



# MCC News



## *A stylish addition*

Our new and improved facilities are proving popular with members.

# Tiger legend “KB” to join MCG sporting greats

Former Richmond Football Club champion, Kevin Bartlett, will be immortalised with a bronze statue outside the MCG as the latest addition to the Australia Post Avenue of Legends.

The statue of the five-time premiership player will be created by sculptor Lis Johnson, following her outstanding previous work on the Norm Smith, John Coleman, Neil Harvey and Jim Stynes statues situated in Yarra Park between MCG Gate 2 and Jolimont station. It is expected that the Bartlett statue will be completed and unveiled prior to the start of the AFL season next March.

During a 403-game career with Richmond between 1965 and 1983, including 27 finals, Bartlett was a highly skilful rover and goalkicker with evasiveness and stamina. He was a key figure in the glory era that saw the Tigers win four premierships in eight years from 1967-74.

The man known as “KB” was the first player to reach the rare 400-game milestone, with only Hawthorn’s Michael Tuck, Essendon’s Dustin Fletcher and North Melbourne’s Brent Harvey having since achieved the feat.

He won five club best and fairest awards, three of them in premiership years, as well as the Norm Smith Medal for the best afield in the 1980 VFL Grand Final. He also coached the Tigers for four seasons (1988-91).

“As a young kid I grew up in Lennox Street, Richmond in the shadows of the MCG and all my great football memories are about the MCG,” Bartlett told media after the announcement. “As I grew up as a young kid watching Footscray win the ‘54

premiership as a Bulldogs supporter in those days and then having the honour of playing in five Richmond grand finals at the MCG.

“I played my first game here, I played my milestones here, my 100th, 200th, 300th, 400th games and I played my last game here as well and also my first game as coach and my last game as coach.

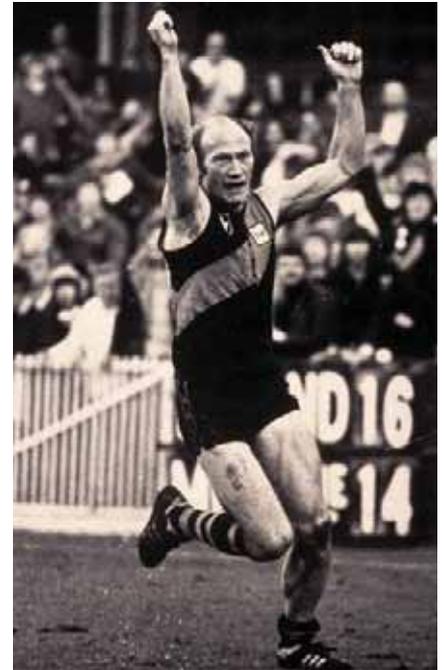
“So the MCG has had a big bearing on my life, it’s played a big part in my life and I’m absolutely thrilled. It’s a great honour.”

Bartlett’s 778 career goals tally is still the 12th highest in VFL/AFL history. He kicked 379 of them at the MCG, a then record at the venue that has since only been surpassed by Matthew Richardson (464), Matthew Lloyd (461), David Neitz (386) and Wayne Carey (380). He also played more VFL/AFL games at the MCG (200) than any other player.

He has been granted Legend status in the Australian Football Hall of Fame, is an “Immortal” in the Richmond Football Club Hall of Fame and was selected in Richmond’s Team of the Century. He has also been inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

Bartlett’s passion for the game has not waned since he hung up the playing boots. In addition to being a popular football media personality, he has served as an Australian Football Hall of Fame selector, an All Australian team selector and was a long-time and passionate member of the AFL Laws of the Game committee.

“There are few individuals who had as much impact, or achieved as many remarkable feats, at the MCG as Kevin did during his extraordinary playing career,” said MCC president Steven Smith.



“Renowned for his dedication, passion and sportsmanship, it is only fitting that ‘KB’ should be forever honoured outside the ground where so many of his on-field feats took place.”

“We acknowledge and thank Australia Post for their continued support for the Avenue of Legends, and more widely the sporting and cultural heritage of the MCG and surrounding precinct.”

Bartlett will be the 16th sportsperson with a statue outside the MCG, and the sixth to feature in the Australia Post Avenue of Legends.

## MCC contacts

**Mail** PO Box 175, East Melbourne, Vic, 8002

**T** (03) 9657 8888 **F** (03) 9650 5682

**Country and interstate** 1300 367 622

**Web** [www.mcc.org.au](http://www.mcc.org.au)

**Email** [membership@mcc.org.au](mailto:membership@mcc.org.au)

**Editorial contact** [communications@mcc.org.au](mailto:communications@mcc.org.au)

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## Our cover



The new Jim Stynes Grill, along with an upgraded Robert Flower Terrace, have been a big hit in the Members Reserve. See page 4.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 179th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Melbourne Cricket Club will be held on Wednesday August 17, 2016 at 8.00pm in the Members Dining Room. Full members are invited to attend.

Three sitting members of the MCC Committee and four nominees will offer themselves for election to the three vacancies at the AGM. Full members eligible to vote will already have received the appropriate papers with their 2016/17 renewal notices.

Sally Macindoe, Charles Sitch and Mark Smith are the committee members standing for re-election by rotation. Rowan Enright, John Mugavin, Stuart Stockdale and Christopher Stolz are presenting themselves for election at the ballot.

Please bring your photo ID membership card to gain access to the meeting. Parking will be available via Entrance A off Brunton Avenue.



# From the President

STEVEN SMITH, PRESIDENT

With the AFL season two-thirds complete, and winter well and truly set in, it is timely to reflect on the season so far, on the field and around the club.

From an MCG perspective, attendances in the first 17 rounds were slightly down compared to the same time last season. This can be attributed mainly to the modest form displayed by some of the bigger clubs – including Collingwood, Richmond, Carlton and Essendon – whom we rely on for some of our blockbuster attendances.

As the finals approach, we will be hoping the remaining Victorian clubs – in particular Hawthorn, Geelong Cats and Western Bulldogs – can finish in positions that enable them to host some early finals at the MCG. Also, as I write this, the Demons are 7-9 and showing some encouraging signs of progress in Paul Roos' final year as coach.

Attendances in the Members Reserve are tracking at the same levels as last season, despite our first intake of Provisional members being eligible to attend most of the matches.

Members will recall that we have introduced Provisional membership, which grants fewer benefits than that afforded Full or Restricted members, as a way of dealing with the ever-increasing wait time to join the club. We are closely monitoring any impact these additional members are having on demand for amenities and this was taken into account when electing next season's membership intake (see page 4).

One of the commitments the Committee made to members was that the club would provide more and better facilities for members at the MCG. To that end, we have been delighted with the addition of the Jim Stynes Grill and an upgraded Robert Flower Terrace to our offering this year.

The Jim Stynes Grill, featuring an a-la-carte menu for up to 270 people, has been extremely popular with members looking for a quality dining experience in more casual surrounds. Its fit-out was also recently recognised in the Melbourne Design Awards, which is a great accolade for our team.

The refurbishment of the Robert Flower Terrace on Level 4 was completed in time for Round 1 and has already become a regular meeting place for many members and their guests, particularly on the busier days. With the colder months upon us, the heaters and bi-fold doors have ensured the continued popularity of the bar.

It has also been a busy time away from event days. We were delighted with the



United States vice-president Joe Biden (second from right) journeyed to the MCG on July 17 to see Carlton v West Coast Eagles as part of a three-day visit to Australia. MCC president Steven Smith, AFL Commission chairman Mike Fitzpatrick and AFL CEO Gillon McLachlan were on hand to show Mr Biden the finer points of our indigenous game. (Image by AFL Photos)

success of our Norm Smith Oration in June, with a record number of members and guests in attendance. The Honourable Linda Dessau, Governor of Victoria, and Hawthorn coach Alastair Clarkson were brilliant speakers and the passion that they each hold for our great game was obvious.

We recently announced that Richmond Football Club legend Kevin Bartlett would be the next sportsperson to have a statue in the Australia Post Avenue of Legends outside the MCG. The statues have added a new dimension to the precinct since the first one, of Don Bradman, was unveiled 15 years ago. There is no doubt that the achievements of "KB" at the MCG make him a worthy addition and I look forward to sculptor Lis Johnson's interpretation of the wily rover when it is unveiled next year.

The most significant development within our club sport in recent times was the merger of MCC Tennis Section with Glen Iris Tennis Club to form MCC Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club, based in Mount Waverley. While the finer points are still being worked through, the agreement provides our tennis players with a permanent home, which had been uncertain for some time due to their former home at the Junction Oval soon to become the home of Cricket Victoria.

There was cause for celebration in late-June when we marked five years since the formation of the MCC Netball Section

with a cocktail party in the Long Room.

We have been delighted with the way the netballers have grown in number and enthusiasm since that initial match against Hong Kong Cricket Club set the wheels in motion. If you have a budding netballer amongst your family or friends, I am sure Shelley White and her committee would love to hear from you.

If you're more into writing than playing, we have partnered with The Footy Almanac to produce a forum for members to share their MCC/MCG stories in the form of an online blog. We know plenty of you have some fascinating stories worth telling, so be sure to visit [mcc.org.au/balconybanter](http://mcc.org.au/balconybanter) to find out more and to read the latest reports.

Finally, it is with much sadness that I note the recent decision by our highly regarded CEO, Stephen Gough, to retire next year. It will bring to an end a remarkably successful reign in charge of our club and the magnificent stadium we manage, during a period of great change and development.

We will have more to say about Stephen's achievements and his legacy as we near the end of the year. In the meantime it's business as usual, as we set about the task of identifying a suitable candidate to fill Stephen's big shoes for what is one of most highly sought-after positions in Australian sport.

# New facilities a big hit with members

The introduction of a new dining room and the upgrade of a bar facility in the MCC Reserve have been extremely popular additions to member amenities since the start of the AFL season.

As flagged in our last edition, the Jim Stynes Grill (pictured, top) operates as an additional dining room, available at all matches, in a more casual setting than the Members Dining Room. Located on Level 2 of the Olympic Stand (just outside the Reserve), it features an a-la-carte menu for up to 270 members and guests.

The stylish space was recognised with a silver medal in the hospitality interior design category at the Melbourne Design Awards. The thousands who have dined there this footy season would agree it is a wonderful, modern space and a very welcome addition to our extensive hospitality offering.

With the 'theatre of dining' being the main emphasis, it is a warm, welcoming and relaxed atmosphere that pays tribute to the late Jim Stynes' Irish heritage with selective use of green throughout. The room doubles as a conference facility, which we expect will be very popular on non-event days.

Offering high-quality meat and wines, the Jim Stynes Grill has quickly become a popular venue for members and their guests to enjoy a pre-game lunch or dinner and to enjoy a range of beverages. Members and guests have access to behind-glass, theatre-style seating in the room to view the match or they may return to the Members Reserve to access available walk-up seating or pre-purchased reserved seats.



With undercover outdoor space, impressive views of Yarra Park and Melbourne's CBD, bi-fold doors and heating, the refurbished Robert Flower Terrace (pictured, bottom) has also been a welcome addition. Located on Level 4 of the Reserve behind bay Q46, the terrace is fitted with seven large LED screens to keep you connected to all the action on the ground.

With flexibility to handle all weather conditions, including closed-in sliding doors, the terrace has undergone a refurbishment

and offers a selection of beers including Peroni, Fat Yak and Carlton Draught, with a choice of MCC wines also on offer.

For the food lovers, the new chicken burrito, which can be accompanied with the classic Colombian beer Aguila, is available exclusively in the Robert Flower Terrace.

If you haven't visited either facility this football season, make sure you check them out on your next visit. We would love to hear your feedback.

## Provisional members settle in

Members will recall that a Provisional membership category was introduced late last year as part of the committee's long-term aim of maintaining an acceptable waiting time for membership. With the membership season nearing its end, it is timely to report some early observations.

This third tier of membership carries fewer benefits and more limited access to the Members Reserve than those provided to Full and Restricted members. By reducing the number and type of events, and facilities within the Reserve, that Provisional members have access to, the introduction of these new members was expected to have minimal impact on existing members. Pleasingly, to this point our expectations have been met.

After 17 rounds of the AFL season, the average attendance in the Reserve

per match was 10,120 – comprising 5542 members and 4578 visitors. These numbers are slightly down compared to the same stage of last season, when we had welcomed an average of 10,569 people (5579 members and 4990 visitors), although the performance of a few Melbourne-based football teams has certainly had an impact on attendance.

Only three games have attracted more than 18,000 people in the Reserve, which was the threshold we set at the start of the season when assessing whether Provisional members would be granted access. None of those three matches - Richmond v Carlton (March 24), Melbourne v Richmond (April 24) and Collingwood v Essendon (April 25) – drew more than 20,000 people into our 23,000 capacity area.

Interestingly, this year a lower percentage of people have accepted

their offer of Provisional or Restricted membership than the historical trend of Restricted membership offers, although there are still a few weeks remaining in the membership season.

It is expected that around 8000 candidates will have accepted Provisional membership before the membership season ends on August 31.

In considering the intake of Provisional members for the 2016/17 season (see page 20 for details) the committee has decided to monitor the acceptance rate for another year to assess whether the uptake rate this season is the new norm. Therefore, the intake for next season is designed to introduce up to 10,000 new Provisional members – a total of 18,000 in two years – which will make significant inroads into our lengthy waiting list.

# Members honoured on Queen’s Birthday

Philanthropist Tony Beddison, former Victorian treasurer Alan Stockdale and sports broadcaster Graham “Smokey” Dawson were among 26 MCC members recognised in the 2016 Queen’s Birthday honours list.

MCC members were honoured for contributions across a wide range of fields, including education, medicine, finance, technology and military.

Beddison, pictured, was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for “...eminent service to the community through leading roles with national and international charitable organisations, as an advocate for corporate social responsibility, philanthropy and business innovation, to children’s health, and to business.”

In addition to his role as chairman of The Beddison Group, he is chairman of The Prince’s Charities Australia and for nine years served as chairman of Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne. He has also been a director of the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute and the Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation. He is currently a director of the



Australian War Memorial Anzac Foundation.

The club congratulates Mr Beddison and all other MCC members featuring in this year’s list, which is shown at right.

## AC (General Division)

BEDDISON, Anthony John

## AO (General Division)

BEST, Prof James Donovan

BOWES, Prof Glenn

CALLINAN, Nicholas Bernard

CRAWCOUR, Dr Edwin Sydney

STOCKDALE, The Hon Alan Robert

## AM (General Division)

DAWSON, Graham John

KENNEDY, Dr John Timothy

KING, Assoc Prof John Owen

LOGIE-SMITH, Robert George

NELSON, Rodney Harold

RYAN, Geoffrey Gordon

WILSON, Peter Alexander

## OAM (General Division)

CRIMMINS, Dr Bernard Bryan

INGE, Peter John

JAMIESON, James Greig

MCDOUGALL, Gregory

MESENGER, Phillip

MONGER, Alan

TAYLOR, Andrew Peter

TRAVERS, Dr Richard

WAUCHOPE, John

## Distinguished Service Medal

HARRIS, Scott

## Australian Police Medal

STEVENSON, Commander Dean Anthony

## Public Service Medal

JONES, Bronwyn

## Australian Fire Service Medal

PEARCE, John William

Do you know of an MCC member featured in this year’s honours list who is not acknowledged here? If so, please email us at [membership@mcc.org.au](mailto:membership@mcc.org.au).

## Share your MCC stories online



The MCC and the MCG are a huge part of our lives, and have provided us with so many wonderful moments. Every member has a story and it’s those stories which make the MCC such a rich community.

They are life stories and they are sporting stories; stories of exhilarating footy matches, grand final victories, brilliant innings and match-winning bowling performances. They are stories of family and friends and catching up in the Percy Beames Bar; they are stories of the things that matter to people.

Now, you can tell your story.

The club has teamed with The Footy Almanac to give MCC members “Balcony Banter”, an online forum to record some of those cherished memories and to tell their own stories.

Located at [mcc.org.au/balconybanter](http://mcc.org.au/balconybanter),

members can write a 600-1000 word piece about an MCG event they attended that weekend, intertwined with their own MCC/MCG connections and memories.

John Harms, who has been writing stories, and encouraging others to write, for many years is our editor and is very keen to hear from you.

If you would like to contribute, please select a match you are you going to attend at the MCG and contact John on [j.t.h@bigpond.net.au](mailto:j.t.h@bigpond.net.au) to let him know you would like to write a story and why.

To kick things off, Shannon Gill and Andrew Fithall shared their stories after watching the Queen’s Birthday clash between Melbourne and Collingwood, and there have been some great contributions each weekend since. We hope members enjoy them.

# CEO to depart after job well done

The MCC has commenced a search for a new chief executive officer, following Stephen Gough's decision to retire after more than 17 years in the position.

No date has been fixed for his departure, and the timing will depend on the appointment of a successor. However, it will most likely take effect during 2017.

"It is difficult to think of the MCC and the MCG without Stephen at the helm, but we understand that for him the time is right to retire," said MCC president Steven Smith. "He will leave the club in robust health, with both the MCC and MCG having gone from strength to strength during his tenure," Mr Smith said.

Stephen joined the MCC as CEO in 1999 after seven years as Carlton Football Club CEO, part of an 18-year association with the Blues after an earlier career as a teacher.

In addition to managing the MCG and its 3-4 million annual visitors, he has had responsibility for the one of the world's most unique clubs, with more than 110,000 members and another 240,000 people waiting to join.

While there will undoubtedly be more in-depth reflection on Stephen's key achievements and legacy in our next edition, some of the key highlights of the Gough era include redevelopment of the northern side of the MCG (complete with a new MCC Members Reserve); securing the management of Yarra Park and implementing a master plan that has drastically improved the park amenity; and renegotiating key venue agreements with AFL and Cricket Australia, guaranteeing long-term event content at the MCG for decades to come.

In making his announcement, Stephen said it had been a privilege to serve the MCC.

"It is with regret that I conclude my



time at the MCC, which has been such a major part of my life for the last 17 years," Mr Gough said. "However, I think it is an appropriate time for both the club and me."

"The reputation and connections that the club has, domestically and internationally, makes it such a great place to be involved with, and it has been a pleasure to be a part of that.

"The club has a strong and diverse set of skills within its committee, with great support from MCG Trustees. I wish to acknowledge these people and the staff, volunteers, members and our partners for

their efforts over the period that has made this time so enjoyable.

"I will certainly miss the challenges involved. However, I know the club is in a solid position to continue to perform as it has done over its long existence."

While he has achieved much, it hasn't gone unremarked by his colleagues that Stephen wasn't able to witness a Carlton premiership during his 17-year reign, proving that the MCC CEO doesn't have complete control of everything that happens at the 'G.

## Pat remembered fondly

It was with much sadness that we learned of the passing in May of long-time MCG event staff member, John Patrick (Pat) Kelly.

Pat was a regular on match days in the Long Room, Committee Room and Members Dining Room for more than 30 years, part of a five-decade association with the MCG. He was much loved and respected by many members and their guests.

Two of those members, Rhonda Scott and Jaya Naidu, felt compelled to contact the club after hearing that Pat had died.

"Pat always proudly upheld the values and traditions of the MCC in the members' area of the MCG," they co-wrote. "He was also an esteemed mentor to other

event staff.

"We could take our young guests to the Members Dining Room and have them push us to the limit with what they thought they could get away with regarding the dress code, but when Pat said 'Tuck your shirt in lad', or 'Do up your tie properly lad, they straightened up!'"

Pat and his lovely wife, Val, are pictured here at a dinner that a group of MCC members, including Rhonda and Jaya, held to acknowledge his 50-year milestone at the MCG and to thank him for his service. He was delighted to share this very special occasion with members and some of the event staff he had guided over the years.



# Museum draws a laugh

The National Sports Museum's latest exhibition, *Drawing a Laugh: Australian Sports Cartoons*, takes a look at the lighter side of sport.

The display uses humour and silliness to engage audiences on a wide range of sporting themes – from crazy rules and goofy fans through to sporting scandals and drug cheats.

The aim is to highlight how humour can be used to both reflect and shine new light on iconic moments and individuals, as well as the seemingly every-day or ordinary sporting pursuits.

“Cartoonists are very, very good at using humour to sneak right up on a tricky topic,” said National Sports Museum curator, Helen Walpole.

“As well as providing plenty of laughter and entertainment, the cartoons in this exhibition offer a unique commentary on all aspects of Australian sport – not just the big issues that capture the nation’s attention but also the regular weekend debate about whether the ball was in or out!”

“The National Sports Museum celebrates the passion and pride that sport generates amongst people in Australia, and we look forward to hearing heaps of laughter from kids and grown-ups alike in this latest exhibition.”

The side-splitting sketches on display include work by more than 30 of Australia’s greatest cartoonists, such as Mark Knight, Paul Harvey, Cathy Wilcox, Judy Horacek, John Shakespeare, *First Dog on the Moon* and David Squires.



An exhibition in the National Sports Museum examines cartoonists' use of humour when commenting on sporting issues. (Images by Mark Ashkanasy)

*Drawing a Laugh: Australian Sports Cartoons* will be updated regularly with fresh funnies through to 2018. The exhibition is included in standard museum entry.



## Olympic demonstration sports remembered

Our dedicated museums team has installed a display in the Reserve, just outside the Frank Grey Smith Bar, that focused on the two demonstration sports held at the MCG during the 1956 Olympics – Australian football and baseball.

The items on display include a VAFA team guernsey worn by MCC member and former assistant secretary, Bryce Thomas, during the Australian football demonstration and a bat used during the baseball demonstration, which was donated by former MCC Baseball Section player Max Lord.

The material will be on display until mid-December, available during the 60-year anniversary of the Melbourne Games in November/December this year.



## Olympic education a winner

The National Sports Museum is celebrating the Games as we mark 60 years since the Melbourne Olympics and look forward to the Rio Games in August.

An Olympic-themed package for school groups allows students to experience this unforgettable learning opportunity about sport on a global stage. The activities include meeting an Australian Olympian and hearing about their experiences, taking an Olympic-themed tour of the MCG and hours of fun in the NSM.

Judging by the feedback, it's a gold medal offering.

“This is the first time the students have met an Olympian and they loved the experience,” said the co-ordinators from Warranwood Primary School. “They were captivated throughout the entire talk and it was great to hear the Olympians’ discussion about setting and achieving goals.”

Find out more at [nsm.org.au](http://nsm.org.au).

# A night well slept

A record 922 participants braved the elements and slept on cardboard boxes at the MCG on Thursday May 26 to help put youth homelessness to bed.

The MCC, in conjunction with Melbourne City Mission, raised awareness and vital funds to help the 6000 Victorian youths who don't have a place to call home every night by opening the gates of the MCG.

With participants served hot soup and bread rolls and given a cardboard box, the event aims to provide an insight into sleeping rough for one evening and understanding the difficulties many young people of Melbourne face on a day-to-day basis.

Highlights of the night included live performances from Dave Larkin and Peter Satchell of Dallas Crane, Darren Middleton, and the Sand Dollars. There were also spirited games of giant Jenga and Connect 4, and some very impressive forts built by many teams.

A number of teams got into the spirit of the occasion and lent considerable support. A group of MCC staff raised



well in excess of \$23,000 and had more than 20 participants, which is a measure of their commitment to this worthy cause. Other organisations to follow suit included Hayball, Justice League, VicSuper and IFM Investors.

In the previous three years, the event has raised a combined \$1.3 million for homeless youth. By the end of the evening, this year's event had raised an impressive \$492,142 – the biggest total for a single Sleep at the 'G yet.



# A stomping success

On a fine, yet very cold winter's morning, almost 3500 participants took on Australia's ultimate stair climbing challenge at the MCG on June 26.

Now into its fourth year, Stadium Stomp takes registrants around the lower and upper seating levels of the 'G, soaking in great views and atmosphere along the way before completing a half lap along the boundary of the hallowed turf to finish.

With the choice of the half course (level 1) or full course (levels 1 and 4) available to participants, the event is not for the faint hearted – especially those taking the challenge of all 7343 steps of the MCG in the full course.

While the MCG pioneered this event in 2013, it has now grown to a four-stadium program involving Adelaide Oval, Gabba and SCG. Although it's safe to say none offers quite the steep vertical climb as does the top level of the 'G.

The fun atmosphere of the day, including music playing throughout the stadium and great encouragement from volunteers and fellow stair climbers, helps to make the

challenge slightly easier.

The event also encourages fundraising, with Stadium Stomp and the Leukaemia Foundation joining forces for a great cause and exceeding \$70,000 raised this year alone.

While many participants will be feeling a bit sore over the next few days, they can be proud of what they achieved, and they will never look at the mighty MCG in quite the same way again!



**SUNDAY OCTOBER 2**  
**BRING THE FAMILY, IT'S FREE!**  
**REGISTER AT MCG.ORG.AU**

# Pakistan, Kiwis to grace the 'G

## 2016/17 cricket at the MCG

### Boxing Day Test

December 26-30  
Australia v Pakistan

### One-Day internationals

December 9  
Australia v New Zealand

January 15  
Australia v Pakistan

Note: Cricket Australia has yet to confirm the venues hosting Twenty20 internationals between Australia and Sri Lanka in February.

### T20 Big Bash League (men's)

January 1  
Stars v Renegades

January 10  
Stars v Strikers

January 17  
Stars v Heat

January 21  
Stars v Sixers

### T20 Big Bash League (women's)

January 1  
Stars v Renegades

MCC members will have the rare opportunity to see Pakistan's talented cricketers in action when they take on Steve Smith's Australia in this year's Boxing Day Test.

Led by veteran Misbah ul Haq, it will be Pakistan's first Test series in Australia in seven years and the first time they will play on Boxing Day since 2004. And they will come here confident of victory, having lost just three of its last 18 Test series, including defeating Australia in their last encounter in the UAE two years ago.

New Zealand will return to the MCG for the first time since its World Cup Final loss in March last year when it plays a 50-over match on December 9. Pakistan will also don the coloured clothing for a one-day match on January 15.

The MCG will host four Melbourne Stars men's BBL matches and one women's BBL match, with the highlight being a

doubleheader on New Year's Day between crosstown rivals Stars and Renegades.

Last season, the two teams smashed the domestic cricket attendance record, with 80,883 watching the Stars triumph on January 2. It's a benchmark that might not last for long.

MCC visitor tickets and reserved seats to all MCG international matches will go on on October 19 at 9.00am. An on-sale date for BBL matches had not been confirmed as we went to print.

A limit of four visitor tickets each will apply to Full and Restricted members on all days except Day 1 of the Boxing Day Test, when there is a limit of two.

All other details pertaining to the 2016/17 cricket season, including Provisional member match categories and access, will be made available to members in October.



## Join team green at the 'G

Cricket season is around the corner, and with that comes a chance to upgrade your MCC membership and become a Star in BBL06 for just \$45.

Stephen Fleming's team was agonisingly close to winning last year's title, falling to Sydney Thunder in the final, and they'll be looking to go one step further when the tournament starts after Christmas.

MCC Star member benefits include a Melbourne Stars personalised membership card, a BBL06 Melbourne Stars MCC membership pack and general admission access to the Renegades v Stars match at

Etihad Stadium (subject to capacity).

There is also exclusive member-only communication, Stars merchandise discounts, plus the choice of an MCC/Stars seat cushion or a Melbourne Stars carry bag.

To upgrade, select the Melbourne Stars membership when renewing your MCC membership for the 2016/17 season and support the MCG's only BBL team.





# Singapore sports tour a raging success

**M**CC ventured to one of its reciprocal clubs, Singapore Cricket Club, in April to compete in a multisport tour. What followed was a week of close, friendly competition and first-class hospitality.

The two clubs have competed many times since the XXIX Club first travelled to Singapore in 1969. Cricket, golf and bowls have been the most prevalent sports played between the two clubs.

A touring party of 87 players, partners and club officials arrived in Singapore to play a series of cricket, golf, hockey, netball, squash and tennis matches. In each of those sports there was an 'official/trophy' match, as well as 'social' matches, with SCC using their home ground advantage to outpoint us in the majority of contests.

Our cricketers included a mix of players from our Premier club – ranging from first to fourth eleven experience – as well as MCC Club XI players, MCC members from other Premier clubs, past MCC players and some members currently residing in Singapore.

Singapore won the 50-over trophy match comfortably, chasing down our 146 total with seven wickets and plenty of overs to spare. We did, however, save some face by securing a tie in the social match, thanks to a run out on the last ball.

Our golfers enjoyed two social matches,

at Raffles Country Club and Jurong Country Club, with the trophy match played in between at the challenging Seletar Country Club in hot and humid conditions. There were 40 players in the stableford competition, with the final result a draw with both clubs on 135 points apiece.

On the squash court, MCC triumphed in the trophy contest by six matches to five, while the tennis "trophy" match was won easily by the hosts, seven sets to one.

On the hockey pitch, whether artificial or grass, we squared the contest at one match each, losing the trophy match 11-2 during a severe downpour before winning the social match 4-3.

For the second time, netball participated in an MCC multi-sports tournament, its second international overseas visit in the section's short history, following a Hong Kong Cricket Club tour two years ago.

Despite the unfamiliar humidity, our netball trophy team (comprising players from the club's two Premier teams) proved too strong for our hosts, winning 63-14. This was followed by a social game that also resulted in an MCC victory, 38 goals to 17.

Tori Walker and Nicky Lock were adjudged most valuable players in the trophy match, while Jess Sewell's outstanding defence saw her awarded best afield honours in the social encounter. A

further two netball social matches were played later in the week, with MCC again too strong and too tall, winning 49-19 and 31-18 to give the netballers a clean sweep.

Off the field, there were two official functions hosted by the SCC, both held in a specially erected dining marquee over the club's synthetic netball/tennis courts to accommodate the large numbers from both clubs.

The first occasion was a welcome cocktail party, where we were warmly welcomed by SCC president, Captain Baldev Singh, to which club manager Mark Anderson responded. The various sports were introduced before everyone enjoyed plentiful offerings of delightful cocktail snacks and accompanying beverages.

A tournament dinner was held at the end of the week, at which we presented our wonderful hosts with a gift to commemorate our visit – framed cricket caps; the original MCC playing cap that was reproduced as part of our 175-year celebrations and the modern day cap. SCC reciprocated by presenting a special Singapore-shaped glass plaque.

We thank the Singapore Cricket Club for their organisation and hospitality, in an event that served to enhance the warm relationship that is shared between the two clubs.



## MCC netball turns five

There was much to celebrate when members of the MCC Netball Section and club representatives gathered for a cocktail party in the Long Room in June to mark five years since the formation of our youngest section.

The genesis of the MCC Netball Section was the formation of teams to play against the visiting Hong Kong Cricket Club Netball Section in 2011. An immediate success, the idea of MCC teams playing in formal competition quickly developed.

Initially a special interest group, three MCC teams entered the Parkville Netball Competitions enjoying immediate success by winning the 2011 Monday night open A1 premiership in their inaugural season.

Netball's place within the MCC was recognised when granted Sporting Section status in 2013. The number of teams soon grew to five and in the spring of 2014, an undefeated season by the MCC1 side was capped off with the Premier Open Division 3 title.

The teams compete in the Parkville Netball Competitions at the State Netball and Hockey Centre and are led by the club's head coach, Heather Dawkins, supported by three assistant coaches.

Our top two teams play in Premier divisions on Tuesday evenings whilst the other three compete in Monday night open grades.

If you or someone you know is a budding netballer keen to get involved, please email [mccnetball@gmail.com](mailto:mccnetball@gmail.com) for more information.



TOP LEFT: MCC vice-president Stephen Spargo with Netball Section chairperson Shelley White at a Long Room cocktail party to mark the fifth anniversary of the formation of MCC netball. RIGHT AND BELOW: Some of the women who continue to wear the club colours with pride on the netball court.

# Our search for precious cricket history

For a club with such a rich and successful history on the cricket field, it has been both perplexing and frustrating that we are missing some iconic team photographs from a golden age of MCC cricket.

The MCC has won 20 First XI premierships in the Victorian Cricket Association (now Cricket Victoria) District/Premier competition since joining in 1914. And we've produced some wonderful cricketers in that time, including more than 40 Australian Test players.

However, an audit of our archives confirms that we do not have a First XI premiership photo from any of the following flag-winning seasons - 1919/20, 1929/30 and the four won in succession in 1934/35, 1935/36, 1936/37 and 1937/38.

Vernon Ransford, Warwick Armstrong, Keith Tolhurst, Hans Ebeling, Keith Rigg, 'Chuck' Fleetwood Smith, Bill Ponsford and Percy Beames are just some of the club and Australian greats who played in these premierships.

We would dearly love to track down anyone who might be a descendant of a former MCC cricketer, or is aware of the existence of any photos from this era.



The 1914/15 MCC First XI premiership team. The club is searching for similar photos from a number of other premierships in the 1920s and 1930s. Source: MCC Museum (M310).

If you can help, please contact MCC cricket co-ordinator Steven McCooke on (03) 9657 8888 or [membership@mcc.org.au](mailto:membership@mcc.org.au).

## Tennis Section merger leads to new home

The MCC Tennis Section will be playing at new facilities in Mount Waverley after formalising a merger agreement with Glen Iris Tennis Club to become MCC Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club.

At the time of going to print, some of the specifics of the arrangement, including club colours, were still being finalised. However, after a lengthy period of uncertainty at their former home at the Junction Oval, our tennis players and administration now have a permanent court to call home.

As part of the relocation from Junction Oval, the section donated some excess tennis nets to the Oceania Tennis Federation (via Tennis Australia). These nets have subsequently been allocated to Tennis Fiji and put to good use at the Oceania Championships in Suva in June.

## Tennis girls win title

The MCC Tennis Section women's team won the Tennis Victoria Premier League title in April, convincingly defeating top-of-the-ladder Liston at what will be their new home in Mount Waverley.

After finishing runners up in the Asia Pacific Tennis League South Conference in December, MCC went one better to win the state's top inter-club competition by four rubbers to nil.

The win was spearheaded by 16-year-old Jaimee Fourlis, who was recently named

Tennis Victoria female athlete of the year and also reached the second round of the girls singles at Wimbledon.

Fourlis teamed with Bojana Bobosic to win the opening doubles match, before Genevieve Lorbergs and Jessica Brzozowska emerged victorious in a much tougher contest.

In the singles rubbers, Fourlis and Lorbergs showed their fighting spirit to seal victory for MCC, after both lost their opening set.



# Gotch awarded inaugural Paul Sheahan Trophy

Seb Gotch and Hayley Jensen were awarded the men's and women's club champion trophies respectively at the MCC Cricket Presentation Dinner held on April 15 in the Members Dining Room.

The men's trophy itself was renamed in honour of immediate past-president and former Australian Test batsman, Paul Sheahan. Gotch took out the Paul Sheahan Trophy for the best player in the First XI, having made 590 runs at 49.17, including impressive knocks of 173, 118 and 98.

Jensen also earned the Players' MVP Award on the back of her 585-run season that included a century and a 99, scored at an average of 48.80, coupled with taking 17 wickets.

Hayley was also named in Cricket Victoria's Premier Cricket Team of the Year, while MCC curator Scott West again earned the 'Best Curator Award' after the Albert Cricket Ground was rated the best pitch and outfield in the competition.

The Brian Watson Memorial Award for 'most outstanding performance by an MCC cricketer' was awarded to Sam Harper who, after becoming the youngest ever wicket-keeper to be selected for Victoria, then took a record nine catches on debut.

Jackson Koop and Amy Yates were named the XXIX Club-sponsored Youth Cricketers of the Year. Fourth XI captain Alistair McCooke was awarded Best Club Person. MCC Club XI players of the season

were Ray Smith (Reds) and Laurie Heath (Blues).

The retirements of long-serving MCC players, Nick Quinn and Ashley Farr, were acknowledged at the dinner. And while the club's band of volunteers was again recognised, this year there were two special service award presentations.

Michael Symons, our First XI scorer since 1995/96, gave notice of his intention to stand down, having scored 363 First XI games for MCC and 403 overall including his brief stint at South Melbourne. Mike Ringham, our club statistician and former long-term First XI scorer from 1975 to 1992, was in attendance and acknowledged for more than 40 years' outstanding service in maintaining the club's statistical records.

## New women's coach

In the off season, the club appointed Bryan Harper as its women's cricket coach.

Bryan is no stranger to the MCC as a former player and men's head coach, and father of established MCC First XI player Sam and elder brother Jack, who has joined the club for next season from Monash Tigers.

Bryan first joined MCC as a player in the mid-80s and went onto forge a highly decorated playing and coaching career at Caulfield Cricket Club.

He coached St Kilda for two seasons before his coaching journey brought him to MCC, where he led us to three club championships and multiple lower grade premierships in his four seasons at the helm.



Scenes from the MCC Cricket Presentation Dinner. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Men's club champion Seb Gotch with Paul Sheahan; the women's T20 Second XI premiers; Brian Watson Memorial Award winner Sam Harper with MCC vice-president David Crow; Nick Quinn (centre) with youth cricketers of the year Amy Yates and Jackson Koop; Michael Sholly presents Hayley Jensen with the women's club champion trophy.



## White to boost MCC playing stocks

Former Australia Twenty20 captain Cameron White has agreed to play for MCC in next season's Premier Cricket competition, after 10 seasons with Richmond/Monash Tigers.

The 32-year-old right-hand batsman and leg-break bowler brings with him a wealth of first-class cricket experience and strong leadership credentials. He led the Victorian Bushrangers to three Sheffield Shields and numerous limited overs titles and has represented Australia 139 times, including four Test matches.

White is looking forward to the challenge, and a fresh start.

"I have a strong desire to represent my country and state and I believe that the MCC will provide me with the best environment to achieve these goals," he said. "It has a very talented list of young players and I look forward to working with them to ensure they fulfil their potential."

The MCC's Premier Cricket campaign commences with the opening round to be played on Friday September 30, the day before the AFL Grand Final.



# Norm Smith Oration delivers again, function season in full swing

An undoubted highlight of the wide range of club functions held recently was the Norm Smith Oration on June 8, with more than 400 members and guests packed into the Members Dining Room for the MCC's premier football function.

They were treated to passionate and thought-provoking addresses on football by Governor of Victoria, The Hon Linda Dessau, and Hawthorn coach Alastair Clarkson.

In her toast to football, which she described as "the game I've loved since, well, forever", Governor Dessau, a former AFL commissioner, opened by reminiscing about her childhood dream to play for Essendon.

"Obviously in the ruck," she drily observed in reference to her lack of height.

She spoke of her knowledge of some of football's distinct personalities and was more than happy to reel off her understanding of some of the clubs' Latin mottos. Richmond's 'eat 'em alive' - translated into English as 'I might just have a little nibble' - brought much laughter to the room.

Admitting that a lot of what she knows about football came from Kevin Sheedy, she said most importantly she learnt that the game belongs to everyone.

"Football is something very dear to many people," she said. "That oval ball and oval field of play do bring us together. They can absolutely unite us, even when tribal loyalties drive us apart."

Before raising her glass to toast football, the Governor highlighted that football mirrors life and the way it gives back in

kind, allowing all who follow to have a sense of belonging, joined by a common love and a common family, the football family.

In his response, Clarkson opened by listing defining features of Australian football he argued must be zealously preserved. Among them, he included the bounce, the oval ball and the ability of players to tackle each other from any angle.

Clarkson pointed out that AFL is a very complex game and detailed his observations of world sports such as basketball and soccer and how they evolve through tactics, culture and values.

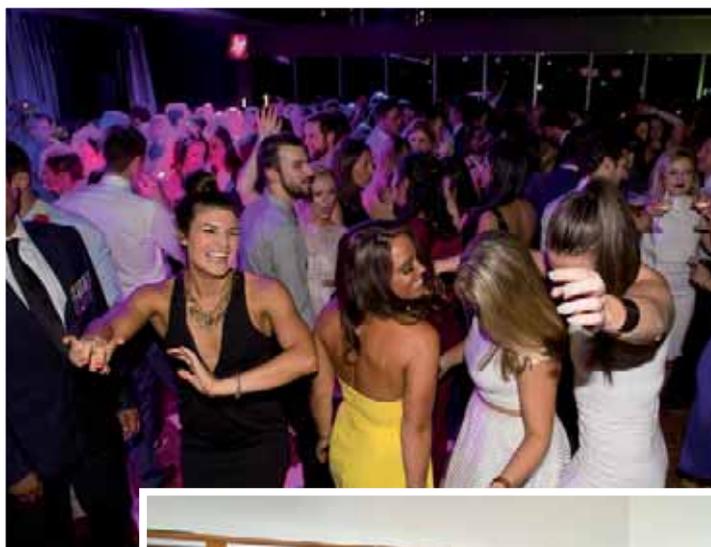
"Australian football is played on the biggest surface of any ballistic ball sport in world, over the longest period of time and with the most number of participants on field at any time," he said. "I have travelled the world and seen a lot of great sport, but

I'm yet to see a game as great as Australian football."

Alastair spoke passionately about why we need to preserve the bounce, the tackle, the grass roots areas and the gems of the game, believing that the best pathway to do this is nurturing and developing talent from a young age. He also addressed the medical situation confronting one of his own players, Jarryd Roughead, and how the AFL community comes together when teammates are in need.

Back in March, the footy season was kicked off with the annual MCG Footy Season Launch Luncheon on March 23. Compere Tim Lane drew some insightful responses from St Kilda development coach, Peta Searle, before steering a panel comprising Saints captain Nick Riewoldt and Western Bulldogs skipper Robert Murphy through the game's big issues.





Two weeks earlier, the Members Dining Room hosted the annual Comedy Blockbuster at the 'G on March 10. After pre-drinks and dinner in the Hugh Trumble Cafe, members and guests were entertained by a top-class lineup of comedians, including Dave O'Neil, Denise Scott, Jeff Green and Tommy Little.

At the conclusion of the comedy lineup, everyone moved into the Percy Beames Bar where they could grab a drink and be entertained with live music - a great way to end a fabulous night of entertainment.

A full house also attended the year's first Comedy @ the 'G event on May 14 in the lead up to the Richmond v Sydney Swans match. Sami Shah kicked off the evening with hilarious tales of his time as a comedian in Pakistan and the reality of his new life in the small regional town of Northam in Western Australia. He was followed by the talented Daniel Connell before Showko, the 'made in Japan' comedian, wowed the audience with her ventriloquy.

The Young Members' Anzac Ball was again held on April 23, due to the Melbourne v Richmond AFL match being played at the MCG on Anzac Eve, with plenty of good times and dancing in the Members Dining Room. Plans are in place for the next ball on September 3. See page 18 for details.

While the on-field results on either day didn't go the Demons' way, there was much enjoyment among MFC/MCC dual

members at game day functions on April 2 (vs Essendon) and June 4 (vs Hawthorn). The functions feature lunch or dinner with afternoon tea or supper, pre-match drinks and MFC past and present player appearances. Former Demons Paul Hoggood and Chris Heffernan were just some of those who were grilled on stage by fellow Demon Russell Robertson.

On May 29, the Women of MCC special interest group hosted its annual Women in Football event in the Committee Room, prior to the Collingwood v Western Bulldogs match. The packed room heard plenty of insights from Richmond president Peggy O'Neal, while an auction during the day raised funds for the Lord's Taverners to assist young and disadvantaged girls pursue their sporting interests.

Finally, about 160 members and guests savoured the culinary offerings from talented chef, Adam D'Sylva, and his team at the Celebrity Chef Long Room Dinner on July 14. They were most impressed.



# Bradman Luncheon honours the Don

As always, there will be much to discuss when members and guests gather in the Members Dining Room for The Bradman Luncheon on August 25.

Australia's three-Test tour of Sri Lanka will have just concluded, with interest surrounding Steven Smith's team's ability to master the slower, turning pitches on the sub-continent.

Held near the birthday of "The Don", in honour of Australia's greatest cricketer, this all-inclusive, three-course luncheon is not to be missed by any cricket enthusiast. A guest speaker was being finalised as we went to print.

Bookings opened on July 12 and can be made via the club's website, over the phone or in person at the Membership Services Office.



## BRADMAN LUNCHEON

<b>WHEN</b>	Thursday August 25
<b>TIME</b>	12.00pm for 12.30pm
<b>WHERE</b>	Members Dining Room
<b>COST</b>	\$115 (members) \$130 (guests)

## Lunch at the 'G on grand final eve

Bookings are now being taken for the traditional Grand Final Eve Luncheon on Friday September 30, with tables in the Members Dining Room and Long Room still available.

With a public holiday again in place the day before football's biggest day of the year, there is no better way to prepare for the grand final than lunch with friends at the home of footy.

The all-inclusive package features a delicious three-course lunch and a three-and-a-half-hour beverage package comprising selected beer, wine, sparkling

and soft drinks. If that's not enough, a cash bar will operate in the Percy Beames Bar for an hour after lunch concludes.

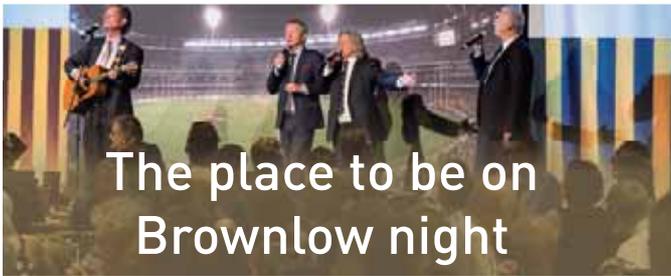
There are three sitting times available – 11.30am, 12.00pm and 12.30pm – and you'll need to act fast to secure your table, as demand is expected to be strong. To make a booking, or for further details, please contact the club office on (03) 9657 8888.



## YOUR FUNCTIONS CALENDAR

There's a broad range of entertaining functions to cater for members during the next six months. Please mark your diaries and keep an eye on the club website, email newsletters and social media for updates during the year.

DAY	DATE	FUNCTION	BOOKINGS OPEN	VENUE
Wednesday	August 17	MCC Annual General Meeting	N/A	Members Dining Room
Thursday	August 18	Young Members' Scotch Tasting Evening	SOLD OUT	Long Room
Sunday	August 21	MFC/MCC Game Day Function (Carl v Melb)	Now open	Hans Ebeling Room
Thursday	August 25	The Bradman Luncheon	Now open	Members Dining Room
Saturday	September 3	Young Members' Bal - Old Hollywood Glamour	July 19	Members Dining Room
Wednesday	September 14	Members' Culinary Centre Experience	Ballot: August 2-9	MCG Culinary Centre
Monday	September 26	Brownlow Dinner with the Coodabeens	Ballot: August 9-11	Members Dining Room
Friday	September 30	Grand Final Eve Dining	Now open	Long Room and Members Dining Room
Thursday	October 20	Women in Sport - Celebrating the Olympics	September 20	Committee Room
Saturday	November 5	MCC XXIX Club Annual Dinner	N/A	Members Dining Room
Wednesday	November 16	MCC Sporting Sections Annual Dinner	N/A	Members Dining Room
Thursday	November 24	Annual 50-Year Members' Lunch	N/A	Members Dining Room
Friday	November 25	Annual 50-Year Members' Lunch	N/A	Members Dining Room
Wednesday	December 7	New 50-Year Members' Lunch	N/A	Members Dining Room
Thursday	December 8	Members' Dinner	October 25	Members Dining Room
Sunday	December 25	Christmas Day Lunch	July 19	Members Dining Room
Monday	December 26	Boxing Day Breakfast	November 8	Members Dining Room
Tuesday	December 27	Women in Cricket Test Breakfast	November 8	Members Dining Room



## The place to be on Brownlow night

Expect a night full of fun, hilarious wisecracks and unexpected surprises as the Coodabeen Champions return for the 11th annual Brownlow Dinner on Monday September 26 in the Members Dining Room.

This function has long been one of the most popular on the annual calendar and it's thanks to the Coodabeens' side-splitting and famed brand of comedy, which leaves a lasting impression on all who attend.

The evening will commence with pre-drinks in the Long Room before moving to the Members Dining Room, where a three-course meal will be served and everyone will be kept up-to-date with the real Brownlow Medal count with crosses to the

telecast throughout the evening.

Due to the overwhelming popularity of this function, a ballot will be conducted to give all members a fair chance of attending.

Registrations will be taken from Tuesday August 9 at 9.00am until Thursday August 11 at 5.00pm via the club website. The function is open to Full and Restricted members, who can each bring up to three guests.

### BROWNLOW DINNER WITH THE COODABEENS

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>Monday September 26</b>
<b>TIME</b>	<b>7.00pm for 7.30pm</b>
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>Members Dining Room</b>
<b>COST</b>	<b>\$135 (members) \$150 (guests)</b>



## Members' Dinner tradition continues

When the inaugural Members' Dinner was held in 1994, few would have predicted that a tradition was in the midst. So it is, though, that this members-only, black-tie affair will be held for the 23rd time later this year.

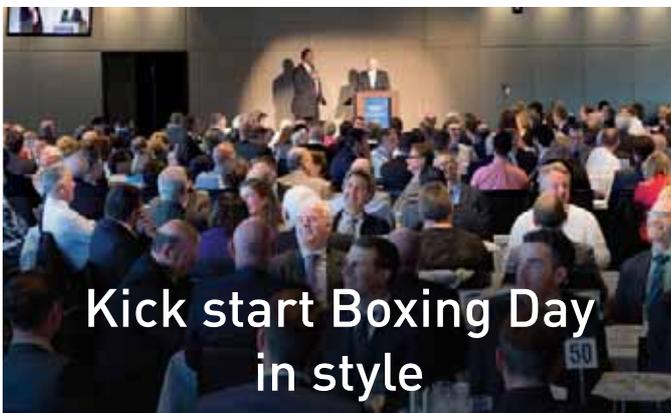
Richard Hadlee, Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge, Kim Hughes, Wes Hall, Jeremy Coney, Sunil Gavaskar, Graham Gooch, Rod Marsh, Greg Chappell, Matthew Hayden and Stephen Fleming are just some of the prominent cricketers to have graced the stage on previous occasions. This year's line-up is sure to be of a similar ilk.

As we went to press, we were working around the availability of guest speakers and therefore a date for the event had not been confirmed, although it is expected to be in the first half of December.

Guest speaker announcements will be made via the MCC website in the coming weeks and bookings will open on Tuesday October 25.

This prestigious evening will include canapés on arrival and a three-course meal with fine wines and beverages.

Tickets cost \$135 per member and bookings will be accepted on a first-in, first-served basis.



## Kick start Boxing Day in style

A tradition for many on Boxing Day is to start the day early in the Members Dining Room for the Boxing Day Breakfast.

Whilst our guest speaker for this year's event is yet to be confirmed, there is no better way to kick off our biggest cricket day on the annual MCC calendar than hearing from the big names in the game.

The breakfast is hosted by Australian fast-bowling favourite Damien Fleming. Full and Restricted members may each bring up to two guests and bookings include reserved seats on Level 2 to

watch the day's play.

Bookings will be accepted on a first-in, first-served basis from Tuesday November 8 at 9.00am.

Members are reminded they should pre-purchase their visitor ticket requirements for guests as it cannot be guaranteed they will be available on the day.

### BOXING DAY BREAKFAST

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>Monday December 26</b>
<b>TIME</b>	<b>7.30am - 9.30am</b>
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>Members Dining Room</b>
<b>COST</b>	<b>\$85 (members) \$95 (guests)</b>



## Pad up for Day 2 breakfast

The annual Women in Cricket Test Breakfast hosted by Angela Pippas will again be held in the Members Dining Room on Day 2 of the Boxing Day Test.

While this year's line up is yet to be confirmed, notable guests in recent years have included Meg Lanning, Michael Vaughan, Wasim Akram, Ian Healy, Sarah Elliott and last year's special guest, Simon Katich.

Full and Restricted members are welcome to bring up to four guests (of either gender). The breakfast package includes a reserved seat on Level 2 of the

Members Reserve to take in the day's play.

Bookings will be taken from Tuesday November 8 at 9.00am on a first-in, first-served basis. Members must ensure they pre-purchase visitor tickets for their guests as a function booking does not admit guests into the Members Reserve.

### WOMEN IN CRICKET TEST BREAKFAST

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>Tuesday December 27</b>
<b>TIME</b>	<b>7.30am - 9.30am</b>
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>Members Dining Room</b>
<b>COST</b>	<b>\$85 (members) \$95 (guests)</b>

# Celebrate Christmas at the 'G

Give yourself a break this year and leave all the festive duties in the capable hands of EPICURE.

Enjoy Christmas Day lunch with family and friends in the Members Dining Room on the eve of the Boxing Day Test against Pakistan. There may even be a visit from Santa Claus himself.

An extensive Christmas Day menu is provided complete with all your Christmas favourites including seafood, turkey, pork and roasted vegetables.

The dessert buffet will be a sweet spectacle not to be missed, featuring gingerbread, mince pies, plum pudding, chocolate mousse, panettone, cheesecake, pavlova, profiteroles and so much more!

A copy of the menu is available on the club website.

Bookings open on July 19 and there is no limit to the size of your party. Bookings will close on Friday December 9 unless sold out beforehand.

### CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON

<b>WHEN</b>	Sunday December 25
<b>TIME</b>	11.45am for 12.30pm
<b>WHERE</b>	Members Dining Room
<b>COST</b>	\$185 (adults) \$145 (adolescent 12-17 ) \$45 (children 4-11)



# Celebrating Hollywood's golden age



Taste of Hollywood will come to the MCG when the Young Members' Ball is held on September 3 in the Members Dining Room.

Members and guests aged 18-40 are invited to this specially themed Old Hollywood Glamour night, as we toast the pre-1960s golden age of Hollywood. Come dressed in your finest tribute to the movie stars of the past, whether it be Katharine Hepburn, Greta Garbo or Marilyn Monroe – or for the gents, a touch of Cary Grant or James Dean may be in order.

Enjoy pre-dinner drinks and canapés in the Long Room before moving to the main

dining room where you will feast on a three-course dinner throughout the evening.

Bookings open on Tuesday July 19 and will be taken on a first-in, first-served basis. Each member may bring up to five guests.

### YOUNG MEMBERS' BALL

<b>WHEN</b>	Saturday September 3
<b>TIME</b>	7.00pm for 7.45pm
<b>WHERE</b>	Members Dining Room
<b>COST</b>	\$125 (members) \$145 (guests)

# Dinner with a difference

After a successful debut last year, members and their guests can go behind-the-scenes and receive unprecedented access into the MCG culinary centre for an intimate dinner on Wednesday September 14.

Seated within EPICURE's biggest kitchen at the ground, you can savour a specially prepared four-course meal with matched beverages. Take a tour through the centre, watching chefs as they prepare your meal and taste canapés made before your eyes.

EPICURE's head chefs will be on hand to provide insights into running one of the biggest commercial kitchens in Melbourne and preparing hundreds of meals on a daily basis. Attendees will also go

home with some special gifts and wonderful memories to share with family and friends.

Located in the basement of the MCG, the culinary centre is the hub of food preparation for function rooms and corporate dining spaces throughout the stadium.

There is a very limited number of places available, so a ballot will be held if demand exceeds supply. Registrations will be open from Tuesday August 2 at 9.00am until Tuesday August 9 at 5.00pm. Full and Restricted members may each bring up to one guest and a maximum of four people per booking applies.



### CULINARY CENTRE EXPERIENCE

<b>WHEN</b>	Wednesday September 14
<b>TIME</b>	7.00pm for 7.30pm
<b>WHERE</b>	MCG Culinary Centre
<b>COST</b>	\$180 (members) \$190 (guests)

# Talented Ellie in hot demand

One-time Matildas defender and MCC member, Ellie Brush, could be one to watch when the AFL's new women's league kicks off next year, with the multi-talented athlete looking to expand her prowess beyond the soccer pitch.

The 27-year-old plays for Canberra United in Australia's W-League and, in the current off season, is plying her trade for Houston Dash in the National Women's Soccer League in the USA.

With the AFL launching its women's league with much fanfare at the MCG in June, the lure for many multi-talented sportswomen like Ellie will be strong, something she does not shy away from.

Ellie took part in the AFL's national talent screening earlier this year and has already been offered a spot in the NSW-ACT Academy. The AFL competition is likely to run in February and March, so there is the possibility she could play in it and the W-League, in a similar vein to Ellyse Perry's juggling of elite level soccer and cricket commitments.

"I love Aussie Rules and really do hope to play in the new professional league, if not in the inaugural season then soon after," she told us from the USA, explaining that football and cricket had been a huge part of her childhood.

"Dad was a good footballer (with Eastlake in Canberra) and taught me how to kick properly off both feet from a young age," she said. "I played footy and cricket through my school years, with footy phasing out earlier because there was no pathway for girls. So this is a great chance for AFL to create a pathway for women."

Ellie was also named ACT Junior Cricketer of the Year in 2003, but one year later had to choose between cricket and soccer.

She has been the backbone of the Canberra United defence since the inception



MCC member Ellie Brush in action in the USA's National Women's Soccer League. TOP: Ellie (left) at the AFL women's talent search screening earlier this year.



of the W-League in 2008. Her talents saw her selected for the Matildas, Australia's national team, in 2009 and 2012. She has also represented Norwegian team Avaldsnes IL.

Cruelly, a leg injury at a national team training camp last year crushed her chances of making the Matildas squad for the Women's World Cup in Canada.

Ellie has been "a very proud MCC member" since 2004 and has strong family ties to Melbourne Football Club and the MCC. Her great-uncle, Donald Duffy, was Melbourne Football Club president for

12 years (1963-74) and a long-time MFC medical officer, and also served on the MCC Committee for 27 years (1960-87).

So keep an eye out when the AFL's women's competition takes shape. Along with Meg Hutchins, Phoebe McWilliams and several others, you just might have some MCC members to cheer on, no matter whose team's colours they are wearing.

But with her historical ties to the club, and strong family connections to Melbourne, here's hoping Ellie Brush finds her way to the Demons next season.

## Wine and food society in good shape

A highlight of the Long Room Wine and Food Society's annual black-tie dinner in April was the recognition of Ziyu Ding as the most promising first-year student at Adelaide University's oenology and viticulture course.

This talented young lady, now known as Caroline and pictured with society chairman John Campbell, has only been in the country since 2011 when she migrated with her family from northern China.

In an evening of awards, Caroline received a \$1500 encouragement bonus. The potential of Spotless apprentice cooks and Adelaide oenology students is acknowledged by the society in alternate years.

Travis Dines, executive chef of the MCG Culinary Centre, was adjudged Chef of the Year for 2015 while WA's Howard Park claimed the Winemaker of the Year title.

There were 260 attendees at the annual dinner, an indication of the society's buoyant position where membership stands at 276 and waiting list nominees numbered 589 at May 31. That's a special interest pool of more than 850 MCC members and the number of applications for membership is growing apace.

Those on the waiting list are invited to at least two functions annually and it was pleasing that the society's latest new member – the very patient 87-year-old



Val Price – said that he'd "never known an organisation to do more for those waiting to join" than our society. We'll take that as a compliment, Val.

# Your 2016 AFL finals arrangements



## GRAND FINAL

The Members Reserve's capacity of about 23,000 will be available for the 2016 AFL Grand Final on Saturday October 1. Full members are advised to check details of seating arrangements and the reserved seat ballot in the information sheet accompanying the recent renewal notice mailing.

While Restricted and Provisional members are ineligible to attend the grand final, if the Reserve appears likely to be at less than capacity, a limited number of entry tickets may be sold to Restricted members either in the week leading up to the grand final or on the morning of the match.

The Reserve will again be split into approximately 55 per cent reserved seats and 45 per cent walk-up seats for the grand final. About 13,000 pre-purchased reserved seats are set aside for successful applicants in the ballot and the remainder will be available for walk-up members when gates open on grand final morning.

## EARLY FINALS

The Reserve will operate as per the home and away season during the first three weeks of the AFL finals series, with the majority of seating available on a walk-up basis to Full and Restricted members. Reserved seats will also be available. Provisional members have no entitlement to enter the MCC Reserve for AFL finals matches. However, if we host any games in the first two weeks of the finals series where a low attendance in the Reserve is expected, Provisional members may be offered the chance to pay an entry fee to validate their card for entry to the Reserve.

## VISITOR TICKETS

The number of visitor tickets available for early finals will depend on the expected popularity of each game. Up to four per member may be available. Tickets will go on sale at 12.00pm on the Monday preceding the weekend's game/s.

They will be available through Ticketek or from the Membership Services Office at the ground (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri) and, subject to availability, at the members' entrance on match days.

## RESERVED SEATS

About 9000 reserved seats on levels 1 and 4 will be available for members and their guests for matches in the first three weeks of the AFL finals. The reserved seats will go on sale to members at 12.00pm on the Monday preceding the weekend's game/s.

## DINING

Ballot registrations for the Members Dining Room and Jim Stynes Grill will be taken via website or phone from 9.00am to 5.00pm on the Tuesday preceding the particular match/es in the first three weeks of the finals series. For the grand final, the ballot will be held on Monday September 26 from 9.00am to 5.00pm. Members are only entitled to one registration in the ballot. Duplicate registrations will be excluded. A reserved seat on Level 2 is part of the Members Dining Room package during the early finals but this does not apply for the grand final. Diners in the Jim Stynes Grill receive a seat in the room to watch the match. All other dining conditions that existed during the home and away season will apply during the finals.

## LONG ROOM AND BALCONY PASSES

Depending on the expected popularity of matches, the club may release Long Room and Balcony passes for some finals matches if we believe these member-only areas could comfortably accommodate some guests.

If this is the case, members will be advised via email that advance applications via the website will open at 9.00am on the Tuesday preceding the weekend's game/s and close at 5.00pm the same day. As the finals draw closer, you can stay

abreast of the latest information through the club's website and email updates, as well as our Twitter and Facebook pages.

## MEMBER INTAKE FOR 2016/17

At its meeting in June, the MCC Committee elected to Full membership existing Restricted members who were nominated on the waiting list between September 1, 1990 to November 30, 1990 inclusive.

Existing Provisional members nominated from December 1, 1996 to May 31, 1997 inclusive will be offered Restricted membership.

Waiting list candidates nominated from November 1, 1997 to January 31, 1999 inclusive have been offered Provisional membership.

In accordance with club rules, the names and addresses of these candidates will be available for perusal at the Gate 2 Membership Services office on match days and during business hours (Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm).

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Existing financial members for the 2015/16 season should already have received their renewal notice for the coming season, which commences on September 1, 2016.

Payment of subscription renewals is due from September 1. Those Full and Restricted members wishing to attend AFL finals matches in September must pay their subscription at least two business days in advance for their membership card to be valid at the turnstiles on match day.