



# MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

**AFL 2023 ROUND 1  
GEELONG V COLLINGWOOD**

**LIBRARY FACT SHEET  
MARCH 17, 2023**

## **VALE JOHN DEVINE (1940-2023)**

The football world was saddened to learn of the death of former Geelong player and coach John Devine, who passed away on January 29, at the age of 82. Devine was recruited from Colac as a 20-year-old in 1960 and went on to play 118 games for the Cats after debuting against Footscray at the Western (Whitten) Oval in the first round of that year. "Colac", as he rapidly became known, soon established himself as a tough and courageous defender and a key part of an emerging side that would win the 1963 premiership.

In his seven years at Kardinia Park, Devine was vice-captain from 1961 to 1966, and was runner-up in the Club's best and fairest twice, in his debut season of 1960, as well as in 1965. In 1967 Devine was appointed captain-coach of North Hobart in Tasmania, and he led the 1966 wooden-spooners to the premiership in his first year at the helm. He followed this with two more TFL flags in 1969 and 1974, and the State Premiership in 1969.

Devine subsequently returned to Geelong as the senior coach from 1986 to 1988. In 1993 he was honoured with Life Membership of Geelong and was inducted into the Club's Hall of Fame in 2002.

## **ST PATRICK'S DAY FOOTBALL AT THE MCG**

Tonight's match takes place on St Patrick's Day. Unlike ANZAC Day and the King's/Queen's Birthday holiday, few games have been played on March 17. Although Ireland's famed national day is widely celebrated in Australia by the Irish community, and those Irish at heart, it has never been a public holiday here. Therefore, as football was rarely played at the stadium until late March or early April, and most matches were on a Saturday well into the 1990s, opportunities for staging St Patrick's Day footy here were rare. The following is a list of all St Patrick's Day footy matches at the MCG.

**1962:** Melbourne's first practice matches of 1962 consisted of an "early" and a "later" game on St Patrick's Day. All players were Melbourne Football Club recruits from interstate, country or junior teams.

**1964:** At 4:15pm on a Tuesday afternoon, Melbourne played an intra-club practice match consisting of four 15-minute quarters.

**1973:** In 1973 pre-season practice matches were held on St Patrick's Day between Melbourne's and Carlton's Under 19s, Reserves and Senior teams at the MCG. Carlton won the Reserve grade game with the last kick of the match. The Demons won the Seniors game 20.9 (129) to 11.10 (76) before a crowd of 13,793.

**2000:** The first St Patrick's Day match for AFL premiership points at the MCG was enabled by the League bringing their season forward to facilitate the staging of the Sydney Olympic Games later in the year. Melbourne 23.7 (145) defeated the Kangaroos 17.18 (120) in the Friday evening Round 2 match before 23,348 spectators.

**2022:** On last year's St Patrick's Day, Carlton 14.17 (101) defeated Richmond 11.10 (76) on a Thursday evening before a crowd of 72,179. It was Carlton's first win over the Tigers since the 2013 first elimination final.

## **OVER TO YOU**

1. Who coached Geelong when they won the 1952 VFL premiership?
2. Who coached Collingwood when they won the 1953 VFL premiership?
3. Who were the Collingwood and Geelong captains in both the 1952 and 1953 Grand Finals?
4. Who kicked five goals for Geelong in the 1952 Grand Final?
5. Who was the Collingwood full back who missed the 1953 Grand Final due to injury?
6. Who am I? I played 185 games for Geelong from 1949 to 1959. After my football career I pursued a political career and was sports minister in the Cain and Kirner Victorian Labor governments from 1985 to 1992.

## This Round in History – Round 1 on the MCG

The MCG has witnessed some big wins in Round 1. The biggest was Geelong's 127-point victory over Melbourne in 1996. This bettered Melbourne's 105-point win over South Melbourne in 1971. The Cats' score of 27.21 (183) in 1996 is also the best Round 1 score on the MCG. The best score in one quarter was by Essendon which kicked 11.3 (69) during the second quarter against Melbourne in 1935. Drawn games have figured prominently in Round 1 over the years. However, only one has taken place on the MCG, when Melbourne drew with Sydney 11.18 (84) apiece on March 27, 2011. The highest tally of goals kicked in Round 1 on the MCG was 12 by Essendon's Ted Freyer against Melbourne in 1935. The top attendance for a Round 1 game at the MCG is 90,151 for the Carlton-Richmond game in 2018.

### Statistics for Geelong v Collingwood

#### Geelong v Collingwood by venue

	Won by Geelong	Won by Collingwood	Drawn
Corio Oval	21	22	1
Docklands	2	2	0
East Melb.	1	1	0
Gabba	1	0	0
Kardinia Park	19	22	0
MCG	30	23	0
Perth Stadium	0	1	0
Victoria Park	25	57	0
Waverley	5	6	0
	104	134	1

#### Highest Score

Geelong	23.18 (156)	Rd 13	1940	Corio
Collingwood	28.16 (184)	Rd 9	1972	VP

#### Lowest Score

Geelong	3.2 (20)	Rd 13	1902	VP
Collingwood	1.4 (10)	Rd 10	1897	Corio

#### Greatest Winning Margin

Geelong	96 points	Rd 24	2011	MCG
Collingwood	102 points	Rd 8	2006	MCG

#### Last Time They Met – 2022 Qualifying Final, MCG

	Geelong	Collingwood
Quarter time	1.3	3.5
Half time	4.7	4.8
Three-quarter time	7.10	8.11
Full time	11.12 (78)	10.12 (72)

#### Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 9	1972	VP
11	G. Goninon	Geel	SF 2	1951	MCG
11	R. Todd	Coll	PF	1938	MCG

## 1923

In 1923 Geelong and Collingwood shared the honours in the home and away rounds, with Collingwood winning by 47 points in Round 4 at Victoria Park (16.23 to 10.12) and Geelong claiming victory by 46 points in Round 13 at the Corio Oval (9.18 to 3.8). Both clubs were then involved in an exciting climax to the season with four teams fighting for a place in the finals. Going into the final round, Geelong, Collingwood, South Melbourne and St Kilda all had a chance of taking one of the two finals positions behind first placed Essendon and second placed Fitzroy. After Round 17, South (105.5 per cent), St Kilda (100.9) and Geelong (97.9) were all on eight wins with Collingwood two points back with seven wins and a draw. In a promoter's dream the final round pitted South Melbourne against St Kilda at the Lake Oval with the winner taking one of the finals places. Before a huge crowd of over 40,000 South defeated St Kilda by 20 points to finish third on the ladder. Elsewhere, Geelong defeated Carlton by 65 points at the Corio Oval and Collingwood defeated Melbourne by 51 points at the MCG. This meant that Geelong took fourth place and Collingwood missed the finals by half a game. St Kilda dropped to sixth after their loss to South. Geelong lost their semi final to Fitzroy by 35 points but, after missing the finals in 1924, they topped the ladder the following season and went on to win their first VFL premiership with a ten-point victory over Collingwood in the 1925 grand final. Collingwood had also missed the 1924 finals but after losing to Geelong and Melbourne, respectively, in the 1925 and 1926 deciders, they won four consecutive premierships from 1927 to 1930.

### OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:

Q1 Reg Hickey. Q2 Phonse Kyne. Q3 Lou Richards (Collingwood) and Fred Flanagan (Geelong).  
Q4 George Goninon. Q5 Jack Hamilton. Q6 Neil Trezise.

### FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue>

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, and Gaye Fitzpatrick, with MCC deputy librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.