



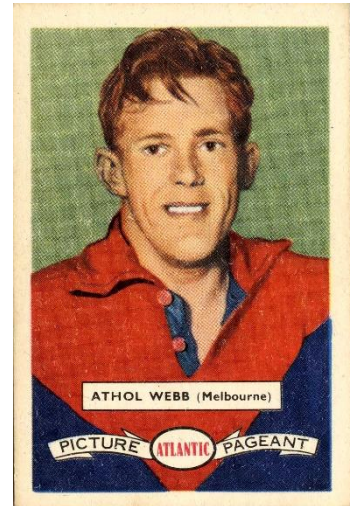
MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET APRIL 5, 2026

AFL 2026 ROUND 4 MELBOURNE V GOLD COAST

VALE

ATHOL WEBB (1935-2026)

Recruited from Scottsdale in Tasmania, **Athol Webb** played 74 games for Melbourne from 1955 to 1959, kicking 146 goals. As a decoy forward (he was 180cm tall), he combined well with “Big” Bob Johnson who, when not in the ruck, rested in the forward pocket. Webb played a key role in Melbourne’s 1956 premiership kicking five goals in the Demons’ grand final victory over Collingwood. He also kicked three goals in Melbourne’s 1957 grand final win over Essendon. He was the leading goalscorer at Melbourne in 1957 with 56 goals and equal leader in 1958 with 44 goals (shared with Ron Barassi). In Round 9, 1957, Webb kicked eight goals against Geelong at the MCG. Playing in Melbourne’s ‘golden’ era under legendary coach Norm Smith, the Demons recorded 58 wins, 15 losses and one draw during his career. He played in eight finals with Melbourne, including three grand finals for two premierships. Webb was inducted into the Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame in 2006, named a Hero of the Melbourne Football Club in 2008, and made a Life Member in 2023. He died on January 7, 2026.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Demons and the Suns split their first six AFL encounters (2011-14). Melbourne won the first three and the Suns the next three. The Demons then won 12 consecutive games against the Suns (2015-24) before Gold Coast triumphed in Round 4, 2025, at the MCG. The final scores in this game were **Gold Coast 18.12 (120) defeated Melbourne 8.14 (62)**. Ben King was the leading goalkicker for the Suns with four, while Touk Miller kicked three. After leading by 17 points at half-time, Gold Coast kicked 13 goals to six in the second half to win comfortably by 58 points.

THEIR CLOSEST AFL GAME TO DATE

In Round 8, 2019, Melbourne and Gold Coast played at Carrara in front of a small crowd of 9,765. Melbourne led narrowly at every change – by seven points at quarter-time, two points at half-time and three points at the final change. In a see-sawing game, the Suns took a six-point lead when Nick Holman goaled just before the 30-minute mark in the final quarter. In less than a minute Melbourne were able to add a goal (to Marty Hore) and a behind (snapped by Tom McDonald) to win by a single point. The final scores were **Melbourne 8.13 (61) defeated Gold Coast 9.6 (60)**.

OVER TO YOU

1. In which year did Gold Coast make the AFL finals for the first time?
2. Which club did Melbourne defeat in the 1926 grand final to win the VFL premiership?
3. In which year was Norm Smith sacked as Melbourne coach and then reinstated after an absence of one game?
4. Who am I? I played 55 games for Melbourne from 2005 to 2011 and then 32 games for Gold Coast from 2012 to 2014. I was recruited from VFL club Sandringham.
5. In 2018 the Suns’ Round 8 home game against the Demons was played at the Gabba in Brisbane. In fact, the Suns did not play a home game at Carrara that season until Round 11. Why was this?

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 4 AT THE MCG

The highest score in Round 4 on the MCG was 25.15 (165) by Melbourne in 2000 against St Kilda 11.9 (75). The highest score in any quarter in Round 4 at the MCG was in 1938 when Melbourne kicked 11.5 (71) in the fourth quarter to beat South Melbourne by 52 points. The highest tally of goals by an individual in Round 4 on the MCG is 12 goals by Tony Lockett for St Kilda against Melbourne in 1987. Gary Ablett's 10 goals for Geelong against Richmond in 1988 is the second-highest. There has been only one drawn game on the MCG in Round 4. It was the ANZAC Day match of 1995 when Collingwood 17.9 (111) drew with Essendon 16.15 (111). The only drawn game also drew the largest attendance at the MCG for a Round 4 match – a crowd of 94,825.

STATISTICS FOR MELBOURNE V GOLD COAST

Melbourne v Gold Coast Suns by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Gold Coast	Drawn
Carrara	5	2	0
Docklands Stadium	1	0	0
Gabba	2	0	0
MCG	5	3	0
Syd. Showgrounds	1	0	0
Traeger Park	1	0	0
	15	5	0

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	98 points	Rd 20	2021	MCG
Gold Coast	60 points	Rd 7	2013	MCG

Highest Score

Melbourne	24.16 (160)	Rd 7	2016	Carrara
Gold Coast	18.12 (120)	Rd 3	2025	MCG

Lowest Score

Melbourne	7.12 (54)	Rd 7	2013	MCG
Gold Coast	4.6 (30)	Rd 20	2021	MCG

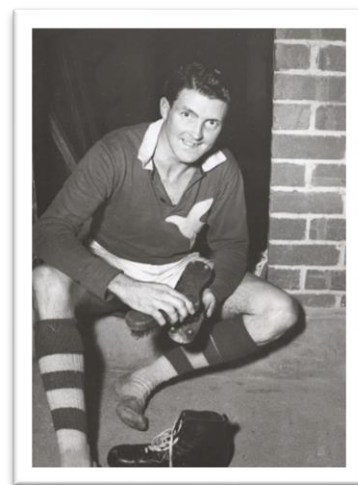
Last Time They Met – Round 16, 2025, Carrara

	Melbourne	Gold Coast
Quarter time	0.1	5.7
Half time	5.3	8.9
Three-quarter time	7.7	14.11
Full time	12.13 (85)	15.14 (104)

A PREMIERSHIP PLAYER IN FOUR STATES

Gordon Bowman, who died in September 2013 aged 86, holds the distinction of playing in premierships sides in four states. Bowman came originally from Malvern East and attended Malvern Grammar School. A half forward flanker, he played 53 games and kicked nine goals for Melbourne from 1945 to 1950 and was a member of the club's 1948 premiership side. Almost a third of Bowman's matches for Melbourne were as a reserve. He came off the bench nine times in 1947 and seven more in 1948. He was vice-captain of the Demons' Reserves premiership side in 1949 but could only manage four senior matches that year and one the following season.

He crossed to Hawthorn before Round 3, 1950, and played 29 games (2 goals) for the Hawks in 1950 and 1951. After his VFL career ended, Bowman played in premierships with Sandy Bay in Tasmania (pictured right) and Mayne in Queensland before joining the Sydney side Newtown, where he captain-coached the team to premierships in 1968 and 1969. Bowman is a member of both the Tasmanian and Queensland Football Halls of Fame.



CHRISTIAN PETRACCA

Before he was traded to the Gold Coast Suns at the end of the 2025 season, Christian Petracca played 212 games for Melbourne and kicked 202 goals. He was a member of the Demons' 2021 premiership side and was awarded the Norm Smith Medal for being judged best player on the ground. He won Melbourne's best and fairest award, the Keith 'Bluey' Truscott Trophy, in 2020 and 2023, and was the club's leading goalkicker in 2019. Petracca was selected in the All-Australian team in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS

Q1 2025. Q2 Collingwood. Q3 1965. Q4 Matthew Warnock. Q5 The Carrara stadium was used as the main stadium for the 2018 Commonwealth Games held from April 4 to 15.

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