



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

APRIL 25, 2025

ANZAC DAY

AFL 2025 Round 7

ESSENDON V COLLINGWOOD

Amongst the league footballers who died in the Great War are a number who played for either Essendon or Collingwood. Their stories are told in Jim Main and David Allen's book, *Fallen: The Ultimate Heroes*, Crown Concept (2002) and Barbara Cullen's more recent work, *Harder than Football*, The Slattery Media Group (2015).

HERBERT HUNTER (ESSENDON)

Born in Bendigo on November 18, 1881, Herbert Humphreys Hunter (below) was educated at Caulfield Grammar School before completing his final year of schooling at Melbourne Grammar School. He was an outstanding schoolboy athlete, who later won a double blue in football and athletics while studying at the University of Melbourne. After gaining a qualification in dentistry from Melbourne, he continued his studies at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving a Doctor of Dentistry from that university in 1906. He was registered to practice dentistry in the State of Victoria in December 1907 and opened a surgery in Bendigo in 1908.

Hunter made his VFL debut for Essendon in 1900 while still at Melbourne Grammar. His first game was in Round 4 against Collingwood and he played the following two games against Carlton and St Kilda. All these games resulted in wins for Essendon. After his first match the *Australasian* reported that: "Hunter did artistic and very valuable work about the centre." Nevertheless, his three games in 1900 were his only VFL appearances as he bowed out of league football, presumably to concentrate on his studies and on athletics. Hunter won a number of schoolboy athletics championships in both sprinting and the long jump. Later, he was prominent on the national athletics scene, winning the Australian championship in the long jump in 1902.

Having enlisted early in the war and having been granted a commission with the rank of Captain, Hunter sailed from Australia on October 19, 1914, and took part in the original landings at Gallipoli. In early May he was shot in the foot while taking part in the assault of Krithia. He was subsequently carried out of the firing line and when it appeared that he was in a position of safety, the bearers laid the stretcher down so that they could dress his wound. While they were doing this a stray bullet landed between them and shot Hunter in the head, killing him. In his book *Farewell, dear people: biographies of Australia's lost generation*, Ross McMullen notes that the circumstances of Hunter's death were similar to those of Clunes Mathison, who had attended Caulfield Grammar at the same time as Hunter had. A brilliant scholar, who became a noted physician and medical researcher, Mathison was appointed the first director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research but died at Gallipoli before he could take up the appointment. Mathison's story is told in some detail in McMullen's book. Of Hunter, McMullen writes: "Hunter was a striking example of the outstanding men that Australia could ill afford to lose. It was not just his sporting feats – playing VFL football as an 18-year-old schoolboy, winning the state sprint title, and becoming Australasian long-jump champion. He was a leading dentist and a popular community identity in his native Bendigo."

Following Hunter's death, a shield was presented to the Victorian Amateur Athletics Association (VAAA) in his memory for annual competition at the Victorian Championships. It was carved from Australian blackwood by prominent South Yarra artist Robert Prenzel. The "Hunter Shield" is now presented to the club that performs the best in the Open Victorian Championships.



Capt. Herbert Hunter
with the 7th Australian
Infantry Battalion.

MATCHES AT THE MCG ON ANZAC DAY – APRIL 25

April 25	Day	MCG Match	Home Team		Opponent		Att.
1914 *	Saturday	VFL Round 1	University	6.8 (44)	South Melbourne	14.14 (98)	7,578
1925	Saturday	Practice match	Melbourne Old Players	18.10 (118)	Melbourne New Players	7.9 (51)	n/a
1961	Tuesday	VFA Round 2	Sandringham	11.8 (74)	Moorabbin	12.14 (86)	13,842
1962	Wednesday		Victoria (1961 Carnival team)	10.17 (77)	"The Rest" (VFL)	13.7 (85)	17,068
1963	Thursday	VFL Round 2	Melbourne	14.16 (100)	Hawthorn	13.18 (96)	55,293
1966	Monday	VFL Round 2	Melbourne	4.9 (33)	St. Kilda	17.7 (109)	64,934
1967	Tuesday		Victoria (1966 Carnival team)	18.13 (121)	"The Rest" (VFL)	9.13 (67)	15,613
1968	Thursday	VFL Round 3	Richmond	10.15 (75)	Geelong	17.21 (123)	52,115
1969	Friday	VFL Round 4	Melbourne	10.19 (79)	Essendon	13.19 (97)	38,358
1970	Saturday	VFL Round 4	Melbourne	17.19 (121)	Fitzroy	13.13 (91)	22,909
1972	Tuesday	VFL Round 5	Richmond	13.11 (89)	Melbourne	12.12 (84)	38,154
1973	Wednesday	VFL Round 4	Richmond	11.18 (84)	North Melbourne	14.20 (104)	48,923
1975	Friday	VFL Round 4	Melbourne	18.25 (133)	St Kilda	12.8 (80)	35,328
1977	Monday	VFL Round 4	Richmond	14.16 (100)	Collingwood	17.24 (126)	92,436
1978	Tuesday	VFL Round 5	Richmond	19.16 (130)	Melbourne	8.11 (59)	34,212
1979	Wednesday	VFL Round 4	Melbourne	16.23 (119)	Richmond	15.19 (109)	44,708
1980	Friday	VFL Round 5	Richmond	29.25 (199)	Fitzroy	11.15 (81)	44,401
1981	Saturday	VFL Round 5	Richmond	15.22 (112)	Geelong	11.18 (84)	46,230
1983	Monday	VFL Round 5	Richmond	17.12 (114)	Footscray	18.8 (116)	51,561
1984	Wednesday	VFL Round 5	Richmond	12.14 (86)	Essendon	20.15 (135)	55,141
1985	Thursday	VFL Round 5	Melbourne	18.13 (121)	Carlton	13.14 (92)	53,065
1986	Friday	VFL Round 5 (double header)	Melbourne	14.17 (101)	Sydney	16.14 (110)	40,117
			North Melbourne	24.10 (154)	Geelong	14.8 (92)	
1987	Saturday	VFL Round 5	Richmond	19.12 (126)	Sydney	21.20 (146)	22,154
1988	Monday	VFL Round 4	Richmond	11.16 (82)	Geelong	24.17 (161)	27,417
1990	Wednesday	AFL Round 5	Richmond	21.17 (143)	Fitzroy	9.10 (64)	23,078
1991	Thursday	AFL Round 6	North Melbourne	27.26 (188)	Sydney	21.8 (134)	15,664
1992	Saturday	AFL Round 6	Essendon	18.16 (124)	Melbourne	19.9 (123)	41,405
1993	Sunday	AFL Round 5	Melbourne	10.17 (77)	Adelaide	9.14 (68)	17,011
1995	Tuesday	AFL Round 4	Collingwood	17.9 (111)	Essendon	16.15 (111)	94,825
1996	Thursday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	16.9 (105)	Collingwood	17.15 (117)	87,549
1997	Friday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	10.10 (70)	Collingwood	14.15 (99)	83,271
1998	Saturday	AFL Round 5	Collingwood	15.18 (108)	Essendon	12.16 (88)	81,542
1999	Sunday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	15.18 (108)	Collingwood	15.10 (100)	73,118
2000	Tuesday	AFL Round 7	Collingwood	15.10 (100)	Essendon	21.14 (140)	88,390
2001	Wednesday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	15.13 (103)	Collingwood	14.11 (95)	83,905
2002	Thursday	AFL Round 5	Collingwood	9.12 (66)	Essendon	4.9 (33)	84,894
2003	Friday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	23.9 (147)	Collingwood	12.9 (81)	62,589
2004	Sunday	AFL Round 5	Collingwood	11.13 (79)	Essendon	17.10 (112)	57,294
2005	Monday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	11.17 (83)	Collingwood	10.9 (69)	70,033
2006	Tuesday	AFL Round 4	Collingwood	15.16 (106)	Essendon	12.17 (89)	91,234
2007	Wednesday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	11.13 (79)	Collingwood	12.23 (95)	90,508
2008	Friday	AFL Round 6	Collingwood	23.16 (154)	Essendon	12.9 (81)	88,999
2009	Saturday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	13.15 (93)	Collingwood	12.16 (88)	84,829
2010	Sunday	AFL Round 5	Collingwood	18.12 (120)	Essendon	8.7 (55)	90,070
2011	Monday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	11.11 (77)	Collingwood	16.11 (107)	89,626
2012	Wednesday	AFL Round 5	Collingwood	11.14 (80)	Essendon	11.13 (79)	86,932
2013	Thursday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	18.13 (121)	Collingwood	10.15 (75)	93,373
2014	Friday	AFL Round 6	Collingwood	12.11 (83)	Essendon	8.12 (60)	91,731
2015	Saturday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	6.13 (49)	Collingwood	9.15 (69)	88,395
2016	Monday	AFL Round 5	Collingwood	22.10 (142)	Essendon	11.7 (73)	85,082
2017	Tuesday	AFL Round 5	Essendon	15.10 (100)	Collingwood	11.18 (84)	87,685
2018	Wednesday	AFL Round 5	Collingwood	14.7 (101)	Essendon	7.10 (52)	91,440
2019	Thursday	AFL Round 6	Essendon	10.9 (69)	Collingwood	10.13 (73)	92,241
2021	Sunday	AFL Round 6	Collingwood	13.7 (85)	Essendon	16.13 (109)	78,113
2022	Monday	AFL Round 6	Essendon	12.10 (82)	Collingwood	15.3 (93)	84,205
2023	Tuesday	AFL Round 6	Collingwood	13.12 (90)	Essendon	11.11 (77)	95,179
2024	Thursday	AFL Round 7	Essendon	12.13 (85)	Collingwood	12.13 (85)	93,644

* The April 25, 1914, game predated the 1915 landing at Gallipoli, and the first commemorations of ANZAC Day in 1916.

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mcccatalogue>

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

THE ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY

The first ANZAC Day commemorations took place in Australia, New Zealand, England and Egypt on April 25, 1916, one year after the initial landings at Gallipoli. During 1916, April 25 was officially named “ANZAC Day” by the Australian government, but it was not until after the premiers’ conference of 1921 that April 25 was officially gazetted as a holiday throughout Australia. The conference decision was not universally popular, headmasters at a number of schools, for example, publicly declaring that a holiday would undermine the significance of the occasion. Some ignored the directive altogether, keeping students at school and holding their own services as part of a normal day. But by the middle of the 1920s such misgivings had been overwhelmed by the tide of public opinion, huge ANZAC Day marches being held in all capital cities.

ANZAC DAY FOOTBALL AT THE MCG

- 1914:** VFL/AFL premiership matches were played on April 25 for the first time. University 6.8 (44) lost to South Melbourne 14.14 (98) before 7,578 spectators at the MCG in one of five opening round matches. Exactly one year later the first ANZACs landed at Gallipoli.
- 1925:** A Melbourne intra-club practice match was played on the MCG. The proceeds from the match of £19/3/7 went to the Melbourne branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers’ Imperial League of Australia (later the RSL).
- 1960:** The first VFL (now AFL) premiership matches on ANZAC Day were played between Fitzroy and Carlton at Brunswick Street, and St Kilda and Melbourne at the Junction Oval.
- 1961:** VFA clubs Sandringham and Moorabbin played at the MCG on ANZAC Day before 13,842 fans.
- 1963:** The first VFL/AFL premiership match on ANZAC Day at the MCG was between Melbourne and Hawthorn. An attendance of 55,293 saw Melbourne win 14.16 (100) to 13.18 (96).
- 1966:** Melbourne’s 4.9 (33) against St Kilda is the lowest score kicked at the MCG on ANZAC Day. Essendon shares this ignominious record after kicking 4.9 (33) against Collingwood in 2002.
- 1977:** A crowd of 92,436 attended the Richmond v Collingwood match on ANZAC Day at the MCG. It was the biggest ANZAC Day crowd until 1995.
- 1980:** Richmond’s score of 29.25 (199) is the highest on ANZAC Day and its 118-point victory over Fitzroy 11.15 (81), is the biggest ANZAC Day winning margin on the MCG.
- 1986:** The first (and only) ANZAC Day double-header at the MCG was played when Melbourne met Sydney in the afternoon and North Melbourne played Geelong in the first night match on ANZAC Day.
- 1988:** Geelong’s Gary Ablett Sr was the first, and so far the only, player to kick 10 goals on ANZAC Day at the MCG. The Cats defeated Richmond by 79 points.
- 1992:** Essendon defeated Melbourne by one point, 18.16 (124) to 19.9 (123).
- 1995:** Essendon 16.15 (111) and Collingwood 17.9 (111) played the first drawn ANZAC Day match on the MCG. A then record ANZAC Day crowd of 94,825 (since bettered in 2023) saw Collingwood’s Saverio Rocca kick nine goals.
- 2000:** A perpetual ANZAC Day Trophy was provided by the Returned & Services League (RSL) for the AFL match scheduled at the MCG on ANZAC Day. An ANZAC Day Medal (pictured) was also struck and presented to the best player afield. The first winner was Essendon’s James Hird.
- 2009:** Essendon snatched a dramatic five-point win after Collingwood led by 14 points with about five minutes remaining.
- 2012:** Collingwood defeated Essendon by one point, 11.14 (80) to 11.13 (79). Essendon players came off a four day break.

- 2015:** Essendon’s commemorative ANZAC Day jumper design features a red sash composed of poppies for the first time.
- 2019:** Collingwood defeated Essendon by four points in a cliff hanger. Scott Pendlebury was booed by Essendon supporters when collecting the ANZAC Day Medal.
- 2020:** COVID-19 pandemic forced a national lockdown preventing the ANZAC Day match occurring. Instead a lone bugler played the last post on the MCG.
- 2021:** Stadium capacity was capped at 85% to allow for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Collingwood’s commemorative jumper design features stripes composed of rosemary for the first time on ANZAC Day.
- 2023:** The ANZAC Day game drew 95,179 spectators. It was the second largest VFL/AFL home & away attendance ever, and the largest of the AFL era (after 1990) – having bettered the 1995 ANZAC Day figure.
- 2024:** Essendon and Collingwood draw 12.13 (85) apiece before 93,644 spectators.

THE ANZAC DAY MEDALLISTS

2000	James Hird	Ess
2001	Chris Tarrant	Coll
2002	Mark McGough	Coll
2003	James Hird	Ess
2004	James Hird	Ess
2005	Andrew Lovett	Ess
2006	Ben Johnson	Coll
2007	Heath Shaw	Coll
2008	Paul Medhurst	Coll
2009	Patrick Ryder	Ess
2010	Scott Pendlebury	Coll
2011	Scott Pendlebury	Coll
2012	Dane Swan	Coll
2013	David Zaharakis	Ess
2014	Dane Swan	Coll
2015	Paul Seedsman	Coll
2016	Steele Sidebottom	Coll
2017	Joe Daniher	Ess
2018	Adam Treloar	Coll
2019	Scott Pendlebury	Coll
2021	Darcy Parish	Ess
2022	Jack Ginnivan	Coll
2023	Nick Daicos	Coll
2024	Zach Merrett	Ess



In 2011 the AFL presented retrospective ANZAC Day Medals to: Saverio Rocca (Collingwood, 1995 and 1998), Scott Russell (Collingwood, 1996), Damien Monkhorst (Collingwood, 1997), and Marc Mercuri (Essendon, 1999).

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 7 ON THE MCG

The highest score on the MCG in Round 7 is 28.12 (180) by North Melbourne against Melbourne 22.11 (143) in 1982. The overall Round 7 record is 37.17 (239) by Geelong against the Brisbane Bears 11.9 (75) at Carrara in 1992. The biggest winning margin at the MCG in Round 7 is 122 points by Melbourne 25.16 (166) when they defeated North Melbourne 5.14 (44) in 1937. The overall Round 7 record is 164 points by Geelong against the Brisbane Bears at Carrara in 1992. The lowest Round 7 score at the MCG since 1925 is 3.9 (27) by North Melbourne against Melbourne 15.21 (111) in 1927. This is the overall Round 7 record since 1925. The most goals by an individual in Round 7 at the MCG is 10 by Sydney's Tony Lockett against Collingwood in 1998. The overall Round 7 record is 17 by Jason Dunstall for Hawthorn versus Richmond at Waverley Park in 1992. The highest score in a quarter for Round 7 at the MCG is 10.3 (63) by the Kangaroos against Adelaide in the first quarter in 1999 and by North Melbourne against Melbourne in the second quarter in 1982. The overall Round 7 record is 14.3 (87) in the fourth quarter by Geelong when playing the Brisbane Bears at Carrara in 1992. The highest Round 7 attendance was in 2024 when 93,644 saw Essendon and Collingwood draw 12.13 (85) apiece at the MCG on ANZAC Day.

STATISTICS FOR ESSENDON V COLLINGWOOD

Essendon v Collingwood by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Essendon	Drawn
East Melbourne	16	7	0
Lake Oval	0	1	0
MCG	39	39	3
Victoria Park	53	23	0
Waverley Park	4	5	0
Windy Hill	24	32	2
	136	107	5

Highest Score

Collingwood	30.20 (200)	Rd 14	1971	VP
Essendon	28.6 (174)	PF	1984	Wav

Lowest Score

Collingwood	2.4 (16)	Rd 4	1900	EM
Collingwood	2.4 (16)	GF	1901	AP
Essendon	3.2 (20)	Rd 7	1898	VP

Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	147 points	Rd 14	1971	VP
Essendon	133 points	PF	1984	Wav

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

15	G. Coventry	Coll	Rd 11	1933	VP
13	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 11	1972	VP
12	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 20	1970	VP
12	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 14	1971	VP
10	J. Coleman	Ess	Rd 11	1950	WH
10	T. Fordham	Ess	Rd 14	1966	VP

Last Time They Met – Round 17, 2024, MCG

	Collingwood	Essendon
Quarter time	5.2	2.5
Half time	8.4	6.8
Three-quarter time	8.7	10.12
Full time	12.8 (80)	13.14 (92)

TOM WRIGHT (COLLINGWOOD)

Born in Collingwood in 1882, Wright attended the Cambridge Street State School before gaining employment as a slater and tiler. An outstanding junior footballer, he made his debut for the Magpies in Round 13, 1906, against Essendon. He went on to play 12 games for Collingwood in 1906 and 1907, including their semi-final loss to South Melbourne in the 1907 finals. He then moved to New Zealand for work and became involved in the development of the Australian code there. He captained the Kiwi side that played in the Carnival in Melbourne in 1908 to celebrate the 50-year jubilee of the birth of Australian football. At the Carnival the Kiwis made quite an impression before and during their matches, performing the traditional Maori 'haka' before each game and winning two of their four matches to finish ahead of South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland. Wright returned to Melbourne in 1909 and played with Prahran in the Victorian Football Association (VFA) before being elected to the Collingwood Committee. Wright had served with the North Melbourne Garrison Artillery for four years (1904-07) and was one of the first to enlist when war broke out. He embarked on the HMAS *Demosthenes* in July 1915 and served with the 7th Battalion at Gallipoli for several months before they were withdrawn to Egypt.

After six further months in the Middle East he transferred to the 59th Battalion and served on the Western Front. He was promoted from Lance Corporal to Corporal in the field in October 1916 but died two months later on December 12. Only a few days earlier, a letter from Wright had been published in *The Winner* newspaper arguing that football should be continued for the duration of the war. In its February 18 edition the following year, *The Winner* included a moving letter that Arnold Errington, one of Wright's best mates, had written to Collingwood secretary Ern Copeland. Errington had captained the Collingwood Cricket Club and been with Wright in training at Broadmeadows and during the time he served in Gallipoli and Egypt. Errington wrote that: "When he met his death he (Wright) was either going for a stretcher or helping dig out a buried comrade. He was killed instantly by a small German shell..." Errington went on to explain that Wright had been due to go to a training school in England in four days. Wright's body was initially buried on the Somme before it was exhumed in 1923 and reinterred in the Delville Wood Cemetery.