



MCC News



A DAY TO REMEMBER FOR RICHMOND FANS

As the Tigers ROARED to their first FLAG in 37 years. See pages 12-13.

Life membership for Paul Sheahan

Paul has strong ties to the MCC that go back several decades. A First XI premiership player, he is an MCC Honorary Cricket member, a XXIX Club member and in 2000 was selected in the MCC Team of the Century. He is also a Life member of the Marylebone Cricket Club.

An elegant right-hand batsman and fine cover fieldsman, he played 31 Tests for Australia between 1967 and 1974, scoring 1594 runs at 33.91, including two centuries. For Victoria, he scored 3988 runs in first-class matches at the excellent average of 59.52. He was also an MCC First XI premiership player.

Seemingly on the verge of becoming Australia's regular Test opening batsman, Paul retired at the relatively young age of 27 to concentrate on his teaching career. He eventually served as headmaster at Melbourne Grammar School (1995-2009) after a decade as principal at Geelong College (1986-95).

Paul served on the MCC Committee for 28 years (1987-2015), including eight years as a vice-president and four years as president (2011-15). He chaired the Club Sub-committee and was a member of the Cricket Sub-committee.

He was just the second MCC president to have played Test cricket, after Hans Ebeling. Paul has also had an active involvement in many organisations, including as director of the Sir Robert Menzies Foundation, patron of the Anglicare Bequests Program, president of Lord's Taverners Victoria and board member of The Alfred Hospital Foundation. He has also been a director of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and an Australia Day ambassador.

In the 2014 Australia Day honours, Paul was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia 'for significant service to secondary education as a teacher, and through roles with sporting, charitable and community organisations'.

"This great club has given me far more than I could ever give it," Sheahan said in accepting Honorary Life membership. "It is an honour I don't deserve, but one that I will treasure forever."

Earlier in the evening, president Steven Smith, CEO Stuart Fox and treasurer Michael Andrew addressed the meeting and spoke to their reports contained in the 2016/17 Annual Report.

Three committee members – Adrian Anderson, Clare Cannon and Peter King – stood for re-election by rotation. Duncan Banks, Bill Hodges Jr and John Mugavin presented themselves for election via the ballot process. The results of the election were as follows:

CANDIDATE	TOTAL VOTES
CANNON, Clare*	5889
KING, Peter*	5528
ANDERSON, Adrian*	5519
MUGAVIN, P. John	3638
HODGES, Bill Jr	1926
BANKS, Duncan	1413

*retiring but seeking re-election

As a result, Adrian Anderson, Clare Cannon and Peter King were re-elected. During general business, members posed a number of operational questions to which the president, CEO and senior management responded.



Paul Sheahan (left) is congratulated by MCC president, Steven Smith, after receiving Honorary Life membership at the club's Annual General Meeting in August.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

STEVEN SMITH, PRESIDENT



The MCG enjoyed one of the most exciting Septembers for a long time. The city of Melbourne came alive with the irresistible momentum of the Tigers and the attendance numbers at the ground reflected that, with two finals of 95,000 and a capacity grand final of 100,021. The noise generated at the Richmond games was extraordinary and reminded us again how lucky we are to have a ground the size of the MCG to host these huge crowds and a ground which retains the atmosphere so well.

Congratulations must go to Richmond president, Peggy O'Neill and CEO, Brendan Gale for following through on their ambitious five-year plan to achieve a membership exceeding 70,000 and a premiership. Halfway through the year the prospects of Richmond winning the flag looked remote but their success is a reminder of how quickly things can turn around in our game when you have momentum.

It's now two fairytales in a row after the Bulldogs win in 2016, which is great news for Melbourne supporters, as they say "everything comes in threes", so hopefully 2018 will be the year of the Demons.

However, before we get too excited about football we have the Ashes series to look forward to. Whilst both sides have had patchy form over the past year, none of that will detract from the gripping tension that is always at the heart of any clash between these traditional rivals. It will be an absorbing summer of cricket.

We also look forward to welcoming our friends from the Marylebone Cricket Club who will be travelling to Australia to watch their national team in action. We are delighted to be joined by their President, the RT Hon Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, their chairman, Gerald Corbett together with six of their committee colleagues as our guests for the Boxing Day Test.

As we rapidly approach Christmas it is a good time to reflect on the year that has been for the club.

Stuart Fox oversaw his first football season as CEO and we are delighted with the way he has fitted in. He is doing a great job in managing the operations of the ground which, as mentioned, were challenging with the big crowds that

attended the finals series and also the year generally where our average crowd size increased to 51,000, up from 47,000 in 2016.

One of the club's key focuses continues to be on improving our customer service. Everyone loves the MCG, but our goal is for all our patrons to walk away from a visit to the 'G thinking how extraordinary our staff were in making their day so special.

We were therefore very excited to recently win the Customer Service Project of the Year award at the Australian Service Excellence Awards earlier this month for our CARE project.

The project involves thousands of our people being trained in the key habits to great customer service. Much credit goes to Stuart and his senior leadership team for driving this project and to all our staff for embracing it with so much enthusiasm. The best part is we are only two years into the three-year program and there is still much to be done to reach the level that we are all aspiring to.

Whilst on the topic of awards we were also thrilled to win the Best Achievement

“ **Our goal is for all our patrons to walk away from a visit to the 'G thinking how extraordinary our staff were in making their day so special.**

in Venue Management at the Australian Event Awards in September. The MCG was recognised for its achievements over a 12-month period in 2016/17, including the Guns N' Roses concert, international soccer, the AFL Grand Final and many more.

To round out a very successful period, the MCG was recognised for its sustainability practices, being named the Best Commercial Energy Efficiency Project at the National Energy Efficiency Awards.

This recognition confirms how talented our team is and how dedicated they are in their determination to ensure the MCG remains the benchmark for all other stadia in Australia and overseas.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving service to members during our busiest event days, we have decided to trial a separate members' enclosure in Yarra Park outside Gate 2 for the use of members and their guests during the Ashes Test. This additional facility for members will hopefully take some of the pressure off the more popular bars within the Reserve and provide a fantastic experience for members similar to the outdoor entertaining areas at Lord's with their champagne bar and Nursery Ground picnic areas that work so well.

Last month also saw the club take control of MCC Kew Sports Club, which was experiencing some financial difficulties. We have commissioned an independent report on options for future use of the facility and we will be looking at ways to ensure that it becomes a vibrant and viable venue. There is still some work to be done on future plans and I will come back to members once there is a more definitive proposal in place.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Paul Sheahan on becoming our newest Honorary Life member. Life membership is the greatest accolade that can be bestowed upon members of the club and Paul was a deserving recipient with his extraordinary contribution to the club over many years at the highest level. It was a very emotional Paul who accepted the award at the recent AGM.

It has been a good year for the club. There has been significant change with Stuart taking over from our highly regarded CEO of 17 years, Stephen Gough, and the retirement of some long-standing committee members. However, it is this regeneration of personnel at committee and management levels that will continue to provide new ideas and refreshed enthusiasm to help us continually strive to identify how we can do things better at the MCG.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and hope you enjoy what promises to be a fascinating summer of cricket against our traditional English rivals.

Sports facility in Kew open for business

Since our last edition, there have been some significant developments with regards to the governance of the sports and recreational facility available to MCC members in Barkers Road, Kew.

Just over five years into a 21-year arrangement to use the facility, MCC Kew Sports Club was placed into liquidation in September, after its board chose to enter voluntary administration due to financial difficulties.

However, we are pleased to advise that in the short-term the venue remains fully operational and under MCC management.

Our long-term intention is for the site to remain as a sports facility, run for the benefit of members.

We have commissioned an independent report on options for future use of the facility and we will be looking at ways to ensure the facility becomes a vibrant and viable venue for members. We will report back to members once there is a more definitive proposal in place.

The Kew club, located at 397 Barkers Road, offers a wide range of sports and facilities and caters for all ages, whether participating in a sport or joining in the

social aspect.

With multi-purpose bowling greens, en tout cas tennis courts and coaching, an active bridge club, group fitness programs, yoga, a bar, and bistro nights, it is a great venue to host any event. MCC members are most welcome to visit with invited guests.

For enquiries and bookings, please contact club manager Rick Coate on 9817 3936 or richardc@mcc.org.au, or visit the website at mcckew.com.au



MCC conquers America

A group of MCC members has completed the club's first members' tour of the USA, and from all reports it may not be the last such venture.

Led by club manager, Mark Anderson, the touring party kept up a hectic pace during the three-week trip in August-September. Highlights included seeing the opening night of the US Open tennis grand slam at Flushing Meadows, sightseeing in New York and Washington DC, Civil War monuments, the George Washington estate in Virginia, historical Charleston and charming Savannah.

It was then on to the Napa Valley to take in the world-famous wine region, followed by a trip west to San Francisco to experience the foodie culture, Alcatraz and the famous Golden Gate Bridge. The tour then moved through the Monterey Peninsula and along the Pacific Coast to Paso Robles.

The journey concluded by taking in Santa Barbara and Malibu, before finishing up in Santa Monica, Los Angeles to complete the ultimate tour. Tour operator Events Worldwide Travel is to be commended for putting together the well-planned itinerary and leading the tour so smoothly and successfully.

Savouring the sights and experiences of other countries while in the company of fellow MCC members is a wonderful opportunity. We look forward to sharing details of our next members' tour shortly.



Pavilions in the Park

MCC members will be treated to a new hospitality experience at the Boxing Day Test this summer, with temporary marquees to operate in Yarra Park, directly outside the MCC Members Reserve entrance.

Titled Pavilions in the Park and open for the first three days of the Ashes Test, members and visitor tickets holders will be able to relax, socialise and mingle while enjoying a range of food and beverage options in comfortable surrounds.

The exciting addition comes in response to feedback from members about the club's ability to cater for the sustained strong demand for food and beverages on our biggest cricket days of the year.

Due to the building constraints inside the Reserve, expanding into Yarra Park is deemed as the best way to disperse attendees more evenly and enliven an underutilised part of the MCG precinct.

The relaxed garden atmosphere will feature two marquees – namely “Bat and Bowl Bar” and “Long Bar” – complete with TV monitors and seating.

There will be a giant screen that allows you to watch the cricket in a park setting, similar to that at Adelaide Oval

or Lord's, as well as a Pimm's bar, food trucks, music and more.

Open from 10.00am to 8.30pm on December 26, 27 and 28, Pavilions in the Park will be a great way to catch up with friends at the cricket during the Test, as well as review the day's play with fellow members and guests.

With a capacity for up to 3000 people at any one time, the normal Members Reserve rules and regulations will apply with respect to dress standards and behaviour.

Importantly, all categories of members

will be able to scan in to the exclusive zone throughout the day, including Provisional members who cannot otherwise access the Reserve on the first three days of the Test. Valid visitor tickets holders will also be able to scan their ticket to enter at any time.

We are delighted to offer Pavilions in the Park as an added benefit of membership. We believe it will significantly enhance the Test match experience and will also ease some pressure in many of our facilities inside the Reserve.



An artist's impression of the hospitality area in Yarra Park that will be available to MCC members during the Boxing Day Test.

Pitching in: WACA curator set for MCG

The man responsible for the WACA Ground pitches in Perth, Matthew Page, is bound for Melbourne after being appointed head curator at the MCG.

Matthew replaces David Sandurski, who returned to Brisbane in November to take up a role at the Gabba after the retirement of Kevin Mitchell junior.

With more than 20 years' experience in turf wicket preparation and turf management, Matthew has spent the last seven years working for the WACA and the last four as turf manager. In that role, he managed ground operations at the WACA

Ground and Murdoch University Playing Fields.

He has also played a key role in the construction and maintenance of the portable pitches soon to be used at the new Perth Stadium, which will host its first event at the end of January.

"We are delighted to have secured the services of Matthew for such an important role," said MCC CEO Stuart Fox. "Matthew is highly regarded in the cricket industry and has extensive experience in preparing first-class cricket pitches.

In announcing his decision, Page said: "I'm excited about this

opportunity to work at one of Australia's premier stadiums across multiple sports, which is a challenge I've never experienced.

"In saying that, it's also very sad to leave the WACA, because it's where my journey began as a 14-year-old work experience student.

"It's been an exciting journey to date and I'm really looking forward to what the future holds."

The Ashes Test at the WACA on December 14-18 will be Matthew's fifth Test in charge of the Test pitch in Perth, after which we look forward to welcoming him to Melbourne amidst a busy summer cricket schedule.

TECH TRIAL COULD CUT QUEUE TIMES

Whether it's a day at the cricket, Friday night footy or a blockbuster concert, one of the biggest frustrations for stadium patrons is waiting in line for food or drinks while the action unfolds.

In a ground-breaking initiative, the MCC has partnered with international technology company WaitTime to trial a crowd intelligence system at the MCG.

The MCG is the first venue in the southern hemisphere to work with WaitTime, whose product is being used at major sports stadiums in America.

Utilising artificial intelligence, sensors and advanced algorithms, the technology will track queues and wait times at a selection of food and beverage outlets at the stadium.

This information will be displayed across dedicated screens, providing patrons with transparency over queue times for nearby outlets and ultimately empowering fans to make informed decisions about when and where they go for their food and drinks.

The trial commenced during the AFL Finals Series across several outlets in the Olympic Stand and Great Southern Stand and will continue during the cricket season.



MCC CEO Stuart Fox (left) and WaitTime CEO Zachary Kilma. The MCG is the first venue outside of the USA to trial the company's crowd intelligence technology.

Sporting greats join hall of fame

A wealth of sporting talent and achievement gathered in the National Sports Museum in October to celebrate their induction into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

Each inductee and Legend is featured in the Spirit of Sport gallery in the NSM, the home of SAHOF since the museum opened nearly 10 years ago.

This year, Olympic and Commonwealth Games champion sprinter Raelene Boyle was elevated to Legend status, the 33rd athlete to have that honoured bestowed.

Included in Boyle's display is a hand-painted kangaroo skin shoe she wore during the 1970 Commonwealth Games, where she won gold in the 100m, 200, and 4x100m relay, as well as a biographical video showcasing her career and achievements.

The individual inductees this year were cyclist Brad McGee, pole vaulter Steve Hooker, Australian football great Tony Lockett, Paralympic icon Frank Ponta, taekwondo's Lauren Burns, water



polo pioneer Debbie Handley, five-time Paralympic wheelchair basketballer Troy Sachs and Dr Grace Bryant (sports medicine).

The inductees are pictured here with Dawn Fraser (seated) after visiting the NSM to view the SAHOF display and unveil their personal plaque in the gallery.



Photo credit: Vicki Jones

MCG on the winners list

The club was thrilled to be recognised with three major awards in recent months across the venue management, customer service and energy efficiency sectors.

In September, MCC won the Best Achievement in Venue Management award at the Australian Event Awards for our ability to deliver major events at the MCG over the previous 12 months.

During this time, the MCG hosted a Guns N' Roses concert, International Champions Cup and Brazil v Argentina soccer matches, the AFL Grand Final, BBL derby, Boxing Day Test and numerous other international and domestic matches that drew a total audience of around 3.5 million people.

The stadium was also home to a range of community events such as Cinema at the 'G, Stadium Stomp, Sleep at the 'G and MCG Open Day.

The Australian Event Awards is the principal awards program for the Australian events industry. Judged by an independent panel of judges representing all areas of the industry, the Best Achievement in Venue Management is awarded to a person or team within a venue that "has enhanced the event experience through its management of the venue".

The MCC created the CARE program after identifying customer service as the next major step in its evolution as an organisation and a stadium. The model has at its core a focus on people and their capability to provide a consistently great experience to all customers at all times.

More than 5000 people who influence the customer experience are being trained in the key habits, values and behaviours that the MCC has identified as being critical to great customer service. The three-year-project involves more than 1000 event staff, 160 permanent staff, 400 volunteers and a range of service providers across security, catering, ticketing and tourism functions.

To round out a very successful period, the MCG was recognised for its sustainability practices, this time judged the Best Commercial Energy Efficiency Project at the National Energy Efficiency Awards.

The club has partnered with Siemens to deliver a raft of improvements to the stadium's energy use after identifying energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions as a primary focus. The work involved an extensive upgrade of existing practices, as well as the installation of numerous new efficiency systems at the stadium.

Activities included replacing half the existing MCG lights with LED technologies, implementing a 'smart' air-conditioning system that adjusts output based on the number of people in a room, and installing an innovative building management system which allows the MCC to automate room bookings and functions- a first for a sports stadium in Australia.

The project results have exceeded expectations, and include:

- Saving 10 million kWh– an energy saving which is the equivalent of powering 1872 houses for a year
- Reducing energy consumption at the MCG by 23.9 per cent
- Cutting Co2 equivalent carbon emissions by 20,982 tonnes.

The works were fully funded by the MCC at a total investment of more than \$8 million, with the expected savings from the reduced energy consumption forecast to offset this cost by 2020.

“The model has at its core a focus on people and their capability to provide a consistently great experience to all customers at all times.

The criteria included the quality of the venue experience for customer groups, a commitment to innovation in enhancing the event experience, degree of difficulty, commitment to environmental sustainability and "best practice" techniques in management and delivery of services.

A few short weeks later, the club's innovative customer service program at the MCG was named Customer Service Project of the Year - Cultural Transformation at the Australian Service Excellence Awards.



Facilities operations and contracts manager, Marshall Holding (left), accepts the club's energy efficiency award; TOP: MCC staff Josh Eltringham, Carolyn Parton, Ben McAuliffe, Kimelle Smith, Claire Bennett and Stephen Philp with our customer service award.

Sport's rich tapestry on show

Nowhere else can you find a museum that celebrates a nation's rich sporting history like the National Sports Museum at the MCG.

Across a multitude of sports, the museum features artefacts from some of the country's biggest heroes and highlights moments that have shaped Australian sport.

Our hardworking team continues to develop and refresh the content on display to align with current events and themes. These recent showcases and acquisitions are wonderful additions to the visitor experience

AFL WOMEN'S

In the Australia's Game gallery we now have a range of material acquired from this year's inaugural AFL Women's competition.

Among the items are guernseys worn by Harriet Cordner (Melbourne) and Phoebe McWilliams (Greater Western Sydney), both of whom are MCC members.

Also featured are shorts worn by Adelaide Crows forward Sarah Perkins in the AFLW Grand Final, training boots worn by Collingwood captain Stephanie Chiocci and the coin tossed before the historic first AFLW match between Collingwood and Carlton at Princes Park in February.

Rounding out the display are two medallions created to commemorate the first AFL-level women's football match, between Melbourne and Western Bulldogs at the MCG in 2013, and boots worn by Adelaide's Tayla Thorn during her first season playing Australian football with Northern Territory club Palmerston Magpies in 2010.

ALBERT BROOMHAM

The Pioneer highlights several objects associated with Albert Broomham.

Broomham played in the inaugural season of the New South Wales Rugby League Premiership in 1908 and would go on to represent New South Wales, Australia and Australasia.

Some of the objects on display for the first time include a 1908 NSW cap, a 1909 Australia cap and a trophy awarded to Broomham upon his selection for the 1911/12 tour of Great Britain. They will be available for viewing in the NSM until May next year.

ASHES AT THE MCG

A new display, titled A Testing Tradition, has been installed outside Frank Grey Smith Bar and displays objects associated with Test matches played at the MCG involving Australia and England.

Some of the items include a trophy awarded to Hugh Trumble for taking a hat-trick against England in the second Test of the 1901/02 series, a bat used by England's Jack Hobbs during the 1920/21 series, Bill Woodfull's baggy green cap worn during 1928/29 and a jumper worn by England's Trevor Bailey during the 1950/51 series.

AUSSIE GOLD

Finally, the Heroes section of the Faster Higher Stronger gallery has had a number of medals won by Australian athletes added to the display.

Among them are Mack Horton's 400 metres freestyle gold medal from last year's Rio Olympics, rower and MCC member Kim Brennan's gold medal from Rio and her silver and bronze medals from the London 2012 Games, and freestyle skier Lydia Lassila's gold medal from the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics and bronze medal from the 2014 Sochi Games.

MCC members can access the National Sports Museum on non-match days at a discounted rate of \$20 (normally \$24) by showing their membership card at the ticket counter. Members and their guests can also access the NSM at 50 per cent off normal prices on MCG event days.



GOLDEN GIRL WAS AN MCG ICON

The sporting world was very saddened by the passing of Betty Cuthbert AM, MBE, in August at the age of 79.

Nicknamed “the Golden Girl” after her performances at the Melbourne Olympics, Betty is a legend of Australian sport, one whose achievements are intrinsically linked to the MCG.

As an 18-year-old, Betty won gold medals on the MCG in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres relay at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. In doing so, she became the first Australian athlete to win three gold medals at a single Olympics.

After missing the Rome Olympics in 1960 due to injury, she came out of retirement to win a fourth gold medal at the Tokyo Games in 1964 in the inaugural women’s 400 metres.

In honour of her outstanding career, Betty was one of the first athletes recognised with a statue outside the MCG as part of the Tattersalls Parade of Champions project.

The statue, created by sculptor Louis Laumen, captures Betty in full flight and was unveiled outside Gate 3 in August, 2003 with a who’s who of Australian sport in attendance.

In the latest edition of The Yorker magazine produced by the MCC Library, head librarian David Studham recalled the occasion.

“I will never forget the happiness, and indeed tears of joy, on her face the day in 2003 when she watched the unveiling of the

statue in her honour outside the MCG,” said Studham. “However, I think she would have been even prouder to know it was the first public statue of an Australian woman to be erected in Melbourne.”

Betty was also featured on one of the eight bronze doors designed by Robert Ingpen to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the MCC in 1988. The doors are currently displayed in the Anniversary Gallery on Level 3 of the Members’ Pavilion.

Although based in Western Australia, Betty was a strong supporter of the MCC and its commitment to sporting heritage. She donated much of her personal collection of sporting memorabilia, including her four gold medals, to the National Sports Museum, where it is currently on display.

Betty is also featured in the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in the NSM, including video footage of her 100m and 200m wins at the MCG in 1956.

“While her passing brings sadness, it is the joy that her running achievements generated across the nations that has been readily apparent since her death, with the proliferation of people reminiscing about watching her compete here at the MCG or their stories of encounters with one of the most genuine and delightful ladies you will ever meet,” said Studham.

Vale, Betty.



ABOVE: Cuthbert is flanked by Olympians Matt Welsh (left) and Russell Mark at the unveiling of her MCG statue in 2003.

MIDDLE: Betty Cuthbert shown winning the Olympic Games semi final of the 200 metres at the MCG in 1956.

This souvenir cover from The Argus newspaper included one of the first descriptions of Cuthbert as the “Golden Girl of Australian Athletics”.



EARLY BIRD STATE OF ORIGIN TICKETS

Another MCG record crowd looms when State of Origin Rugby league returns to the MCG on Wednesday June 6 next year for Game 1 of the hugely popular three-game series.

A massive crowd of 91,513 packed the home of sport for the last Origin match in 2015, with expectations of a similar crowd this time around to watch arch rivals New South Wales and Queensland.

As part of the club's contractual arrangements with the National Rugby League, the normal first-in, first-served walk-up access to the MCC Members Reserve will be afforded to members and their guests.

However, MCC members will be required to pre-purchase a subsidised entitlement in order to validate their

membership card to enter the Reserve. All categories of members will be able to purchase up to four visitor tickets for guests. Reserved seats on Level 1 and 4 are also available.

Members will be rewarded for purchasing their tickets early, as entry entitlement and visitor ticket prices will increase from Sunday December 24 at 5.00pm.

Entry entitlements for members currently cost \$50, and visitor tickets cost \$110 (adults) and \$75 (children aged 6-14). From Christmas Day, these prices rise to \$60, \$135 and \$85 respectively, so make sure you secure your ticketing needs beforehand.

Tickets can be purchased at Ticketek, or in person at the club.



AFL SCHEDULE: MARK YOUR DIARIES

The MCG will host 45 matches in the 2018 AFL home and away season, commencing with Richmond v Carlton on Thursday March 22 as part of a triple header in the opening round.

Two nights after the Tigers unfurl their premiership flag, MCG co-tenants Hawthorn and Collingwood will do battle on Saturday March 24. Melbourne and Geelong Cats will round out the weekend of MCG action, a clash most notable for the return of Gary Ablett in the blue and white.

Marquee matches on Easter Monday, Queen's Birthday, Anzac Day, Anzac Eve and Dreamtime at the 'G have all been retained.

Richmond's premiership win has seen them awarded 14 matches at the MCG, three more than last season, while Geelong Cats will play seven games at the 'G, up from five. There are five Friday night matches at the MCG and five rounds of tripleheaders.

Detailed arrangements for the 2018 AFL season, including access for Provisional members as well as visitor ticket on-sale dates, will be confirmed early in the New Year.



Ashes hostilities resume

There is no more momentous occasion in cricket than an Ashes Test on Boxing Day at the MCG, and this summer's contest will whet the appetite of every cricket fan.

Last time England visited our shores, a world record Test cricket crowd of 91,112 attended the opening day of the MCG Test, as Australia marched on towards a 5-0 whitewash. England captain Joe Root will be looking for a much more competitive performance this time around, as the visitors seek to retain the Ashes secured at home in 2015.

The two countries will also contest a series of 50-over and Twenty 20 matches, with the MCG to host one of each in January and February.

Melbourne Stars will play five BBL and three WBBL games at the MCG in January. Of those, the marquee day on the calendar will be the women's and men's doubleheader between Melbourne Stars and Melbourne Renegades on Saturday January 6. This event has attracted crowds of 70-80,000 in the last two summers and interest is sure to be just as strong this time around.

Visitor tickets and reserved seats to all international and BBL matches are

now on sale. As we went to print, visitor tickets had sold out for Day 1 of the Test, but were available for all other match days.

A limit of two visitor tickets will apply to Full and Restricted members on days 2 and 3 of the Test, and four for all other international and domestic match days. Provisional members will not be able to use their card to access the Members Reserve on the first three days of the Test.

Entries in the Members Dining Room and Jim Stynes Grill ballots for all days of the Test will open from Monday December 11 at 9.00am until Tuesday December 12 at 5.00pm.

A new hospitality addition for all categories of members and guests this cricket season is the Pavilions in the Park area in Yarra Park, directly outside the Members Reserve on the first three days of the Tests. See page 5 for more information.

All other details pertaining to the 2017/18 cricket season, including detailed access entitlements for Provisional members, can be found on mcc.org.au/ashes2017 or in the eight-page cricket guide now available to members.

2017/18 cricket at the MCG

Boxing Day Test

Australia v England (Dec 26-30)

One-Day International

Australia v England (Jan 14)

Twenty20 International

Australia v England (Feb 10)

T20 Big Bash League (men's)

Stars v Heat (Jan 2)
Stars v Renegades (Jan 6)
Stars v Sixers (Jan 16)
Stars v Thunder (Jan 20)
Stars v Hurricanes (Jan 27)

T20 Big Bash League (women's)

Stars v Renegades (Jan 6)
Stars v Thunder (Jan 20)
Stars v Hurricanes (Jan 27)
Stars v Hurricanes (Jan 28)



Go green with Melbourne Stars

This summer's T20 Big Bash League competition sees the MCG hosting five Melbourne Stars men's matches, along with four women's BBL games.

Yet again, the Melbourne Stars are offering a unique MCC membership upgrade. For just \$45, members will receive invitations to special events, ticketed access to the Etihad Stadium derby on January 12, Stars merchandise discounts and a membership pack, including your choice of MCC/Stars seat cushion, scarf or Stars carry bag.

Whether you have renewed your MCC membership for the current season or are still to do so, you can buy your MCC Stars membership by logging in to the MCC website and using your seven-digit reference number.

With the Stars men's lineup containing names such as Kevin Pietersen, Glenn Maxwell and Peter Handscomb, along with leg-spinner Kristin Beams leading the women's team, let's hope the MCG-based sides can finally take home a BBL/WBBL title.



YELLOW AND BLACK

FEVER GRIPS THE 'G - AND THE CITY

THE 2017 AFL GRAND FINAL BROUGHT AN END TO 37 YEARS OF HEARTBREAK AND ANGUISH FOR RICHMOND SUPPORTERS, WITH THE TIGERS MAULING THE CROWS AT A PACKED MCG.

It had been a long time in the making, but in the end triumph was swift and merciless, as Richmond defeated Adelaide Crows by 48 points at the MCG on the last Saturday in September to win its first premiership since 1980.

In one of the more even AFL seasons in recent memory, the Tigers stormed into the grand final on the back of big MCG wins over Geelong Cats and GWS Giants. Anticipation among long-suffering Tigers fans had intensified during grand final week and the 'G was buzzing by the first bounce.

After trailing by 11 points at quarter time, the Tigers sealed their 11th flag with a run of seven unanswered goals from early in the second quarter. Adelaide scored three late consolation goals, but nothing could take the gloss off Richmond's 16.12 (108) to 8.12 (60) triumph.

Dustin Martin capped off an amazing season by adding the Norm Smith Medal for best afield to his Brownlow Medal, premiership medallion and numerous media awards. The tough and skillful midfielder iced the game with a goal in the last quarter that led to an outpouring of emotion from the Tigers army – both inside the stadium and in Yarra Park, where thousands of fans who could not get a ticket had gathered to watch the contest.

Earlier in the day, and overnight for some, MCC Full members took their place in the queue outside Gate 2 for walk-up seating in the Reserve to see the big match.

The club had announced early in grand final week that it would review the walkup numbers of Full members and guest cardholders before determining whether Restricted members

would be afforded access. After the initial queue cleared and the morning unfolded, it was felt the Members Reserve would reach capacity without the need to sell entry tickets to Restricted members.

The final ground attendance was 100,021 – just three short of capacity, and the highest crowd at the MCG for any event since the northern stand redevelopment was completed 11 years ago. American rock band The Killers provided the perfect lead-in to the main event, and doubled up with a performance on stage at the premiership party after the match, including a memorable cameo from Tigers forward Jack Riewoldt on their smash hit, Mr Brightside.

ATTENDANCE 100,021

On the Sunday after the grand final, the MCG precinct was the place to be. Around 25,000 people flocked to MCG Open Day, taking the rare opportunity to go behind the scenes at Australia's favourite stadium, while a similar number were at Punt Road Oval, reliving and rejoicing.



MCC women's football kicks off

The MCC has been accepted into the Victorian Amateur Football Association as a member club for the 2018 women's season, with plans now firmly in place to field our inaugural team in a women's competition.

The aim is to complement the elite women's football played by Melbourne Football Club with a lower-level community team in the MCC name. Home matches are likely to be played at the soon-to-be-completed Beaumaris Secondary College.

An initial open training session was held on October 28 to gauge interest from potential players, and we were very pleased with the response.

Since then, we have appointed Lachlan Worthy as head coach of the MCC women's football club. Lachlan joins us from St Kevin's Old Boys, where he was Reserves coach in 2017, and brings with him extensive experience in women's football coaching.

He was Sydney University Women's AFL coach for eight seasons (2000-07) including three years as the NSW state team coach (2000-03) and was

named Sydney Women's AFL Coach of the Decade in 2009. It's an impressive resume.

Lachlan will be joined by former Melbourne FC player Russell Robertson, who has taken a coaching ambassador role.

Lachlan and Russell have hit the ground running, with training sessions being held on Tuesday evenings in St Bede's College through November-December. If you are interested in playing or

assisting with an MCC football team next season, or know someone who is, please contact us on (03) 9657 8888 or email melbcricketclubfc@gmail.com.



ABOVE: Lachlan Worthy, the MCC's inaugural women's football head coach. LEFT: The club's first women's football training session in October was well attended.



Isabel is footy's number one

The Huntington family's sporting talents continue to shine through, following the Western Bulldogs' decision to select 18-year-old Isabel Huntington with its number one selection in the AFL Women's Draft last month.

A newly elected MCC Provisional member, Isabel is the granddaughter of MCG volunteers Ian and Marie Huntington, both of whom were talented sportspeople in their own right. Marie was a talented squash and tennis player, and a keen golfer.

Ian is a former MCC cricketer who captained and coached the club, and also played for Victoria. He also played hockey, tennis and baseball for MCC, the latter at state level, and won the Hans Ebeling Award in 1983 for outstanding service to our sporting sections.

Isabel, who hopes to study medicine, has just completed her Year 12 studies while coping with the adulation and pressure that comes with being a number one draft selection.

She has also been recovering from an anterior cruciate ligament knee injury that saw her sit out of football this season, after a broken leg in 2015.

Despite the setbacks, Bulldogs coach Paul Groves is excited by what he sees, describing Isabella as "the complete package".

"She's really versatile, can play down back, midfield, up forward where she'll potentially support Katie Brennan," he said.

"It's a massive honour," Isabel told reporters after the draft selection. "I would have been happy to go anywhere, any pick."

"It doesn't really matter when you get into the club, whether you're one or 100, but I'm pretty honoured they think of me that highly and I'm just excited to get started."

Ian and Marie also have a grandson, Will Setterfield, who made his AFL debut with the GWS Giants in July and, like Isabel, looks to have a bright future.



David Crow wins Hans Ebeling Award

Former MCC vice-president David Crow was recognised for a decades-long contribution to MCC sport at the Sporting Sections Annual Dinner on November 1, where he was the recipient of the prestigious Hans Ebeling Award. Perpetuating the memory of one of the MCC's greatest contributors, the Hans Ebeling Award was introduced in 1981 to honour those who have given outstanding service to our Sporting Sections.

David joined the club in 1967 to play cricket, and debuted in the First XI that season as a budding fast bowler. The potential that the talent scouts saw in David was evidenced by him winning the First XI bowling average in 1969/70. David, like many fast bowlers, was plagued with injury and played in various grades before heading overseas for five years after the 1972/73 season.

He returned to the club in 1978/79 and in ensuing years captained the Fourth XI and the 'C's in the MCC Club XI competition.

He also took on the role of MCC Club XI Cricket competition convenor, which he held for nine seasons. This involved running a cricket competition virtually single handed and David

was instrumental in the vibrancy the competition experienced during his time.

David's affinity with cricket and our sporting heritage were constants during a 24-year stint on the MCC Committee (1993-2017), the last four years as vice-president.

Among David's most significant contributions were his terms as chairman of the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame and his role as MCC Cricket chairman in the establishment of our inaugural MCC women's cricket teams five years ago.

David was also at the helm during one of the successful cricket seasons in MCC history. In 2012/13 we peeled off eight of the available 13 titles, including the First XI premiership, and it is an achievement of which he is most proud.

Apart from his cricket service, David has been a strong supporter of our heritage operations. He initiated an MCG statues program, which led to the Tattersall's Parade of the Champions project and the more recent Australia Post Avenue of Legends series in Yarra Park.



David Crow (left) receives the Hans Ebeling Award from MCC president Steven Smith.

Cricket future in good hands

The MCC continues to play a prominent role in developing the next generation of cricket talent, with a number of our players chosen at representative level already this season.

At first-class level, three MCC players – Chris Tremain, Sam Harper and Seb Gotch – have played for the Victorian Bushrangers in the first four rounds of the Sheffield Shield competition. Tremain has been the pick of the bunch, taking 15 wickets at 23.6.

The trio was joined by Cameron White, Will Pucovski and Blake Thomson in the Bushrangers team during the JLT One-Day Series played in October, while young fast bowler Jackson Coleman played in the same tournament for a Cricket Australia XI.

At junior level, MCC will have three Victorian representatives in the men's Australian Under 19 tournament to be held in Tasmania from December 4-15. Wilson McGillivray and Brad Melville

have been selected in the Victorian country team, with Zac Mevissen in the Victorian metro lineup.

That tournament will also feature a Cricket Australia XI comprising the best players from the Australian Under 17 championships, and MCC's Patrick Rowe will take part.

The women's Victorian Under 18 squad features MCC's Olivia Downes and Jordan Watson, while the women's Victorian Under 15 metropolitan squad contains Jessica Grant, Ella Hayward and Kampi Nainhabo.

After 10 rounds of men's Premier Cricket, the First XI was off the pace and in desperate need of a change in form, while the Second XI was one point out of the eight. Our Third XI was two wins out of the eight, while the Fourth XI was in fourth place.

In the women's competition, our First XI was in third place after six matches, with the Second XI on top. The Third XI

has won one of four matches. In the Club XI competition, MCC's Division 2 team had won one of its first four matches, while our Division 3 team sits second on the ladder.



TOP: MCC 300-game player Steven McCooke presents a First XI cap to 14-year-old debutant Ella Hayward in November. BOTTOM: Brad Melville sends one down for the Demons.

Four decades on, guides are still the face of the 'G

Whether it be as an MCG Tour Guide, in the MCC Library or in the National Sports Museum, our 350-strong band of volunteers plays a vital role in ensuring that every visitor has a positive experience and leaves with a heightened sense of our national sporting culture and heritage.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the first MCG Tours, which have since become a cornerstone of tourism visitation at the stadium on non-match days. They are enormously popular with visitors, whether from overseas, interstate, regional Victoria or inner Melbourne.

Part of the success of the visitor experience on non-match days at the MCG lies in the knowledge and experience acquired by our volunteers over several decades of service.

Among them are MCG Guides Bernard Allen, Margaret Forster and Len Mill, who have been taking guided tours since 1987, and Steve Mason (since 1989). Up in the world-class MCC Library, Ray Webster is fast approaching 30 years' service, while Eric Panther has been assisting and researching for an astonishing 34 years.

MORE THAN A CENTURY of combined service

It was the formation of a Tour Guides group 40 years ago that laid the foundations for the strong volunteer contribution we see today right across the club.

The first formal tours began in 1977 when a group of passionate MCC members formed an association called the MCC Guides in order to show visitors around the Pavilion for the Centenary Test.

These first volunteers wore a round badge much like the one worn by Long Room Wine and Food Society members today. Each guide took their own tour, which was not scripted, and some tours lasted as long as three hours!

Tours then ran every Wednesday morning and were confined to the highlights of the 1927 Pavilion, including the Long Room, the MCC

Museum and the corridor of Sporting Sections photographs on the upper level known as Bourke Street because of the heavy foot traffic on match days.

In early 1987, following the opening of the Australian Gallery of Sport adjacent to the Members Pavilion, another group of volunteers was enlisted to help show groups through this new museum space. This group, also recruited from the ranks of MCC, were known as Gallery Rovers and wore a distinctive mustard jacket.

In the November 1987 edition of MCC News, the club put a call out for more guides, deemed "necessary to cope with greatly increased tourism activity and booming attendances at the Australian Gallery of Sport during the club's 150th birthday celebrations", which were set to take place the following year.

Four years on, with the tours becoming increasingly popular, then club president Dr Donald Cordner

wrote to the 50-Year members group to enlist more volunteers. This group, along with the original MCC Guides and the Gallery Rovers, formed a new alliance in September 1991 and became the MCG Tour Guides of today in the famous striped blazers in club colours.

Tours began running on every non-match day on the hour, from 10.00am to 3.00pm, and in 1994 demand was such that the tours began to run on the half hour as well.

Today, during busy periods such as school holidays and grand final week, tours run as often as every 15 minutes in order to meet demand, with up to 150,000 visitors to the ground each year.

We are enormously proud of, and indebted to, the men and women who give their time so freely in order to present our great club and stadium to the world. Long may it continue.



ABOVE: Some of our longest-serving MCG volunteers: Bernard Allen, Steve Mason, Ray Webster, Len Mill and Eric Panther. TOP RIGHT: Len with the original Rovers jacket that preceded the now-familiar MCC blazer. TOP LEFT: The MCG Tour Guides, circa 1980, three years after the stadium tours began.

Roy's message heard in high places

MCC 50-Year member Roy Francis has won the prestigious Victorian Senior of the Year award for his tireless work and travel promoting cancer awareness around the state.

Roy and 14 others recognised for their community contributions were presented with their awards at a ceremony at Government House in October.

Diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2006, Roy subsequently became the first Prostate Awareness volunteer ambassador appointed by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. He formed the Mornington Peninsula prostate cancer support group and was appointed Frankston Council's bowel cancer community champion.

The 77-year-old Roy, who has been an MCC member since 1961, also became the first volunteer ambassador appointed by the National Stroke Foundation, as well as a beyondblue ambassador. He travels throughout Victoria promoting cancer awareness and other health issues. To date he has made more than 750 presentations.

Roy is also very active elsewhere in his local community, volunteering at various sporting and active living groups, service

clubs and community centres. These include the Mornington National Seniors group, Mornington Croquet Club and the Balnarring Picnic Racing Club.

"It's very satisfying to do something for other people, to use my past experiences to help others," said Roy in accepting

the award. "I really enjoy doing what I'm doing and I'd like to think I'm making a difference."

"There are so many things you can do as a senior. If you are able to, you should use your past experiences to help others."



MCC 50-Year member and Victorian Senior of the Year, Roy Francis (left), with The Honourable Linda Dessau, Governor of Victoria, and Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Martin Foley.

Cricketer conquers English Channel

MCC cricketer Shane Giese took pre-season training to another level in September, taking completing the famous English Channel swim from southern England to northern France.

While his teammates were in the nets or discussing whether the Tigers could win that weekend's AFL premiership, the 29-year-old was taking on one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. The solo voyage was a battle of the mind as well as an enormous physical toll.

Seasickness, regular vomiting and changing currents in one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world were just some of the challenges Shane faced during a 13-hour, 50 kilometre swim.

"Swimming the English Channel had not been a long-term ambition of mine,"

Shane said after his journey. "I have always been interested in swimming, and I would regularly go to the pool to swim a couple of laps.

"However, after I completed an Ironman event in 2015, and battling some mental health issues for a few years, I thought why not try the hardest open water swim in the world?

"As crazy as it sounded to everyone else, I knew that I needed to do this for me and those around me."

The 20-30 hours of training Shane had undertaken each week with renowned Channel swimmer, Chloe McCardel, put him in good stead for the arduous task, which became more difficult with the constantly changing conditions.

"At the halfway mark the current

changed, going against me," recalls Shane. "My speed dropped from 4.5 kilometres per hour to 1.2, in the end, the last three kilometres would take me three hours. Touching dry land was a moment I will never forget!"

Shane has played almost 150 Premier Cricket matches since joining the club in 2004 as a 16-year-old. A talented left-arm fast-medium bowler, he earned First XI selection in 2006-07 before back troubles saw him spend a few summers on the sidelines or as a batsman in the lower grades. He has since returned to bowling and last season took 14 Third XI scalps at 18.67.

His efforts in the water are sure to put any future cricket fitness sessions in the shade.

Function fun for everyone

The club again hosted a multitude of entertaining functions in the winter and spring seasons, with a variety of options for members and guests to enjoy.

Our first regional event in several years was held at Ballarat Golf Club on July 26. An Evening with the Coodabeens included a presentation by the MCC Committee, before the Coodabeen Champions took to the stage for a theatre-style performance.

MCC president Steven Smith and CEO Stuart Fox were present, alongside members of senior management, to discuss the latest happenings around the club and to answer questions from members and guests.

The following week, two functions were held on the same day at different locations. On August 5, the VRC/MCC Members' Raceday Event was held at Flemington, while the Women of the MCC group held a function in the Committee Room at the Carlton v Essendon match.

For the 17th consecutive year, we celebrated the life of Sir Donald Bradman at The Bradman Luncheon on August 24. A packed Members Dining Room was treated to an afternoon of fabulous food and great entertainment.

The day began with a stirring operatic performance by Sir Don's granddaughter, Greta, who despite being unwell, performed beautifully. She was accompanied by pianist Rhodri Clarke; the two performers so perfectly matched.

MC Gerard Whateley then conducted

an interview with Australian and Victorian cricketer, Jon Holland. Selected to play Test cricket in Sri Lanka in 2016, Holland spoke about that experience and how quickly it came about due to a number of injuries to Australian bowlers.

Holland said he has taken much from being part of the Australian team and it was, overall, a great learning experience. He also touched on his successful Sheffield Shield season, which included taking eight wickets in the final to propel the Bushrangers to another title.

After main course, former Australian fast bowler Len Pascoe took to the lectern. To say that Len could tell a story with great enthusiasm and energy would be an understatement. Len's ability to draw the crowd into this tale was effortless, albeit fraught with twists and turns along the way.

Len's address told the story of a cricketer who is very passionate about the game and who reached his potential. On many occasions he touched on his great friendship with fellow quick, Jeff Thomson, and the adventures they got up to as cricketers and school mates.

One of the World Series Cricket signatories, Len lamented that he had not earned one cent in royalties from his "Pascoe's making divots in the green" line in that famous C'mon Aussie C'mon

TV commercial from the WSC era. One suspects an alert manager would not let the opportunity pass these days.

The final Comedy @ the 'G function for the year was held on July 28 in the Hans Ebeling Room prior to the Hawthorn v Sydney Swans match. Comedians Toby Halligan, Cal Wilson and Matt Stewart were in fine form.

In the final round of the AFL home and away season, almost 100 members and guests attended a luncheon for dual MFC/MCC members in the Hans Ebeling Room prior to the Collingwood-Melbourne match on August 26. However, many in the room went home deflated as the Demons lost to their archrivals and, ultimately, missed a finals berth.

While the AFL community enjoyed a weekend off before the finals series, around 400 members and guests attended the Young Members' Ball on September 2, themed 'One Hit Wonders Disco'. After pre-dinner drinks and canapés in the Long Room, everyone adjourned to the Members Dining Room for dinner and a night of dancing to some classic disco hits.

An intimate group of 60 diners enjoyed a unique dining experience in the MCG Culinary Centre on September 13. Our hospitality partner, EPICURE, opened up its kitchen to allow members and guests to



savour delicious fare and speak to the chefs in intimate surrounds.

As Richmond and Adelaide Crows prepared for their grand final battle on the last Saturday in September, a big week of functions was in full swing at the MCG.

The annual Sporting Sections Grand Final Week Luncheon was held on Monday September 25 and was again hosted by popular duo Ian Cover and Tony Leonard.

Retiring Hawthorn captain, Luke Hodge, gave no indication he was about to become a Brisbane Lions player when he addressed the room, giving some great insights into his outstanding career and his favourite grand final day memories.

That evening, the Brownlow Dinner with the Coodabeens again proved to be one of the club's most popular events. More than 470 attendees packed the Members Dining Room as the Coodabeens brought their usual wit, humour and song for a 12th year running.

The MCC Young Members Club, catering for the interests of members aged 18-40 years, held three events in a fortnight in November, each one a sell-out affair.

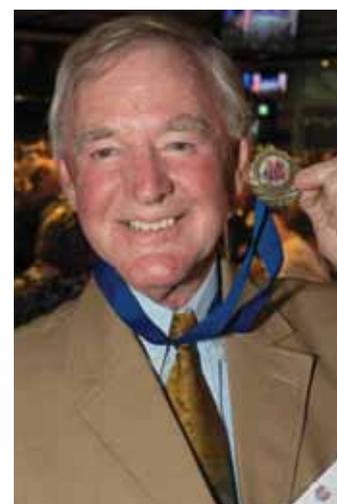
On November 1, Stuart Fox joined former AFL general manager of football operations, Adrian Anderson, and AFL head of government relations, Jude Donnelly, on a panel to discuss all things sport and business at the Young Members' Professionals Breakfast in the Committee Room.

The following evening, young members attended a Scotch Malt Whisky Appreciation Evening in the Long Room. This very popular event was again hosted by the Scotch Malt Whisky Society and involved tasting some of the finest and rarest single cask malts in the world.

To round out a busy fortnight for young members, a Wine Appreciation Evening was held on November 16 in the Long Room. The Next Generation of Australia's First Families of Wine, belonging to some of Australia's oldest multi-generational family-owned wineries, took members and guests on a journey through their family vineyards, which includes some of the most loved and respected names in Australian wine.

Another feature on the functions calendar is the MCC XXIX Club Annual Dinner, which this year was held on November 15. It has been 60 years since the inaugural annual dinner of this special interest group, and former Australian batsman Chris Rogers lived up to the occasion as guest speaker.

As we look ahead, the month of December contains a number of highly-anticipated functions for members and guests. The Christmas Masterclass (December 2), Members' Dinner (December 12), Christmas Luncheon (December 25) and Test breakfasts on December 26 and 27 are all sold out. We can't wait.



Australia Day lunch

TRADITION CONTINUES

Australian War Memorial director, Dr Brendan Nelson, will be our guest speaker at the 12th annual Australia Day Luncheon in the Long Room on January 26.

This function has grown to become an anticipated event on our calendar, as MCC members and their guests celebrate our national day in fine style.

Since his appointment as Australian War Memorial director in 2012, Dr Nelson has helped the nation look beyond the statistics to focus on the people who fought and died for their country. He was at the centre of planning and delivery of major events in 2015 to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac, 100 years since Australian and New Zealand troops first landed on the shores of the Gallipoli peninsula as part of the First World War.

In 1993, Dr Nelson became national president of the Australian Medical Association, becoming the youngest person ever to hold this position. He campaigned on a wide range of social policy

issues and led the campaign against tobacco advertising and sponsorship of sport.

A switch to politics saw Dr Nelson elected to Federal Parliament in 1996. He became Minister for Defence in 2006 and, in November 2007, he was elected leader of the Liberal Party of Australia, serving as Leader of the Opposition until September 2008.

The following year he retired from federal politics before taking up an appointment as Australian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union and NATO. It was in this role that forged deep links with the communities of Flanders, where almost 18,000 Australians lost their lives during the First World War.

Tickets to the Australia Day Luncheon include a three-course meal with beer, wine and soft drinks. Bookings opened on November 28 via the club website or in person at the club.

DATE Friday January 26, 2018	\$95 MEMBERS
TIME 12.00pm for 12.30pm	
LOCATION Long Room	\$105 GUESTS
DRESS Jacket and tie	



Cricket function for young members

Australia will take on England in a Twenty20 International under lights at the MCG on February 10, at which the MCC Young Members Club will host its annual cricket function in the Hans Ebeling Room.

Full and Restricted members may each bring up to four guests. Provisional members may each bring up to two guests. Function bookings will open on Monday January 9 at 9.00am.

Dress code is smart casual, collared shirt. No denim and no sneakers. All bookings include finger food and drinks throughout the function as well as a reserved seat on Level 2 to watch the cricket.

Further details can be found at mcc.org.au.

Members' Golf Day at Kingston Heath

Members should mark their calendars for the next MCC golf day scheduled for Tuesday February 6 at Kingston Heath Golf Club.

The package includes green fee, light pre-round refreshments and gourmet barbeque and beverages at the conclusion of the round. There will also be prizes on offer, as well as the awarding of the President's Cup.

Online bookings for this rare opportunity to experience one of Australia's premier golf courses are now being accepted on a first-in, first-served basis.

The event is open to MCC members of all categories, provided they hold a club, VGA or WGV official handicap. Members wishing to play together must book together.

FUNCTIONS CALENDAR

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

Members' Christmas Masterclass

Saturday December 2
MCG Culinary Centre

SOLD OUT

New 50-Year Members' Luncheon

Wednesday December 6
Long Room

BOOKINGS N/A



Members' Dinner

Tuesday December 12
Members Dining Room

SOLD OUT

Christmas Day Luncheon

Monday December 25
Members Dining Room

SOLD OUT

Boxing Day Breakfast

Tuesday December 26
Members Dining Rom

SOLD OUT

Women in Cricket Test Breakfast

Tuesday December 27
Members Dining Room

SOLD OUT



Australia Day Luncheon

Friday January 26
Long Room

BOOK NOW

Members' Golf Day

Tuesday February 6
Kingston Heath Golf Club

BOOK NOW

Young Members' Cricket Function

Saturday February 10
Hans Ebeling Room

**BOOKINGS OPEN ON
JANUARY 9**

Women in Wine

Thursday March 8
Long Room

**BOOKINGS OPEN ON
JANUARY 23**



Young Members' Craft Beer Evening

Thursday March 15
Jim Stynes Grill

**BOOKINGS OPEN ON
FEBRUARY 13**

MCG Footy Season Launch Luncheon

Wednesday March 21
Members Dining Room

**BOOKINGS OPEN ON
FEBRUARY 13**

MCG is the place for all occasions

Hosting a function at the MCG, whether it be for a large corporation or a private family affair, is one of the most popular activities that takes place at the 'G on a day-to-day basis, all year round. Around 1000 events were held on non-match days last year, with more than 130,000 people in attendance.

The 'G means many things to many people, and everyone has their own connection to the iconic stadium that has just entered its 165th year. For MCC member Reverend Laurie Barton, the venue is a second home to both he and his family.

Laurie received his MCC membership 15 years ago and since then has held some significant family gatherings in the first-class facilities at the MCG.

In 2006, he booked his eldest son Tom's 21st birthday in the Harrison Room, perched on Level 2 of the Ponsford Stand overlooking the turf.

His family enjoyed the occasion so much that Laurie did not hesitate to return to the same location in 2009 to celebrate his second son Richard's

21st milestone. Later that year, the Committee Room was home to the 80th birthday party of Elva, Laurie's mother-in-law.

“The venue is a second home to both he and his family.

Plans had also been put in place for Laurie's mother's 100th birthday to be held in the Committee Room in 2013 but, Laurie recalls, that “sadly she passed away before we were able to have the party”.

A few months ago, his family returned to the MCG for his wife, Wendy's, 60th birthday party on the Robert Flower Terrace, with its stunning views over Yarra Park and the city.

“We had more than 80 guests in the Flower Terrace,” says Laurie. “It was a lovely evening, with the fine weather enabling people to be either inside or outside. The food was beautiful, and the service first rate.”

To round out a decade of family

occasions at the MCG, Laurie's own retirement function will be held in the Committee Room at the end of November to mark the end of his 30-year tenure as chaplain at Caulfield Grammar School.

Caulfield GS also held a number of its Year 12 Valedictory Dinner events at the MCG, including this year, each with more than 500-plus diners enjoying fine food and great atmosphere in Australia's greatest stadium.

“One of the great privileges as a member is to arrange and then celebrate significant occasions at the MCG,” says Laurie. “Over the years, I've been able to hold a number of family functions in a variety of spaces, depending on the occasion and the number attending.”

“On each occasion, Epicure has been so helpful in making the arrangements, and the club has been most generous in provision of spaces and managing the whole process.

“I would thoroughly recommend other members to avail themselves of these opportunities.”

YOUR NEXT SPECIAL OCCASION? COME TO THE MCG!

From spectacular CBD views of the rooftop Robbie Flower Terrace to the exclusive tradition of the Long Room, make your next event one to remember.

With over 15 stunning, world-class spaces available, the MCC Reserve can cater to all your event requirements.

Contact: James Gilham functions.mcg@epicure.com.au or visit mcc.org.au/functions



Membership

BY THE NUMBERS

The number of members on the club's books is at its highest level in history, underlining the continued popularity of MCC membership in the community.

There were 121,938 financial members at August 31 this year, with another 225,582 nominees waiting to join. More than 44 per cent of those on the waiting list are under 15 years of age and we are still accepting around 9-10,000 new applications annually.

With a membership age range from 15 to 101 (average age 45), almost 37 per cent of members live outside metropolitan Melbourne, including 4000 people who reside overseas.

We have 63,205 Full members (2667 of whom are 50-Year men), 42,902 Restricted members and 15,831 Provisional members. Females comprise 24 per cent of membership and 34 per cent of waiting list candidates.

There were 35,210 members who did not attend an MCG event in 2016/17 (September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017). In fact, 56 per cent of members attended two events or fewer in the last 12 months and only one-fifth entered the Reserve on six or more event days.

While more than 92 per cent of members have an email address

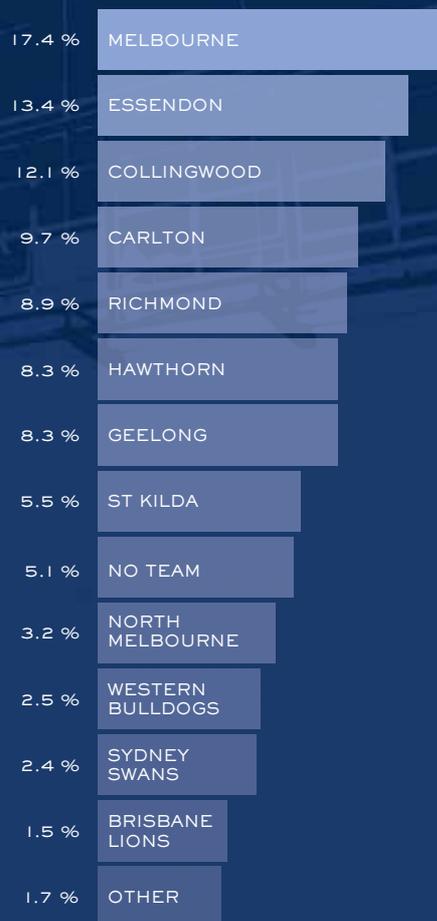
registered with the club, this means there are at least 9000 of you out there either without email or you have yet to advise us of it. We utilise email to update members, so if you have an email address please visit our website and ensure it is lodged in the system, or simply send it to membership@mcc.org.au.

While Melbourne is still the most heavily supported AFL team among MCC members, the proportion on the Dees bandwagon has fallen from 23 per cent a decade ago to the present figure of just over 17 per cent.

The big Victorian-based clubs are, unsurprisingly, next in line with the Bombers, Magpies, Blues, Tigers, Hawks and Cats well backed. And, for the record, there are 90 GWS supporters amongst our members, and a further 81 who call Gold Coast their preferred team

Interestingly, more than 6300 members (5.1 per cent) have no team listed. While many of those will genuinely not follow a team (or AFL), we suspect a few of you have slipped through the cracks, so please visit the website or email the club with your nominated team so we can tailor relevant communications about matches in the 2018 AFL season and beyond.

AFL TEAM SUPPORT AMONG MCC MEMBERS



Off and racing

One of the many benefits of MCC membership is our reciprocal partnership with the Victoria Racing Club.

MCC members, along with up to four guests, may access the Members' Enclosure at Flemington for selected VRC-hosted race meetings during the 2017/18 season (please refer to table). Access to the enclosure is not applicable for any other VRC racedays.

MCC members and their guests must pay the admission fee to the racecourse of \$12 (\$15 for public holiday meetings, excluding Melbourne Cup Day) and then proceed to the Raceday and Ticketing Office to obtain Members' Enclosure ticketing. Upon presentation of your photo ID membership card, MCC members can obtain a complimentary Members' Enclosure pass and purchase passes (\$25 each) for up to four guests.



VRC members' dress regulations apply.
Visit vrc.net.au for more information.

MCC MEMBER ACCESS AT FLEMINGTON

Monday January 1	New Year's Raceday (public holiday pricing)
Saturday January 13	Chester Manifold Stakes Day
Saturday January 20	January Raceday
Saturday March 3	Australian Guineas Day*
Saturday March 17	Autumn Raceday
Wednesday April 25	ANZAC Day (public holiday pricing)
Saturday May 5	May Raceday
Saturday May 19	National Hall of Fame Raceday
Saturday June 9	June Raceday
Saturday June 23	Provincial and Country Raceday
Saturday July 7	Flemington Finals Day
Saturday July 21	Recognition Raceday

*Total cost for this day would be \$50, comprising \$20 for racecourse admission and \$30 for Members' Enclosure ticketing

Your new membership card is coming...

As has been communicated previously, the club has been developing a new membership card that contains features that will add further value to your membership.

Part of that program involves ensuring members who have a photo on their existing card that is more than seven years old complete the formal photo ID replacement process. Those people who have who have more recently become members do not need to update their photo at this time.

To the 40,000 or so members who have updated their photo as part of this process, we thank you for your patience whilst we have worked through the details associated with your new membership card.

Those who have yet to comply with the request for a new photo can do so either at an Australia Post outlet or in person at the club office. This process is being funded by the club and, if you are required to provide a new photo, we ask that you do so at your earliest opportunity.

Before we introduce the new card to all members, we have randomly chosen a sample of approximately 8000 members to participate in a pilot program during the upcoming cricket season in December and January.

The pilot participants will receive their new card in early December, as well as the details about how they can use it within the Reserve on match days to experience a more rewarding membership. From the moment they receive it, the new card will replace the existing card and will need to be used to access any MCG event from Boxing Day onwards.

Subject to a successful pilot program, we will send new cards to those remaining members who have an updated photo from mid-February, in time for it to be used to access MCG events from the start of the AFL season

on March 22.

The card will have a new card number, which will be needed to login to the MCC website, as well as a new barcode number which will be needed when purchasing tickets online at Ticketek. We will ensure members have access to this barcode before visitor tickets and reserved seats to the 2018 AFL season go on sale in February/March (exact date to be determined).

We are excited to introduce this program to our members and we look forward to you experiencing an even more rewarding membership very soon.



Footy crowds up at the 'G

The 2017 AFL season was a successful one at the MCG, with a tenant club winning the premiership and attendances rising sharply on the previous season.

Across the home and away season, the MCG welcomed 2.351 million people through the turnstiles at an average of 51,116 per match.

This reflected an increase of 12.6 per cent compared to the 2016 figures, and can in part be attributed to the on-field success of Richmond, as well as improvement in form from Melbourne and the big-drawing Essendon.

Richmond's presence in three MCG finals matches contributed a large portion of the 344,836 fans across the four finals at the 'G - three of

those games drew crowds in excess of 90,000.

In the MCC Reserve, home and away attendances were up by almost 20 per cent. With the average audience of 11,722 (comprising 6389 members and 5333 visitors) representing just over half of the Reserve's capacity of 23,000 it would seem we have scope to accommodate more people on most match days.

2.351
MILLION

People scanned through the turnstiles during the 2017 AFL season.

MCC Reserve attendance up by almost
20%

12.6%
INCREASE

Compared to the 2016 AFL season.