

# THE YORKER

JOURNAL OF THE MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB LIBRARY  
ISSUE 56, AUTUMN 2015

**TO ARMS!**  
**PLAY THE GAME!**  
**LOOKING ON IS  
NOT CRICKET!**  
**ENLIST**

(Capt.) J. NEWLAND,  
Chairman State Bowling Association



## In This Issue

Rallying the Spirits – Sport on the Home Front in World War I  
Honouring the MCC Members Killed in the Great War  
Clarence Reginald Neville, DCM  
Ernie Parker – The Western Australian Trumper  
Twenty Pennants – Part 7, 1992/93, 1994/95 and 1997/98

# THE YORKER



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

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## COVER IMAGERY

**Main Image:** World War I recruitment poster.  
Courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales

## BACK COVER IMAGERY

Three copies of the *Kia Ora Coo-ee* from Albert Chadwick's collection at the MCC Library. It was the "official magazine of the New Zealand and Australian Forces in Egypt, Palestine, Salonica, and Mesopotamia."  
(Chadwick family collection, MCC Library)

Images from Albert Chadwick's photo album with his annotations. Top Right: "A Sixty Pounder", Middle Left: "After a Raid [on the melons]", Bottom Right: "A Wild West Despatch Rider".  
(Chadwick family collection, MCC Library)

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## In This Issue

The release of this edition of *The Yorker* coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the ANZACs at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. To recognise this anniversary displays have been installed at the National Sports Museum, in the exhibition cases on level 3 of the MCC Pavilion and in the Library. *The Yorker's* lead article "Rallying the Spirits" was penned by the curators for the exhibition of the same name at the National Sports Museum that will run at the MCG from April 26 to February 28, 2016. The display looks at Australian sport during World War I, and the curators were kind enough to contribute articles on a few of the personalities covered by the exhibition.

Many members of the Melbourne Cricket Club fought in the Great War and to honour them David Studham and James Brear have written poignant articles about members who made the ultimate sacrifice, while Marie Pernet's article looks at Clarence Neville, the first MCC member to be honoured with a Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Among the MCC Members who served in the Great War was Sir Albert Chadwick, a future Melbourne VFL premiership captain and MCC President. In January this year MCC Library staff and volunteers were saddened to learn that his daughter Gwenda Alder had passed away. Gwenda had donated much of Sir Albert Chadwick's personal archive to the Library, therefore, to remember her, a sample of items from the MCC Library's Chadwick Collection are featured on the centre and back pages.

On this subject the Library also wishes to recognise the passing of two other great supporters and friends of the MCC Library Harry Gordon and Riche Benaud.

The MCC Library catalogue is available online at [tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue](http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue) and through the MCC Library webpage at [tinyurl.com/melbccl](http://tinyurl.com/melbccl)

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# Rallying the Spirits

## Sport on the home front in WWI

By Helen Walpole

World War I changed Australian attitudes to sport, creating sudden and divisive rifts in communities, leagues and teams. Playing and watching sport was no longer a simple leisure activity but a declaration of political and moral values.

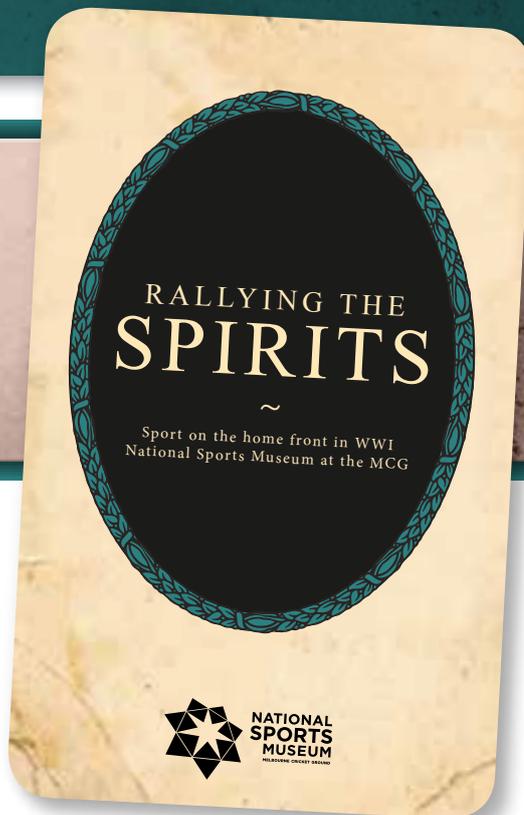
Many young sportsmen answered the government's call for fit young men to fight the war. Their departure for foreign battlefields left large holes in sporting teams. Some competitions stopped altogether while others limped on with fewer teams and supporters.

As the call for more soldiers increased, Australia was divided: Was sport a distraction for young men who should have been enlisting to fight? As the articles by Jeremy McEachern on pages 4 and 5 demonstrate, moral pressure was applied to young sportsmen from all sides of politics and the church. Most strongly condemned were the professionals who chose to play on instead of signing up, and they were branded 'shirkers' regardless of their personal reasons not to enlist.

As Reverend Selwyn Evans of Adelaide demanded: "Shall we go on with our horse racing and betting and prize fighting? Shall we say... we will have our races and our gambling, our prize fighting and drinking; the Empire may be broken up but we will still have our pleasures?"



Image courtesy of the Australian War Memorial



For others, the continuation of sport was essential for rallying the spirits of the community. The articles by Megan Rowland on pages 6 and 7 show how sport became an essential distraction; a way for people to gather together – whether as players or as spectators – and to briefly forget their troubles. Indeed, some sporting bodies found a positive solution by becoming, in part, wartime fundraisers. Sports carnivals became exaggeratedly patriotic, with the money from ticket sales, refreshment stalls, raffles and auctions all donated to the war chest.

Every sport, athlete and community had to find their own answers to these new moral questions. And the lasting impact of those difficult decisions can still be seen in the landscape of Australian sport today.

Helen Walpole is curator of the exhibition "Rallying the Spirits"

"Rallying the Spirits: sport on the home front in WWI" is a new exhibition at the National Sports Museum. The exhibition brings together stories and historical objects that demonstrate the difficult moral decision that faced sporting communities at the time: *should we play on?*

April 26, 2015 to February 28, 2016  
ISS Exhibitions Gallery  
National Sports Museum  
Gate 3, Melbourne Cricket Ground

# Lawrence Adamson

A moral agitator

By *Jeremy McEachern*

**FOOTBALLERS' IRON CROSSES**  
**PROFESSIONALS SHIRK ENLISTMENT.**

**SCHOOLMASTER'S PLAIN TALK**

Lawrence Adamson was at the centre of the debate surrounding sport and war. A staunch supporter of Australia's role in the conflict, Adamson was a vocal critic of the continuation of professional sport.

A respected figure in Melbourne society, Adamson had been headmaster of Wesley College for twelve years when war broke out, and was accustomed to having his opinions heard.

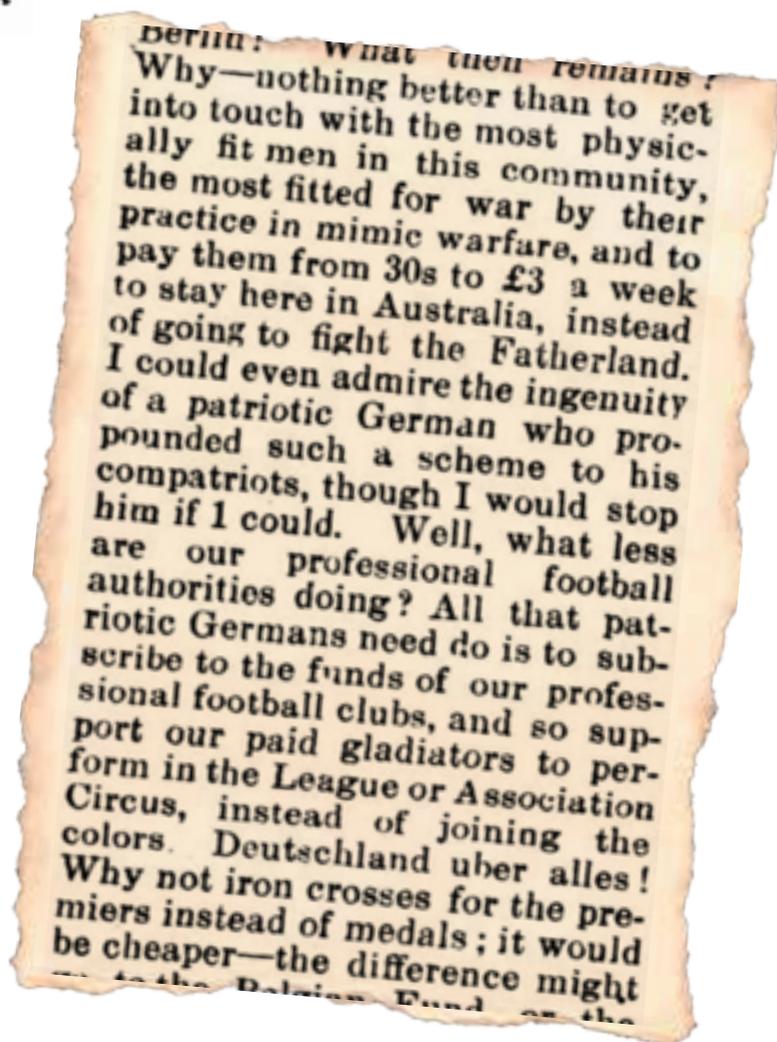
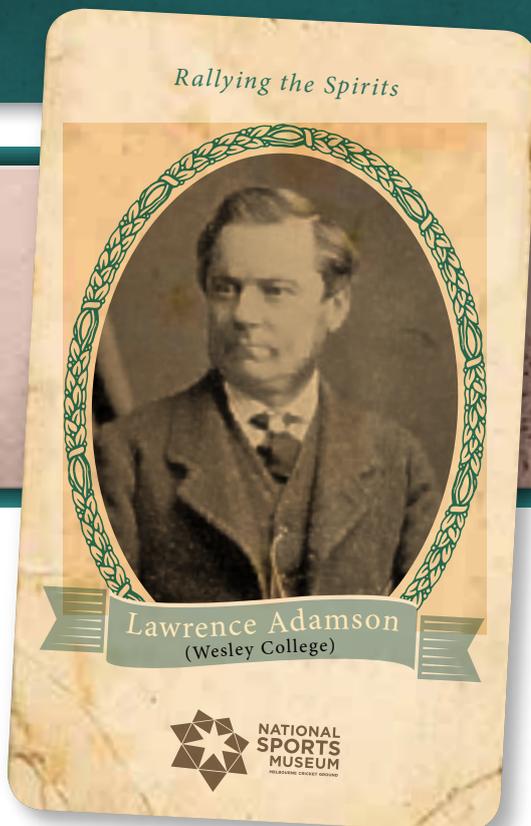
Adamson believed that Australia should devote itself entirely to the war effort. He saw professional sport as an unwanted distraction. In his opinion, players who should have enlisted were ignoring their duty while spectators were not only spending money on an idle distraction but were also aiding 'clubs to indirectly induce men to stay away from the fighting line'.

While opposing professional sport, Adamson enthusiastically supported amateur athletic pursuits. To him, amateur sport promoted the positives of health and fitness – key skills for future soldiers. As amateur sportsmen were not paid, they were also less likely to avoid enlisting. As president of the Metropolitan Amateur Football Association, Adamson highlighted the greater enlistment record of amateur sportsmen compared to professionals.

The moral pressure Adamson placed on sportsmen to enlist was immense. As he saw it, enlistment wasn't a personal choice, it was a moral obligation. The physical fitness of professional sportsmen meant they were ideally suited to military life.

As a well-known figure in Melbourne, Adamson used his status to spread his views. The fiery nature of his appeals was quickly picked up by the press. His headline-grabbing comments also provoked widespread debate. A suggestion that the Victorian Football League should award the premiers Iron Crosses instead of medals caused particular rancour. Australia was deeply divided on the issues of enlistment and conscription, and Adamson stoked the flames.

**Jeremy McEachern** is assistant curator of the exhibition "Rallying the Spirits"



Top Left: Headline from the *Bathurst Times*, April 26, 1915, p4.

Above: Snippet of the same article in another newspaper, this time it was titled, "War and Sports: The Patriotic Attitude" and was published in the *Great Southern Herald*, Katanning (WA), May 5, 1915, pp.2-3.

# Les Darcy

## Conscription controversy

*By Jeremy McEachern*

Boxer Les Darcy was one of a number of high profile Australian athletes who faced enormous pressure to enlist.

Darcy's peak years as a boxer coincided with World War I. By 1915, at the age of just 19, he was Australian middleweight champion.

Men came under even greater pressure to enlist as Australian casualties in the Gallipoli campaign mounted. Darcy claimed he wished to enlist in his own time. In fact, he had already tried to join up but his mother had refused to give her consent to her under-aged son.

By 1916, the Australian Government was proposing to conscript men for compulsory overseas military service. Darcy left Australia for the United States a day before the referendum took place. In part, he fled to the USA to earn enough money to secure his family's future.

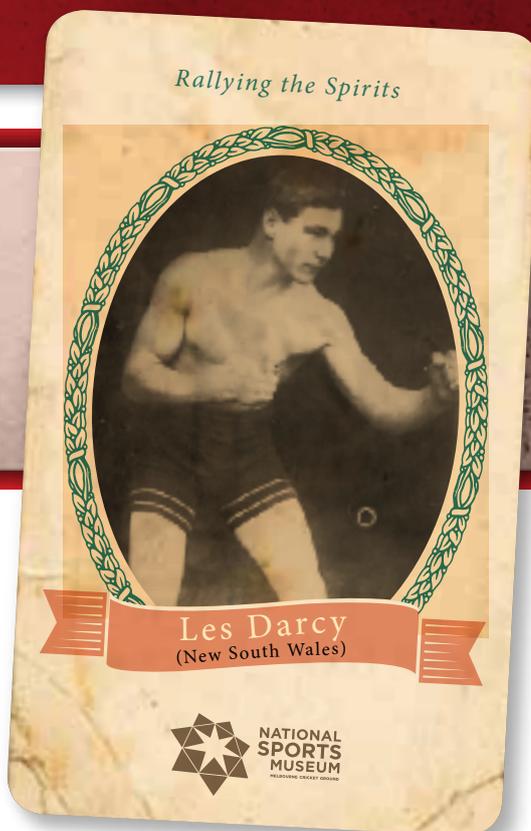
Sections of the public, particularly the press, were outraged. They called Darcy a coward and a shirker. This reputation followed him to the USA where some of his fights were cancelled. With the Australian press hounding his family, Darcy enlisted in the US Army. Not long after, he fell ill and died from blood poisoning. He was 21 years old.

As news of his death reached Australia, feelings of grief and remorse swept the nation.

Darcy's story came to represent the debate surrounding enlistment and conscription in Australia. Tensions between the Catholic and Protestant communities over conscription were running high and Darcy's story was quickly claimed by both sides. The largely pro-conscription Protestant press branded Darcy a coward and a prime example of why conscription was necessary. In contrast, Catholics hailed him as a hero who had placed the well-being of his family above all else.

**Jeremy McEachern** is assistant curator of the exhibition "Rallying the Spirits"

All images courtesy Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Museum collection.



# Rallying the football team: in war and today

By Megan Rowland

Despite intense public pressure to suspend the VFL competition, four clubs (Carlton, Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond) played throughout the entire war period. Though the four clubs faced accusations of “shirking” and disloyalty to the Empire, football provided a welcome distraction from the horrors of war to not only those at home, but also those serving on the front.

Collingwood’s wealthy and influential patron, John Wren, was a passionate supporter of Australia’s involvement in the war. He encouraged Collingwood players to enlist, and in July 1915 star players and close friends Malcolm “Doc” Seddon and Percy Rowe (aka Paddy Rowan) joined up together.

Barely a year after arriving at the front, Percy was killed in battle. He left behind a young wife and a son whom he never met.

Doc was devastated by his friend’s death. He frequently corresponded with his football club at home, and his letters tell of a weary and homesick soldier dreaming of his happiest pastime – football.

Doc was always buoyed by news of how Collingwood was faring at home, and in 1917 he had a horseshoe fashioned from scrap metal and sent it home to his team for luck. It was taken into the change rooms before each remaining match of the season, and worked a charm – Collingwood won the 1917 Grand Final.

Almost one hundred years since Doc’s horse shoe first arrived at the club, it remains one of Collingwood’s most treasured relics.

Each year, before the Anzac Day match against Essendon, the horseshoe is taken into the Collingwood change rooms.

Players are told the story of Doc and Percy, and the horseshoe is handed around for luck – much as it would have been in 1917.

**Megan Rowland** is assistant curator of the exhibition “Rallying the Spirits”



*“I hope that this shoe will bring the boys to the top of the tree this year.”*

Doc Seddon, in a letter to Collingwood, 1917



Above: Horseshoe sent by Doc Seddon to the Collingwood Football Club to wish the team luck for the 1917 season. Courtesy of the Collingwood Football Club Archives.

Left: Collingwood trade card of Percy Rowe (who played under the name of Paddy Rowan), 1913. MCCM Collection (M13171.2).

# “Something darned novel”

## Women’s patriotic football matches during World War I

By Megan Rowland

Wartime debates around enlistment (see McEachern, page 5) saw the collapse of many leagues throughout the country, and workplace teams were not immune. Yet, when two workplace football teams ran out onto a suburban Perth oval in 1915, the crowd had no reason to object – the players were *women!*

This is widely believed to be the first organised match of Australian football played by women, contemporary resources reflect the excitement with which these “novelty” matches were received.

As the war dragged on and Australian casualties continued to rise, women’s football matches proved highly effective in both raising funds and distracting an increasingly war-weary society. By 1916, the concept had spread to South Australia and Victoria, with patriotic matches continuing for the remainder of the war.

One early female footballer whom we are fortunate to know so much about is Geraldine Howlett – a young employee of Boan Bros. in Perth. On behalf of her workplace, she entered the “Popular Lady” competition in 1917, which was contested by one female employee from each major retailer in Perth. One vote cost one penny, with all proceeds going to charity.

To promote Geraldine’s candidature in the contest, a number of women’s football matches were played between two Boan Bros. teams. Geraldine’s wartime diaries recall the matches she played during this period.

They tell us that she sewed her own “costume”, organised team training sessions, and even sought instructions on how to play the game.

Although patronising newspaper articles gleefully recounted the poor standard of play shown by the ladies, the matches were a great success. Geraldine won the Popular Lady contest with a staggering 194,827 votes, helping to raise over £4,000 in the process – comparable to around \$40,000 today.

**Megan Rowland** is assistant curator of the exhibition “Rallying the Spirits”

**Middle:** Photograph of a women’s football match played between two teams from Perth retailer Boan Bros., published in the *Western Mail*, October 26, 1917.

**Bottom:** Advertisement for the “fancy dress” ladies football match played between two Boan Bros. teams, September 29, 1917.



# We Will Remember Them:

## Honouring the MCC members killed in the Great War

By David Studham

The MCC Archives and Library exhibition for Autumn/Winter 2015 uses correspondence in the MCC Archives to honour the endeavours and sacrifices made during the Great War by members of the Melbourne Cricket Club, as well as those unable to accept their election to MCC membership due to their active service.

The war related letters contained in MCC Archives fall into a range of broad categories, mostly relating to the operation of club membership subscriptions, renewals and elections. Overall there were 137 members of the Melbourne Cricket Club killed on active service and named in the club's Roll of Honour for 1914-1918.

### MCC Members in the Great War

Archive records reveal that 1088 members enlisted between 1914 and 1918. In the club's 1916/17 season 832 members were on the Active Service List, and 896 in season 1917/18. The club's policy was to place the names of those on active service on the Absentee List, without fee, for a period of three years. Although the rules did not allow for further extension, the club committee were practical and agreed to extend this through to the end of the war. This meant that, from a membership which totalled 5449 at the outbreak of the war, there were over 16% of members absent.

### Leave of Absence or deferred membership

Much of the correspondence to MCC secretary, Hugh Trumble, during the war years concerned those away on active service. The MCC Archives holds hundreds of letters from enlisted members, or their families, requesting that their names be placed on the Absentee List. Examples shown in the exhibition cover a range of members; some from those that returned and others that fell on active service.

### Letters from those on active service

The majority of the letters were received from those already on active service, replying to membership renewal requests or their election as new members. In most cases they wrote seeking a leave-of-absence, however, many letters in the MCC Archives came from men on active service actually seeking to pay their membership or entrance fees. In these cases Hugh Trumble would return their cheque, advising that they were now on the Absentee List.

### Letters from the fallen

Of course in many cases those absent did not return from the war. Among the MCC Archives' holding of letters informing the MCC of their enlistment are many from members who fell on active service. Some are displayed in the exhibition, including those from James Agnew, EW Manifold, Guy Quarterman, WHF Warren and Dr Arthur O'Hara Wood, the 1914 Australasian men's singles tennis champion.

The spirit of their letters is best summarised by James Agnew in his request of August 29, 1915.

Dear Sir,

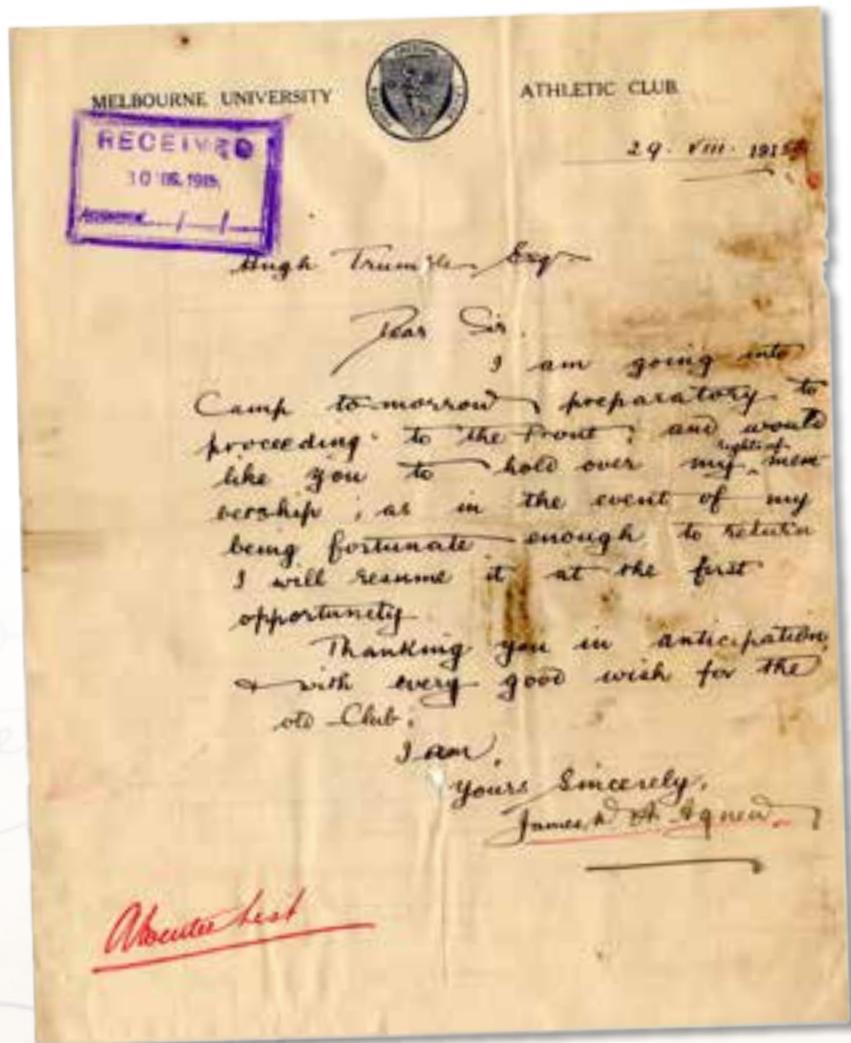
I am going into Camp tomorrow preparatory to proceeding to "the Front", and would like you to hold over my rights of membership, as in the event of my being fortunate enough to return I will resume it at the first opportunity.

Thanking you in anticipation and with every good wish for the old Club,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

James W A Agnew



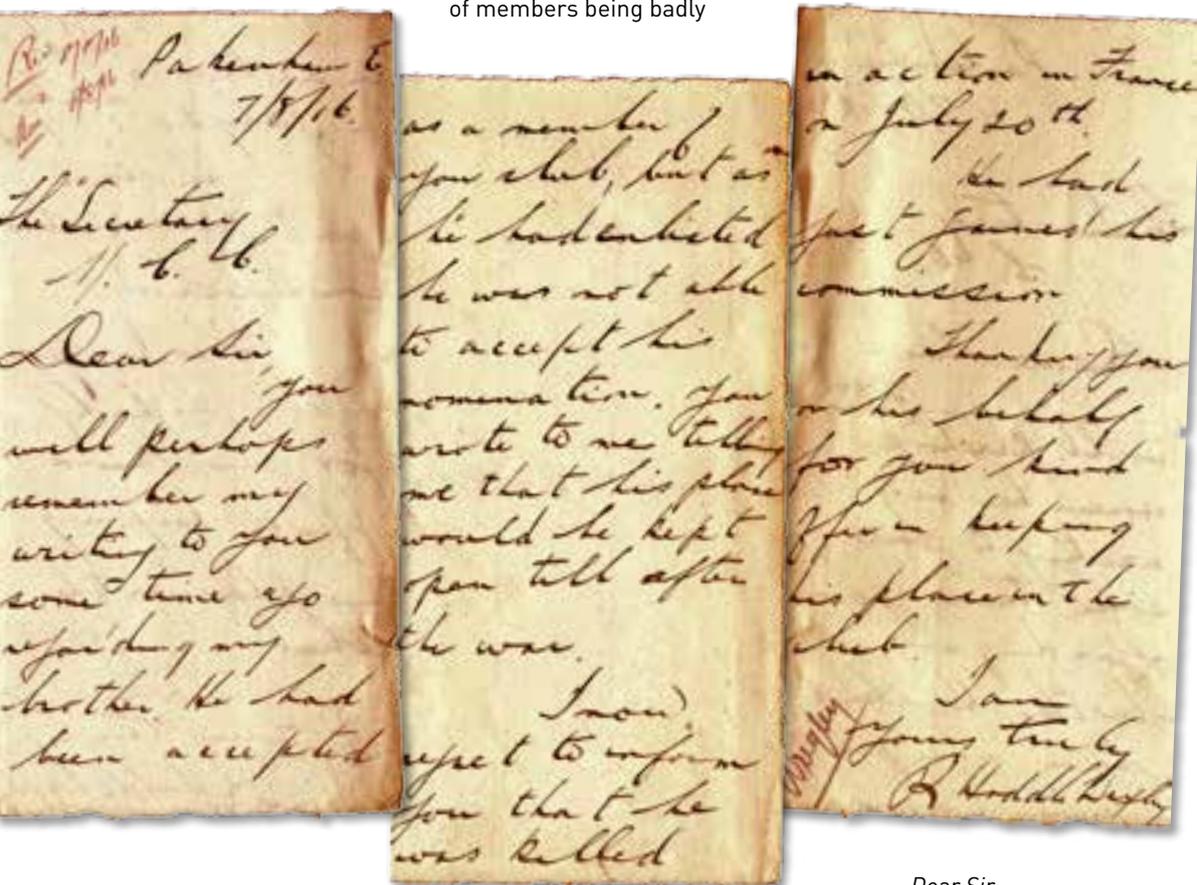
Above: James Agnew's letter to the Melbourne Cricket Club. (MCC Archives Collection)

Facing: R. Hoddle Wrigley's letter to the Melbourne Cricket Club. (MCC Archives Collection)

**Letters informing the club of the death of members on active service**

Throughout the course of the war the club received letters informing them of news regarding members at the front. Some contained good news, such as bravery awards including Clarence Neville, the first Melbourne Cricket Club member to receive the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) in the Great War [See pages 13-15]. Some were alive but prisoners of war, however most contained news relating to the casualties of the war. Many informed of members being badly

wounded, others informed that their loved ones were missing, or had died. The MCC Archives contain letters that the club received from wives, parents and siblings of the fallen. Some letters were received during the war informing of their loss. In many cases the news of their loved one's death was not communicated, and the club only received notification through letters sent in reply to contact made regarding taking up deferred memberships or renewing their subscriptions. The receipt of club correspondence addressed to those killed must have caused heartache for their families.



**Those fallen who were elected to membership, but never able to take up the offer**

In addition to the 137 members, there are many others killed in the war that were on active service when elected to membership and therefore had to defer their offer. An example of those never able to formally join the MCC is Second Lieutenant Theodore Hoddle-Wrigley. He served with 14th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died in France on July 20, 1916 and is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. His brother wrote to the MCC Secretary on August 7, 1916:

Dear Sir,

You will perhaps remember my writing to you some time ago regarding my brother. He had been accepted as a member of your Club, but as he had enlisted he was not able to accept his nomination. You wrote to me telling me that his place would be kept open til after the war.

I now regret to inform you that he was killed in action in France on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

He had just gained his commission.

Thank you on his behalf for your kind offer in keeping his place in the club,

I am,

yours truly

R. Hoddle Wrigley

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them."

David Studham is the MCC Librarian

**We Will Remember Them: Honouring the MCC members killed in the Great War** will be displayed in the MCC Library foyer and the exhibition cases at either end of the Frank Grey Smith bar from April 23 to October 7. Many thanks to Patricia Downs, Marie Pernat and Peta Phillips from MCC Archives, Cathy Poon, Trevor Ruddell from MCC Library and Library Volunteers Ann Rusden and Jim Blair for their assistance with research and display. *David Studham MCC Librarian*

The MCC Library is compiling a set of certificates of the club's fallen in the Great War from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website <http://www.cwgc.org/>. 135 of the 137 on the Club's roll of honour are included. The folder containing these will be available for viewing in the library foyer throughout the exhibition.



# Enlisted 17th August 1914 – ‘Killed in Action’ 25th April 1915

By James Brear

On this fateful April day in Australia’s relatively young history many fine young men lost their lives on the beach and in the foothills at Gallipoli. They were not the first Australians to die in the Great War, and sadly were followed by many more, both at Gallipoli, and on the Western Front where the losses were truly devastating.

Out of 1088 MCC members who enlisted, 137 were among the tens of thousands of Australians killed<sup>1</sup>. Four of this number made the supreme sacrifice on what is now remembered as ANZAC Day. The four were Sergeant Robert Macgregor Gillespie, Private David Keith McIlwraith, Corporal Arthur Mueller Pearce, and Private Clive Wellington Were. These men shared many things in common, but also many differences. As we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gallipoli landing, the following is a tribute to their courage and commitment, and to help remember them.

Following Britain’s declaration of war on August 4, 1914, Australia called for volunteers to join the AIF in support of the Mother Country. These four men were among the first to enlist, all on the same day, August 17, 1914. Robert Macgregor Gillespie enlisted at the Collingwood Drill Hall and joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion. David Keith McIlwraith and Clive Wellington Were

enlisted at Prahran and joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, while Arthur Mueller Pearce enlisted at Essendon and joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Corporal Pearce was the best known of the four as he had played 152 games for the Melbourne Football Club and had represented Victoria in the 1908 interstate carnival. His cousin to be was future Melbourne great Jack Mueller. Widely known as “Joe”, he played mainly at



Above: Corporal Arthur Mueller “Joe” Pearce

Facing: Plaque in memory of Corporal Arthur Mueller “Joe” Pearce, Holy Trinity, East Melbourne.

Below Left: Private Clive Wellington Were

full-back, a “Collingwood six-footer” at five feet 11 inches.<sup>2</sup> He had all-round talents and, in addition to football, played cricket for Coburg as well as the MCC Club Elevens. He also played lacrosse and tennis. At age 29 he was somewhat older than many other soldiers and was made a Lance-Corporal upon enlistment. As the troops embarked from Alexandria on their Gallipoli campaign he was promoted to Corporal. Joe was born in Bendigo and was educated at Bendigo Grammar School, where his father was the principal.<sup>3</sup>

The other three volunteers were all educated in Melbourne. Private McIlwraith attended Scotch College, Private Were was at Melbourne Grammar School, and Sergeant Gillespie had attended both these schools during the course of his education. Gillespie was the only one of the four to have been to university, and was equal first in his class at Dookie Agricultural College. He obtained a university “blue” in both rowing and tennis, and in the latter sport represented Victoria in 1912 and 1913.<sup>4</sup> As he had served in Senior Cadets and University Rifles, he was given the rank of sergeant upon enlistment. The other three men had also served in cadets at school.

Following their initial training all four men embarked for the Middle East. Gillespie and Pearce embarked on October 19 aboard the *Hororata*, while McIlwraith and Were left together on the *Orvieta* on October 21, 1914. Not only were McIlwraith and Were in the same Battalion, they were both in ‘F’ Company, a unit raised primarily from Melbourne’s public



schools. Like Joe Pearce, Mclwraith also played in MCC Club Elevens, no doubt trying to emulate his father David Hamilton Mclwraith who had played in the MCC first XI from 1889-90 to 1895-96.<sup>5</sup> Were, the grandson of stockbroker J.B. Were, was an excellent rifle shot, and had started farming at Officer.<sup>6</sup>

After training in Alexandria the men embarked on April 5 to take part in the Gallipoli campaign. Possibly the first of the four to make the supreme sacrifice was Corporal "Joe" Pearce. Pearce never got to set foot on the shores of Gallipoli as he was shot by machine gun or rifle fire while still in the landing boat. His platoon had been making for Fisherman's Hut, and Pearce was buried on the beach with thirty to forty of his fellow soldiers. Later he was moved to No. 2 Outpost Cemetery.<sup>7</sup> Pearce was a committed member of the Holy Trinity Church in East Melbourne, where a memorial plaque can be seen today, and is also commemorated in the Bendigo Cemetery.<sup>8</sup>



Upon landing on the beach on April 25, Sergeant Gillespie's task was to lead an advance party of just three men to ascertain if a suitable route could be found for the battalion to follow. The terrain was hilly, with thick scrub and tall grasses, such that Gillespie, on point, would often disappear from the view of the two soldiers following. The modus operandi was that Gillespie would keep about fifty yards in front of the other two, and signal to them if it was safe to follow. This arrangement initially worked well and was repeated four or five times until nothing more was heard from Sergeant Gillespie.

His men went looking for him but found themselves surrounded by the enemy. Private Swift was shot, but Private Hacking managed to escape and retreated back to the battalion on the beach. Sergeant Gillespie was reported as "wounded", and later this was changed to "wounded and missing". During an armistice on May 21, 1915 Sergeant Gillespie's body was discovered and he was buried at Phillips Top, about 450 yards south of ANZAC Cove. As this was an isolated grave, in 1921 he was exhumed, and moved to Browns Dip Cemetery, approximately 500 yards south of ANZAC Cove. He was not yet able to rest in peace, as in 1924, due to fears of Browns Dip Cemetery flooding; he was again exhumed and moved to Lone Pine Cemetery, where his final resting place is plot 3, row C, grave 2. Following a Court of Enquiry on May



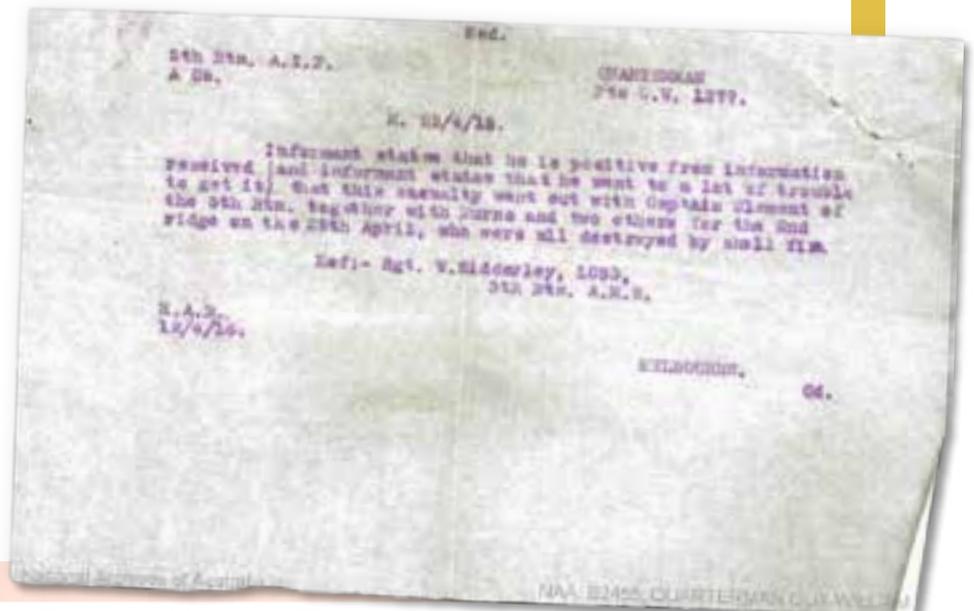
Right: Sergeant Robert Macgregor Gillespie

**Private Guy William Quarterman**

Private Guy William Quarterman was another MCC member in action at Gallipoli. He was also in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion and had served in cadets at Camberwell Grammar School. He was an accomplished cricketer and had played in the MCC First, Second, Senior and Mid-week Elevens between 1899 and 1907.

Officially, a Court of Inquiry in November, 1916, found that he had died on April 26, 1915. In his service record, however, is a statement from an informant that states that Quarterman "went out with Captain Clement of the 5<sup>th</sup> Btn. together with Burns and two others for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ridge on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, who were all destroyed by shell fire."

This description gives the impression that death was immediate, raising the possibility that Private Quarterman was also "Killed in Action" on April 25, 1915.



27, 1916 it was determined that Sergeant Gillespie had been "killed in action" on April 25, 1915.<sup>9</sup>

Little is known of Private Mcllwraith's actions at Gallipoli, as his casualty form is very brief, "Killed in action, Dardanelles, 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915." His father later supplied information that Mcllwraith had gone to the aid of a wounded comrade, but as he reached him Mcllwraith had been killed by a sniper's bullet. Private Mcllwraith was the youngest of the four, having celebrated his twenty-second birthday in Alexandria on April 4, just three weeks earlier. He has no known grave but is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial and in Ferntree Gully Cemetery.<sup>10</sup> Even less is known about the death of Private Were. His casualty form has exactly the same entry as Private Mcllwraith – "Killed in action, Dardanelles, 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915." He too has no known grave, and is also commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial.<sup>11</sup>

The lack of information surrounding the deaths and whereabouts of the graves of Mcllwraith and Were highlight the anguish that many families faced. The communications problem was massive, news travelled very slowly, and in many instances it was the Red Cross who were able to provide information gained from wounded soldiers. The Were family even received a parcel in March, 1916 containing Private Were's personal effects, including his identity disc, but still no word of where he was buried.<sup>12</sup>

The experience of Sergeant Gillespie's family was also common. As mentioned,



Left: Private David Keith Mcllwraith

Above: Memorial for Private David Keith Mcllwraith at Ferntree Gully Cemetery.

### Private David Keith Mcllwraith

The AIF Project is a database hosted by the Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict and Society (ACSACS) at the University of NSW in Canberra. The database contains all Australian ANZACS in the Great War 1914-1918.

They have listed Private David Keith Mcllwraith's date of birth as April 25, 1894. This is incorrect as his birth certificate from the Department of Births, Deaths and Marriages shows it to be April 4, 1893.

his body was recovered and buried on May 21, 1915 during an armistice, but this news took a long time to reach the records office in Melbourne and then the family. The first news that the Gillespie family heard was on June 16, 1915 when they were advised that their son was "wounded not seriously." There was then no news except that inquiries were ongoing. Sergeant Gillespie's father even tried his own avenues and contacted the American Consulate, the Red Cross and "Mr. Syme of The Age", all to no avail. It was not until June 6, 1917 that the family received official news of his death, some thirteen months after the Court of Enquiry.<sup>13</sup>

On ANZAC Day we commemorate all our soldiers who have taken part in military conflicts and the sacrifices that they have made. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day has come to represent a collective remembrance and appreciation of our troops, but perhaps a few extra thoughts could be given to the Gallipoli campaign, where the tragic experiences of these four men were representative of so many others.

**Lest we forget.**

James Brear is a MCC Library volunteer

### Endnotes

1. Alf Batchelder, "Researcher's Introduction", *Roll of Honour 1914-1918*, Melbourne Cricket Club, Melbourne, 1998.
2. East Melbourne Historical Society, [www.emhs.org.au/person/pearce/arthur\\_mueller\\_joe](http://www.emhs.org.au/person/pearce/arthur_mueller_joe) [viewed March 2015]
3. National Archives of Australia, <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8009616> [viewed March 19, 2015]
4. Alf Batchelder, *Roll of Honour 1914-1918*, Melbourne Cricket Club, Melbourne, 1998, p.8.
5. Alf Batchelder, *Roll of Honour 1914-1918*, Melbourne Cricket Club, Melbourne, 1998, p.15.
6. Alf Batchelder, *Roll of Honour 1914-1918*, Melbourne Cricket Club, Melbourne, 1998, p.23.
7. National Archives of Australia, <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8009616> [viewed March 19, 2015]
8. The AIF Project, <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=236655> [viewed April 1, 2015]
9. National Archives of Australia, <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=5100879> [viewed March 19, 2015]
10. The AIF Project, <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=199152> [viewed March 19, 2015]
11. National Archives of Australia, <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8380773> [viewed March 19, 2015]
12. Ibid.
13. National Archives of Australia, <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5100879> [viewed March 19, 2015]

# Clarence Reginald Neville, DCM

By Marie Pernat

Clarence Neville was the first Melbourne Cricket Club member to receive the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) in the Great War. This article reveals not only the bravery of this one man in action in the conflict but provides insights into the prevailing attitudes in Melbourne during the early years of the war and the important role sport played in people's lives.

Melbourne Cricket Club kept in close communication with the families of those members who had enlisted. Hugh Trumble, the popular Melbourne Cricket Club Secretary, who had represented his country so superbly as an Australian Test cricketer, devoted himself to personally writing to members and nearest of kin. The secretary's correspondence held in the MCC Archives reveals the plights and trials of members. There are many letters of sympathy to the families of the 1088 members who enlisted, 137 of whom lost their lives. Other letters responded to those who asked to be placed on the absentee list, those who felt they could no longer maintain their membership subscription and numerous requests for assistance in hard times.

Clarence Reginald Neville was born in North Melbourne in 1891. He was typical of many Melbourne Cricket Club members who enlisted as volunteers in World War I. He was a school cadet and a keen sportsman. While still a teenager, by 1910 season, he was a regular team member at Brighton Cricket Club in the Sub District competition. He was a true all-rounder, a handy leg break bowler and a good batter.

As the war continued into 1915, he was one of so many who volunteered their services, signing up on June 5, 1915. His outlook was typical of the young soldiers, adventurous and brave, willing to fight for their country and the Empire in line with the prevailing attitudes of the time.

Each applicant underwent a thorough Army medical examination. Provided certain listed conditions could be excluded, and the person was capable of the following: "He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description" he

Centre: Clarence Reginald Neville, DCM  
(Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial)



The Distinguished Conduct Medal from the United Kingdom (NZDF Medals).

will be considered fit for active service.<sup>1</sup> On joining the military, he, and others similarly, took the oath:

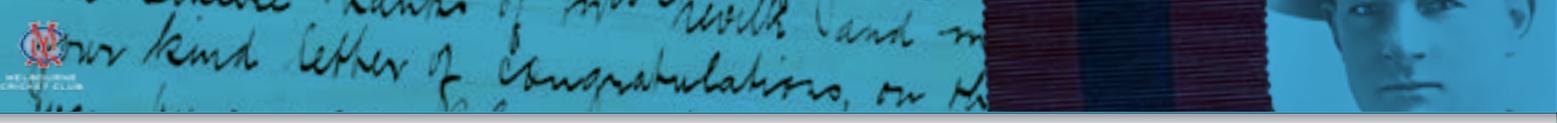
"I, Clarence Reginald Neville swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from 5 June 1915 until the end of the War, and a further period for four months thereafter unless sooner discharged, dismissed, or removed therefrom; and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained; and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law. SO HELP ME, GOD" (signed)<sup>2</sup>

When he left Australian shores, he was a Chemical Manufacturer. He embarked from Melbourne on September 15, 1915 aboard *SS Makarini*, aged 23 years and nine months, with Regimental number 2647. His army service would include time in Egypt (Zeitoun, Heliopolis, Alexandria, Tel el Kebir), Lemnos, Gallipoli, France and England.

He had become a junior member of the Melbourne Cricket Club in the 1910/11 season. From 1915/16 season he was placed on the club's absentee list.

Members who had enlisted and were sent to serve abroad were eligible for listing as an absentee member of the club for a period up to three years, which could be extended if required. Those on the absentee list were exempt from membership fees. By September 1917, close on 1000 Melbourne Cricket Club members were on active service abroad. It was reported in the *Brighton Southern Cross* on June 12, 1915,

"At a meeting of the Brighton Cricket Club committee, held recently, Mr Clarence Neville, after expressing the pleasure he had experienced during his term of office, resigned his position as hon. secretary. The chairman... complimented him on his resolve to take up arms on active service". The article then mentioned a list of 20 players and others associated with the Brighton Cricket Club who were actively involved in the Great War. This list included Melbourne Football Club's dual Brownlow medallist Ivor Warne-Smith and future Victoria Cross winner, R.C. "Bob" Grieve.<sup>3</sup>



In a moving final paragraph, the reporter wrote: "Cricket has not prevented these lads from answering duty's call, and one might, with justice, express the wish that in the greater game the spirit of fair play, which is characteristic of a sportsman, may be extended towards 'Our Boys.' That they may all return is the fervent desire of the club".

On May 5, 1916, Private Clarence Neville, Signaller, Service Number 2647, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division, 1<sup>st</sup> A.N.Z.A. Corps, was subject to a violent bombardment. On May 6, 1916 he was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The citation reads,

"During the heavy bombardment between 1945 and 2130 on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 on the left side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade (FLEURBAIX sector) [line] Private C.R. NEVILLE, a Company Signaller at HUDSON'S POST maintained communication with the firing line (some 400 yards distant) and JAY POST and BREWERY POST on the flanks, by carrying messages from his Company Commander at HUDSON BAY POST over shell swept zones and along damaged communication trenches. He succeeded where others failed and displayed conspicuous coolness and determination in circumstances of great personal risk". (Sgd) H.B. WALKER Major General Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division.<sup>4</sup>

His citation notes that he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal on May 25, 1916. His award is documented in the Commonwealth Gazette, No. 176, November 30, 1916. He was decorated with the medal in London on December 11, 1916.

In recognition of this special honour, Hugh Trumble wrote a letter to Signaller Neville's father, Mr Aubrey Neville of Hartley Street, Brighton Beach, also a Melbourne Cricket Club member, asking him to convey the best wishes of the club to his son. MCC Archives has a copy of this particular letter from Hugh Trumble of September 20, 1916<sup>5</sup> in which he writes:

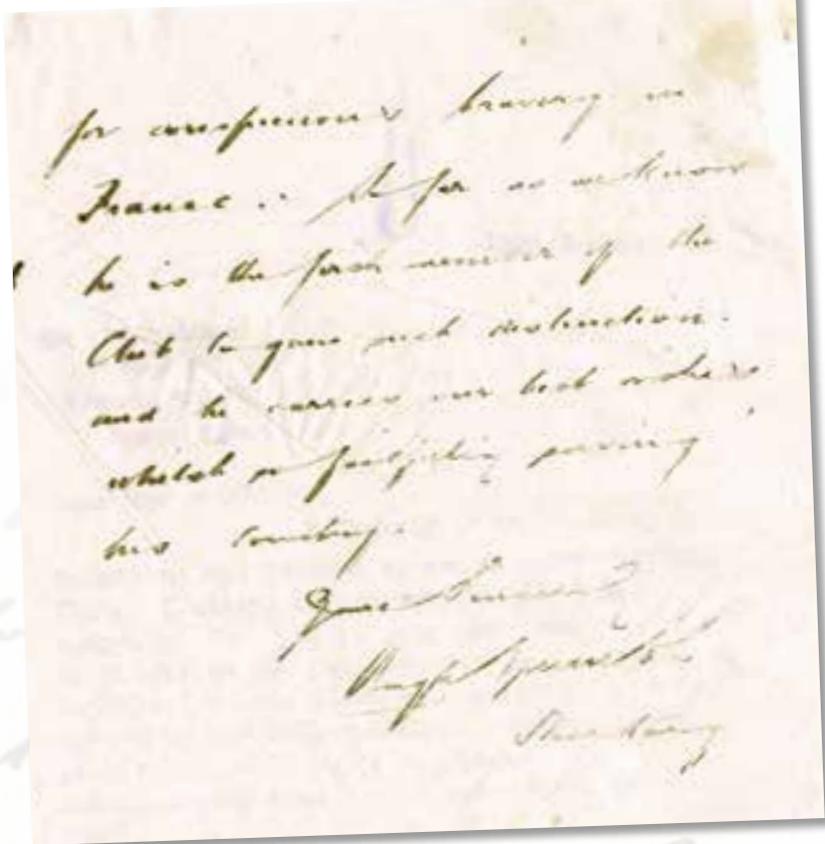
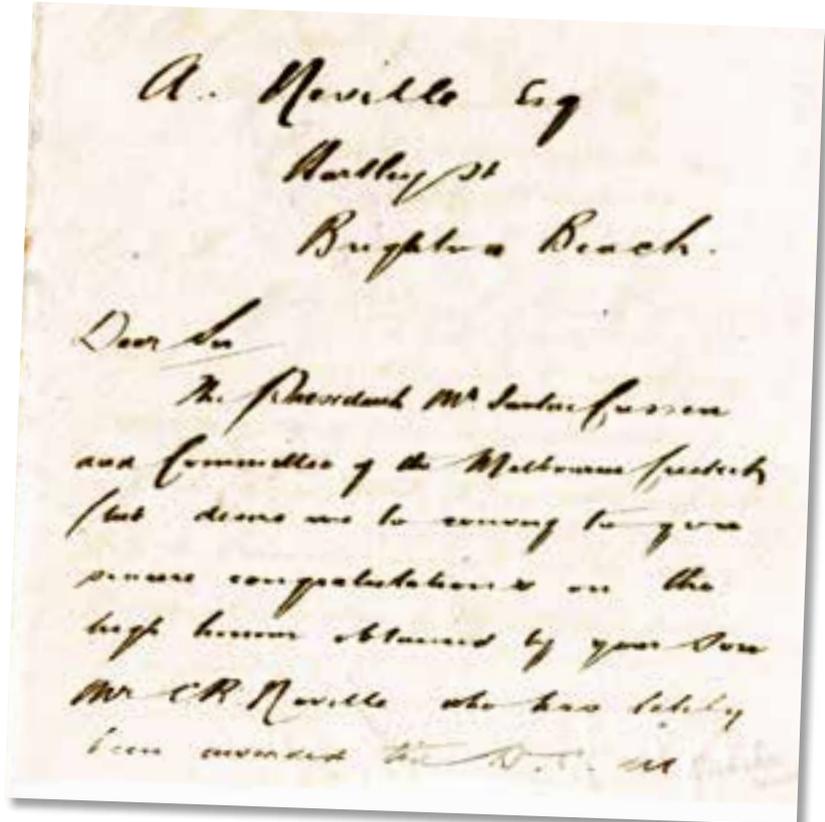
A.Neville Esq  
[20 Sept. 1916]  
Hartley St  
Brighton Beach

Dear Sir

The President Mr Justice Cussen and Committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club desire me to convey to you sincere congratulations on the high honour obtained by your son Mr C.R. Neville who has lately been awarded the D.C.M. for conspicuous bravery in France. So far as we know he is the first member of the Club to gain such distinction and he carries our best wishes whilst so faithfully serving his country.

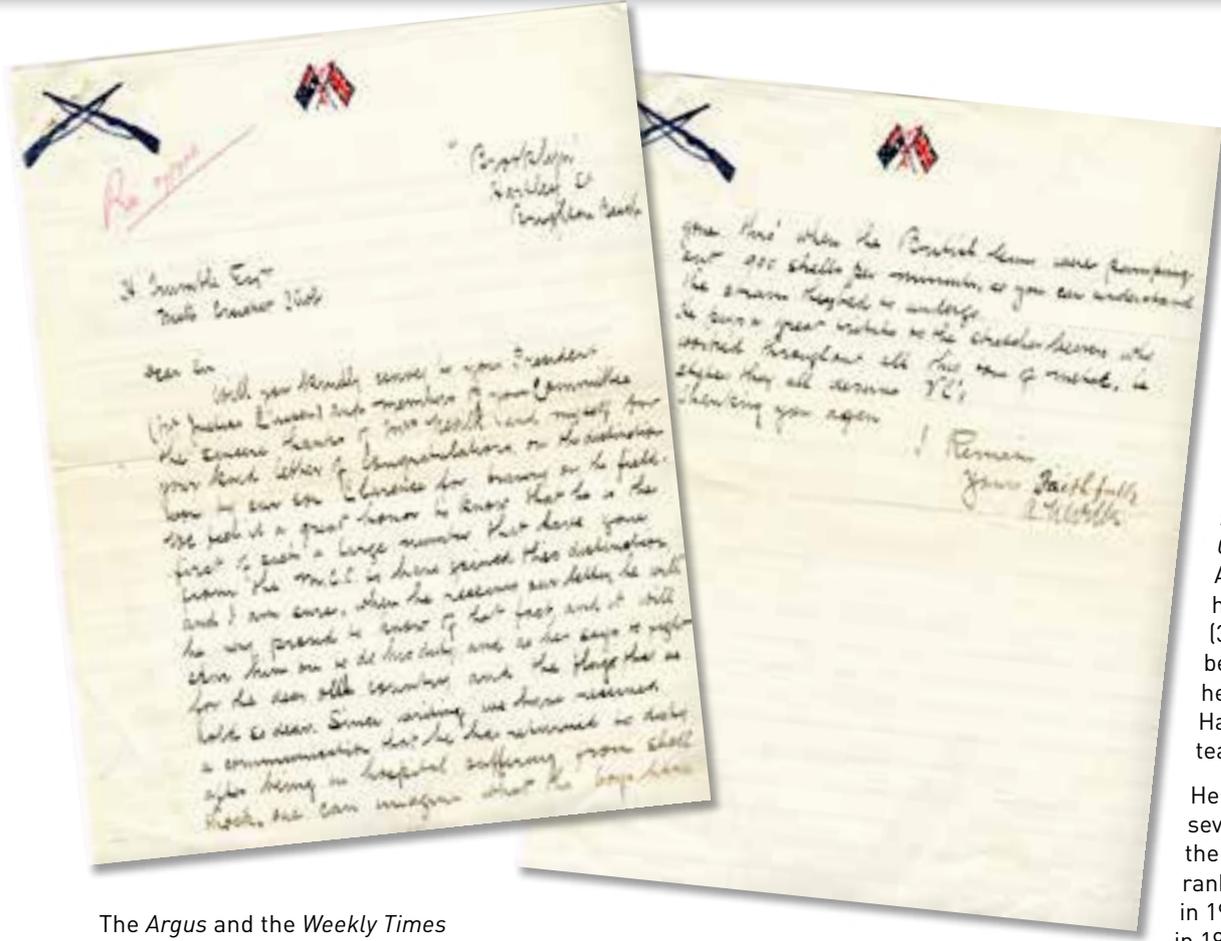
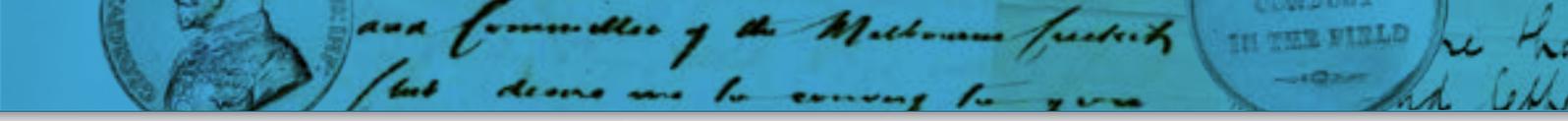
Yours Sincerely  
Hugh Trumble

Secretary



Above: Hugh Trumble's congratulatory letter to Aubrey Neville, on behalf of the MCC president Justice Leo Cussen and the club's committee, as preserved in a MCC letter book. (MCC Archives Collection)

Facing: Aubrey Neville's reply to Hugh Trumble and the MCC. (MCC Archives Collection)



cricketers' kind wishes, and convey my best wishes to them and tell them I hope to be trundling with them again before too long." The *Southern Cross* was posted to him, in which he could read of Brighton's cricket form in matches against other clubs.

*Brighton Southern Cross* reported on August 25, 1917 that he made top score (30) in a cricket match between the Australian headquarters' team and Harrow school, the army team winning.

He was promoted several times while in the Infantry attaining ranks including Corporal in 1915, Staff Sergeant in 1917 and Lieutenant in July 1919.

The *Argus* and the *Weekly Times* subsequently reported in February 1917 that Clarence Neville was the first Australian soldier to win the Distinguished Conduct Medal in France.

MCC Archives is fortunate to have Mr Aubrey Neville's letter of reply to the MCC that illustrates the patriotic fervour of the young men who were fighting in the war.<sup>6</sup> He mentions that Clarence will be very pleased to know that he is the first MCC member to have received the D.C.M. and that "it will spur him on to do his duty as he says to fight for the dear old country and the flags that we hold so dear". Even though he was hospitalised with shell shock, Clarence continued to think of his gallant fellow soldiers and his father passed on Clarence's praise of them for their efforts ... "the stretcher bearers who worked throughout all this [sic] tons of metal, ...they deserve V.C's".

As a result of further injuries when wounded in action, he was sent on H.S. *Gloucester Castle* to England in July 1916, and was admitted to hospital in Bristol. He was then transferred from the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion to the Australian Army Ordnance Corps and subsequently worked at the Australian Imperial Force headquarters in London.

The support of his cricket mates at Brighton meant a lot to him. He sent cards and wrote home, as reported in the *Sandringham Southern Cross* July 29, 1916, "Thanks for the

On March 1, 1919, he married Gwladys Florence Ballandas in the Parish of St. Marylebone.

He returned to Brighton Beach with his wife on H.S. *Naldera* and disembarked at Melbourne on May 21, 1920. His appointment in the Australian Imperial Force terminated in Melbourne on October 4, 1920. He soon reactivated his Melbourne Cricket Club membership.

Post war, Clarence Neville played District Cricket for St Kilda Cricket Club. His cricket success continued and he represented Victoria in the Victoria Second XI v New South Wales Second XI match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on January 25-27, 1922 which resulted in a draw.<sup>7</sup> He was in talented company, with his Victorian team mates including the likes of W.M. Woodfull (who carried his bat through the first innings, scoring 227 not out), E.K. Tolhurst and W.H. Ponsford.

Charles Reginald Neville died on October 2, 1973, aged 82.

**Marie Pernat** is the MCC Archives Assistant. With thanks to Patricia Downs and Peta Phillips for their assistance.

**Endnotes**

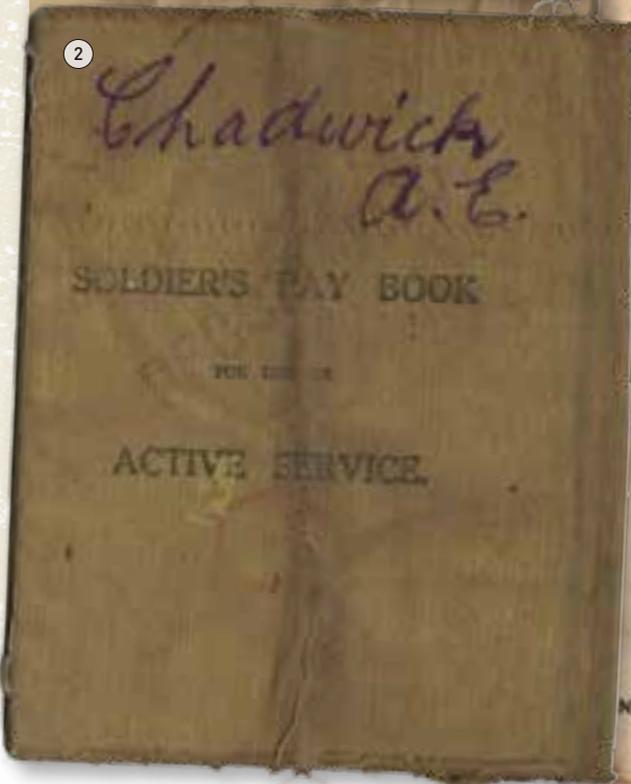
1. Extensive use has been made in this article of the record of service of Clarence Reginald Neville available online through the National Archives of Australia at <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/records/327670>, accessed 28 October 2014
2. <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/records/327670>, p. 2, accessed 28 October 2014
3. Newspapers articles are available online in Trove at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>, and have been reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Australia.
4. <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/records/327670>, p. 19, accessed 28 October 2014
5. Copy letter from Hugh Trumble to Mr A Neville, [20 September 1916], MCC Archives, Series A1 Letter Books, Item A1.23, p. 336
6. Letter from Mr A. Neville to MCC, [received 29 September 1916], MCC Archives, Series A6 Loose Correspondence 1915-1916, Item A6.13
7. Cricket Archive <http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Scorecards/169/16986.html> accessed 28 October 2014

# Vale Gwenda Alder

The MCC Library was saddened to learn of the passing of Gwenda Alder aged 86 on Australia Day earlier this year. Gwenda was often seen in the MCC Library at Demons' games – as befits the daughter of Sir Albert Chadwick (1897-1983), the Redlegs' premiership captain-coach who was selected in their Team of the Century. Sir Albert, who served in both World Wars was on the MCC committee for 38 years from 1941 and was the MCC president from 1965 to 1979. About a decade ago Gwenda began the process of donating her father's extensive archive to the Library. This vast and unique collection covered his sporting, military and business careers. Both he and Gwenda had a strong affection for our club, the ground, and its heritage. Therefore, *The Yorker* remembers Gwenda through a selection of items from the MCC Library's Chadwick collection.



Gwenda Alder (second from left) sorting items from the Chadwick collection in 2005 with MCC Library Volunteers (L-R) Ann Rusden, Margaret Johnson and Ross Perry



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1. Portrait of Bert Chadwick, probably taken in early 1916, before he sailed for Egypt. (Chadwick family collection, MCC Library)

2. World War I pay book issued to and used by Albert Chadwick, with entries dated from March 16, 1916 to April 24, 1917. Currently on display in the NSM's *Rallying the Spirits* exhibition. (Chadwick family collection, MCC Library)

3. Albert Chadwick's copy of the April 15, 1918 edition of the *Kia Ora Coo-ee*. It was the "official magazine of the New Zealand and Australian Forces in Egypt, Palestine, Salonica, and Mesopotamia." (Chadwick family collection, MCC Library)

4. Postcard of Albert Chadwick during his playing days with the Melbourne Football Club. (Chadwick family collection, MCC Library)

5. Albert Chadwick (right) in Darwin during World War II. He served as an administrative officer in the Royal Australian Air Force. (Chadwick family collection, MCC Library)

6. Albert Chadwick escorts Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and dignitaries through the worksite for the laying of the foundation stone of the Western Stand (later the Ponsford Stand) in March 1967. (Chadwick family collection, MCC Library)

7. Sir Albert Chadwick shakes hands with Colonel Mitchell Page, who unveiled a plaque at the MCG on October 25, 1977 to commemorate the use of the stadium to house the First Marine Division United States Marine Corps in 1943. (Chadwick family collection, MCC Library)

For a profile of Albert Chadwick during the Great War see Alf Batchelder's "The Boy from Tungamah", *The Yorker*, Issue 47, Autumn 2012.

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# Ernie Parker, The Western Australian Trumper

*By Ray Webster*

A highly gifted and versatile sportsman, Ernie Parker was unanimously acclaimed by critics on both sides of the continent as the finest batsman and tennis player produced by Western Australia up to the First World War. At a time when the country's attention

is concentrated on the centenary of the founding of the Anzac tradition, it is poignant to recall that Parker was among the many who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country during the so-called "war to end all wars".

Despite the state's geographic isolation, which significantly reduced Parker's opportunities for regular top-class competition, his list of accomplishments is remarkable. He scored the first century for WA in first-class cricket and in only his second appearance for the state at that. He was the first batsman to exceed 1000 runs in a Perth A grade club season, during the course of which he also recorded the first double century in that competition, while his tally of 19 club centuries was not exceeded until the 1990s.

On the tennis court, Parker won the 1913 Australasian singles in Perth, defeating his more highly-rated namesake, Harry Parker, and atoning for his loss to the New Zealand international, Tony Wilding, in the final four years earlier, also in Perth. They were the only occasions Ernie entered the Australasian championships, as a consequence of the difficulties of interstate travel from WA. Locally, he won seven WA singles titles (1903, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912 and 1913) as well as eight WA doubles championships (1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1913 and 1914), with a variety of partners.

Reports of Parker's exceptional talent with both bat and racquet gathered momentum following successive visits to Perth by interstate and international teams. Each emphasised the virtuosity of his performances ahead of the magnitude or impact on the contest's result. One of his WA teammates, the much-travelled Karl Quist (father of future Davis Cup star, Adrian) who was also the local correspondent for the Sydney *Referee* newspaper, was the first to draw the Trumper analogy. After witnessing Parker's century against South Australia in February 1906, Quist cabled his editor: "Ernest Parker is undoubtedly a batsman of the first rank. He is full of strokes, drives, cuts, glances, and hooks with beautiful precision in timing, and, in my opinion, if he had one season in the best company in New South Wales, he would be ranked as one of the finest batsmen in Australia. He is very like Victor Trumper in style, possessing that beautiful wrist work that has gone so far to make 'our Vic' the great batsman that he is."

In tennis, the similarities of Parker's deft stroking and seemingly effortless court coverage to that of the undisputed number one Australian player, Norman Brookes, caused

many to label him the Western Australian Brookes, this despite Parker being right-handed and Brookes left. After seeing the local champion play during a brief stop-over at Perth in December 1912, Charles Dixon, the British Davis Cup captain, declared that Parker only needed regular top-class competition to be second to Brookes in Australia, while the New Zealander, Tony Wilding, who was also tragically to lose his life during the First World War, lamented in his book, *On the Court and Off*, that "unfortunately for Australian tennis, Parker is a cricketer before a tennis player".

Parker was born in Perth on November 5th, 1883, and raised in a sporting environment, in which he was encouraged to participate from an early age. His father, George Parker (1852-1924), and an uncle, Stephen Henry Parker (1846-1927, later Sir Stephen, Chief Justice of WA), were both enthusiastic club cricketers. The latter was also prominent in local horse racing, both as an owner and one-time secretary of the WA Turf Club. George had the distinction of making the first recorded century in the colony and continued to play senior club cricket in Perth until his early 50s. Of greater significance, he and his brother were two of the founders of the Western Australian Cricket Association in 1885, George being elected chairman of the inaugural committee. Four years later, he led a deputation of three in waiting on and successfully persuading Governor Sir Frederick Broome to grant a plot of land for the establishment of the WACA Ground; he then went on to serve as one of its trustees until his death 34 years later.

Having begun his education in Perth at The High School (later to become Hale), Ernie Parker later attended at St Peter's College in Adelaide, where he was also a member of the First XI during his three years there (1898-1900), leading the side in his final year. At the age of 15, while at home during the school summer vacation, he made his senior cricket debut with his father's club, East Perth, playing one match in each of the 1898/99 and 1899/1900 seasons. Returning home midway through the following season, having completed his schooling, he astounded local enthusiasts with a superb 149 not out for East Perth against Claremont-Cottesloe, just over 100 of his runs accruing from perfectly-timed and well-placed boundary shots. *The West Australian* reported that "the young player gave a fine exhibition, never affording a chance or making one indecisive or faltering stroke". Parker added two further centuries for the club before the end of the season, to finish up with 450 runs at an average of 90.

Two years later and having just turned 19, Parker was in such irresistible form with the bat that for the most part opposing bowlers despaired of ever getting him out. Midway through the 1902/03 season, he opened East Perth's reply to East Fremantle's 172 late on the first afternoon, remaining 7 not out at stumps as his side slumped to 3/14. Resuming next week, he dominated the bowling from the outset, racing to 246 in better than even time as he struck 38 fours despite a bevy of boundary fieldsmen deployed in an attempt to curb his scoring. "Mid-On" of the *West Australian* praised Parker's display as "the best

exhibition of scientific, wristy batting that has ever been seen on the ground". It was to remain the highest individual innings in Perth A grade cricket until the 1990/91 season when Rob Baker made 262 for Scarborough against Mount Lawley. By the end of the season Parker had compiled 1003 runs at 71.64, setting another Perth senior grade record as the first player to exceed 1000 runs in a season.

He was also in excellent touch on the tennis court later in the year, winning the first of his seven WA singles championships. After losing the opening set of the final 6-3 to the more experienced J.G. Greayer, Parker lost only one game in the second and from that point never let his opponent back into match, taking the third and fourth, 6-3, 6-2.

Throughout these years of local dominance in both sports, there had been no opportunity for Parker to test his skills in interstate company, until the arrival of a South Australian cricket team in January 1906 ended a seven-year hiatus since WA's last first-class fixture. The locals matched the visitors in the two games played, recording their initial first-class success in the first, at the WACA Ground, while at the conclusion of the return match at Fremantle Oval they needed only 50 runs to win, with five wickets in hand. Selected in both matches, Parker demonstrated his talents with innings of 30 and 4 in the first, before captivating players and spectators alike in the second with near-faultless displays of 76 and 116. His century occupied only 145 minutes, during which he dominated an opening stand of 172 with his captain, Karl Quist [56]. It was the latter's impressions, quoted earlier in the article, that alerted followers of the game outside WA to Parker's prodigious talent.

In October 1906, Parker was a member of WA's first interstate tennis team, which was assembled for a program of matches, to be played over two days, against a visiting New South Wales combination led by Stanley Doust, who had defeated Parker in the 1905 WA singles final. In complete contrast to the state's cricket success earlier in the year, the opposition proved far too strong for the locals, who went down 11 matches to one,

Parker losing both his singles (one of them to Doust) as well as his only doubles.

The 1906 South Australian tour initiated a sequence of cricket visits to Perth over the following four seasons, beginning with that of a reasonably strong NSW side in March 1907. Again, the locals gave a good account of themselves, losing the first encounter by only two wickets before squaring the two-match series with a thrilling five-run victory in the second. Parker compiled contrasting half-centuries in the second innings of each contest, treating spectators to a scintillating 69 in 40 minutes in the first, before holding the innings together in the second with a measured 67. The NSW captain and Test representative, Bert Hopkins, told the local *Daily News* reporter that Parker was "head and shoulders above anything I have ever seen here", as well as noting the similarity of his method to that of Trumper, while NSW manager, Alick Mackenzie, informed the *Referee* after his return to Sydney that "it is a pity a player like Parker does not have a chance to get better cricket."

At the end of October 1907, the MCC team led by A.O. Jones, began its Ashes tour with a match at Perth, the first occasion that an English team had met WA. Not surprisingly, the tourists outclassed the locals to win by an innings and 134 runs, well inside the three days allocated for the fixture. Although Parker managed only 22 and 11, the visiting captain singled him out for comment as "a typical batsman of the scientific order...with an exceptionally accurate and sweet late-cut which frequently travelled past Hayes, Braund and myself like a rocket". Another member of the MCC team, J.N. Crawford, joined the chorus of comparison, adding at the end of the tour: "Some of his shots are like Trumper's."

Three weeks later, Parker left for England on "an extended holiday". After leaving school, he had begun law studies and been articled to Parker and Parker, the legal firm established by his uncle, Sir Stephen, and which subsequently incorporated his father, George, as a partner. His studies now successfully completed, Ernie had recently been admitted to



the WA Bar and, prior to taking up a position at Parker and Parker, decided on a break. While in London he was made an honorary member of the Surrey County Cricket Club, although whether he played any cricket during his visit is unknown.

Back in Australia Parker was quickly into stride in the 1908/09 season, including a six and 19 fours in a spectacular and chanceless 100 in 45 minutes, for Wanderers against Fremantle. In January, the executive of the WA Cricket Association wrote to the Australian Board of Control, requesting that it instruct the national selectors to include Parker in the trial matches arranged for early February, to assist selection of the 1909 Australian team to England. Their wish granted, Parker was included in the Rest of Australia XI for both encounters with an Australian XI, becoming the first player from the West to gain such recognition.

After failing in the first trial in Sydney, he contributed a most impressive 65 in 88 minutes to an opening stand of 119 with Edgar Mayne at the MCG in the second. Tommy Horan wrote in the *Australasian* that Parker "delighted all of us with his crisp, decisive, and confident play", while the *Referee* correspondent affirmed "that his batting abilities had not been over-estimated". Despite his display, Parker was overlooked in the final tour selection and the two trial games were destined to be his only first-class appearances outside Perth.

At the end of the season, he appeared for WA in two drawn matches against South Australia in Perth, hitting a characteristically wristy 86 in the second, at Fremantle Oval. Just under 12 months later, Parker struck 22 fours while compiling 117 in 82 minutes in a futile attempt to prevent an innings win by a Victorian XI, which was visiting WA for the first time. He was unable to sustain that form, however, in either of the two return matches, apart from a cameo knock of 40 in 37 minutes at Fremantle, the visitors taking the three-match series 2-1. It was reported several months later that Bert Kortlang, a member of the Victorian XI, had attempted to persuade Parker to pursue his cricket in Melbourne, but without success.

Parker was again in excellent form throughout the 1910/11 season, which was restricted to local club competition in the

absence of a visiting team. During the ensuing winter, he experienced difficulties with his eyesight, it deteriorating to such an extent that he withdrew from cricket, apart from a few unsuccessful club appearances in 1911/12. Because of WA's isolation from the cricket mainstream, he had played only 13 first-class matches, in which he made 883 runs at 33.96, including two centuries. In an outstanding A grade club career, his final tally stood at 6435 runs at 49.88, with 19 centuries, from 100 matches.

Although he now considered playing cricket impossible, Parker was able to maintain his standards on the tennis court. Now wearing glasses, he added the 1912 (singles), 1913 (singles and doubles) and 1914 (doubles) to his list of WA titles, in addition to winning the 1913 Australasian singles championship. In February 1914, Norman Brookes agreed to play an exhibition match with Parker during a brief stop-over in Perth on his way England. Played in extreme heat, Brookes' superior serving gave him a decisive edge but Parker still gave a good account of himself, the score being 6-4, 6-1, 5-6 in Brookes' favour when it was mutually agreed to end the match because of the trying conditions.

Soon after the outbreak of the war in Europe, Parker endeavoured to enlist with the army but was rejected because of his eyesight. He subsequently made another unsuccessful attempt but he was finally accepted in October 1916, by which time qualifications had been relaxed in order that enlistments kept pace with the enormous casualty rate. He embarked for Europe in May 1917 as a gunner with the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade and, after further training in England, accompanied his unit to France a few months later.

Parker was killed on May 2nd, 1918, at Caestre, near Hazebrouck, in north-eastern France, while serving with the 102nd Howitzer Battery. At about four o'clock in the afternoon, he and two comrades were preparing to have tea a short distance behind their gun emplacement, which was not in action at the time, and, while one was filling their mugs a short distance away, an incoming shell exploded where Parker and the remaining comrade were sitting, killing both instantly.

One of the finest tributes paid was that by WA cricket captain and former NSW player Harold Evers, who had been at school with Trumper: "Ernie was one of the finest batsmen in Australia, and if he had played cricket in the Eastern States he would have represented Australia in England on more than one occasion. He was a very versatile batsman, in addition to being brilliant. A little impetuous at the start, he was nevertheless always a pleasure to look at once he got going. His strokes reminded one very much of Victor Trumper; they had the same keenness and finish. He was also a brilliant field. On the cricket field he made a lot of friends, and whether you were playing with him or against him, you always had the same respect and admiration for him."

Whilst acknowledging that Parker was perhaps a big fish in a small pond, the weight of contemporary opinion overwhelmingly supported the view that he was a sportsman of rare gifts who, given a wider and more regular exposure to elite competition in cricket and tennis, may well have represented Australia in both sports.

**Ray Webster** is a MCC Library volunteer



The Rest of Australia v Australian XI in Sydney, February 5-9, 1909.

**Standing:** Charlie Barnes, Jack Saunders, Frank Laver (12<sup>th</sup> man), Gerry Hazlitt.

**Seated:** Charlie Kelleway, Warren Bardsley, Bert Hopkins (capt), Algy Gehrs, Charles Gorry.

**Front:** Charlie Simpson, Ernie Parker.

**Absent:** Edgar Mayne



# Twenty pennants:

## The Melbourne Cricket Club's First XI Premierships since the commencement of District Cricket

### Part 7 — 1992/93, 1994/95 and 1997/98

*By Ken Williams*

**The 1990s proved a highly successful decade for the Melbourne Cricket Club. After narrowly losing the 1990/91 final, the first XI went on to annex three premierships in the space of six seasons, the first two under the leadership of Michael Sholly and the third under Warren Ayres. Batting was the team's strong point, with major contributions from Ayres, Dean Jones and Brad Hodge, while Richard Herman and Steve McCooke were consistent wicket takers. Two future Test bowlers, Simon Cook and Brad Williams, also made their presence felt during the decade.**

Having defeated Collingwood in the 1988/89 final to record its 15th District premiership, Melbourne, under the leadership of Peter King, reached the finals for the fourth season in a row in 1989/90, finishing in fourth place after the home-and-away programme. Its semi-final opponent St Kilda proved much too strong, however, thanks to a fine all-round performance from skipper Shaun Graf, who scored 53 and took 6 for 39. After dismissing St Kilda for 259 on the opening day, with new fast bowler Simon Cook capturing 5/58, Melbourne crashed to 7/62 in reply, and although keeper Rob Templeton hit a brave unbeaten half-century, it fell 98 runs short. St Kilda's side contained a promising 20-year-old leg spinner by the name of Shane Warne who batted at number 11 and was not required to bowl!

Warren Ayres with 451 runs at 41.00 won Melbourne's batting average for the first time – he would do so a further five times during his outstanding career, while easily the leading runscore was opener Craig Bustard with 696 runs at 36.63. For the second year in a row, fast bowler Denis Hickey (36 wickets at 23.22) headed the bowling. Frustrated by his lack of opportunities at first-class level – he made only two

appearances for the state this season after having made none the year before – Hickey transferred to South Australia during the off-season in an attempt to advance his first-class career. Richard Herman, with 26 wickets, gave good support.

Peter King, who had captained the side for the past two seasons, retired after the semi-final in order to take up a business appointment in Sydney, thereby ending a splendid career for the club in which he scored 4464 runs and took 238 wickets. The most significant newcomer in 1989/90 was Simon Cook, a powerfully-built, 18-year-old fast bowler from Crib Point on the Mornington Peninsula. In a career punctuated by major injuries and several seasons in New South Wales, he rendered fine service to the club in a career which extended to 2003/04. While based in Sydney, he played two Tests for Australia in 1997/98.<sup>1</sup>

Following King's departure, Dean Jones was appointed captain for the 1990/91 season, but as he was available for only four matches because of international and interstate commitments, vice-captain Templeton led the side for the most of the season. Despite Jones' regular absences, Melbourne enjoyed a fine season, heading the table after

**Top Left:** 1992/93 VCA premiership pennant. (MCC Museum Collection, M15435)

**Top Centre:** Melbourne players pose with the premiership cup after their side's nail-biting win in the 1992/93 final against Collingwood. Standing: Paul Gartlick, James Sutherland, Darrin Ramshaw, Craig Bustard, Fraser Main (sub), Neil Maxwell, Warren Ayres, Robert Templeton. Front row: Simon Cook, Michael Sholly (capt), Brad Hodge, Richard Herman. (MCC Museum Collection, M14218)

**Top Right:** 1994/95 VCA premiership pennant. (MCC Museum Collection, M15438)



the home-and-away matches with 11 wins. The side was particularly strong in both batting and bowling, with seven players making centuries. Three notable newcomers this season were Darrin Ramshaw, Neil Maxwell and Martin McCague. Ramshaw, a slim and stylish opening batsman and brilliant fieldsman from Perth, had made three appearances for Western Australia in 1989/90 after being on the fringe of the WA side for several seasons.<sup>2</sup> Fijian-born Maxwell was an excellent all-rounder from Sydney grade club Northern District who had been unable to break into the NSW team despite winning the O'Reilly Medal (Sydney grade cricket's equivalent of the Ryder Medal) in 1988/89.<sup>3</sup> The third recruit, fast bowler McCague was born in Northern Ireland but had emigrated to WA with his parents as a baby. After playing grade cricket with North Perth, he had attended the Australian Cricket Academy, then based in Adelaide, in 1989/90, before being recruited by Melbourne.<sup>4</sup>

Each of the newcomers made major contributions when Melbourne easily beat Richmond in the 1990/91 semi-final. Ramshaw's 101, his third hundred for the season, provided the basis for Melbourne's total of 244 with Maxwell (46) making the second-highest score, while McCague (6/52) routed the Tigers on the second day. The final, against University at the St Kilda ground a week later, was a dour and tensely-fought contest. On the opening day, the students struggled to make headway against Melbourne's four-pronged pace attack of McCague, Herman, Maxwell and Cook, but managed to reach 195 before being dismissed just before the close. Geoff Allardice, now the ICC's General Manager – Cricket, top-scored with 51.

Next day, Melbourne found run-making equally difficult against University's pace quartet of James Sutherland, Peter Anderson, Josh Marquet and Ian Wrigglesworth, with only Ramshaw (44) of its top-order surviving for any length of time. At 6 for 82, Melbourne was in serious difficulty, but Herman and McCooke then became associated in a tenacious seventh wicket stand which doubled the score. With only 32 needed and four wickets in hand, Melbourne appeared on the verge of winning, but in a last-ditch move, University skipper, Michael Sholly put himself on to bowl and immediately broke the stand when McCooke (30) skied an attempted hook shot and was well caught by keeper Nigel Strong. Two wickets fell soon after, including topscorer Herman (59) and at stumps Melbourne found itself needing another 14 runs with its last pair at the crease. Play resumed amid great tension next morning, but without a run added McCague edged a delivery from Sutherland to Brendan Ricci at first slip thereby giving University its first official premiership since its inaugural success in 1928/29. Ironically, two years later, two members of University's successful team, Sholly and Sutherland (the latter now CEO of Cricket Australia) would form part of Melbourne's next premiership XI.

In an outstanding first season with the club, Ramshaw scored 739 runs at 46.12 to win the batting average. The next highest runscore was Carlton footballer Craig Bradley (506 at 33.73), whose 165 not out against Essendon was the highest of the nine centuries recorded during the season. Another of the newcomers, McCague, won the bowling average with 39 wickets at 15.51. He, Maxwell (36 wickets), Herman (30)

and Cook (28) comprised a formidable pace quartet which captured 133 wickets between them, while Templeton with 44 dismissals, set a new club keeping record which he would break himself four seasons later.

After six successive finals appearances, the side did not fare as well in 1991/92, sliding to 10th place with just 6 wins from 15 matches. In sharp contrast to the previous season, only one hundred was recorded – 173 not out by Ayres against Fitzroy-Doncaster, which helped him win the club's batting average for a second time with 415 runs at 59.28. With McCague having returned to Western Australia, the bowling was less strong, although Maxwell (35 wickets at 17.45) was consistently successful. Brad Hodge, destined to become one of the club's greatest batsmen, made his first XI debut in December, when two weeks short of 17th birthday. Although he made little impact, scoring 39 runs at 13.00 in five matches, his exceptional talent was already apparent.<sup>5</sup>

### The 1992/93 Premiership

Melbourne's team underwent important changes at the start of the season with the appointment of Michael Sholly as captain-coach, replacing Dean Jones, who had been available for only seven matches during his two seasons as captain. Sholly had previously played for Melbourne from 1981/82 to 1984/85, but had spent the past five seasons at University, whom he led to the 1990/91 premiership and earned high praise for his leadership. He was joined by another experienced University player, James Sutherland, who had taken 226 wickets for the club with his fast-medium deliveries since making his debut in 1985/86.

Despite the addition of these players, Melbourne made a slow start to the 1992/93 season, and by Christmas had won only two matches. It was a different story after the break, however, as it won seven of its last eight matches to move to top place on the points table, one game clear of second-placed Collingwood. Melbourne's batting was its strong point and the side ran up some impressive totals – 6/413 against St Kilda (Bustard 189, Ramshaw 121), 405 against Richmond (Herman 152) and, in the final home-and-away match, 6/534 against Prahran (Ayres 201).

Melbourne had to play Prahran again in the semi-final, but this time there was no heavy scoring. Although most of its batsmen made starts, it could post only a moderate total of 235 with opener Sholly's 45 ending up as top score. Prahran's leg-spinner Steve Milosz did most of the damage, finishing with seven for 87. Melbourne's total proved sufficient for it to win and progress to the final, however there were some anxious moments before Prahran was finally dismissed for 199, with the last four wickets falling to McCooke and Herman for only five runs. Prior to that, an exceptionally tight spell by Sutherland, in which he sent down eight successive maidens, helped set up the win.

The final, which was played at Toorak Park (the first time the ground had hosted a final since 1922/23) against Collingwood, was a gripping and see-sawing contest with the result in doubt to the very end. Winning the toss and batting first, Melbourne was soon in trouble, losing Sholly, Ayres and Ramshaw by the



Above: 1992/93 bullion embroidered premiership badge. (MCC Museum Collection, M14158.7)



### 1992/93 FINAL

#### COLLINGWOOD v. MELBOURNE

Played at Toorak Park, Armadale, on March 26, 27 & 28, 1993.  
Melbourne won on first innings. Toss: Melbourne.

<b>Melbourne</b>			
C. J. Bostard c French b Ingram	22	+ R. L. Templeton c Elliott b Bailey	41
* M. W. D. Sholly bow b Bailey	0	P. A. Garlick st Taylor b Emerson	11
W. G. Ayres c Taylor b Bailey	4	S. H. Cook b Bailey	0
D. J. Ramshaw c Arnall b French	2	1b 9, w 3, rb 26	38
R. J. Herman b Bailey	29		
B. J. Hodge c Elliott b French	0	1/1 2/13 3/18 4/58 5/58	292
N. D. Maxwell not out	131	6/87 7/125 8/217 9/285 10/292	
J. A. Sutherland c Ingram b Emerson	14		
Bowling: Bailey 31.2-9-70-5; French 32-14-59-2; Ingram 23-4-78-1; Emerson 32-14-59-2; Thomas 6-3-6-0; Harris 3-0-11-0.			
<b>Collingwood</b>			
M. T. G. Elliott not out	153	R. D. French c & b Garlick	3
P. A. Joiner run out	0	C. A. Ingram c Templeton b Garlick	22
A. J. Arnall run out	20	J. P. Bailey c Templeton b Garlick	0
C. J. Harris c Maxwell b Sutherland	0	1b 7, w 2, rb 10	19
* E. A. Emerson b Herman	33		
M. A. Johnson c Ramshaw b Sutherland	14	1/0 2/66 3/67 4/128 5/159	286
R. W. Thomas c Sholly b Maxwell	5	6/167 7/194 8/200 9/284 10/286	
+ R. P. Taylor b Garlick	17		
Bowling: Cook 30-3-78-0; Sutherland 36-11-62-2; Maxwell 24-7-58-1; Herman 6-1-23-1; Garlick 23-5-58-4.			
Close of play scores: 1st day — Melb 9/244 (Maxwell 93, Garlick 3); 2nd day — Coll 4/134 (Elliott 72, Johnson 1).			
Umpires: D. W. Holt & L. J. King.			

### MELBOURNE 1st XI AVERAGES 1992-93

#### Batting & Fielding

	M	I	MO	R	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct/St
N. D. Maxwell	10	8	4	321	131*	80.25	1	1	4
R. J. Herman	16	15	3	518	152	51.80	1	2	4
D. M. Jones	4	4	0	139	65	29.75	—	2	2
C. J. Bostard	14	13	1	459	189	38.25	1	2	2
M. W. D. Sholly (capt.)	14	14	3	418	162*	38.00	1	1	10
W. G. Ayres (non-capt.)	14	14	0	512	201	36.57*	1	2	2
D. J. Ramshaw	16	16	0	523	151	32.62	1	2	9
R. L. Templeton	16	8	2	146	41	24.33	—	—	17/2
S. M. McCook	11	9	3	155	42*	22.50	—	—	6
B. J. Hodge	8	6	2	68	37	17.00	—	—	3
J. A. Sutherland	14	8	2	98	31	18.33	—	—	2
M. J. Scully	3	4	1	48	27	16.00	—	—	2
P. A. Hig	8	4	0	40	24	10.00	—	—	3
P. A. Garlick	10	7	4	26	11	8.66	—	—	10

Also found: S. D. Anderson (1 match) 0; R. M. Bowles (2 matches) 78.6; S. H. Cook (12 matches) 17.0 (1st 1); B. A. Williams (4 matches) 2.77 (1st 1). Did not bat: M. J. Ash (1 match); S. J. O'Flynn (1 match).

#### Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avg	Best	100	50	100M
P. A. Garlick	110.3	30	269	19	14.13	4/15	—	—	—
J. A. Sutherland	254.3	80	509	21	24.23	6/44	1	—	—
S. M. McCook	170.5	47	397	14	28.35	3/45	—	—	—
R. J. Herman	147.2	27	459	16	28.68	4/15	—	—	—
S. H. Cook	132.3	25	436	15	29.06	3/20	1	—	—
N. D. Maxwell	126.4	27	332	11	30.18	3/71	—	—	—

Also bowled: S. D. Anderson 6-2-14-0; D. A. Hig 47-9-129-9; M. W. D. Sholly 7-0-22-1; B. A. Williams 45.1-10-102-6.

Total for	3927	108	36.36
Total against	2758	125	22.06

time 18 runs were on the board, and when Hodge fell for a duck, the score had slumped to 5/58. When Herman followed with the score on 87, Melbourne's prospects appeared bleak. Then followed a remarkable recovery led by Maxwell, who had come in at the fall of the fifth wicket. In his last game for the club (he returned to NSW during the winter), he displayed remarkable composure and concentration to make an unbeaten 131 (382 minutes, 324 balls, 12 fours). With support from Sutherland (with whom he put on 38 for the 7th wicket), Templeton (92 for the 8th) and Paul Garlick (68 for the 9th) Melbourne managed to post a competitive total of 292. Left-arm paceman John Bailey (5/70) bowled tirelessly to claim the bowling honours for Collingwood.

Despite losing its first two wickets to run outs, Collingwood batted doggedly in reply, with opener Matthew Elliott standing tall at one end. By the close of the second day its score stood at 4 for 134 with Elliott unbeaten on 72. Shortly before the finish there was a fiery incident when umpire Len King disallowed what the Melbourne players believed to have been a return catch to Garlick offered by Elliott. In the ensuing commotion, keeper Templeton clashed angrily with Elliott and Collingwood skipper, David Emerson, who was batting at the other end, and was reported by both umpires for misconduct and dissent (he was later suspended for the first part of the following season).

Next day, Melbourne gradually gained the ascendancy, although its bowlers could not shift Elliott. When Garlick claimed two wickets in three overs to leave Collingwood at 8/200, it appeared the match was as good as over, but Elliott, then 95 not out, found an improbable batting ally in Craig Ingram whose career batting average was less than six. In an attempt to finish off the innings, Sholly elected to take the second new ball, but the move backfired and the runs began to flow. With Elliott shielding his partner from the strike, the pair added 84 runs for ninth wicket to take Collingwood within 9 runs of victory. Then, in a frantic finish, Ingram, having just survived two chances and a confident appeal for a bat-pad catch, cut at Garlick and was caught behind by Templeton.

The match came to an end in Garlick's next over, when, with two runs having been added, last man Bailey miscued an attempted pull shot, bottom-edging the ball onto his leg whence it rebounded to Templeton, who juggled the catch, giving Melbourne victory by six runs. Elliott's masterful exhibition of disciplined batting had been in vain. On the field for the entire game, he remained undefeated on 153 after more than eight hours at the crease during which time he faced 396 balls. The bowling honours went to leg-spinner Garlick, who took the last four wickets, to finish with figures of 4 for 58 from 23 overs. All the Melbourne bowlers played their part, with Sutherland conceding just 62 runs from a marathon spell of 36 overs, in which he took two wickets.

In a strong batting line-up, Herman, Ayres and Ramshaw all compiled in excess of 500 runs while Maxwell's match-winning knock in the final enabled him to win the club's batting average with 321 runs at 80.25. No bowler stood out, with only Sutherland (21) taking 20 or more wickets during the season. Garlick, an unorthodox leg-spinner who spun the ball with his fourth rather than middle finger, won the bowling average with 19 wickets at only 14.15. Although he had made his debut in 1987/88, he had played only 12 first XI games prior to this season.<sup>6</sup> A talented newcomer was Brad Williams, an 18-year-old pace bowler from Frankston, who was described by state coach Les Stillman as Australia's quickest under-19 bowler "by five metres". Overlooked for the final despite having played in the semi-final, he went on to be a member of both the 1994/95 and 1997/98 premierships. He made his Victorian debut in 1994/95 and later transferred to Western Australia, playing four Tests for Australia in 2003/04.<sup>7</sup>

To cap an excellent season, Melbourne's 2nd XI, under the captaincy of veteran Eivion Williams, also won the premiership (it too beat Collingwood in the final), while the club also won the J.A. Seitz Club Championship, the Dowling (under-16) Shield and the newly-instituted VCA Knockout competition.

\* \* \*



For the second season in a row, Melbourne headed the points table at the end of the home-and-away matches in 1993/94, but was unable to repeat its triumph of the previous season. Having reached the final following a drawn semi-final against Dandenong-Waverley, it proved no match for John Scholes-led Fitzroy-Doncaster. The latter overhauled Melbourne total of 251 for the loss of only two wickets, with Brendan Joyce (92 not out) and Leigh Watts (131 not out) combining to put on 231 in an unbroken third wicket stand.

Ramshaw won the club's batting average for the second time this season with 390 runs at 55.71, while the top runscoreers were Rhett Bowden<sup>8</sup> (600 at 50.00) and Ayres (607 at 43.35). Herman, who won the bowling award for the first time, and Sutherland each took 37 wickets. The latter returned to University at the end of the season, having spent just two years at Melbourne.<sup>9</sup>

### The 1994/95 Premiership

In what was arguably the most dominant season in the club's history, Melbourne won 15 of its 17 home-and-away matches to finish five matches clear of its nearest rivals at the head of the table, and then went on to record resounding wins over Geelong and Collingwood in the finals to gain its 17th District premiership.

Melbourne's batting was exceptionally powerful, its season's average of 55.72 runs per wicket being by far the highest recorded by any side in the whole history of the competition. Dean Jones, with his international career over, although he was still a regular member of the state side, was able to play more often and won the club's batting average for the first time with 597 runs at 99.50. He scored two hundreds, as did skipper Sholly. Ramshaw and Ayres did even better, each making three hundreds. Both exceeded 900 runs, Ramshaw making 925 at 66.07, which included an innings of 199 against South Melbourne, and Ayres 927 at 54.52. Other batsmen to star were Hodge and Herman who compiled 585 runs at 83.57 and 491 runs at 70.14 respectively. Despite having finished only fifth in his club's averages, Ayres became the first Melbourne player to win the coveted Jack Ryder Medal. He polled 38 votes,



1994/95 Premiershipe Team

**Back row:** D.C. Combe (manager), R.J. Herman, S.J. Sheahan, B.A. Williams, R.I. Templeton, S.M. McCooke, C.E. Rhoden (scorer).  
**Front row:** C.L. Fairbairn (selector), M.J. Scalzo, B.J. Hodge, M.W.D. Sholly (capt), D.A. Patrick (chairman of cricket), D.J. Ramshaw, P.A. Garlick, R.G. Lloyd (chairman of selectors).  
**Insets:** W.G. Ayres (vice-capt), R.M. Bowden, S.H. Cook, D.M. Jones.

three more than runner-up Geelong's Jason Bakker, who had been the pre-vote favourite. His win was quite unexpected as it was felt that many of his team mates in the powerful Melbourne line-up would take votes from him. There were also some excellent bowling performances. Williams, in his first full season, bowled with sustained pace and aggression to win the bowling average for the first time with 40 wickets at 14.55, while Herman with 49 at 16 was the competition's leading wicket-taker. Another outstanding performance was recorded by Templeton, who broke his own club record in completing 46 dismissals (all caught).

Melbourne's semi-final opponent was Geelong, which was making its first appearance in District finals, having been

1994/95 FINAL			
COLLINGWOOD v. MELBOURNE			
Played at St Kilda Cricket Ground on March 24 & 25, 1995.			
Melbourne won on first innings. <i>Toss:</i> Collingwood.			
<b>Collingwood</b>			
M. T. G. Elliott c Templeton b Herman	43	R. D. French c Templeton b Williams	1
G. R. Vunguzi b Williams	0	C. A. Ingram not out	1
S. A. Cann c Templeton b Williams	14	J. P. Bailey b Herman	0
A. J. Amadi c Templeton b Williams	62	B 11, lb 15	26
P. A. Broster c Cook b Williams	134		
* D. A. Emerson c Cook b Herman	14	1/8 2/59 3/59 4/266 5/270	306
† R. P. Taylor c Templeton b Herman	11	6/295 7/303 8/304 9/306 10/306	
R. R. Dodds c Ramshaw b Herman	0		
Bowling: Cook 18-3-58-0; Williams 22-7-47-5; Garlick 7-0-41-0; Herman 19-4-5-55-5; McCooke 19-3-53-0; Hodge 3-0-26-0.			
<b>Melbourne</b>			
W. G. Ayres c Cann b Emerson	26	R. J. Herman not out	4
B. J. Hodge c Taylor b Dodds	45	Nb 14	14
D. M. Jones not out	123		
D. J. Ramshaw c Ingram b Broster	97	1/62 2/108 3/300	(3 wts) 309
* M. W. D. Sholly, S. M. McCooke, † R. I. Templeton, P. A. Garlick, B. A. Williams and S. H. Cook did not bat.			
Bowling: Bailey 18-5-75-0; Ingram 13-2-37-0; French 13-3-41-0; Emerson 17-4-68-1; Dodds 9-2-1-44-1; Broster 10-2-43-1.			
Close of play score: Coll 5/288 (Emerson 9, Taylor 10).			
Umpires: D. W. Holt & P. H. Jensen.			

MELBOURNE 1st XI AVERAGES 1994-95										
Batting & Fielding										
	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avg	100	50	40/50	Dismissals
D. M. Jones	9	8	2	597	123*	99.50	2	4	2	
B. J. Hodge	11	10	3	585	98*	83.57		4	3	
R. J. Herman	19	16	9	491	86*	70.14		4	3	
D. J. Ramshaw	19	19	3	925	199	96.07	3	3	24	
W. G. Ayres (vice-capt)	19	20	3	927	141*	54.52	3	4	11	
M. W. D. Sholly (capt)	18	9	3	518	105	53.00	2		38	
S. M. McCooke	19	9	3	148	47*	37.00			5	
P. A. Garlick	19	7	3	56	21*	28.00			9	
R. I. Templeton	19	5	1	96	50	24.00			46/10	
M. J. Scalzo	11	11	1	231	72	23.10			4	
R. M. Bowden	11	10	1	179	59	19.88			2	
Also listed: S. J. O'Flynn (4 matches) 0*; B. A. Williams (16 matches) 5, 11* (at 1), Did not bat; S. H. Cook (11 matches) (at 7); R. A. Cathers (1 match); S. A. Cunningham (1 match) (at 1); D. A. Johnson (1 match); S. J. Sheahan (8 matches) (at 3).										
Bowling										
	O	M	R	W	Avg	100	50	40/50	Dismissals	
B. A. Williams	217.5	48	582	40	14.55	8/107	3			
R. J. Herman	285.3	70	784	49	16.00	6/17	2			
S. H. Cook	151	26	456	20	22.80	4/49				
S. J. Sheahan	90	15	241	10	28.10	3/57				
P. A. Garlick	218.2	50	654	22	29.72	4/7				
R. M. McCooke	258.2	78	610	19	32.10	4/49				
Also listed: R. M. Bowden 18-2-47-1; B. J. Hodge 13-4-56-4; D. A. Johnson 11-0-38-1; D. M. Jones 10-4-1-39-0; S. J. O'Flynn 26-4-85-1; D. J. Ramshaw 1-0-6-0; M. W. D. Sholly 3-1-2-0; R. I. Templeton 2-0-9-0.										
Total for	4988		87		33.72					
Total against	3772		185		20.38					



### 1997/98 FINAL

#### CAMBERWELL MAGPIES v. MELBOURNE

Played at the Albert Ground on March 27 & 28, 1998.  
Melbourne won on first innings. Total: Camberwell Magpies.

<b>Camberwell Magpies</b>			
G. R. Vanzani c Jones b Herman	4	+ R. P. Taylor c Jones b Herman	1
S. A. Cain b Herman	1	S. W. Clark c Herman b McCooke	0
M. T. G. Elliott c Templeton b McCooke	22	R. D. French not out	0
A. S. Blackwell lbw b Herman	8	Lb 8, nb 6	14
* A. J. Amalfi c McCooke b Henry	44		
D. A. Emerson c McCooke b Herman	73	1/5 2/15 3/35 4/43 5/96	229
P. A. Broster lbw b Herman	62	6/214 7/216 8/224 9/229 10/229	
D. R. Shanahan b Herman	0		

Bowling: Williams 30-9-56-0; Herman 33.3-11-57-7; Dart 4-2-3-0; McCooke 36-11-51-2; Henry 16-4-39-1; Hodge 2-0-15-0.

**Melbourne**

* W. G. Ayres not out	126
M. S. Pinniger c Clark b French	4
B. J. Hodge c Taylor b Clark	10
D. M. Jones not out	84
Lb 5, nb 2	7
1/12 2/29 (2 wkts)	231

M. W. D. Sholly, S. P. Dart, R. J. Herman, + R. L. Templeton, S. M. McCooke, R. A. Williams and A. W. Henry did not bat.

Bowling: Clark 15-3-74-1; French 14-4-45-1; Broster 11-2-29-0; Shanahan 12-3-36-0; Emerson 5-0-24-0; Elliott 4-2-11-0; Amalfi 1.3-0-7-0.

Close of play score: CM 5/201 (Emerson 57, Broster 52).

Umpires: G. T. D. Morrow & W. P. Shanahan.

### MELBOURNE 1st XI AVERAGES 1997-98

#### Batting & Fielding

	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avg	100	50	CR%
D. M. Jones	11	9	3	496	114*	82.66	1	4	6
W. G. Ayres (capt.)	18	20	5	1119	152	65.81	4	4	9
B. J. Hodge	12	12	5	477	128	53.00	2	1	6
M. W. D. Sholly	19	13	3	412	80*	41.20	1	1	8
R. A. Williams	13	4	1	119	106	39.66	1	1	2
R. L. Templeton	19	12	4	257	108*	32.17	1	1	27/8
S. P. Dart	17	15	3	302	75*	25.16	1	1	9
M. S. Pinniger	10	10	5	170	47	24.28	1	1	8
R. J. Herman	14	10	2	194	78	24.25	1	1	9
M. J. Scalon	14	14	1	202	34	16.83	1	1	10
S. M. McCooke	19	10	2	86	51	10.75	1	1	8
A. W. Henry	12	7	4	27	8*	9.00	1	1	3
S. J. O'Flynn	13	5	2	18	8*	6.00	1	1	3

Also batted: K. C. Bowden (2 matches) 8\*, 0 (ex 1); S. H. Shaker (1 match) 0; G. T. Jones (2 matches) 0, 15; P. L. Jabber (7 matches) 12, 8\* (ex 5); L. J. McRae (2 matches) 32, 11\*, 7 (ex 2); S. B. Oliver (7 matches) 18, 2, 6 (ex 3); S. J. Shanahan (3 matches) 8\*, 14

#### Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avg	Best	100	50	CR%
R. J. Herman	208.2	59	494	31	15.91	7/37	2	-	-
R. A. Williams	182.4	53	426	24	17.73	3/8	-	-	-
S. M. McCooke	408.3	122	926	47	19.70	7/33	1	-	-
S. J. O'Flynn	170.3	35	501	20	25.03	4/38	-	-	-
A. W. Henry	175.3	48	520	20	26.00	5/20	1	-	-
S. P. Dart	93.1	21	284	9	26.33	4/21	1	-	-
P. L. Jabber	82.3	8	283	8	35.62	3/31	-	-	-
S. B. Oliver	89	22	255	6	42.50	2/13	-	-	-

Also bowled: W. G. Ayres 2-0-12-0; K. C. Bowden 9-1-56-3; B. J. Hodge 33.1-1-112-5; D. M. Jones 1-1-0-0; M. S. Pinniger 13.4-3-28-2; M. J. Scalon 1-0-1-1; S. J. Shanahan 16-1-77-2; M. W. D. Sholly 13-0-56-2; R. L. Templeton 1-0-1-1.

	Runs	Wkts	Avg
Total for	4301	117	36.76
Total against	4108	189	21.73

admitted, together with Frankston Peninsula, into the competition only a year earlier. The newcomers proved no match for their more seasoned opponents, being bundled out for 125, Cook taking 4/25, a total Melbourne passed for the loss of two wickets, Hodge being left stranded on 98 when the match was called off.

The hapless Collingwood were once again Melbourne's opponent in the final, which was played at St Kilda. It batted first and it appeared for a time that it might set Melbourne a challenging target, as left-handers Tony Amalfi (62) and Paul Broster (134) took part in a splendid fourth wicket stand which carried the score from 59 to 266. Once they were separated, however, the innings fell apart and on the second morning Collingwood lost its last five wickets for only 11 runs, with Herman capturing 4 for 4 in 4.2 overs. He and Williams, who had bowled brilliantly on the first day, each finished with five wickets. Melbourne was untroubled to pass that score, the match ending on the same day when it passed Collingwood's score for the loss of only three wickets, courtesy of an unbroken third-wicket stand of 192 in three hours by Jones and Ramshaw. Jones, who remained undefeated on 123, batted for four hours and hit 19 fours and a six, while Ramshaw, who was caught on the square leg boundary when attempting to bring up his hundred, was dismissed for 97 when only 7 runs were needed for victory. He had batted for an hour less than Jones and hit 13 fours and a six.

\* \* \*

Disappointment lay in store for Melbourne over the next two seasons as it twice succumbed in the semi finals after strong performances in the home-and-away programme. Both losses were to University. In 1995/96 the students ran up the formidable total of 9 for 323, in reply to which Melbourne, weakened by the absence of Jones, Ayres and Hodge who were playing in a Shield game against Queensland, was dismissed for 220. Next season's contest was a disaster, as a full-strength Melbourne side which had lost only two games all season, was bowled out for 125 (James Sutherland taking 5 for 25 against his former club), a total University passed for the loss of only one wicket.

An individual highlight during these two seasons was the batting of Hodge in 1995/96, whose 963 runs at 96.30 included scores of 205 not out against Richmond and 202 not out against Footscray among his four hundreds. Curiously, this was the only time he won the club's batting average.

#### The 1997/98 Premiership

There was a change of leadership this season, as Sholly, after four seasons at the helm, stood down in favour of Ayres, although he remained as coach. After winning 10 of its 16 home-and-away games, Melbourne finished in third place, but after entering the finals it proved far too strong for each of its opponents. An innovation this season was the introduction of qualifying finals involving the six top sides, a consequence of the competition having been extended to 18 teams with the admission of Geelong and Frankston Peninsula four seasons earlier.

In a one-sided qualifying final, Melbourne trounced Northcote by 248 runs on the first innings. Ayres, in brilliant form, hit 150, his third hundred for the season, which formed the basis of Melbourne's formidable total of 9/338. In reply Northcote, despite boasting a capable batting line-up was bundled out for 90 after being 6/18 at one stage. The wickets were shared, Williams taking the bowling honours with 3/8 from 10 overs. The semi-final was almost as one-sided, as Melbourne avenged its previous semi-final losses to University by thrashing the defending premiers, losing only one wicket in the process. After dismissing the students for the modest total of 164 (Herman took four wickets, and Williams and McCooke three apiece), Melbourne's opening pair of Ayres and 19-year-old Matthew Pinniger proceeded to put on 115 without loss by stumps on the first day. Next day, they carried their stand to 160, before Ayres fell for 97 when only five runs were needed to overhaul University's score. Pinniger remained undefeated on 64 when the game was called off.<sup>10</sup>

Melbourne's opponent in the final at the Albert Ground was Camberwell Magpies. Although it was the latter's first appearance in a final, its team was comprised entirely of players who had represented Collingwood prior to its merger



with Sub-District club Camberwell in 1995/96. Once again, there was no joy for the Collingwood/ Camberwell Magpies' players, as they experienced the pain of yet another finals loss at the hands of Melbourne, the fourth in less than a decade. Batting first after winning the toss, Camberwell Magpies began shakily, losing four wickets for 43 including star batsman Matthew Elliott for 22. Thereafter it rallied, with skipper Tony Amalfi contributing a hard-fought 44 before David Emerson and Paul Broster became associated in a long stand which carried the score to 201 by stumps after a very slow day's play. Hopes that their side would go on to build a substantial total next day were dashed, however, when Broster (62) left at 216, ending a sixth wicket stand of 118. Wickets then tumbled quickly, the innings closing at 229 with the dismissal of Emerson who, in the last match of his long and distinguished career, top-scored with 73. Herman, who bowled round the wicket on the second morning, captured four of the last five wickets to finish with excellent figures of 7 for 57 from 33.3 overs. The tightness of Melbourne's attack is reflected by the fact that Camberwell Magpies' innings occupied 121.3 overs, a scoring rate of only 1.88 per over.

It took Melbourne little more than half of that number of overs to overhaul Camberwell Magpies' total. After the early dismissals of Pinniger and Hodge, Ayres and Jones combined in a commanding unbroken third-wicket stand of 202 to give their side the easiest of victories, the match being decided with a day to spare. When he had made 7, Ayres become only the third player to score 1000 runs in a Melbourne District season.<sup>11</sup> When the game was called off, Ayres was unbeaten on 126, with Jones on 84.

Ayres' outstanding record in the finals lifted his season's aggregate to a record-breaking 1119 runs at 65.82, a tally he would eclipse himself two seasons later. Remarkably, his feat is not recorded on the club's honour board, as Jones won the batting average with 496 runs at 82.66. Others to exceed 400 runs were Hodge, 477 runs at 53.00 and Sholly, 412 at 41.20. Herman, whose bowling in the final did much to secure the



1997/98 Premiershipe Team

Back row: J.W.R. Bell (manager), M.J. Scalzo, B.A. Williams, D.M. Jones, M.S. Pinniger, A.W. Henry, B.J. Hodge, S.P. Dart, M.F. Symons (scorer).  
Front row: R.G. Lloyd (chairman of selectors), S.M. McCooke, R.J. Herman (vice-capt), W.G. Ayres (capt), M.W.D. Sholly, R.I. Templeton, D.A. Patrick (chairman of cricket).  
Inset: S.J. O'Flynn.

premiership, took the bowling honours with 31 wickets at 15.93 while McCooke, who sent down more than 400 overs of accurate and economical offbreaks during the season, was the leading wicket-taker in the competition with 47 wickets at 19.70.

\* \* \*

Despite frequent finals appearances over the following 10 years, Melbourne had to wait until 2009/10 before winning its next premiership. An account of that success, together with the club's most recent premiership in 2012/13, will appear in the final instalment of *Twenty Pennants* in the next issue of the *Yorker*.

To be continued.

Ken Williams is a MCC Library volunteer

## Endnotes

- Cook played 116 first XI games from 1989/90 to 2003/04 in which he took 212 wickets at 21.19, winning the club's bowling average in the season before he retired. He played 16 matches for Victoria from 1992/93 to 1994/95 and during his five seasons in Sydney, 14 for New South Wales. He represented Australia in two Tests against New Zealand in 1997/98, taking 5/39 on his debut at Perth which remained his best first-class figures. In all first-class matches he took 84 wickets at 30.82.
- Ramshaw played 72 first XI matches from 1990/91 to the start of 1995/96 in which he scored 2821 runs at 44.77 with eight hundreds, twice winning the club's batting average. He played 3 first-class matches for Western Australia and 21 for Victoria, in which he scored 1165 runs at 27.73.
- In his three seasons at Melbourne, Maxwell scored 984 runs at 35.14 and took 82 wickets at 19.57. At first-class level, he played 9 matches for Victoria and 26 for NSW from 1991/92 to 1995/96, in which he made 1166 runs at 25.91 and took 99 wickets at 29.88.
- McCague played just two seasons with Melbourne, 1990/91 and 1995/96, in which he captured 68 wickets at 21.89. Having represented WA in 1990/91 and 1991/92, he moved to England and played with Kent until 2003. He played three Tests for England, all against Australia, two in England in 1993, and one at Brisbane in 1994/95. In all first-class matches he took 456 wickets at 27.17. A curious feature of his early career is that while playing with the Melbourne CC in 1990/91, he played four Shield games for WA, the first being against Victoria at St Kilda.
- Hodge went to on a notable career at both club and representative level. Still a current MCC player, although he has played less frequently in recent seasons, he has to date, in 154 first XI appearances, scored 6264 runs at 51.76 including 16 hundreds and taken 80 wickets at 24.45 with tidily-delivered off breaks. In a record tally of 147 first-class matches for Victoria, from 1993/94 to 2009/10, he scored 11,350 runs at 47.29, surpassing Dean Jones' previous record for the state of 10,412 runs. He and Jones both made a record 33 hundreds for Victoria. In all first-class matches, which included stints with English county sides Durham, Leicestershire and Lancashire, he compiled 17,084 runs at 48.81 including 51 hundreds. Despite his success at first-class level, Hodge played only six Tests for Australia, making 503 runs at 55.88 which included an innings of 203 not out against South Africa at Perth in 2005/06. In addition, he has played 25 One-Day Internationals and 15 Twenty20 Internationals during the course of an exceptionally successful career with a variety of sides in limited-overs matches.
- Garlick made 64 first XI appearances for Melbourne from 1987/88 to 1995/96 in which he took 80 wickets at 27.50. He later played, briefly, for both Frankston Peninsula and Prahran. He played one Shield match for Victoria in 1993/94.
- Williams played 68 first XI matches, the last in 1998/99, in which he captured 134 wickets at 16.48. Although seldom called upon to bat, he was an effective, hard-hitting tailender who scored 466 runs at 24.52, which included an innings of 106 against Richmond in 1997/98. At first-class level, he played 18 matches for Victoria and, after moving to Perth in 1999, 36 for WA. In all first-class matches he took 227 wickets at 32.62. He took 9 wickets at 45.11 in his 4 Test appearances.
- In a relatively short career, Bowden played 41 first XI matches from 1991/92 to 1996/97 in which he scored 1174 runs at 34.52. From Alice Springs, he was the son of Richmond premiershipe footballer Mike Bowden. His brother Kane appeared briefly in 1997/98.
- Sutherland took 58 wickets for Melbourne at 20.22 apiece. In a 12-season career which comprised 148 first XI matches with University and 31 for Melbourne, he took 403 wickets at 21.12, as well as making 1909 runs at 21.94. He played four first-class matches for Victoria from 1990/91 to 1992/93. In 2001 he was appointed CEO of Cricket Australia.
- Pinniger, who came from Bendigo, made 102 first XI appearances from 1996/97 to 2005/06, in which he scored 2481 runs at 24.08 including 4 hundreds.
- The two players to have performed the feat previously were Carlton's Tommy Warne, who made 1011 runs at 126.37 in 1898/99, and Grant Gardiner of Northcote, who scored 1046 at 74.71 in 1996/97, 98 years later. Ayres became the first player to do so twice, when he compiled the current record 1166 runs at 58.30 in 1999/00. With the expansion of fixtures, the feat has become slightly more common in recent years, and since Ayres a further five players, Simon Dart (Hawthorn-Monash University), Aaron Finch (Geelong), Carl Hooper (Carlton), Michael Klinger (St Kilda) and Graeme Rummans (St Kilda, twice), have all exceeded 1000 runs in a season.

# Book Reviews

Doug Ackerly

## ***Coleman, the Untold Story of an AFL Legend***

Doug Ackerly: 2014

ISBN: 9780646917047

The opening VFL round of 1949 saw John Coleman start his brilliant, but far too short career. Arguably, never in the history of the VFL/AFL, has a player burst onto the scene with such magnificence.

Coleman, in kicking twelve goals, equalled Essendon's club record for a game, and outscored Hawthorn off his own boot. From this amazing debut, there followed numerous stunning achievements both as a player, and later as coach, such that he remains an enduring legend of the game.

Doug Ackerly, in *Coleman, the Untold Story of an AFL Legend*, covers John Coleman's life with extraordinary detail – both in written analysis and in forty statistical tables – the latter including details of his results in

every league game and also comparative lists with the game's other top goal kickers. Exhaustive opinion is obtained from those who played with, and against Coleman, club officials and media, as well as family, friends and his hotel employees. The zealous detail is somewhat overwhelming. One is left with the feeling that the author did not wish to leave any person, or their thoughts, out of his work.

From his early life in Port Fairy, Coleman's drive and competitive nature are fully explored, with comments from family and school friends. Later, when his family moved to Melbourne, he was zoned to Essendon. The Bombers were convinced of his ability, but due to Coleman's parents' concerns with his poor academic results, he played two successful seasons at Hastings in the Mornington Peninsula League – near to where his parents had located. Richmond, at the time coached by Jack Dyer, offered large inducements for Coleman to stand out for a year, and thus Essendon's hold to lapse. This would have been quite tempting. In those days, the mandated Coulter law insisted on three pounds per match as the stipulated player payment.

Many amusing anecdotes are included which drive home that Coleman's playing era which concluded in 1954 occurred in another age.

One week after playing in a VFL Premiership, Coleman and several others played with the seconds against an Ovens-Murray combined team. This would not be expected of Lance Franklin today, nor would the playing on gravel and manure, which Coleman did at the Brisbane Showgrounds, whilst representing Victoria at the ANFC carnival.



Players of the day had full time jobs, and training did not commence until March. Coleman often missed the first sessions with his hotel job being a priority. On match days, he did not like too much hype, preferring to arrive only ten minutes before game time. Being his own man, he was not a 'party animal' and was happy to have a milkshake after the game.

The sensational suspension of Coleman on the eve of the 1951 finals is covered in almost forensic detail. Coleman, as the retaliator had taunted Carlton defender, Harry Caspar, as a "killer". The latter, earlier in the year, with a blood alcohol reading of 0.212, had caused the death of a man when Caspar's utility collided with him.

Caspar received four weeks suspension, as did Coleman, and an ongoing loathing of umpires ensued. Coleman was resolute that as a player, he received inadequate protection. Later, as coach, he was convinced that most umpires were incompetent.

The coaching appointment was advertised every year as stipulated in the club's constitution – Coleman with his hotel interest paramount financially, was often undecided as to whether to reapply. He had replaced the iconic Dick Reynolds who had held the position for more than twenty-one years, including four flags. Coleman's seven years delivered two premierships.

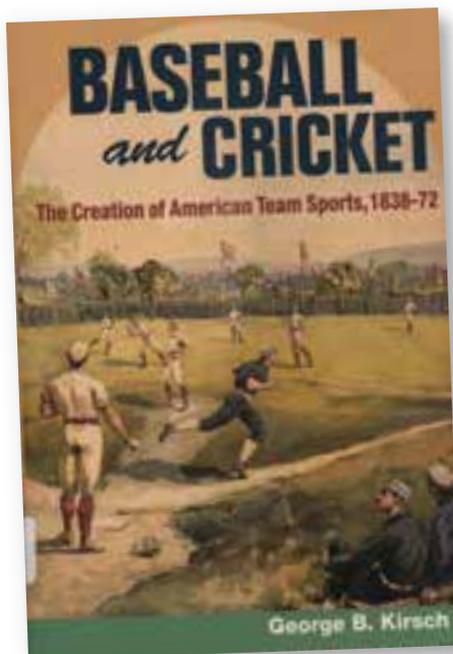
Coleman is portrayed as an astute businessman, and a devoted husband and father, who did not see football as the be all and end all either as a player or a coach. This makes it all the sadder, that both his playing career, and life after football, were so brief.

The career ending knee injury at the age of 25 is discussed from all angles with the strong suggestion that, nowadays the operation would have been quite a simple matter with full recovery the most likely outcome.

Coleman's sudden death, from a massive coronary at the age of 44, and whether it could have been prevented, is a major focus with excessive information included. The quoting of the undertaker, who tended the remains, is one such example. A former Essendon team mate, he describes the extensive bruising on Coleman – a permanent legacy from the physical attention to which he was often subjected.

Overall the book incorporates a massive log of fact and opinion on one of Australian Football's most revered figures. However, one is left with the abiding thought that some degree of culling would have led to a more enjoyable read. The repeated adulation and comment became somewhat tedious – though perhaps not for the most tragic of Essendon fanatics.

**Edward Cohen**



George B. Kirsch  
***Baseball and Cricket:  
 The Creation of  
 American Team Sports,  
 1838-72***

University of Illinois  
 Press: Urbana, USA,  
 2007  
 ISBN: 9780252074455

In today's era of sporting codes competing for market domination, George Kirsch's *Baseball and Cricket: The Creation of American Team Sports* is, in many ways, a timely examination of why cricket never demanded America's attention beyond an early Nineteenth Century infatuation.

Kirsch focuses on the relationship between cricket and baseball, America's first organised team sports, in a social and historical context. Indeed, America enjoyed a distinct pre-1840 ball-playing tradition. Although the standard was poor and often plagued with in-fighting and gambling, Kirsch elaborates on the cricket tradition that lurked in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Newark during the nineteenth century.

In fact, a match was organised between a visiting English team and an American side in 1856. The Americans, who fielded 18 players, were comprehensively outclassed in four-straight years by the England XI. Prominent New York City periodicals provided cricket with crucial publicity, printing general news as well as detailed stories and box scores that rivaled baseball's coverage.

Kirsch also presents different theories to baseball's unique English ancestry and rise to overwhelming dominance at cricket's expense. He dispels the Doubleday-Cooperstown theory – a popular notion that baseball was invented in 1839 by future American Civil War General Abner Doubleday in Cooperstown, New York – with thorough research and anecdotal evidence.

Contrary to American imagination, baseball evolved from earlier bat and ball games, like English rounders and an Americanised variation known as "Townball". To a certain extent, baseball was not really an indigenous game, although today's game is distinctively American. As Kirsch neatly summates, "[Baseball's] Ancestry is English but its essence is American".

Simply, baseball came to reflect American society and its demand for "fast" entertainment and modernisation. The sport grew with America's transition into a modern industrial society. While cricket prodded in old English customs and general administrative incompetence by the 1950s, baseball proved progressive by forming its first centralized governing body (The National Association of Base Ball Players). Therefore baseball evolved into an attractive vehicle for nation building.

Kirsch's understanding of Nineteenth Century America and its changing social climate is evident throughout the book. He appropriately attributes social and historical factors to cricket's downfall more than just mere patriotism. He pinpoints the civil war as a decisive moment in American cricket's history, when senior leadership was stripped from cricket fields to the battlegrounds. Cricket simply lacked baseball's youthful support base and central leadership.

This is not just a chronicle of cricket and baseball in the United States, instead Kirsch attempts to explore the mystery that is national sport. How does a sport clench a nation's heart and why do other sports battle for only marginal recognition?

Indeed, the United States, like Australia, was once a collection of English colonies, and so their early fascination for cricket was hardly surprising. Cricket even survived, if not flourished, in Philadelphia well into the early twentieth century.

Kirsch adequately resolves why cricket stumbled and baseball jetted to national prominence, but he perhaps misses out on an opportunity to draw on other international examples to add a deeper comparative dimension.

Nonetheless, as we consider Twenty20's surge and the commercial opportunities that it presents, and America's evolving demographic, *Baseball and Cricket: The Creation of American Team Sports* also asks whether cricket could capture the popular imagination of Americans.

**Michael Collins**

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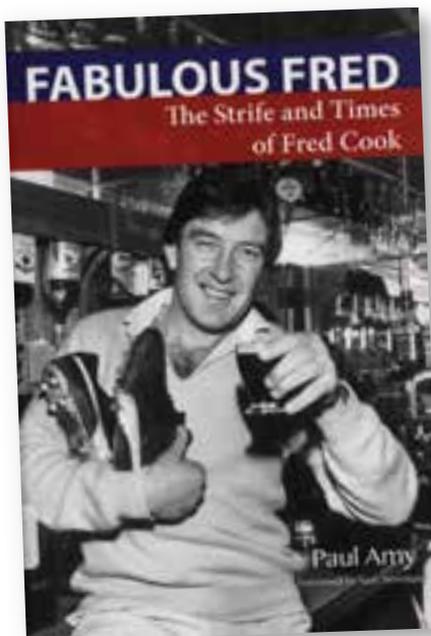
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Paul Amy  
***Fabulous Fred: The Strife and Times of Fred Cook***  
 Melbourne Books: 2014  
 ISBN: 9781922129475

Sports journalist with the *Leader* newspaper and *Inside Football*, Paul Amy provides a passionate, detailed and well-researched biography of Victorian Football Association champion Fred Cook.

Frederick William Cook was born at Yarraville on 16 November 1942. His father Frederick Snr. had played football with Yarraville.

Fred Cook Jnr. played his early football with local amateur side Footscray Tech. Old Boys. He represented Footscray (VFL) in 1967, 1968 and part of 1969 where he registered 33 games and kicked two goals. Club politics and Cook's high-jinks saw him walk out on the Bulldogs.

In 1969 Fred Cook appeared on a Scanlen gum football card. Unfortunately the image of Cook marking was incorrectly labelled Ron McGowan (Footscray). In 1970 he joined VFA side Yarraville winning the clubs' best and fairest and the competition's J.J. Liston Trophy.

At Port Melbourne from 1971 until 1984 Cook was a popular and prolific full forward.

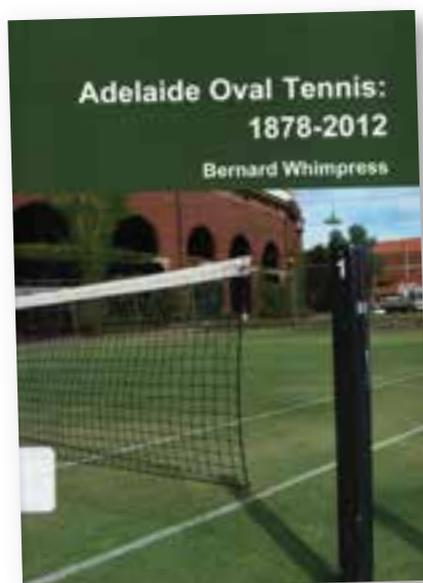
He topped the century seven times on his way to 1236 goals, featured in six premierships, captained the club and Victoria, won a best and fairest and made a record 253 appearances for the Borough.

Off the field, "Fabulous Fred" appeared on Channel 7's "World of Sport", on radio 3DB and wrote for the *Sporting Globe* and *Sunday Press*. Afterwards Cook continued to play with a variety of teams such as Moorabbin and Crib Point.

A regular on the football talk night circuit with John "Sam" Newman, he also ran a pub and experienced a struggle with normalcy once his football career ended. The author Paul Amy tells Cook's story "warts and all". He explained, "he fell in with a criminal crowd, formed a drug habit, lost everything and did three spells in prisons."

"Fabulous" Fred Cook's rollercoaster life with spectacular highs and lows is described as "going from hero to zero".

#### David Allen



Bernard Whimpress  
***Adelaide Oval Tennis: 1878-2012***  
 Kent Town (SA), 2014  
 ISBN: 9781291935981

The Melbourne Cricket Club and its ground have provided a virtual quarry of Australian sporting milestones. The MCG was the birthplace of Test cricket, is widely regarded as the home of Australian football, and even hosted Australia's first bicycle race. Until recently it was largely

unquestioned that Australia's earliest lawn tennis club also originated here. However, Bernard Whimpress' *Adelaide Oval Tennis: 1878-2012* dispatches that myth, if not to the scrapheap of history, to a grey netherworld of argument borne out of a dearth of documents.

Whimpress opens with a timeline that acknowledges that although the MCC intended "to establish Lawn Tennis at the ground" in October 1877, the Adelaide Lawn Tennis Club was active at the Adelaide Oval least nine months before the MCC appointed a tennis sub-committee. Whimpress rightly dedicates a number of pages to advocating an Adelaide Oval origin for organised lawn tennis in Australia, but it is just one of many events in the venue's 130 plus years of tennis.

The book is arranged chronologically and the Adelaide Oval's courts are important to the early growth and organisation of tennis in South Australia. The most significant tennis tournaments at the venue occurred before the mid-1920s, when the South Australian Lawn Tennis Association's courts at Memorial Drive were able to support large crowds.

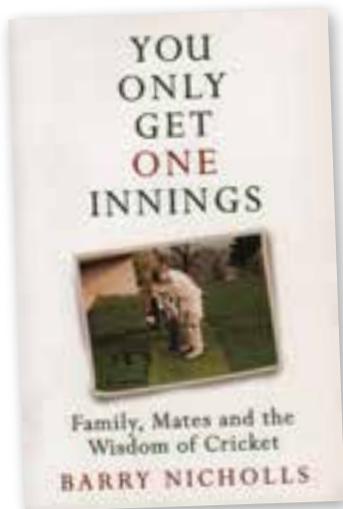
Still, the Adelaide Oval has hosted two Australasian Championships (1910 and 1920) and nineteen South Australian championships. Great players have graced its courts including the 1919 and 1922 Wimbledon singles winner and MCC player Gerald Patterson, who won his first SA title at the Adelaide Oval in 1921.

But it is primarily a book about two clubs. Whimpress charts the history of the Adelaide Lawn Tennis Club (from 1909 the Adelaide Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club - ALTCC) and the Adelaide Oval Lawn Tennis Club (later the Adelaide Oval Tennis club - AOTC) that was established in 1924. While the ALTCC left the Adelaide Oval for Memorial Drive in 1941, Whimpress researched the club's history until its dissolution in 1969.

Its sister club, the AOTC remained at the Adelaide Oval until recently. The demise of tennis at the Adelaide Oval was slow. Whimpress wrote that the club was in, "survival mode during the 1990s" (p. 101) due to its small and shrinking membership. Its "wind-up" function was in May 2012 but the AOTC last used the Adelaide Oval's courts in 2008/09.

Whimpress is one of Australia's most respected sports historians and at 116 pages his small but significant book *Adelaide Oval Tennis: 1878-2012* befits the subject's place in Australian sports history.

#### Trevor Ruddell



Barry Nicholls  
***You Only Get One Innings: Family, Mates and the Wisdom of Cricket***  
 ABC Books: Sydney, 2013  
 ISBN: 9780733331664

The cover of this book immediately informs the reader of what is to come. It shows a small boy in a backyard kitted out in his cricket gear with an even smaller boy keeping wickets. Yes, we are in for some nostalgia. *You Only Get One Innings* is an autobiography by Barry

Nicholls. It is not just an autobiography, but a tale of cricket as a metaphor for life.

Barry Nicholls is a former school teacher turned journalist. He has worked as a sports reporter for News Limited and has written extensively about sport for more than a decade. He had Kim Hughes and later Barry Jarman as cricket coaches. Later he would write Barry Jarman's biography: *For Those Who Wait* (Centrebar Publishing, 2011).

He sets out his aims for the book in a foreword: "Since the 1700s the game of cricket has been governed by the Laws of Cricket. More than just 'the rules', they are the code of how to play the game – fairly and decently – for all, and all times. Through all the wins, losses and draws I've played, the game has taught me a lot about life and what matters. These are the lessons cricket has taught me; my laws of cricket."

The book is divided into 24 "laws" with titles such as "Slow is good", "Respect what has gone before", "Value work however menial", "Know your limitations", "Leave sporting heroes to childhood" and "Cricket's not that important".

In "Slow is good" he remembers the times when he was a boy in the seventies when life was not as fast as it is now. He starts "Do you remember a time when if something took a while it was considered a good thing? Now it's the opposite. If it's quick it has to be good, even if it's not." "I love cricket *because* it's slow, not *in spite of* it being slow."

He includes many anecdotes. In "Play like a kid" he recalls backyard cricket with his mate Mark Clisby. Mark had a dog, Mowgel, who was a fine fielder. He also had two younger sisters who were reluctantly drafted in to play. This worked well until one of the boys selected the dog before either of the sisters.

In "Cricket's not that important" he recalls from the film *Brassed Off* about the closure of mines in the North of England. The character played by Peter Postlethwaite says, "Truth is, I thought it mattered; I thought the music mattered. But does it? Bollocks! Not compared to how people matter".

"Cricket's been a bit of fun, but really it's family, friends and relationships that matter."

**Jim Blair**

# ROGER PAGE

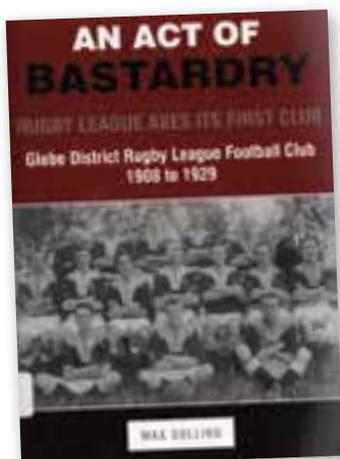
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Max Solling  
***An Act of Bastardry: Rugby League Axes Its First Club: Glebe District Rugby League Football Club 1908-1929***  
Walla Walla Press: Sydney, 2014  
ISBN: 9781876718206

Max Solling's *An Act of Bastardry* is a book in three parts. He begins with a description of the social, economic and political evolution in Sydney, the focus on Glebe, during the late Victorian and the Edwardian eras. Solling follows this with a comprehensive record of Glebe

Rugby League matches with scores and player performances. Finally, he analyses the processes used by people intent on engineering the demise of Glebe, Australia's first Rugby League club.

Late nineteenth century industrialisation saw Sydney's convict and merchant communities evolve into a class system – the working class, middle class and upper middle class. Glebe was the typical working class suburb with financially disadvantaged people living close to their workplace. Walking was the affordable mode of transport and, for the most part, residents were tenants with no municipal vote or influence. This had serious implications since it was the conservative councils who controlled the playing fields.

The amateur game of rugby was the most popular football code. However, the enforcement of rugby's amateur ethic, while noble to many gentlemen of means, was an anathema to families on the breadline. Lewis Abrams sought, but failed, to have compensation paid to injured players from working class areas who could not afford to be off work. The situation had to change. Sporting history was made when, in August 1907, Victor Trumper and James Giltinan led 50 supporters to establish the breakaway code, Rugby League.

Formed in 1908, the Glebe District Rugby League Football Club was Sydney's first Rugby League team. Players were paid a percentage of the gate takings, injured players would receive compensation and the best performing teams would benefit most. Other reforms were put in place by the new controlling board, NSWRL, known colloquially as Phillip Street.

Rugby League became an integral part of the working classes who adopted a parochial and passionate ownership of their local teams. Crowd violence was common. The League's Residential Rule meant the players were locals who entertained, and more importantly, brought the people of the area together.

Industry brought strikes and the formation of the Labor Party in 1910, a party which instigated reforms such as the pension, rent control and the nationalisation of monopolies. The working classes found a voice through the Labor Party, whose links with the Rugby League were set. The game was extremely popular in Sydney prior to World War I but enlistments limited player numbers and the standard of play deteriorated. All clubs suffered. Spectator numbers and gate takings shrank.

After the war, Rugby League dominated Sydney's winter sporting calendar. Venues were an essential part of the operation. Club fortunes were tied to ground capacity. When Phillip Street failed to acquire Wentworth Park, Glebe's home ground from 1920 until 1924, it had devastating consequences for the club. Glebe's gate takings fell.

Diehard followers will appreciate the match reports, scores and player performances. In one report, a crack in the relationship between the Glebe unit and Phillip Street appears. Not only was Glebe the first Rugby League team in Sydney. Several of its top players had the distinction of being the first to strike. Was Phillip Street's lack of support over the allocation of grounds a pay-back for the strike?

True to its title the book is focused on the axing of Glebe from the Sydney competition in 1929, how it happened, who was responsible and why it occurred. Bob Savage, a ruthless and extremely influential Balmain official, changed the rules and the mechanisms in order to oust Glebe. He wanted the recruiting boundaries changed and Balmain's district extended. It seems Glebe's delegates were too inexperienced to understand what was happening. The Phillip Street men involved in the plot are named by Solling, as are the men who tried to save the Dirty Reds, as Glebe was known.

The rationale behind Glebe's removal could have applied to many clubs in the NSWRL competition at the time. Glebe's performances were good until 1922. The club had never been wooden-spooners whereas Balmain held that distinction twice. Savage chose to ignore Balmain's losses to Glebe in that final year. The game suffered as supporters demonstrated their outrage by staying away.

Committed Rugby League followers will appreciate the meticulous research. The political, social and economic changes will certainly interest historians. The lessons gleaned from the events of 1929 are still relevant, for what happened to Glebe could, and does, happen in any sphere wherever self interest dominates.

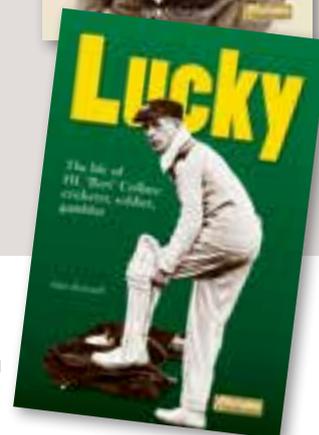
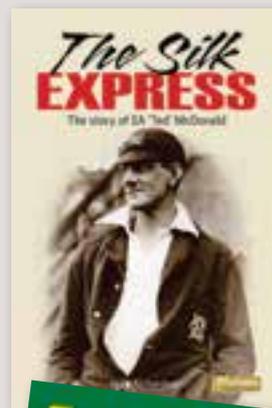
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