has been pleasing to see the influx of new members with contemporary service in the ADF not only in the general membership but also on your Committee. The past ten or twelve years have seen us outgrow the Long Room and regularly fill the Members' Dining Room to capacity which augurs well for the future of the Group.

Our financial membership presently (30 Jun 23) stands at:

	Members	Associates	Total	
<u>MEMBERS</u>	278	15	293	(260 Jun 22)
- Members Services ARMY	211			
RAAF	32			
NAVY/RAN	31			
AFP/VicPOL	4			
- Interstate Members (Non-Vic)	43	-		

For those with an interest in such matters the age spread is as follows:

- Years 100+ - - -	
- Years 90 - 99	9
- Years 80 - 89	27
- Years 60 - 79	148
- Years 40 - 59	70
- Years 0 - 39	24
	278

In conclusion I personally owe a vote of thanks to our Deputy Chair, Michael Annett, Secretary, Roger Schie and Treasurer, Ivo Sist and other members of our Committee for their support during the year. Our thanks, too, are due to MCC staff Anna Fowler and Elissa Cohen for their administrative support and outstanding assistance in problem solving on luncheon days.



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11th October 2023