



MCC News



Sporting wings spread to Beaumaris

THIS ISSUE

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SPORTS FACILITIES OPEN IN BEAUMARIS

MAJOR EVENTS GALORE AT THE 'G

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Long-term AFL content secured

In April, the MCC welcomed an important development for the future of both the club and the MCG, with the renegotiation of the MCC-AFL agreement.

The new agreement, which comes into effect from the start of the 2019 AFL season, ensures the grand final remains at the MCG until 2057 and guarantees long-term football content at the ground.

This is a great result for members and for the future of our club, as we lock in content at the MCG for the next generation and secure the club's tenure as ground manager of what is undoubtedly Australia's premier sporting destination.

The surety provided by the agreement will also allow us to continue to invest in capital expenditure, and implement stadium improvements.

High on the priority list is undoubtedly the future development of the Great Southern Stand, which is now more than 25 years old, as well as a range of other projects which will benefit MCC members and MCG patrons for years to come.

The agreement also includes a significant commitment of money from the MCC, which will be distributed to the MCG tenant clubs. Strong and successful Victorian clubs, particularly those based at the MCG, are good for the AFL, the MCG and the people of Victoria.

Our thanks to the Victorian government, the AFL and the MCG Trust for their involvement in securing this important outcome for all involved.



The grand final remains at the MCG until **2057**

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Notice of AGM

The 181st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Melbourne Cricket Club will be held on Wednesday August 15, 2018 at 8.00pm in the Members Dining Room. Full members are invited to attend.

Three sitting members of the MCC Committee and one nominee will offer themselves for election to the three committee vacancies at the AGM. Full members eligible to vote will already have received the appropriate voting instructions.

Ted Baillieu, James Bennett and Christian Johnston are the committee members standing for re-election by rotation. John Mugavin is presenting himself 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

As we approach the last month of the home and away season the competition for spots in the finals is on a knife edge with 12 teams realistically capable of making the final eight.

The strong form of a number of Victorian sides – from the consistency of Richmond and Collingwood to the flashes of brilliance from Melbourne and Hawthorn – have contributed to impressive attendance figures across the board, and some spectacular big games.

After 17 rounds the MCG crowd average is 52,617 per match, with 12,191 of those in the MCC Reserve. Both of these figures are on a par with the same time last season, helped along with large crowds at the blockbuster games including the traditional Anzac Eve and Anzac Day match ups, as well as a record breaking Queen’s Birthday clash.

As most members are aware, the highlight of the year for the future of both the club and MCG occurred in April, with a renegotiated MCC-AFL agreement. This is a great result for the club and our members, ensuring the grand final remains at the MCG until 2057, as well as guaranteeing long-term football content at the ground.

After a number of years of planning and development, the magnificent sporting facilities at Beaumaris Secondary College were opened in June.

The MCC funded two competition-grade ovals, a pavilion and a multipurpose pitch which will provide first class facilities for MCC sporting teams, school students and the local community.

These facilities could not have been established without the support of a number of organisations, in particular the Victorian School Building Authority. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of former MCC vice-president Stephen Spargo, who played a key role in the project.

The venue will provide much needed facilities to some of our men’s and women’s cricket teams, our lacrosse section and is already home to our first women’s football team, the MCC Demons, who have been putting in a strong showing in their debut season.

In June we welcomed the return of NRL State of Origin to the MCG. With more than 87,000 fans decked out in blue and maroon descending on the stadium, the event was an outstanding success and once again showcased the versatility of this great venue.

I was really pleased to see that a lot of our interstate visitors made the most of their visit to Melbourne by including the National Sports Museum and MCG Tour on their itinerary. The NSM is genuinely world-class and should be on every sport enthusiast’s list of things to do in Melbourne.

We are also excited to be hosting the WWE Super Show-Down in October, just a week after the grand final, and then a Bon Jovi concert in December.

The club’s achievements in the environmental realm continue to be recognised both on a local and global level. Last month, our recycling and waste management initiatives saw the club named an ‘Innovator of the Year’ at the international Green Sports Alliance Awards.

Members are encouraged to read the club’s Annual Report, which has recently been released, to learn of some of the other important environmental initiatives introduced by our talented management team as we continue to strive towards being the benchmark, not just locally but also

globally, for environmental sustainability in sporting facilities.

On a less positive note, I continue to be disappointed with the number of members who have been required to provide explanations to the Disciplinary Sub-committee for their unacceptable behaviour or that of their guests in recent months.

From being intoxicated, using abusive language and being aggressive or disrespectful to other members or staff, to the misuse of the privileges that come with membership such as lending membership cards to non members, it is simply unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

With more than 225,000 candidates on the waiting list, we have no shortage of individuals who would be happy to take the place of any member that does not respect or cannot abide by the standards of behaviour expected in the Members Reserve. We will continue to take a hard line with the penalties being handed down for breaches of our rules.

To finish on a brighter note, September promises to be another exciting month of footy at the MCG with the prospect of all our key tenant clubs being involved. For the many Melbourne supporters in our club let’s hope 2018 can be the year of another fairy-tale finish for the Demons. Fingers are crossed!



Prince Edward (third from left) is welcomed by Royal Melbourne Tennis Club head coach Jonathon Howell, MCC vice-president Michael Happell and president Steven Smith.

A royal treat as club welcomes HRH Prince Edward

On Saturday April 7 the club was honoured to host Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, at a special evening function in the MCC Long Room.

Prince Edward was in Melbourne as part of his whirlwind visit to Australia for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, as well as a fundraising campaign for the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award. A keen real tennis player, the Prince is on a journey to play on every real tennis court in the world.

The special function would not have been possible without the efforts of the club’s real tennis section, and in particular club vice-president Michael Happell.

Sporting vision becomes a reality

The opening of Beaumaris Secondary College and its MCC-funded sports facilities will help deliver one of our most important objectives – and also provide a boost to students and the local community.

Saturday June 23 was a significant day in the club's recent history, with the official opening of Beaumaris Secondary College, built under a joint partnership between the MCC and Victorian School Building Authority.

Members of the local community, as well as representatives from the school, Victorian government, Bayside Council, MCC sporting teams, project managers, builders and architects were in attendance to tour the school and inspect the sporting facilities that have been funded by the club.

Establishing a site with multi-sport facilities for use by both the MCC and the community has

been a long-held objective of our club, through the MCC Foundation, so the opportunity to co-invest with the Victorian government to build an education and sporting facility at 117-135 Reserve Road in Beaumaris could not be ignored.

Our role has largely been to fund the construction of two competition-grade ovals, a sports pavilion and a multipurpose pitch as part of the redevelopment of the school, and to then maintain them to a high standard on an ongoing basis.

Speaking at a formal opening of the pavilion, prior to watching the MCC women's football

team take to the field on the oval below, MCC president Steven Smith paused to reflect on what has been achieved.

"These magnificent sporting facilities at Beaumaris Secondary College will serve MCC sporting teams, school students and the local community for many years to come," he said.

"It is an exciting time, and for some it is – almost – the end of a large and complex project. There has been an enormous amount of collaboration, planning and hard work from a number of organisations and individuals to bring this concept to life.



"I commend you on all you have done to take what was initially a vision or concept and navigate all that you have to turn it into these magnificent facilities we enjoy today. I am extremely proud."

Mr Smith said having access to these quality facilities will enable some MCC Sporting Sections to grow and expand their horizons.

"Some of our men's and women's cricket teams will be training and playing on the two ovals from this summer, and our lacrosse teams will have access to the multi-purpose pitch for its matches. "And of course, Beaumaris Secondary College is now home to our first MCC women's football team, who have made a promising debut in the VAFA competition."

Having such high-class facilities will be of great value to students at the school, along with local sporting clubs and teams.

The North Oval, which will be used by our cricketers for the first time later this year, measures 160 metres long and 140 metres wide, which is similar in size to the MCG. Meanwhile the South Oval, current home to our women's football team, measures 140 metres x 115 metres.

The seeds for the joint partnership between the MCC and the Victorian government – the first of its kind – were sewn some five years ago. Murray Thompson, Member for Sandringham, met with then MCC vice-president Stephen Spargo and representatives from Sandringham College and the local community to discuss a vision that has now been realised.

Having such high-class facilities will be of great value to students at the school, along with local sporting clubs and teams.

The MCC is indebted to the Victorian Labor Government, and the member for Mordialloc, Tim Richardson, for their financial contribution towards the project, while the support of Bayside City Council, through Mayor Laurence Evans, has been invaluable.

Most importantly, we acknowledge how welcoming and co-operative the principal of Beaumaris Secondary College, Debby Chaves, has been in the early operation of the site, along with the support of the school council, through its president Steve Pearce.

We look forward to a fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership with the school for generations to come.



MCC president Steven Smith presents Beaumaris Secondary College principal, Debby Chaves, and school council president, Steve Pearce, with a gift to mark the opening of the new school and sporting facilities in Beaumaris.

Survey reveals members' opinions

As part of our ongoing research program, all MCC members who attended at least one event in the preceding 12 months were sent an electronic survey in March, asking for feedback on a number of items.

This was the first time the club had conducted such an extensive survey since 2009. More than 10,000 active members completed the questionnaire and submitted their views – whilst a further 2200 inactive members (members who have not attended an event in 12 months) also participated.

The themes identified for focus in the research spanned new changes to the membership as well as those topics that consistently generate discussion amongst members. These were: Provisional membership, ticketing, rules and regulations, the approach to grand final seating, dining at the MCC, and reciprocal rights and arrangements.

Pleasingly, the overarching feedback suggests that members are largely happy and agree with the current policies and practices in place.

Overall, 83 per cent of respondents stated that they were satisfied with their MCC membership, rating it an average 7.8 out of 10. This result is consistent with those reported in other research undertaken by the club.

Strong endorsement was also seen for current practices around the access Provisional members have to the Reserve, visitor ticketing allocations and ability to pre-purchase reserved seats. A majority of members also support the current policy regarding consumption of alcohol in the Reserve being limited to designated bar areas.

Of course, the survey also highlighted areas in which members would like to see change or improvement.

In particular, a significant desire was recorded for evening dining opportunities following afternoon or twilight events, with more than 60 per cent of members interested in this additional offering. This is certainly an area we will look to explore in order to enhance member experience on match days.

The survey also showed that many members were unaware of some elements of their membership – including the ability to dine in the Committee Room on non-event days, and value add access opportunities at reciprocal clubs and venues. This reveals an opportunity the club has to better inform members of these features, to ensure all those who are interested are able to make the most of the benefits available.

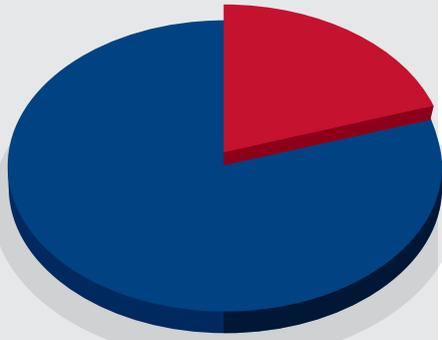
MCC president Steven Smith said that the survey offered a valuable insight into the views of members.

“It is fantastic to receive a strong endorsement overall for our operation and management of this wonderful club. At the same time, it is also good to see a number of areas for future improvement and possible change which we can continue to explore.”

“At the end of the day, our club does not exist without its members, and I thank each of those who shared their views and opinions. This feedback will help us to ensure the club continues to evolve and improve, delivering services and offerings that exceed the expectations of our members for years to come.”



7.8
(out of 10)



Overall satisfaction with MCC membership.

Just shy of half the members surveyed
48%

believe no change should be made to how grand final seats are allocated to Full members...
...whilst 20% believe a greater number should be balloted with less for walk-up



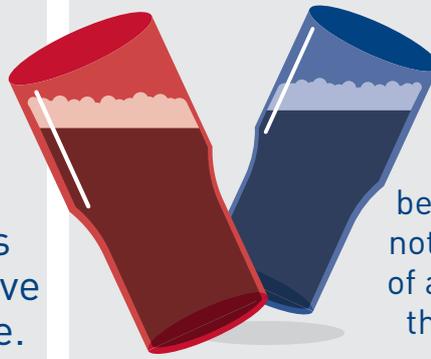
26%
used their MCC membership reciprocal rights.



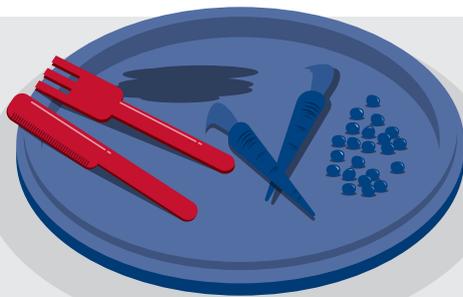
77%
of members have purchased either visitor tickets or reserved seats for an event in the last year.



71%
feel that current dress regulations for the MCC Reserve should not change.



53%
believe the club should not permit consumption of alcohol in areas other than designated bars.



52%

of members were not aware that the Committee Room is available for lunchtime dining on non-event weekdays.

Satisfaction ratings

8.2
(out of 10)

communications received from the club.

8.1 facilities available to members at MCG.

8.0 customer service provided to members.



MCC recognised amongst global green innovators

The club was thrilled to be recognised for its achievements in sustainability at the global Green Sports Alliance awards in June.

Now in its seventh year, the awards acknowledge and applaud the best in sports and sustainability, and those leading the sports greening movement.

The MCC was named an *'Innovator of the Year'* for its industry leading efforts in waste management, in particular the club's investment in organics recycling.

In November 2017 the MCG became the first sports venue in the world to close the loop on organics recycling, with the installation of an innovative Gaia dehydrator.

Organic food and turf waste produced at the stadium is now treated on-site via a system of shredding, heating, dehydrating and deodorising. The end product is a nutrient dense soil additive which is then distributed in Yarra Park as part of our ongoing care and management of the heritage listed parkland.

The MCC was the only Australian organisation recognised at the gala award night. Hosted at Mercedes-Benz stadium in Atlanta, other award recipients included the U.S. Bank Stadium in Minnesota for the zero-waste Super Bowl LII, and the Raka 7s Rugby Tournament - Fiji's first plastic-free sporting event.

The Green Sports Alliance award follows a number of other recognitions for the club has received in recent years for its environmental initiatives, and is a great endorsement for our ongoing efforts in this space.

We are proud to be recognised alongside other global leaders in sports sustainability, and look forward to continuing to improve our environmental performance, as well as helping support other venues to do similar in the coming years.



The Green Sports Alliance awards acknowledge the best in sports and sustainability, and those leading the sports greening movement.

Sir Leo Cussen



Club welcomes descendants of our longest serving president

The descendants of the club's 16th president, Sir Leo Cussen, paid a special visit to the MCC Reserve ahead of the Queen's Birthday clash in June.

The party, which included his granddaughter, two great-grandsons and two great-great-grandchildren, stopped in at the Long Room to admire the portrait of Sir Leo, which hangs alongside many other presidents and secretaries in our 180-year history.

Sir Leo remains the club's longest serving president, holding the position from 1907 to 1933, a period which coincided with major world events including World War I and the Great Depression.

During his tenure club membership grew from 3500 Full members to 5200, and in 1928 he laid the foundation stone of the Members' Pavilion (the Third Pavilion in the club's history).

In addition to his contribution to the MCC, Sir Leo was a Supreme Court Judge and Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, and had previously represented Melbourne Football Club in his youth.

Experience Lab breaking new ground at NSM

Sport and digital technology are colliding in the Experience Lab, an exciting new interactive gallery at the National Sports Museum.

Designed first and foremost as a workshop where new displays and technology can be tested and tried, the Experience Lab encourages visitors to play with, react to and give feedback on a range of high-tech new installations.

From a 3D overview of concussion tracking technology, to immersive virtual games and reaction time challenges the whole family can enjoy, the Experience Lab sets out to change the way visitors see and interact with sport.

In order to ensure the space remains fresh and engaging, each iteration of the Lab is open to the public for only a limited period. Following this the NSM team update content and work to incorporate new initiatives, largely influenced by the feedback and suggestions received.

The first two Experience Lab offerings have been popular with visitors, and members should ensure they don't miss the chance to check out the exciting new displays and activities.

The Experience Lab will reopen in time for both the spring and summer school holidays, operating from:

Saturday September 8 to Sunday October 7

Saturday December 8 to Sunday February 3

MCC members enjoy half-price access to the NSM. Simply show your membership card at the ticketing window.



The Experience Lab sets out to change the way visitors see and interact with sport.



“...it’s a different kind of feeling of pride and a more reflective one being here.”

Football greats join hall of fame

In June this year, one of football’s great innovators, Kevin Sheedy was elevated to Legend status in the Australian Football Hall of Fame. A three-time Premiership player with Richmond (1967-1979), four-time Premiership coach of Essendon (1981-2007) and inaugural coach of the GWS Giants (2012-2013), Sheedy is just the 28th individual to be bestowed the honour, and has had a profound and wide-ranging impact on the sport.

A showcase detailing his career, including all seven miniature Premiership Cups he won as player and coach, is now on display in the Legends Gallery at the National Sports Museum. Established in 1996, AFHoF recognises and enshrines players, coaches, umpires, administrators and media representatives who have made a significant contribution to Australian football.

The individual inductees for 2018 were outstanding Geelong defender Matthew Scarlett, Carlton great Wayne Johnston, Hawthorn and Footscray star Terry Wallace, Melbourne key forward David Neitz and iconic West Australians Mel Whinnen and Bernie Naylor.

Speaking at a media event at the National Sports Museum the morning after the gala ceremony, Melbourne champion Neitz (left) reflected on the privilege he felt to be forever represented in the NSM alongside the greats of the game.

“(The induction) was a great surprise and a great thrill,” he said. “It’s a different kind of emotion – when you are playing you get the immediate emotion of the game and the moment but it’s a different kind of feeling of pride and a more reflective one being here.”

MCG EVENTS

Sleep at the 'G smashes records

The sixth annual Sleep at the 'G surpassed all expectations, with a record number of sleepers and donations achieved.

The MCC, in partnership with Melbourne City Mission, raised awareness and vital funds to help the 6000 Victorian youths who on any given night, don't have a safe place to call home.

On Thursday May 17, in the midst of an early Melbourne cold snap, more than 1500 participants settled in for a night on the chilly MCG concourse with the aim of putting homelessness to bed.

In a stadium and Sleep at the 'G first, the MCC also offered an impressive extra incentive to the 2018 participants, with the team that achieved the highest average fundraising effort per member invited to sleep on the boundary of the hallowed MCG turf.

Perhaps partly for that reason the event saw greater than ever involvement from corporate teams, with organisations including PricewaterhouseCoopers, Bank of Melbourne and Visit Victoria well represented.

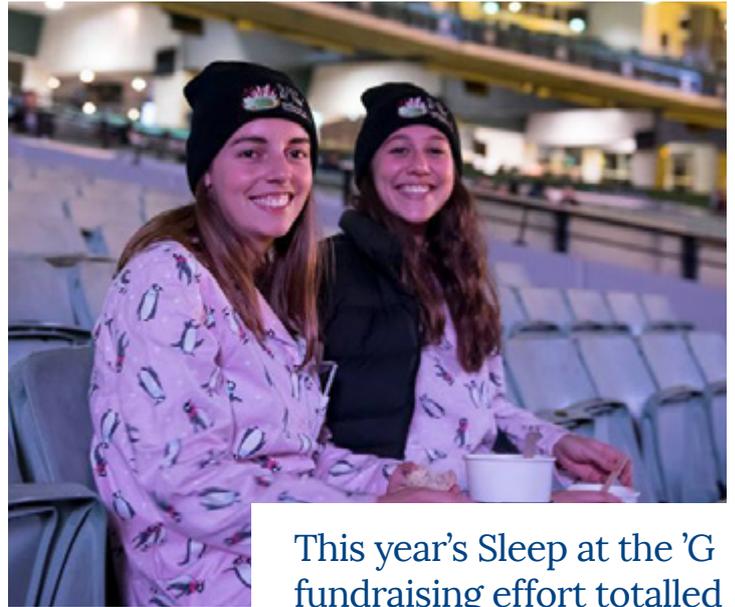
With little more than hot soup and bread rolls for dinner and a cardboard box for a bed, the event provided a valuable insight into the challenges that so many young people sleeping rough face. Guest speakers, sharing their real-life experience with youth homelessness and the circumstances which lead to it further enhanced participants' understanding of this complex issue.

The MCG's Icon partner Bank of Melbourne took out the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sleep on the grass of the 'G, but the next morning the assessment was that our hallowed turf was no warmer than the concourse concrete!

With late donations continuing to trickle through in the days and weeks following the event, the already impressive on-the-night donation tally continued to grow, resulting in the final fundraising effort reaching more than \$1 million.

This is an incredible achievement, and funds raised will go toward the Frontyard Youth Services world-first, innovative, fully integrated 24/7 youth crisis accommodation centre.

MCC is proud to support and partner in the event - A group of 55 MCC staff participated and raised in excess of \$60,000, reflecting our strong commitment to this worthy cause.



This year's Sleep at the 'G fundraising effort totalled more than \$1 million.



WWE Super Show-Down to transform the MCG

Following months of speculation, negotiation and planning, in June it was announced that the WWE Super Show-Down would be taking place at the MCG.

On Saturday October 6, just one week after the AFL Grand Final, the stadium will be transformed as global wrestling stars John Cena, Ronda Rousey, Triple H, The Undertaker and more take part in the historic World Wrestling Entertainment blockbuster.

While there is no MCC Reserve for this event, a ticket pre-sale for members was held on June 27 prior to the general public.

Tickets can be purchased via Ticketek.

MCG EVENTS

Indian summer set to heat up the 'G

Australia will be looking to put aside a tumultuous few months when it takes on India in a home Test series this summer.

Virat Kohli and his men, currently ranked the number one Test nation in the world, will visit for a four-match series, including the third Test at the MCG starting on Boxing Day. The two countries will also contest a series of Twenty 20 and 50-over matches, with the MCG to host one of each in November and January respectively.

The Melbourne Stars will return for another huge summer of Twenty20 action in what is an expanded Big Bash League competition. The MCG will host five Stars men's matches, two of which are also WBBL doubleheaders, including the Melbourne derby against the Renegades on New Year's Day.

MCC visitor tickets and reserved seats to the three international matches will go on sale on October 11 at 9.00am. An on-sale date for tickets to BBL matches, as well as ticket prices and access entitlements for Provisional members to the 2018/19 cricket season, will be confirmed in due course.

Australia v India

December 26-30: Boxing Day Test (10.30am)

November 23: Twenty20 international (6.50pm)

January 18: One-day international (1.20pm)

BBL

January 1: Stars v Renegades (7.15pm)

January 9: Stars v Scorchers (7.15pm)

January 14: Stars v Hurricanes (7.15pm)

January 27: Stars v Heat (7.40pm)

February 10: Stars v Sixers (2.45pm)

WBBL

January 1: Stars v Renegades (2.50pm)

January 14: Stars v Sixers (2.50pm)

Sheffield Shield

October 25-28: Victoria v New South Wales (10.30am)

November 3-6: Victoria v South Australia (10.30am)

December 7-10: Victoria v Western Australia (10.30am)

March 3-6: Victoria v Tasmania (10.30am)



The MCG performance will be the only Bon Jovi show in Melbourne.

Bon Jovi bring blaze of glory to the MCG

Global rock icons, Bon Jovi, will take to the stage at the MCG on Saturday December 1 as part of the Australian leg of Bon Jovi's *This House is not for Sale* tour.

The MCG performance will be the only Bon Jovi show in Melbourne. Concerts are becoming an increasingly regular fixture on the MCG's calendar, following a sell-out performance by Guns N' Roses in February last year.

While there is no MCC Reserve, members have an exclusive opportunity to book into a special 'It's My Life' function held in the Long Room.

The package includes a stand-up pre-concert function with a two-hour grazing style menu and drinks package – perfect for those who feel the need to move to the music – and a concert ticket and reserved seat (category 5) outside on Level 2.

"No apologies" for those who miss out – book your place at mcc.org.au/bonjovi. General public tickets are available at Ticketek.

MCG shines in midst of major events

The quality, variety and volume of top-class sport on offer at the MCG was truly on show in recent months, with a host of blockbuster events and crowds filling the stadium.



Following the traditional ANZAC Eve and ANZAC Day drawcards in April, in a mere 10-day period in June the MCG welcomed more than a quarter of a million visitors to the stadium for three major events.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of our MCC staff, in particular the arenas and events teams, who managed the challenges brought by massive crowds and multiple codes with aplomb.

Anzac Eve and Anzac Day matches April 24 and 25

Now in its fourth year, the Melbourne-Richmond clash on Anzac Eve continues to grow, drawing a crowd of 77,071. The Members Reserve was particularly well attended, with more than 22,000 witnessing the spine tingling pre-match ceremony which included the delivery of the eternal flame from the Shrine of Remembrance, and a convincing Tigers victory.

Equally moving was the ceremony and tributes before the Anzac Day match the following afternoon. As always, the minute silence observed by the more than 90,000 strong crowd was deafening, and a sign of the respect held for this solemn day on our calendar. Collingwood were runaway victors on the day, with Adam Treloar awarded the Anzac Medal.



Dreamtime at the 'G June 2

A highlight of the Sir Doug Nicholls Round, which recognises and celebrates indigenous players and culture, is undoubtedly the annual Dreamtime at the 'G match, contested by Richmond and Essendon. Thousands of fans paused to watch the powerful pre-match ceremony, which for the third consecutive year included War Cry performances created by the two clubs. Richmond continued their recent dominance, taking home the four-points in front of a crowd of 81,046.



State of Origin June 6

Four days following the Dreamtime clash, a sea of blue and maroon flooded the stadium on June 6 as State of Origin returned to the 'G.

Following the runaway success of the 2015 encounter between New South Wales and Queensland at the MCG, which draw a State of Origin rugby league record crowd of 91,513, expectations and anticipation were high, and happily the event delivered on all fronts.

The spectacular pre match entertainment, which included everything from pyrotechnics and large scale projections to a headline performance by Australian duo Peking Duck, aptly set the stage for what has become known as "Australia's greatest sporting rivalry".

A crowd of 87,122 witnessed the rookie-filled Blues side score a hard fought 22-11 victory over the Maroons. The influx of interstate tourists and new visitors also brought strong visitation to the National Sports Museum and the MCG's stadium tour in the days leading up to the clash.

A crowd of 87,122 witnessed the rookie-filled Blues side score a hard fought 22-11 victory over the Maroons.

Queen's Birthday clash June 11

The Queen's Birthday clash saw 83,518 fans flock to the stadium to watch Melbourne and Collingwood compete in what has become a marquee game on the AFL fixture.

Whilst the in-form clubs were an obvious drawcard, it was Neale Daniher and his Fight MND campaign which truly captured the hearts of the crowd.

Now in its fourth year, Big Freeze 4 was once again a monumental success, with donations and sales of the iconic blue beanies raising more than \$6 million, far surpassing previous totals.

Putting aside rivalries, all 18 AFL coaches braved the infamous Big Freeze slide and plunged into the icy water in an entertaining and inspiring show of support for the cause.

Despite some delays at entry gates due to the keen interest in the pre-game activities, it was another memorable day at the 'G.



Amy, Sam crowned cricket club champions

Amy Vine and Sam Harper were crowned 2017/18 club champions at the MCC Cricket Presentation Dinner in April, being adjudged the best player in their respective First XI teams throughout the season.

Amy made 524 runs at 43.67 across both the one-day and T20 competitions, including two centuries. The second of those, 108 not out off 135 balls when she batted through the innings in the semi-final against Box Hill, also earned her the Brian Watson Memorial Award for 'the most outstanding performance by an MCC cricketer'.

Sam, in between representative duties with Victoria and Melbourne Stars, scored 517 at 57.44 (including two centuries) along with 16 wicketkeeping dismissals behind the stumps.

Bridie Chesterfield and Alistair McCooke were acknowledged by their peers by winning the Players' MVP trophy, which is a round-by-round, player-voted award across all matches in all grades. Alistair also won Cricket Victoria's Fourth XI Player of the Season.

Jordan Watson and Wilson McGillivray were named the XXIX Club-sponsored Youth Cricketers of the Year. Jordan debuted in the First XI this season and played the majority of matches in the top grade, whilst Wilson built on his one First XI game from last season to play all bar one this season. Both represented Victoria at under age level at their respective national championships.

Lauren Innes (294 runs at 58.8) was voted the women's Thirds Most Valuable Player. MCC Club XI Players of the Season were Stephen Mellick (MCC 1) and Chris Kent (MCC 2), while Shane Giese was awarded Best Club Person.

The night also recognised curator Scott West, who was again named Victorian Premier Cricket curator of the year for his work at the Albert Ground, and the retirement of two-time First XI premierships player Ash Midlin, who has made an outstanding contribution over 19 seasons.



Amy Vine won the 2017/18 MCC women's cricket club champion award.



Tremain was the competition's leading wicket-taker, claiming 51 wickets from 10 matches.

Tremain rewarded for stellar season

MCC and Victoria fast bowler Chris Tremain was named the 2017/18 Sheffield Shield Player of the Year after a breakout season with the ball.

Tremain was the competition's leading wicket-taker, claiming 51 wickets from 10 matches at an average of 21.07 including two five-wicket hauls. He won the award by one vote from joint runners-up Jackson Bird and Nick Winter.

The Sheffield Shield Player of the Year voting system sees each standing umpire award a 3-2-1 vote to the players they adjudicated as best on ground in each match.

"Chris has had a terrific year, and is a very worthy winner," said Cricket Australia's Pat Howard. "With 51 wickets throughout the competition, Chris enjoyed success with both the Dukes and Kookaburra balls against the best batsmen in different conditions around the country."

Originally from country New South Wales, Tremain's opportunities were limited with his home state and he made the move to Victoria, and the MCC, during the 2014 off-season. He picked up 16 Sheffield Shield wickets in his first season with the Bushrangers and was their leading wicket taker the next summer with 36, helping Victoria win a second successive Shield title.

Tremain was named in Australia's ODI squad for the tour of South Africa in September 2016 and with performances like last summer we look forward to watching him rise up the ranks in the near future.

Footballers find early form

In their debut season, the MCC's inaugural women's football side, the 'MCC Demons' are exceeding expectations and currently sit second on the Victorian Amateur Football Association Division 3 Women's ladder.

Based at the newly opened facilities at Beaumaris Secondary College, the team have so far demonstrated a strong home ground advantage, notching up a blistering win in their first game at the oval against the South Melbourne Districts, 112 to 6.

With finals on the horizon, we wish them luck on what will hopefully be an exciting and fruitful finals campaign.

From an individual perspective, MCC Demons midfielder Holly Bailey has fittingly been selected to play for the Casey Demons in the VFL Women's League. This is an exciting opportunity for Holly and great testament to her contribution to the side this year.

Acknowledgement must go to the MCC Football Committee who have contributed significantly to the establishment of what is our newest MCC sporting section. Our thanks to Annabel Brebner (chair), Nicole Hall (vice-chair), Katie Larsen (secretary), Caroline Ramsden (treasurer), Lachlan Worthy (coach), Russell Robertson and Nathan Ervin for their drive and dedication in supporting the club's women's football debut.

Keen to be involved?

As their debut season draws to a close, the club is on the lookout for new players (aged 16 and over) and support staff to join this emerging sporting section. If you or your family or friends are interested in participating or assisting, please contact melbcricketclubfc@gmail.com to register your interest or find out more.



MCC Netball Section thirds team (MCC 3) won the Autumn Premier Open Division 5 Premiership.

Netballers take home the title

The MCC Netball Section thirds team (MCC 3) won the Autumn Premier Open Division 5 Premiership in June, convincingly defeating the Westside Saints, 29 -22.

Interestingly, the team had already played and defeated Westside Saints three times during the season. This winning momentum continued into the premiership match, with the girls leading the whole way.

Although this is only MCC 3's second year in Premier Division, they previously took out the Division 6 Spring Premiership, and current form suggests that their upward trajectory is set to continue.

The MCC Netball Section across the board achieved strong results, in what is a positive reflection of their commitment to create a culture that prioritises player development and enjoyment, and encourages all members to engage with the club.

At an individual level, Alex Ball won the Premier Open Division 1 most valuable player award, representing MCC in the firsts team. Voted by umpires, Alex polled in 11 out of 16 games, and was awarded the maximum three votes in seven games. Even more impressively, this is a back-to-back MVP accolade for Alex, who was also awarded the honour in 2017.

After a strongly competitive season, MCC 5 fell just short of the silverware, gallantly finishing as semi-finalists in the Open A3 grade.

With a new season set to get underway, if you or someone you know is a budding netballer keen to get involved, please email mccnetball@gmail.com for more information.

CLUB SPORT

Member golf offer is a hole in one!

Whether you are a weekend warrior or striving toward a single-digit handicap, MCC members can experience the fairways and greens of some of our finest golf courses.

Thanks to exclusive club partnerships, members have privileged access at three of Victoria's finest courses – as well as the stunning Peregian Golf Course on the Sunshine Coast.

Thirteenth Beach Golf Links

Thirteenth Beach is located just over an hour from Melbourne set along the scenic coastline of Barwon Heads. The boutique golf precinct features two unique courses (The Beach and The Creek), clubhouse, restaurant, practice facilities and modern onsite accommodation.

St Andrews Beach Golf Course

The magnificent St Andrews Beach Golf Course is the highest ranked "pay to play" golf course on the mainland and MCC members can book a round at special rates when registered as an MCC partner.

Ranfurlie Golf Course

Built in 2002, Ranfurlie is a true test of golf. Located in Cranbourne, this championship course has hosted the PGA Tour School Qualify and is ranked at 69 in Australia.



Those interested in learning more or taking up these fantastic offers should visit mcc.org.au/golf

Peregian Golf Course – Sunshine Coast

For those members looking for an added reason to escape the chill of Melbourne's winter, the club is pleased to have recently partnered with Peregian Golf Course and Driving Range on the Sunshine Coast.

A premier pay-to-play golf course located less than 15 minutes from the holiday hotspot Noosa, Peregian is a highly ranked parkland-style golf course, available seven days a week.



Peter Thomson (left) with Neale Fraser and Ron Barassi at a recent 50-Year Members' Luncheon.



Ray Weinberg

Fond memories of prominent members

The club and wider sporting world was deeply saddened by the passing of Peter Thomson AO, CBE, in June at the age of 88.

A 40-year MCC member, Peter was regarded by many as the thinking man's golfer, known for his clean, brisk and unassuming style and attitude, both on and off the course.

In 1954, at the tender age of 24, Peter claimed his maiden British Open title by a single stroke to become the first Australian golfer to claim the coveted Claret Jug.

Peter won the major championship another four times over the next 11 years, and remains one of only five players in the tournament's history to have won it five times.

Peter is recognised as a Legend in the Sport Australia Hall of Fame – a plaque celebrating his achievements as well as a number of other items from his career can be viewed in the National Sports Museum.

It was also with much sadness that we learned of the passing in May of long time MCC member and volunteer, Ray Weinberg AM.

Ray was a much loved figure in Australian athletics, where his involvement spanned a number of decades.

He was one of Australia's finest hurdlers, competing in the 1948 and 1952 Olympic Games, and also at one time held the state record for the decathlon. When his career on the track concluded, Ray was a highly sought after coach – guiding the Australian Athletics Team through the 1968 Olympics – and also dabbled in media commentary for subsequent games.

A dedicated MCC guide for 23 years, Ray was a mentor to many of our current guides and proudly represented the club and stadium in numerous media interviews. A wonderful man adored by all who knew him, he will be deeply missed.

Respect and love for football on show at Norm Smith Oration

The club's premier football function took place on June 7 – once again bringing some of the great wordsmiths together with the man that is undoubtedly the greatest footballing 'Smith.'

Now in its eighth year, the function continues to gain popularity due its deserved reputation for high calibre speakers and moving tributes to our incomparable game.

This year saw the largest crowd ever attend, with 436 guests filling the Members Dining Room to hear the passionate tributes to football delivered by respected sports writer and author Martin Flanagan, and retired Bulldogs captain Bob Murphy.

Host Tim Lane aptly noted the pairing were good friends, whilst Murphy humorously observed that the match up was "a bit like a rap battle between two pacifist, lefty, football romantics with a weakness for Van Morrison records."

In his moving toast to football, Flanagan shared his long reaching love of this great game with the audience.

It began long before he was born, and long before he was an 11-year-old growing up in Tasmania, enchanted by what is "a game of courage and daring, of strength and physical grace." It was a love set in motion by the passion of his father and his grandfather before him, who were ingrained in the local football ecosystem.

An overarching sense of gratitude and respect accompanied his address, as he shared insights into all that football had given him, from the thousands of stories to the years of captivation.

Recalling being asked once why he, a seemingly intelligent man, would write so much about football he answered simply "because it's the culture I am from. Footy's a language I can speak."

Although identifying himself as one who merely barracks for the game, Flanagan's renowned passion for the grassroots of football shone through throughout his toast and he ended his address with a piece of sage advice; "To all those who love the game and particularly to those who are responsible for its future – ignore grassroots football at your peril."

In his response, Murphy took the audience on a journey which started with his carefree, childhood love of the game, embodied in the "taste of jam doughnuts and the smell of jasmine in early spring," and progressed through to the more serious and at time cutthroat moments in professional football.

Despite this competitive nature, Murphy spoke lovingly of the lineage of the locker room and the paternal nurturing and comfort that the game both provided him and allowed him to share.

Murphy's stories showed he is as much a fan of the game as he was one of its players, spending ample time celebrating the greats he played with or against. Of his own experience, he noted "I was lucky enough to play alongside good men for much of the way," whilst humbly describing himself as merely "neither a champion nor a notable disgrace."

Humour saturated his remarks and the audience were in stitches as Murphy shared a choice comment he received from infamous Geelong lip Steve Johnson, and his role at the tender age of four as the launching pad for his brother's mark of the year ambitions.

In opening his address, Murphy noted that "so many things we love about our game have very little to do with the game itself." How very true indeed.



A first-rate function (and football) season kicks off

The highly anticipated start of another football season was celebrated at the MCG Footy Launch Luncheon on March 21.



Host Tim Lane drew some interesting responses from Melbourne CEO Peter Jackson on the culture at the iconic club – including insight into how they have mentally prepared for the coming season off the back of a disappointing end to 2017. A panel comprising two of football's favourite personalities, Hawthorn stalwart Jarryd Roughead and Richmond's Jack Reiwoldt, had the audience hanging on their every word. From stories about Tigers' historic premierships win and Jarryd's well-known personal battle to return to the game he loves, to discussing some of the game's big issues, it is clear why this is a must-attend event for so many members each year.

Earlier that month, the annual Women in Wine function was a sold-out affair. Timed perfectly to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8, guests were privileged to have Kate Goodman and Caroline Mooney, two high calibre, award-winning female wine makers from labels Goodman Wines and Bird on a Wire respectively. Caroline and Kate generously shared their stories, expertise and of course, a range of drops from their vintages - matched with a superb range of tasting plates created by EPICURE chef Jasmine Lawson.

There was much optimism among MFC/MCC dual members at special game day functions in April and June. Unfortunately the Dees were unable to take home the four-points on either occasion, but that didn't put a dampener on the function festivities.

On April 15, ahead of a clash with Hawthorn, 100 members and guests enjoyed a pre-game meal whilst hearing insights from past players Rod Grinter and Guy Rigoni, and VFL coach Jade Rawlings. Whilst prior to the record-breaking Big Freeze clash against Collingwood on Queen's Birthday, past player Brad Green and current talent Dean Kent and Tim Smith entertained the crowd.

The Annual Young Members' Anzac Ball was held on Saturday April 28. A continual favourite on the young members' calendar, more than 450 members and guests were in attendance, enjoying an evening of dinner, drinks and dancing. A key highlight of the night was the

presentation by SAS Special Forces soldier Dave Farrell, who gave an incredibly compelling insight into his experiences serving Australia in Afghanistan, and the ways in which it shaped and changed him. Farrell's action in combat saw him awarded the Medal for Gallantry, the third highest bravery award in the Commonwealth, and earned him a rapturous standing ovation.

The Young Members have been keeping particularly busy this football season, with a very popular craft beer evening held in the Jim Stynes Grill ahead of the opening round, plus a number of well-attended footy functions at games.

Laughter was the main menu item at the club's Comedy at the 'G events hosted in the Hans Ebeling Room. A fantastic atmosphere filled the room on May 11, with headline comedian Dave O'Neill leaving the 100-strong

audience in stitches. Follow up performances by Kelly Fastuca and Kel Balnaves ensured the laughs continued throughout the evening.

Off the back of the annual MCC/VRC Members Lounge event on June 17, a final sell-out comedy evening featuring Claire Hooper, Dane Simpson and Bart Freebairn took place at the Collingwood v Carlton clash on June 24. Known for her comedic contributions to everything from Good News Week to the Great Australian Bake Off, Claire's candid stories about taking her first child to a music festival, and the hilarity of her husband's name kept the crowd entertained!

Finally, 140 members and guests delighted in the culinary offerings from talented chef, Adrian Richardson, as he and his team from La Luna restaurant took over the Reserve for the Celebrity Chef Long Room Dinner on July 12. Adrian, who is known as television's 'bad chef' for his unapologetic use of all things rich and indulgent in his cooking certainly delivered, with a mouth-watering three-course menu.

With a busy schedule of functions set for the remainder of the year, members are encouraged to plan ahead and book their place early to ensure they don't miss out!

Laughter was the main menu item at the club's Comedy at the 'G...



FUNCTION NEWS



The Bradman Luncheon

It will be a sellout affair at the 18th annual The Bradman Luncheon, held in the Members Dining Room on Monday August 27.

Held in honour of Australia's greatest cricketer, the all-inclusive three-course lunch is a premier function on the club's calendar.

Our guest speaker this year is highly respected Australian and Tasmanian cricketer, George Bailey.

A prolific runscore on the domestic scene for more than a decade, the 35-year-old played five Tests for Australia, all of them during the successful 5-0 home Ashes series whitewash of England in 2013/14.

He enjoyed a longer run in the national colours in limited overs formats, scoring more than 3000 runs in 90 one-day internationals. During a stunning 2013, he rose to number two on the ODI batting world rankings.

Bailey's debut for Australia in the Twenty20 format was as captain. He led the nation in two World T20 tournaments, and was also used as a stand-in captain in the one-day side.



Grand Final Eve Dining

The traditional Grand Final Eve Luncheon will be held at the MCG on Friday September 28.

This year, a dining experience in the Jim Stynes Grill will be made available in addition to the traditional package in the Members Dining Room, Long Room and Committee Room.

The Jim Stynes Grill offering is a dining-only package (\$139 for adults, \$90 for a child aged 13-17 and \$36 for a child 12 and under), comprising a three-course lunch from the menu that has proven so popular on MCG match days. Members can choose to purchase drinks at their own cost. The dress code is neat casual, as per the normal MCC Reserve regulations.

The all-inclusive package in the Members Dining Room, Long Room and Committee Room features a three-course lunch and three-and-a-half hour beverage package. Cost is \$153 (adults), \$99 (child aged 13-17) and \$40 (child 12 and under). The usual dress code in these rooms applies.

Bookings will be taken on (03) 9657 8888 from Tuesday July 24 at 9.00am until sold out. Menus and other details can be found on the MCC website at mcc.org.au/gfedining.

Your functions calendar

DAY	DATE	FUNCTION	BOOKINGS OPEN	VENUE
Saturday	AUG 11	Women of MCC Game Day Football Function	NOW OPEN	Hans Ebeling Room
Saturday	AUG 11	VRC/MCC Raceday Event	SOLD OUT	Flemington Racecourse
Sunday	AUG 12	MFC/MCC Game Day Function (Melb v Syd)	SOLD OUT	Committee Room
Wednesday	AUG 15	MCC Annual General Meeting	N/A	Members Dining Room
Monday	AUG 27	The Bradman Luncheon	SOLD OUT	Members Dining Room
Saturday	SEP 1	Young Members' Circus Ball	NOW OPEN	Members Dining Room
Wednesday	SEP 12	Members' Culinary Centre Experience	Ballot: August 14-17	MCG Culinary Centre
Monday	SEP 24	Brownlow Dinner with the Coodabeens	Ballot: August 7-9	Members Dining Room
Friday	SEP 28	Grand Final Eve Dining	July 24	Members Dining Room, Long Room, Committee Room and Jim Stynes Grill
Thursday	NOV 1	Annual 50-Year Members' Luncheon	September 18	Members Dining Room
Friday	NOV 2	Annual 50-Year Members' Luncheon	September 18	Members Dining Room
TBC	TBC	Members' Dinner	October 23	Members Dining Room
Wednesday	DEC 5	New 50-Year Members' Luncheon	N/A	Members Dining Room
Tuesday	DEC 25	Christmas Day Lunch	July 31	Members Dining Room
Wednesday	DEC 26	Boxing Day Breakfast	November 13	Members Dining Room
Thursday	DEC 27	Women in Cricket Test Breakfast	November 13	Members Dining Room



Brownlow Dinner with the Coodabeens

The Coodabeen Champions return for the 13th annual Brownlow Dinner on Monday September 24 in the Members Dining Room.

Members can expect a night of non-stop entertainment with their usual mixture of football banter, satirical song writing and role-playing hilarity.

The function is only open to Full and Restricted members, who can bring up to two guests each. The function includes a three-course meal, beverages, non-stop entertainment and live crosses to the Brownlow Medal telecast.

Due to the overwhelming popularity of this function, a ballot will be conducted to give all interested members an equal chance of attending. Registrations will be taken from Tuesday August 7 at 9.00am until Thursday August 9 at 5.00pm via the club website.



Members' Dinner

Cricket's night of nights will return to the Members Dining Room in December, specific date to be confirmed, for the 25th annual Members' Dinner.

This prestigious evening will include canapes on arrival, a three-course meal with fine wines and beverages. This members-only, black-tie affair is open to all categories of members from Tuesday October 23 at 9.00am on a first-in first-served basis.

Details of the event date and the guest speaker will be made via the MCC website in the coming weeks.



Boxing Day Breakfast

A tradition for many on Boxing Day starts early, in the Members Dining Room for the Boxing Day Breakfast.

The breakfast is hosted by Australian fast-bowler, Damien Fleming and includes a sit-down breakfast, full beverage service and a reserved seat on level 2 to view the day's play. A guest speaker will be announced via the club website closer to the event.

Bookings will be taken on a first-in, first-served basis from Tuesday November 13 at 9.00am for Full and Restricted members only. Members are reminded to pre-purchase their visitor ticket requirements for guests as it cannot be guaranteed that they will be available on the day.



Women in Cricket Test Breakfast

The annual Day 2 Breakfast, hosted by Angela Pippas, will again be held in the Members Dining Room on December 27.

The package includes a sit-down breakfast, full beverage service and a reserved seat on Level 2 of the Members Reserve to view the day's play.

While the line-up for this year is yet to be confirmed it will be nothing short of entertaining if notable guests in recent years are anything to go by, which include Simon Katich, Meg Lanning and last year's special guest, Sir Ian Botham.

Bookings will be taken on a first-in, first-served basis from Tuesday November 13 at 9.00am for Full and Restricted members only. Members are reminded to pre-purchase their visitor ticket requirements guests as they cannot be guaranteed they will be available on the day.

FUNCTION NEWS



Christmas Luncheon

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

Members can enjoy Christmas Day lunch with family and friends in the Members Dining Room with an extensive Christmas Day menu, complete with all of the favourites including seafood, roast meats and a spectacular dessert buffet.

The menu will be accompanied by fine wines, sparkling, beer and soft drink.

Bookings open on Tuesday July 31 at 9.00am and are open to all categories of members, with no limit to the size of your party. Bookings will be taken on a first-in basis until sold out.

WHEN: Tuesday December 25

TIME: 11.45am for 12.30pm

WHERE: Members Dining Room

COST: \$195 (adults)

\$145 (adolescent 12-17)

\$45 (child 4-11)



Young Members' Circus Ball

Roll up! Roll up! Come one, Come all
To the Young Members Circus Ball

Lock in the date of September ONE,
There is no doubt, you will have lots of fun.

With canapes, dinner and a buffet of sweets,
Beer, wine, sparkling and dancing feats.

Wear something dazzling; you're sure to impress,
Suit and tie for the men, we expect nothing less.

The dance floor will feature as the main attraction,
But don't be surprised by other distractions.

Bookings will open on July 17,

Put the date in your diary, we know that you're keen.

Members of all categories (aged 18-40) have the grand opportunity to bring up to four guests to this amazing function which includes pre-dinner drinks and canapes, a two-course dinner and dessert buffet, beer, wine and sparkling plus surprise acts throughout the night.

WHEN: Saturday September 1

TIME: 7.00pm for 7.45pm

WHERE: Members Dining Room

COST: \$125 (member) \$145 (guest)



Members' Culinary Centre Experience

Experience dining at the MCG like never before.

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 12.

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

Head chefs will also 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.

There is a very limited number of places available, so a ballot will be held to give all members a fair chance of attending. Registrations will be open from Tuesday August 14 at 9.00am until Friday August 17 at 5.00pm.

WHEN: Wednesday September 12

TIME: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

WHERE: MCG Culinary Centre

COST: \$180 (members) \$190 (guests)

Members honoured on Queen's Birthday

The club was delighted to learn that at least 35 MCC members were recognised in the 2018 Queen's Birthday honours list for contributions across a wide range of fields and endeavours.

Among them were former MCC CEO Stephen Gough, Test cricketers Neil Harvey and John Inverarity; actor, writer and author Tom Gleisner, former politician Helen Buckingham and property developer Max Beck.

Gough was awarded an AM for significant services to sports administration and stadium management in Victoria. It is fitting recognition for his work as the MCC boss between 2000 and 2017 and his role as Carlton chief executive from 1993-1999.

"I think I've been blessed to work in sport for 35 years for two great clubs, both very different but also very similar," he told the Herald Sun. "To people who love sport, you couldn't get a better life."

"I'm very grateful for the opportunities I've had."

The club congratulates all MCC members featuring in this year's list, which is contained to the right.

AO (General Division)

Mr Maxwell John BECK
Mr Thomas Edmund GLEISNER
Mr John Charles HIGGINS
Ms Julie SINGER SCANLAN
Mr Andrew SISSON

AM (General Division)

Mr Robert Andrew BRADLEY
The Reverend Father Joseph John CADDY
Mr David Charles CAPLE
Dr Paul Vincent DESMOND
Mrs Christine Roslind FERGUSON
Mr Christopher John FREELAND
Mr Colin Denis GOLVAN QC
Mr Stephen John GOUGH
Professor Robyn Heather GUYMER
Mr Robert John INVERARITY MBE
Mr Peter Terence KEMPEN
Professor Andrew Stewart KEMP
Dr Ian John KRONBORG
Mr Hylton John MACKLEY
Mr Peter Anthony SALLMANN
Mr Peter Robert SEAMER

OAM (General Division)

Ms Helen Elizabeth BUCKINGHAM
Mr Bruce Sands HILL
Mr John Matheson HOBBDAY
Mr Robert Neil HARVEY
Mrs Mary-Jane JOSCELYNE
Mr Robert William KILBY
Ms Heather Margaret McKEE
Dr Angus Ormond McKINNON
Mr Trevor Douglas MARTYN
Mr Hugh Simpson MILLAR
Mr Michael Robert PRICE
Mr John Moore SHARWOOD
Mr Lee Reginald TARLAMIS

PSM (Public Service Medal)

Dr Janis Louise Cocking

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



During the pilot more than 4000 fans utilised the shuttle service to significantly ease their journey to the 'G

MCC invests in shuttle service for fans

In April, the club commenced a trial shuttle service to assist mobility-impaired patrons travelling from Richmond Station to the MCC concourse before and after a game.

The initial eight-week pilot generated an overwhelmingly positive public response, with more than 4000 fans utilising the shuttle service to significantly ease their journey to the 'G.

Due to this success the MCC has invested more than \$120,000 into an extended roll-out, which will see the service available until at least the end of the 2018 AFL season.

The club has partnered with not-for-profit organisation Travellers Aid Australia to deliver the service.

Members interested in utilising the transport should look out for the buggy shuttle area located opposite Richmond Station – on the Yarra Park side of Brunton Avenue.

Three buggies operate from at least 60 minutes prior to the first bounce in order to drop patrons at gates, and for 30 minutes after the final siren to assist with the journey home.

Your 2018 AFL finals arrangements

Grand final

The Members Reserve's capacity of about 23,000 will be available for the 2018 AFL Grand Final on Saturday September 29.

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 12,500 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, subject to the schedule of matches and forecast attendance in the Reserve, the club may offer a form of access to Provisional members in the first two weeks of the finals series. This will be reviewed on a match-by-match basis once the finals schedule is released in September.

Visitor tickets and reserved seats

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.

Approximately 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.

Visitor tickets and reserved seats 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.

Please visit mcc.org.au for on-sale dates and times.

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 24 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.

Member intake

At its meeting in June, the MCC Committee elected to Full membership existing Restricted members who were nominated on the waiting list from April 1, 1991 to May 31, 1991 inclusive.

Existing Provisional members nominated from September 1, 1997 to October 31, 1997 inclusive will be offered Restricted membership.

Waiting list candidates nominated from October 1, 2000 to July 31, 2001 inclusive will be offered Provisional membership.

The waiting list, therefore, will consist of candidates nominated from August 1, 2001 to today.

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 2017/18 season should already have received their renewal notice for the coming season, which commences on September 1, 2018.

For the first time, members were sent their renewal notice by email to allow for a more convenient and timely process. Those without an email address on our records have been sent a copy in the post.

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.



55,000
CARDS
ACTIVATED.



18,000
CARDS HAVE FUNDS
LOADED ON THEM.



\$70,000
OF REBATES PAID
OUT TO MEMBERS.



MCC
PLUS+



ACTIVATE >



LOAD >



PAY >



PLUS

Find out more at mcc.org.au/mccplus