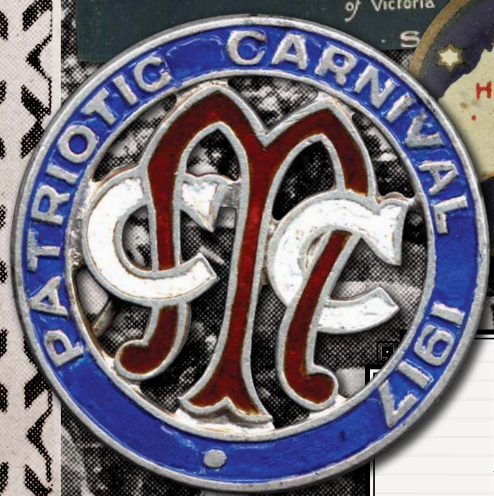
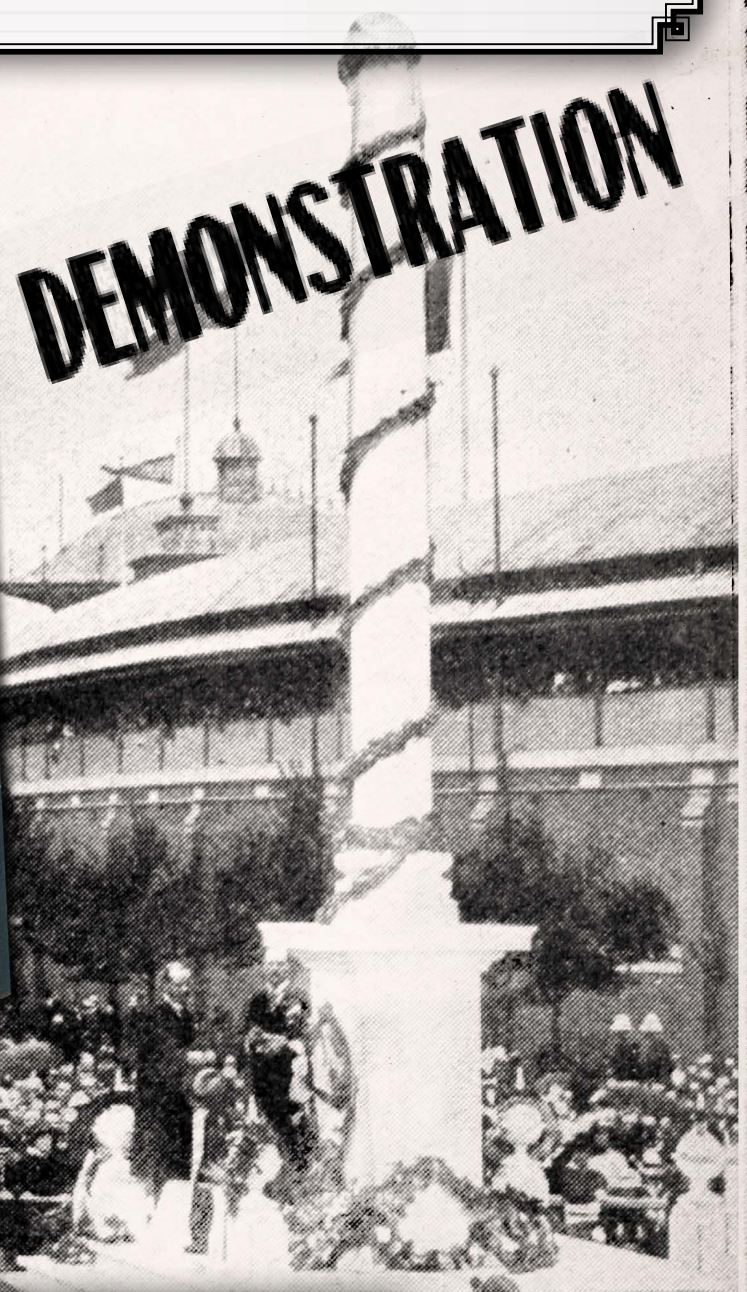


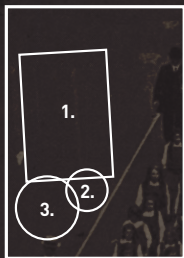
# THE YORKER



## In This Issue

- The MCG and the Great War Efforts of 1917
- Tasmania's First Football Tour
- The MCC Military Band
- Lacrosse at the MCG





**Background:** The "Win the War Day" memorial column and ceremony outside the MCG. *Australasian*, March 3, 1917, p.49. (MCC Library collection).

1. The State Recruiting Committee of

Victoria programme for "Win the War Day" (State Library of New South Wales Mitchell Library collection)

2. Fundraising button created for "Win the War Button Day" on February 23, 1917. (Museums Victoria Collections, <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/1550521>)

3. MCC Patriotic Carnival 1917 badge [MCC Museum collection, M7614]

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## In This Issue

The cover story of the autumn 2017 issue of *The Yorker* recognises the centenary of the first public Great War memorial erected in Melbourne. It was a temporary structure in the form of a broken column, and was raised in Yarra Park, immediately north of the MCG. The formalities that took place before the memorial on February 24, 1917, were just one of a number of events staged to promote enlistment and the war effort that year. James Brear and Lesley Smith examine this particular event in their article "Paint the Place Black!" as well as other major events at the MCG that year, the MCC Patriotic Carnival in October and the "Yes" pro-conscription demonstration on December 10.

The MCG has long been more than just a sporting facility, and it is still promoted as a meeting place that transcends sport. David Studham examines the ground as an Edwardian concert and entertainment venue through the long forgotten MCC Military Band and its conductor Lieutenant Thomas Riley. Other articles in this issue also relate little known and seldom documented stories of the MCC and its ground. In the lead article Adrian Collins and David Allen look at the first match by a combined Tasmanian football team on the mainland in 1887 – arguably the most talented Tasmanian football team to grace the MCG. Trevor Ruddell details the MCG's lacrosse heritage since 1879. The ground has hosted lacrosse at club, intercolonial/state and international levels, but the highlight was the first Test of the controversial 1907 Canadian lacrosse tour. It is regarded by many as a high point of the game as a spectator sport in Australia.

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# Exceeding expectations

## Tasmania's first football match at the MCG

*By Adrian Collins and David Allen*

May 21 this year marks the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tasmania's inaugural football tour to mainland Australia. Teams from South Australia and New South Wales had played intercolonial football matches in Victoria prior to a representative Tasmanian team's tour, so this first visit had been long anticipated. The Hobart *Mercury* commented that, "Tasmania has had visits from many of the Victorian clubs in past seasons, and although promises were made to return the visits, nothing has been done till lately."<sup>1</sup> Tasmania's exposure to Victorian teams began with Hotham's visit to the island in 1881. Hotham (today known as North Melbourne) defeated Northern Tasmania at Launceston four goals to nil and then lost to Southern Tasmania at Hobart three goals to two. Essendon visited in 1882, defeating the North and the South, before playing against the first ever Tasmanian representative team. Essendon, with six goals 27 behinds, convincingly defeated Tasmania, one goal eight. (Goals alone counted towards the score in this era. Behinds were included by journalists to indicate dominance.) Essendon visited again in

1884 and 1886, playing six games for two wins, three losses and a draw. Melbourne also visited in 1886, winning two games and losing one.

Exposure to Victorian clubs, who had "sent unquestionably strong twenties,"<sup>2</sup> and the involvement of players from the mainland, steadily improved the standard of football in Tasmania. The 1887 Tasmanian team included many talented athletes, and three of the team, captain Bill Cundy (originally from Ballarat), John "Joker" Hall and Jack Martin had represented Essendon previously. Also in the Tasmanian team were George Vautin, who would later join Essendon, George Williamson, arguably the best player on the tour, and later a player with Footscray who would be recruited by and



**Top:** The Tasmanian Football Team that toured Victoria in 1887.  
 Back Row L-R: John Hayle (Manager), JK Reid (S), G Williamson (N), J Hall (S), C McAllen (goal umpire), LH McLeod (S), J Deane (N), WG Ward (S), WA Finlay (Manager), EJK "Ken" Burn (S), F Groves (N), S Dunlop (S).  
 Middle Row L-R: J Johnson (N), A Stuart (S), C Goddard (S), WH Cundy - Capt. (S), A Nicholson (S), G Vautin (S), T Hehir (S), T Bagley (S), H Ride (N).  
 Front Row L-R: T Ryan (S), JA Adkisson (S), J Martin (N), G McGinis (S), A Edwards (N), A Seabrook (S).  
 (Image kindly provided by Adrian Collins)

**Right:** Ken Burn as illustrated on the cover of *Cricket a Weekly Record of the Game* for Thursday May 15, 1890. (MCC Library collection)



## The Melbourne Cricket Club's Contribution to the 1887 Tasmanian Tour

The Tasmanian footballers enjoyed many privileges on their 1887 tour. This included attending the wrestling at the Exhibition Building, visiting the Princess Theatre and being made honorary members of the Melbourne Cricket Club.<sup>3</sup> The *Tasmanian Mail* was particularly impressed by the MCC's assistance to the Taswegians. "The generosity displayed by the Melbourne cricket club during the trip of the Tasmanians in Victoria is worthy of mention. When the players arrived in Melbourne they were made honorary members of the MCC, and had all the privileges of the ground. In the match Victoria v. Tasmania, the cricket club placed the ground at the disposal of the two teams, giving them the receipts of the match, less expenses. Immediately it was known that Adelaide and Tasmania were going to play a match, the MCC again showed kindness, placing the ground, free of charge, at the disposal of the two teams. The action of the MCC cannot be spoken too well of and it is an example worthy of imitation."<sup>4</sup>

captain South Melbourne, and George McGinis, who was the brother of future Melbourne champion Fred McGinis. Another selection for the Tasmanian touring team was George Watt. He became Collingwood's first captain in 1892. However, he was a late withdrawal for the tour due to injury. A number of the players had played cricket for Tasmania, such as George Vautin, Ken Burn, Thomas Patrick Ryan and William Ward. Vautin also played for Victoria and Burn represented Australia in two Tests during the 1890 tour of England.

The *Australasian* reported that, "The first appearance of a Tasmanian team on Victorian soil, and the reputation for



superior play that preceded them, sufficed to attract an attendance of fully 13,000 to the Melbourne Cricket ground on Saturday last, many of whom, owing to pressure at the entrance-gates, had their afternoon's amusement free of expense".<sup>5</sup>

The first intercolonial match between Tasmania and Victoria received varied attendance figures in the press that ranged from 10,000 to 20,000.<sup>6</sup> The Melbourne Cricket Club had purchased "six of Nortons self registering turnstiles" from England in 1886<sup>7</sup> but the recently introduced turnstiles meant,

"spectators had to place the exact change into the machine before getting into the ground."<sup>8</sup> Unfortunately, the turnstile system, "wasn't a success likely because of delays caused when spectators did not have the correct change."<sup>9</sup>

At the MCG on May 21, 1887, punctually at 3.00pm, Tasmania and Victoria met for the first time. The *Argus* noted, "The Tasmanian team has been chosen from both northern and southern players", pointing out, "internal differences have not prevented the best of the Tasmanian players being brought together in the one team."<sup>10</sup> The Tasmanian players were selected from the Northern Tasmanian Football Association and the Southern Tasmanian Football Association.<sup>11</sup> The Victorian players were the best from some of the Victorian Football Association clubs. *The Age* explained, "The match committee however, has chosen the pick of Carlton, Hotham and Essendon, while Fitzroy, Richmond and Prahran are also represented."<sup>12</sup> Players from South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Melbourne and St Kilda were not available as their clubs had matches arranged elsewhere.

The Tasmanian team was captained by Bill Cundy from the Railway FC in Hobart and wore rose, primrose and black uniforms.<sup>13</sup> The Victorian team was skippered by Carlton rover, Jack Baker, and his vice captain was Bill Fleming of Essendon. The Victorians wore a red, white and blue strip. Cundy won the toss and directed the Tasmanians to kick into the wind toward the Jolimont end. The highly respected field umpire, Jack Trait, took charge of proceedings. He "gave universal satisfaction" and "his impartiality cannot be questioned."<sup>14</sup> The goal umpires were Charles McAllen, a footballer with the Railway club and Tasmanian cricketer who captained the colony, and James Richards who was the Victorian choice.

The *Daily Telegraph*, a Launceston paper, explained, "The day was dull and cloudy, but great interest was taken in the contest."<sup>15</sup> The reception from the large MCG crowd for the

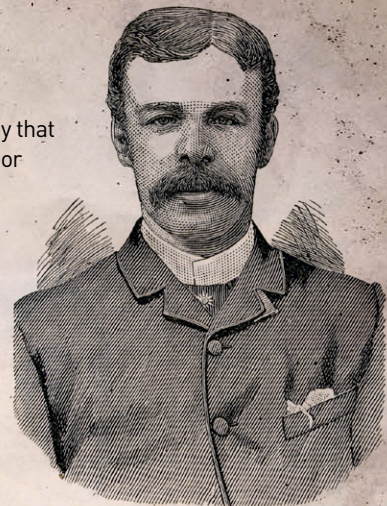
**Top:** Panorama of the MCG in 1895. It was largely how the MCG looked in 1887. *Leader*, October 18, 1895. (MCC Library collection)

**Left:** Jack Trait, the umpire for the first encounter between Victoria and Tasmania and his whistle. (Courtesy of the Gartland collection).

# The Captains

## WH (Bill) Cundy Jnr - Tasmania

WH Cundy Senior and Junior arrived in Tasmania to work for the Tasmanian Mainline Railway Company that established the infrastructure for the Launceston-Hobart rail link. Cundy Senior was an engineer, Junior a surveyor. Senior was involved in the administration of football and Junior was the dominant figure in convincing the clubs to adopt the Victorian rules and start the colony's first senior competition in 1879. Bill Cundy Junior was born in Yorkshire, England, but arrived in Australia as a youth. He developed as a footballer at St Patrick's College, Ballarat, then appeared with Ballarat in 1878. In Hobart he captained the Railway club from 1879 to 1888, winning four premierships and was a fine exponent of the game. In 1887, "his fellow players elected him gaffer of the representative twenty."<sup>16</sup> Cundy also appeared briefly with Essendon in 1881 and again in 1884, and then Sandhurst on his return to Victoria to work as a surveyor. Bill Cundy was also a noted athlete as a runner, intercolonial oarsman and local cricketer. In 1911 he was remembered as, "scrupulously fair, and for this alone was held in the highest esteem by club mates and opponents alike."<sup>17</sup>



## Jack Baker - Victoria

John (Jack) Baker played his early football with North Geelong in 1880 and 1881. At Carlton between 1882 and 1888 he was described as, "a fair daisy of a rover."<sup>18</sup> He captained the Dark Blues in 1884 and 1885. Baker's football career continued with Geelong from 1889 to 1891. Many years after his playing career in 1908, he was remembered as, "A graceful, breezy player, who carried the ball along with a rhythm that moved like music. How smoothly he glided past opponents..."<sup>19</sup> The former Fitzroy player, Test cricketer and Carlton and Essendon coach Jack Worrall wrote in the *Australasian* as "J.W." He was a contemporary of Baker as a player and remembered him as a fine exponent of handball. In 1908 he recalled, "There are some names that are always revered, and Jack Baker is one..."<sup>20</sup>

Top: Bill Cundy, Tasmania's captain. *Melbourne Punch*, June 2, 1887. (MCC Library collection)

Left: Jack Baker, Victoria's captain, as portrayed on a WD & HO Wills 1905 cigarette card. (Private collection)

# The Teams

The following names make up the teams for the historic 1887 Tasmania versus Victoria intercolonial match at the MCG. The information includes the players' club of origin.

### Tasmania (rose, primrose and black)

- WH (Bill) Cundy, Jnr, (capt), Railway (Hobart)\*
- Tom Bagley, Railway (Hobart)\*
- Charles Goddard, Holebrook (Hobart)\*
- John "Joker" Hall, City (Hobart)\*
- George Vautin, City (Hobart)\*
- Tom Hehir, Railway (Hobart)\*
- Joe Deane, Tamar Rowing Club F.C. (Launceston)\*
- Louden H Macleod, Railway (Hobart)\*
- Alfred E ("Ampy") Edwards, City (Launceston)\*
- Tom P Ryan, City (Hobart)\*
- Audey Stuart, Holebrook (Hobart)\*
- Alf Seabrook, City (Hobart)\*
- William G Ward, Holebrook (Hobart)\*
- J Martin, Launceston\*
- Harry Ryde, City (Launceston)\*
- George Williamson, Tamar Rowing Club F.C. (Launceston)\*
- JK Reid, Holebrook (Hobart)\*
- George McGinis, City (Hobart)\*
- Albert Nicholson, Railway (Hobart)\*
- EJK (Ken) Burn, Railway (Hobart)\*
- Sam Dunlop, Railway (Hobart)
- JA (Jimmy) Adkisson, City (Hobart)
- F Groves, City (Launceston)
- J Johnson, South Launceston
- Norrie Atkins, City (Launceston)

### Victoria (red, white and blue)

- Jack Baker (capt.), Carlton
- William (Bill) Fleming (vc), Essendon
- Alfred Worroll, Essendon
- Harry Todd, Hotham
- Charlie Stephens, Richmond
- Walter (Dolly) Batters, Carlton
- Mick Whelan, Carlton
- Walter Johnston, Hotham
- George Hall, Fitzroy
- James "Dummy" Muir, Fitzroy
- James Morehouse, Prahran
- Richard (Dick) Houston, Hotham
- George Sykes, Hotham
- Tom Leydin, Carlton
- William Meader, Essendon
- William (Billy) Strickland, Carlton
- Michael Rout, Essendon
- William F. (Jasper) Jones, Carlton
- George White, Essendon
- William Wallace, Hotham

The Tasmanian players who took part in the Victoria versus Tasmanian match at the MCG in 1887 are acknowledged with an asterisk.\* The other players were members of the touring party.



George Williamson, the Tasmanian who was best on ground for his colony's match against Victoria in 1887. He is pictured here in 1896 as the captain of South Melbourne. *Australasian*, June 29, 1896. (MCC Library collection)

## Tasmania's 1887 Tour

Tasmania's 1887 tour was originally to consist of four matches but six were played for three wins, two losses and a draw.

May 21, 1887 – Victoria 7.15 def. Tasmania 4.6 (Melbourne Cricket Ground)

May 24, 1887 – Essendon 2.7 drew Tasmania 2.7 (South Melbourne Cricket Ground)

May 26, 1887 – Tasmania 6.6 def. University 0.7 (University Oval)

May 28, 1887 – Tasmania 5.12 def. Ballarat 4.10 (Saxon Paddock, Ballarat)

May 30, 1887 – Tasmania 13.14 def. Adelaide 3.6 (Melbourne Cricket Ground) †

June 1, 1887 – Melbourne 3.10 def. Tasmania 2.8 (Melbourne Cricket Ground)

\* Prior to 1897 goals alone counted towards the score. Therefore, behinds were not as rigorously recorded as goals, and their reporting often differs from publication to publication.

† Players wore numbers on their backs for the match between Tasmania and Adelaide on May 30. Boyle and Scott, a sporting goods retailer, sold cards to spectators that identified each player's number. The first experiment with numbers took place on May 28 for Carlton's match against Adelaide, also at the MCG. However, the numbers were difficult to see as they were placed on the players' breasts, were small and easily obscured by mud. Lesson learned, the large numbers worn on players' backs for the Tasmanian match were very successful.

Tasmanian team was, "such as we very seldom, if ever, hear on a Tasmanian ground."<sup>21</sup> It was noted, "The visitors, taken all round, were taller than the Victorians..."<sup>22</sup> The *Argus* newspaper stressed, "Apart from the sympathy which has always existed between the two colonies, the fact that the visiting team on this occasion represent the smallest of the footballing colonies, is further reason why their plucky ventures should have a wide recognition."<sup>23</sup>

The game began with the visitors showing nervousness in front of the big MCG crowd. Tasmania trailed one goal to Victoria two goals at quarter time. The second quarter saw 17 year old Alfred "Ampy" Edwards, captain Bill Cundy and Loudon Macleod each scoring a goal for Tasmania which at half time had scored four goals to Victoria's two. In the second quarter, "the visitors being manifestly superior to that of the Victorians..."<sup>24</sup>

The second half proved that the lasting power of the Victorians was better than that of the visitors. The Victorian defenders took control and the Victorians became dominant with regular attacks at goal. Jack Baker roved well, kicked two goals and rallied the team as captain. Hotham forward Harry Todd was prominent and also contributed two goals.

**Victoria** 2.2 2.4 5.8 **7.15**

**Tasmania** 1.1 4.3 4.5 **4.6**

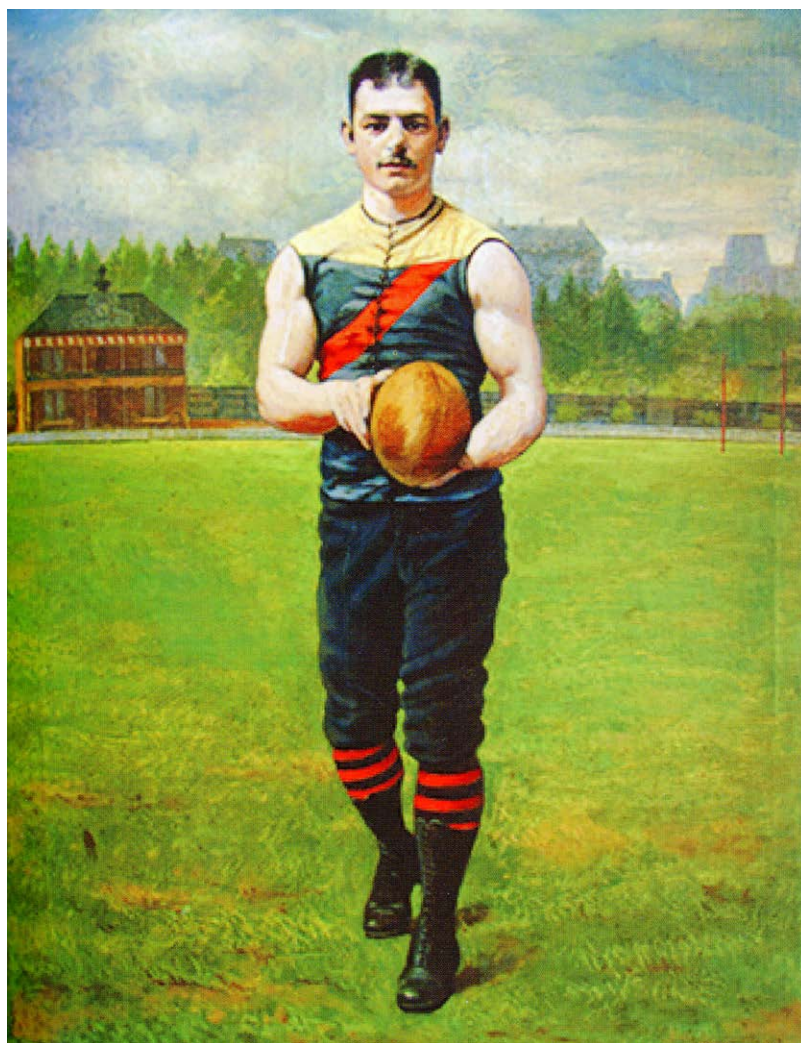
**Goals – Vic:** J Baker 2, H Todd 2, W Meader, T Leydin, M Whelan.

**Tas:** TP Ryan, AE Edwards, WH Cundy, L Macleod.

**Best – Vic:** JH Todd, M Whelan, J Baker, W Meader, R Houston, J Muir, A Worroll.

**Tas:** T Bagley, G Williamson, A Seabrook, EJK Burn, WH Cundy, J Martin, AE Edwards.

in that the team arrived just one day earlier, "not having recovered from the effects of the trip across."<sup>26</sup> One reporter considered, "It is a pity that the Tasmanians could not meet their conquerors again in a return match before going home."<sup>27</sup> The team certainly continued to improve during the



**John "Joker" Hall** was a member of the historic Tasmanian team that toured Victoria in 1887. This painting of Hall at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground was by M Carabain-Morant (c.1886). According to Mark Pennings, Hall toured Tasmania with the Essendon team in 1886 and, after being offered a job in Hobart, he remained in Tasmania where he played for City (Hobart) until 1894. (Courtesy of Glen and Todd Baird, Walter and Co, Richmond, Tasmania)

The Tasmanians did, however, greatly "exceed expectations".<sup>25</sup> One reason why they tired against Victoria was a lack of preparation,

## Senior Tasmanian Football Teams at the MCG

- Saturday May 21, 1887 – Victoria 7.15 def. Tasmania 4.6  
 Monday May 30, 1887 – Tasmania 13.14 def. Adelaide 3.6  
 Wednesday June 1, 1887 – Melbourne 3.10 def. Tasmania 2.8  
 Saturday May 18, 1889 – Victoria 6.9 def. Southern Tasmanian Football Association 1.6  
 Wednesday May 29, 1889 – Southern Tasmanian Football Association 10.12 def. Melbourne 0.2  
 Wednesday August 19, 1908 – Tasmania 22.22 (154) def. Queensland 2.2 (14)  
 Saturday August 22, 1908 – Tasmania 8.14 (62) def. New South Wales 4.11 (35)  
 Wednesday August 26, 1908 – Tasmania 11.18 (84) def. New Zealand 1.12 (18)  
 Saturday August 29, 1908 – South Australia 16.20 (116) def. Tasmania 7.7 (49)  
 Saturday July 31, 1926 – Victoria 15.13 (103) def. Tasmanian National Football League (Hobart) 5.11 (41)  
 Thursday August 11, 1927 – New South Wales 12.11 (83) def. Tasmania 11.14 (80)  
 Monday August 15, 1927 – Victoria 24.11 (155) def. Tasmania 13.12 (90)  
 Wednesday August 17, 1927 – Western Australia 12.16 (88) def. Tasmania 12.15 (87)  
 Saturday August 20, 1927 – South Australia 20.23 (143) def. Tasmania 14.24 (108)  
 Wednesday July 2, 1958 – VFA 15.12 (102) def. Tasmania 13.16 (94)  
 Monday July 7, 1958 – Tasmania 11.18 (84) def. South Australia 11.16 (82)  
 Saturday June 1, 1996 – VFL (formerly VFA) 15.18 (108) def. TFL Statewide League 13.8 (86)

Tasmania's Darrell Baldock (dark jersey) contests a mark against the VFA (hoops) during a 1958 carnival match at the MCG. (MCC Library collection)



rest of its six match tour and it was even suggested they would have won a replay against the Victorians.

Respected nineteenth century football historian Mark Pennings considered, "The game was one of the finest inter-colonial contests yet played."<sup>28</sup> Tasmanian football historian Ken Pinchin explained, "At that time and for many years after the team was regarded as the finest ever to leave Tasmania."<sup>29</sup> The Tasmanian captain Bill Cundy while acknowledging his teams shortcomings was proud that, "After the match, although beaten, he heard several people say that it was the best inter-colonial game played in Melbourne, in fact, the only game, for the previous matches were always one-sided affairs."<sup>30</sup>

The Tasmanian team returned to Launceston on the steamer Pateena, with net proceeds from the six match tour totalling

£70, of which the Northern Association received £20. The team's manager John Hayle and the players received a great homecoming reception. The Southern Tasmanian Football Association established in 1879 and the Northern Tasmanian Football Association created in 1886, had successfully united to progress the game in Tasmania.

The *Leader* newspaper complimented the Taswegians, "The result of the match afforded satisfactory proof of the strides made by the originally Victorian but now termed Australasian game, and the Tasmanians although defeated, may rest satisfied that, considering the relative small community of footballers from which their team was chosen, their play was sufficiently good to exceed expectations..."<sup>31</sup>

### Endnotes

1. *Mercury*, March 21, 1887. p.3.
2. *Argus*, May 19, 1887. p.7.
3. *Tasmanian Mail*, May 28, 1887. p.24.
4. *Tasmanian Mail*, June 11, 1887. p.23.
5. *Australasian*, May 28, 1887. p.22.
6. Attendance figures differed greatly. *The Age* wrote it was "in the presence of about 10,000" (May 23, 1887. p.6); Launceston's *Daily Telegraph* wrote, "there were nearly 20,000 looking on." (May 25, 1887. p.3) and Adelaide's *Evening Journal* note that the match was "in the presence of between 15,000 and 20,000 persons." (May 23, 1887. p.3).
7. Minutes of MCC Match and Ground Committee Meeting, November 29, 1886.
8. Mark Pennings, *Origins of Australian Football: Volume 3: Victoria's 'Professionalism': The Power of the wealthy clubs, 1886-1890*. Grumpy Monks, 2015. p.34)
9. *ibid*
10. *Argus*, May 19, 1887. p.7. *Mercury* (Hobart), May 21, 1887. p.4.
11. In 1887 the Tasmanian Football Association adopted the name Southern Tasmanian Football Association.
12. *The Age*, May 21, 1887. p.10.
13. Tasmania's traditional sporting colours of myrtle green, with rose edging and a primrose (yellow) map of Tasmania were formally adopted by all Tasmanian representative sporting teams in June 1908. The colours were based on those of the Tasmanian cricket team.
14. *Daily Telegraph* (Launceston), May 25, 1887. p.3. *Australasian*, May 28, 1887. p.22.
15. *Daily Telegraph* (Launceston), May 24, 1887. p.2.
16. This description of Bill Cundy from the Melbourne magazine *Life* was republished as an extract in the *Mercury* (Hobart), May 28, 1887. p.4.
17. *Weekly Courier*, August 5, 1911. p.5.
18. *South Australian Chronicle*, July 16, 1887. p.15.
19. *Argus*, August 1, 1908. p.7.
20. *Australasian*, September 30, 1922. p.30.z
21. *Tasmanian Mail*, June 18, 1887. p.21.
22. *South Australian Register*, May 23, 1887. p.6.
23. *Argus*, May 19, 1887. p.7.
24. *Leader*, May 28, 1887. p.21
25. *ibid*
26. *Tasmanian Mail*, May 28, 1887. p.24.
27. *Daily Telegraph* (Launceston), May 25, 1887. p.3.
28. Mark Pennings, *Origins of Australian Football: Volume 3: Victoria's 'Professionalism': The Power of the wealthy clubs, 1886-1890*. Grumpy Monks, 2015. pp.34-35.
29. Ken Pinchin, *A Century of Tasmanian football 1879-1979*, Tasmanian Football League, Hobart, 1979, p.36.
30. *Launceston Examiner*, June 4, 1887. p.3.
31. *Leader*, May 28, 1887. p.21.



# Paint the place black!

## Memorial and Mayhem, the MCG events of 1917

By James Brear and Lesley Smith

In 1917 the major events at the MCG were neither football nor cricket. The Sheffield Shield competition had been suspended after 1915,

and only Collingwood, Carlton, Fitzroy, Richmond, South Melbourne and Geelong competed in the VFL. As this did not include Melbourne, the four finals games were the only senior football matches seen on the ground during the year. The Great War had disrupted sport at the MCG. Instead, the large crowds came to witness the unveiling of the first public memorial to fallen World War I soldiers, the Patriotic Carnival, and Billy Hughes' pro-conscription rally.

The unveiling of the first public memorial followed the procession in Melbourne on Saturday, February 24. The day was named "Win the War Day", and was a renewal of efforts by the State Recruiting Committee to boost the recruitment of soldiers for World War I. A sporting committee, including MCC Committeeman, Edward Cordner, and four MCC members, was formed to add weight to the event.<sup>1</sup> To ensure maximum crowd attendance, all sporting fixtures were cancelled.

This was after pressure was brought to bear on the Victorian Amateur Turf Club (Caulfield) that had scheduled the Saturday race meeting.<sup>2</sup> Dr Weigall, the President of the Royal Automobile Club, wanted "to make the procession the largest on record".<sup>3</sup> His members were encouraged, as was the general public, to bring their cars to transport wounded and returned soldiers, three cars abreast. There were 5,000 school children, 3,000 boy scouts and extravagant floats from some of the major businesses and institutions. These included "Canada", "John Bull", "Australia and the Allies" and "Britannia".

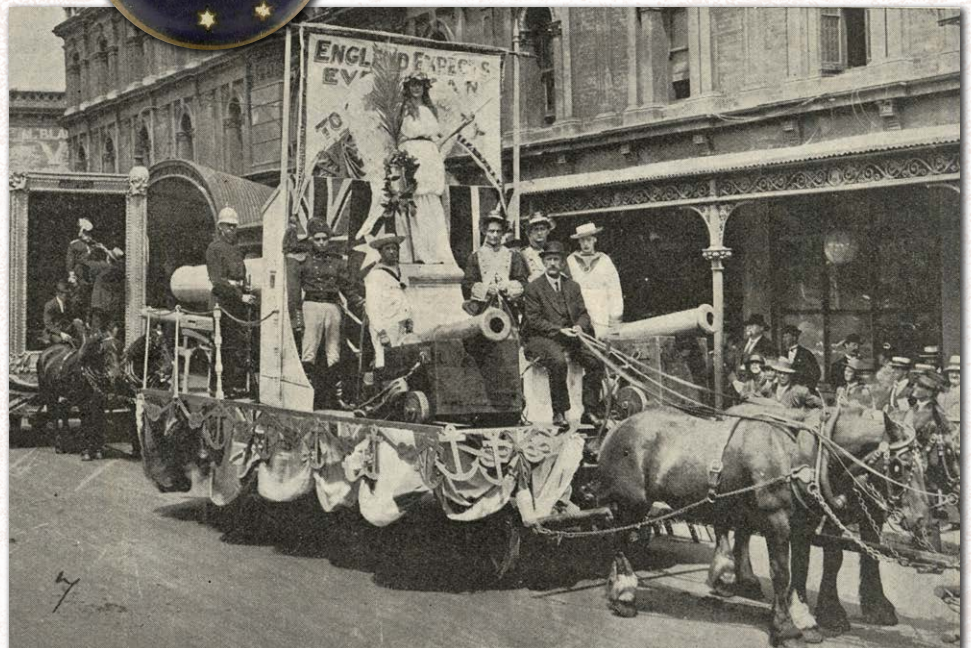
<sup>4</sup> The procession was organised in three sections, details of which were provided in the Official Souvenir Programme.

The Parade exceeded Dr Weigall's expectations, the largest seen in Melbourne at the time, stretching some

five miles through the city's streets. Over 10,000 took an active part in the procession. Sixty-three thousand spectators travelled by train to join the rest of the crowd.<sup>5</sup>

At 2:00pm, the procession left Alexandra Avenue, proceeded along Swanston Street, into Bourke, and then Spring Street. The salute was taken at what was the Federal Parliament House (now Victorian State Parliament) by Brigadier-General VC Selheim.<sup>6</sup> Along the parade route, traders were encouraged to charge a penny for vantage points from their windows, with proceeds going to the Lady Mayoress' Patriotic Fund. One of the prime vantage points was the steps of the Treasury Building. On the day prior to the procession "Win The War Button Day" was held. 255,000 buttons<sup>7</sup> designed with a map of Australia and the words, "I Will Help Until The War Is Won", were distributed. These were to be sold at one shilling each, with a gold-rimmed version selling for 10 shillings.<sup>8</sup>

The unveiling of a Memorial Column, "in memory of our Fallen Heroes", in Yarra Park, just north of the MCG, by Senator George Pearce, Minister for Defence, was the final ceremony for the day.<sup>9</sup> Lord Mayor, Sir David Hennessy, delivered the official panegyric at the unveiling, with massed bands



**Top:** The State Recruiting Committee of Victoria programme for "Win the War Day" (State Library of New South Wales Mitchell Library collection)

**Centre:** Fundraising button created for "Win the War Button Day" on February 23, 1917. (Museums Victoria Collections, <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/1550521>)

**Right:** The "Britannia" float prepared by the Board of Works. *Melbourne Punch*, March 1, 1917, p.17. (MCC Library collection)



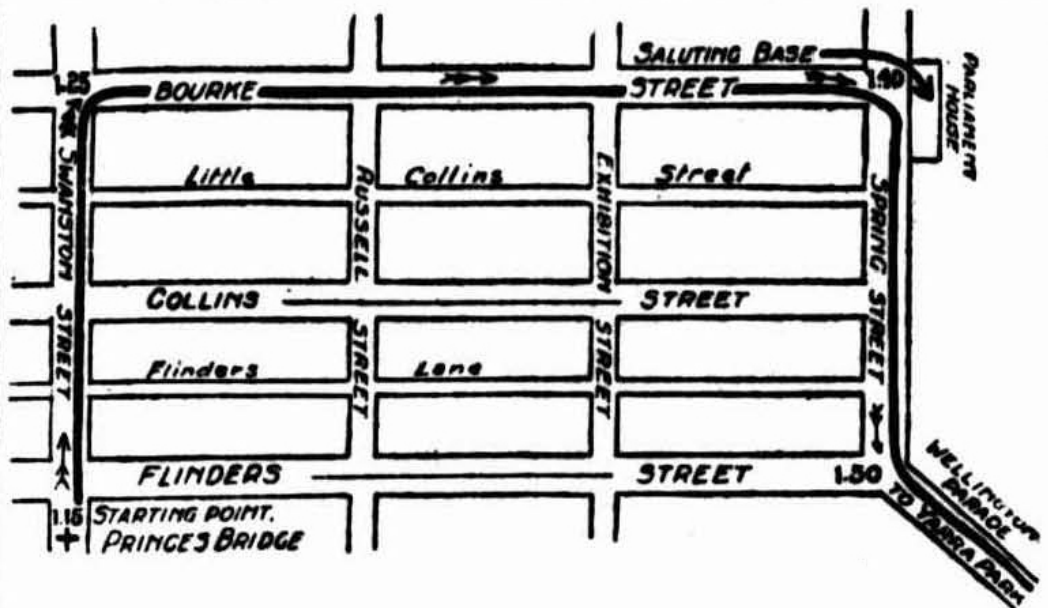


on February 10. The first suggestion, from the Imperial Veterans Association, was a triumphal arch to be "erected at the entrance to the city, which could be lit up at night."<sup>13</sup> Within days, another suggestion, a broken column, "should be erected in a prominent position on the line of march. It is further proposed that all persons participating in the great procession should salute the column as they pass."<sup>14</sup> Neither pleased "Anglican citizen", who preferred a cross, "the symbol of love and sacrifice... and of hope," rather than adopt "heathen symbolism".<sup>15</sup> Even more bizarre, Mrs Lorimer from the 8th Brigade Comforts Fund, "opposed a spectacular demonstration. 'Drape the place in black and throw a few bombs around.' " She considered, correctly as it happened, the procession would be a gala day for those who had not enlisted, and would not lead to more recruits. Mr. Burgess, from the Education Department, agreed. The day should be an appeal, not a spectacular procession. He proposed the children carry banners, "Daddy Is At The Front, Will You Go And Help Him?"<sup>16</sup>

The memorial column was donated principally by The Timber Merchants' Association, with others contributing, and was designed by renowned architect A. Phipps Coles. Coles worked in South Africa, Sydney and Melbourne. Among his more prominent buildings are the Egyptian Room in the Scottish Temple, Petersham, Sydney, and the Uniting Church in Carnegie, Melbourne. The *Bendigo Advertiser* described the Memorial as taking "the form of a broken column. The white column stands 35 feet high and was draped with regimental colours and a large number of wreaths. The inscription, 'For the souls of the heroes die not in the land they adore' was written on a background of purple on the northern side of the pedestal".<sup>17</sup> "The scene... was an impressive one. In addition to a dense crowd of civilians was a body of soldiers who took up a position at the base of the memorial". Senator Pearce acknowledged the temporary status of the column. In 1926, another temporary structure, a cenotaph, was built on the steps of Federal Parliament House, before the completion of the Shrine of Remembrance in 1934.<sup>18</sup>

playing the national anthem, and *God Save Our Splendid Men*, before the Ascot Vale Bugle Band played the *Last Post*.<sup>10</sup> This, along with a much smaller private memorial in Flinders Park<sup>11</sup>, was the first memorial to the fallen of World War I. The memorial was erected on the Friday before the unveiling. Later that day, the State Recruiting office received a report that an attempt to damage the memorial was planned. In response, police placed a guard in Yarra Park throughout the night.<sup>12</sup>

The broken column was not the first suggestion for a memorial. The State Recruiting Committee, with other concerned parties, met



"The above sketch shows the route to be taken by the procession, and the figures marked at the intersection of the main streets indicate the time of passage of the first division. After an interval of 20 minutes the second division, comprising the motor cars, will pass, and the remaining four divisions will follow."

Top: "Win the War Day" procession through Melbourne. *Melbourne Punch*, March 1, 1917, p.17. (MCC Library collection)

*Argus*, February 23, 1917. p.6.



While newspaper reports enthused over the massive crowds attending the pageant, the same could not be said for the gathering in Yarra Park at the conclusion of the day. "The one part of Saturday's great effort that could hardly be regarded as successful was the ceremony at Yarra Park. At no time could the crowd assembled there exceed more than one or two per cent of the multitude that turned out to view the procession."<sup>19</sup> Although the hour was late and the weather inclement, it was clear those who were eligible to enlist were not interested in talking to politicians and recruiting officers. *The Age* reported, "The great majority of eligibles avoid the announced place of meeting as if it were haunted."<sup>20</sup>

In 1914 the war attracted mass enlistments. One thousand men were enlisting every day. This is extraordinary given the Australian population was almost five million. 52,561 men enlisted in 1914, 165,912 in 1915, and in 1916 the number of enlistments reached 124,352. Then came a dramatic decline in numbers, 45,100 in 1917, and 28,883 in 1918. Of the 416,809 men who enlisted, 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed or imprisoned.<sup>21</sup> *Melbourne Punch*, commented, "We don't even talk war now as we were wont to do."<sup>22</sup> Society had developed a war weary malaise. The high casualty numbers were a very serious concern for such a small population but there was also alarm over the fact immigrants might take jobs from returning soldiers.

"Win the War Day" was expected to encourage men to enlist by persuasion rather than force. Britain wanted Australia to provide 5,500 men per month to ensure numbers on the front were maintained. This was obviously not happening. On October 28, 1916, Prime Minister Billy Hughes had asked Australians in a referendum for conscription:

Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requiring their military service, for the term of this War, outside the Commonwealth, as it now has in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?<sup>23</sup>

The results: 1,087,557 For, and 1,160,033 Against. Fifteen platforms had been set up in Yarra Park from which speakers urged recruitment. The MCC gymnasium became the recruiting depot and facilities were provided for light refreshments, the profits from which went to the Patriotic Fund.<sup>24</sup> The target for the day was one thousand, but only one hundred volunteered. Of those, only forty were selected.<sup>25</sup> Donald McKinnon, as the Director-General of Recruiting, was given the task of improving volunteer numbers. McKinnon had two sons at the front, one of whom, Brice, was killed. He had hoped a more moderate approach to encourage enlistments would work after the conscription referendum of October 1916 failed.

The MCC was committed to raising funds and promoting enlistment. To this end, many events and memorial services were held at the MCG throughout 1917. The largest of these was the MCC Patriotic Carnival held from October 20-27. A week long extravaganza of sports and entertainment,



**Top:** Two views of the memorial column and ceremony outside the MCG. The image on the right shows the rear of the MCC's grandstand. *Australasian*, March 3, 1917, p.49 (MCC Library collection). [The photograph on the left is courtesy of Australian War Memorial collection H19379]

**Left:** MCC Patriotic Carnival 1917 badge (MCC Museum collection, M7614) and advertising sticker (MCC Archives collection).

**Facing Page:** Ticket to the "Yes" pro-conscription demonstration at the MCG on December 10, 1917. (MCC Museum collection, M7949-1)

the carnival raised 7,762 pounds nineteen shillings and sixpence for the State War Council.<sup>26</sup> Following this, a pro-conscription rally was held on December 10.

Often described as the “100,000 Meeting”, this involved no less than the Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, as the main speaker. Four platforms were erected on the ground, with a variety of distinguished speakers. *The Age* and *The Argus* reported ticket sales of 100,000, but the *MCC Stile Book* estimated 75-80,000 attended. It was the largest crowd at the MCG to date, surpassing the 59,556 which attended the 1913 VFL grand final. The success or otherwise of the rally depends upon which newspaper is read. The pro-conscription papers, *The Age* and *Argus*, reported overwhelming support for the government’s position. *The Age* carried the headline,<sup>27</sup>

## GREAT “YES” DEMONSTRATION

M.C.C. GROUND DENSELY THROGGED.

FULLY 100,000 PEOPLE PRESENT

REMARKABLE ENTHUSIASM

STIRRING APPEALS.

“ANTI” TACTICS FAIL

PRIME MINISTER STONED.

*Labor Call*, on the other hand, gave the opposite view of the evening’s proceedings.<sup>28</sup>

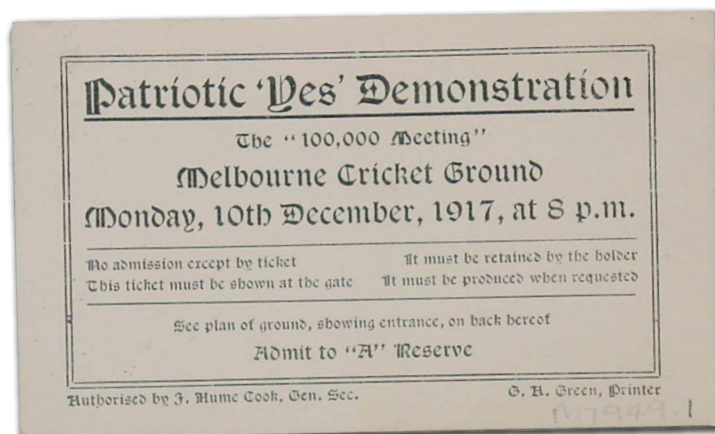
## The Great “YES” Fiasco

65 Per Cent. “NO” at Melbourne Cricket Ground  
Hughes Outed at Every Platform

While the headlines may have been diametrically opposed, most reports agreed on the violent nature of incidents throughout the evening. Although a pro-conscription rally, many anti-conscriptionists were present, resulting in unprecedented violence. “Hundreds of eggs were thrown, road metal and broken pieces of glass were hurled viciously at the speakers.” In response, “Special and ordinary constables charged the mob with batons and handcuffs.” The rally had begun in an orderly fashion with five bands playing ‘patriotic airs’, the crowd joining in “as one huge chorus” with “deafening cheers for the ‘Yes’ campaign, for Mr. Hughes, and hoots for Germany.” With the singing of *Australia Will Be There*, the anti-conscriptionists decided it was time to attack. “Gun-crackers” were thrown amongst the crowd, with the serious violence starting once the speakers began addressing the crowd. Mr. Hughes narrowly escaped injury when a large stone was thrown at him; the Lord Mayor, not being so fortunate, was “struck in the eye with a ripe peach.”<sup>29</sup> Casualties were such that the MCC gymnasium was transformed into a casualty ward. There were five stretcher cases transferred to hospitals, while fourteen suffered minor injuries. At the end of the day, Prime Minister Hughes, with the protection of a strong police force, had been heard, but so had his opponents. It should be noted that another Referendum for conscription, held the following year in December, also failed.

“Conscription” was not part of the Melbourne Cricket Club’s vocabulary as war was regarded as a “sterner game”. MCC Patron, Sir Arthur Stanley, thought sport, as played in private schools by gentlemen, was almost an apprenticeship for war, and the same rules should apply. In 1914, there were 5,449 members of the MCC, of whom 1088 enlisted. Approximately 20 percent of the membership believed Sir Arthur Stanley’s mantra, war “was the greatest of all sports”.<sup>30</sup>

Although 1917 lacked great sporting contests on the field, the MCG had played a significant role in hosting the major events which shaped Melbourne’s attitude to the war. In addition, the ground has the distinction of being the site of the first public memorial to fallen soldiers of the World War I, temporary though it may have been.



### Endnotes

1. Alf Batchelder, *Playing the Greater Game*, MP Publications, Brighton, 1998, p.312.
2. *Geelong Advertiser*, February 21, 1917, p.3.
3. *Australasian*, February 24, 1917, p.21.
4. *Australasian*, March 3, 1917, p.26.
5. *The Argus*, March 26, 1917, p.6.
6. *The Argus*, February 17, 1917, p.16.
7. *The Age*, February 22, 1917, p.7.
8. *The Age*, February 23, 1917, p.8.
9. *The Herald*, March 15, 1917, p.4.
10. *Bendigo Advertiser*, February 26, 1917, p.3.
11. *Punch*, March 1, 1917, p.29.
12. *The Age*, February 24, 1917, p.11.
13. *The Age*, February 10, 1917, p.11.
14. *The Argus*, February 12, 1917, p.8.
15. *The Argus*, February 13, 1917, p.9.
16. *The Age*, February 10, 1917, p.11.
17. *Bendigo Advertiser*, February 26, 1917, p.3.
18. *The Argus*, April 21, 1926, p.19.
19. *The Age*, February 26, 1917, p.8.
20. *Ibid.*
21. Collection Development Plan, Australian War Memorial at [https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/collection\\_development\\_plan.pdf](https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/collection_development_plan.pdf). [viewed April 12, 2017]
22. *Punch*, February 15, 1917, p.242.
23. *Conscription referendums, 1916 and 1917* – Fact sheet 161, National Archives of Australia, at <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs161.aspx> [viewed April 12, 2017].
24. *The Age*, February 24, 1917, p.11.
25. *Australasian*, March 3, 1917, p.26.
26. A full account of this event, by Alf Batchelder, is in *The Yorker*, Issue 42, Spring 2010, pp. 8-11.
27. *The Age*, December 11, 1917, p.7.
28. *Labor Call*, December 13, 1917, p.3.
29. *The Argus*, December 11, 1917, p.7.
30. Alf Batchelder, *Playing the Greater Game*, p.310.



# A Band of our Own

Lieutenant Thomas Riley and the MCC Military Band.

by David Studham

The MCC library recently acquired a range of club related ephemera from the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These included three "Grand Open Air Concert" programmes from 1902, 1904 and 1905. All three are of the same format. They are single page sheets, with the front listing the bands, conductors, artists and the programme. The reverse contains advertising for Robert Hurst shoes.

While the recent Guns N' Roses concert at the ground was attended by over 73,000 patrons, it followed in the long tradition of summer concert evenings as a regular feature at the MCG. These commence in November 1878, when Julius Herz conducted moonlight concerts at the ground on Melbourne Cup Eve and Oaks Eve. Patrons paid extra to be seated in the new Grand Stand.

The concerts quickly became a popular feature and were another way for the club to make use of the ground's facilities during the summer months. In a letter to the *Age* on Saturday December 23, 1939, page 20, headlined, "MELODIOUS MEMORIES, Promenade Concerts",

F Vanderkelen of Toorak reminisced about MCG concerts from the 1880s,

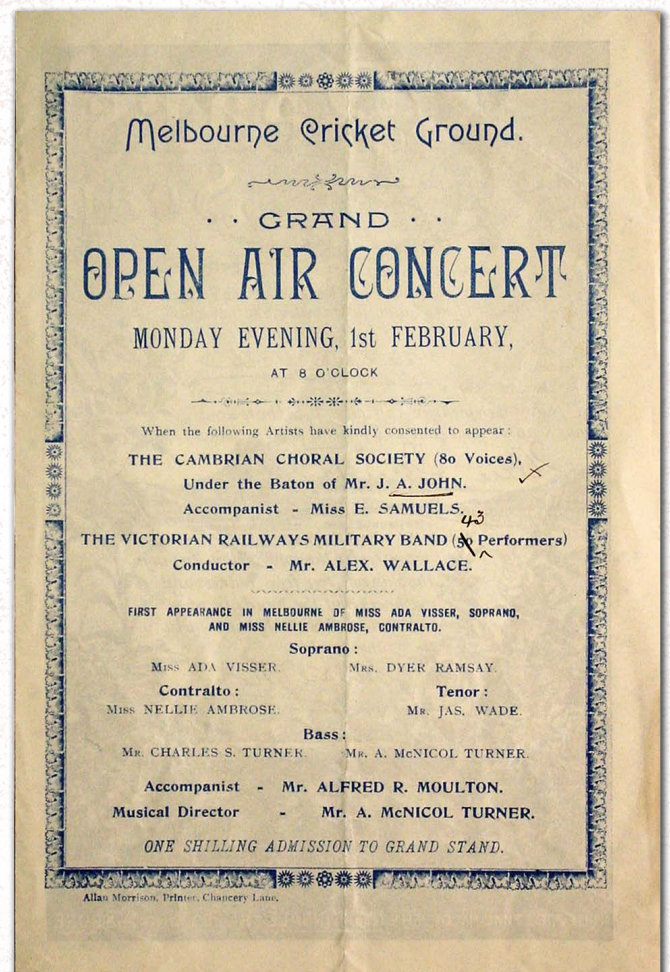
Now as to the promenade concerts at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, they were indeed much appreciated on fine summer evenings. During the Exhibition of 1888-89, we had the Austrian Band, imported by Mr Carl Pinschof. They played the famous Radetzky Hungarian March at every one of their concerts. And the Sousa American Band later on gave us the best of military band concerts. — Yours, &c.,

In 1896/97 the Club hosted four concerts in collaboration with the Lyric Club orchestra. Unfortunately these resulted in a loss of £131 5s. 9d. In contrast, the Club leased the ground to the Police Band for a charity concert and they raised £387 0s. 6d.!

Unsurprisingly the following year, only one concert was staged by the club, on February 1, 1897. The minutes of January 25, 1897 record "concert arranged for Monday 1 February. Bicycle parade (illuminated) to be arranged. Further concerts to be decided at next meeting."

A copy of the programme for this concert is held in the MCC museum collection (right, M2514). The detailed description

notes that on the inside pages are a Pears Soap advertisement on the left, and a programme of the event to the right, with the times of the performances handwritten in black ink, while the reverse features an advertisement for Nicholson's Gin.



Top: A sacred concert, promoted and arranged by FB Jenkinson in connection with the Caledonian Band held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday October 23, 1904. *Leader*, October 29, 1904. [Unless indicated all items featured are from the MCC Library collection]



After incurring a loss of £5 3s. 0d. at this concert, when the MCC Committee next met they declined to endorse any more concerts for that season. However, if this single concert "season" was the low point in the ground's concert history, things were to improve very quickly.

The MCC Annual Report for 1899/1900 released in August 1900 noted that, "Owing to the improved attendance at the evening concert, the committee were able to give twelve concerts, at a cost of £69 4s. 6d., as against four concerts last season, costing £100 13s. 6d."

One of the reasons for the increased popularity could be found further in the same report, in a section headed "Electric Lighting. - The whole of the Grand Stand has been fitted with the electric light. The open-air Concerts were thus rendered more enjoyable."

In the following season's MCC Annual Report the Concerts section reflected further popularity.

The attendances at the open air Concerts having continued to improve, the sum of £71 0s. 11d. appears to the credit of the concerts Account, as against a debit balance in 1900 of £69 4s. 6d. Twenty concerts were given, the average attendances of members being 1500 for each concert, showing the popularity they attained. The Committee recommend the continuance of the concerts weekly, with a more variable programme.

The 1901/02 Report showed yet further growth and a striking new feature, with the addition of Edisonia pictures to the evening's entertainment.

*Concerts.*—Twenty-three (23) evening concerts were held. The attendances were naturally interfered with by the exceptionally inclement weather; but these entertainments are greatly appreciated by members. The gate takings at these concerts more than pay the expenses, and it is the intention of the Committee to resume them next summer. The fine Military Band organised by Lieut. Riley has been much appreciated; and has proved a great attraction to the concerts. Your Committee has made arrangements with Mr. Millard Johnston for the exhibition, during next season, of all the latest Biograph pictures from London, a new set for each concert, and he hopes to make the series very successful.

The first of the three recently acquired programmes, for the Melbourne Cricket Club Fourth Grand Open Air Concert of the season. Melbourne Cricket Ground Monday Evening Nov. 24th 1902 (top right) lists the concert with...

Code's Melbourne Brass Band under the conductor Mr E. Code. Artists; Miss Alice Corrick, Mons. E Napoleon Boffard, Mr John Goudy; also the Great Edisonia Animated Pictures shown by Mr G. D. Radcliffe. Accompaniment Mr E.H. Hanstein Musical Director Mr Fred MacGregor.

Indeed the Edisonia Animated pictures shown that night was a real eclectic mix including *The Wonderful Flying Scots*, *Ten minutes in China*, *A Trip Through London*, *Crossing Brooklyn Bridge* and even the *Trial of Sir T. Lipton's 'Shamrock'* [for the America's Cup challenge against Columbia in 1899]

**MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB.**  
... FOURTH ...  
**Grand Open-Air Concert**  
Of the Season.  
MELBOURNE MONDAY EVENING  
CRICKET GROUND. NOV. 24th, 1902. :: ::

**Code's Melbourne Brass Band**  
Conductor - Mr. E. CODE.  
Miss ALICE CORRICK, Mons. E. NAPOLEON BOFFARD, Mr. JOHN GOUDY; also the Great Edisonia Animated Pictures shown by Mr. G. D. RADCLIFFE.

**Artists.**  
Accompanist - Mr. E. H. HANSTEIN.  
Musical Director - Mr. FRED MACGREGOR.  
Concert Commences at 8 o'clock Sharp.

**Programme.**

1 SELECTION ...	"Mercadante's Operas" ...	Round
<b>CODE'S MELBOURNE BRASS BAND.</b>		
2 SONG ...	"Zanita" ...	Trotiere
<b>MR. JOHN GOUDY.</b>		
3 SONG ...	"Tell Me, My Heart" ...	Bishop
<b>MISS ALICE CORRICK.</b>		
4 SONG ...	"A Whispered Vow" ...	Jones
<b>Mons. E. NAPOLEON BOFFARD.</b>		
5 SELECTION ...	"The Toreador" ...	Caryll & Monckton
<b>CODE'S MELBOURNE BRASS BAND.</b>		
6 DUET ...	"The Moon Hath Raised" ...	Benedict
<b>Mons. E. NAPOLEON BOFFARD &amp; Mr. JOHN GOUDY.</b>		
INTERVAL - FIVE MINUTES.		
7 ANIMATED PICTURES...	The Wonderful Flying Scots—Ten minutes in China (showing Street Scenes, Market Place, Chinese Lounge, China Woman Spinning, Chinese leaving a Factory, Canal Train, A few Natives)—Diving Extraordinary.	
8 SELECTION ...	"Patience" ...	Sir A. Sullivan
<b>CODE'S MELBOURNE BRASS BAND.</b>		
9 SONG ...	"Will of the Wisp" ...	Chery
<b>MR. JOHN GOUDY.</b>		
10 SONG ...	"It was a Dream" ...	Cowan
<b>MISS ALICE CORRICK.</b>		
11 SONG ...	a "A Spanish Dance" ...	Bourgeois
	b "Tis not Good Bye" ...	Barnard
<b>Mons. E. NAPOLEON BOFFARD.</b>		
12 SELECTION ...	"The Bohemian Girl" ...	Balfie
<b>CODE'S MELBOURNE BRASS BAND.</b>		
INTERVAL - FIVE MINUTES.		
13 ANIMATED PICTURES...	A Trip Through London, from Marble Arch to the Bank in Ten Minutes—The Tram's Unexpected Skates—Crossing Brooklyn Bridge—The Camel takes the Biscuit—Rival Lovers—Hotel Internal, Strange Tricks Played by His Satanic Majesty—Trial of Sir T. Lipton's "Shamrock"—Lord George Sanger's Circus Procession.	
14 GRAND MARCH ...	"Palmer House" ...	Peltie
<b>CODE'S MELBOURNE BRASS BAND.</b>		
<b>"GOD SAVE THE KING."</b>		
J. McLAUGHLIN, Hon. Acting Secretary M.C.C.		
Admission to Grand Stand and Ground, 6d. <b>Next Concert, December 1st</b> When a Display of the Great Edisonia Pictures will be given.		
SYD. DAY, Print., Melb. <span style="float: right;">(OVER)</span>		

The MCC's Annual Report for 1902/03 once again reported on the preceding season of 26 Monday evening concerts.

*Concerts.*—A series of 26 Open-air Concerts were held on Monday evenings (commencing on 2nd November), with satisfactory results. The average attendance of the members weekly was an improvement over the previous season.

The Committee has made arrangements for the formation of a first-class Band, of full strength. The members will be picked performers, and the Band will be available for the evening Concerts, and for performances during the cricket season, and it is confidently anticipated that it will prove a very great additional attraction to the ground. Mr. T. Riley, the well-known "master," has been appointed conductor.

However, it was the announcement of the formation of a "first-class Band, of full strength" that was the main piece of news. The MCC Musical Sub-Committee August 13, 1903 minutes

purpose of playing at the Monday evening concerts that have proved so popular and enjoyable in the past. The opening concert this season has been fixed for Cup eve, Monday, 2nd November. The band will be available for cricket matches.

# Grand Open-Air

note they had approached Thomas Riley about the "possibility of forming a "M.C.C. Band".

The parties met on August 17 where Riley,

Promised to make enquiries as to the cost of a good band, to the Club, for evening concerts, Test matches, & some Saturday afternoons. Expected to pay about 10/- per man, & less for the series. Clothing about 30/- each for coat and cap. Mr Riley promised to give reply by Tuesday week.

Obviously the final conditions were suitable enough for all involved to agree to proceed.

Samples of uniforms for both groundsmen and bandsmen were approved by the MCC Committee at their meeting on September 15, 1903 and all was set for the public unveiling of the MCC's new band.

The *Age* of Friday 23 October 1903 contained an article heralding the formal announcement of the new MCC Military Band under the baton of conductor Mr Thomas Riley.

**The committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club have, through Mr. T. Riley, the well-known conductor, organised a band, to be known as the M.C.C. Military Band, for the purpose of playing at the Monday evening concerts that have proved so popular and enjoyable in the past. The opening concert this season has been fixed for Cup eve, Monday, 2nd November. The band will also be available for cricket matches, &c., and in order that the public may have an opportunity of judging its merits the band will play on the M.C.C. ground next Saturday afternoon, from 3 till 5.30 p.m., during the match M.C.C. v. St. Kilda, on which occasion there will be no charge for admission to the general public either to the ground or grand stand. M.C.C. members' ladies are invited to afternoon tea in the reserve.**

The front page of that same day's issue of the *Age* also prominently displayed an advertisement announcing that the band's inaugural performance would take place the following day.

**C R I C K E T**

—

MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND.

—

M.C.C. V. ST. KILDA,

SATURDAY, 23rd OCTOBER.

—

GRAND OPENING PERFORMANCE of the NEW  
M.C.C. MILITARY BAND.

—

PROGRAMME:

1. March, "Preciosa" . . . . . Weher
2. Overture, "Festival" . . . . . Leutner
3. Selection, "Reminiscences of England" Godfrey  
(Variations for Piccolo, Clarinets, Bassoon,  
Cornets, &c.)
4. Spanish Waltz, "Toreto" . . . . . Translatour
5. Piccolo Solo, "L'oiseau 'Mouche" . . . . . Danare
6. Selection, "The Messenger Boy" . . . . .
7. Waltz, "April Morn" . . . . . Caryl and Monekton  
(On the popular song).
8. Selection, "The Runaway Girl" . . . . . Battou  
God Save the King.

LIEUT. T. RILEY, Conductor.

Gates open 1.30. Cricket match starts 2 o'clock.  
Band performance 3 o'clock to 5.30 p.m.  
No charge will be made for admission to ground  
or stand.  
Members' ladies are invited to afternoon tea in  
the reserve.

OPENING NIGHT of the M.C.C. WEEKLY  
CONCERTS, MONDAY EVENING, 2nd NOV.  
B. J. WARDILL,  
Secretary, M.C.C.

This "Grand Opening performance" was during the MCC's match against St Kilda Cricket Club on the MCG. This was a well planned nibble to entice members and the public to attend the start of the 1903/04 Summer Grand Open-Air Concert season at the ground starting the following week with the traditional Melbourne Cup Eve opening. The match day concert created great interest in the new band.

Unfortunately the summer of 1903/04 was a wet one and a number of concerts were cancelled, resulting in 23 evening performances across the season by Lieutenant Riley and the MCC Military Band.

By this time Lieutenant Thomas Riley was a conductor and bandmaster in high demand. He had started his musical career in the early 1880s when he had conducted the Collingwood and Fitzroy District Brass Band at the opening of the Victorian Universal Exposition (Melbourne International Exhibition) at the Royal Exhibition Buildings.

By 1888 he was bandmaster of the Bacchus Marsh Brass Band and by 1900 he was a Lieutenant and bandmaster for the Colonial Fourth Battalion Infantry Brigade's band which was based at Castlemaine. He travelled with the Victorian forces as their bandmaster for the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia celebrations in Sydney at New Year 1901. Lieutenant Riley was also conducting other bands, such as the Police Band, the Royal Australian Artillery Band and combined military bands at public concerts throughout the early years of the twentieth century.

Unfortunately, in the winter following his appointment and establishment of the MCC Band, Lieutenant Riley found his key employment cut. On Tuesday 14 June 1904, page 6 of the *Age* reported under the heading

CASTLEMAINE - Owing to the retrenchment in the Defence department the band of the right half of the 8th Infantry Regiment has suffered a serious loss through the services of the instructor, Lieutenant T. Riley, being dispensed with. After the parade on Saturday Lieutenant Riley was entertained at Murphy's Castlemaine Hotel by the members of the band. In future the band will be instructed by Band Master Herschell, of Bendigo, the change being purely a matter of economy.

While the Commonwealth Government dispensed with his services for cost cutting reasons, the rest of Victorian society made the most of the opportunity to snap up Lieutenant Riley to provide his expertise across a wide range of different band and choral appointments.

One memorable example of his ability to combine different bands took place at the 1906 Police carnival. The *Leader* of February 24, 1906 reported that

A special attraction was the performance of the massed bands, which included those of the Tramways, Victorian Police, Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Victorian Rangers, Caledonian, Essendon Town and the Scottish Pipers, under the direction of Brigade Bandmaster Lieutenant T. Riley.



Copyright.



Indeed Lieutenant Riley's services proved so popular that soon after his appointment by the Melbourne Cricket Club as bandmaster of the MCC Military Band, he was soon providing a similar service for the Victorian Amateur Turf Club at Caulfield. Throughout the decade from 1904-1914 advertisements for concerts by both the MCC and VATIC Military Bands each "conducted by Lieut. T. Riley" appeared beside each other in the amusements section of the press. In most cases the band members were the same. For all intents and purposes the two were both really just "Lieutenant Riley's Military Band": the one band with common musician playing in the different uniforms of that day's corporate sponsor.

Riley and his band became so popular that there was even sheet music printed in Melbourne of popular tunes, "as played by Lieut. T. Riley's Military Band".

The example shown is a copy of *Lemari Gavotte* by Leo Carri held in the State Library of Victoria's sheet music collection. For the 1904/05 season Riley and the MCC Military Band played at another 23 Open-Air Monday night concerts as well as becoming a regular feature at Melbourne's home pennant cricket matches. They were so popular the band was increased in size from 30 to 40.

The second and third programmes recently acquired date from this season. One relates to the third concert of the season on November 14, 1904, and the other documents the 20<sup>th</sup> concert of the season on March 27, 1905.

The November concert also featured the Caledonian Band, one that Lieutenant Riley regularly collaborated with, in a number of solo and then massed band works. The musical numbers were supported by presentations of "New Electric Bioscope Pictures", which had replaced the Edisonia Animated pictures. These even included film of the English FA Cup match played at Bolton.

AS PLAYED BY LIEUT. T. RILEY'S MILITARY BAND.

# Lemari Gavotte

BY LEO GARRI

COMPOSER OF THE "PALM MARCH," AS PLAYED BY THE LEADING BANDS OF AUSTRALIA. "ONLY A WORKING MINER" (Song) &c., &c.

Price 2/- net.

PUBLISHED BY W. H. GLEN & CO. 274 COLLINS ST., MELBOURNE.

**MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB**  
THIRD  
**Grand Open-Air Concert**  
OF THE SEASON

MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND,  
Monday Evening, 14th November, 1904  
SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY MASSES BANDS  
The Caledonian Band and the M.C.C. Military Band  
(Conductor - Mr. J. RILEY). (Conductor - Lieut. T. RILEY).  
ARTISTS.—Signorina COY, Mr. ERNEST FITTS, and the NEW ELECTRIC BIOSCOPE PICTURES, shown by Messrs. Millard Johnson and W. A. Gibson.  
Musical Director and Accompanist Mr. R. W. OYSTON.  
Concert Commences at 8 o'clock sharp.

**PROGRAMME...**

1	OVERTURE ...	"Crown Diamonds" ...	Auber
		<b>MASSED BANDS.</b>	
2	SONG ...	"Till Death" ...	Mascheroni
		<b>MR. ERNEST FITTS.</b>	
3	SELECTION ...	"Faust" ...	Gounod
		<b>CALEDONIAN BAND.</b>	
4	SONG ...	"Sogno D'Amore" ...	Armengol
		<b>SIGNORINA COY.</b>	
5	GRAND FANTASIA ...	"Under the British Flag" ...	Kaprey
		(Songs and Dances of Great Britain and Her Colonies)	
		<b>MASSED BANDS.</b>	
6	ANIMATED PICTURES ...	by Messrs. MILLARD JOHNSON and W. A. GIBSON'S NEW ELECTRIC BIOSCOPE	
		Our Cook and her Lovers—The Lion of Lucerne—The Enchanted Bonnet Shop—The Child Stealers.	
7	PICCOLO SOLO ...	"Polka Brillanté" ...	Coole
		<b>Mr. W. J. COLE and M.C.C. BAND.</b>	
8	SONG ...	"I've Made up my Mind to Sail Away" ...	Scott
		<b>MR. ERNEST FITTS.</b>	
9	SELECTION on Stephen Adams' songs ...	<b>CALEDONIAN BAND.</b>	Kaprey
		"Absent" ...	Metcalf
10	SONGS ...	"Because" ...	D'Haydelot
		<b>SIGNORINA COY.</b>	
11	GRAND SELECTION ...	"The Flying Squadron" ...	Kaprey
		(on Patriotic Nautical Melodies)	
		<b>MASSED BANDS.</b>	
12	DUET ...	"At Love's Beginning" ...	Lehmann
		<b>SIGNORINA COY and MR. ERNEST FITTS.</b>	
13	VALE MILITAIRE ...	"The Grenadiers" ...	Waldteufel
		<b>M.C.C. MILITARY BAND.</b>	
14	ANIMATED PICTURES ...	by Messrs. MILLARD JOHNSON and W. A. GIBSON'S NEW ELECTRIC BIOSCOPE	
		Final Football Match for the English Cup, played at Bolton—Sailors and their Pets—Indian Nautch Dance—Returning from the Races, "Rome"—Jack O'Brien—Ball Punching—Woman and Wine—Life-Saving Drill by Blue-jackets—Baker and Boy.	
15	MARCH ...	"The Pride of the Navy" ...	
		(Arranged by T. Riley)	
		<b>MASSED BANDS.</b>	
		<b>GOD SAVE THE KING.</b>	

Silence is requested during Singing.

Admission to Grand Stand and Ground, SIXPENCE  
**Concert Every Monday Night**  
Complete Change of Programme, and an Entirely New Display of Electric Bioscope Pictures will be given.

The M.C.C. Military Band were the only band playing at the March 27, 1905 concert. As well as providing the accompaniment to three vocal soloists, they also performed six solo band pieces.

The supporting Bioscope pictures displayed at that concert included a short feature on Joan of Arc then a series of short pieces including the new phenomenon of a motor race, rabbit coursing and even the Port Fairy fishing fleet!

Melbourne Punch published an article entitled "A Proud Little Bandmaster" on page 6 of their Thursday, October 31, 1907 issue to profile Riley.

A great little man is Brigade Bandmaster Lieutenant T. Riley, whom the Women's Brass Band endowed with an inkstand and silver pencil at their final rehearsal before the Exhibition. Bandmaster Tommy Riley is a man whom you meet wherever you go. At military encampments he is the hero of Sunday services, for nobody listens to the parson, while everybody crowds round when Lieutenant Riley gets the band going. On racecourse lawns you again discover his sturdy little figure—He is shaped like a schnapper—and see his abbreviated arm waving the baton when their Excellencies are unloaded from their carriages amid great pomp and ceremony. There is not a big function which does not try to lure the little man into its service. The vigorous little musician has poised his stick for "God Save the King" so often, and in so many places, that whenever he sees Sir John Madden trotting into Mullen's, he pulls up to a dead halt on the sidewalk. Then he holds up one finger in the attitude of command, and beats slow time until the Excellency is out of sight. The sight of a Major-General—even a superannuated one—sets him beating out "The Englishman" in just the same way. Tommy Riley has brought up more bands than Solomon brought up children. Mr. "Punch" likes the cheery little conductor, and would be glad to see him receive forty inkstands instead of one.

Lieutenant Thomas Riley was awarded the Victorian Government's volunteers Long and Efficient Service Medal in April 1911. His photo appeared in the *Weekly Times* on April 29, 1911, on a page with others honoured. Riley looked older than his 54 years of age and it was later in 1911 that he suffered the first bouts of the ill-health that would afflict him throughout his remaining years.

Silence is requested during Singing.

**MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB**  
TWENTIETH  
**Grand Open-Air Concert**  
OF THE SEASON

**MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND** | **MONDAY EVENING... Mar. 27th, 1905**

**M.C.C. MILITARY BAND**  
Conductor - - Lieut. T. RILEY

ARTISTS.—Miss DAISIE BALFOUR, Mrs. W. E. OLDFIELD, Mr. HORACE STEVENS, and the NEW ELECTRIC BIOSCOPE PICTURES, shown by Messrs. Millard Johnson and W. A. GIBSON.  
Musical Director and Accompanist - - Mr. R. W. OYSTON.  
Concert Commences at 8 o'clock sharp.

...PROGRAMME...

1	OVERTURE	"Tancredi"	Rossini
		<b>M.C.C. MILITARY BAND</b>	
2	SONG	"Ashore"	Trotter
		<b>Mrs. W. E. OLDFIELD</b>	
3	SELECTION	"The Orchid"	Monckton
		<b>M.C.C. MILITARY BAND</b>	
4	SONG	"Homeward Bound"	Gleeson
		<b>Mr. HORACE STEVENS</b>	
5	VAISE	"Des Fleurs"	Tschaikowsky
		<b>M.C.C. MILITARY BAND</b>	
6	SONG (Illustrated)	"Come Back to Erin"	Claribel
		<b>Miss DAISIE BALFOUR</b>	
7	ANIMATED PICTURES	by Messrs. MILLARD JOHNSON and W. A. GIBSON'S NEW ELECTRIC BIOSCOPE A Series of Pictures depicting the Historical Story of JOAN OF ARC, the Maid of Orleans, from a peasant girl to burning at the stake	
8	OVERTURE	"Sailors Afloat"	Suppe
		<b>M.C.C. MILITARY BAND</b>	
9	SONG (Illustrated)	"Good Night, Beloved"	Oliver
		<b>Mrs. W. E. OLDFIELD</b>	
10	SONG	"The Village Blacksmith"	Weiss
		<b>Mr. HORACE STEVENS</b>	
11	MARCHE COMIQUE	"Mr. Thomas Cat"	Hall
		<b>M.C.C. MILITARY BAND</b>	
12	SONG	"If Thou Did'st Love Me"	Denza
		<b>Miss DAISIE BALFOUR</b>	
13	DUET	"Nocturne"	Denza
		<b>Mrs. W. E. OLDFIELD and Mr. HORACE STEVENS</b>	
14	ANIMATED PICTURES	by Messrs. MILLARD JOHNSON and W. A. GIBSON'S NEW ELECTRIC BIOSCOPE The Great Motor Race—Breaking Waves—Rabbit Coursing—Beresford's Fleet at Gibraltar—Domestic Troubles—Port Fairy Fishing Fleet.	
15	MARCH	"Studenten"	Dieдрихsen
		<b>M.C.C. MILITARY BAND</b>	
		<b>GOD SAVE THE KING.</b>	

Admission to Grand Stand and Ground, SIXPENCE.  
**Concert Every Monday Night**  
Complete Change of Programme, and an Entirely New Display of Electric Bioscope Pictures will be given.

BYD. DAY, Print., Melbourne. COVER

The 1905/06 MCC Annual Report noted that 22 concerts were held during that summer, with nine others lost to inclement weather. These 31 proposed concerts were the peak number proposed in a season at the ground.

Special mention was made in the report that,

The M.C.C. Military Band, under Lieut. Riley, gave most satisfactory performances, and again proved to be the attractive feature of the Concerts. The band was engaged on the ground during the Senior Cricket Matches, and the increased attendance at them showed that members and visitors greatly appreciated these performances on the Saturday afternoons.

By 1907 Lieutenant Riley was at the height of his popularity appearing at musical concerts across the state. An appreciation for the decades of hard work and support that he had given to the musical arts in Victoria was just starting to be publicly shown.







Then on November 23, 1912, the *Commonwealth Gazette's* appointments section announced that Thomas Riley had been promoted to honorary Captain and Brigade Bandmaster for the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade on the Australian 3<sup>rd</sup> military district. Riley's efforts had been recognised by the Commonwealth military at last.

By the final years of the first decade of the twentieth century, open-air concerts were becoming very popular around Melbourne. So much so that it was commented upon in the 1908/09 *Annual Report* of the MCC.

*Concerts.* — There were seventeen Concerts held on the ground during the season, which were, as usual, well attended by both the Members and the public. There are now thirteen or fourteen localities where open-air concerts are held, so that we do not expect to do more than retain the position these concerts have hitherto held.

The M.C.C. Military Band, under the guidance of Lieut. T. Riley, has been a source of great satisfaction to the Members.

With proliferating opposition, it appeared that the halcyon days of the 24+ summer concerts at the MCG were over. Seasons hovered around 15-20 concerts. In spite of the popularity of the MCC Military Band maintained through Thomas Riley's high standards, the growth in Cinema or Picture Theatres was also starting to have an impact.

The format of the concerts and season itself stayed fairly constant all the way through to the abandonment of evening concerts after the conclusion of the 1914/15 summer season.

They would open around Melbourne Cup Eve and finish in early to mid-March. As always in Melbourne with an open-air event the main factor determining the difference between a standard or bumper year of profit was the weather. While wet summers impacted the bottom line, there was no escaping the fact that Military Bands were still popular entertainment.

On March 2, 1911 *Melbourne Punch's* music column reported that, "The musical committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club are to be congratulated on the excellence of the open-air concerts this season, which are regularly drawing large attendances of over 5000 and 6000 people." It continued, noting that the Club has, "succeeded in establishing high-class summer concerts, which can be listened to in comfort and under most pleasant conditions", before concluding with, "The M.C.C. Military Band, under the capable leadership of Captain Riley, is an important feature at these concerts."

Indeed it was Captain Thomas Riley and the MCC Military Band that ensured the concerts produced good profits for the Melbourne Cricket Club right to the start of the Great War. For example in 1911/12 the concert series had cleared over £150, and it increased again the following year.

However, Captain Riley spent some months of 1913 bedridden, with the return of his illness. Luckily it coincided with the winter months and had minimal impact upon his duties overseeing the M.C.C. Military Band. He

returned for the 1913/14 season of concerts, which would be his last. He led the band for the last time at a concert on the ground on Monday March 16, 1914. The band's last number, save for the rousing rendition of *God Save the King* which concluded every concert, was *The Gladiators Farewell* march. It turned out to be an entirely fitting choice.

Over the winter months his illness returned again and Captain Riley stood down from his various positions, including with the MCC, VATC and Police Bands. MCC Secretary Hugh Trumble sent a hand-written personal note to him on October 21, 1914, "Dear Tom, I shall be glad if you would give me a call when in town. Yours faithfully, Hugh Trumble, Secretary."

The following month the club committee completed their tender for a new band, arranging for Mr Steele, the club's musical director, to liaise with the Musicians Union Band to employ 30 performers "to play as M.C.C. Military Band". The band would continue without Captain Riley.

However, the combination of the very wet summer of early 1915, coupled with a growing public opposition to attending light-hearted public entertainment during the war, pushed the 1914/15 evening concert series to its first major loss for over a decade. The 11 concerts lost over £113. All parties involved agreed to suspend the evening concerts until peacetime returned.

The *Argus* of Monday August 14, 1916, contained a death notice for Captain Riley on the front page.

RILEY.-On the 12 August, at his residence. No.7 Beaconsfield road. Auburn, Captain Thomas Riley (late headmaster Commonwealth Military Forces), the beloved husband of Mary Riley, aged 59 years. (Private interment.) Requiescat in pace.

A news piece appeared on page six.

Captain Thomas Riley, late bandmaster to the Commonwealth military forces, whose death occurred on Saturday, was very well known and extremely popular in Melbourne musical circles. A few years ago he and his brass band were very prominent at outdoor functions of all kinds, and Mr. Riley's services as an conductor were in great request, his worth as a musician being fully recognised.

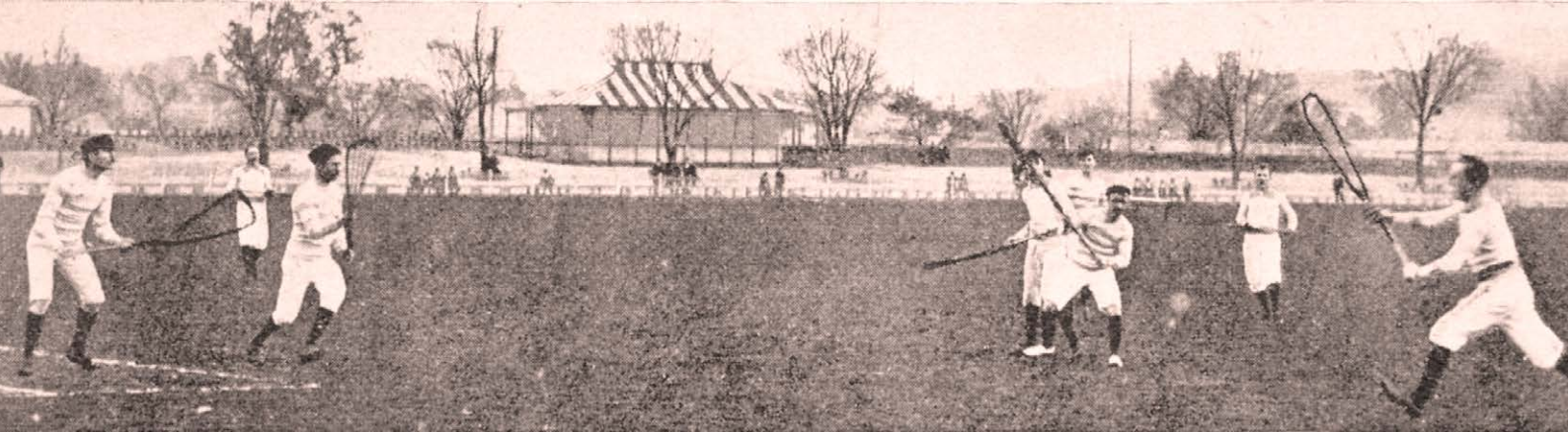
Obituaries were published in papers across the state. The *Mount Alexander Mail's* was published the Tuesday after his death. They concluded with the following tribute,

He was probably the best-known bandmaster in Victoria, and none was more popular. Of late years, he was bandmaster to the Commonwealth military forces, but recently resigned owing to ill-health.



Remarkably little is held in the club's heritage collections on the moonlight/open-air concerts and the MCC Military Band. The Museum and Library contain a handful of programmes, and the Museum has a concert ticket. The Archives contain ledgers for the concert accounts and the Musical Committee's minutes. Any images of concerts, especially of the band and their uniforms, as well as programmes would be of interest to the library staff and volunteers.

**Endnote**  
1. The Library of Congress restored Edison footage of the final race can be seen at <https://youtu.be/UXindBeEsgg>



# The Little Brother of ~~War~~ Football?

## Lacrosse at the MCG

By Trevor Ruddell

Australian lacrosse began with the epiphany of a man as he watched a football match in Yarra Park, just north of the MCG. A MCC member, Lambton Le Breton Mount, was one of around 10,000 spectators "jostling and crushing each other in their anxiety to gain a spot commanding a good view" of the field where Carlton played Melbourne for the premiership on September 25, 1875.<sup>1</sup> The Blues won the match when the only goal was kicked late in the game. The *Australasian's* football columnist described it as "the most exciting match ever played in the colony."<sup>2</sup> Mount was less impressed. He wrote, "... while witnessing the final match of the season between the Melbourne and Carlton football clubs, it occurred to me what a much superior game La Crosse was, and I then resolved to take steps to initiate it in Victoria."<sup>3</sup>

Mount was born in 1839 and arrived in gold rush Melbourne with his family in 1853. He had lived in Australia for 23 years but he retained a vivid memory of lacrosse in his birthplace, Montreal, Canada. He wrote, "I used to watch with rapturous excitement, the Red Indians, tribe against tribe, play the game of La Crosse, and always yearned impatiently for the time

when I should be big enough to play also... but migrating to this colony while yet a lad, the feverish scenes of the golden days completely banished it from my mind."<sup>8</sup>

Unlike the Mohawk game Mount viewed as a lad, the lacrosse of the mid-1870s was organised in the manner of English sports, with written rules and constituted clubs. To many Canadians lacrosse had evolved from a native curio into a national sport that would soon be patronised by non-other than Queen Victoria. She requested a demonstration at Windsor Castle on June 26, 1876, during a tour of the British Isles by an Indian team from Caughnawaga [Kahnawake] and a team of "Canadian gentlemen".<sup>9</sup> Therefore, Mount imported a readymade and respectable recreation to Melbourne when he ordered, "40 La Crosse sticks, and the rules of the game" from Canada, and "called a meeting of my friends and acquaintances, and others anxious to initiate the game, at the Port Phillip Club Hotel on Wednesday, April 12 [1876], for the purpose of establishing the Melbourne La Crosse Club."<sup>10</sup>

Mount was a leading runner in Ballarat and Melbourne during the early 1860s, HCA Harrison described him as "my most formidable opponent,"<sup>11</sup> and his appeal attracted a number of prominent cricketers and footballers; such as Jack Conway, Thomas Kelly, Frank Allan, Jack Donovan and Harry Boyle. The nascent club purportedly had over 50 members by the end of April.<sup>12</sup> Its inaugural game was on June 17 at Albert Park but few if any of Australia's first lacrosseurs had more than a modicum of practical exposure to the sport. The *Australasian* noted that, "there was an amount of awkwardness exhibited by some of the players which will not be noticeable when further practice is indulged in."<sup>13</sup> After three years of internal matches, three clubs budded off the Melbourne Lacrosse Club in 1879, to form the Victorian Lacrosse Association (VLA).

At the close of the first VLA season two combined teams, one comprising players from the South Melbourne and Carlton clubs, and the other drawn from Melbourne and Fitzroy, met in two exhibition games. The Melbourne/Fitzroy combine won the first game at Albert Park. The second match was played on October 4 at the MCG. The

## The Origins of Modern Lacrosse

When Europeans colonised North America many versions of stick and ball field games were being played by Native Americans.<sup>4</sup> Modern lacrosse was derived from the Mohawk (Iroquois nation) ballgame *tewaarathon*, particularly a version played on the Mohawk reservations of Akwesasne (Saint Regis), and Kahnawake (Caughnawaga) near Montreal. The earliest known lacrosse game between Indians and Montreal townfolk took place on August 29, 1844. Thereafter, games were played irregularly in the city until the Montreal Lacrosse Club was established in 1856.<sup>5</sup> In 1858 and 1859 other middle class Anglophone athletic clubs formed teams, and during the early 1860s clubs were established outside Quebec in Ontario. Lacrosse's organization matured in 1867 when the sport was formally codified by the Montreal club and the National Lacrosse Association of Canada was established by 27 clubs at Kingston, Ontario.<sup>6</sup> Lacrosse in this era, having already transcended its indigenous origins, transcended its middle class amateur filters too, finding enthusiasts within working class communities. The notoriously physical and ruthless Irish working class Montreal Shamrock Lacrosse Club, whose players often played for pay, was the "perennial champions between 1869 and 1884".<sup>7</sup>

**Top:** Victoria's Stuart Simson throws one of his six goals for Victoria against New South Wales at the MCG on July 22, 1899. The outer is sparsely populated suggesting a majority of the 4,000 in attendance watched from the northern side of the ground. Simson was one of the "young cricketers" introduced to the sport through the MCC Lacrosse Club in 1896. *Australasian*, July 29, 1899. (MCC Library collection)

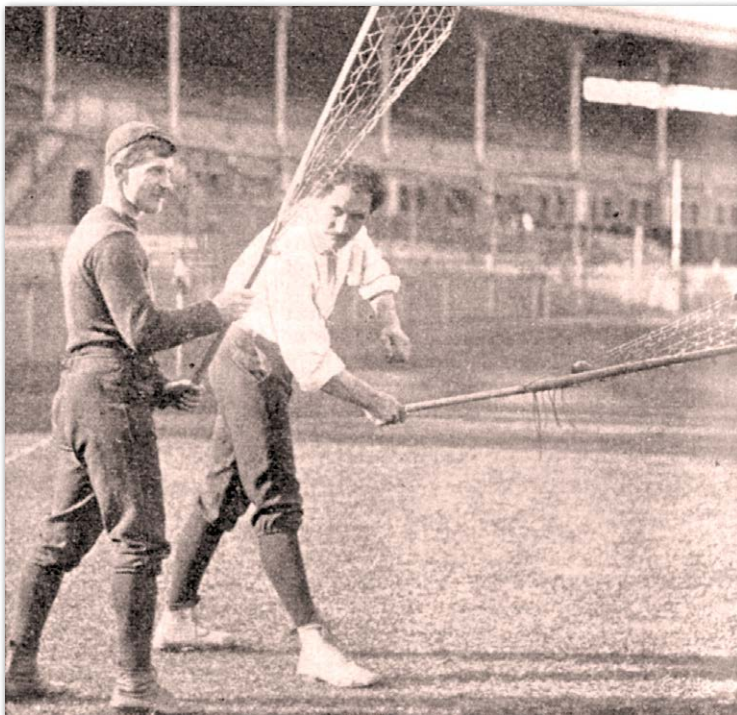


South/Carlton team won this first lacrosse match at the MCG three goals to two before an all but empty arena. An *Australasian* columnist wrote,

...it was expected that the game would attract a large number of spectators, but contrary to expectation, not more than 300 were present. The game does not seem to be nearly so popular with the general public as it is with the players themselves, who all appear to take the liveliest interest in it.<sup>14</sup>

Victorian lacrosse games of the era were not representative of the sport at its best or most intense. John MacDonald, a Melbourne footballer who had seen "fast, punishing" senior lacrosse matches in Montreal, referred to the Victorian version as "a slow game".<sup>15</sup> The VLA was gentlemanly. It had about 120 players, the games had little fury, and negligible spectator appeal. Another field game dominated Melbourne's winters in the 1880s. The local football club was the outward athletic expression of entire towns and suburbs. Senior football matches drew passionate masses of all classes, ages, and both sexes, who in their thousands paid to enter enclosed grounds. This provided a major revenue source for cricket clubs. Therefore, throughout the 1880s the MCG was a football venue almost every Saturday and public holiday between May and August. The MCC was not hostile to lacrosse, in fact a MCC minute of June 6, 1888, recorded, "Lacrosse: Resolved that facilities be granted any day but Saturday free of charge".<sup>16</sup> Yet, lacrosse would not reappear at the MCG until 1892.

In the late 1880s the VLA's membership dropped from a peak of 10 clubs fielding 13 teams in 1886 to just five teams in 1890. That year Cecil "Cis" Murray returned from his travels through England and North America and became, "instrumental in working up a revival in the game, which was at that time at a very low ebb."<sup>17</sup> In 1891 the VLA reformed. Its rules were altered to make it more like the Canadian game, with each match starting with a "face off" rather than a "throw up", while teams were reduced from 13 to 12 players. A pennant for the premier club was also provided by "Cis" Murray, the VLA's new honorary secretary.



Above: In 1897 Cis Murray (right) posed for this photo dodging Collingwood's G Bachelor at the MCG. *Australasian*, May 22, 1897. p.1080. (MCC Library collection)

Murray was introduced to lacrosse as a youth in the mid-1880s by the University club. Besides University, he also played for a short-lived St Kilda club in 1887, represented Victoria in its first intercolonial match in 1888, and was a prominent player for Caulfield in the first half of the 1890s. A prolific goal thrower, within the decade Murray would be vital to the formation of the MCC Lacrosse Club and the staging of regular lacrosse matches at the MCG.

The first lacrosse match at the MCG in over a decade was a curtain-raiser to a Melbourne v Essendon football match on July 30, 1892. It was contested by two Victorian selections with, "a two fold object, viz., practice for the representative team, and to give the public an opportunity of witnessing a good exposition of the game of lacrosse... on one of the metropolitan cricket grounds."<sup>22</sup> However, it was not the perfect promotion that lacrosse purists may have hoped for. "Centre", the lacrosse commentator for the *Sportsman* wrote,

As was to be expected in a team comprising players from different clubs, there was too much individual play, and not enough of that concerted play required to show the amount of skill that may be acquired in handling the ball in, or more correctly on, the crosse, and which is so essential in good matches.<sup>23</sup>

A combined match at the MCG on Queen's Birthday 1893 was similarly reviewed by "Centre" who wrote, "...it must now be evident to the most ardent enthusiast that lacrosse will not be popularised by matches played between mixed teams."<sup>24</sup>

On June 8, 1895, two of the VLA's leading clubs, Caulfield and South Melbourne, met in the first pennant match at the MCG.<sup>25</sup> With all funds going to charity, the MCG was granted free of charge and all other VLA matches were suspended in the hope that neutral lacrosse supporters would attend. The *South Melbourne Record's* "Facing Off"

## Lacrosse Athletic Events at MCG

In the 1890s lacrosseurs showcased their skills at athletic meetings on the MCG. The VLA made enquiries with Melbourne Harriers and the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association (VAAA) "with a view of inducing new membership" in June 1892,<sup>18</sup> and on July 11 the VLA appointed a delegate to the VAAA. The VAAA was established in 1891 and organised the first Australasian Championship Sports at the MCG in November 1893. Two lacrosse themed events were on the program. The "Lacrosse Handicap" on the first day was a quarter mile race in which each competitor "had to carry a crosse and ball, and negotiate his way with these *impedimenta* over hurdles: also to throw the ball over ropes stretched across the track and race home with the ball in the crosse."<sup>19</sup> The following day "Throwing the Lacrosse Ball" was won by Cis Murray with a 149 yard throw.<sup>20</sup> The 1896 University Sports on June 25 at the MCG also included "Throwing Lacrosse Ball". Such events would be held at University athletic meetings into the twentieth century.<sup>21</sup>



The MCC's 1898 VLA A Division premiers team. The front row includes Theo Handfield (far left), Dan White (holding a crosse) and Cis Murray (third from the left). MCC secretary Major Ben Wardill is in the top row centre. (MCC Museum collection M10)

wrote, "on such a perfect day and an even turf good lacrosse was to be expected and good lacrosse was played for never of late years has there been a better exposition of the game." However, he prefaced the description,

... it is regretted that the charities will not be much benefited. Had the match been well advertised and longer notice given, the proceeds might have been larger. Even members of the various clubs were ignorant till [sic] late in the week where the match was to be played and that the proceeds were to be devoted to charity.<sup>26</sup>

The gripping match, played before largely empty stands, was drawn, three goals apiece. Cis Murray equalised for Caulfield just three minutes from time. Caulfield, established in 1890, won the VLA's premiership from 1892 to 1894. Its backbone was formed by the Murray brothers, Cis, Basil, Hugh and Noel. However, in 1895 it finished fourth, University, Essendon and South having surpassed them. All four clubs with Collingwood and Hawthorn, contested the VLA's relatively new "annual tournament", a lightning premiership that was held at the MCG on July 13. The tournament was determined the following week at the MCG when Essendon defeated University in the curtain-raiser to the

Melbourne v Port Melbourne football match. University later won the 1895 VLA pennant, but in 1896 an upstart MCC Lacrosse Club would challenge all the established teams.

The advent of MCC lacrosse was apparently driven by "two or three of the more enthusiastic" MCC members.<sup>27</sup> Dan White, the club's inaugural secretary and the MCC's captain from 1897 to 1904, wrote that he, Cis Murray and Theo. Handfield were the "backbone of the new club", all three having, "played prominent parts for other teams prior to undertaking the establishment of the game amongst the young cricketers."<sup>28</sup> Only five of the 1896



## Dan White

Daniel White first played lacrosse as a favour for a friend – he helped to make up the numbers for the short-lived Doric club late in the 1892 season. White became one of the sport's leading players and advocates within months of picking up a crosse. White was a co-founder of the Civil Service club in 1893 (renamed South Melbourne in 1895) and was the secretary of the VLA from 1895 until 1902.<sup>29</sup> He even designed the nets that were placed on the goals for all VLA matches from 1896. White was instrumental in the establishment of the MCC Lacrosse Club in 1896, a team he captained from 1897 to 1904. The *MCC Annual Report* for 1903/04 noted that, until White's work commitments forced him to leave Melbourne for the country, he had "played in every match with the Senior Team since the formation of the Club."<sup>30</sup> White was a tireless lacrosse promoter and *Table Talk* noted that he, "worked hard and long, and much credit is due to him for the progress made by the game here during the period of his occupation of the position [as secretary], mainly owing to the zeal and energy displayed by him. On the field he has had few rivals as an exponent of the game, and fewer still as a director of the men in his charge."<sup>31</sup> White died in January 1907 aged 35. The *Sydney Referee* remembered him, "It might almost be said that he lived too far ahead of the game as it was played here. He saw points and possibilities that few players in this country have noticed."<sup>32</sup>

Dan White, in MCC uniform, taking a high catch. *Australasian*, May 22, 1897. (MCC Library collection)



MCC lacrosse team were regular players in 1895 and, with the exception of another one or two, the rest were novices.<sup>33</sup>

The new club also opened Melbourne's famous arena to lacrosseurs on a regular basis. The MCC played six VLA matches at the MCG in 1896. Four of them were football curtain-raisers, but from 1897 to 1910 lacrosse matches were generally played at the MCG on Saturdays when the ground was not being used for football.

The MCC's debut lacrosse match was at the MCG against Essendon on May 2, 1896. It was a curtain-raiser for the Melbourne v Essendon football match and therefore would, "probably be viewed by a much larger gathering of spectators than all the others [lacrosse games] put together."<sup>34</sup> The MCC was given little chance against one of the VLA's powerhouses, owing that much of the team comprised "men who had not previously bandied a crosse."<sup>35</sup> However, their one-all draw presaged a new lacrosse power in Victoria.

Under the captaincy of Cis Murray, the MCC finished its first season as runners-up to Essendon. The club was soon

blessed with an oversupply of lacrosseurs, and in 1897 it established a B Division team that played primarily at the Warehouseman's Cricket Ground (renamed the Albert Ground in 1908) adjoining Albert Park. The Murray brothers also reunited at the MCC that year, Caulfield having disbanded after the 1896 season. The MCC, runners-up to University in 1897, won their first VLA A Division pennant in 1898.<sup>36</sup> It also won premierships in 1901 and 1902, the latter decided by a play-off against University at the MCG.

Although the play-off was the most anticipated club game of the season, the crowd was small. "The spectators were not as numerous as they might have been," the *Sportsman's* lacrosse columnist reported, "but what they lacked in numbers they made up in enthusiasm and every point in the game was loudly applauded."<sup>37</sup> The largest lacrosse attendances of this era were drawn to representative matches, not VLA games.

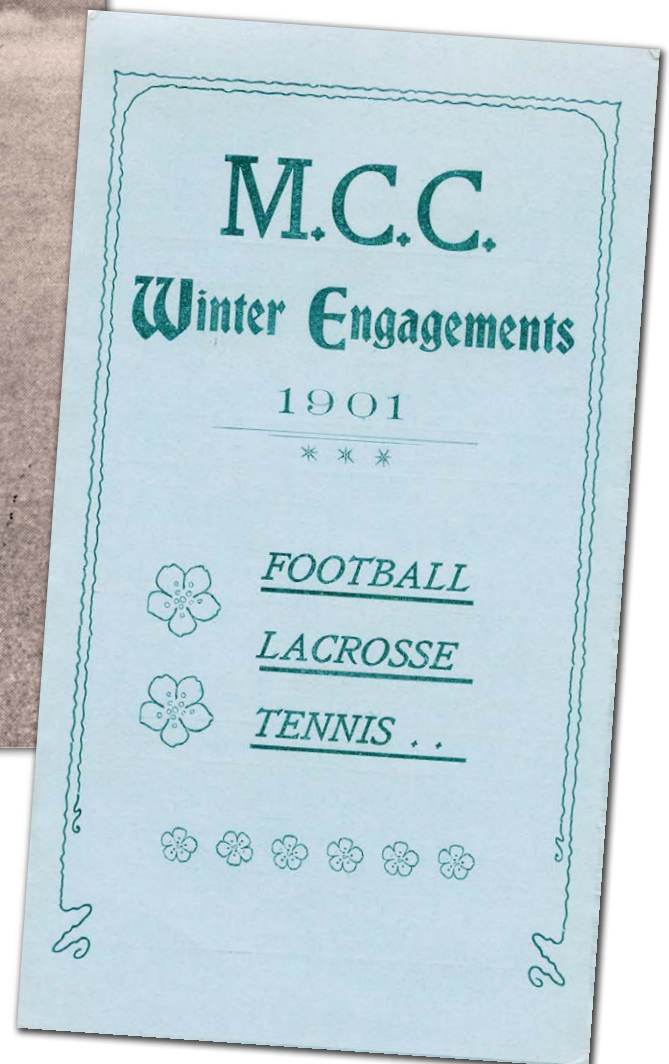
One year after the establishment of the MCC Lacrosse Club, the MCG was hosting intercolonial matches. However, representative lacrosse was not new to Victoria. Intercolonial games had been played in Melbourne since Saturday

September 1, 1888, when Victoria met South Australia on the East Melbourne Cricket Ground, the MCG being unavailable. In July 1897 the MCG hosted its first intercolonials when South Australia and New South Wales toured Victoria for the "great Australian lacrosse rally".<sup>38</sup> Thereafter, the MCG saw intercolonial/state games almost annually until 1906.<sup>39</sup> The largest attendance for a domestic lacrosse match at the MCG was estimated at 6,000 for the Victoria v South Australia game in 1898. But



**Above:** Basil Murray joined his brother Cis at the MCC in 1897. Basil, like his brother, was a prolific and ambidextrous goal scorer. He is posed in full MCC uniform shooting over his left shoulder. *Australasian*, May 22, 1897. p.1080. (MCC Library collection)

**Right:** 1901 fixture published by the MCC for three of the club's winter sports. (MCC Library collection)





and Queensland lacrosse associations, aided by £250 from the South Australian Cricket Association and the MCC each.<sup>42</sup>

Despite some confusion over the first instalment, the Canadians left Vancouver for Australia on June 21 and played their first match against Queensland before 8,000 spectators in Brisbane on July 20. The first full international was one week later at the MCG. Prior to the Tests there were concerns over differences in the rules, such as the size of the grounds. The Australian field was 150 yards from goal to goal while the Canadian standard was 110 yards.<sup>43</sup> A compromise of 135 yards was determined for the first Test.

attendances for interstate games at the MCG declined in the early years of the twentieth century. Victoria's game against New South Wales in 1901 drew as few as 1,000 spectators.

The biggest lacrosse drawcard of the era was the Canadian team that toured Australia in 1907. Australian lacrosse officials had corresponded regarding a tour with a variety of Canadian counterparts irregularly from as early as 1900. But when the prospect of this tour fell through, the MCC's secretary, Major Ben Wardill, was also used briefly as a conduit. In 1902 Wardill was the manager of the Australian cricket team in England, and he was engaged to arrange for an English team to tour, and contact the manager of the Toronto Lacrosse Club, then touring the British Isles that northern summer. Wardill wrote to Dan White (VLA's secretary and MCC captain) that Toronto's manager, J. Melrose Macdonald, was in principal sympathetic to a tour.<sup>40</sup> But such approaches amounted to nothing. Pessimists thought a tour by a fully representative Canadian team was unlikely. The Australian and Canadian lacrosse seasons clashed making a tour unattractive to Canadian professionals, and some of Canada's best lacrosseurs were Indian and may be barred under the White Australia Policy.

It was only after the South Australian Lacrosse Association's Lindsay Jones corresponded with John C. Miller that the prospect of a visit was realised in 1907. Miller, vice-president of the Canadian Lacrosse Association (CLA) and Mayor of Orillia, Ontario, organised and managed a team, "said to be thoroughly representative of amateur lacrosse in Canada"<sup>41</sup> and composed "almost entirely of university men and graduates". The tour was guaranteed with £1,500 (C\$7,500) from the Victorian, South Australian, Western Australian

At a MCG reception soon after the Canadians arrived in Melbourne, MCC president, Justice Leo Cussen stated that the club "had taken great interest in the visit, hoping it would do much for lacrosse and clean sport generally."<sup>44</sup> The Victorian Football League (VFL, now AFL) had not programmed matches for Saturday July 27, the weekend of the first Test, and a crowd of 14,000 gathered for the historic lacrosse match. Many were football supporters new to the game, and *Melbourne Punch* observed that they got, "enthusiastically excited over the play and it was amusing to observe the interjections inspired by football habit. For instance, when the little ball was caught in the crosse by a player the cry, 'Mark,' would be raised, and the shout, 'Free Kick,' was frequent."<sup>45</sup> To the applause of the crowd and the surprise of the Canadians, Australia won five goals to three.

Canada partially attributed this loss to the large size of the field, which they would renegotiate down to 130 yards for the second Test, and then 125 yards by the third. Canada's players also responded to their first defeat by resorting to physical and ruthless tactics, common to the Canadian game, in subsequent Tests. Of the second international at the Adelaide Oval, the *Australasian's* correspondent commented that the Canadians, "were rougher and trickier than their opponents. They did not hesitate to smash at the body, trip, shepherd and lay hands on their opponents' crosses."<sup>46</sup> Canada won the Test six goals to three, and these physical tactics would also be exploited by the Canadians when they returned for the third international at the MCG.

Despite inclement weather and directly competing against football matches, as many as 11,000 people returned to the MCG on August 10 for the third Test. The game is notable for the debut of the MCC's first international, Allan Box, and two Queenslanders; the first two Test teams were composed exclusively South Australians and Victorians.<sup>47</sup>

**Top:** The 1907 Canadians are pictured with the Victorian team, whom they played at the MCG on Monday August 12. Canada won nine goals to one. The Canadians wore royal purple and white jerseys with "Canada" emblazoned in white across the chest, white caps, white knickers, and no stockings. (AGOS&OM 1987.1857.6)

## A Contrast in Styles and Attitudes

The Canadian lacrosse team brought a game to Australia that was quite different to that hitherto employed in Melbourne. Lacrosse had evolved in isolation here. "Left Home" for the *Leader* noted that following the sport's somewhat naive but enthusiastic introduction by Mount, "no Canadian had helped its progress."<sup>48</sup> The interchange of lacrosseurs between the continents had been negligible with the notable exception of Cis Murray in 1890.<sup>49</sup> Therefore, the game's basic skills and implements were similar, but differing social factors, intensity of competition and the size of playgrounds created distinct styles.

The Canadians' throwing skills were much superior to the Australians. The Canadian field was 110 yards between goals, and they favoured a possessive game based on short precise passes, and endeavoured to direct play through the centre of the ground. Their play could be quite attractive as they slowly worked the ball down field coolly and methodically, "until after the centre is passed the forwards come on like a cloud passing the ball rapidly backwards and forwards one to another."<sup>50</sup> The Canadians were not adverse to "wasting time behind the goal" when advantageous. This tactic frustrated Adelaide spectators at the fourth Test "who hooted vigorously"<sup>51</sup>

The Australian style was expansive with tactics seemingly derived from their distinctive football code. They used the wings extensively, often ran with the ball – trusting their speed of foot and dodging ability – and penetrated opposition defences with long throws forward on their large grounds – 150 yards from goal to goal. This approach was risky and gave the Canadians a number of opportunities to intercept the ball. Given the differing styles the crosses also varied. The Canadians' netting was baggier, better suited to catching and their possession game, while the pockets on the Australians' crosses were tighter and

favoured throwing with velocity and shooting.

Lacrosse in Australia was strictly amateur and its players were largely middle class. Canadian lacrosse, in contrast, appealed to a wide cross-section of classes and communities, and after decades of professional lacrosse in Canada, many of the Dominion's lacrosseurs valued gamesmanship and winning above sportsmanship and the manner in which the game was played.<sup>52</sup> Therefore, the 1907 tourists were nominally amateur, but the ethic of open lacrosse led to a tough and ruthless attitude not previously experienced in Australia. Prior to the tour a Canadian wrote to an Australian friend and described the Australian style as "kid glove". He wrote,

I saw a team play lacrosse in Australia when I was there, and it struck me that they were accustomed to playing in the parlour instead of in a good open field. They seem to be afraid to strike one another, or afraid to bring their sticks down on each other for the fear they would break.<sup>53</sup>

This may explain why Canadians played in protective attire. The 1907 Canadians introduced specialised padded headwear and thick leather gloves to Australia, which soon became a part of many Australian lacrosseurs' kits. Prior to and during the tour, Australians generally played without much protection and more than once an Australian left the field with "cuts". "Crozier" claimed in *Table Talk*,

... that every man in the Australian team bore the marks of the fray, their bodies being beaten and streaked with blue weals, their faces cut, the tendons of their legs bruised... The Canadians took the field armour-clad, conclusive proof that they are used to a hard-hitting and vindictive style of play. When a man passed them, they made spiteful remarks and cold-bloodedly tripped him – an un-British, low, cunning, savage trick.<sup>54</sup>

Australia's Fred Kell (left) and Canada's Frank Grace prepare to face off.  
*Australasian*, August 3, 1907.  
(MCC Library collection)





Scene from the third Test at the MCG. *Melbourne Punch*, August 15, 1907. (MCC Library collection)

The match was also rough, *The Age* commented,

It was unfortunate that the spirit of fairness which characterised the first game in Melbourne was not so manifest, the Canadians frequently resorting to tripping their opponents who happened to have at the moment bested them.<sup>55</sup>

The most egregious and baffling act occurred in the final quarter. As a goal umpire remonstrated with the Canadian Frank Grace for deliberately striking his opponent with his crosse (who retaliated in kind, the pair having "a duel with crosses"<sup>56</sup>), Grace's team mate, H Camplin, tripped the umpire "in fun" and was promptly sent off for five minutes. Still, *The Age* correspondent was forgiving, "But for these incidents," he wrote, "the game was a splendid one. Both sides checked hard, but so long as the checking, is confined to the crosse it is quite competent and in, accordance with the rules."<sup>57</sup>

The Canadians defeated the Australians four goals to nil. At a smoke concert in the MCC Members' Pavilion after the game, Canada's captain, Tom Hanley, stated that, "he exceedingly regretted one or two incidents in the game that could not appeal to the public or to the players." However, he qualified it. "He and his team had found it difficult to interpret the rules as they were understood in Australia. Often he thought he had mastered them, but when on the field some things had been done which showed him he had failed."<sup>58</sup>

Canada also won a similarly rugged fourth Test six goals to four at Adelaide to claim the series. Of 17 matches in Australia the Canadians lost just one, threw 162 goals and gave up 37. The tourists played matches in all mainland capitals as well as Ballarat, Bendigo, Fremantle and Kalgoorlie, and the four Tests in Melbourne and Adelaide exposed the sport to large crowds. The Canadians introduced a systematic short passing technique to Australia and Australians soon reduced the size of their pitches to suit.<sup>59</sup> However, Australian lacrosse remained isolated. Australia was invited to send a team for the 1908 London Olympic Games but the local associations were unable to finance it. Entreaties in 1909 for a tour by an English team in 1910 would not be realised either. Half a century would pass before the Australian national team faced international opposition.

Australian lacrosse enthusiasts returned to a diet of club and interstate matches. There does not appear to be an immediate increase in player numbers in Melbourne; the same number of VLA teams existed in 1908 as there were in 1907.<sup>60</sup> Lacrosseurs were still drawn from the middle class and they maintained a strict amateur ethic, thereby limiting the pool of potential recruits.<sup>61</sup> Further, without an international attraction the game failed as a

mass spectator sport. Only 2,071 watched Victoria play South Australia at the MCG in 1909, and 2,281 in 1911.

The ultimate threat to regular lacrosse games at the MCG was the co-tenancy of the VFL's University Football Club in 1911. From its origin the MCC's lacrosse team had shared winters at the MCG with the Melbourne Football Club. The introduction of a second VFL team filled the MCG's winter programme and forced MCC A Section lacrosse on to the Albert Ground. University's attendances were modest by VFL standards, it averaged 6,109 per "home" match at the MCG in 1911, but these figures far exceeded the potential attendances for club lacrosse. Nor could the lacrosseurs play as curtain-raisers for the football games. That place in the programme was the almost exclusive preserve of the MCC Baseball Club. Therefore, when the MCC lacrosse team defeated South Yarra eight goals to five on August 27, 1910, to register its 51<sup>st</sup> VLA A Section win at the MCG, it would be the last time the MCC's lacrosseurs would grace the arena for decades. Of 72 MCG games from 1896 to 1910 it had lost just 19 pennant matches and two were drawn.

For a few years lacrosse would be staged occasionally at the MCG. In 1911 an interstate match was played at the



The 1907 Australian team prior to the first Test. Australia wore dark green jerseys with a gold (yellow) ring over the shoulders and around each forearm, dark green caps, white knickers, and black stockings. *Melbourne Punch*, August 1, 1907. p.19. (MCC Library collection)

Standing: C Graham (V), CV Hughes (SA), AS Mann (SA), JG Latham (ref.), R Taylor (SA), WC Noblet (SA), W Bryning (V). Seated: V Steet (V), F Kell (SA), F Delves (V), L Humphris (SA), L Jones (SA), EO Gooden (SA).



# MCG LACROSSE STATISTICS

## LACROSSE AT THE MCG 1879 – 1959

	Games	Goals	Highest Score
International (Test)	2	12	5 – Australia v Canada, July 27, 1907
Intercolonial/state	15	217	20 – Victoria v New South Wales, July 20, 1901
VLA A Section	76	1045	23 – MCC v South Melbourne, July 17, 1897 23 – MCC v Hawthorn, July 10, 1909
VLA B Section	5	58	14 – MCC B v University B, June 17, 1905
VLA D Section	1	13	10 – Hawthorn D v Brighton Wanderers, August 12, 1911
Exhibition/Tour/Other	33	325	24 – University v VLA B Division, May 24, 1899
	<b>132</b>	<b>1670</b>	<b>24 – University v VLA B Division, May 24, 1899</b>

The above table excludes the 35 six-a-side matches played at the MCG in 1933.

## LACROSSE INTERNATIONALS AT THE MCG

### July 27, 1907 (First Test)

Australia	0	3	3	<b>5</b>
Canada	1	1	2	<b>3</b>

Goals – Aus: R Taylor 2, L Humphris 2, W Bryning.  
Can: R Gilbert 2, WD Ramone.

### August 10, 1907 (Third Test)

Australia	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Canada	1	2	3	<b>4</b>

Goals – Can: WD Ramone 3, W Hanley.

## MCC A SECTION LACROSSE AT THE MCG

Opponent	Played	Won	Drew	Lost
Auburn	3	3	0	0
Brighton	1	1	0	0
Camberwell	1	1	0	0
Canterbury	2	1	0	1
Caulfield (1890-96)	1	1	0	0
Collingwood	1	1	0	0
Elsternwick	2	2	0	0
Essendon	14	5	1	8
Essendon 2nd XII	1	1	0	0
Fitzroy	1	1	0	0
Flemington	1	1	0	0
Hawthorn	6	6	0	0
Kew	3	3	0	0
Malvern	3	2	0	1
South Melbourne/ St Kilda/Hawksburn*	15	10	0	5
South Yarra	1	1	0	0
University	15	10	1	4
University Collegians	2	2	0	0
	<b>73</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>

The above table records VLA A matches or equivalent.

\* Civil Service, est. 1893, was renamed South Melbourne in 1895, St Kilda in 1898, and Hawksburn in 1906.

Three VLA A games at the MCG did not involve the MCC:

- June 8, 1895, Caulfield (1890-96) drew South Melbourne\*.
- July 26, 1902, University def. Essendon.
- June 5, 1933, Caulfield (est.1909) def. University.

## VICTORIAN REP. LACROSSE AT THE MCG

Opponent	Played	Won	Drew	Lost
Canada	1	0	0	1
New South Wales	3	3	0	0
South Australia	9	5	0	4
	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

Three intercolonial/state games at the MCG did not involve Victoria:

- July 8, 1897, South Australia def. New South Wales.
- August 10, 1912, Western Australia def. Tasmania.
- August 10, 1912, New South Wales def. Queensland.

## GOAL THROWERS

### 10+ Representative Career Goals at the MCG

- 16 – P Newland (South Australia)
- 13 – G Gay (Victoria)
- 11 – L Humphris (South Australia 9, Australia 2)

### 50+ VLA A Career Goals at the MCG

- 67 – PF Pennefather (MCC)
- 65 – CL Murray (Caulfield 1, MCC 64)
- 65 – W Moulton (Essendon 2, MCC 63)
- 50 – BL Murray (Caulfield 2, MCC 48)

### Most Goals in a Lacrosse Game at the MCG

- 9 – W Moulton, Victoria 2nd XII v Victoria, July 6, 1904
- 9 – G Gay, Essendon v MCC, VLA A, July 30, 1904
- 8 – CL Murray, MCC v South Melb., VLA A, July 17, 1897
- 8 – JG Latham, MCC v Kew, VLA A, May 31, 1902
- 8 – W Moulton, MCC v St Kilda, VLA A, August 27, 1904

Top: Scene from the first international lacrosse Test at the MCG. *Melbourne Punch*, August 1, 1907. (MCC Library collection)

ground, and in 1912 there was a match between the VLA D Section (schoolboys) team Brighton Wanderers and a team of Canadian cadets who were visiting Australia. The most significant lacrosse event at the ground during this period was the second Australian Lacrosse Carnival in 1912. The important first day was staged during a break in the VFL season at the MCG, with all other carnival matches at St Kilda's Junction Oval. The opening day's early games between Western Australia and Tasmania, and New South Wales and Queensland were played before largely empty stands. It seems most spectators arrived shortly before the main event, the Victoria v South Australia match. Ultimately 5,611 attended the day's lacrosse, which guaranteed the carnival's financial success but not the sport's presence at the MCG.

Lacrosse was not ostracised from the arena, but in the 1920s the activities were not structured games or competitions. To select the Victorian team for Adelaide in 1924, weekly practice matches by members of a 38 man squad took place at the MCG on Wednesday afternoons from late July until September. The Victorian team again met at the MCG, under a less rigorous schedule, to train and select their captain prior to interstate tours in 1926 and 1928. A visiting team also used the ground as a training venue in 1925. The South Australians arrived on the morning of Thursday August 20 and trained at the MCG that afternoon.

Formal lacrosse competition returned to the MCG in the 1930s. The ground hosted the VLA's second annual six-a-side lacrosse tournament in 1933. It was inspired by box lacrosse, a game conceived as a six-a-side indoor version for a charity sports carnival at St Kilda in July 1931.<sup>62</sup> The VLA's 1933 tournament was arranged for the King's Birthday holiday on Monday June 5, with games being played concurrently on three pitches marked out on the arena. There were 35 ten-minute matches played that afternoon in two separate tournaments, a "senior" competition that comprised clubs from the VLA's A and B sections, and a "junior" tournament drawn from teams competing in the C, D and E sections. The day's program began with three junior games at 1:00pm. The MCC had the honour of opening the senior grade twenty minutes later with a seven goals to nil victory over Caulfield III; however, it was eliminated in the second round. The senior tournament was ultimately won by Malvern I with Camberwell I runners-up. Williamstown I won the "junior division". The tournament's senior final was played during the half time interval of a Caulfield v University premiership game. This match, the first VLA game at the MCG since 1910, was brought forward to allow the University of Melbourne's lacrosseurs to contest the inter-varsity sports championships the following weekend. Caulfield defeated University 11 goals to eight.

It was hoped that MCC field lacrosse would return to the MCG in 1936 with a match against Caulfield. The MCC lacrosse committee, having negotiated with the MCC's executive and its baseball section, arranged to play the curtain-raiser for the Melbourne v Geelong football match on August 1.<sup>63</sup> However, the match was played on the Albert Ground, and it would not be until

1937 that the MCC's senior lacrosse team graced the MCG. On June 19, a VLA A section match between the MCC and Camberwell was the curtain-raiser for the Melbourne v Geelong football game. The MCC won five goals to three. A crowd of 29,376 attended the footy and the lacrosseurs were thrilled to play in the warm-up, but the ground was heavy and an Age columnist noted that the match "did not provide a very high standard. The ground proved to be too large, and the players seemed overawed by their surroundings."<sup>64</sup>

Only one lacrosse match of note has been staged at the MCG since. On August 8, 1959, Australia met an American team comprising NCAA Division I college players from the University of Virginia (Charlottesville) and Washington and Lee University (Lexington, Virginia) at the ground. The match was played according to Australian Lacrosse Council rules, which forbade the aggressive body play permitted by the American code. A crowd of 10,236 saw the Australians win a "hard, fast and rugged" game eight goals to five. Australia's captain, Dudley Hamilton was presented with the Brady Trophy at the post-match dinner in the MCC Members' Pavilion. It was 52 years and two days since the MCC hosted the Canadian team at a post game reception. While six Americans were sent off for short periods for fouls in second half and two Australians were also suspended, the match was a success.<sup>65</sup>

The match presaged the Australian national team's tour of North America and England in 1962, upon which it played its first full internationals since 1907. The contact began a slow process to reconcile the field lacrosse codes of North America, England, and Australia.

The MCC lacrosse section is still active and has provided a number of players for Australia's national team. The sport may no longer be played on the MCG, but the ground's lacrosse legacy survives through the club established to play on it.



Promotional poster for the 1959 match at the MCG between Australia and "America", actually a combined lacrosse team from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, and Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. (AGOS&OM 1986.930)



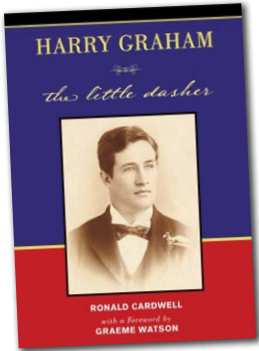
A commuter with a crosse and a gladstone bag takes the "Direct to Football Match" cable car on June 13, 1908. The cable car's destination was the Essendon v South Melbourne football match at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground. The lacrosseur was likely heading to the MCC v Fitzroy lacrosse match at the nearby MCG. *Australasian*, June 20, 1908. [MCC Library collection]

## Endnotes

1. Thomas P. Power (ed.), *The Footballer: An Annual Record of Football in Victoria*, Henriques & Co., Melbourne, 1875. p.52.
2. [Free Kick], *Australasian*, October 2, 1875. p.428.
3. Lambton L. Mount, "The Game of La Crosse", *Australasian*, April 8, 1876. p.13.
4. The name of the Creek version of the sport may be translated as "little brother of war."
5. Donald M. Fisher, *Lacrosse: A History of the Game*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore (USA), 2002. pp.24-25.
6. W. George Beers, *Lacrosse: The National Game of Canada*, Dawson Brothers, Montreal, 1869. xii-xiii. Beers published rules for the sport as early as 1860, but in 1867 a refined version of Beers' code was generally agreed to.
7. Canadian champions were determined through bilateral challenge matches from 1866 to 1884. The Shamrocks won 39 of 75 title matches in that era. Alan Metcalfe, "Sport and Athletics: A Case Study of Lacrosse in Canada, 1840-1889", *Journal of Sport History*, Vol 3, No 1, 1976. p.14. Donald M. Fisher, *Lacrosse: A History of the Game*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore (USA), 2002. p.36.
8. Lambton L. Mount, "The Game of La Crosse", *Australasian*, April 8, 1876. p.13.
9. Similar lacrosse tours of the British Isles took place in 1867 and 1883.
10. Lambton L. Mount, "The Game of La Crosse", *Australasian*, April 8, 1876. p.13.
11. Harrison's account of his races with Mount were reproduced in A. Mancini and G.M. Hibbins (eds.), *Running with the Ball: Football's Foster Father*, Lynedoch Publications, Melbourne, 1987, pp.105-117, 185.
12. *Leader*, April 29, 1876. p.12.
13. *Australasian*, June 24, 1876. p.813. Mount was yet to receive crosses from Canada and so the players made do with local facsimiles that tended to "smash". These were possibly copied from Mount's "genuine Indian La Crosse stick". However, it was soon realised that the intricate nature of the crosses' construction meant no Australian timber could serve, and quality crosses had to be imported from Canada for much of the twentieth century.
14. "Lacrosse Combination Match", *Australasian*, October 11, 1879. p.460.
15. John M. MacDonald, *Australasian*, September 30, 1882. p.429.
16. *Minutes of MCC Committee Meeting*, May 6, 1888.
17. "Mr Cecil L Murray", *Sportsman*, May 9, 1899. p.1.
18. *Sportsman*, June 14, 1892. p.7. The VAAA was apparently referred to as the "Australian Athletic Association" in the column.
19. "Australasian Championship Sports", *Argus*, November 10, 1893. p.3. Presumably this was similar to the "Lacrosse Obstacle Race" at the Warehousemen's Cricket Ground (later Albert Ground).
20. "Australasian Athletic Championship Meeting", *The Argus*, November 13, 1893. p.7. Cecil Murray has purportedly thrown the lacrosse ball on the MCG over 162 yards, but, accounts of the precise distance differ and the date of the supposed event is unconfirmed. Reg Wilmot's *Victorian Sporting Record* of 1903 stated that Murray threw a ball "a world's record" 162 yards and six inches at the MCG on November 11, 1903 (p.244) - a date after the book was published, and years after illness forced Murray's resignation from the game in 1900. The July 15, 1899, *Adelaide Chronicle* reviewed Victorian players and wrote Cecil Murray "holds the Australian record for long throwing, his throw being 162 yards 2 ft." The *Australasian* of July 7, 1900, wrote that "Cis Murray... holds the record for the longest throw made with a crosse in Australia, 162 yards 2ft., which was accomplished at the V.A.A.A. sports in 1893." Preceding the 1904 University Lacrosse Club Sports the September 3 *Leader* noted that Cecil Murray held the "Victorian Record" of "163 yards 2 feet". To confuse matters the *British Medical Journal* of June 1, 1929 (pp 1020-21), wrote that Hugh Murray, "At 21 [c.1890] he threw the lacrosse ball 163 yards 2 feet, which remained the world's record until it was beaten by the present holder, his brother Cecil." Hugh Murray's "world's record" throw was actually 151 yards 1 foot 10 inches at the University Athletic Sports on the University Cricket Ground on October 1, 1887.
21. The University Athletic Association Sports included a "Throwing the Lacrosse Ball" event since 1886. Although the University sports were usually staged at the University Cricket Ground, the 1896 and 1897 meetings were held at the MCG but, due to the size of the program in 1897, "Throwing Lacrosse Ball" was one of four events held at the University Cricket Ground one week earlier.
22. [Centre], *Sportsman*, July 19, 1892. p.6.
23. [Centre], *Sportsman*, August 2, 1892. p.6.
24. [Centre], *Sportsman*, May 30, 1893. p.2.
25. This South Melbourne LC played as the Civil Service LC in 1893 and 1894, and is not to be confused with the old South Melbourne LC that folded after the 1890 season.
26. [Facing Off], *South Melbourne Record*, June 15, 1895. p.2.
27. *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for the Season 1896/97*. p.19.
28. Dan White, "Lacrosse", in Reg Wilmot (ed.), *Victorian Sporting Record*, McCarron, Bird & Co. Melbourne, 1903, p.240.
29. "The Game of Lacrosse", *Weekly Times*, July 10, 1897. p.13. [Centre], "Lacrosse", *Sportsman*, June 20, 1899. p.3.
30. *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for the Season 1903/04*. pp.17-18.
31. *Table Talk*, May 5, 1904. p.22.
32. *Sydney Referee*, January 30, 1907. p.8.
33. Some secondary sources claim erroneously that the MCC lacrosse section was an outgrowth of the Melbourne Lacrosse Club. It was not. The first Melbourne LC existed from 1876 to 1889. A new Melbourne LC existed from 1891 to 1892. The MCC had no connection with either.
34. [Centre], *Sportsman*, April 3, 1896. p.3.
35. [Home], *Australasian*, May 16, 1896. p.932.
36. The VLA competition was split midway through the 1896 season (July 18) into "First Division" and "Second Division". In 1897 they were relabelled "A Division" and "B Division". From 1900 the VLA used "Section" instead of "Division" for its grades.
37. [Centre], *Sportsman*, August 27, 1902. p.3.
38. Victoria v South Australia on July 3 and South Australia v New South Wales on July 8.
39. Victoria played South Australia in 1898, 1900, 1902, 1904 and 1906, and New South Wales in 1899, 1901, and 1903.
40. *Australasian*, July 24, 1902. p.80 [24].
41. *Leader*, July 27, 1907. p.21.
42. *Australasian*, May 4, 1907. p.1045. [Left Home], *Leader*, May 4, 1907. p.17. "All-Canada Lacrosse Team", *South Australian Register*, April 29, 1907. p.5. David Saveleiff in *A History of the Sport of Lacrosse in British Columbia* [1972] noted that in 1908 an average professional lacrosseur on Canada's west coast could earn C\$100 per game, and star players between C\$1,000 and C\$2,000 annually.
43. [Croix], *Adelaide Express and Telegraph*, August 17, 1907. p.3.
44. *The Age*, July 25, 1907. p.8.
45. *Melbourne Punch*, August 1, 1907. p.161.
46. *Australasian*, August 10, 1907. p.26 [346].
47. Eight South Australians and four Victorians were selected for the first Test. Ten South Australians and two Victorians were selected for the second Test. Six Victorians, four South Australians and two Queenslanders for the third Test.
48. [Left Home], *Leader*, May 4, 1907. p.17.
49. British lacrosse probably had a greater influence in Australia. Professor WH Bragg, who played for Trinity College, Cambridge (UK), introduced an English style of teamwork to Adelaide lacrosse in 1886. This may account for South Australia's domination of domestic lacrosse in the 1890s and 1900s. From 1888 to 1908 South Australia's record against Victoria was 14 wins (144 goals) and three losses (65 goals). Victoria's wins were isolated, being in 1888, 1898 and 1904.
50. "International Lacrosse", *Argus*, July 27, 1907. p.17.
51. *Australasian*, August 24, 1907. p.23. [471].
52. Alan Metcalfe, "Sport and Athletics: A Case Study of Lacrosse in Canada, 1840-1889", *Journal of Sport History*, Vol 3, No 1, 1976. p.7, 18.
53. [Crozier], "Lacrosse. The Canadian team's visit. What we may expect", *Table Talk*, June 27, 1907. p.32.
54. [Crozier], "Lacrosse. 'Table Talk' and the Canadians", *Table Talk*, September 12, 1907. p.5.
55. "International Lacrosse", *The Age*, August 12, 1907. p.11.
56. "International Lacrosse", *The Argus*, August 12, 1907. p.9.
57. "International Lacrosse", *The Age*, August 12, 1907. p.11.
58. "International Lacrosse", *The Age*, August 12, 1907. p.11.
59. At the VLA's 1908 annual meeting a resolution was passed reducing the minimum length of lacrosse grounds in Victoria to 125 yards. *The Age*, April 10, 1908. p.8. Four years later a conference of delegates from the six state associations resolved, "That the playing ground be reduced to 110 yards." *Leader*, August 17, 1912. p.22.
60. In 1907 the VLA consisted of 20 teams fielded by 10 clubs. In 1908 the VLA had 20 teams fielded by 12 clubs.
61. *The Age*, April 10, 1908. p.8.
62. [Iroquois], *Australasian*, June 4, 1932. p.45. Box lacrosse became popular in North America rapidly, and soon superseded the field game in Canada.
63. "Lacrosse", *The Age*, May 27, 1936. p.8.
64. "Lacrosse at MCG", *The Age*, June 21, 1937. p.7. *Melbourne Cricket Club Annual Report for the Season 1937-1938*. p.49.
65. "Lacrosse Test to Australia", *The Age*, August 10, 1959. p.10.



# Book Reviews



Ronald Cardwell  
**Harry Graham: The Little Dasher**  
The Cricket Publishing Company:  
West Pennant Hills (NSW), 2016  
ISBN: 9780957808973

The story of Henry "Harry" Graham is one that needed to be told. He was the first Australian Test cricketer to score a hundred at Lord's. In his first home Test, he followed this by scoring another hundred on a very difficult wicket against the fastest bowler of the day, Tom Richardson. He was also a fine Australian Rules footballer. This was the stuff of champions. However, this meteoric rise was followed, like a shooting star, by the burning up in the atmosphere of fame. It finished in a lunatic asylum in New Zealand, where Graham died aged 40.

Ronald Cardwell and his friend Warwick Larkins researched the life story of Harry Graham and, after Larkins died in May 2015, Cardwell finished the project with this well informed book.

Henry Graham, later to be called Harry, was the third child, born on November 22, 1870 to James Graham, a hairdresser, and Mary Teresa Lander, described on the birth certificate as a lady. The hairdressing business, originally *Campbell and Graham*, was founded in Swanston Street in 1855. The partnership was dissolved in 1870 and Graham continued in business as a hairdressing and wig maker. His clients included Sir Redmond Barry and Peter Lalor. Later when his son, James, took over the business Nellie Melba would be a client. So, while the business was thriving, they did not own any property.

The parents could afford to send Harry to a small boarding school in Berwick, some 29 miles east from Melbourne. The school was owned and run by Edward Vieusseux and started in 1882. It is likely that Graham was a pupil in the school's first year. Vieusseux was a cricketer himself and it was he who introduced and taught Graham the game. Graham was soon playing for the Berwick Cricket club. He is mentioned in a match against the Melbourne Cricket Club in 1885, aged 15, when he scored 50.

Next, Graham was playing for South Melbourne. In his 1891/92 season in the top grade he averaged 57.66. He was then chosen for Victoria. Tom Horan, "Felix", writing in the *Australasian* was a strong supporter of Graham. He wrote "George Watson, the old St. Kilda player told me about Graham's promise five years ago when he was a lad at E. Vieusseux's Grammar School in Berwick and the schoolmaster, himself also told me how well the little chap shaped against strong visiting teams from Melbourne." It was Horan that first described Graham as "The Little Dasher".

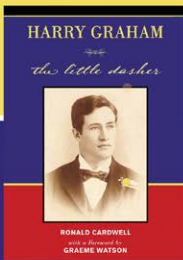
After only four first class matches Graham was chosen to tour England in 1893. After an excellent start to the tour, he played his first Test at Lord's, where he scored his maiden first-class century after coming in with the score at 5 for 75. The following year, he made his Australian Test

debut and scored another hundred on a treacherous wicket. He was on the next tour to England in 1896 where he disappointed. His downhill path had begun.

As cricket was his only means of earning a living Graham moved in 1903 to Dunedin in New Zealand to become a cricket coach at Otago Boys' High School. He also played some cricket for Otago. While his coaching was greatly appreciated his life was on a downwards spiral. Alcohol was said to be his problem. There are hints of depression earlier in his life, but what caused this is unclear. Maybe the alcohol was some kind of therapy to treat the depression. Graham was admitted to a lunatic asylum in 1907, and died there three years later. Cardwell has enlisted Dr Greg de Moore, a psychiatrist, and Brian Dixon, a psychologist, to try and unravel the reasons for Graham's demise. Their summaries are included as appendices.

The book has a fine collection of photographs and documents relating to his period in the asylum. This is a book that needed to be written. As Graeme Watson states in the foreword, "It provides a wonderful insight into an era of cricket over 100 years old, but you can't help but feel that it also provides an insight and raises issues confronting sportspeople today".

Jim Blair




## HARRY GRAHAM

*the little dasher*

**HARRY GRAHAM WAS "FEARLESS AND FREE ... IT CAN HONESTLY BE SAID THAT HE WAS ENTITLED TO BE RANKED AMONGST THE STAR BATSMEN OF THE WORLD". THE QUESTION TO PERHAPS ASK AND PONDER IS: WHAT HAPPENED TO HARRY GRAHAM?**

*He was gifted as a cricketer and Australian Rules footballer. After four games for Victoria he was selected for the Australian tour of England in 1893. He toured England again in 1896 as well as playing in New Zealand on his return from the tour. He was a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club team that played in New Zealand in 1899. There were coaching stints in Dunedin and representative cricket in the early 1900s for New Zealand.*



Ronald Cardwell's latest publication  
is now available from  
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10 Ekari Court  
Yallambie Victoria 3085  
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Dick Seddon  
***It's More Than A Game: Reflections of a former AFL Commissioner***  
[Melbourne], 2016  
ISBN: 9780646961743

Dick Seddon's memoir, "It's More Than A Game: Reflections of a former AFL Commissioner" provides a detailed account of a very turbulent period in the game's history. As a key football administrator, Seddon's involvement in the AFL Commission was central in the game's transition

from a "quasi amateur competition to a fully fledged professional operation".

Seddon was a long-time supporter, honorary solicitor, and committee member of the Melbourne Football Club. He was then CEO from 1980 to 1985. The club was sorely in need of a professional revamp. Melbourne had been left floundering administratively and on the field, with its inability to accept that the game had changed markedly. The club had been left hamstrung by the amateur beliefs of a controlling Melbourne Cricket Club. Seddon was pivotal at the Melbourne FC in bringing Ron Barassi back to the club as coach. He was involved in initiating the recruitment of players from overseas, with Jim Stynes and Sean White being the great success stories of this program.

In a general context, huge changes in the game were abounding. Clubs were striving to commercially exploit ground control – taking it away from cricket clubs and councils. Social facilities, liquor licences, advertising and corporate boxes were all new features. Increasing wealth

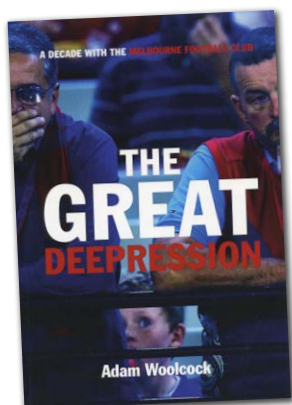
inevitably led to poaching and restraint of trade issues. The rapid escalation of player payments had clubs challenging the VFL zoning rules. There was extreme selfishness and parochialism – half the clubs were technically insolvent, whilst the concept of private ownership was not the easy panacea it was thought to be.

The model of twelve, "club first" delegates running the game was driving the game into the ground. Seddon, having completed his five year contract at Melbourne FC, was appointed an inaugural member of the VFL Commission. This was a defining moment as this independent body sought to save the game from impending self-destruction. Seddon details in separate chapters his key contribution to the three major reforms of the time. This effectively set up the now AFL for its subsequent success. The salary cap, franchising, and drafting endure to this day as crucial pillars of the fully professional AFL overseen by the independent body.

The external appointment of Ross Oakley as CEO reflected the changing of the guard. He was a professional businessman and his appointment was opposed in a number of quarters. There was much internal pressure to appoint an internal candidate and many obstacles were placed in Oakley's way after he commenced his tenure. The addition of the West Coast Eagles and Brisbane Bears meant the AFL effectively became a national competition in this early period of the Commission's existence. The machinations that entailed with these developments are well covered.

The book provides a valuable resource with a detailed account of Dick Seddon's crucial role in what was a hectic and fraught time, with great changes for the administration of Australia's home grown game.

**Edward Cohen**



Adam Woolcock  
***The Great Depression – A Decade with the Melbourne Football Club***  
[Melbourne], 2016  
ISBN: 9781530973286

This is an amazing volume of almost eight hundred pages. At the end of 2006, Adam Woolcock changed jobs with an optimistic purpose in mind. The Melbourne Football Club had competed in three successive finals series.

Woolcock's new employment meant he was available to attend

almost every game live – including practice matches – for the ensuing ten seasons!

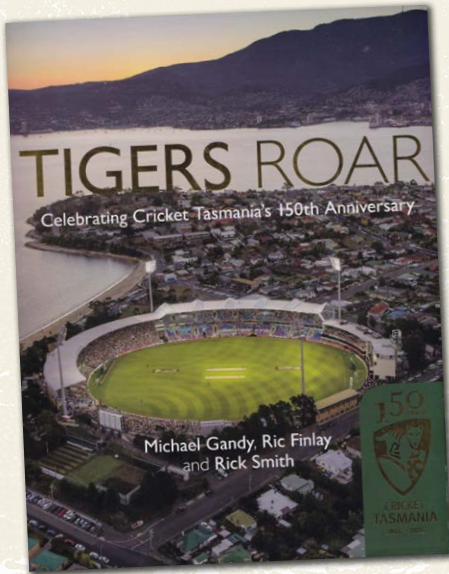
Every match is summarised in more than adequate detail with a progressive, win, loss, draw record. At the completion of the 2016 season the final figures fully justify the book's title – wins 67, losses 192 and draws 2. It is the ultimate in footy fan masochism! Everything in this dark period is covered including accusations of tanking, sham sponsors and sacked coaches (3). Also featuring heavily are the AFL bailout, appalling draft selections and the regulation injuries, tribunal injustice, bad luck and dreadful skill errors.

Pessimism is the default position, where bad is the norm and good inevitably a fleeting experience. For this reviewer, as a Dees tragic, and of likewise disposition, the book is extraordinary in the re-living of particular games – and individuals – mostly for negative reasons. The low light was clearly the 2011 loss to Geelong by 186 points. References to that game for the remainder of the book are referred to as 186! The pitiful disharmony preceding, and the open blood - letting afterwards, including Dean Bailey's axing, is relayed in agonising detail.

The book is full of amusing recollections such as these: - "It is funny what happens when footy temporarily becomes fun again." – after the Dees in 2010 inflicted on Paul Roos his biggest defeat (73 points) whilst coaching Sydney. "Should have been the birth of a superstar, but Scully was the only winner with GWS adding an extra zero to his contract offer." Tom Scully (who subsequently defected at the first opportunity) had 39 possessions, including 17 contested, in his seventh game for the Dees.

Finally, this comment on Luke Tapscott, a first round draft selection, perhaps best encapsulates the tone of this missive. "Like so many others, he had been 'Melbourned', to the point where no other side would take a punt on his natural talent, and he ended up at Sorrento instead."

**Edward Cohen**



Michael Gandy, Ric Finlay and Rick Smith  
**Tigers Roar - Celebrating Cricket Tasmania's 150th Anniversary**  
 Forty South Publishing: Hobart, Tasmania, 2015  
 ISBN: 9780994376114

Cricket is known to have been played in Tasmania from at least the summer of 1814/15, only a decade after the first recorded

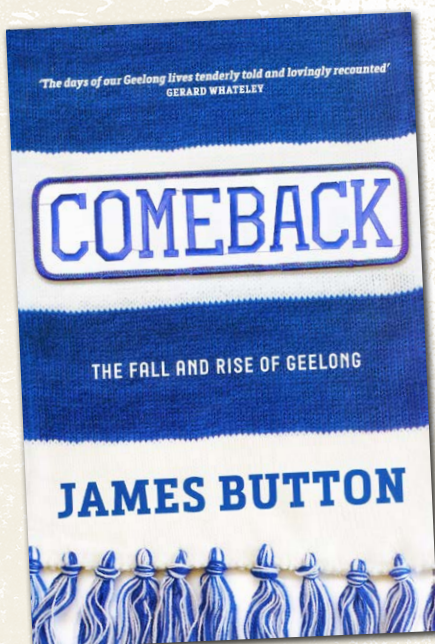
reference to the game in Australia, at Sydney in January 1804. Yet, despite its head start, development of the game and playing standards in the island progressively fell behind those on the mainland, stifled for at least 150 of the ensuing 200 years by a lack of support from authorities there and, as a consequence, irregular representative competition. It is only since its admission to the Sheffield Shield in 1977/78 that Tasmania received long overdue recognition.

Similarly, the history of the game there was largely ignored by historians and writers. Other than a few notable local

newspaper essays during the late 1800s, no serious attempt was made to substantially document the island's cricket past until Roger Page's ground-breaking *A History of Tasmanian Cricket* was published in 1957. Equally noteworthy has been Ric Finlay's *Island Summers: A History of Tasmanian Representative Cricket* in 1992, which, as the sub-title proclaimed, presented a detailed account and analysis of interstate and international contests. But, these apart, the only other published Tasmanian material can be found in the scant coverage appearing in the more wide-ranging Australian cricket histories from writers such as 'Johnnie' Moyes and Jack Pollard.

Until now that is. *Tigers Roar* provides the most comprehensive and detailed record of the game in Tasmania yet published, covering all aspects of its development in the context of the island's civil and social progress, including the prevalent North/South rivalry. Having given an overview of the early years, the work is primarily divided into three 50-year sections dating from the 1866 formation of Cricket Tasmania's forerunner, the Southern Tasmanian Cricket Association. The chronological narrative centres on international and intercolonial/interstate encounters, enhanced with full scorecards of the more significant games. Each of the segments is concluded with expansive essays on the leading players and administrators of the era.

Later chapters deal with the formation, role and activities of the Executive Cricket Council, intra-state competition, the move to, and development of, Bellerive Oval, women's cricket, the Hobart Hurricanes and the phenomenon of Twenty20 cricket, as well as sections and accompanying tables on



James Button  
**Comeback: The Fall and Rise of Geelong**  
 Melbourne University Press: Carlton, 2016  
 ISBN: 9780522866155

Let me start with a disclaimer. Like the author, I have been a Geelong Football Club supporter for many, many years. However I have attempted to write the following review, as he has written the book, in an unbiased and detached manner, although having found it an excellent read, it may not appear that way!

I found the book to be a very well researched production, an honest and fascinating story of a football club in a state of total disarray at the time that the author starts his story, which is the late 1950s, although he does provide some early history as well. He provides us with a "no holds barred" description of how not only the football club was suffering as a result of its players having been worshipped, win or lose, for decades by the adoring Geelong public, but also the struggles of the town itself over many years.

His sympathetic interviews cover every possible gamut – players, coaches, the Board, staff, journalists, wives and girlfriends as well as supporters in general. It is pleasing that this goes far further than other recent publications that have focussed mainly on the Cats' success over the last decade. This book shows us how, with an immense amount of effort and a lot of heartache, the club changed its entire focus and ethos when Brian Cook, Frank Costa and Mark "Bomber" Thompson took over at the end of the 1990s.

Friendships and relationships, not all happy, are examined in detail; coaches and players, players with each other, the Board and the coaches, staff, players and their wives and families are all looked at sympathetically but honestly. We

coaches, umpires and curators.

Appendices include tables of the leading performances in all formats of the game, whether first-class, limited overs or Twenty20. An even more extensive section on Hobart club cricket records its development chronologically, listing the premiers of all sections accompanied by individual batting and bowling tables.

Three years in its compilation, the work reflects the meticulous research and expertise of its compilers, Mike Gandy, Ric Finlay and Rick Smith. In fact, it is difficult to imagine a better qualified trio to collaborate on such a project. Each is well-known in their respective spheres, as well as for their devotion to the game, both within the state and beyond – Mike as player, umpire, historian and administrator, Ric as author, historian and statistician, and Rick as author, photographer and historian. They have every justification to be proud of their efforts. The final product is attractively presented, hard-bound on quality paper and lavishly illustrated, many of the images having never before been published.

It already lays claim to becoming the standard reference work for Tasmanian cricket and is highly recommended.

**Ray Webster**

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are provided with an unusually deep insight into the personalities involved, especially of the CEO Cook and coach Thompson. The effect of their dedication to their respective jobs at the club and how it affects their personal lives is covered in unusually frank detail. The effect of the club's success, and lack of it, is examined in detail as is how, historically, the success or otherwise has a profound economic and psychological effect on the town and its inhabitants.

This is a well written and extremely well researched volume that gives us not just a fascinating insight into the workings and machinations of the club over its last sixty years, but also into the personalities in and around it over that time. It is recommended to not only Geelong supporters but in general to anyone interested in the inside workings of a sporting club and how personalities can affect its development and success, or otherwise.

**Quentin Miller**

# ROGER PAGE

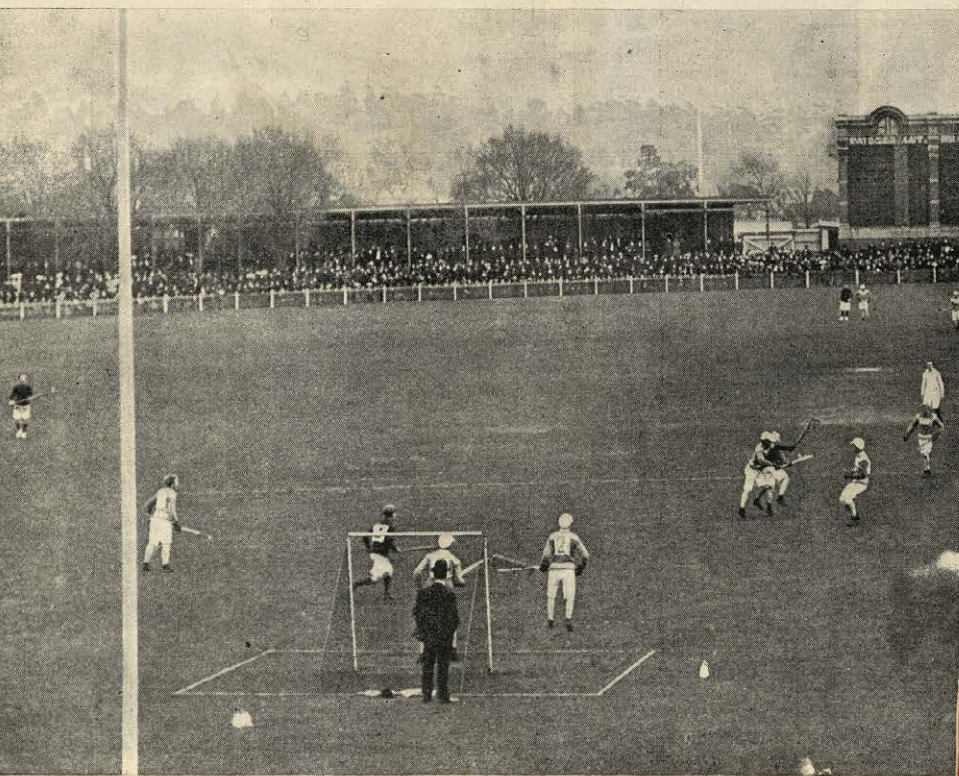
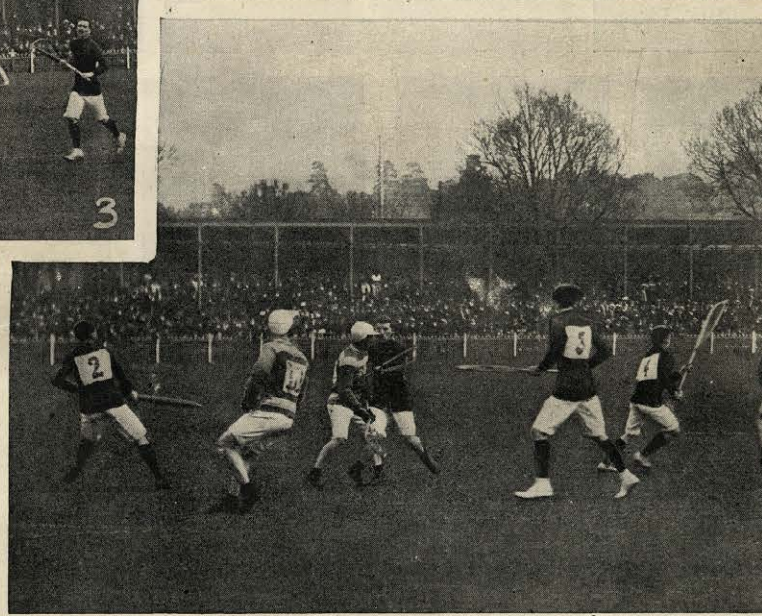
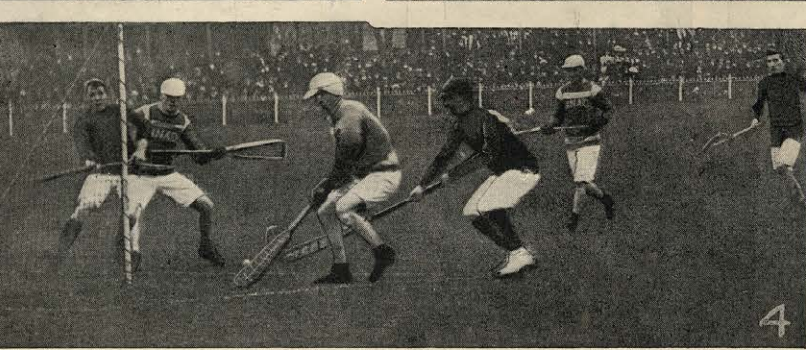
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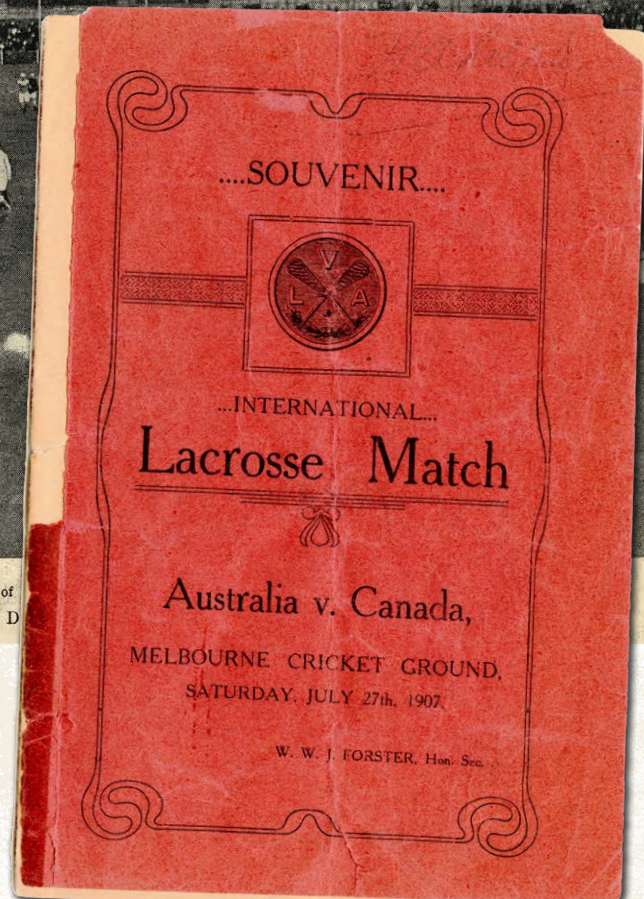
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1. View of the Stand. 2. Watching the Game. 3, 4, 5. Snapshots of  
INTERNATIONAL LACROSSE - CANADA



**Above:** A montage of images from the first lacrosse international at the MCG. *Leader*, August 3, 1907, p.25. (MCC Library collection)  
**Right:** Souvenir program for Australia's first lacrosse Test match. All players wore numbers on their backs, but it was not until the second Test in Adelaide that they were reproduced in a program. (MCC Museum collection M13577)