THE YORKER

MCC
MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

In This Issue

THE YORKER

Published three times a year, the Summer issue traditionally has a cricket feature, the Autumn issue has a leading article on football, while the Spring issue is multi-sport focused. We accept supporting articles on other sports or general sport-related topics. Contact the library to discuss your contributions.

The Yorker uses the Style Guide for MCC Library Publications. A copy of this can be viewed and downloaded from http://tinyurl.com/mccyorker We always welcome submissions of articles and reviews for *The Yorker*, but please adhere to the new style.

Submissions can be made to The Editor, *The Yorker*, MCC Library PO Box 175 East Melbourne 8002 or via email to library@mcc.org.au

COVER IMAGERY

Main: 1901/02 MCC members' badge. (MCC Museum collection M10544.1)

Background: MCC members' badges from the MCC Museum collection. (MCC Museum collection batches M7594, M10544.2 and M3400)

BACK COVER IMAGERY

"Proposed Designs for 'Full Membership' Medallions – Melbourne Cricket Club 1964-1965". The designs were unsuccessful. (MCC Archives collection)

1963/64 MCC full members' badge. (MCC Museum collection M15797.62)

1964/65 MCC full members' badge. (MCC Museum collection M15797.65)

Contents

In This Issue

The current temporary exhibition in the National Sports Museum is "Gold for Australia! Stories of Our Sporting Medals". Since the exhibition opened on May 19 the MCC Library has canvassed many enquiries about one of the more iconic traditions of the Melbourne Cricket Club – the MCC membership medallion. Therefore, *The Yorker* will document the origin and development of MCC badges from their origins to the present day in this and the following issue. Readers are encouraged to view "Gold for Australia! Stories of Our Sporting Medals " which will be at the NSM until March 31, 2015.

Displays inspired by soccer's FIFA World Cup in Brazil and the Glasgow Commonwealth Games have graced the Library's foyer during the winter. On the theme of athletics, James Brear's research into the career of the sprinter Decima Norman has uncovered a little known fact that the first marathon torch relay began not at Olympia in Greece (as many assume) but at the MCG. James' article in this issue looks at the second Australian National Games in Melbourne in 1932, and the first torch relay held for the Australian National Games four years later.

The World Cup display was launched by esteemed soccer broadcaster Les Murray simultaneously with the book *A History of Football in Australia* by Roy Hay and Bill Murray (see review pp.30-31), and the Roy Hay and Peter Desira Research Collection (pictured). The MCC Library's Hay-Desira collection is one of the most comprehensive archives of Australian soccer literature and Roy has generously contributed an article about one of Australian soccer's pre-War characters, Bill Coolahan and his role in soccer's "Ashes" for this issue.

The launch was one of many events that have been held at the Library during the winter. Keep up to date with Library news via social media. We will be tweeting or posting details of activities such as exhibitions, book launches, signings and author talks.

You can follow us via Twitter and Instagram.

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Roy Hay & Peter Desira research collection
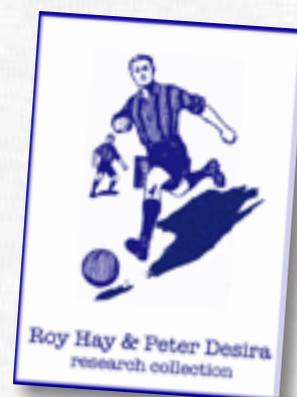
THE YORKER Read all about it!

Lighting the Flame:

The Australian National Games, the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and the World's First Torch Relay

James Brear

The Melbourne Cricket Ground is highly regarded and fondly remembered as the host stadium of the 1956 Olympic Games and the 2006 Commonwealth Games. In addition to these two magnificent athletics competitions there have been other athletics events such as the Athletic Track Championships of the Australian Fighting Forces in 1940, the World Police and Firemen Games in 1995 and the World Masters Games in 2002.

Another little known athletics event held at the MCG was the second Australian National Games held in February 1932. The Australian National Games had first been held in Manly, Sydney in 1928 and were designed as a mini-Olympics. They brought together athletes from around the country to compete in a myriad of sports in the hope that they would be selected to represent Australia at the Olympic Games. They were in effect Olympic trials which in many cases doubled up on the national championships that each sport held. With an opening ceremony and some of the pomp and regalia of the real Olympics it gave the athletes a taste of what they might expect.

The size of Australia's teams before World War II, due to financial constraints, was tiny compared to what we may expect today, so that for many athletes, including some very good ones who might have reasonably expected to be selected, these National Games were about as close as they would get to the real thing. Just 19 athletes went to Amsterdam in 1928, 12 to Los Angeles in 1932 and 33 to Berlin in 1936.[1]

The second Australian National Games were opened at the MCG on January 31, 1932 by the Prime Minister Joseph Lyons following the parade, led by the 29th Battalion band, of approximately 700 athletes, "their gay sports garb setting off to advantage their physical perfection".[2] Some 13,000 spectators were present as Olympic swimmer and gold

Above: Ern Jolly lights the 1936 Australian National Games cauldron in Adelaide. *Adelaide Chronicle* January 30, 1936.

Top: Doris Carter's 1932 Australian National Games high jump sash. She won with a leap of 4'11". (AGOS 1986.1000)

medallist from the Paris Olympics in 1924, Andrew "Boy" Charlton, took the oath of amateurism on behalf of the competitors, "and, as a fanfare of trumpets sounded, there was unfurled the Australian ensign and the Olympic flag."[3]

Track and field events were held at the MCG while swimming and diving took place at the Melbourne, Brunswick and Footscray Baths. Boxing and wrestling were at the Bijou Theatre in Bourke Street, cycling was at the Amateur Sports ground and the men's cycling road race took place from Campbellfield to Kilmore and return.

For spectators at the MCG on opening day, apart from the official ceremony, there was an entertaining day of athletics despite some concerns about the track. *The Referee* reported "The track at the MCG was as good as it could be in the circumstances. A first class track cannot be made in a couple of weeks, however, and the runners on Saturday found it heavily grassed and somewhat soft."[4]

Despite this, Tasmanian Bill Barwick set a new Australian record in the mile, running four minutes 16.8 seconds to defeat Alex Hillhouse, the reigning Australian champion by 15 yards. For comparison the world record set in October 1931 by Frenchman Jules Ladoumegue was four minutes 9.2 seconds putting Barwick's run in world class. On the strength of his performance in this race, Barwick (and Hillhouse) gained selection in the Olympic team for Los Angeles. Don McLardy also set a new Australian record in winning the 120 yards hurdles in 15.2 seconds. He also defeated a reigning Australian champion in Alf Watson but neither were selected for the team.

On Monday, the second day of competition, two more Australian records fell. Thorold Irwin defeated the titleholder Ray Triado in the 880 yards and Fred Woodhouse, a former Australian champion, set a new mark in the pole vault, but again they also missed selection.

Following the athletics the swimming events also produced new Australian records. On the Wednesday night at the Melbourne City Baths, watched by the Prime Minister, Frances Bult swam a new Australian record time of one minute 2.6 seconds for the 100 yards.[5] This was only 1.6 seconds outside the world record and helped book her trip to Los Angeles. Strangely, two days later, this time at the Brunswick Baths, she swam over 110 yards, a distance very close to the metric 100 metres that she would encounter at the Olympic Games. The result was another Australian record of one minute 12.6 seconds.[6]

The third day of aquatic sports was at the Footscray Baths and included diving and water polo as well as swimming. "Boy" Charlton was beaten by a touch by Noel Ryan in an exciting finish to the 440 yards with both men selected in the Olympic team. World record holders Claire Dennis and Bonnie Mealing excelled in their events, breast-stroke and back-stroke respectively, and, as expected were also in the swim team for Los Angeles. Their selections were well founded with 16

Top: Swimmers march past the MCC Members' Pavilion at the opening of the 1932 Australian National Games.
(AGOS 1992.2627.74)

Left: The program for the 1932 Australian National Games signed by Andrew "Boy" Charlton. Charlton took the "oath of amateurism" on the competitors' behalf at the opening ceremony.
(AGOS 1992.2627.27)
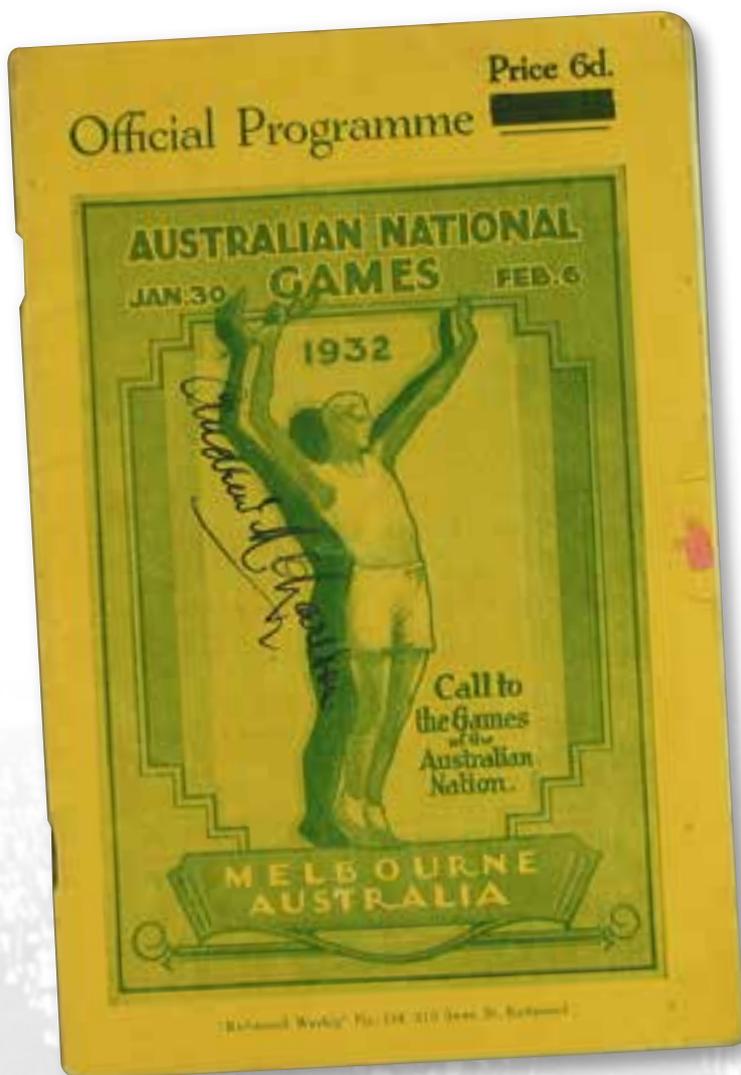
year old Dennis becoming, after Fanny Durack, the second Australian woman to win a gold medal after setting a new world record in the final of the 200 metres breast-stroke. Mealing also excelled, winning a silver medal in the 100 metres back-stroke.

At the Bijou Theatre the combatants did not live up to the high standard set elsewhere with the exception of heavyweight wrestler Eddie Scarf. He won the final in the heavyweight division, was selected for Los Angles and came back with a bronze medal from the freestyle light-heavyweight class.


The second Australian National Games had proved a success with three of the five medal winners at Los Angeles competing. Missing were sculler Bobby Pearce, as there were no rowing events at the National Games. Pearce, the 1928 gold medallist in the single sculls, and current Australian champion was again selected, and repeated his Olympic success, in so doing becoming the first Australian to defend an Olympic title. Multiple Australian titleholder and bronze medallist from the 1928 Olympics, Dunc Gray was also absent. He was an automatic selection for Los Angles and won the 1000 metre time trial gold medal in world record time. Five medals (three gold, one silver, one bronze) from only 12 competitors was an outstanding success.
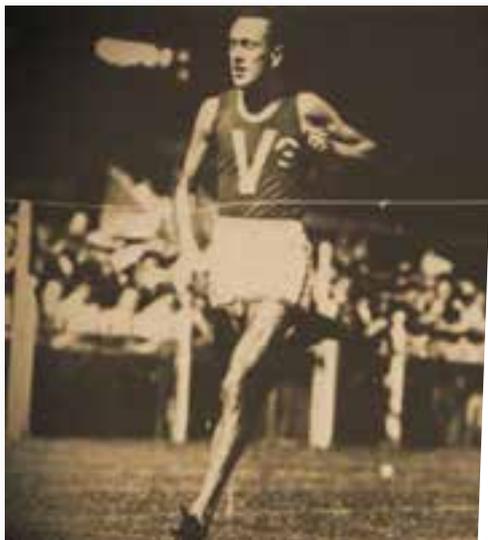
Above: The Victorian Thorold Irwin wins the 880 yards event in an Australian record time of 1.55.4, narrowly defeating Ray Triado.

Right: Fred Woodhouse set a new national record in the pole vault with a leap of 12'5".

Below: At the 1932 opening ceremony athletes were arranged according to sport.
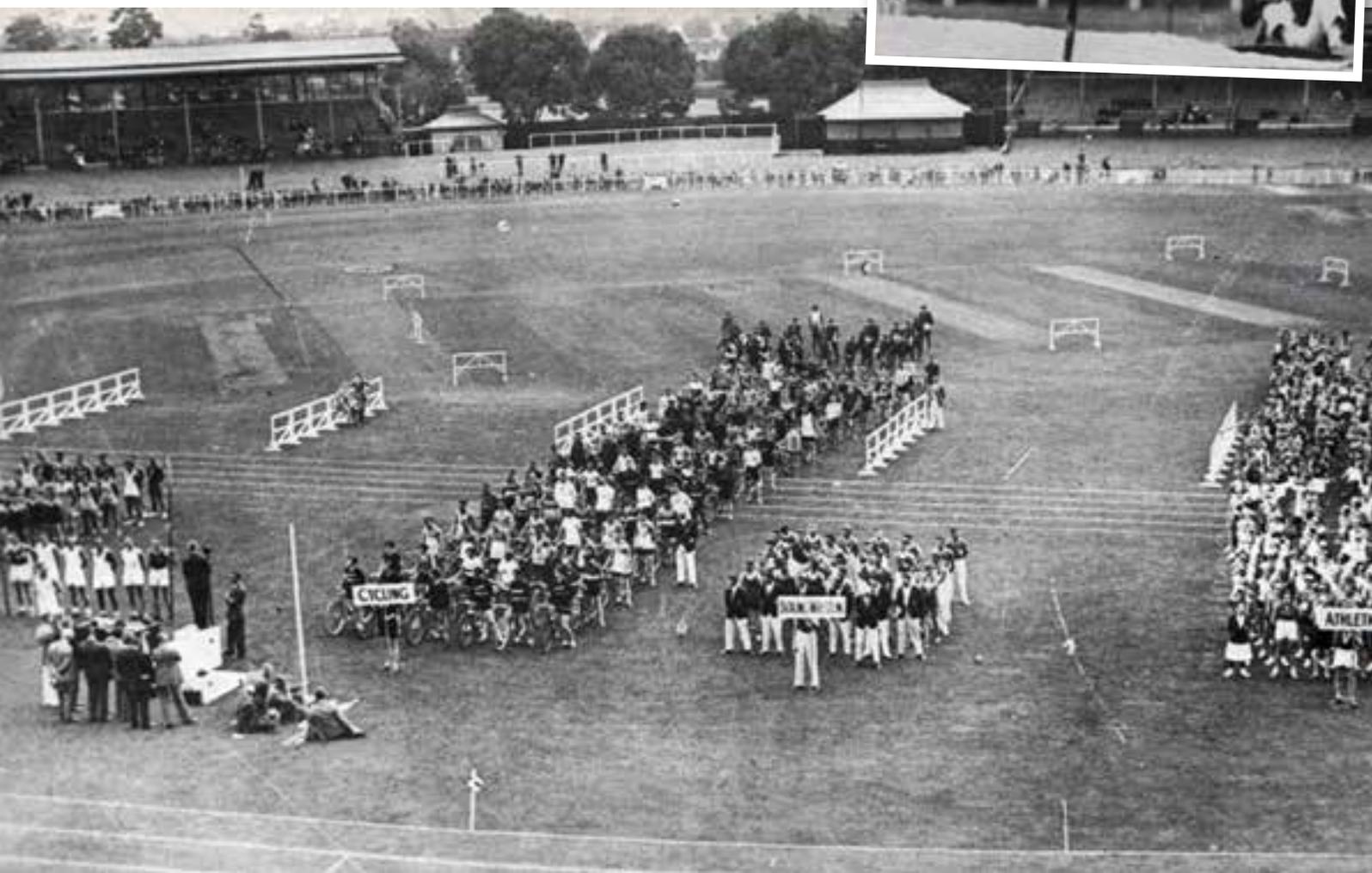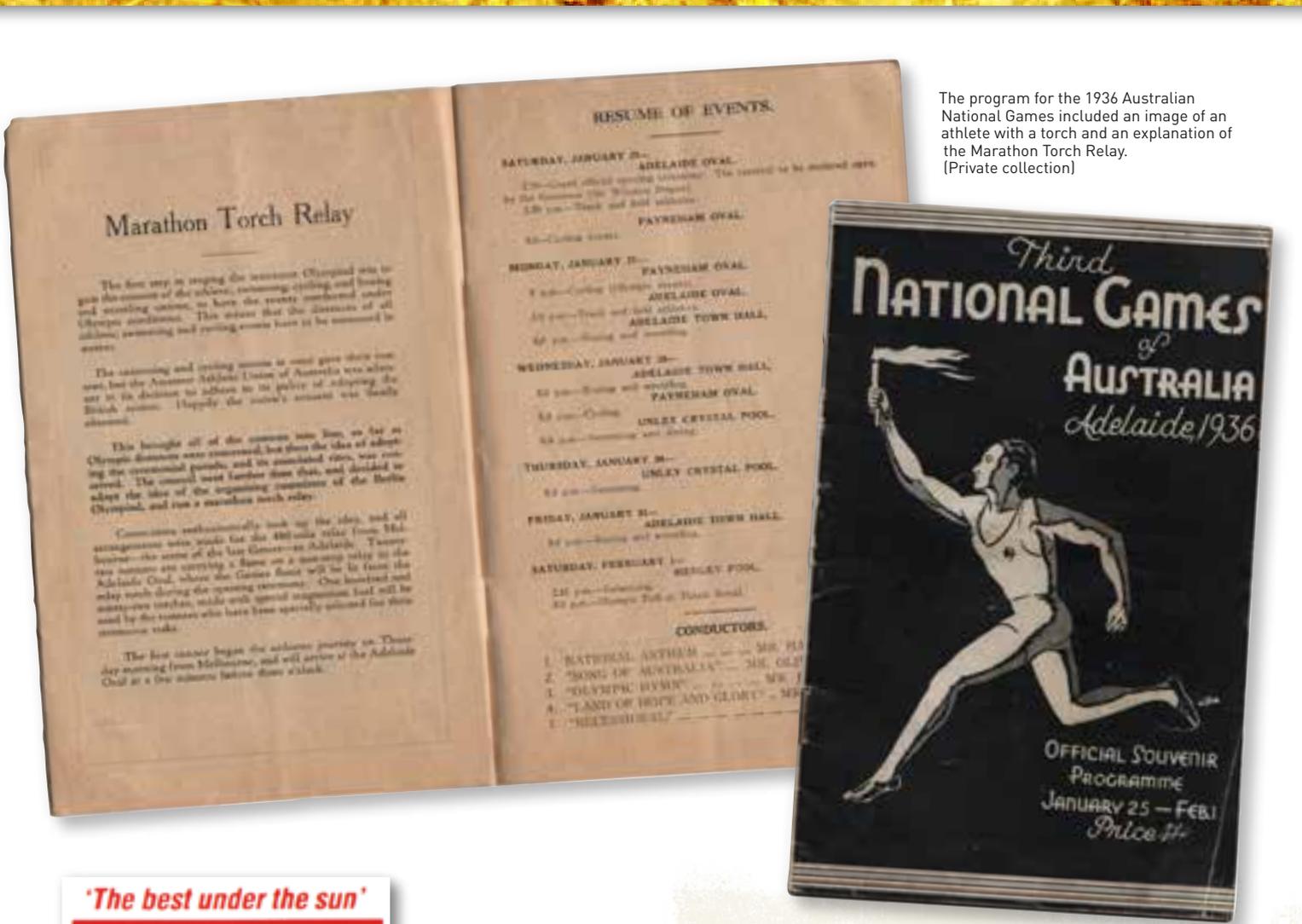
The program for the 1936 Australian National Games included an image of an athlete with a torch and an explanation of the Marathon Torch Relay.
(Private collection)

In 1985 the "inaugural" Australia Games were held in Melbourne with the opening ceremony at the Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Centre, formerly the Olympic Pool from the 1956 Games and today branded the Westpac Centre. It attracted local and international competitors across 13 "high profile" and eight "medium profile" sports. Ambitiously planned to be held every two years it seems the organisers did not know the history of the Australian National Games, and after making a considerable loss the Australia Games were not repeated.

In 1936 the third Australian National Games were held in Adelaide, to coincide with South Australia's centenary, with the Adelaide Oval the centrepiece. The organiser and secretary Bill Mackay had heard of the plans of Carl Diem, the Secretary-general of the Organising Committee of the Berlin Olympic Games, to have a torch relay from Olympia in Greece to Berlin. Diem had seen the flame that was lit in Amsterdam in 1928 (and in Los Angeles) as a symbol of the Olympic spirit, but this flame had not come from Greece.

Diem decided to go one better and bring a flame, lit by the sun to ensure its purity, from Olympia, the site of the ancient Greek games. Bill Mackay learnt of Diem's plans and thought that as all other aspects of the Olympic opening ceremony were to be used at Adelaide Oval why not introduce the torch relay. At a meeting of the National Games Council in Adelaide on December 9, 1935 the Council accepted the program of the pageantry committee. This included the torch relay which Mackay advised "would be the most important event that had been prepared to centre public attention on the Games. The relay would indeed be wonderful propaganda for Australia, as well as for the National Games."[7]

The Advertiser went further and headlined the article about the torch relay with "Unique Event For National Games" and "First Of Its Kind In The World".[8] But where was the relay to start? There was one obvious answer, Melbourne, the site of the previous Australian National Games, and of course that meant the MCG. And so the MCG to Adelaide Oval became the world's first torch relay upstaging the Olympia to Berlin run.

START OF THE TORCH RELAY FROM MELBOURNE. It was the first torch relay race in Australia. Twenty-two South Australian athletes took part in the run from Melbourne to Adelaide (475 miles). They left on the Thursday afternoon, and reached Adelaide on schedule in time for the opening of the games on the Saturday. The start from Melbourne.—H.F.

Top Left: Ern Jolly receives the torch at the MCG. *Adelaide Chronicle*, February 6, 1936, p.34.

Top Right: Led by Jolly, the Marathon Torch Relay runners exit the MCG arena through the MCC Members' Pavilion. *The Referee*, January 30, 1936, p.10.

Below: The runners collapse exhausted during the first day. *Adelaide News*, January 25, 1936 p.1.

From Berlin Carl Diem wrote to Bill Mackay extending the Olympic Organising Committee's best wishes for the Australian Games and offering "to send you in short time a regulation book and time tables of the Olympic torch relay… Concerning the torches we are using, we shall be glad to mail you three samples as soon as we have finished the trials."[9] Instead of being upset that Adelaide was stealing his thunder it appears that Diem was pleased, as the Melbourne–Adelaide run would be a harsh test which Diem could learn from to ensure that his relay ran with military precision.

The runners were farewelled at the MCG by Hugh Weir, secretary of the Australian Amateur Athletic Union, at 11 o'clock on the morning of Thursday January 23. The 22 South Australian runners were led by Ern Jolly and wore scarlet singlets with black facings, and, in memory of King George V, black armbands.

Weir "pointed out that the non-stop torch relay was the first of its kind in the world and would make athletic history."[10]

There was a minute silence for the late King and, in addition to the torch, Jolly was given an olive branch and dispatches from the Premier, the Director of Education, the Lord Mayor, the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association, *The Argus* and *The Star*. The temperature just out of Melbourne reached 108°F (42°C), but "Despite blistering heat, which melted the surface of bitumen roads and burned their feet, a strong headwind and many difficult and hilly stretches, the South Australian torch relay runners made excellent progress yesterday."[11]

The headwind caused the flames to blow back into the men's faces and there was a strong potential for starting a bushfire. Officials were questioned by police at Bacchus Marsh "with regard to a bushfire that had started at Sunshine, but it was admitted that no blame could be attached to the runners."[12]

Relay Runners Exhausted by Heat

SOME OF THE TORCH RELAY RUNNERS resting in the shade of a tree during the first day's run to Adelaide, when the heat made conditions very trying.

Stills from a newsreel showing torch relay runners entering the Adelaide Oval. Spectators in the SACA members' reserve greeted them by waving their hats. "National Games Herald South Aust. Centenary." *Fox Movietone News.*

The runners were feted by large crowds in each town through which they ran, and by 8:45pm on Friday night had reached Keith. They were over an hour ahead of schedule, having averaged 10 miles per hour since their Melbourne departure.

They arrived in Adelaide on Saturday afternoon in plenty of time and at the appointed moment "To the accompaniment of the roll of drums, Jolly lighted the flame of the National Games – symbolic of the fervour of its participants for amateur sport. The Australian flag, which will be carried by the Australian team to Berlin was unfurled as the Olympic hymn was sung by the massed choristers, and a few moments afterwards 1000 pigeons rose in a fluttering crowd from the centre of the oval."[13]

Among many expressions of good wishes the letter from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne was read out. Councillor Wales offered his "heartiest felicitations" and stated "The non-stop torch relay from Melbourne to Adelaide, which is, I believe, without precedent in the modern era of sport, should appeal not only to sportsmen, but to all who can appreciate and rejoice in the physical fitness of our young manhood."[14] Councillor Wales' thoughts proved prophetic, with hundreds of thousands of people around the world appreciating and rejoicing in the torch and baton relays held before each Olympic and Commonwealth Games respectively.

Back in Berlin Carl Diem would have been delighted with the reports from down under of the first torch relay. If 22 Australian runners could complete the approximate 750km trip from Melbourne to Adelaide under extremely harsh conditions, then over 3000 of Germany's finest should have no trouble in completing the 3000 plus kilometres from Olympia to Berlin.

James Brear is a MCC Library Volunteer and is currently writing a biography of Decima Norman.

End Notes

1 Australian Olympic Committee, www.corporate.olympics.com.au/games (viewed August 4, 2014).
2 *The Argus*, February 1, 1932, p.9.
3 *The Referee*, February 3, 1932, p.17.
4 *The Referee*, February 3, 1932, p.17.
5 *Sydney Morning Herald*, February 4, 1932, p.10.
6 *The Argus*, February 6, 1932, p.22.
7 *Adelaide Advertiser*, December 10, 1935, p.5.
8 *Adelaide Advertiser*, December 10, 1935, p.5.
9 *Adelaide News*, December 16, 1935, p.4.
10 *Adelaide Advertiser,* January 24, 1936, p.24.
11 *Adelaide Advertiser*, January 24, 1936, p.24.
12 *Adelaide Advertiser*, January 24, 1936, p.24.
13 *Adelaide Advertiser*, January 27, 1936, p.9.
14 *Adelaide Advertiser*, January 27, 1936, p.9.

The cauldron is lit by Ern Jolly. "National Games Herald South Aust. Centenary." *Fox Movietone News.*

THE TEAM THAT MADE SOCCER HISTORY

"Bill the Lion Hearted" Coolahan and a double Ashes victory

Roy Hay

We all know Australia won the Ashes against England at cricket last summer, but when did Australia first win the "Ashes" at soccer? This question might stump most football fans who might possibly plump for the victory over a full English professional side at Upton Park, London, in 2003. But the true answer takes us back to 1937 and the career of someone who is largely forgotten in the Australian football story—Bill Coolahan.

Bill Coolahan captained the Australian soccer team several times in the 1930s and Sid Grant said he was known to many as "Bill the Lion Hearted" for his fierce tackling and refusal to countenance defeat no matter how desperate the situation appeared to be. He led Australia in the first two Test matches against an English touring team in 1937 and helped secure victory in the deciding match by example and a subtle piece of gamesmanship.

HOW AUSTRALIA WON THE SOCCER ASHES

A Test Joke Which The Englishmen Did Not Enjoy

The Referee, July 22 1937, p.13.

Above: The Australian team which toured Java and Singapore in 1928. Frank Coolahan is at the far right in the back row. http://www.ozfootball.net/index.shtml (viewed August 18, 2014).

Top: The team that made soccer history. The Australian team which beat the England team in the first Test match on July 10, 1937. The players are (from right to left) Bill Coolahan (captain), Jack Hughes, Ray Bryant, Roy Crowhurst, Jock Parkes, Billy Price, George Smith, Tom Harris, Harold Whitelaw, Jack 'Digger' Evans and Bill Morgan. *The Referee*, July 15, 1937, p. 1.

George Smith, carrying the match ball, leads the Australian team for the third Test match against England in 1937. (Hetherington collection, Vol. 4, p.115.)

Born in West Wallsend, Bill Coolahan was the younger brother of Frank, who also played for Australia. It is said that the mining village turned out more representative soccer players than any other in the country. Frank toured Java (part of modern Indonesia) and Singapore with the Australian team in 1928. He was in the West Wallsend teams which won the Gardiner Cup in 1923, 1924 and 1926. The family was not wealthy and it was Frank who gave his younger brother his first pair of football boots. By the age of 18, Bill was in the West Wallsend senior team and had represented New South Wales, playing at full back against a Java team. At Wallsend he played as centre-forward so he was very versatile and a regular goalscorer. The state league Cessnock and Kurri Kurri clubs both tried to sign the youngster, but he resisted the offers.

Coolahan gained his first of three A or full national caps in 1938 against India, but he had already played several times in games which were not classified as full internationals and was to play in a few more during World War II. Probably the high point of his career was the series against the English amateur team which toured Australia in 1937. The previous English touring team in 1925, which was a professional outfit, had gone through its 26-match itinerary with a 100% record, scoring 139 goals and conceding only 14. The amateur team which arrived in 1937 was not as strong but still won eight out of ten games played, the only two losses coming in the first and third Test matches when Coolahan was the skipper in the first and the inspiration

Left: Bernard Joy, the English captain in 1937, tries to walk off a leg injury.

Right: A cartoon of the members of the victorious Australian team who came from Northern New South Wales by Ted Mulvihill. (Hetherington collection, Vol. 4, p.167.)

Bill Coolahan's first game at the MCG was for an Australian XI against the English Amateur team in 1937. However, he also played Test football against India at the MCG on October 1, 1938 – a decade before India's cricketers played a Test at the ground in 1947/48 (*The Yorker*, Issue 37, Summer 2007/08). It was the fifth and final Test and India needed to win to level the series, then standing at Australia two wins, India one with one match drawn. The Indians did most of the attacking early but neither team scored in the first half. Coolahan was moved to his customary right half after the break and created openings for Australian attackers, but six minutes in India's R. Lumsden scored against the play and into the sun. However, Jack Hughes levelled two minutes later and Frank McIver scored midway through the second half to give Australia the lead. Late in the match India's A. Rahim seemed close to levelling but Coolahan appeared in the goalmouth, prevented the goal and then raced up the ground to score Australia's third from a pass by Alex Forrest just before the final whistle. Thereby he sealed the Test and series victory for Australia with his first and only goal at the MCG.

No Boots For Him

An Indian player practices at the MCG. All but five of the 1938 Indian team played in bare feet. The Indians' first match at the MCG was against Victoria on August 23 and many cut their feet on the cricket ground's hard surface.

in the third. The first Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground was won by Australia by the odd goal in nine, with George Smith and Jack Hughes each scoring two and Billy Price one for the Australians, while Matthews and Stan Eastham each had two for England. One of Eastham's goals was from the penalty spot.

England won the second Test in Brisbane very comfortably by four goals to nil, so the series came down to a decider at the Newcastle Sports Ground on July 20, 1937 in front of a record crowd of over 15,000, who paid over £1100. England was without its influential skipper Bernard Joy, but Australia too was probably a player or two short of its best team. George Smith, who took over the captaincy, scored after a corner kick for Australia and then got a second goal after a move instigated by Coolahan. Coolahan rounded F. Riley, dummied his way past J. Sutcliffe, played a one-two with Jim Wilkinson before releasing Jack Hughes to set up Smith once again. England pulled a goal back through Riley who got to a loose ball just ahead of keeper Jimmy McNabb.

Immediately after the second half began, Coolahan sent Wilkinson away down the wing and his cross was turned in first time by Hughes. While the English were still recovering, Wilkinson found Smith with a cross and the striker headed home his hat-trick goal. As expected, England fought back and should have scored when E. Collins was brought down by Bert Murray inside the penalty area. Eastham stepped up to take the kick, having not missed a penalty in 143 attempts.

Enter Coolahan. "This will be your first miss in years, Stan. McNabb's the best goalkeeper in Australia and he'll stop it." Eastham replied, "I'll break the net, and if McNabb gets in front of the ball, he'll go through the net too." As Eastham began his run up, Coolahan added, "You can still bet me a dollar, if you want to, Stan." Later Eastham admitted, "Was I mad when he said that? First he sowed a small seed of doubt, then he ruined my concentration. I had made up my mind to put it left, but then I reverted to my natural method to go right and McNabb had actually dived half-way there before I

Goalmouth scramble in the game between New South Wales and the touring England amateur team, Sydney Showgrounds, July 3, 1937. England won 3-1.
(Sam Hood Collection, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales)

Coolahan Retires

W. COOLAHAN, Australian Soccer captain, whose retirement from the code was announced at a council meeting of the New South Wales Soccer Association at Newcastle on Saturday night.

Coolahan captained the Australian XI. against the Chinese last year. He also captained Australia against the Englishmen when they visited Australia in 1937. He has been captain of Adamstown Club for many years. He originally played with West Wallsend Club. His brother, the late Frank Coolahan, was also an international Soccer player.

Bill Coolahan retires. *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, November 9, 1942, p.6.

hit it." Writing after the match, A.J. Boyd was rather sanctimonious, "the moral of this story is that such things are NOT DONE in Test matches", but Lance Corporal Eastham was much more philosophical, "More fool me for falling for that one. I should have known better. It was smart and by falling for it, I lost the match." England did later pull a goal back through R.J. Matthews but Australia held out for the 4–3 win and the series.

England played an Australian eleven at the MCG later in the tour and won 3-1, but this did not count as a test match, so Coolahan had his victory, even if via a little gamesmanship of which the current Australian cricket team would be proud.

And on the matter of cricket and the English cricket team, the tourists also lost to Don Bradman's Australians. This was Bradman's first Ashes series as captain and the Australians were two-nil down but recovered to win the Ashes by three Tests to two. Two of the Tests in that series were played at the MCG and Australia won them both. The third Test began on New Year's Day 1937 and Australia won by 365 runs. Bradman contributed 270 of them in the second innings. The final deciding Test was also played here late in February and Australia posted 604 runs in its first innings with centuries from Bradman, McCabe and Badcock. England was bowled out twice for 239 and 165 going down by an innings and 200 runs.

The English cricketers also played Australian state teams at soccer. A New South Wales team beat the English cricket tourists by seven goals to two at Association football. The English cricketers overcame a Victorian soccer team in Melbourne and George Duckworth, the English wicketkeeper and goalkeeper, said it was the happiest day of his life because he had captained England and they had won. But when it came to the Ashes, Australia beat England at both cricket and football in 1937.

Bill Coolahan continued to play for club and country until after the outbreak of World War II, captaining Australia against the Chinese tourists in 1941. He had moved from West Wallsend to Adamstown in 1935 and had one season at Lake Macquarie before finally hanging up his boots. He was inducted into the Football Federation Australia Hall of Fame and the Hunter Region Sporting Hall of Fame. Though he played most often as a half-back, he scored over a hundred goals in his career. He deserves recognition as one of Australian football's pioneering heroes.

Roy Hay is a co-author of *A History of Football in Australia: A Game of Two Halves.*

A Gem from the MCC Archives

Stephen Flemming

The 175th anniversary of the Melbourne Cricket Club was celebrated last summer but the professional management of its archives is a relatively recent development. The MCC Archives was formally established under the umbrella of the MCC Library in 2009 and, therefore, many safely stored treasurers lie waiting to be revealed.

The MCC Archives collection comprises many thousands of mostly primary documents that, taken together, charts the history and evolution of the club, its sporting sections, and the management and growth of the MCG. The archives are a constant work in progress, and as sorting, cataloguing and evaluating material collected throughout the MCC's 175 year history continues, cherished records of significant club events are being uncovered.

One recent highlight was the discovery of a "four folded" handwritten letter that has been retained by the club since March 1861. The letter has been stored in a small box which retains the earliest membership records of the club dating back to the 1840s. A project commenced recently to record the details of the contents of this box. It features small (10cm x 5cm) index cards complete with notes associated with the member and their years of membership. Occasionally these cards are interspersed with snippets recorded on paper or additional index cards, newspaper clippings (usually obituaries) and other such notes.

One of these cards recorded the membership history of George Cavenagh (pictured). Cavenagh was a three-time MCC president who first served from 1845 to October 2,1849; was also elected from October 1, 1850 to 1852; and held the office again from 1853 to 1854. He was also the club's secretary from November 15, 1841 to 1843. He may be regarded as one of the club's most significant early office bearers.

Folded behind Cavenagh's index card was his personal response to Richard Wardill, the MCC secretary, upon receiving news of his elevation to Honorary Life Membership of the MCC. A check of the MCC Minutes shows that both Cavenagh and Daniel Stodhart Campbell were made the club's first two Honorary Life Members on January 8, 1861. The men were so honoured in recognition of their early service and dedication to the club.

The MCC Archives is a significant repository of club related material that is now adding to the rich heritage and understanding of many of the club events and activities. As we delve further will undoubtedly reveal more "treasures" such as this little letter from over 150 years ago.

Stephen Flemming is a MCC Library Volunteer.

G. Cavenagh
Mar 1861

Caroline Street
South Yarra
18 March 61

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge rect [receipt] of your favour of the 11th inst informing me that so far back as the 18th Jan last I was "unanimously elected" an Hon [Honorary] Life Member of the M.C.C. in consideration of valuable services rendered and as a memorial of my cricketing and ability as its President during many years. You also add an apology on your own part for not sending me notice of the fact before.

You will be good enough to convey to the members my best thanks for the honor conferred, and allow me [to] add that although now no longer a player I shall ever feel a lively interest in the prosperity of the club.

Yours obed
G. Cavenagh

Wardill, Hon. Sec. M.C.C.

(MCC Archives collection)
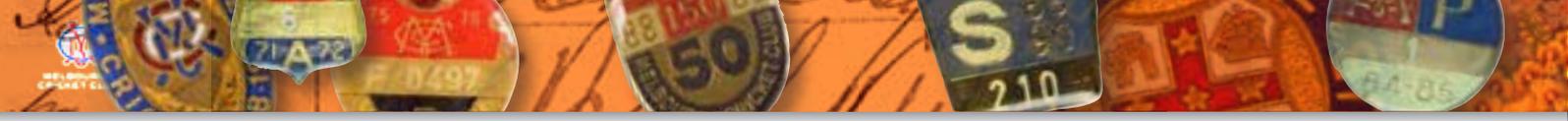
"Not Transferable: Season ends Aug. 31st"
90 Years of the Melbourne Cricket Club Members' Badges

David Studham

At the Melbourne Cricket Club's Annual General Meeting on September 13, 1901, the Committee Report included a small item,

> now reduced to a normal expenditure.
> *Members' Badges.*—A new item in the Club's accounts is one of £115 16s. 5d. for metal badges in place of tickets for full members for the coming season.
> *English Eleven.*—The advance on account
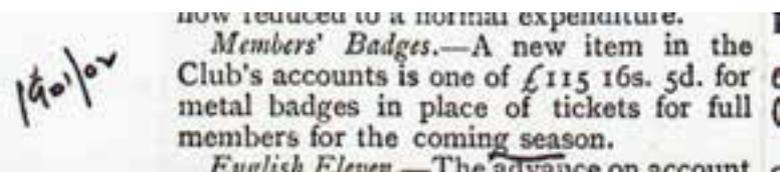
This was the start of an annual badge that lasted 90 years – with the exception of two years during World War II.

Melbourne Cricket Club annual membership badges have always been highly collectable and sought after. Children waited with great expectation to see the design of the new badges that were received by their father or grandfather (and in the last decade, of badges received by their mother or grandmother). Old badges were handed to children to play with, or joined a growing collection in a drawer or box. The new badges, worn proudly, signalled the wearer was a member for the current season ("*Ending 31 August*") and entitled to admission to the Pavilion.

The introduction of badges for members was a big change after 40 years of members' tickets. The Melbourne Cricket Club introduced membership tickets at a Special General Meeting of the club in the first Pavilion on Saturday October 6, 1860, to consider "the expediency of altering rule 6 having reference to the admission of non-Members into the Pavilion".

After the successful approval of amendments, the minutes note "Rule 6 stands as follows, 'Every Member upon paying his subscription shall have a card given him which will admit him to the pavilion. No non-member residing within seven miles of Melbourne shall be admitted into the Pavilion, except Members of other Clubs playing on the Ground and reporters of the press'."

Members' tickets were issued every season to 1901/02 when badges were introduced. A wooden case with samples of all of these tickets is on display in the Treasures of the Collection section of the MCC Museum.

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Monday June 4, 1900 discuss the final issue of tickets, "Members' Tickets. Resolved that Members' tickets for 1900/1 consist of single tickets – samples to be submitted to the next meeting".

The following meeting held Monday June 18, 1900 resolved "Tickets 1900/1: Samples of Members and Ladies Tickets produced. Choice to be left in the hands of the President & two Vice-Presidents" A red leather was chosen for the cover and tickets were issued.
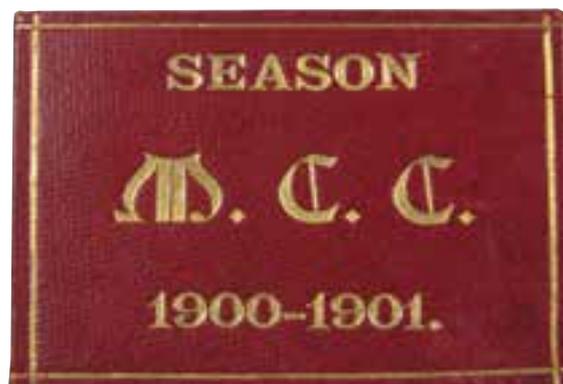
The first mention of members' badges was at the following month's committee meeting on Monday July 16, 1900, where a letter was "read from Mr Gough (Argus London) regarding badges submitted by Bowman & Co." However the matter was, "left-over to be dealt with by new committee". This did not take place until the New Year.

Top: Front and rear views of the 1954/55 full members' badge. (MCC Museum collection M15797.48)

Left: Thomas Carre Riddell's 1871/72 MCC "Member's Ticket". (Private collection)

Middle Right: A sample of the last issue of MCC full members' tickets prior to the adoption of badges. (MCC Museum collection M15856.1)

Bottom Right: Front and rear views of the 1901/02 MCC members' badge. (MCC Museum collection M10544.1)

In January the committee inspected the sample leather for tickets and ordered junior and country tickets for the coming season. However it was not until the committee meeting held on March 11, 1901 that the MCC committee returned to the issue of badges. At this meeting they inspected the sample from Bowman & Co and...

So there may have been some discussion on replacing members' two ladies tickets with badges as well.

The MCC Letter book for 1901 reveals that a few days later Major Wardill wrote to Bowman & Co.

616

19th March 1901

Dear Sir,

Regarding the Badges you sent me out, my Committee have decided upon the enclosed pattern, and will require 2600 of them this coming season.

They would have to be here ready for distribution, & numbered on the back by the 20 August at latest.

Should I cable you for an additional number than the above I will simply state the number in the cable.

There is a possibility of the Rules being altered, so that more full Members' may be admitted as Members, & then we should require several hundred more per annum.

We are only going to issue the badges to full members, though we have about 800 or 900 Country & Juniors besides.

We should require annually a like number, & should want the style of the badge altered each year, say for 4 years so that gross order would eventually become over 10,000.

Trusting that the bulk of the badges will be equal to the sample you sent.

I remain
Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
Sam Bowman Esq   B.J. Wardill

At the April 1901 committee meeting a "letter read from Bowman of 6 March with additional designs for badges" but a decision was postponed. Finally the Minutes of Committee Meeting held Wednesday July 31, 1901 reveal, "Letter read from Bowman, London containing invoice & bill of landing for 2600 badges costing £94.11.8, payment passed subject to the goods being found true to order".

As shown above from the Annual Report and confirmed in the Financial Statement the final cost was £115.13.6. The badge itself was a representation of the very popular, but unofficial "Advance Australia" arms from 19th century surrounded by a blue garter with the club's name. These arms had been strongly linked to cricket since 1858, when they appeared in the *Illustrated Melbourne News'* coverage of

inter-colonial cricket at the MCG, and continue to appear today on the Australian Test cap.

However, in 1901 they were in heavy public usage throughout the various federation celebrations. The cover of an album of formal invitations to federation events below (held in the National Library) is an example.

The blazon is quarterly argent, on a cross gules a mullet of five points or, between four mullets of five points or, in the first a golden fleece or, in the second a three-masted schooner sails unfurled at sea or, in the third a pick and axe in saltire or, and in the fourth a wheat garb or.

The reverse were numbered and contained the makers details "Bowman Limited, 68&70 Goswell Rd London"

The badges were undated, and while there is nothing in the MCC Archives holdings of minutes or correspondence relating to this, the main hypothesis relates to the hedging of their bets with the potential for delays in their shipping. Indeed a sample membership ticket for 1901/02 was produced and is included in the MCC Museum display.

With the new system of badges introduced the committee turned to their requirements for the next season. Bowman's may have been confident that they had a regular customer, however, the new badges created interest from other suppliers. Indeed the committee meeting on October 1, 1901 discussed "Tender for badges for 1902/3 from Messrs J.R Gaunt & Son with sketch submitted – cost 7¾d - each delivered – postponed".

This was revisited in January 14, 1902, when the committee meeting minutes note, "Badges: Sample and design of next season's badge from Messr Bowman Ltd were submitted, question postponed until the return of the Secretary, that he may be consulted with a view of giving Mr Ashman [Gaunt & Son] a chance to tender".

Mr Ashman did submit his tender and the committee meeting on January 27, 1902 resolved, "Badges 1902/3: Subject to acceptable sketch design being submitted Committee favour Mr Ashman's tender, of 8d each, for 2600 badges, numbered 1-2600. Same quality as the Club patterns for 1902/3, boxed, to be delivered at the MCC Office, duly paid, on or before 1 August 1902". The J.R.Gaunt & Sons tender must have included the option of engraving the Member's name on each badge, however this was rejected at the Committee Meeting of February 18, 1902 where the following decision was made, "Badges 1902/3: Mr Ashman submitted a design which was accepted, it was decided that the names be not engraved on the badges".

Top Right: The "Advance Australia" arms.
(National Library of Australia collection pic-an24437882)
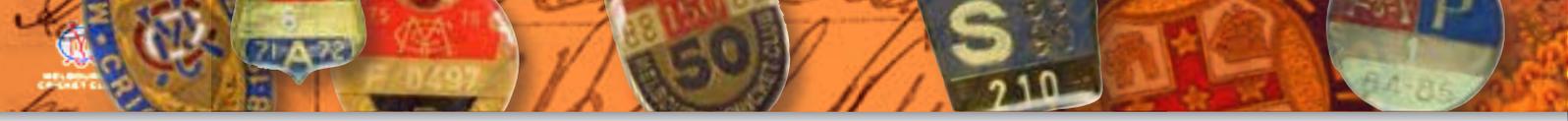
The second MCC members' badge, for the 1902/03 season, was highly decorative a bright gold and enamelled design which was the first badge to be dated and to feature the MCC cypher. The badges were issued in small numbered cardboard boxes, with a sample held in the MCC Museum collection.

Early consideration was made on the design and production of the 1903/04 MCC members' badge due to more manufacturers putting their products forward for consideration. The minutes of the December 23, 1902 Committee Meeting note that a letter had been received that very day "from Stokes & Son with sample metal badges. Committee satisfied with workmanship & price but wish further designs to be submitted". Stokes quickly complied, and at the meeting of January 13, 1903 it was noted "additional designs from Stokes & sons shown – marked design accepted, unless the fresh designs to come in from England contain anything considered superior". The next month at the February 10 meeting discussion was resumed and the minutes read, "letters and designs (from Gaunts & Son) of new badges from Mr Ashman, submitted also further sample from Stokes & Son of the Sydney Ground badges – enclosed. Decision of 13 January in favour of Stokes design confirmed." The selected design was a handsome piece with a pierced metal MCC cypher surrounded by a blue enamel circle embossed with the club name.

Four months later the correspondence section of the June 9 committee meeting reveals that "letter and designs received from Bowman London for 1903/04 Members' badges – too late to be considered this season." By operating to their old timetable, the makers of the initial badge had been out manoeuvred by their more aggressive competitors.

By September Stokes had an eye towards the 1904/05 contract and had commenced their bid. The September 29, 1903 committee meeting minutes reveal that, "a letter read of 23 Sept re: badges for next season and including samples. Consideration deferred till it is seen how the last lot turn out in use".

At their meeting on March 15, 1904 the committee revisited the whole issue of badges. The minutes read, "proposed by Mr McBean, seconded by Mr Forrester, that the badges be supplied by an English firm. Amendment that the order be given to a local maker carried by 6 to 3. Resolved that designs be obtained before decision is come to as to shape. At their meeting a fortnight later on March 29, 1904, the committee inspected "samples, designs and prices from Messrs Bigelow & King, 29 March, submitted. Letter read from Merssr Stokes & Son, 28 March, stating reduction of ½d each if same design as last year selected with different colour". Stokes badge for 1903/04 must have proven hardy in usage as the committee accepted their tender and advice for this year, approving a white enamelled version of the previous badge with the proviso that new designs be submitted for the ensuing seasons.

When the 1904/05 order was issued the MCC committee had set the standard operating procedure for selecting members' badges for the decades to come. With the move from imported to Australian made badges the committee would encourage local makers to submit designs and quotes for their consideration, with the only major change over the years being the introduction of additional badge categories for different levels of membership in the 1920s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

The next issue of *The Yorker* will look at enduring badges and the unexpected history of particular medallions.

Left: 1902/03 badge and its box.
(MCC Museum collection M16764)

Top: 1903/04 badge.
(Private collection)

Above: 1904/05 badge.
(MCC Museum collection M15797.4)

Enduring Badges and the Re-Introduction of Cards

Although cards have been used by MCC members to access club facilities since the start of the 1991/92 season, the tradition of members' medallions continued with the enduring badge. Established in 1991 their design was based on mock-ups for the 1991/92 badge that was never issued. It is purely symbolic and gives no rights or privileges to the bearer, but like previous members' badges, its shape and colour scheme were used to signify the category of membership (full members' badge is left). The April 1991 *MCC News* (No.87) stated that the numerous advantages of signed membership cards with magnetic strips were:

Safety – With a card system for the members and electronic turnstiles in the public section, "push-button mathematics" will enable ground management to know exactly how many people are in the stadium at any moment...

Security – ...the possible detection of non-members immediately after entry. This safeguards the privilege of MCC Membership.

Members Patronage – The card system records the attendance of members at all functions... It can also be utilised to assess appropriate membership levels.

A Guide to MCC Badges and their Membership Categories

"F" – Full Member: 1901/02 to 1942/43 and 1945/46 to 1990/91. Introduced in 1901/02, full members' badges were substituted with cards in 1943/44 and 1944/45 due to wartime restrictions. The "F" appeared on the front of the badge from the 1967/68 issue.

"A" – Temporary Member: 1921/22 to 1942/43 and 1945/46 to 1990/91. The MCC was able to allocate 200 temporary memberships for MCG Trustees (Sir Robert Menzies' 1971/72 temporary badge as a former trustee is shown right), first XI players, or leading citizens in positions of authority who were temporarily resident in Victoria, such as Governors and Governors General, Aides-de-camp, Archbishops, etc.

"C" – Country Member: 1922/23 to 1942/43 and 1945/46 to 1990/91. Country members' badges have generally been the same shape as full members' medallions but distinguished by an alternate colour scheme or metal. The exceptions to this practice were 1940/41 and 1941/42 when the country medallions had a different shape. The word "Country" was stamped on the back until 1940/41 when the letter "C" was introduced initially on the back, and later the front of badges.

"I" – Interstate Member: 1979/80 to 1990/91. Interstate member elections were introduced in November 1976.

"J" – Junior Member: 1962/63 to 1978/79. The last junior member election was held in 1974.

"JP" – Junior Playing Member: 1962/63 to 1983/84. Replaced by "JS" badges in 1984/85.

"JS" – Junior Sections Playing Member: 1984/85 to 1990/91.

"P" – Playing Member: 1962/63 to 1983/84.
 Provisional Member: 1984/85 to 1986/87.
With the introduction of provisional membership for women in 1984 playing members became sections playing members and thereafter identified with the "S" medallion.

"R" – Restricted Member: 1962/63 to 1990/91. Restricted membership medallions had a different colour scheme or metal than full/country badges until 1981/82. The badges were a different shape to full/country medallions from 1982/83.

"RP" – Restricted Playing Member: 1962/63 to 1983/84.

"RJ" – Restricted Junior Member: 1977/78 to 1990/91. Restricted junior members elections commenced in 1977.

"S" – Sections Playing Member: 1984/85 to 1990/91. Replaced the playing member category who were identified with "P" badges.

"50" – Fifty-year Member: 1988/89 to 1990/91. Fifty-year members were indicated on their badges from the MCC's 150th anniversary. Prior to this they had been given a lapel pin, a practice introduced in the late 1950s.

Full Member

Full Member

Temporary

Country

Country

Junior

Interstate

Playing

Provisional

Junior Sections

Junior Playing

Restricted

Restricted Playing

Restricted Junior

Sections

Fifty-year

Twenty Pennants:

The Melbourne Cricket Club's First XI Premierships since the commencement of District Cricket
Part 5 — 1972/73 and 1975/76

Ken Williams

Having fielded one the strongest combinations in its history to win the premiership in 1958/59 – the side that took part in the final contained two current Test players (Colin McDonald and Lindsay Kline), one future Test representative (Colin Guest) and four current or former State players (Ian Huntington, Neil Crompton, Barry Stevens and Geoff Longney) – it seemed that the Melbourne Cricket Club's first XI was on the verge of a golden era, but it was destined not to reach the semi-finals again until 1962/63 and a further 10 seasons were to elapse before it won its next premiership. The fifth instalment in the series traces the team's progress through the 1960s to its two premierships in the 1970s.

A premiership "hangover" occurred in 1959/60 when Melbourne won only four matches and slipped to 11th place in the 14-team competition. The tone was set in the opening match, when, despite fielding 10 members of the previous year's premiership XI, it was bundled out for 96 and 84 by North Melbourne to lose outright by 50 runs. A partial explanation for the slump was the unavailability for most of the season of McDonald and Kline, who were members of the Australian side which toured the subcontinent, while Guest missed the first half of the season after breaking his ankle while playing baseball for Victoria during the winter. In McDonald's absence, veteran batsman Max Haysom led the side all season.

McDonald returned to the captaincy in 1960/61, with Haysom deputising when he was away on Test and interstate duty. After winning its first three games, Melbourne managed to win just three more times for the season and finished seventh. Three long-serving players, Max Haysom, Barry Stevens and Geoff Longney, all members of the 1958/59 premiership XI, made their final first XI appearances this season. Haysom, a very sound top-order order batsman who must be considered unlucky never to earn representative honours, had begun his District first XI career as far back as 1939/40 with the long-defunct Colts XI. After stints at Hawthorn-East Melbourne and University, he joined Melbourne in 1951/52 and won the

batting average three times. Stevens, a stylish top-order batsman who played five Sheffield Shield games for Victoria, had been a member of the first XI since 1948/49 and was the only player to have been a member of its first three post-war premiership sides. Longney, a highly-regarded wicketkeeper who represented Victoria in a Shield game at Adelaide in 1956/57, had played since 1952/53. While Stevens transferred to Hawthorn-East Melbourne, Haysom and Longney both remained at the club and would captain the second XI in later seasons.[1]

With McDonald unavailable for the 1961/62 season, Ian Huntington was appointed captain, with Lindsay Kline as his deputy. Huntington would remain in the post until 1967/68. As in the previous season, Melbourne began strongly – its victories in the first three games included an outright win over North Melbourne which was dismissed for 27 in its first innings after Guest took 8 for 5 – but thereafter it won only three more games and finished in eighth place. The batting was brittle, although no fault could be found with the form of Huntington, who headed the club's batting averages for the third year in a row with 640 runs at 49.23.

Two teenagers who went on to fine careers with the club made their debuts this season. Graham Brown, aged 17, was a stylish opening batsman and useful left-arm medium pacer who looked likely to have a substantial career at first-class

level, although he ended up playing only once for the state. A consistent performer with bat and ball, he later spent several seasons at University before returning to captain Melbourne's 1972/73 premiership side. An unusual feature of his career is that he captained three District clubs, University, Melbourne, and later, Hawthorn-East Melbourne. Graeme Watson, aged only 16, was an adventurous batsman with a wide range of attacking strokes who also developed into a skilful medium paced bowler. Making his first-class debut in 1964/65, he went on to represent Victoria 40 times at first-class level, as well as playing five Tests, three in South Africa in 1966/67 while he was a Melbourne player. He took over from Huntington as captain in 1968/69, but his career for the club ended in 1971 when he took up a business appointment in Western Australia.[2]

Another newcomer in 1961/62 was Norm Carlyon, who had previously played with University. An excellent wicketkeeper and capable batsman, he gave fine service throughout the rest of the decade before back problems forced his retirement at the end of the 1970/71 season. A year earlier he had kept splendidly for Victoria while Ray Jordon was touring India and South Africa with the Australian XI.[3]

With eight victories and only three losses, Melbourne experienced a greatly improved season in 1962/63 and finished the home-and-away programme in third place. Meeting top side Hawthorn-East Melbourne in the semi-final (that was played over three days instead of the usual two this season), Melbourne ran up the formidable total 9 for 429 declared, which included a career-highest 166 by Neil Crompton. However, Hawthorn-East Melbourne, which needed only to draw to progress to the final, managed to do so, following centuries from Bob Cowper and Ian Law.

The 1962/63 season marked the last appearances for the club by Colin McDonald and Lindsay Kline. One of Australia's finest opening batsmen, who scored 3107 runs in 47 Tests from 1951/52 to 1961, McDonald transferred to sub-District club Brighton early in the season, while Kline, whose left-arm wrist spin snared 34 victims in 13 Tests, retired at the end of the season although he returned later in the decade to captain the second XI.[4]

Melbourne managed to reach the semi-finals in each of the next two seasons, but was forced to lower its colours both times – to Fitzroy in 1963/64 and to Footscray in 1964/65. In the 1963/64 semi-final, Melbourne appeared in a strong position after Brown (83) and Watson (103) put on 168 for the first wicket, but none of the remaining batsmen could make a stand and total reached only 270. Nevertheless, Melbourne looked likely to win when it claimed the seventh Fitzroy wicket at 195, but an eight-wicket stand of 117 put paid to its chances. Watson's hundred lifted his season's aggregate to 862 at 50.70, the highest since Percy Beames scored 990 runs at 45.00 in 1943/44 when, under war-time conditions, only one-day games were played.

A notable newcomer in 1963/64 was 17-year-old Paul Sheahan, although school commitments at Geelong College

restricted him to just two first XI games mid-season. An upright and elegant batsman who achieved a batting average of 59.52 in his 47 appearances for Victoria and played 31 Tests for Australia, he impressed with a well-made 45 against Fitzroy in his first District innings. Able to play regularly next season after leaving school, he finished second in the club's batting averages with 477 runs at 53.00, but it would be seven years before he represented Melbourne again, as he spent the next five seasons with University and a further two at North Melbourne, before returning in 1972/73.[5]

Two other talented players to make their first XI debuts this season were Peter Bedford and Roger Rayson. Bedford, aged just 16, played only once this season, but went on to a fine career for the club and played 39 first-class matches for Victoria from 1966/67 to 1972/73. A fluent strokemaker, more than capable leg-spinner and an outstanding fieldsman, he was seen as a possible future Test player, but the competing demands of Australian rules football saw him retire from top-level cricket at the age of 25. A quickish leg-spinner with a dangerous wrong'un, Rayson played 18 matches for Victoria in the mid-1960s before taking up a business appointment in Canada. His grandfather Bill and father Max, both also leg break and googly bowlers, had both previously represented the state, providing the only instance in Australia of three generations from the same family playing at first-class level.[6]
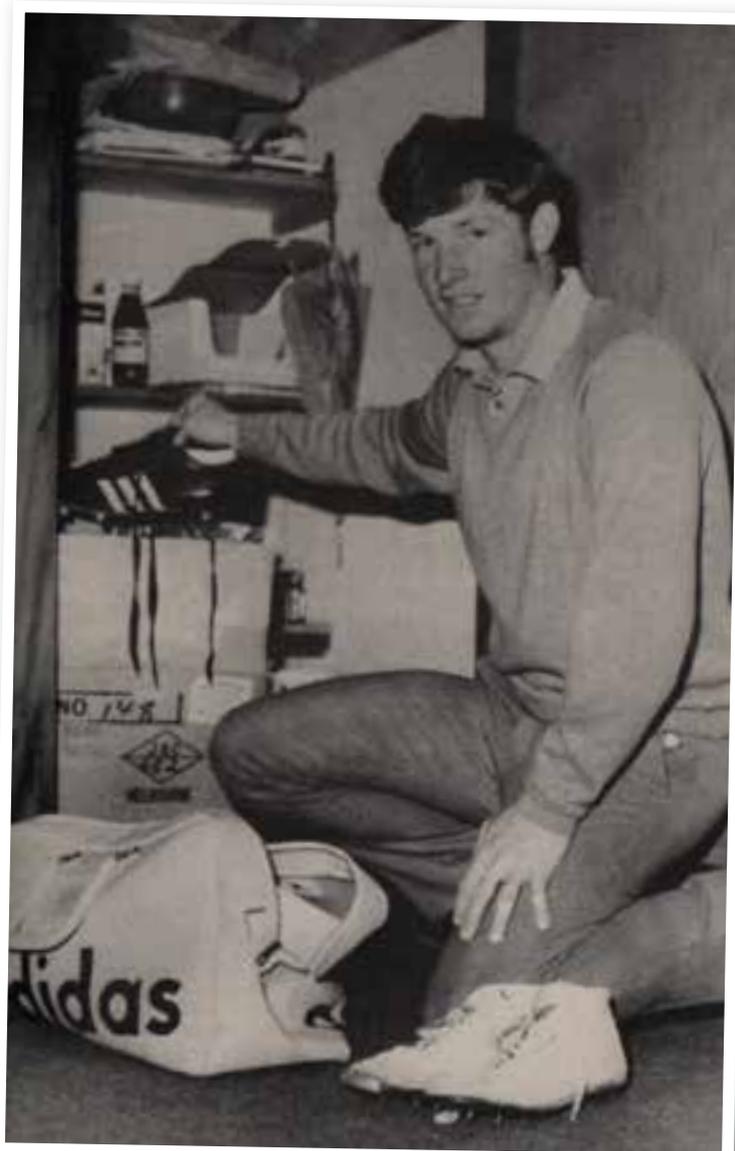
Right: Peter Bedford puts his football boots away as he prepares for the new cricket season. A talented middle-order batsman and skilful leg-spinner, he gave fine service to Victoria and the MCC before the demands of playing both cricket and football at the top level saw him retire from cricket at the age of 27.

Facing Top Left: 1972/73 VCA premiership pennant. (MCC Museum collection, M15430)

Facing Top Right: 1975/76 VCA premiership pennant. (MCC Museum collection, M15431)

With skipper Huntington in excellent form with the bat in 1964/65 – he scored 726 runs at 60.50 including three centuries to win the club's batting average for the fourth time – Melbourne finished the home-and-away season in third place, but was heavily beaten in its semi-final clash with Footscray. It seemed well-placed when it dismissed the home team for 160, but in reply it succumbed to hostile bowling from ex-Test man Ron Gaunt (6/21) and Tony Leigh (4/25) to be all out for 62. Wickets continued to tumble on the second day, as Footscray went on to win outright by 60 runs. Gaunt added seven wickets to his first innings haul to finish with match figures of 13 for 68. The brightest spot for Melbourne was the assured batting of 18-year-old Paul Sheahan, who top-scored with 66 in the second innings.

After unaccountably winning only one match in 1965/66 to earn the only "wooden spoon" in its history, Melbourne finished on top of the home-and-away ladder in 1966/67 to qualify for the semi-finals for the fourth time in five seasons. Once again there was no joy, however, as Melbourne suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of Fitzroy, being bowled out for 186 after Fitzroy compiled 7 for 316 on the first day.

The bowling average this season was won by a newcomer, Max Walker, who captured 26 wickets at 15.76. Joining the club in January, after coming from Hobart to Melbourne to study architecture, he developed into an exceptionally accurate opening bowler whose dipping inswing and dangerous leg cutters made him an indispensable member of the powerful Australian Test XIs of the 1970s. In 34 Tests from 1972/73 to 1977 he captured 138 wickets. He gave excellent service to the Melbourne Cricket Club whenever he was available and was appointed captain for the 1974/75, 1975/76 and 1976/77 seasons, although Test commitments restricted him to only nine games during that time. He last played for the club in 1976/77 but later appeared for South Melbourne.[7]

Two long-serving players Neil Crompton and Ian Jones bowed out during the 1966/67 season, leaving Ian Huntington as the

A young Max Walker at practice in the late 1960s. In a career restricted by Test and interstate commitments, he captured exactly 200 wickets in 68 appearances for the MCC from 1966/67 to 1976/77.

sole survivor from the 1958/59 premiership XI. A punishing left-hander, Crompton had made his first XI debut in 1953/54 and went on to play 45 matches for Victoria from 1957/58 to 1962/63, while Jones, still the last man to take a "ten-for" in a first XI District/Premier match, was a most effective new ball bowler who won the club's bowling four times between 1959/60 and 1965/66.[8]

After missing out on the finals in 1967/68, Melbourne, under newly-appointed captain Graeme Watson, finished the 1968/69 home-and-away season in second place and by beating St Kilda in the semi-final managed to reach the final for the first time since 1958/59. It had the task in front of it when, despite a determined 50 from Watson it was dismissed for only 155, but a magnificent spell from Walker, who bowled almost unchanged to capture a career best 8 for 34 from 25.3 (eight-ball) overs saw the Saints bowled out for 99.

Melbourne's opponent in the final was Carlton, whose strong lineup included England Test player Barry Knight. Melbourne was on top early as Carlton slumped to 4 for 53, but a grand innings of 132 from 19-year-old John Scholes enabled Carlton's total to reach 269. Melbourne began disastrously in reply, slumping to five for 32, which was effectively six down, as opener John Grange had retired hurt after being struck in the face in attempting to hook a short ball from Peter Howell and did not resume. Although skipper Watson batted powerfully for almost three hours to make 83, Melbourne finished 86 runs short.

The outstanding feature of the season was the bowling of Walker who captured 53 wickets at 13.88, the first time a Melbourne bowler had taken 50 wickets in a season since Jack Daniel and Clive Fairbairn each took 55 in 1949/50. The 1968/69 final saw the last first XI appearances by Ian Huntington, who had led the side from 1961/62, before stepping down to become vice-captain this season. One the most successful batsmen to represent the club, the dashing left-hander scored 4787 runs at 40.22 with 10 hundreds. He was not lost to the club however, as he captained the second XI for another two seasons.[9]

An important newcomer to the Melbourne side in 1968/69 was Jeff Moss, a left-handed batsman who hit the ball with great power off the back foot. Few could have envisaged that he would eventually play Test cricket, for despite winning the club's batting average next season, he did not represent Victoria until 1976/77 when he was 29 years of age. Two years later, following heavy scoring for the state, he was called up to the Australian side for the Second Test against Pakistan at Perth after Graham Yallop pulled out through injury. He acquitted himself creditably in his sole Test appearance, scoring 22 and an unbeaten 38 in which he shared an unbroken fourth wicket stand of 81 with Allan Border which took Australia to victory.[10]

Further disappointments lay in store over the next two seasons as Melbourne suffered semi-final defeats at the hands of Essendon and Collingwood. The loss to Collingwood in 1970/71 was particularly frustrating, as Melbourne had gone through the home-and-away season undefeated to finish four games clear in top place. Sent in to bat, Melbourne seemed relatively secure when it reached 120 for the loss of two wickets, but following a middle-order collapse it managed to make only 229. In a tense finish, Collingwood managed to overhaul that total with only minutes to spare, thanks to an unbeaten 79 from Ron Bird, who would become the inaugural Ryder Medallist two years later.

The 1970/71 team included two former South Australian representatives, Bob Lloyd and John Lill. Lloyd, who acted as captain late in the season while Watson was touring New Zealand with an Australian "B" side, had represented South Australia from 1960/61 to 1966/67 before a work transfer brought him to Melbourne. Joining the club near the end of the 1967/68 season, he scored 64, 125 and 80 in his first three innings and proved a most dependable top-order batsman, before transferring to newly-promoted Ringwood in 1974/75 as captain-coach. He later returned to the MCC to give long service as a committeeman, vice-president and cricket chairman.

John Lill, who played for the first XI in 1969/70 and 1970/71, had been an outstanding top-order batsman for South Australia who at that point was considered to be on the verge of Test honours. A chemical engineer by profession, who held senior managerial and executive positions with Imperial Chemical Industries in Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth, he succeeded Ian Johnson as secretary of the MCC in 1982 and served as the club's chief executive officer until his retirement in 2000.[11]

1972/73 premiership side.
Standing: R. Booth (manager), D.J. Broad, R.G. Lamb, R. Forsyth, M.H.N. Walker, N.W. Williams, I.C. Hennig, P.R. Twyford, K. McDougall (scorer).
Seated: J.K. Moss, P.L.A. Bedford, A.P. Sheahan (vice-capt), G.C. Brown (captain), R.G. Lloyd (coach), C.J. Dart, E.R. Williams.
(MCC Museum collection, M2284)

The 1972/73 Premiership

Under the leadership of Graham Brown, who had replaced Graeme Watson as captain in 1971/72 following the latter's move to WA, Melbourne won its first premiership in 14 years when it defeated Collingwood in the final. Important newcomers this season were Charlie Dart, a capable keeper-batsman who had previously represented Fitzroy and University, and two talented teenage batsmen, Robert Lamb and David Broad. The team was substantially strengthened by the return of Test batsman Paul Sheahan, who had last played for the club in 1964/65.

After having slipped to sixth place in 1971/72, Melbourne headed the ladder at the end of the home-and-away season for the second time in three seasons. After losing to Prahran in the opening game, it suffered only one more defeat, against Footscray late in the season, while its nine victories included an outright win over North Melbourne. The most remarkable win was against Northcote in the final home-and-away match. Batting first, Melbourne was in deep trouble at 5 for 31 when first-gamer Broad joined fellow-teenager Lamb. The pair put on 94 for the sixth wicket before 18-year-old Lamb was out for 50, his first District half-century, after which 19-year-old Broad went on to make an unbeaten 109, to join the very select group of players to make a century in their debut first XI District appearance.[12]

Melbourne reached the final by comfortably defeating Hawthorn-East Melbourne in the semi-final. After making 243

on the first day, which included half-centuries by Sheahan and Lloyd, it dismissed the Combine in difficult conditions for 101 next day, with fast bowler Richard Forsyth leading the way with 4 for 30.

Melbourne's opponent in the final was its nemesis of two years earlier, Collingwood. Batting first after winning the toss, Melbourne was in early trouble after losing its first four wickets for only 39 and the position could have been even worse, as the new batsman Peter Bedford was dropped before he scored and again soon after. Benefitting from his good fortune, Bedford then assisted Lamb, who had come in at the fall of the first wicket, to carry the score to 181 in what proved to be a match-winning fifth-wicket stand of 142. After Bedford fell for 74 (167 minutes, 8 fours), Lamb displayed remarkable composure to compile a patient 91 (287 minutes, 8 fours), and with Charlie Dart contributing an unbeaten 47, the total had reached a competitive 270 by the time the innings ended early on the second day.[13]

By stumps Collingwood had scored 6 for 153 in reply, leaving it 117 in arrears with four wickets in hand. With the game still in the balance when play resumed on the third day, skipper Brown put the result beyond doubt by claiming three of the remaining wickets in quick succession to claim the bowling honours with 4 for 28 as Melbourne ran out comfortable winners on the first innings by 95 runs.

Dart, aided by eight not outs in 13 innings, won the batting average with 303 runs at 60.60, while Lloyd (599 at 42.78) and Moss (500 at 38.46) were the highest run scorers. Remarkably, no bowler took 20 wickets. Off-spinner Ian Hennig (18 at 19.22) was the leading wicket-taker, while Max Walker, who made his Test debut this summer and was available for only three matches, won the bowling average with 16 wickets at 11.93. His best figures of seven for 42 against Richmond in January, were achieved just two days after he had taken 6 for 15 to bowl Australia to victory in the Third Test against Pakistan at Sydney.

There was a double triumph for Melbourne this season as the second XI, under the captaincy of Lill, also won the premiership, its first since 1963/64. In addition, Melbourne won the VCA One-Day knockout competition for the second season in a row when it beat Collingwood by six wickets in the final, Brown top-scoring with an unbeaten 67. Introduced in 1971/72, the competition ran for five seasons and comprised 35 (eight-ball) over games played on Sundays. Twelve months earlier, Melbourne had been the inaugural premiers when it defeated South Melbourne by 47 runs in the final. Moss, who had made an unbeaten 114 against Richmond in the first round and 77 against Essendon in the semi-final, top-scored with 50 in the final. Melbourne went on to win the short-lived competition for a third time in 1974/75 when it beat Carlton by 32 runs in that season's final.

In 1973/74 Melbourne finished the home and away season in third place and progressed to the final after convincingly defeating top-placed Richmond in the semi-final. Chasing Richmond's modest total of 212, Melbourne was in trouble when it slumped to 4 for 43, but recovered to make 377 mainly due to a brilliant innings of 164 by Sheahan (180 minutes, 2 sixes and 20 fours). He and Greg Booth, a capable middle-order batsman who had made his first XI debut in 1969/70, put on 193 for the fifth wicket in just 132 minutes, Booth making 84.

The final was a engrossing contest, in which the unfancied Northcote, which had finished last in the previous season, achieved a major upset by narrowly beating Melbourne, the match having to be extended into a fourth day to achieve a first innings result. Electing to bat first, Northcote struggled to 6 for 121 but recovered to make 258, thanks to a determined 93 not out by state keeper Richie Robinson, who took part in a last wicket stand of 52 with Ross Mackenzie. When play ended early on the second day because of rain, Melbourne had reached two for 55 in reply. A dour struggle ensued on the following Saturday, when only 180 runs were scored in 310 minutes, by which stage Melbourne needed 24 runs to win

with three wickets in hand. With the game tightly poised when played resumed on the fourth morning, Northcote gained a crucial early breakthrough when top-scorer Booth was run out after adding only a single to his overnight score of 71. Amid great tension, Rodney Hogg then bowled the last two Melbourne batsmen for the addition of only six runs to give the young Northcote side a fairy-tale victory by 14 runs on the first innings.

Further disappointment lay in store in 1974/75, when Melbourne, fourth after the completion of the home-and-away matches, narrowly failed to beat top side Carlton in a dramatic semi-final (from this season the top-placed side played the team finishing fourth, and second played third – instead of the previous arrangement whereby first played third, and second played fourth). With fifties from Sheahan and Moss, Melbourne compiled a healthy 8 for 296 on the first day and looked likely to win when Carlton limped to 6 for 93 mid-way through the second day. However dogged resistance by Carlton's lower order, with its last pair, John Douglas and Rod Hines, holding out for the last 47 minutes, enabled it to hang on for a draw and thereby proceed to the final. Max Walker replaced Brown as captain this season, but his Test commitments meant that he could play only three matches. Newly appointed vice-captain Dart led the side in his absence.

Paul Sheahan hitting a six in his whirlwind innings of 164 in the 1973/74 semi-final against Richmond at the Albert Ground. A week later he scored 57 in the final against Northcote but could not prevent his side going down by 14 runs on the first innings.

The 1975/76 Premiership

Having scraped into fourth place on percentage from three other clubs, Melbourne met top-placed Richmond, which had lost only one game during the season, in what proved to be an extraordinary semi-final. Electing to bat first in ideal conditions at the Albert Ground, Melbourne looked set to compile a huge score as Moss (146) and Sheahan (60) pounded the Richmond attack to put on 176 for the third wicket in only 157 minutes. The dismissal of Moss, who batted for 257 minutes and hit 19 fours, with the score on 235, then triggered a sensational collapse in which eight wickets fell for as many runs. Richmond struggled in reply, collapsing for five by 48 by stumps, and despite half-centuries next day from Mike Bowtell and veteran keeper Dave Cowper, who put on 97 for the seventh wicket, it was dismissed for 157, giving Melbourne a seemingly comfortable first innings lead of 86.

At lunch on the second day, with conditions for batting still perfect, Melbourne seemed assured of a berth in the final, holding an overall lead of 122 with eight wickets in hand. With Sheahan and Broad at the crease, it seemed that it would use the remaining time for batting practice. Nothing proved further from the truth however, as after the interval Melbourne suffered another dramatic batting collapse, losing its last seven wickets for only 14 runs to be all out for 71.

As a result, Richmond required 158 to win in 80 minutes plus 15 overs in the last hour to achieve a most unexpected victory. A grim struggle ensued, as wickets fell at regular intervals with first one side and then the other gaining the upper hand. When Glenn Swan, who had bowled virtually unchanged and taken five wickets, began the last over, Richmond needed three runs to tie, with its last pair, Jeff Russ and Jim Higgs,

1975/76 premiership side.
Standing: Keith Williams (manager), P.R. Josephson, J.G. Anderson, R.G. Lamb, J.W. Priestley, G.M. Swan, N.W. Williams, G.R. Booth, M.R. Featherby, D.J. Broad, D.S. Shepherd.
Seated: C.L. Fairbairn (selector), J.K. Moss, A.P. Sheahan (vice-capt), E.K. Tolhurst (chairman of selectors), M.H.N. Walker (captain), C.J. Dart, C.W. Spargo (selector).
Insets: R. Forsyth, I.C. Hennig.
(MCC Museum collection, M1413)

at the crease. Each scored a single before Russ pushed the fourth ball to short cover and called for a run that would have levelled the scores and taken his side into the final. However John Anderson pounced on the ball and threw down the striker's wicket with Higgs about a metre short of his ground to give Melbourne victory by the narrowest possible margin.

After the excitement of the semi-final, the final against Footscray proved to be relatively uneventful. Batting first after winning the toss, Melbourne began brightly, thanks to a brisk 50 from the in-form Moss (66 minutes, 7 fours), after which the innings was dominated by Sheahan, who compiled an unbeaten 189, his highest score for the club. Coming in at 2 for 73, he batted for 322 minutes and hit 20 fours in a flawless exhibition of strokeplay, his 83 runs coming out of 275 added while he was at the crease. Footscray never looked like challenging Melbourne's formidable total of 348, although

Ray Bright batted determinedly for three hours to make 78. Opening bowler Neil "Spider" Williams and off-spinner Ian Hennig shared the bowling honours with three wickets apiece. Melbourne's brief second innings featured bright half-centuries from Moss and Broad, the former scoring 83 in just 81 minutes with 11 fours.

Sheahan's unbeaten century in the final lifted his season's tally to 540 runs at 90.00, enabling him to win the club's batting average for a second time. Moss was the highest run-scorer with 713 at 59.41, while Broad scored exactly the same number of runs as Sheahan at an average of 45.00. The trio were the highest runscorers in the competition. Moss enjoyed a remarkable finish to the season, scoring 184 not out against Waverley and 84 against North Melbourne in the last two home-and-away rounds, followed by 146 and 15 against Richmond in the semi-final and 50 and 83 against Footscray in the final.

The attack was carried by Williams, Swan and Hennig. Swan, a pace bowler in his first season, won the bowling average with 21 wickets at 16.90, while his new-ball partner Williams, a lively pace bowler who had made his first XI debut in 1972/73, was the leading wicket-taker with 31 at 24.51. Hennig (27 wickets at 21.62) was the second highest wicket taker. Keeper Dart, who snared 26 victims, gave fine support.[14]

Melbourne's next premiership success occurred six seasons later in 1981/82. By this time the side had a very different appearance, with Broad, now captain, the only player remaining from the successful 1975/76 combination.

To be continued.

Paul Sheahan and Jeff Moss celebrate Melbourne's 1975/76 premiership. Both starred in the final, Sheahan top scoring with an unbeaten 189 while Moss made 50 and 83.

1975/76 FINAL

FOOTSCRAY v. MELBOURNE
Played at Albert Ground on March 20, 21 & 27, 1976.
Melbourne won on first innings.   Toss: Melbourne.

Melbourne

(scorecard table, partially legible)

Footscray

(scorecard table, partially legible)

MELBOURNE 1st XI AVERAGES 1975/76

Batting & Fielding

(averages table, partially legible)

Bowling

(bowling averages table, partially legible)

	Runs	Wkts	Avge
Total for	3041	100	30.41
Total against	3213	139	23.11

End Notes

1 Haysom scored 3497 runs for Melbourne at 30.40 including five hundreds. Stevens scored 3969 runs at 30.29 and Longney completed 206 dismissals (160 caught and 46 stumped).

2 Brown scored 3372 runs for Melbourne at 28.57 and captured 114 wickets at 19.17, winning the club's bowling average twice, in 1973/74 and 1974/75. Watson scored 2820 runs at 35.25 including seven hundreds and took 77 wickets at 22.87. He won the club's batting average on two occasions and the bowling once. A talented all-round sportsman, he also played 18 VFL games for the Melbourne Football Club before concentrating on cricket.

3 Carlyon dismissed 206 batsmen (155 caught and 51 stumped) and scored 2007 runs at 23.61.

4 In careers greatly restricted by representative calls, McDonald scored 2090 runs for Melbourne at 33.17 including five hundreds, while Kline captured 169 wickets at 18/60. McDonald also spent six seasons at University in which he scored a further 1654 runs at 33.75 with three hundreds.

5 Sheahan scored 3102 runs for Melbourne at the excellent average of 58.52 with five hundreds. In all District first XI games he scored 4937 runs at 56.10 including 10 hundreds.

6 Bedford scored 2219 runs for Melbourne at 28.44 and took 101 wickets at 23.08. An exceptionally talented Australian rules footballer who won the 1970 Brownlow Medal, he played 186 VFL games from 1968 to 1978, mostly with South Melbourne, in which he kicked 329 goals. Rayson took 103 wickets for Melbourne at 24.95. After six years in Canada, he returned to the Melbourne Cricket Club in 1973/74, making a few more first XI appearances in that and the following season.

7 Walker took exactly 200 wickets for Melbourne at 16.82 which included 15 five-wicket hauls. International commitments saw him miss out on playing in Melbourne's two premiership sides in the 1970s – in 1972/73 he was in the West Indies with the Australian XI, while in 1975/76 he was touring South Africa with D.H. Robins' XI. Walker also played 85 VFL games for the Melbourne Football Club from 1967 to 1972.

8 Crompton scored 3314 runs for Melbourne at 27.84 with seven centuries while Jones captured 259 wickets at 20.09. Crompton also played 99 VFL matches for the Melbourne Football Club and is best remembered for kicking the winning goal in the 1964 grand final.

9 Huntington played 46 matches for Victoria from 1953/54 to 1963/64. Including his career with University from 1952/53 to 1957/58, he scored 6674 runs at 37.49, including 13 hundreds, and took 119 wickets at 23.80 in all District first XI matches.

10 Moss scored 3584 runs for Melbourne at 34.99 including seven hundreds. He last played for Melbourne in 1979/80 and subsequently appeared for North Melbourne and Prahran. In all District first XI matches he scored 7271 runs at 37.86 with 14 centuries.

11 Lloyd scored 2619 runs at 32.33 for Melbourne, twice winning the batting average, while Lill, in his brief first XI career with the club, scored 718 runs at 27.61.

12 Broad is the only Melbourne player to score a century on his District/Premier first XI debut. In 1925/26, Stuart King scored 104 not out for Melbourne against Prahran in his initial District first XI innings, but he had previously taken part in two matches in which he did not bat. Curiously, King never played for Melbourne again, subsequently appearing for University and St Kilda in a long and successful District career during which he also played 12 matches for Victoria.

13 Following his fine innings in the 1972/73 final Lamb was seen as an outstanding prospect but he never quite fulfilled his promise, making just 37 first XI appearances for Melbourne in which he scored 820 runs at 25.62 and captured 46 wickets at 19.69. A gifted all-round sportsman, he also played 65 VFL matches for Richmond and South Melbourne between 1973 and 1979.

14 Hennig and Williams both enjoyed successful careers with the club, Hennig taking 217 wickets at 24.84 and Williams 214 at 21.36. Williams won the bowling average twice, in 1976/77 and 1979/80, while Hennig did so in 1971/72. Swan, who played for only four seasons, took 67 wickets at 22.38. Dart completed 115 dismissals and scored 990 runs at 27.80 in his five seasons at Melbourne.

Left: 1972/73 bullion embroidered premiership badge.
(MCC Museum collection, M14158.1)

Right: 1975/76 bullion embroidered premiership badge.
(MCC Museum collection, M14158.2)

Book Reviews
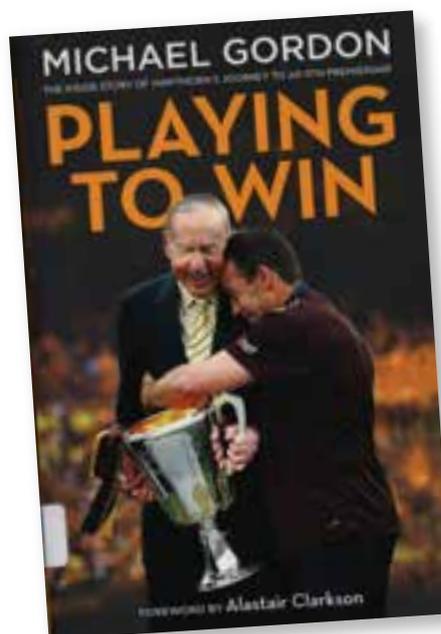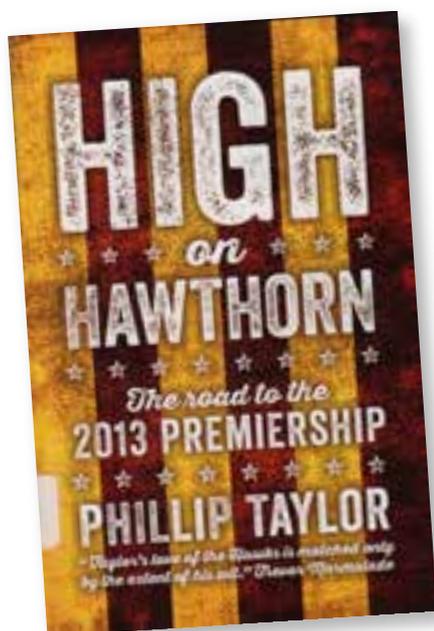
Phillip Taylor
High on Hawthorn: The Road to the 2013 Premiership
Nero: Collingwood (Vic), 2014
ISBN: 9781863956628

Michael Gordon
**Playing to Win: The Inside Story of Hawthorn's
Journey to an 11th Premiership**
Slattery Media Group: Richmond (Vic), 2014
ISBN: 9780992363192

There is only ever one team that enjoys the splendour of premiership success each season. It's a sad reality we must face and one that I still struggle with. Why does one team always bolt from the pack and claim football's holy grail? What's their secret? How does the premiership journey resonate with the supporters and tragics? Michael Gordon's *Playing To Win*, which chronicles Hawthorn's five year journey to its eleventh premiership, and Phillip Taylor's *High On Hawthorn* answers these questions in different ways.

High on Hawthorn is laced with pop-culture references, which is a welcome addition to Australian sports writing. In fact, Taylor's ability to relate the comedic and the serious with books, music, TV and film is strikingly similar to American sports writer Bill Simmons' *Grantland* website. From John Milton's seventeenth century poetry to Michael Douglas, Taylor's grasp of both the quirky and familiar is impressive. One might be cautious to delve into a book written by a crazed Hawks supporter, but Taylor's wit renders the journey enjoyable and even sufferable for those Geelong supporters. As Trevor Marmalade notes on the book's front cover, "Taylor's love of the Hawks is matched only by the extent of his wit."

On the other hand, *Playing To Win* is infused with interviews and eyewitness accounts of critical on and off the field moments that shaped the Hawks' winning fortitude and 2013 premiership. Indeed, Gordon's book is tagged with an "insiders" perspective, but it's important to note that the account was authorised by the Hawthorn footy club and therefore we would be bold to group it with other investigative sports journalism masterworks like David Halberstam's *The Breaks of the Game* (an incredible insight into basketball's Portland Trailblazers' 1977 Championship).

However, Gordon manages to capture wonderful moments of honest reflection by coaches, players and administrators. For instance, coach Alistair Clarkson admitted that if Sam Mitchell hadn't thwarted Shane Tuck's attempt on goal in round eight, 2010, then he mightn't have been Hawthorn's 2013 premiership coach. We get the sense that in many ways success is predicated just as much on the "what if" than on talent and structures. What if the Jeff Kennett curse was never lifted? What if Kennett's threat to demote Clarkson to the Box Hill Hawks was realised? Sports are so wonderfully unpredictable.

On the other hand, Taylor's personal and sometimes hallucinatory brown and gold account is not an official Hawthorn document, rather he comically captures a supporter's sureness and anxiety. Appropriately like the 2013 season, Buddy Franklin is the book's chief personality. Typical of a supporter's fickleness, Taylor's fondness for Franklin is predicated on his loyalty to the club. If Franklin resigns then he is what "makes the world go round", but his "efforts aren't worth a dime" if he leaves. Despite *High On Hawthorn* being Taylor's first published book, his one week at a time account of the "Number 23 Enigma" and Hawthorn's 2013 premiership campaign is a must read for all Hawthorn fans.

Ultimately, both books fittingly compliment each other in providing a rounded history (and mythology) of Hawthorn's quest for its eleventh premiership.

Michael Collins
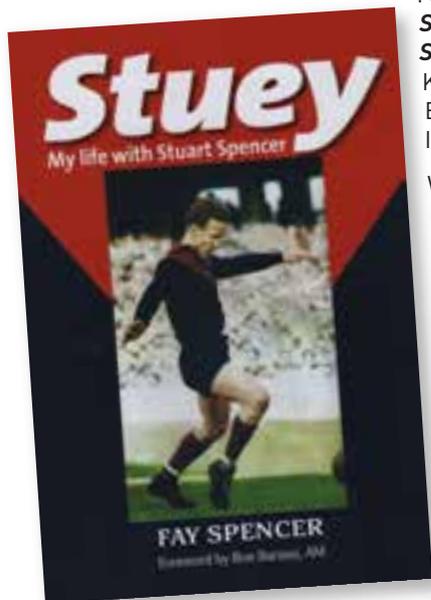
Fay Spencer
Stuey: My life with Stuart Spencer
Ken Piesse Football & Cricket
Books: Mt. Eliza (Vic.), 2014
ISBN: 9780646914824

With a foreword by Ron Barassi, AM, Fay Spencer writes a moving and very personal account of her life with Stuart Spencer. An only child whose family owned one of the largest transport companies in Tasmania, she grew up in the shadow of World War II and its aftermath. She tells of her early life in Hobart, giving the reader a clear picture of life in the 1940s and early 1950s.

Her future husband Stuart was born in 1932 in the small country town of Digby in the Western District of Victoria, 68kms from Portland. Fay gives us a candid insight into his early years. The youngest of six children, he led a tough life, with little money for extras or pleasure. But from an early age he loved all sports – cricket, tennis, and particularly football. A move by the family to Portland when he was 11 enabled him to improve his sporting skills, and in 1949 he won both the Portland and Western Border League's best and fairest awards. This prompted Melbourne Football Club to register him as a player.

Still a quiet country boy, when he arrived in Melbourne he began lifelong friendships with other players. But it was during a visit to Tasmania in July and August of 1950 where the Melbourne Football Club played a combined Southern Tasmanian team that Stuart and his mates attended a dance after the match where he and Fay met. It was to be four years before they married.

His later career in Melbourne is well known. In 1953 together with Denis Cordner and Ron Barassi, Stuart formed one of the best ruck combinations in the game, and with other quality players such as Ian Ridley, Clyde Laidlaw, Laurie Mithen, Brian Dixon and Bob Johnson Jnr. Melbourne began a string of grand final appearances. During his time at Melbourne he played 122 games and kicked 146 goals. He had won two club best and fairests, and was best afield in both the 1955 and 1956 grand finals.

At the end of 1956 Stuart moved to Tasmania and became involved in the family removal business. At the time a move of this kind was not considered a big deal, but Fay tells how in later years he came to regret the decision in view of Melbourne's history-making run of grand finals. He still played football at the highest level, and in 1957 was appointed captain-coach of Clarence Football Club where he played 236 games, including Tasmanian Football League representative games, between 1957 and 1968.

Fay's account provides insights into both his later sporting career and his family life. Perhaps the saddest episode in the book occurs with the short life of the couple's son Jon, to whom Fay devotes a whole chapter. Stuart was also plagued by injuries. In 1958 he ruptured his posterior cruciate ligament, which in those days was treated by putting the whole leg in plaster for six weeks. He managed to walk and still conduct training sessions, but after four weeks the plaster became loose and he pulled it off, only to find he could not stand on the leg. He put the plaster back on and with grim determination devised a programme of weights placed over his ankles in order to strengthen his leg. More injuries followed, including a torn achilles tendon which became infected. He continued coaching on one leg and using a stick. Season 1963 was his last coaching contract, but he agreed to stay on as captain at Clarence and finally played his last game in 1968.

In 1981 the Spencers returned to Melbourne to deal with the running of their successful removal business, which had now grown interstate. Once back in Victoria Stuart was invited to join the board of the Melbourne Football Club, then in the middle of a crisis created by a reform group calling for the chairman Sir Billy Snedden to resign. Stuart was asked to take up the position as chairman, a request he initially refused, but in the end his desire to help his old club persuaded him.

At this time mergers were in discussion as the VFL considered it an appropriate way for struggling clubs to stay afloat. After discussions with Fitzroy, North Melbourne and briefly Richmond, Melbourne decided against it, and Stuart oversaw the rebuilding of the club and the recruitment of a new generation of star players, which by 1987 saw the club reappearing in the finals. Despite the disappointment of the 1987 preliminary final, the club was full of optimism for the new year and indeed reached the grand final, its opponent Hawthorn. Sadly Melbourne was no match for them and Hawthorn went on to win, but as Stuart Spencer said "We have come so far, it's worth celebrating".

Once more a power struggle was brewing within the club, and Fay recounts how Stuart's trusting nature meant that he was totally unaware of the conspiracy taking place. Media coverage became unpleasant, board members were named and in an endeavour to defuse the situation Stuart arranged a meeting with the general manager. He kept notes of that meeting, which Fay publishes here for the first time. Throughout the year the press began questioning Melbourne's performances, but the team again reached the finals, beaten by West Coast in the semi-final. The season was suddenly over, but not for the Board. The reform group was determined on an election and Stuart was finally defeated.

The book also deals with the crisis which developed over the proposed merger with Hawthorn in 1996, and the fall-out that followed. The final chapters are devoted to Stuart's personal life and time in retirement which was saddened by illnesses to family and friends like Sean Wight and Jim Stynes. Stuart sadly passed away in September 2011 leaving behind a loving wife, two daughters and seven grandchildren.

The book could have benefitted from better editing, including captions to the press cuttings which are reproduced, and a better idea of the sequence of events. Nevertheless, it provides a fascinating insight into the life and times of one of Melbourne's and Clarence's true champions.

Throughout their life together Fay has at times dealt with highly emotional and controversial circumstances. To cite the tribute of Ron Barassi, Fay "has written an illuminating, entertaining and emotional record of his times. Her stories have rekindled memories of camaraderie, friendships, challenges and triumphs of a different era that we were all so lucky to share."

Lesley Turner
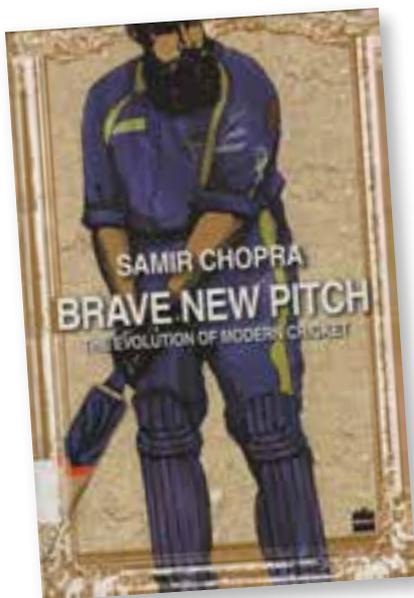
Samir Chopra
Brave New Pitch: The Evolution of Modern Cricket
Harper Sport: Uttar Pradesh, 2012
ISBN: 9789350293713

Cricket tragics are found sometimes in what one might think are unusual places. Their ranks have included Prime Ministers, senior clerics and community leaders and even extend to a certain ABC current affairs presenter who recently "declared her interest" before interviewing Australian Coach Darren Lehmann. Samir Chopra, the author of this book is professor of philosophy from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York but also clearly wears the cricket tragic badge with pride.

In a most interesting work Chopra looks at the cricket world at present and discusses possible options for where cricket may end up in the future. In doing so he discusses its evolution over recent decades taking into account the World Series Cricket revolution and the rise of limited overs versions of the game and the challenge this has mounted to first-class cricket including the Test match programme. He suggests that all three forms of the game could exist together provided the correct mix is found but that the attitude of fans will be pivotal. He gives the impression that Test cricket's future is in doubt particularly in some parts of the cricket world but concedes that the Ashes remains strong and also Test series between Australia and India.

The politics of the game are also discussed in the book including the growth of the Indian power base and the concurrent decline in the Anglo-Australian influence. The new money is with the Indians through the wealthy Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Indian Premier League (IPL) partnership which is likened by some to the take-over of a garden party by the nouveau riche or the new money versus old money situation. It appears that one cannot discuss international cricket now without mentioning the BCCI and its wealth and power. It is close to powerful politicians and businessmen and has established huge television rights and deals. Chopra feels it needs reforming and notes that recent election of past players to state associations may be a good start.

In one of his visions the author sees the growth of T20 cricket and the IPL and its money and franchise structure leading to future international leagues where players will roam the globe playing on private contracts. This is seen as a potential catalyst in the demise of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Test and other international cricket as we now know
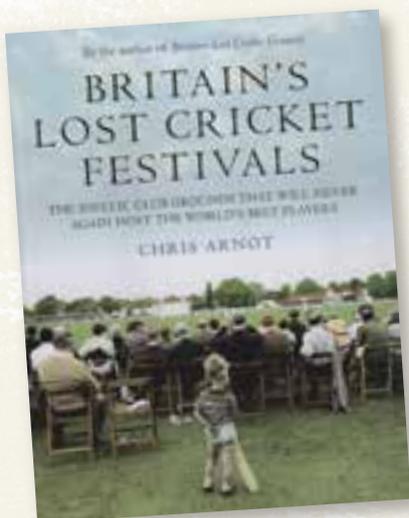
Chris Arnot
Britain's Lost Cricket Festivals: The Idyllic Club Grounds that Will Never Again Host the World's Best Players
Aurum Press: London, 2014
ISBN: 9781781311202

This book follows on from his well received *Britain's Lost Cricket Grounds: Forty Hallowed Homes of Cricket that Will Never See Another Ball Bowled*, Aurum Press (2011). In 2013, Chris Arnot travelled through England researching this book. He visited the cricket grounds, meeting past players, groundsmen, committee members, and fellow writers to

discover why these grounds were no longer used. He also heard anecdotes and memories of matches played. Then he gathered photographs, and with all this material he has produced a lovely nostalgic look at times past.

In many cases these times past are not that long ago. The demise of these festival grounds is economic. In the fifties, teams would play 28 three-day county championship matches. In 1988 when they started to play four-day matches this was reduced to 22, by 1994 to 17 matches and now since 2000, when they created two divisions,16 matches. So, now with only eight home games there is little room in the fixtures to travel around the counties. Furthermore, the cost of bringing the main county grounds up to modern standards expected by players and spectators has left little money to improve these other grounds.

Arnot has been able to show these festival grounds in their best light using sometimes archival photographs such as Holmes and Sutcliffe walking off through the crowds after their epic opening partnership of 555 at Leyton in Essex, or a huge crowd at Bradford with the old pavilion to the fore. At other times the photographs are current, like the one of the Recreation Ground at Bath, taken with the new "hideous" leisure centre behind the camera. He also mentions that it was on this ground that Jack Hobbs scored his hundredth hundred.

He also tells us about various highlights on each ground, such as the day snow stopped play in June at Buxton. He relates the following story from the groundsman at Moreton-

it. However such franchised matches could be given more meaning if they were played for points towards nation-based world cups played about every two years. Under this model it would still be possible for Test matches to be played between those countries wishing to do so.

Concern is expressed that cricket is not a major sport internationally and that this may threaten its survival. There are however plenty of other sports which continue to survive and in some cases thrive despite their not being international. One outstanding example is that of Australian Rules football which is not even the prime winter sport Australia wide.

The demise of Test cricket was being forecast some years ago when one-day cricket was gaining in popularity. It did not occur. Now we find similar predictions being made in respect of T20 cricket. T20, while undoubtedly popular at present, may go the same way as one day cricket which now shares the cricket stage without dominance.

The author addresses other aspects of the game and expresses opinions and enunciates vision. They include the possible establishment of a tiered system for cricket countries (with promotion/relegation) in place of the current ICC full, associate and affiliate member structure and the need for enhanced future player/administration relations particularly in areas such as scheduling. He also considers the continuing controversy with umpiring decisions being made part on/part off the ground. This could be solved by providing umpires on the ground with a light weight tablet/smart phone so that they could view the technology which is at present the domain of the third umpire – the decision then could be made on the field.

Ross Perry

in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. "I was approached by an ailing elderly gentleman in fading health who had made a pilgrimage to Moreton-in-Marsh to see the wicket where his great grandfather had dismissed WG [Grace] while playing for Somerset. (That would have been one C.E. Winter who trapped Grace lbw for 16 in 1885). The poor man had travelled some way and he was dying of cancer. He just sat down on the square."

At Harrogate, Yorkshire in 1996 there was a crowd of 15,000 to see a "friendly" match between Pakistan and India. In the teams were Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev for India, and Imran Khan and Wasim Akram for Pakistan. The match was sponsored by a local Asian restaurateur.

Arnot's method also allows more famous quotations, such as Neville Cardus at Crabble, Dover "afternoons full of the air and peaceful sunshine of imperishable England" (*Manchester Guardian*, July, 1926), or John Arlott describing Richard Hadlee's run-up as "like Groucho Marx chasing a pretty waitress".

Now, there are only the festivals at Cheltenham and Scarborough remaining for county championship matches. It seems not so long ago that we would look forward to matches from Eastbourne, Dover, Bournemouth and Southport. Sadly, no more.

Jim Blair

Mark Pennings
Origins of Australian Football: Victoria's Early History.
Volume 2: A Golden Era Begins: Football in "Marvellous
Melbourne", 1877 to 1885
Grumpy Monks: Brisbane, 2014
ISBN: 9780646918655

Roy Hay and Bill Murray
A History of Football in Australia: A Game of Two Halves
Hardie Grant Books: Melbourne, 2014
ISBN: 9781742707648

David Thompson
The Rules That Made Australian Football: The Evolution of a
Unique Game, 1858 to 1879
Walla Walla Press: Sydney, 2013
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In 2013 Germaine Greer said of the University of Melbourne Archives, "Archives are the pay dirt of history – everything else is opinion." Three books that deal with football history from varying perspectives have been published during the last year. The four authors all relied heavily on documents to buttress and legitimate their work but their interpretation and use of the historical record vary.

At 627 pages the second volume of Mark Pennings' *Origins of Australian Football* series covers the period from 1877 to 1885 in meticulous detail. Pennings' ambitious intention is to document the statistical history of Australian football in Victoria from 1858 to 1896 in five volumes. The volumes published thus far may be considered books in two parts, with statistical and narrative sections.

The statistical section is arranged annually with club by club listings of players – a boon for genealogists. Pennings' methodology is the key to his book's legitimacy. He scoured newspapers throughout the state and beyond to compile every senior football match result in Victoria, as well as individual goal kickers and best players. Where there were differences in the record he weighted them according to preponderance, and where he could not find match details he leaves the record blank.

The narrative section consists of yearly chapters that present a week by week account of the game that cannot be captured through dry statistics. Themes such as recruiting players, footballers' injuries, and the behavior of crowds and footballers recur throughout. In doing so the book charts the piecemeal changes to the game during one of the code's more volatile eras.

The scope of the book covers the period when the first football associations were established in Victoria, Geelong's revolutionary tactics enabled it to dominate its Melbourne-based rivals, new clubs such as Fitzroy and Richmond were born, matches moved away from open parklands and onto enclosed cricket grounds, the game expanded into other Australasian colonies, and the first inter-colonial matches were played. The era also saw the popularisation of one of the Australian game's most iconic features – the high mark. This reinforces the fact that the game did not develop in a particular direction, but through ad hoc innovations by players and teams, and administrators capitalising on opportunities and rectifying perceived problems as they arose.

By the early 1880s the game of Australian football had diverged from British games to such an extent that English and Scottish immigrants, unimpressed by local football codes (or rugby in Sydney), formed the first football clubs that played to London's Football Association (soccer) rules. Roy Hay and Bill Murray's *A History of Football in Australia: A Game of Two Halves* charts the rise of Australian soccer from a game that until recently had been stereotyped as the foreigners' code to a sport that can capture the nation's attention.

Soccer's association with immigrant communities allowed the authors to look at football from a global perspective. Australian rules football and much of its literature was by necessity insular, whereas from the 1920s to the 1940s Australian soccer hosted tours from teams as diverse as Canada, South China, AFK Vrsovice (anglicised to Bohemians during the tour) from Czechoslovakia, India, Palestine and apartheid South Africa.

Australian soccer, unlike Australian rules, was also subservient to and affiliated with international bodies such as the English FA and FIFA. FIFA even suspended Australia from 1960 to 1963 after some Australian clubs recruited migrants without seeking clearances from their old European teams.

How each state dealt with Australia's immigration boom of the 1950s and 1960s was fascinating. The resulting reorganization of club football was fractious in some regions and harmonious in others. Yet all arrived at a similar structure by encouraging the decline of the district club system and permitting ethnic community clubs to dominate.

Soccer's rise to mainstream sport was slow. Although the first national football league of any code was initiated with the National Soccer League (NSL) in 1977, its constituent clubs

were generally the outgrowth of ethnic communities. It would take the sustained international success of Australia's national team in the first decade of the twenty-first century, along with the demise of the NSL and the emergence of the A-League in 2005 (with ethnically neutral city-branded franchises), before soccer reached its current high in popularity across all demographics. The last chapter is dedicated to the growth of the women's game.

However, soccer is far less popular than rugby league on Australia's eastern seaboard and Australian football just about everywhere else in the continent. Australia is one of the few countries that doesn't have an overwhelmingly dominant football code. Hay and Murray argue that this began in the 1870s and early 1880s when the various football codes became irreconcilable and their supporters gradually retreated into exclusive and parochial camps. They note that even after football games started to be codified (from the late 1850s to the early 1870s) the various games were still in flux, demonstrated by cross-code contests, and in the case of Melbourne, the influence of rules and developments in England. Thereby, they present what was happening in Melbourne in the late 1850s and early 1860s in the context of the wider, global games of football.

On the other hand, David Thompson in *The Rules That Made Australian Football* suggests that Australian football, which he stereotypes as "a catching and kicking game" (the title of the first chapter), differed greatly from British games from conception. Like Pennings, Thompson has undertaken a meticulous survey of the historical record. He supports his points with gleanings from newspapers and other firsthand accounts, and also presents contra arguments with respect. However, I find a few of his conclusions unconvincing.

Thompson, for example, links one description of a football player jumping to mark in 1862 with pre-colonial Aboriginal ballgames. However, the next known report of such a dramatic play was over a decade later (Thompson p.18) and the high mark would not be reported regularly in the press until the early 1880s (Pennings p.143). Thompson's connection of an isolated report from a football match with a remarkable feature of some traditional Aboriginal ballgames appears highly speculative.

The 1862 reference is not the basis of Thompson's belief that Aboriginal games influenced Australian football's founders to create "a catching and kicking game". Thompson sees Tom Wills in particular as a conduit between black and white sporting cultures. However, Hay and Murray (as I do) see Wills as being far less influential on the code and there is textual evidence that Rugby School football directed Wills' footballing biases – not traditional Aboriginal pastimes. Thompson admits that early links between Aboriginal catching and kicking ballgames and Australian football are "inferred" (p.23).

A good portion of the book is dedicated to origins and influences debates, but most of it is a wider survey of the game's evolution over its first twenty years. His research allowed him to draw deft insights into 1860s football, such as the importance of goal-sneaking. Although individual rules were very similar to those used in British games at the time, no British game had the exact recipe that was used in Melbourne, and very early on Melbourne's footballers capitalised on coupling marking with the absence of an off-side rule to score. Still, I would posit that the soccer-esque score-lines suggest it was a very congested game.

A number of Thompson's interpretations of documentary evidence are open to question, but I respect his willingness to seek and survey texts to understand football as it was played – as difficult as that is before snapshot photo exposure times, let alone film – and not rely on intuition, supposition and allusions to modern styles of play, as some *historians* do.

All three books were born out of an exhaustive knowledge of applicable texts, and all make contributions to understanding football in Australia. Pennings' volumes 1 and 2 are already the standard statistical reference texts for Australian football until 1885. While, Hay and Murray's *A History of Football in Australia* is a most readable and reliable account of Australian soccer's long journey. Thompson certainly makes me consider how Australian football was played during its seminal era, although I am not yet convinced by some of his conclusions.

The joy of studying history is that it is contentious, it lives. I doubt even Pennings' opus will draw a line under nineteenth century football statistics. Pennings, possibly due to a continuing thirst for facts, humbly admits as much in his introduction, writing "despite my best efforts, I know that there are errors in this book. I would very much welcome corrections or additions..." Football history is still open for rigorous discussion and refinement, and the games' archives are far from mined-out.

Trevor Ruddell

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