



# MCC News



## *World game comes to town*

They came from far and wide to see two South American football powerhouses at the 'G.

# 'KB' finds a home at the 'G'

On the eve of the AFL season in March, Richmond and AFL legend Kevin Bartlett was immortalised with a bronze statue outside the MCG, the latest addition to the Australia Post Avenue of Legends.

The 70-year-old Tigers great now stands alongside Norm Smith, John Coleman, Jim Stynes, Shane Warne and Neil Harvey in the avenue of sporting greats in Yarra Park, outside the MCC members' entrance.

Bartlett's statue, created by sculptor Lis Johnson, features his iconic goal celebration from the 1980 grand final, with two arms raised above his head. His great friend and former Richmond premiership teammate, Kevin Sheedy, was on hand to unveil the one-a-half-times-life-size monument.

"It's very humbling to have so many people turn up, which I'm very appreciative of," Bartlett said. "Over the years I've had so many great teammates, coaches, administrators and people I've worked with who have been so good to me."

Bartlett played 200 of his 403 career games at the MCG, the most of any player, and the venue has been part of his life since he was a youngster following Footscray.

"The MCG has been a massive part of my life," Bartlett said. "To play your first game, your last game and all your milestone games here, it's given me an association that I've just loved over the



years of being involved in the MCG, the greatest sporting ground in the world.

"Not only did I play football here and coach football here and loved the place, but I was able to meet my wife (Denise) here as well."

The man affectionately known as 'KB' said his family was thrilled when they first received news of the honour.

"To think that my kids got so much enjoyment out of it, my grandkids got so much enjoyment out of it and of

course the future Bartlett family will also have great enjoyment. There is a link from now into the future, through the generosity of the MCC and Australia Post. For that we are very, very thankful."

Bartlett kicked 778 career goals and won five premierships with the Tigers in 1967, 1969, 1973, 1974 and 1977. He also won five best and fairest awards. He became a legend of the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2000.

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**Publisher** Melbourne Cricket Club

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## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 180th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Melbourne Cricket Club will be held on Wednesday August 16, 2017 at 8.00pm in the Members Dining Room. Full members are invited to attend.

Three sitting members of the MCC Committee and three nominees will offer themselves for election to the three committee vacancies at the AGM. For the first time, the club has introduced online voting, and Full members eligible to vote will already have received the appropriate voting instructions.

Adrian Anderson, Clare Cannon and Peter King are the committee members standing for re-election by rotation. Duncan Banks, Bill Hodges Jr and John Mugavin are presenting themselves for election at the ballot.

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



# From the President

STEVEN SMITH, PRESIDENT

As the AFL season approaches September, it is hard to remember a more even competition, with so many finals positions up for grabs. Each weekend is full of upsets, and it is this evenness that has contributed to a 10 per cent increase in attendances at the MCG.

After 17 rounds, the MCG has attracted more than 1.8 million people at an average of 52,477 per match – up from 47,167 at the same stage last season.

Attendances in the Members Reserve are also up, averaging 11,813 per match compared to 10,311 (the capacity of the Members Reserve is approximately 22,800). We have seen a strong take up of dining facilities, with the Members Dining Room and Jim Stynes Grill continuing to be popular locations for members to host their guests at the footy.

The improved performance of some of our home teams has also played a major part in the larger crowds, particularly for some of the themed matches, such as Dreamtime at the ‘G, Anzac Eve and Queen’s Birthday.

As the finals approach, we will be hoping that some of the Victorian clubs – in particular Melbourne, Richmond, Geelong, St Kilda and Essendon – can finish in positions that enable them to host finals at the MCG. The prospect of finals matches involving one or more of these teams at the ‘G is exciting.

Speaking of big crowds, we were thrilled to host more than 95,000 people at the Brazil v Argentina match on June 9, followed by a Brazil v Socceros match on June 13. They might have been friendlies, but we saw some exquisite skills on display from some of the world’s best players.

The MCG looked spectacular, and I congratulate our arenas team for the way they presented the MCG playing surface for two soccer matches and two AFL matches in a five-day period. These matches bring with them thousands of tourists and visitors to our city, and we will work with Visit Victoria to ensure we can keep attracting such large-scale events to the MCG.

Security is a topic that remains at



The MCC Committee hosted several dignitaries at the Brazil v Argentina match in June. Pictured here (from left) is Dr Beatriz Elena Mollerach; Argentina ambassador His Excellency Dr Hugo Javier Gobbi; Tony Howard; The Hon Governor Linda Dessau; MCC president Steven Smith; Sonia Queiroz De Lacerda and Brasil ambassador, His Excellency Manuel Innocencio De Lacerda Santos Junior.

the forefront of our thinking in what is a heightened security environment. Incidents of terrorism, both overseas and closer to home, reinforce the need for us to constantly examine our procedures to ensure we are doing all we can to protect our staff and customers.

In addition to receiving advice from local authorities, we have also visited stadiums in other countries to see first-hand the latest developments in venue security. This year we have enhanced our protection against high-speed vehicle attack outside the stadium and in Yarra Park, and we will continue to assess the need for other measures such as clear bags in the future.

It is good to see that patrons have heeded our advice and are arriving earlier than usual, which allows time for everyone to undergo security screening without missing any of the match.

The MCG Trust, the government-appointed body that oversees our management of the stadium, has a new chairman, one who is no stranger to the MCG and the people of Victoria.

Former Premier of Victoria, The Hon. Steve Bracks, has replaced the retiring Bob Herbert, who steps down after four years as chair and 14 years as an MCG Trustee. I thank Bob for his outstanding service and dedication to the MCG, and we look forward to working closely with

Steve and his fellow trustees, as we fulfil our role of managing the MCG and Yarra Park on behalf of all Victorians.

The MCC has relationships with a number of overseas cricket and sporting clubs with reciprocal rights for members. In recent months, your committee has endorsed the addition of two new reciprocal overseas clubs – Royal Bangkok Sports Club in Bangkok, Thailand and the Western Province Cricket Club in Cape Town, South Africa.

Both clubs have extensive hospitality and recreational facilities, and they also participate in a number of sports.

Western Province CC is the owner of the Members’ Pavilion at Newlands, one of the oldest and most famous Test grounds. Details on our members’ specific entitlements at both clubs will be provided as they come to hand.

Finally, on the subject of reciprocal clubs, I congratulate Guy Lavender on his appointment as the next chief executive and secretary of Marylebone Cricket Club at Lord’s. Formerly CEO at Somerset County Cricket Club, Guy is just the 16th person to hold the post in the club’s long history.

We wish Guy well, and look forward to hosting him and many of our UK friends when the Ashes contest heads to Melbourne on Boxing Day.

# New faces join committee

The Hon. Ted Baillieu and Mr Christian Johnston have been appointed to the MCC Committee to fill casual vacancies created by the recent retirements of vice-presidents David Crow and Stephen Spargo.

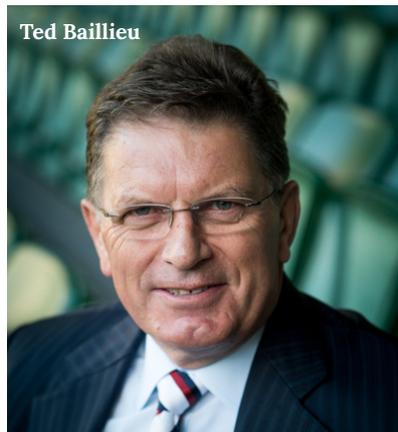
Ted Baillieu will be well known to members, having served as Premier of Victoria from 2010 to 2013, and as leader of the Victorian Liberal Party for four years prior. Throughout his term as Premier, he also served as Minister for the Arts.

Ted is currently chairman of the Victorian Anzac Centenary Committee. He has been an MCC member since 1977.

Christian Johnston has more than 20 years' experience as a corporate advisor, including more than 10 years as head of investment banking for Goldman Sachs in Australia and New Zealand. He is also a member of the Australian Government Takeovers Panel and the National Gallery of Victoria Business Council.

Christian has been an MCC member since 1988. He is also a former cricketer, having played at Melbourne University Cricket Club for a number of years.

"I am delighted to welcome such highly



Ted Baillieu

qualified individuals to the committee table," said MCC president Steven Smith. "Christian and Ted will add valuable expertise in the areas of finance and government respectively."

The committee has also endorsed changes to the executive that follow the departure of Mr Crow and Mr Spargo: Fred Oldfield and Karen Wood have been appointed as vice-presidents; Michael Happell was required to retire as treasurer, after serving in the role for six years; Michael Andrew has agreed to



Christian Johnston

move from the position of vice-president to be treasurer, with Happell assuming a vice-president position.

The MCC Committee now comprises: Steven Smith (president), Michael Happell (vice-president), Fred Oldfield (vice-president), Karen Wood (vice-president), Michael Andrew (treasurer), Adrian Anderson, Ted Baillieu, James Bennett, Clare Cannon, Christian Johnston, Peter King, Sally Macindoe, Charles Sitch and Mark Smith.

## Showing customers we CARE

One of the core elements of the club's strategic vision is to strengthen our customer service throughout the stadium. Last year, the MCC launched its CARE at the 'G program to event staff and key event day partners, and in recent months it was extended to incorporate full-time staff.

At the centre of the program is a simple objective – to move from providing good customer service to great customer service, at every event, all year round.

Using feedback from members, patrons and staff, the club identified key behaviours that help to shape a customer's experience at the MCG.

These behaviours include ensuring our staff are friendly and welcoming, that they show care and help those in need and take ownership to resolve a situation or problem and finally, have the required knowledge to be able to answer likely questions. Thus, the CARE acronym was born – courteous, anticipate, respond and efficient.

The club has also introduced what is known as the MCC CARE squad. At all events, our customer service staff

roam around the stadium, seeking out those who may need assistance either to find a seat, a gate or simply to know where particular amenities or facilities are located. The CARE squad can also be found next to the information banners located near all entrance points.

Over the busy Queen's Birthday long weekend, which featured two soccer matches and AFL encounters, the CARE squad had more than 5000 interactions with customers. Many were from interstate or overseas and appreciated that extra assistance and personal touch.

A range of additional tools and information has also been provided to each event staff member to assist them with their knowledge of the ground. A CARE "Wall of Fame" has been introduced to share our customer feedback with our staff, as has a program to recognise our staff "in the moment" when we observe them caring for and helping customers.

Also on the agenda is an intensive training program for event day staff in the procedures and regulations in the MCC Members Reserve. This will ensure that our service to our members and



their guests is consistent and to a high standard.

The CARE program is a three-year undertaking, and will ultimately touch all parts of the club, including our event staff, permanent staff, volunteers, contractors and tour guides. We hope members and visitors experience our commitment to customer service when visiting the 'G.

# Members honoured on Queen's Birthday

Human rights lawyer Julian McMahon, medical researcher Professor Peter Colman and philanthropist Aaron Gandel were among 40 MCC members recognised in the 2017 Queen's Birthday honours list. MCC members were honoured for contributions across a wide range of fields and endeavours.

Others included former Australian cricketer Jim Higgs, barrister Brian Bourke, MCC War Veterans chairman David Blackwell, events promoter Michael Coppel, and MCG trustee Ian Carson and his wife, Simone, co-founders of SecondBite food charity.

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

## AC (GENERAL DIVISION)

GANDEL, Aaron  
COLMAN, Professor Peter  
McMAHON, Julian

## AO (GENERAL DIVISION)

DAWKINS, Peter  
FINCHER, Geoff  
HOGAN, James  
O'BRIEN, Paul  
ST JOHN, Donald

## AM (GENERAL DIVISION)

BLACKWELL, David  
BONSAK, Paul  
BOURKE, Brian  
CARSON, Ian  
CARSON, Simone  
COPPELL, Michael  
DOWLING, Michael  
HOY, Paul

## AM (GENERAL DIVISION CONTINUED)

HUGHES, Gordon  
LINES, John  
MURRAY, Alistair  
NIXON, Rosemary  
REES, Neil  
RYAN, Judith  
SEWARD, Hugh  
ULLIN, Claude

## OAM (GENERAL DIVISION)

DICK, Ronald  
FOWLER, John  
HIGGS, James  
JOBLING, Thomas  
KING, John  
LANGTON, David  
MEEHAN, Peter  
MURPHY, Morgan  
ROGERS, Robert

## OAM (GENERAL DIVISION CONTINUED)

SHEA, Susan  
THOMAS, Gwynne  
WHEATLEY, Philip  
WHITE, Nathaniel

## PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL (PSM)

MCCARTHY, Bernard

## AUSTRALIAN POLICE MEDAL (APM)

MURRAY, Christopher

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (DSM)

ANNETT, Michael

# Reciprocal club options expand

The MCC has formal arrangements for its members to have reciprocal rights with a number of sporting clubs and stadiums in Melbourne, interstate and overseas.

Among them are SACA, SCG, Flemington, Etihad Stadium and several clubs overseas, including Marylebone Cricket Club (Lord's), Cricket Club of India, Singapore and Hong Kong cricket clubs and more.

Now, we are delighted to confirm two new reciprocal overseas clubs - Royal Bangkok Sports Club in Bangkok, Thailand, and Western Province Cricket Club in Cape Town, South Africa. Both clubs participate in a number of sports and have extensive hospitality and recreational facilities.

Founded in 1901, Royal Bangkok SC is home to the first golf course in Thailand, at Pathum Wan, as well as their renowned racecourse. Western Province is the owner of the Members' Pavilion at Newlands, best known as Cape Town's



picturesque international cricket venue.

Specific details about MCC members' entitlements at each club will be provided on [mcc.org.au](http://mcc.org.au) as they come to hand.

Newlands Stadium (top left) in Cape Town, South Africa: A racecourse is one of many facilities at Royal Bangkok Sports Club in Thailand.

# Value and service at heart of member research

In the past 12 months the club has commenced a significant customer match day experience research program, in order to better identify how we are performing and what matters most to our members.

Including a mixture of brief 'pulse check' surveys looking at general experience, as well as more significant deep dive examination of topics such as food and beverage and customer service, the research has already provided valuable feedback from more than 8000 members.

One topic that features consistently in feedback commentary relates to the bar experience throughout the Reserve, particularly the affordability and variety of beer, and the speed of service.

Please be assured that we are listening. While it is difficult to directly compare hospitality venues with sporting stadiums due to the inherent differences in the business offering and supply, the club regularly benchmarks its product and prices against nearby bars and pubs and similar event venues, to ensure our offering remains both commensurate and, where possible, competitive.

We are also working closely with our hospitality partner, Epicure, on ways to improve service times in bars during peak periods. While we will never be queue-free during those busy times, a schooner express lane has been introduced in Percy Beames Bar,



and we will be implementing further improvements in members' bars over the coming 12 months.

The survey comments and sentiment are being directly fed into future planning, and we are committed to providing a first-class experience for members across all elements of the club. We will also shortly introduce a program that will add further value for members who utilise the bar, dining or retail food facilities in the Reserve on event days.

The research program will cover more than half of all AFL games at the MCG in 2017, as well as during the cricket season. We encourage all members who receive a survey to provide their honest views and suggestions in order to help us enhance the MCC experience for years to come.



## Destinations to enjoy on your next visit to the Reserve

### ROBERT FLOWER TERRACE

The Robert Flower Terrace is the perfect all weather destination, with closed-in sliding doors to protect from wind and rain. Enjoy a beer and burrito in a modern roof-top space.

### SIR BERNARD CALLINAN BAR

For some of our more popular matches, why not try the Sir Bernard Callinan Bar on Level 4? This spacious bar is perfect for enjoying a drink with friends while the action unfolds.

### STUMPS TAVERN

Including an outdoor space and a tapas style menu, Stumps Tavern is ideal for enjoying a more substantial bite to eat and a beer on those crisp winter days.

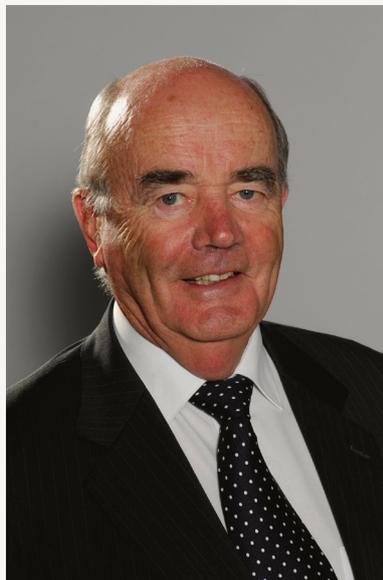
## Farewell to two loyal servants

We were very saddened by the recent passing of two men who made significant contributions to the club over many years.

The Hon. Allan McDonald (pictured) served with distinction on the MCC Committee for 12 years (1997-2009), including the last two as a vice-president. A retired Supreme Court judge, his advice and contribution during a period of enormous change at the club was invaluable. Allan passed away in June at the age of 80.

Norm Cook was a loyal and tireless contributor as the club's accountant and administration manager for 23 years, before retiring in 1999. Norm died in May at the age of 80 and is fondly remembered by many of his former colleagues.

We extend our sympathies to the families of both gentlemen.



# Talented athletes supported

Through the MCC Foundation, the club has long been at the forefront of fostering and promoting the participation of sport in the community, primarily through our sporting sections and cricket endeavours.

Now, the MCC is expanding that support, through our involvement in a School Sport Victoria scholarship program.

As part of SSV's Sports Excellence Scholarship Fund, the MCC has committed a total of \$10,000 this year to help talented Victorian school-age athletes with expenses associated with representative competition.

The first two recipients of MCC support are Tim Karpinski (Box Hill Senior High School) and Jack Clements (Wonthaggi Secondary College), who were selected in the Victorian team to compete in the School Sport Australia Pizzey Cup tournament in Shepparton from April 29-May 7.

The Pizzey Cup is a prestigious national schools tennis championships open to students from year seven through to year 12 inclusive.

While the team of boys and girls finished fourth behind NSW, WA and Qld, both Tim and Jack acquitted themselves well across singles and doubles contests.



Jack won the Kevin Horrigan Plate as the winner of the boys consolation final, and was also selected in the Australian Merit Team named at the conclusion of the tournament.

It is expected that several more athletes will receive scholarship funding between now and December, and we will provide an update on their progress in our next edition.

The MCC Foundation has provided funding to tennis youngsters Tim Karpinski (right) and Jack Clements as part of School Sports Victoria's Sports Excellence Scholarship Fund.

# Beaumaris school works continue

As has been communicated to members previously, the club has formed a partnership with the Victorian Government to provide sporting facilities at a new school in Beaumaris.

The MCC is funding a senior oval, a community oval, multi-purpose pitch and a pavilion as part of the redevelopment of the school, which will be called Beaumaris Secondary College. The school and sports facilities are scheduled to be available early next year.

The sports facilities will be used by students during school hours and by the MCC's sporting teams and other local sporting teams outside of school hours.

Earth works on both ovals have been completed, and irrigation and drainage works have commenced. The cricket pitch table has been installed and turfed, while in-ground services for the pavilion are also well established.

Project updates are available at [www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au](http://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au).



The cricket pitch table has been laid at the site of Beaumaris Secondary College, set to open next year.

# Good causes, one and all

MCC continues to support the community through a variety of initiatives, large and small, in association with many of our partners and stakeholders. In recent months there have been several high-profile events at the MCG to raise awareness and funds for charitable causes

On a chilly Thursday night in May, the MCG opened its doors for the fifth annual Sleep at the 'G event, raising around \$500,000 to help Melbourne City Mission in its fight against youth homelessness.

More than 900 participants braved the elements and slept on cardboard boxes at the MCG. The aim is to raise awareness and vital funds to help the many thousands of Victorian youths who don't have a place to call home every night, providing an insight into sleeping rough for one evening.

A team of MCC staff raised well in excess of \$28,000 and had more than 30 participants, which is a measure of our commitment to this event, which has raised \$2.5 million since its inception.

Three days later, the AFL match between Melbourne and Hawthorn was designated as the Pink Lady Match. Proceeds from public tickets were donated to Breast Cancer Network Australia to support Australians with breast cancer.

Our association with BCNA stretches back to the inaugural Field of Women event in 2005, when a giant Pink Lady silhouette on the MCG symbolised the number of Australians each year who are affected by breast cancer.

At the Queen's Birthday AFL match between Melbourne and Collingwood,



Above: Some of the MCC staff who took part in Sleep at the 'G. Right: Andrew Gaze takes an icy plunge to aid Motor Neurone Disease research.



the Freeze at the 'G concept returned for the third consecutive year, raising several million dollars for Motor Neurone Disease research.

Athletes Lleyton Hewitt, Steve Hooker, Alisa Camplin, Steven Bradbury, Steve Moneghetti, Andrew Gaze, Adam Gilchrist and Sharelle McMahon put their pride aside and took an icy plunge in front of more than 70,000 people at the 'G in a bid to freeze MND. Former Melbourne coach and MND sufferer Neale Daniher's role in the success of this event is to be admired greatly.

Finally, on a sunny day in June, more than 3000 participants took on Australia's ultimate stair climbing challenge at the

MCG on June 26.

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

The fun atmosphere, including music playing throughout the stadium and great encouragement from volunteers and fellow stair climbers, helps to make the challenge of climbing 7343 steps slightly easier.

The event also encourages fundraising, with Stadium Stomp and the Leukaemia Foundation joining forces for a great cause.

## Open Day returns

The MCG Open Day has been confirmed for 2017 and will be held on Sunday October 1, the day after the AFL Grand Final.

Further details will be posted on [mcg.org.au](http://mcg.org.au) as they come to hand. For now, please mark your diaries and bring the family along to a fun day at the 'G.

## A note on bicycle parking

As part of our improvements to Yarra Park as a park for all users, we have installed around 80 bicycle hoops during this football season, with most of those close to the stadium and near the Gate 2 members' entrance.

We ask cyclists to use these hoops when riding to the 'G and refrain from locking their bike up on the MCG concourse or in an area that is likely to cause an obstruction or is too close to congested queues or crowds of people.

Any bicycle deemed to meet the above criteria will be removed and stored inside the MCG for a patron to collect after the match. We seek your co-operation.

# Ashes battle resumes

Cricket's oldest rivalry returns to the MCG this summer when Australia and England battle for the Ashes in the Boxing Day Test.

England will also play 50-over and Twenty20 matches against Australia on January 14 and February 10 respectively. As we went to print, Cricket Australia had yet to confirm a Big Bash League or Sheffield Shield schedule, nor on-sale dates for tickets to BBL matches.

MCC visitor tickets and reserved seats to all MCG international matches will go on sale on Thursday October 5 at 9.00am. Visitor tickets will cost \$50 (adults) and \$17 (children aged 6-14).

A limit of one visitor ticket per Full and Restricted member will apply for Day 1 of the Test (Boxing Day) and a limit of two per

Full and Restricted member on days two and three. On the fourth and fifth days of the Test, Full and Restricted members can each purchase up to four visitor tickets, while the limit for Provisional members is two.

No Long Room or Balcony passes will be available for the first two days of the Test. They will be available for all other international cricket days.

Provisional members will not have access to the Members Reserve for the first three days of the Test. They will, however, have a form of access to all other MCG cricket matches this season.

All other details pertaining to the 2017/18 cricket season, including Provisional member match categories and dining arrangements, are available at [mcc.org.au](http://mcc.org.au).



## State of Origin returns

State of Origin rugby league will return to the MCG in 2018 when we host Game 1 of next year's series on Wednesday June 6.

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

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

MCC members will be required to pre-purchase a subsidised entitlement in order to validate their membership card to enter the Reserve. Members will each be able to purchase up to four visitor tickets for guests. Reserved seats on Level 1 and 4 will be also

available for members and guests.

MCC members' entry entitlements, reserved seats and visitor tickets will go on sale on Monday July 31 at 2.00pm via Ticketek and in person at the club during business hours.

To encourage early ticket sales and reward those who make that commitment, prices will increase as the event draws closer. Upon going on sale,

entry entitlements for members will cost \$50 and visitor tickets will cost \$110 (adults) and \$75 (children aged 6-14) before rising at a later point in time.

Further information, including full list of ticket prices, match category, dining arrangements and the provision of Long Room and Balcony passes, will be provided at [mcc.org.au](http://mcc.org.au).



## Stars align at the 'G

The Big Bash League's popularity continues to grow, and MCC members have the opportunity to upgrade and become a Melbourne Stars member in BBL|07 for just \$45.

The Stars are still searching for their inaugural BBL title, having gone down in a semi final to Perth Scorchers last summer. While a schedule of matches has yet to be confirmed, there will be several MCG matches over the summer holidays.

MCC Star member benefits include a Melbourne Stars personalised membership card, a BBL|07 Melbourne Stars MCC membership pack and general admission access to the Renegades v Stars match at Etihad Stadium (subject to capacity).

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

To upgrade, select the Melbourne Stars membership when renewing your MCC membership for the 2017/18 season and support the MCG's only BBL team.

# Football's hall of fame inducts a legend

Five footballers and one umpire took a permanent place in the National Sports Museum in June when they were inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame, while an existing member was elevated to Legend status.

Umpire Brett Allen, former Adelaide premiership player and current Melbourne coach Simon Goodwin and SANFL star John Halbert were among six new inductees, along with Sydney and St Kilda full forward Barry Hall, North Melbourne midfielder Anthony Stevens and Collingwood great Ron Todd.

Malcolm Blight, North Melbourne premiership player and back-to-back premiership coach with Adelaide Crows, was unveiled as the 27th official Legend of the game.

In recognition of these new inductions and elevation, new inductees plaques and biographic information have been included in the hall of fame gallery in the National Sports Museum.

Material relating to Blight's career, pictured here, has also been installed into the central showcase in the Legends gallery, including his 1978 North Melbourne guernsey and 1972 Woodville (SANFL) guernsey.

Also on display is Blight's 1978 Brownlow Medal, 1972 Magarey Medal, 1975 player's premiership medal, 1982 Coleman Medal and 1997 Jock McHale (coach's premiership) Medal.

The Australian Football Hall of Fame was established in 1996 and serves to recognise players, coaches, umpires, administrators and media representatives who have made an outstanding contribution to Australian football.

MCC members can access the National Sports Museum during normal operating hours at a special price of \$20, or while at the MCG during an event for just \$10. It is well worth a visit. Find out more at [nsm.org.au](http://nsm.org.au).



## Yarra Park rejuvenation continues

As part of our commitment to the health and vitality of Yarra Park's trees, the club is undertaking a program of planting new trees and removing trees that are in poor health.

The program will ensure the ongoing rejuvenation of the park by diversifying the species and age profile of Yarra Park's trees for generations of park users to come.

The planting program is taking place during July and August and will see more

than 90 new trees planted, while 68 trees of 'fair' to 'poor' health and structure will be removed. These trees will be mulched and placed around existing specimens to ensure their ongoing health.

In many instances, trees will be replaced on a like-for-like basis, while historic Elm avenues will be restored and overcrowding in selected locations addressed to provide optimum conditions for existing trees to grow and prosper. Supported by Yarra Park's

irrigation system, the trees will be given significant opportunity to establish and thrive in coming years.

This important work will continue to add to the net gain of trees in Yarra Park since the MCC commenced management of the park seven years ago. We look forward to continuing to replenish and enhance Yarra Park's tree species for years to come.

# Club founder... found at long last

Preserving and celebrating our rich history is of major importance, in particular the early story of our club and how it came to be.

It was therefore with great delight that we recently installed a new portrait on the MCC Founders Wall on Level 2 of the Reserve, in between the Committee Room and Long Room.

The portrait is of Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy, regarded as one of the five founders of the club who, on November 15 in 1838, “proposed to form a cricket club” and subsequently purchased two bats, balls and stumps for that purpose.

The absence of a portrait of Charles Mundy has been a gnawing gap in our club’s collection and many have unsuccessfully searched for a pictorial representation of him over several decades.

In the end, it was the extensive research undertaken by MCC member, MCG Tour guide and MCC Library volunteer James Brear that ultimately led to success. James’ years of research led to him uncover a photograph of Charles in the Derbyshire Record Office in England. A portrait has been created from this image.



We are indebted to James for his tireless work, as well as the Derbyshire Record Office for their assistance.

Charles Mundy is now on display alongside fellow founders Robert Russell, Frederick Powlett and his brother, Alfred Mundy.

The search continues for an image of the fifth and final founder, George Smyth. If you can in any way assist the club in completing our wall of founders, we would love to hear from you.



## MCG match day experience a winner

With a winter chill in the air, football fever is well and truly heating up at the MCG – which made it the perfect place to entertain the family during the recent school holidays.

The National Sports Museum has been a must visit for sporting fans of all ages since it opened nearly 10 years ago. Its interactive zones and iconic sporting artefacts, combined with an MCG Tour, make for a great day out.

To supplement this experience, and to attract a younger audience during the school holidays, a new initiative titled My Match Day at the ‘G has been introduced this year, with much acclaim.

From July 3-7, several hundred children took part in a range of special activities, including cartoon drawing sessions and the opportunity to step into the shoes of a football champ, for the real-life match day experience of a player at the ‘G.

Current and recently retired AFL and AFLW players, including Steph Chiocci (Collingwood), Adam Schneider (St Kilda and Sydney Swans), Nathan Brown (St Kilda and Collingwood), Breann Moody (Carlton) and Ebony Marinoff (Adelaide) were on hand to share their stories

and offer insights into the routines and activities that take place before, during and after a game.

From the player change rooms during warm up to the tense times spent on the interchange bench, the children (and the adults!) were captivated by this rare access into the inner sanctum.

While details are still being confirmed, it is likely that the program will run again during the next school holidays in September-October. Keep an eye on [nsm.org.au/holidays](http://nsm.org.au/holidays) for details.



# Alex is on the (net) ball

The MCC Netball Section is now in its seventh year of competition, and recent results show that some major success is just around the corner.

During the recently completed autumn season of the Parkville Netball Competition, four MCC teams appeared in finals and two made a grand final.

At an individual level, 25-year-old Alex Ball won the most valuable player award in Premier Division 1, representing MCC in the firsts team.

Now in her fourth season with the MCC, Alex received 18 votes, polling votes in nine of her 14 matches in a very consistent season. Demonstrating her commitment to the club, Alex also holds a coaching position in third grade and is the netball section secretary!



## Interested in playing?

The club is always on the lookout for new players to join this vibrant sporting section. If you or your family or friends are interested in participating, please contact [mccnetball@gmail.com](mailto:mccnetball@gmail.com). To find out more about MCC netball, visit [mccnetball.org.au](http://mccnetball.org.au).



# Croquet open to all

Croquet is a challenging game of strategy and ball skill that was first played as a social sport by MCC members in the 'ladies enclosure' at the MCG in the mid-1870s. It has been an official MCC Sporting Section for nine years and participation numbers continue to grow.

The sport itself is on the rise in this country. The Australian croquet team, including three players aged in their

twenties, won the coveted MacRobertson International Croquet Shield, dubbed the "Olympics of croquet", for the first time in 82 years earlier this year.

Today, the Croquet Section offers social and competitive play for people of all ages and abilities. New players are welcome, and coaching is available.

To become involved, members should contact section chairman, Graham Fahey, on [mcc.croquet.club@gmail.com](mailto:mcc.croquet.club@gmail.com).

# Women's footy players wanted

As we reported in the previous edition of MCC News, the club is making plans to field a women's football team in 2018.

The aim is to complement the elite women's football played by Melbourne Football Club with a lower-level community team in the MCC name.

If you are interested in playing or assisting with an MCC football team next season, or know someone who is, please contact us on (03) 9657 8888 or email [clubservices@mcc.org.au](mailto:clubservices@mcc.org.au).



# Cricket's high achievers honoured

**M**atthew Brown and Amy Vine were awarded the men's and women's club champion trophies respectively at the MCC Cricket Presentation Dinner held on April 1 in the Members Dining Room.

Brown took out the Paul Sheahan Trophy for the best player in the men's First XI on the back of his 944-run season at an average of 52.44. He finished with a memorable, unbeaten century in the First XI's narrow loss in the final to Fitzroy Doncaster, an innings that earned him the John Scholes Medal as player of the match.

Vine topped the 570-run mark in women's First XI matches at a healthy average of 40.71, including a 98, an 83 and 11 other scores above 20. She also chimed in with 10 wickets at 28.80.

Our women's seconds team took out the one-day Premier Reserve premiership and the Premier Seconds Twenty20 trophy to underline their dominant season.

Brown and Vine were also acknowledged by their peers, each winning the Players' MVP trophy. Will Pucovski and Alana D'Aquino were named the XXIX Club-sponsored Youth Cricketers of the Year, while Pucovski also took home the Brian Watson Memorial Award for 'most outstanding performance by an MCC cricketer'.

Pucovski's performance whilst captaining Victorian Metro at the national under 19 championships, where he scored a record breaking 560 runs at 162.50 (including four consecutive centuries) earned him the Player of the Tournament title. For the MCC First XI, Pucovski made 435 runs at 108.75, including his first two centuries at that level. His performances were rewarded with selection for Victoria in a Sheffield Shield

match late in the season. He is certainly one to watch.

The 16-year-old D'Aquino played a handful of First XI matches, but demonstrated her talent when making 349 runs at the top of the Second XI order, the highlight being her first ever century.

Olivia Downes was voted the women's Thirds Most Valuable Player. MCC Club XI Players of the Season were Andrew Baker (MCC 1) and John Jackson (MCC 2), while First XI scorer, Chris Doyle, was awarded Best Club Person.

David Crow was also recognised for his outstanding contribution to MCC cricket that spanned almost 50 years. David, who recently stepped down from the MCC Committee, was a former First XI fast bowler who represented the club for many years as a Cricket Victoria delegate, served on the MCC Cricket Sub-committee and as MCC Cricket chairman.



MCC club champions Amy Vine and Matthew Brown with Premier Cricket Committee chairman, Michael Sholly.

## 'Kenty' bows out

Former captain-coach Andrew Kent announced his retirement at the MCC cricket awards dinner. He ends his career as the MCC First XI games record holder (325), our second-highest First XI runscore (11,032) behind Warren Ayres (11,154) and the sixth-highest runscore in Victorian Premier Cricket history.

A product of the MCC under 16 Dowling Shield system in the late-1990s, 'Kenty' won the club champion award three times and topped the First XI batting average on five occasions. He was also named in the Premier Cricket Team of the Year four times (and as captain in 2010/11).

He also played in two First XI premierships, in 2009/10 and 2012/13, the latter as captain-coach. In that year, he steered the club to unparalleled success, winning the First and Third XI premierships, the First, Second and Third XI one-day flags, the First and Third XI Twenty20 titles as well as the Club Championship. We wish him well in his retirement.

## XXIX Club USA and Canada tour

**T**he MCC XXIX Club recently journeyed to the USA to take part in the 25th Philadelphia International Cricket Festival. The annual sporting charity event aims to promote cricket in the region, encourage national and international sporting ties, and support junior cricket through charitable donations.

Cricket has strong historical ties in the region. The first American Cricket Club was founded at Haverford College, Philadelphia in 1834. Haverford College is also home to the United States Cricket Museum.

The MCC was one of six teams from outside the USA in the 18-team Twenty20 competition, played over four days. MCC strung together four wins from five pool games, narrowly missing the semi final on run rate.



The touring party also heard from 2017 tournament celebrity, Devon Malcolm, at the official dinner.

The tour also included a game in New York en route to the first ever match against our reciprocal club, Toronto Cricket Skating and Curling Club.



# Love of footy shines through at Norm Smith Oration

*The Norm Smith Oration was the highlight of a busy function season for MCC members and guests*

The MCC's largest football-centric function, the Norm Smith Oration, celebrated its eighth annual incarnation on Wednesday June 7 in the Members Dining Room.

The function continues to gain popularity and a reputation for inspired and moving tributes to our great game from distinguished speakers. The roll call of former speakers reads like a hall of fame of past players, coaches, administrators, media identities and government officials. And this year was no exception.

Writer, comedian, filmmaker, actor and former private secretary to an Australian Prime Minister - not to mention a graduate in medicine from Melbourne University - Rob Sitch, is quite possibly the most over qualified toast master the event has had the pleasure of hosting. Not to be outdone, in the role of responder was Geelong Cats premiership coach, Chris Scott.

Born into a Demons-loving family, Rob kicked off formal proceedings by noting a coincidental connection between he and Chris Scott, both having represented St Kevin's during their school days. Rob also revealed that his father played alongside Norm Smith during the late 1930s, not to mention Ron Barassi Snr, Fred Fanning,

Percy Beames and Checker Hughes. A goal-kicking teenager, he joined the Demons squad just as Melbourne embarked on three consecutive premierships, playing in a VFL Reserves flag in 1939 before his career was curtailed by wartime duties.

Rob's recollections of his favourite hidden fabric experiences were touching, humorous and relatable. You would've been hard pressed finding a single person in the room who didn't nod their head in agreement as his stories sparked a flood of memories of their own seemingly insignificant, but treasured, moments attending the football.

A tough act to follow, not many envied Chris Scott's chair as he prepared to respond to Rob's toast. But he did so with power and composure, as he explored what he believes are the seven ages of football.

Speaking from personal experience and his own journey in football, Chris provided insight into how football engraved itself in his life from a youngster to the modern-day coach he is today, with all the hooks and turns along the way.

He is confident the game will continue to get better, the only inhibitor in his eyes being the constant default to the negative. "To fill the quota of outrage before rejoicing in the splendour of the game."

Still on football, back in March the AFL season was kicked off with the annual MCG Footy Season Launch Luncheon on March 22. Compere Tim Lane was in fine form, steering a panel comprising Geelong Cats captain Joel Selwood, Melbourne AFL Women's player Lily Mithen and former Brisbane Lions captain and triple premiership forward, Jonathan Brown through the game's big issues.

The annual Young Members' Anzac Ball was held on April 22, a couple of days earlier than usual due to AFL matches being played on the two evenings prior to Anzac Day. More than 450 members and guests were in attendance, hearing from SGT Anthony "Harry" Moffitt who spoke passionately about the importance of engaging with our veterans both past and present, along with an insight into his time in the Australian Military.

A three-course sit down meal and full beverage service was enjoyed by members and guests. A highlight of the evening was the very popular pop-up Pimm's bar which saw guests lining up for a refreshing cup of Pimm's in between stints on the dance floor.

The young members have certainly been busy. There has also been a football function before the opening round match



between Collingwood and Western Bulldogs, as well as a gin appreciation evening in the MCC Library in May. Plans are also in place for the next young members' ball, to be held on September 2. Keep an eye out for details.

There was a fantastic atmosphere in the air for the first of this year's Comedy @ the 'G functions held in the Hans Ebeling Room prior to the Essendon v Geelong Cats match on May 13.

Compere and comedian, Joe Shaffer, kicked off the evening with some hilarious stories of his American background, the excitement of his move to Australia and life as an immigrant. He was followed by emerging young comedian Demi Larder, who entertained with tales of constantly being mistaken for a boy, and her eccentric stepfather.

To round off a fantastic night, 'Lehmo' had the audience laughing along while discussing the challenges of marriage, and why toilet brushes are useful!

With the Demons showing some promising form in 2017, there was much enjoyment among MFC/MCC dual members at game day functions on April

24 (vs Richmond) and July 9 (vs Carlton). The functions feature lunch or dinner with afternoon tea or supper, pre-match drinks and MFC past and present player appearances. Chris Johnson and former coaches, John Northey and Mark Riley, were just a few of those who were grilled on stage by fellow Demon Russell Robertson, as was injured midfielder Dom Tyson.

On June 17, the Women of MCC special interest group hosted its annual Women in Football event in the Committee Room, prior to the Richmond v Sydney Swans match. The packed room heard plenty of insights from Harriet Corder, a member of Melbourne Football Club's inaugural AFL Women's team and the granddaughter of former MCC president and Honorary Life member, Dr Don Corder.

Finally, about 140 members and guests savoured the culinary offerings from talented chef, Ian Curley, and his team at the Celebrity Chef Long Room Dinner on July 13. Three days later, the MCC and VRC teamed up for the annual MCC/VRC Members' Lounge event at the Carlton v Western Bulldogs match on July 16.





# The Don remembered

With an Ashes summer approaching, and the contractual impasse between Australia's cricketers and head office continuing to dominate headlines, there will be much to discuss when members and guests gather in the Members Dining Room for The Bradman Luncheon on August 24.

The first Test of Australia's two-Test tour to Bangladesh is scheduled to start three days after the lunch, before a one-day series in India ahead of the first Ashes Test on November 23.

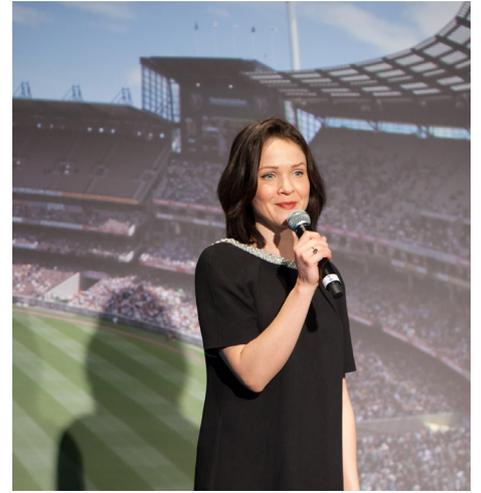
Held near the birthday of "The Don", in honour of Australia's greatest cricketer, this all-inclusive, three-course luncheon is not to be missed by any cricket enthusiast.

Former Australian fast bowler, Len Pascoe, will be the guest speaker with Sir Donald's granddaughter and talented operatic soprano, Greta Bradman, also performing on the day.

Bookings opened on July 11 and can be made online, over the phone or in person at the Membership Services Office.

## BRADMAN LUNCHEON

<b>WHEN</b>	Thursday August 24
<b>TIME</b>	12.00pm for 12.30pm
<b>WHERE</b>	Members Dining Room
<b>COST</b>	\$115 (members) \$130 (guests)



## Lunch at the 'G on grand final eve

Bookings are now being taken for the traditional Grand Final Eve Luncheon on Friday September 29, with tables in the Members Dining Room and Long Room still available.

With a public holiday again in place the day before football's biggest day of the year, there is no better way to prepare for the grand final

than lunch with friends at the home of footy.

The all-inclusive package features a delicious three-course lunch and a three-and-a-half-hour beverage package comprising selected beer, wine, sparkling and soft drinks. If that's not enough, a cash bar will operate in the Percy Beames Bar for an hour after lunch concludes.

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

## YOUR FUNCTIONS CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	FUNCTION	BOOKINGS OPEN	VENUE
Saturday	August 5	MCC/VRC Winter Raceday Event	SOLD OUT	Flemington Racecourse
Saturday	August 5	Women of the MCC Football Function (Ess v Carl)	Now open	Hans Ebeling Room
Wednesday	August 16	MCC Annual General Meeting	N/A	Members Dining Room
Thursday	August 24	The Bradman Luncheon	Now open	Members Dining Room
TBC	TBC	MFC/MCC Game Day Function (Coll v Melb)	TBC	Hans Ebeling Room
Saturday	September 2	Young Members' Ball	Now open	Members Dining Room
Wednesday	September 13	Members' Culinary Centre Experience	Ballot: August 2-9	MCG Culinary Centre
Monday	September 25	Brownlow Dinner with the Coodabeens	Ballot: August 8-10	Members Dining Room
Friday	September 29	Grand Final Eve Dining	Now open	Long Room and Members Dining Room
Wednesday	November 1	MCC Sporting Sections Annual Dinner	N/A	Members Dining Room
Wednesday	November 15	MCC XXIX Club Annual Dinner	N/A	Members Dining Room
Thursday	November 23	Annual 50-Year Members' lunch	N/A	Members Dining Room
Friday	November 24	Annual 50-Year Members' lunch	N/A	Members Dining Room
Sunday	November 26	Members' Christmas Masterclass	October 24	MCG Culinary Centre
Wednesday	December 6	New 50-Year Members' Lunch	N/A	Members Dining Room
TBC	TBC	Members' Dinner	October 24	Members Dining Room
Monday	December 25	Christmas Day Lunch	Now open	Members Dining Room
Tuesday	December 26	Boxing Day Breakfast	Ballot: October 17-19	Members Dining Room
Wednesday	December 27	Women in Cricket Test Breakfast	November 14	Members Dining Room



## Coodabeens back on Brownlow night

Expect a night full of surprises as the Coodabeen Champions return for the 12th annual Brownlow Dinner on Monday September 25 in the Members Dining Room.

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

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

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

Registrations will be taken from Tuesday August 8 at 9.00am until Thursday August 10 at 5.00pm via [mcc.org.au](http://mcc.org.au). The function is open to Full and Restricted members, who can each bring up to two guests.

### BROWNLOW DINNER WITH THE COODABEENS

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>Monday September 25</b>
<b>TIME</b>	<b>7.00pm for 7.30pm</b>
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>Members Dining Room</b>
<b>COST</b>	<b>\$135 (members) \$150 (guests)</b>



## Members' Dinner tradition continues

When comedian Campbell McComas and England captain David Gower addressed the inaugural Members' Dinner in 1994, few would have predicted that a tradition was in the midst.

So it is, though, that this members-only, black-tie affair will be held for the 24th time later this year, becoming a must-attend event for cricket connoisseurs.

Hadlee, Cowdrey, Coney (twice!), Gavaskar, Gooch, Hayden, Rod Marsh and Greg Chappell are just some of the famous cricket names to have graced the stage. This year's line-up is sure to be of a similar ilk.

As we went to press, we were working around the availability of guest speakers and therefore a date for the event had not been confirmed. Guest speaker announcements will be made via the MCC website in the coming weeks and bookings will open on Tuesday October 24.

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

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



## Boxing Day Breakfast the place to be

There is no better way to prepare for the first day of the MCG Test than to enjoy breakfast in the Members Dining Room. The annual Boxing Day Breakfast is the perfect way to begin our biggest day of cricket for the year.

Whilst a guest speaker is yet to be confirmed as we went to press, the event always produces some top notch entertainment from cricket's big names. Last year, our guest speakers included former Pakistan bowling great Wasim Akram.

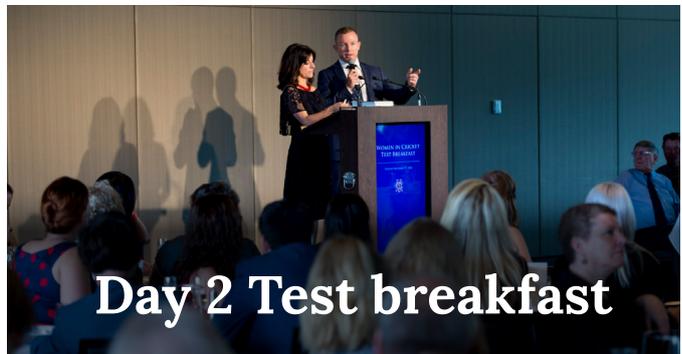
Being an Ashes year, it is expected this function will be extremely popular. To ensure all members have an

equal opportunity to attend, a ballot will be conducted. Registrations will be accepted from Tuesday October 17 at 9.00am until Thursday October 19 at 5.00pm.

Full and Restricted members may each bring one guest and are reminded to purchase visitor tickets when they go on sale on October 5, as they are expected to sell out quickly.

### BOXING DAY BREAKFAST

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>Tuesday December 26</b>
<b>TIME</b>	<b>7.30am - 9.30am</b>
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>Members Dining Room</b>
<b>COST</b>	<b>\$90 (members) \$100 (guests)</b>



## Day 2 Test breakfast

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

The guest speaker this year will be former England all rounder, Ian Botham.

Full and Restricted members are welcome to bring up to two guests (of either gender). The breakfast package includes a reserved seat on Level 2 of the Members Reserve to take in the day's play.

Bookings will be taken

from Tuesday November 14 on a first-in, first-served basis. Members must ensure they pre-purchase visitor tickets for their guests for Day 2 of the Test match, as a function booking does not admit guests into the Members Reserve.

### WOMEN IN CRICKET TEST BREAKFAST

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>Wednesday Dec 27</b>
<b>TIME</b>	<b>7.30am - 9.30am</b>
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>Members Dining Room</b>
<b>COST</b>	<b>\$85 (members) \$90 (guests)</b>



# Celebrate Christmas at the 'G

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

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

An extensive Christmas Day menu is provided complete with all your Christmas favourites including seafood, turkey, pork and roasted vegetables. The dessert buffet will be a sweet spectacle not to be missed!

Bookings open on July 18 and there is no limit to the size of your party. Bookings will close on Friday December 8 unless sold out beforehand.



**DATE**  
Monday December 25

**TIME**  
11.45am until 3.30pm

**WHERE**  
Members Dining Room

**COST**  
\$190(adults)  
\$145 (adolescent 12-17)  
\$45 (children 4-11)

Infants requiring a meal are charged at child price

# Celebrating the one hit wonder

Hey Mickey, I saw The Sign that told me the next MCC Young Members Ball is going to be a "One Hit Wonders Disco" on Saturday September 2.

Enjoy a night Dancing in the Moonlight of the Members Dining Room where we will Play that Funky Music all night long. There will be Good Vibrations but hopefully no Achy Breaky Hearts by Closing Time.

Members and guests aged 18-40 are invited to this Unbelievable night. My Sharona and Stacey's Mom will be there so C'mon Eileen, get your friends together to Bust a Move on the dance floor to all your favourite one-hit wonders.

Enjoy pre-dinner drinks and canapés in the Long Room before sitting down to a three-course dinner and beverages.

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

**DATE**  
Saturday September 2

**TIME**  
7pm for 7.45pm

**WHERE**  
Members Dining Room

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



# A dinner to remember

Members and their guests can go behind-the-scenes and receive unprecedented access into the MCG culinary centre for an intimate dinner on Wednesday September 13.

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

EPICURE's head chefs will be on hand to provide insights into running one of the biggest commercial kitchens

in Melbourne and preparing hundreds of meals on a daily basis. Attendees will go home with wonderful memories to share with family and friends.

Located in the basement of the MCG, the culinary centre is the hub of food preparation for function rooms and corporate dining spaces throughout the stadium, as well as for other major venues in Melbourne.

There is a very limited number of places available, so a ballot will be held if demand exceeds supply. Registrations will be open from Wednesday August 2 at 9.00am until Wednesday August 9 at 5.00pm. Full and

Restricted members may each bring up to one guest and a maximum of four people per booking applies.

**MEMBERS' CULINARY CENTRE EXPERIENCE**

**WHEN** Wednesday September 13

**TIME** 7.00pm for 7.30pm

**WHERE** MCG Culinary Centre

**COST** TBC

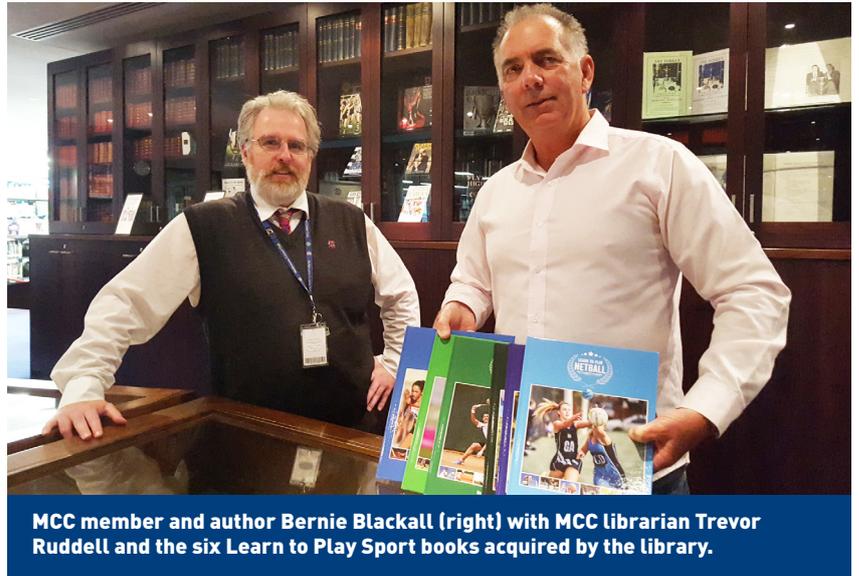
# Library acquires new sports book series

In his thirty-plus years as a PE teacher and coach, long-time MCC member, Bernie Blackall, began to see more unfit young children. It prompted him four years ago to start writing a series of books across multiple sports to encourage kids to get off their devices and into sport to become healthier.

The MCC Library recently, where parts of the books were penned, acquired the first six titles in Bernie's twenty-part series. For Bernie, an MCC member since 1993, the books couldn't have come quickly enough.

"In the classroom, I'm looking at our future leaders every day thinking, will they actually be fit enough to lead us? They've got to become more active, for their sake and ours!" he said. "With well-meaning parents chauffeuring their children everywhere, combined with addictive technology, it's a recipe for inactivity and obesity," says Bernie.

Such is Bernie's commitment to getting young boys and girls fit again, he's tipped his life savings into self-publishing and printing the first six titles in his twenty-part Learn to Play Sports series.



**MCC member and author Bernie Blackall (right) with MCC librarian Trevor Ruddell and the six Learn to Play Sport books acquired by the library.**

The first six books in the series cover soccer, netball, tennis, athletics, Australian football and softball for girls and boys. The rules, history, key skills and warm-ups are outlined for each sport and aimed at children aged 10-14.

The books also serve as a valuable guide for adults who might coach or umpire.

Bernie is no stranger to writing and publishing books on sports participation.

He's written more than 50 books covering a range of sports, penned in the State Library of Victoria and the MCC Library.

Bernie's goal is to have his new book series made available throughout libraries and schools around Australia. Make sure you check them out in the library on your next visit to the MCG.

## Andrew's driving ambition

Within a club of such size and breadth, we often come across members doing all manner of interesting activities, from high achievement to erstwhile endeavour. Andrew Cannon is one such member.

Andrew, who serves as Australia's Honorary Consul of Monaco, will next month attempt to drive his 1924 Presentation Vauxhall 10,000km around Australia in the name of charity.

An MCC member for 40 years, Andrew's upcoming attempt has already raised over \$100,000 for the Cathy Freeman Foundation, the charity of which he was the founding chairman 10 years ago.

Having met Olympic gold medallist Cathy Freeman at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, Andrew and Cathy went on to create the Cathy Freeman Foundation in an endeavour to close the education gap in Australia and help Indigenous children reach their potential at school.

Andrew will steer the vintage Presentation 30/98 Vauxhall through Sydney, Townsville, Darwin, Alice Springs and Adelaide. The car and Catherine Freeman are also going on the barge across to Palm Island, where Catherine's mother grew up and where the Freeman Foundation pioneered its work.

Andrew Cannon bought the car in 2000 in a dilapidated but original state, before subjecting it to a total restoration. The car is the only surviving competition car of the Vauxhall factory of this period.

Andrew is married to MCC committee member, Clare Cannon. His predecessor at the Consulat de Monaco, Sir Rupert Clarke 3rd Bt, was an MCC member and his grandfather, Sir William Clarke, served as MCC president from 1880 to 1886. Sir William is best remembered for building Rupertswood in 1882, which provided the venue for what became the original Ashes cricket match.



**Andrew Cannon and Cathy Freeman in the 1924 Vauxhall that Andrew will attempt to drive 10,000km around Australia to raise funds for the Cathy Freeman Foundation.**



# YOUR 2017 AFL FINALS ARRANGEMENTS

## GRAND FINAL

The Members Reserve's capacity of about 22,800 will be available for the 2017 AFL Grand Final on Saturday September 30. Full members are advised to check details of seating arrangements and the reserved seat ballot in the information sheet accompanying the recent renewal notice mailing.

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

The Reserve will again be split into approximately 55 per cent reserved seats and 45 per cent walk-up seats for the grand final. About 12,500 pre-purchased reserved seats are set aside for successful applicants in the ballot and the remainder will be available for walk-up members when gates open on grand final morning.

## EARLY FINALS

The Reserve will operate as per the home and away season during the first three weeks of the AFL finals series, with the majority of seating available on a walk-up basis to Full and Restricted members. Reserved seats will also be available. Provisional members have no entitlement to enter the MCC Reserve for AFL finals matches. However, subject to the schedule of matches and forecast attendance in the Reserve, the club may offer a form of access to Provisional members in the first two weeks of the finals series. This will be reviewed on a match-by-match basis once the finals schedule is released in September.

## VISITOR TICKETS

The number of visitor tickets available for early finals will depend on the expected popularity of each game. Up to four per member may be available. Approximately 9000 reserved seats on levels 1 and 4 will be available for members and their guests for matches in the first three weeks of the AFL finals. Visitor tickets and reserved seats will be available through Ticketek or from the Membership Services Office at the ground (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri) and, subject to availability, at the members' entrance on match days. Please visit [mcc.org.au](http://mcc.org.au) for on-sale dates and times

## DINING

Ballot registrations for the Members Dining Room and Jim Stynes Grill will be taken via website or phone from 9.00am to 5.00pm on the Tuesday preceding the particular match/es in the first three weeks of the finals series. For the grand final, the ballot will be held on Monday September 25 from 9.00am to 5.00pm. Members are only entitled to one registration in the ballot. Duplicate registrations will be excluded. A reserved seat on Level 2 is part of the Members Dining Room package during the early finals but this does not apply for the grand final. Diners in the Jim Stynes Grill receive a seat in the room to watch the match.

All other dining conditions that existed during the home and away season will apply during the finals.

## LONG ROOM AND BALCONY PASSES

Depending on the expected popularity of matches, the club may release Long Room and Balcony passes for some finals matches if we believe these member-only areas could comfortably accommodate some guests. If this is the case, members will be advised via email that advance applications via the website will open at 9.00am on the Tuesday preceding the weekend's game/s and close at 5.00pm the same day. As the finals draw closer, you can stay abreast of the latest information through the club's website and email updates, as well as via Twitter and Facebook.



## Member intake for 2017/18

At its meeting in June, the MCC Committee elected to Full membership existing Restricted members who were nominated on the waiting list between December 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991 inclusive.

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

Waiting list candidates nominated from February 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000 inclusive will be offered Provisional membership.

The waiting list, therefore, will consist of candidates nominated from October 1, 2000 to today.

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

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Existing financial members for the 2016/17 season should already have received their renewal notice for the coming season, which commences on September 1, 2017.

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