



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET MAY 29, 2026

AFL 2026 ROUND 12 CARLTON V GEELONG

GEELONG - THE EARLY YEARS

By a matter of months, Geelong is the second oldest of the current AFL teams. The Melbourne Football Club was formally established on May 14, 1859, a sub-committee of the club formulating the first rules of the game on May 17 at the Parade Hotel in East Melbourne. The Geelong Football Club dates from July 18 of that year. The following notice appeared in the *Geelong Advertiser* in July, 1859: "Football admirers of the new game are requested to attend a meeting to be held at the Victoria Hotel at half past seven on Monday evening, 18th July - A M Mason, Secretary." After the meeting the paper reported that "twenty or thirty members had been secured, a Secretary was appointed and arrangements were made for the first kick, which will come off on Saturday next near the Corio Oval."

In 1864, Geelong won the Caledonian Society Challenge Cup, football's first inter-club competition. In 1877, the club became one of the foundation members of the Victorian Football Association (VFA). Geelong dominated that competition in the late 1870s and early 1880s by winning seven premierships (1878-1880, 1882-1884 and 1886), and being runners up four times. In October 1896 Geelong became a foundation member of the breakaway Victorian Football League, along with Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon, Fitzroy, Melbourne, St Kilda and South Melbourne.

CARLTON'S EARLY LEAGUE HISTORY

Formed in 1862, Carlton was a member of the VFA until the formation of the VFL in 1897. The club performed poorly in the early years of the new competition, but when success came, it came in abundance. Equal wooden spooners with Richmond in their final season in the VFA, Carlton finished second last in the VFL from 1897 until 1901, third last in 1902, third in 1903, second in 1904 and third in 1905. Consecutive premierships were won in 1906-08, followed by second placings in 1909 and 1910.

Former Fitzroy champion (and Test cricketer) Jack Worrall had been appointed Carlton coach in 1902. A strict disciplinarian, he lifted the team's level of fitness and took the club steadily up the ladder. The Blues accounted for Fitzroy by 49 points in the 1906 grand final, South Melbourne by five in 1907 and Essendon by nine in 1908. They then fell agonisingly short of a fourth straight flag when they lost to South Melbourne by two points in 1909.

CARLTON'S 1914 PREMIERSHIP

As previously explained, the Blues played off for premierships from 1906 to 1910. Finals were again played in 1911 and 1912, but after the team finished sixth in 1913 there was a major turnover of playing personnel, the club opting for youth over experience. Not surprisingly the significantly younger team was inconsistent early in the 1914 season, winning two matches, drawing two and losing three in the first seven rounds. But it was a different story after that, the Blues winning all their remaining matches to finish six points clear on top of the ladder, in front of South Melbourne, Fitzroy and Geelong.

Carlton began their finals campaign with a win over Fitzroy in heavy conditions, but then stumbled by losing to South Melbourne in what was then known as the final. Fortunately for the Blues, the system in place at the time allowed the minor premier to challenge the winner of the final for the flag. Although South had four more shots than Carlton in the premiership decider, the Blues won in a tight finish by six points. The youth policy had paid off handsomely, nine of Carlton's winning team being first year players.

OVER TO YOU

1. Who coached Carlton in 1980?
2. Who coached Geelong from 1976 to 1979?
3. Name the half forward line in Carlton's 1979 premiership team. Their numbers were 7, 36 and 8.
4. Name the half back line in Geelong's 1963 premiership team. Their numbers were 9, 34 and 6.
5. Who captained Carlton from 1980 to 1983?
6. Who captained Geelong from 1978 to 1981?
7. Who won Carlton's best and fairest award in 1974, 1977, 1980 and 1984?
8. Who won Geelong's best and fairest award in 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1996?

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 12 AT THE MCG

The highest Round 12 score on the MCG is 25.16 (166) by Richmond against South Melbourne in 1979. The overall Round 12 highest score is 29.15 (189) by South Melbourne against St Kilda 2.6(18) at the Lakeside Oval in 1919. The highest score in a quarter for Round 12 on the MCG is 10.5 (65) by Melbourne in the last quarter against South Melbourne in 1936. The overall Round 12 highest score in a quarter is 17.4 (106) by South Melbourne in the last quarter against St Kilda at the Lakeside Oval in 1919. The biggest bag of goals on the MCG in Round 12 was 10 kicked by Brian Taylor for Richmond against Fitzroy in 1982 and Jack Riewoldt for Richmond against West Coast in 2010. The overall Round 12 goalkicking record is 17 by Gordon Coventry for Collingwood against Fitzroy at Victoria Park in 1930. The highest Round 12 attendance was recorded at the MCG in 2018 when 83,518 fans saw the Queen's Birthday clash between Melbourne and Collingwood.

STATISTICS FOR CARLTON V GEELONG

Carlton v Geelong by Venue

	Won by Carlton	Won by Geelong	Drawn
Corio Oval	20	20	1
Docklands Stadium	1	15	0
Kardinia Park	24	21	0
MCG	11	11	1
Princes Park	61	33	0
SCG	0	1	0
Waverley Park	4	3	0
	121	104	2

Highest Score

Carlton	23.28 (166)	Rd 17	1944	PP
Geelong	24.18 (162)	Rd 2	2007	Dock

Lowest Score

Carlton	1.5 (11)	Rd 2	1899	PP
Geelong	3.4 (22)	Rd 4	1919	PP

Greatest Winning Margin

Carlton	106 points	Rd 17	1944	PP
Geelong	78 points	Rd 2	2007	Dock

Last Time They Met – Round 7, 2025, MCG

	Carlton	Geelong
Quarter time	3.3	3.2
Half time	8.5	5.4
Three-quarter time	12.8	8.4
Full time	14.10(94)	12.4 (76)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

11	L. Hagger	Geel	Rd 4	1927	Corio
10	L. White	Geel	Rd 19	1947	KP

REG HICKEY

Recruited from Cressy in 1926, Reg Hickey (right) played 245 games for Geelong, mainly at centre halfback. He was captain between 1932 and 1940, and captain-coach in 1932 and 1936-1940. He was a member the 1931 and 1937 premierships sides, won his club's best and fairest award twice and finished second in the Brownlow Medal in 1936 and third in 1931. At the age of 34 Hickey retired as a player after the third game of the 1940 season. He was appointed non-playing coach in 1949, holding the position through one of Geelong's most successful eras. Following a third place finish in 1950, the Cats won successive flags in 1951 and 1952. Between Round 9, 1952, and Round 13, 1953, Hickey's team was undefeated for 26 matches, a record which still stands. Reg Hickey was named as captain and coach of Geelong's Team of the Century.



OVER TO YOU ANSWERS

- Q1 Peter "Percy" Jones. Q2 Rod Olsson. Q3 Wayne Johnston, Mark Maclure and Trevor Keogh. Q4 John Devine, Peter Walker and Stewart Lord.
Q5 Mike Fitzpatrick. Q6 Ian Nankervis. Q7 Bruce Doull. Q8 Garry Hocking

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library Volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, Gerry Verstoep, Gaye Fitzpatrick, and Edward Cohen, with MCC Deputy Librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL