THE YORKER

MELBOURNE
CRICKET CLUB

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THE YORKER

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The Library in Review

With the MCC's Annual Meeting completed for another year, it is apt to reflect on your Library's activities since August 2014. While the Library and Archives' exhibits, *We Will Remember Them: Honouring MCC Members Killed in the Great War*, in the Library foyer and display cases outside the Grey Smith Bar have been very well received, exhibitions are a minor part of the Library's work. Over the last 12 months the Library's staff has catalogued approximately 1800 new titles, as well as thousands of periodicals and ephemera. The Library collects a range of sports and has recently obtained possession of a collection of rare golf books – these will be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Yorker*. To assist the maintenance the collection, and increase public access to it, the Library launched an online catalogue which necessitated a total migration of data from the previous database. It has already been acknowledged with a 2015 ISHY award from the International Sports Heritage Association in the website category. The MCC Library is a sport research hub, and its staff and volunteers have fielded thousands of queries from our members, staff, media and the public, with most responded to within 24 hours. The Library has assisted many journalists and academics and few sports history books are published in Australia without acknowledging the assistance of the MCC Library. Since August 2014 your Library has been the venue for eight book launches and/or signings. The Library has a modest publishing program with three issues of *The Yorker* published annually, exhibition paraphernalia and match day fact sheets produced for every sporting event at the MCG. Professionally, your Library enjoys a great reputation within the library industry. We have hosted practicum placement students and information management (library) and library technician classes have received guided tours. It has been an exciting but exhausting 12 months, however, the work itself is the reward.

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THE YORKER   Read all about it!

Beyond Tallying the Score:

Scoreboards at the MCG

By James Brear

In December 2013, two new scoreboards supplied by Daktronics Australia were launched at the MCG. At 25.24 metres wide and 13.17 metres high they are currently the largest in an Australian stadium,[1] and their use of high-definition LED screens means that both are at the forefront of scoreboard technology. The provision of enterprising technology and architecture to enrich the spectator's experience is, however, not new to the MCG, as can be seen through a review of over 150 years of the MCG scoreboards.

Keeping score predates the MCG by centuries, and long before the need arose to record runs on a cricket field, notches on a tally stick were used as a means of counting, whether it was sheep, goats, debts or taxes. It was, therefore, only natural that such notches would, in time, be used to determine which team had scored the most runs, once cricket became a competitive pursuit. In those early days of yore a run was also referred to as a "notch", and this terminology has lived on today.

*"...and with that classic cover drive Smith has **notched** up his second century of the series."*

In those early days of unprepared pitches and rudimentary bats and balls, runs were hard to come by. The tally stick was, therefore, adequate equipment for the task at hand. An experienced "notcher" (scorer) may end up with a few blisters or calluses, but by his dextrous wielding of the knife was able to carve notches fast enough to keep up with the team's score. As more preparation went into pitches, and the equipment improved, pencil and paper became the only means of recording the runs scored. One of the most famous of the early scorers was Mr. William Davies of Brighton, whose portrait was painted by Thomas Henwood. The painting shows Mr. Davies sitting at his scorer's table with all the necessities a scorer may require, pencil, paper, and a bottle of wine!

While the likes of Mr. Davies were fine to record match details, they provided no information for spectators, who by the nineteenth century had become an important part of many cricket matches. To engage these onlookers elementary boards were introduced – the first scoreboards. The information imparted was indeed sparse; perhaps each batter's score and a team total. An example of this type of scoreboard at the Melbourne Cricket Ground is shown in the 1858 print, Victoria v. New South Wales. Almost twenty years later not much had changed at the MCG as evidenced by the board shown in the famous 1879 engraving of Spofforth bowling to Lord Harris.

Top: The 1907 wooden scoreboard during the fifth Test between Australia and South Africa in the summer of 1931/32. Apart from South Africa's astonishingly low score, Australia's Jack Fingleton is listed at number 10 on the scoreboard. In 1982 the scoreboard was transported to Canberra where it was named the Jack Fingleton Scoreboard.
(MCC Museum collection M9962)
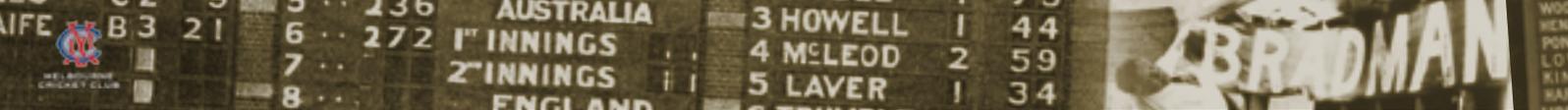
"Scoring boards", as they were known, improved slowly at the MCG. From 1881 a scoring board was erected at the western end of the ground to the right of the pavilion. It showed the batsman's name, his runs, and order of dismissal, but could not be seen by many in the members' enclosure. Former Test cricketer, Tommy Horan, writing as "Felix" in *The Australasian* was incensed,

> "…the wonder is that a club such as the MCC has not long ago provided a scoring board say, for instance, as good as that on the Sydney ground… the names and figures on which can be read from nearly all parts of the enclosure."[2]

This was not the only problem with the MCG's scoring board. During a rain-interrupted Victoria v. South Australia match in 1897, a strong gale force wind blew a player's name off the board and threatened to topple the board itself.

> "During their absence the scoring-board was the centre of attraction. It swayed more than ever, and Bruce's register was blown down, striking a man on the head in its fall. Fortunately it did nothing more than graze his head, and after rubbing his head be walked away, evidently under the impression that scoring-boards are not safe things to be near in a gale. Mr. McLaughlin, a representative of the M.C.C., appeared on the scene in the height of the storm, mounted the scoring-board platform, and looked the picture of a captain on the bridge, giving directions to make all taut and trim. In the teeth of the gale he manfully stood there, and after all was made snug he came down to terra firma once again…"[3]
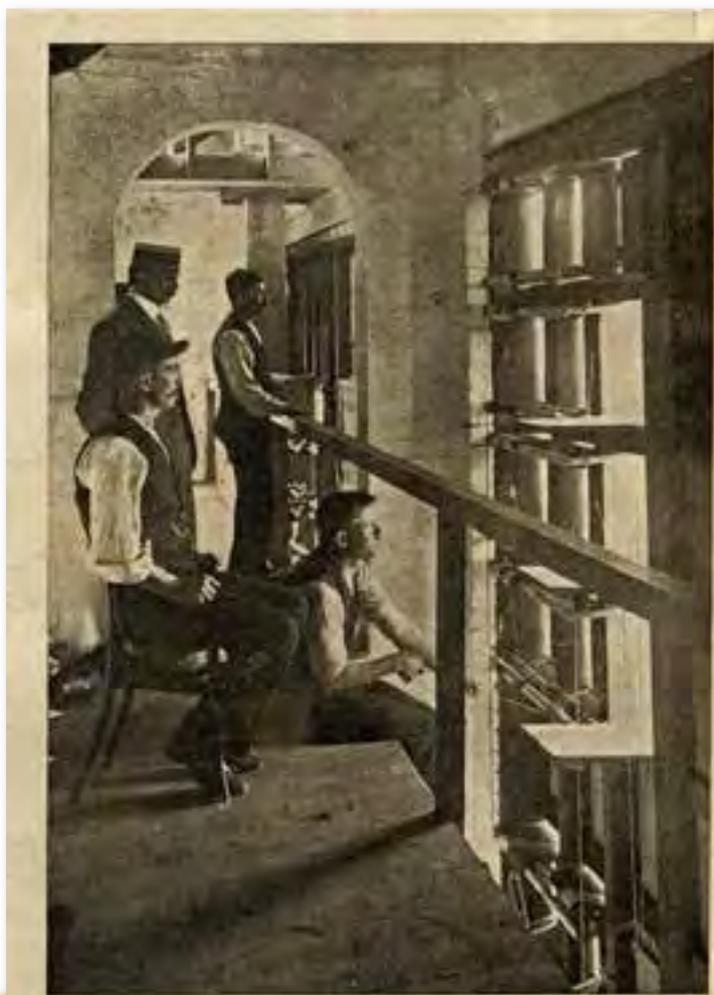
INSIDE THE SCORING BOARD : SCORERS AT WORK.

The Scoring Board

Given the flimsy nature of this scoreboard, a magnificent brick scoreboard was built at the western end of the ground. This board commenced operating in November 1901 and provided nearly all the statistical information we receive today, batsman's name, runs scored, method of dismissal, the successful bowler, fall of wickets, current batsmen, innings scores, bowlers' names, and number of wickets and runs for each bowler. In addition, in December 1901 this board probably became the first scoreboard to broadcast scores from interstate. On December 13 at the Sydney Cricket Ground the first Test commenced between Australia and England, while in Melbourne the MCG hosted the Austral Wheel Race.

The cyclists erected their own double-sided scoreboard out on the ground which left the new brick edifice free to post the progress of the Test from Sydney. This was arranged by *The Leader* newspaper, with their reporter Harry Hedley, writing under the penname "Mid-on", travelling to Sydney to send back the scores as they happened, "on a direct wire from the Sydney ground to the Melbourne ground."[4] The spectators would not have been overjoyed with the news,

however, as they witnessed English captain, Archie MacLaren, contribute 116 in an opening stand of 154 on the first day. The Australians could only manage 168 in reply to the English team's 464 and, forced to follow on, lost by an innings and 124 runs.

This was not the only historic event that this scoreboard was involved in. In February 1904 Victoria recorded its lowest innings total of just 15 runs against the English touring side. Led by Wilfred Rhodes, 5 for 6, and Ted Arnold, 4 for 8, the Victorian score is equal to the fifth lowest first-class score of all time.

Over the years this scoreboard recorded some of the most famous events in Australian and world sporting history. In cricket, it recorded 19 first class centuries by Sir Donald Bradman, including nine Test centuries and a Test average at the MCG of 128.53. It barely had enough numbers to record the highest innings score in first class cricket, Victoria's mammoth 1107 against New South Wales in December, 1926. Sir Garfield Sober's 254 for a World XI against Australia in January 1972 was described, by no less than Sir Donald Bradman, as one of the best innings he had seen, and the scoreboard attendants were really put to work by Pakistani Sarfraz Nawaz in March 1979, when he took 9 for 86 against Australia including an astonishing 7 for 1 in 33 deliveries.

In football, the scores of the quartet of premierships won by Collingwood from 1927 to 1930 all appeared on this scoreboard, as did the five premierships won from six grand final appearances by Melbourne from 1955 to 1960. It recorded two drawn grand finals, in 1948 and 1977, and St Kilda's thrilling one point win over Collingwood in 1966.

Having spoilt the spectators with such an impressive scoreboard, in 1907 the MCC went one step further and erected an even larger scoreboard at the eastern end of the ground. "Felix", this time, was full of praise for the MCC.

> "When you go to the M.C.C. ground now you will notice that there are two scoring-boards. In England the county clubs make money by the sale of scoring cards; but our M.C.C. spend money in erecting huge scoring-boards, so that the public may have the amplest information as to the progress of the play free of charge from start to finish of a big match."[5]

It was not just cricket supporters who benefitted. Prior to the establishment of *The Football Record*, the Victorian Football League (now AFL) programme, both scoreboards displayed player numbers during the 1911 finals series.

The 1907 wooden scoreboard stood at the MCG for 75 years. In 1936 it was moved to the western end of the ground, to sit on top of the Concrete Stand, and then in 1967 it was repositioned on top of the Western (later Ponsford) Stand. Of all the various scoreboards before and since, this 1907 scoreboard came to be known as *the* **MCG scoreboard.** Today it is still in operation. Renamed the Jack Fingleton Scoreboard, it presides over matches at Manuka Oval in Canberra.

The Development of MCG Scoreboards

1881 – A scoreboard, reputed to be the first of its type in the world, was erected. It showed the batsman's name and order of dismissal, and the bowlers' figures.

1901 – A brick structure replaced the 1881 scoreboard on the western side of the ground. It was the first permanent scoreboard at the MCG.

1907 – A second scoreboard made of wood was erected at the eastern end of the MCG.

1926 – The brick scoreboard on the western side of the MCG (operational from 1901) was demolished to make way for the open Concrete Stand.

1936 – Due to the construction of the Southern Stand, the 1907 scoreboard was moved from the eastern side of the ground to the western side, and placed atop the Concrete Stand.

1956 – The MCG was the Olympic Games' main stadium. To cater for the number and variety of events, the 1907 scoreboard was temporarily affixed with a matrix of light bulbs and operated electronically.

1967 – The 1907 scoreboard is placed upon the top tier of the new Western (later Ponsford) Stand.

1982 – The first Mitsubishi Diamond Vision electronic scoreboard (the first full-colour scoreboard with video replay in Australia) replaced the 1907 scoreboard, which was relocated to Manuka Oval, Canberra.

1992 – The Mitsubishi Diamond Vision scoreboard was replaced by a far more advanced model.

1994 – A second electronic scoreboard (Sony JumboTron) was installed on the second tier of the Olympic Stand at the north-eastern end of the ground.

1999 – On the evening of August 27 the Jolimont end (western) scoreboard caught fire. It delayed the start of the Richmond v Carlton AFL match by 25 minutes.

2000 – A new Mitsubishi scoreboard replaced the fire-damaged board in time for the Melbourne Storm v St George Illawarra National Rugby League match at the MCG on March 3.

2002 – The Ponsford Stand was demolished after the grand final and, therefore, the Mitsubishi scoreboard was dismantled and stored.

2004 – In April the 2000 Mitsubishi scoreboard was remounted atop the western side of the ground in the new stand.

2004 – The final portion of the Olympic Stand was demolished after the 2004 grand final and with it the Sony JumboTron scoreboard was dismantled.

2005 – A new Mitsubishi scoreboard was placed on the eastern side of the third tier of the new Olympic Stand.

2013 – The MCG's two new scoreboards were unveiled on Monday December 16. Supplied by Daktronics Australia, each measures 322 square meters, the digital area is almost three times the size of those they replaced. They were first used for a Big Bash League match on December 20.

Perhaps this scoreboard's greatest occasion was the 1956 Olympic Games. Though widely acknowledged as the world's most comprehensive cricket scoreboard, to cater for the sheer number of events, athletes, and countries competing at the Olympics, it had to be temporarily modified from its decades-old mechanical operation with numbers painted on rolls and names on boards. The only possible way for it to cope was for it to become electronic, with 270 blocks of light bulbs spelling out each 18" high letter or number as required. The globes had to be easily read in bright sunshine but, throughout the two week duration of the Games, only one of the 9000 globes had to be replaced.

Its use required 11 operators and the installing engineer who, being in communication with the arena, were able to switch on the results as soon as official confirmation was received. The famous victories of the "golden" girls, Betty Cuthbert and Shirley Strickland, the 1500m win of Irishman Ron Delany, and the middle distance triumphs of Vladimir Kuts were just some of the many results to go up "in lights" on the MCG scoreboard during the Olympics.

Apart from this brief period, its operation was mechanical and used a unique system of wooden levers, bicycle chains and sprockets designed by MCC carpenter Bert Haines (see *Yorker* #48). According to a 1960 interview with long time "chief scoreboard attendant" Joe Kinnear, the rig meant that it required five people to operate the scoreboard for cricket matches and only two for football, "the second man puts up the race results".[6] Robert Jeffkins, who started at the MCG in 1979, commented on operating it from the inside, "It's like doing something in Chinese, you've got to learn how to read all the numbers backwards."[7]

By 1982 this magnificent scoreboard had provided 75 years of service to spectators at the MCG. Even such a stellar career could not save it from the tide of progress. Despite "a lot of sentimental regret" from MCC secretary Ian Johnson, it was dismantled after the 1981 Boxing

Above: Ian Johnson inside the wooden scoreboard in 1982.

between Carlton and Richmond in 1999, by a still more advanced model. For several minutes, instead of recording the sporting drama, the scoreboard had become the drama.

In 1994 it was joined by a Sony JumboTron screen at the eastern end of the ground on the second tier of Olympic Stand. The 'G was now back to having two major scoreboards. During the rebuilding of the northern side of the ground between 2002 and 2006, the scoreboards were again updated with a second Mitsubishi screen replacing the Sony JumboTron at the eastern end of the ground.

These remained until 2013 when the current LED high-definition scoreboards were introduced. They were commissioned just before the Australians' Ashes triumph in the Boxing Day Test. With 332 square metres of screen they are almost three times the size of the previous boards and provide amazing colour and clarity. Backed by a television studio-like control room they not only present live vision, replays and the scores, but also virtually all the statistical data that a sports aficionado could possibly want – even the "full cricket scorecard", a complete innings scorecard had not been available since 1982.[11]

These new scoreboards have already recorded world record crowds for a single day of a Test match and a One Day International, with 91,112 attending on Boxing Day in 2013, and 93,013 for the ICC Cricket World Cup final in March, 2015. The second of Hawthorn's back-to-back premierships, the return of State of Origin rugby league to the MCG after fifteen years, and three of the world's premier soccer teams in Real Madrid, Manchester City and A.S. Roma competing for the International Champions Cup, are some of the recent events that the two current screens have enhanced for the packed crowds of the 'G.

Day Test,[8] later removed to Canberra, and replaced by the stadium's first Mitsubishi Diamond Vision electronic scoreboard.

This four million dollar "video matrix" board, promoted at the time as "a sort of huge colour television screen",[9] proved extremely popular with patrons for, although the score might disappear at times to show advertisements, the vision and replay facility were wonderful new amenities, ensuring that spectators did not miss key moments in a game. If distracted at the "live" moment they would be able to view the replay, and when play was on the opposite side of the ground the live vision on the screen was often a better alternative.

With live vision and automation, a different skill set was required of scoreboard operators. In 2005 Jeffkins reflected,

> "It's all computers. Champion Data, they do the stats and they send them up to the scoreboard. They have someone who sits there with a touchboard and touches goal and that's how they do it, it automatically goes up. There's a video-tape operator... there's a director, the ground announcer. There was never a ground announcer at the old scoreboard. They've got a technician to keep an actual eye on the scoreboard to make sure the colour's right. They've got cameramen... and a computer operator who puts up all the graphics underneath the players' names."[10]

The Diamond Vision scoreboard continued to entertain and inform for a decade. It was upgraded in 1992 by a new Mitsubishi video scoreboard that was five times brighter and had a larger screen. This was replaced, in 2000 after catching fire during a night match

Top: The Mitsubishi Diamond Vision scoreboard (with advertising panels) looms over the arena from the Ponsford Stand as the Australians enter the field for the opening match of the 1985 World Championship of Cricket against England. *MCC Annual Report 1984/85*

Right: The Sony JumboTron was launched during the 1994 AFL finals series. *MCC News*, No. 98, November 1994.

Top Left: The 2000 Mitsubishi scoreboard on the western side of the ground, in its new housing following the Northern Stand redevelopment. Much of the space is filled with advertising panels.

Top Right: The 2013 Daktronics Australia scoreboard at the eastern end of the stadium, and launched prior to the Boxing Day Test the ground, fills its housing.

Bottom: The temporary scoreboard used in 2013.
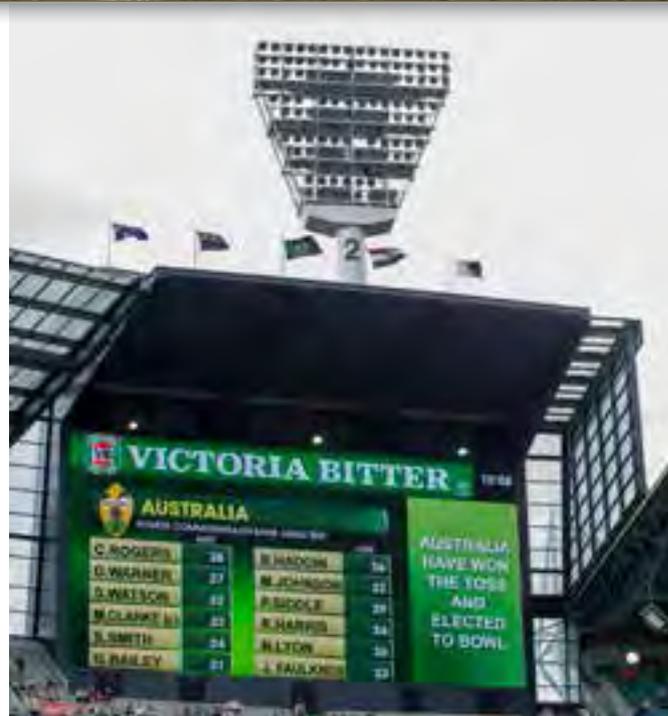
What will the next innovation be? In some US stadiums huge and costly four-sided vision boards are suspended above the arena. The stadium contract for one American NFL football team includes a clause for its host city to provide vision board technology that does not yet exist, such as "a holographic replay system", if and when it is installed in 14 other NFL stadiums and irrespective of the cost. Fortunately for the Victorian taxpayer and Australia's sporting organizations and clubs, it is the not-for-profit MCC and its members who ably fund our stadium and its state-of-the-art facilities.

Perhaps the infrastructure for the next screen innovation is already here – maybe it fits in the palm of your hand, with each patron controlling which stats are viewed and what vision is played on their personal mobile device. In fact, the MCG is currently installing technology which will allow the stadium to broadcast match vision directly to your phone, and high density wifi is due to be delivered in time for the Boxing Day Test. The concept of a one-size-fits-all scoreboard may be soon a thing of the past.

James Brear is a MCC Library volunteer and author of *Decima Norman: The First Golden Girl.*

Temporary Scoreboards

There have been occasions when temporary scoreboards were required at the ground. Following the 1966 grand final the Concrete Stand was demolished for the construction of the Western (later Ponsford) Stand, and the wooden scoreboard that sat atop it was removed and placed in storage. In its place a temporary scoreboard was positioned between the Northern (later Olympic) and Southern Stands at the eastern end of the stadium.

This century, work on the Northern Stand redevelopment project began with the removal of the Ponsford Stand in 2002, including its scoreboard. A temporary scoreboard was placed in the cleared building site during the summer of 2002/03 and later, as the stand grew, on the second tier of the western portion of the seating bowl in 2003. As work progressed eastwards, the Olympic Stand's Sony JumboTron scoreboard was removed in 2004, and during the summer of 2004/05, a temporary scoreboard was situated where the demolished grandstand stood.

More recently, while both the eastern and western scoreboards were being replaced in 2013, a temporary scoreboard was installed for domestic cricket on October 24 among the M7 terrace seating in the Great Southern Stand.

Endnotes

1 The screen at Randwick Racecourse in Sydney is larger but technically it is not an enclosed stadium.

2 'Felix' [Tom Horan], "Cricket: The International Match", *The Australasian*, January 9, 1892, pp.65-66.

3 'Felix' [Tom Horan], "The Intercolonial Cricket Match", *The Australasian*, January 9, 1897, pp.72-73.

4 "Scores in the Test Match to be Posted", *The Age*, December 14, 1901, p.12.

5 'Felix' [Tom Horan], "The M.C.C.", *The Australasian*, October 5, 1907, p.856.

6 Alan Stewart, "He winds up the score", unattributed news clipping [*The Herald*, circa September 1960], MCC Library collection.

7 Melissa Ryan, "First Person: Robert Jeffkins", *The Age*, Saturday May 14, 2005, Sport 7.

8 Alan Attwood, "Where will the birds go?", *The Age*, Thursday September 3, 1981, p.11.

9 Ibid.

10 Melissa Ryan, "First Person: Robert Jeffkins", *The Age*, Saturday May 14, 2005, Sport 7.

11 "Largest Scoreboards at an Australian Stadium at the MCG", Melbourne Cricket Club Media Release, Monday December 16, 2013.

A Salute to Jacko:

The First of the Great McShane Boys

by Trevor Ruddell with Quentin Miller

It is likely a number of footballers will play their last AFL game during the 2015 finals series. Some will choose the manner of their departure from league football, but sadly others will play their hearts out oblivious to their imminent exit. Over a century ago the career of a senior footballer was even more precarious, and many strapping and healthy footballers were stricken by a malady or infection that would be readily treatable today. A few would die. On June 20, 1887, Geelong's John "Jacko" McShane stripped for a match against Hotham (now North Melbourne) at the MCG.[1] He caught a cold. He would never play again.

John was the first son born to Phillip McShane and his wife Mary Anne. Phil was a Geelong cabman who came to Australia when young from Strabane, County Tyrone, while Mary Anne McCabe was also born in Ireland, hailing from Kilkenny. Married in 1856, six of their children would play senior football. The Geelong champion Dave Hickinbotham played alongside all the brothers and remembered them as a, "truly great family of footballers… and everyone a finished player."[2]

In1882 the 18 year old Jack McShane was the first of the boys to play senior football with Geelong. He apprenticed as a smith at Humble and Nicholson's foundry and decades later he would be, "renowned for his strength and determined play".[3] They were traits his brothers would share. Jack was recruited from the North Geelong Football Club, with whom he had played since 1880. In 1881 his brother Phillip joined him at North.[4] Jack McShane's ability was recognised early and the 1881 edition of *The Footballer* described him as "the best follower in the team; always gets rid of the ball to advantage; is a sure kick and mark, can last all day."[5] Midway through 1881 he was signed by Geelong.

Geelong was a football power during this era having been the Victorian Football Association (VFA) premiers in 1878, 1879 and 1880, and runners-up in 1881 – losing just one game (albeit a very important game) to eventual premiers South Melbourne. There were already a number of familiar faces from North Geelong playing with the Pivotonians (as the Geelong Football Club

Top: The Geelong Football Club in 1882. Jack McShane is standing at the left of the second row, with his hands on his hips.
Left: Phil (left) and Joe McShane.

was known) including Charles Brownlow. Jack McShane's promotion to the senior team along with North Geelong team mate Jack Kerley made an already strong team even stronger. In Jack's first senior year the Pivotonians dominated the competition to win the 1882 premiership, kicking an astounding 120 goals and conceding just 19.

In 1883 Jack McShane was enticed to play with South Melbourne, while his brother Phillip made his senior debut with Geelong. Phil had an immediate impact on senior football. In a low scoring era Phil was the VFA's leading goal kicker that year with 14 and was instrumental in another Geelong premiership. It was a sign of things to come. Phil was also the VFA's leading goal kicker in 1884, and in 1886 was the first player to kick over 50 goals in a year (in all matches).[6] Affectionately known as "Shilly", in 1929 a columnist for the *Sporting Globe* wistfully described Phil's strategy,

> "Is there a forward today like 'Shilly' McShane of whom it was said he could kick goals blindfolded on the Corio Oval? Up to 30 to 35 yards he was deadly in his accuracy, and he had the brains to always keep in range. He knew his range and always kept to it."[7]

In 1884 Jack McShane returned to Geelong and the brothers claimed premiership honours together. It was the Pivotonians' third straight and although Geelong's team was very talented, according to *The Australasian*'s columnist 'Peter Pindar', "the secret of its strength and success… [lay] in its splendid organization and play together rather than in any very brilliant individual effort."[8]

Although Geelong's main strength was its system and teamwork, rival clubs enticed Geelong players to leave. Phil played with Essendon in 1885, and in that same year Jack "removed to Melbourne to fill a situation in that city" where he was secured by South Melbourne again.[9] South's star-studded team won the 1885 premiership and Jack received two gold medals in recognition of his efforts for them. Phil's Essendon were runners-up and Geelong placed third. However, Geelong was not without its own McShane in 1885, for another brother, Tom "Carter" McShane made his senior debut that year.

In 1886 the two older brothers returned to the Pivot, Jack having been appointed caretaker of the Corio Cricket Ground. It was a fine year for Geelong and the McShanes. The season hinged on Geelong's September 4 match against South

Melbourne when over 30,000 squeezed into South's Lake Oval to see the VFA's two undefeated teams square off. Phil contributed three second half goals to defeat the overwhelmed home team four goals to one.

Geelong completed the VFA season undefeated. They kicked 151 goals and conceded just 36 – Phil's personal tally of 40 goals in premiership matches was more than his side lost! In this year Tom also became established as a regular senior player and as for Jack, "not a man in the team worked harder, or caused more damage to the interests of the opposing side than 'Jack McShane, the rover'."[10]

In 1887 Jack was elected the Pivotonians' vice-captain by a large majority. Phil and Tom were returning for another season while a fourth brother, Joseph "Jumbo" McShane would make his senior debut for Geelong. "Jumbo" played primarily in Geelong's second twenty in 1887 and while it is unlikely the four played together in a VFA match, they were all selected in the 22-man squad for a non-premiership match against Geelong College on May 12.[11]

FOOTBALL.

GEELONG v. GEELONG COLLEGE.—A match will be played this afternoon on the Aberdeen-street ground, at four o'clock between the above-named teams. The following will represent the Geelong :—Hall, M'Lean (2), M'Shane (4), Talbot, Turley, Douglass, Ross, Scott (2), Swale, Hickinbotham, Lovenbury, Hayes, Hassett, Kearney, Ruffin, Weber, and Syers.
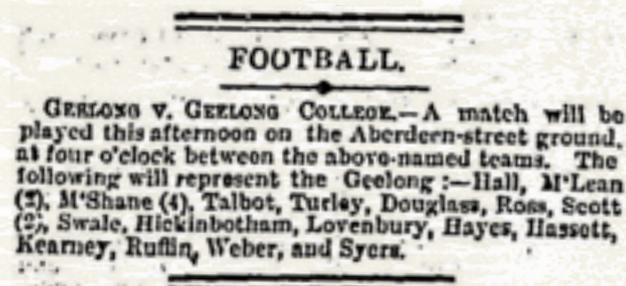
Geelong's season began well. Approaching Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Day holiday on June 21, Tom was leading the VFA goalkicking with 14 goals from nine games, and Jack and Tom were instrumental in defeating archrival South Melbourne at the Corio Oval on June 18. Later it was called Jack's greatest performance of the year. The Pivotonians' sole loss was to a very strong Carlton team on June 11 before a large crowd at the MCG.

Geelong travelled to Melbourne on Monday June 20 to play Hotham at the MCG. Like the other "Jubilee matches" it was not to be counted for the VFA premiership. The game started unusually early at 11:30am before a crowd of some 8000, and although Hotham had managed to draw with Pivotonians earlier in the year, Geelong were favourites.[12] The Pivotonians led from the five minute mark of the match to win six goals to four. However, Geelong's Jack Kerley suffered a career ending injury, and it was at this match that Jack McShane "performed wonders" and unfortunately caught a fatal cold.

The Other Five McShane Brothers

Phillip "Shilley" McShane, born in 1864, was widely regarded as the most talented footballer of the six brothers. Recruited by Geelong from North Geelong in 1883, Phil briefly played with Essendon in 1885 before returning to the Pivotonians and was a key member of their 1886 championship team that went through the season undefeated. He played with Geelong until 1889. He then moved to the metropolis in 1890 and was recruited by Carlton but he was suspected of "playing dead" and cleared to Fitzroy in June. It was his last year of senior football. In 1892 he was cleared to Warrnambool. With a total of 163 goals, Phil was the third most prolific goal scorer of the pre-league era.[18] He was a tailor and had a shop in Malop Street, Geelong. He passed away in 1934.

Thomas Andrew "Carter" McShane joined Geelong in 1885. Tom was a member of Geelong's 1886 championship team, and was the VFA's leading goalkicker in 1887 with 26 goals in premiership games.[19] He played with the Pivotonians until June 13, 1888, when he was cleared to South Melbourne. At South he would win a blue VFA premiership cap in 1888, the first time such caps were presented. However, Tom would play just two VFA games in 1889. Thomas died in 1902 aged 34.

Joseph Francis "Jumbo" McShane, born in 1868, began his senior football career with Geelong in 1887. A ruckman he represented Victoria against South Australia in 1891. Elected Geelong's captain in 1895, he was also the club's vice-captain from 1890 to 1894, as well as in 1897 and 1898. Somewhat protective of his kin, when younger brother Harry entered a pack of players in 1897 seeking a fight, Joe summarily threw him out of it. In 1902 he joined his youngest brother Harry at Carlton as the Blue's captain. Joe's importance to Carlton's revival was widely recognised, and in 1903 a commentator wrote: "Either in the ruck or in a place he has still few superiors, and much of Carlton's success depends on his able generalship."[20] He retired from football in 1904 having led the Blues to their first grand final. He would serve on the committee of the Geelong Football Club. He passed away in 1950.

James Henry "Kilby" McShane was born in 1872. He was recruited from the Marylebone Football Club by Geelong in 1890 and was the Pivotonians' leading goalkicker with 21 goals in 1891. Unlike his brothers he played his entire football career at the Pivot, retiring after the 1901 season. On September 9, 1899, he kicked 11 goals against St Kilda, for which he was presented with the match ball. In the 1890s he owned a cab business in Geelong, and organised the coursing of hares for the Geelong Fox Terrier Coursing Club. When asked how he kept up his extraordinary fitness he declared, "Oh, chasing the hares – the hares of Avalon – we have to get them fit for coursing."[21]

Henry John "Harry" McShane, also known as "Young'n", was born in 1873 and was recruited from Marylebone by Geelong in 1894. Geelong's vice-captain in 1896, Harry was cleared to Carlton at the start of the 1899 season. His last league match was alongside his brother Joe in Carlton's losing 1904 grand final side. In 1947 Harry was remembered as always wearing a slouch hat while playing. He bought a hotel and according to Dave Hickinbotham "made it a popular house with football fans". Harry died in 1912 aged just 37.

The Other McShane

Patrick George "Macca" McShane was not related to Geelong brothers, but their namesake and contemporary had an extraordinary sporting career. Paddy, born in 1858, was possibly best known as a cricketer. [22] A left handed batsman and left arm medium-pace bowler he was engaged as the MCC's professional when still a teen. He debuted for Victoria in Adelaide during the summer of 1880/81. He remained in South Australia that season, but after he returned to Victoria Paddy rose to captain his colony in January 1885, though some team mates questioned his appointment due to his history as a professional. In the summer of 1884/85 Paddy also played his first of three Test matches – and umpired a Test one week prior to his Test debut.

His football career was astonishing. Recruited from Keilor, Paddy played with Essendon from 1878 to 1880. He moved to Adelaide and was a leading footballer with South Park, twice representing South Australia against Victoria in 1881 and was best on ground in the first match. Paddy returned to Essendon in 1882 and was the club's vice-captain in 1883. At this stage moves were afoot to form a senior Fitzroy Football Club (now Brisbane Lions) and many early meetings were held at Paddy McShane's Leicester Arms Hotel. He was enticed to play for the new club and was elected its inaugural captain in 1884. He represented Fitzroy for three seasons, two as captain, before returning to Essendon in 1887. [23]

In 1888 Paddy and another former Essendon footballer Jack Lawler travelled to New Zealand to instruct the British rugby team in Australian football. The Brits were to play Australian rules in Victoria, South Australia and at Maitland (NSW). Paddy, who remained with the touring party, was soon seconded to play for Great Britain in their second Australian rules match. He and Lawler added much needed experience to the team throughout the Victorian and South Australian legs of the tour. From 1889 he was a groundsman for the St Kilda Cricket Club, but his mental and physical health declined in the twentieth century and he died in 1903. [24]

McShanes By Another Name

Stanley Smith, who played 26 matches at half-back with South Melbourne from 1951 to 1954, was the grandson of Jim McShane, through his third daughter Eileen. Born in 1932 he was recruited from the Middle Park Y.C.W.. When South moved to Sydney in 1982 many old South players felt disenfranchised. Smith, with the Sydney Swans' support, established a former players' group in 1999 that embraced both Sydney and South Melbourne footballers. Stan passed away in 2012. [25]

Michael "Red" Smith, Stan's son, was recruited by South Melbourne from South Melbourne Districts. A half-forward, Mike played 32 games and kicked 42 goals (five on debut against Collingwood) with the Swans from 1977. After two games with South in 1981, he transferred to Richmond but he would not play a league match with the Tigers. The transfer exposed an irregularity with his initial recruitment by South. Mike, the life-long South supporter, who had played in the Swans' under 15, under 17 and under 19 teams, gave his grandmother's South Melbourne home as his residence, rather than writing his parents' Caulfield address on his permit (he was actually tied to St Kilda). The issue was resolved in a little over a month. [26] In 1982 he resumed his senior career with the SANFL's West Adelaide and he played in Westies' 1983 premiership side. Mike retired in 1986 after 85 games and 182 goals in the SANFL.

Thomas Murphy is Stan Smith's grandson and therefore a great-great-grandson of Jim McShane. Born in 1986 he played his junior football with Murrumbeena and earned a position in the elite Sandringham Dragons under 18 side. Tom was drafted by Hawthorn at selection 21 in 2004 and played 95 games with the Hawks from 2005 to 2012. Largely used in defence, he was listed as an emergency in Hawthorn's 2008 and 2012 grand final teams. Following the 2012 preliminary final he was dropped from the side to make way for Hawthorn's captain Luke Hodge in the grand final. In 2013 Tom was recruited as an unrestricted free agent by the Gold Coast Suns where he played another 18 matches in 2013 and 2014.

Top left: Patrick McShane as he appeared in C.S. Cock's *The Fitzroy Football Club: Its history, progress and performances from its history, progress and performances from its formation in 1883 to 1890*, Trodel, Melbourne, 1891.
Opposite page: Jack McShane in 1886, Geelong's championship season.

The infection led to rheumatic fever. He remained in Melbourne for the remainder of the week and was bedridden by Friday, ruling him out of the club's next match against Essendon. He was taken to Geelong on Saturday and within a week Jack was reduced to a "complete skeleton". [13] The 23 year old had been moved from his parent's Ryrie Street (Geelong) home to the hospital across the road for continuous supervision, and although he showed some signs of regaining consciousness, he died in the early hours of Monday July 4.

Many establishments in the town lowered their flags to half mast upon learning the sad news. Jack's death shattered

the club and many players at other teams too, for his "jovial countenance is known to almost every footballer in Victoria." [14] Hotham, then touring Tasmania, telegraphed their sympathies. Jack's grieving Geelong team mates were in Ballarat on a provincial tour and some were "altogether unmanned". They resolved to return to Geelong for the funeral on the Tuesday. The *Geelong Advertiser* noted, "The young man was thoroughly liked in all circles for his agreeable and manly disposition among comrades and the general public." [15]

Despite the grief and with the funeral over, the Geelong Football Club's operations continued – in fact the team played Maryborough the next day. Its season was soon impacted

by more calamities. On the provincial tour another star, Jim Galbraith suffered a season-ending injury, while other members also had to sit out for protracted spells. However, Geelong drew on "lights of other days" and its reliable system to finish a credible second to Carlton.[16] On July 27 *The Sportsman* reported that Hotham's captain Dick Houston would be offered Jack McShane's old job as caretaker of the Corio Oval, in the hope he would strengthen Geelong's first

twenty and also local cricket.[17] Houston would not take up the position. The great man Jack McShane was dead, but life and sport went on.

The Funeral

Jack McShane's funeral was the largest to be seen in Geelong for many years. Flags on municipal buildings and businesses were at half mast and the funeral procession stretched about one mile. The cortege that left Jack's parents' home included, the Geelong football team and members of the club, South captain Sonny Elms and a dozen members of the South Melbourne team, representatives from the Fitzroy, Richmond, Prahran and Port Melbourne clubs, the Catholic Young Men's Literary Association, employees of Humble and Nicholson's foundry, and the North Geelong football and cricket clubs. The hearse was covered with wreaths bound in blue and white "Geelong" ribbons, while the club's flag served as a pall. The two mourning coaches were followed by 120 people on foot, and some 80 vehicles. Jack was more than just a blue-collar footballer. His life touched many and his death shocked a community. Given he was a member of the Catholic Young Men's Literary Association, it may be fitting to close in earnest Victorian verse.

The Sportsman of Wednesday July 13, 1887, included the following poem dedicated to Jack McShane:

Though silent are the bells that solemn music tell
  Of the loss of mighty men in battle-slain,
Full well we know to-day that a man has passed away
  With the life-breath of our comrade, Jack McShane.

Never more will our boys in blue with their "rover" tried and true
  Will meet on level sward their skill to test;
Never more that gallant name will uphold Corio's fame
  In the game Geelong natives love the best.

Never more that manly frame, ever stranger unto shame,
  Shall give protection to a friend distressed;
Never more that stalwart arm fill the coward with alarm
  For our lad is dead, and now he is at rest.

May soft winds gently blow over our friend where he's laid low
  And the dew from Heaven kiss the flowers above,
May his sleep be doubly blest, and his spirit be at rest
  In that happy land of joy, and peace, and love.

Shall we soon forget his face? Shall time these thoughts efface?
  Or a sacred memory of him remain?
Yes, with the brave and true, in our hearts we'll cherish you
  And the memory of your friendship, Jack McShane.

Endnotes

1 Many accounts of the 1880s refer to him as "Jacko", however, he is occasionally referred to as "Shacko".

2 'M.M. McC', "The Famous Six McShane Brothers", *Sporting Globe*, October 3, 1936, p.8.

3 W.S. Sharland, "Geelong's Football History: Names which have placed the Pivot on the map", *The Sporting Globe*, Wednesday October 8, 1924, p.11.

4 North Geelong was captained by Jack Baker. Baker was recruited by Carlton in 1882 and he would have a stellar career with the Blues. Carlton's vice-captain in just his second year of senior football, he captained the club in 1884 and 1885. Often regarded as the best player in Victoria he remained with the Blues until 1888. In 1889 he was cleared to Geelong and was elected captain in 1890. Baker's vice-captain that year was Joseph "Jumbo" McShane.

5 Thomas P. Power (ed.), *The Footballer: An Annual Record of Football in Victoria,* Boyle and Scott, Melbourne, 1881, p.58.

6 In 1883 Phillip McShane kicked 14 goals in senior matches and 24 in all games. In 1884 he kicked 14 goals in senior matches and 33 in all games. In 1886 he kicked 40 goals in premiership matches and 51 including games against senior Adelaide clubs. Mark Pennings, *Origins of Australian Football Victoria's Early History: Volume 3 Covert Professionalism: The Power of the Wealthy Clubs 1886 to 1890.* Grumpy Monks, 2015.

7 "Notes from a Sportsman's Scrapbook: Hares of Avalon", *The Australasian*, Saturday June 1, 1929, p.22.

8 'Peter Pindar', "The Football Season of 1884", *The Australasian*, October 4, 1884, p.646.

9 "The Late John McShane", *The Sportsman*, Wednesday July 13, 1887, p.1.

10 "The Late John McShane", *The Sportsman*, Wednesday July 13, 1887, p.1.

11 There is a story that "at one time all five played together for the [Geelong] senior team". However, this story is likely apocryphal. The senior football careers of five of the brothers never overlapped. The only year in which four of the McShane boys may have had an opportunity to play in the same Geelong side was 1887. This was a rare but not a novel situation in senior football, as four Ireland brothers (de Courcy, James, Richard and Thomas) played with Melbourne in 1866.

12 The match was to start at 11:00am but the Geelong team arrived late.

13 "Death of a Prominent Footballer", *The Sportsman*, Wednesday July 6, 1887, p.2.

14 "The Late John McShane", *The Sportsman*, Wednesday July 13, 1887, p.1.

15 "Death of a Popular Footballer", *Geelong Advertiser*, Tuesday July 5, 1887, p.3.

16 'Rover', "Football: The Past Season", *The Australasian*, October 1, 1887, p.645. It was not until 1925 that Geelong would win its next premiership.

17 'Little Mark', "Notes from Geelong", *The Sportsman*, Wednesday July 27, 1887, p.2.

18 Mark Pennings, *Origins of Australian Football Victoria's Early History: Volume 3 Covert Professionalism: The Power of the Wealthy Clubs 1886 to 1890.* Grumpy Monks, 2015, p.456.

19 Tom kicked 36 goals in all games in 1887.

20 'Half-Back', "Victorian Footballers Again Invade Sydney", *The Referee*, Wednesday July 29, 1903, p.1.

21 "Notes from a Sportsman's Scrapbook: Hares of Avalon", *The Australasian*, Saturday June 1, 1929, p.22.

22 Patrick McShane's birth date and place was confirmed through "family records" by Ray Webster. Although Paddy is occasionally referred to as a cousin of the Geelong McShanes I have found no evidence of this.

23 An unspecified "McShane" also played one game with Carlton in 1881.

24 Gideon Haigh, "Paddy McShane: Missing in Action", *Silent Revolutions: Writings on Cricket History*, Black Inc., Melbourne, 2006, pp.242-245.

25 Paul Daffey, "Vale 'sartorial' Stan", Sydney Swans (website) http://www.sydneyswans.com.au/news/2012-02-28/vale-sartorial-stan, February 28, 2012. (viewed June 28, 2015).

26 Ron Carter and Geoff Slattery, "South's Turn to Loose Points: Second Wrong Permit in VFL", *The Age*, Monday June 22, 1981, p.26. Ron Carter, "St Kilda Regains Points", *The Age*, July 30, 1981, p.30.

Vale Barry Todd

(1941 to 2015)

MCC Library staff and volunteers were saddened to learn of Barry Todd's passing on August 28 aged 74. Barry was very strongly associated with the Elsternwick Cricket Club and the Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association. He first played for Elsternwick in 1954/55 and amassed 445 senior games with the club (115 for the first XI). He was the Wicks' president from 1980/81 to 1994/95, and served on the club's committee thereafter.

Barry was a regular visitor and great friend of the MCC Library. The son of Ray Todd, the selection manager for Australia's 1948 Olympic rowing team, Barry donated his father's and grandfather's sporting memorabilia to the MCC in 2009. Always cheerful, Barry would happily assist the Library and was kind enough to help MCC Library volunteer Ross Perry undertake an inventory the hundreds of artefacts in the Todd Collection. Barry was keenly interested knowing when items from the Todd Collection were displayed, and would bring family and friends into the Library to view them.

As a tribute to the Barry, the following pages are dedicated to items from the Todd Collection.

Champion Pairs
1922

R J Kipling (Stroke), J. Halliday (Cox)

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME
ADELAIDE   SOUTH AUS.

April   26th
1924

Inter-State Eight-Oar Rowing
and Sculling Championships of the Commonwealth of Australia

Official
Program
and
Souvenir

River Yarra
May 2nd
1925

AUSTRALIAN   EIGHT-OARED
CHAMPIONSHIP
FOR THE KINGS CUP AND
AUSTRALIAN SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP

VICTORIAN   ROWING   ASSOCIATION

E. Kenny
Hon. Secretary

J.P. Rooke
Hon. Treasurer

1/-
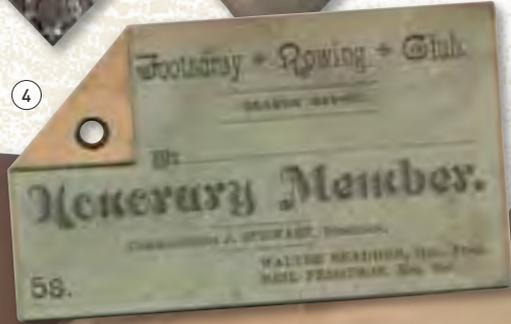
1. William Todd's medal for winning the Bisley Grand Aggregate in 1897. (MCC Museum collection M16593.44)

2. The Victorian Rifle Association's United Service Challenge Shield won by William Todd in 1901.
(MCC Museum collection M16593.31)

3. Australia's 1902 Kolapore Cup winning rifle team at Bisley (UK). William Todd is second from the right in the back row. (MCC Museum collection M16593.22)

4. 1888-90 Footscray Rowing Club honorary member card. (MCC Library collection)

5. 1922 Winners Champion Pairs. Ray Todd is at the bow. (MCC Library collection)

6. 1925 King's Cup programme. (MCC Library collection)

7. 1912 King's Cup programme. (MCC Library collection)

8. 1924 King's Cup programme. (MCC Library collection)

9. 1936 King's Cup programme. (MCC Library collection)

PROGRAMME

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Inter-State Eight-Oar Rowing & Sculling Championships of the Commonwealth of Australia

1. 1948 Australian Olympic crew at Windsor Castle (left to right) Hugh Lambie, Merv Woods, Tom Darcy, Bruce Gosswell, Ray Todd, Colin Douglas-Smith, Walter Lambie, and Jack Webster.
(MCC Library collection)
2. The Australian (Victorian) crew training on Yarra in 1947. (MCC Library collection)
3. A Lunch Trips ticket from the 1948 Olympic Regatta. (MCC Library collection)
4. The Australian crew for the 1948 London Olympics (left to right) Jack Webster (bow), Colin Douglas-Smith (second), Hugh Lambie (third), Walter Lambie (stroke), Tom Darcy (cox) and Ray Todd coach and manager. (MCC Library collection)
5. "Australian oarsmen" with manager Ray Todd. (MCC Library collection)
6. Ray Todd's 1948 Olympic travel pass and map. (MCC Library collection)
7. Ray Todd's 1948 Olympic identity card. (MCC Library collection)
8. Ray Todd's 1948 Henley Royal Regatta Stewards enclosure guest badge. (MCC Library collection)
9. 1948 Olympic pin. (MCC Library collection)
10. Programme for the Olympic rowing events on August 7, 1948. (MCC Library collection)
11. Ray Todd's "Order of Equatorial Air Voyages" certificate for crossing the equator en route to the 1948 Olympic Games in London. (MCC Library collection)

CONDITIONS ON WHICH THIS FREE PASS IS GRANTED

1 This pass is to be used only by the person in whose favour it is issued.

2 It is to be produced on every occasion when travelling, whether demanded or not, and in default the full ordinary fare for the journey must be paid.

3 It is issued and accepted on condition that neither The London Transport Executive nor The Railway Executive nor their respective servants are to be liable to the holder or his or her representative for loss of life, injury or delay, or for loss of or damage to property, however caused. The holder will not bring any legal proceedings against The London Transport Executive nor The Railway Executive or any of their servants for the purpose of attempting to enforce a claim for any such liability as aforesaid.

4 The holder is in addition to these conditions subject to the rules, regulations and conditions applicable to ordinary passengers.

Chairman   Chairman
THE RAILWAY   THE LONDON
EXECUTIVE   TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE

IF THIS PASS IS F...
SECRETARY, L.T.E., 55...

NUMBER 6998
ISSUED TO
W. R. Todd

AVAILABLE ON
ALL RAIL AND ROAD SERVICES
OPERATED BY THE RAILWAY EXECUTIVE AND THE LONDON TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE (EXCEPT GREEN LINE COACHES)

WITHIN A RADIUS OF
15 MILES OF CHARING CROSS
AS DEFINED ON MAP INSIDE THIS CARD
For indication of Areas see folding map

15 JULY TO 15 AUGUST, 1948
inclusive

SIGNATURE OF HOLDER
W. R. Todd

THE RAILWAY EXECUTIVE
LONDON TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE
TRAVEL PASS

⑦
XIV OLYMPIAD LONDON 1948   No. 723
ROWING
IDENTITY CARD
N.O.C. STAMP
Full Name: WILLIAM RAYMOND TODD
SECTIONAL TEAM MANAGER (ROWING)
Issued by the Organising Committee for the XIV Olympiad London, 1948
CHAIRMAN   DIRECTOR OF...

⑧
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA
1948
Stewards' Enclosure
GUEST'S BADGE
FRIDAY JULY 2nd

⑨

⑩
XIVth OLYMPIAD
LONDON 1948
ROWING
at
HENLEY-on-THAMES
SATURDAY AUGUST 7th 1948
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME ONE SHILLING

⑪
King Neptune
Order of Equatorial Air Voyagers
Member
Know All Men By These Presents

that MR. ...R. TODD.

of

having this day flown over the Equator and having been cleansed by flying through the Heavens of all offences and malice, and the evils associated with Demons, Gremlins, Poltergeists and other Devils of the middle air, has become acceptable as a liege and loyal MEMBER of Our Royal Demesne (Aerial Division).

Hereby,

all the Rights, Privileges and Benefits reserved for those who take to the sky in airliners, are graciously bestowed.

The Royal Seal hereon affixed

Neptune
Omnium Rex (Caelum)

Time: ...MT
Date: ... JUNE 1948   Witness ...
Aircraft: B.O.A. "SIR KINGSFORD SMITH"   Commander

Qantas Empire Airways

"After their year of office is over":

Recycling old MCC members badges into everyday items

by David Studham

MCC Membership badges have long been a collectible item. In the era where there was not a strong commercial value attached to the badges the MCC Secretary would frequently receive correspondence requesting any old medallions to help complete runs.

Some MCC members would store their superseded medallions together in a stockpile on keyrings, like the set from 1912-34 that was donated to the MCC Museum by Barbara Haynes in 2002 (M10234, left), or the run from 1945/46-1984/85 donated by R.H.Baxter (M12523.21, right). There are many stories of members hanging their old badges on a nail in their garage or shed and over the years watch their collection would grow.

While many would simply dispose of the old badge at the end of the season, for other members it was a tradition that once in possession of their new annual badge they would pass their old one down to their children to play with. Many more passed their old badge onto their wife or lady friend.

During the past few years there has been a range of altered MCC membership medallions offered for sale at public auction or on eBay.[1] Some have their cord replaced by a fob bar and chain for wearing on a waistcoat or lapel buttonhole (as per the 1906/07 badge that was offered on eBay in 2006 shown left).

In most cases both the suspension and suspension ring have been removed and pin mechanism attached at the back. Most of these have been for the badges prior to the Great War. It appears that a remarkable number were altered into ladies hat pins.
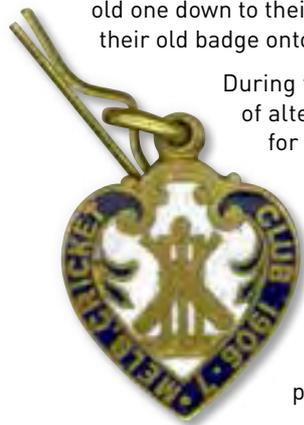
This makes sense as the Edwardian era was the peak period for hat pins due to the fashion for extraordinarily large ladies hat.

As noted by James Marwood at the Bartitsu Society webpage[2],

"The popular trend towards enormous, flamboyant hats reached its zenith during the Edwardian era. Circa 1901, fashionable ladies' headwear featured elaborate assemblies of taffeta, silk bows, coloured ostrich feathers, flowers and even artificial fruit.

The mainstay of the Edwardian hat was the artfully concealed hatpin, and as the hats themselves grew ever larger, so too did the pins. Some antique examples are thirteen inches long and resemble nothing so much as unbated, miniature fencing foils."

The fashion reached it height due to the success of the "Merry Widow" hat [3]. Originally designed by the couturier Lucile (Lady Duff-Gordon) for the 1907 production in London of Lehar's operetta, within weeks of opening it had become a transnational sensation. By the spring of 1908 as milliners throughout the world struggled to keep up with consumer

Hat pins

LUNCH TIME IN THE LADIES' RESERVE.

Above: The ladies' reserve during the fifth Test. *Melbourne Punch*, March 3, 1902. (MCC Library collection)

Left: The crowd in the New Stand, later the Grey Smith Stand, at the VFL grand final. *Australasian*, October 9, 1909. (MCC Library collection)

demand, the hat had ballooned to enormous proportions, reaching spans of three feet or more: all immaculately kept in place by the rapier like hatpins that became a separate fashion statement in their own right.

Photographs of crowds at the MCG in this period from 1902-12 certainly bear out this millinery trend amongst the ladies who visited the MCG for a wide cross sections of events.

The MCC Museum and Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Museum are in possession of a few hat pins made from MCC membership badges, including ones made from 1906/07 (AGOS 1990.2298.1) and 1909/10 (M4880) badges which were acquired from different sources.

The 1906/07 hat pin is 20.5cm long (8 and 1/16th inches) while the 1909/10 hat pin following the trend of larger hats and the need for longer pins is 26cm long (10inches).

The MCC Museum collection also contains a number of other badges converted into hat pins where the long pins had been cut off but the solder attaching the pin to the badge still remains including season 1901/02, 1902/03, 1903/04, 1906/07, 1910/11. These have come from four separate sources with the 1903/04 and 1906/07 badge the only ones with a common provenance.

Some insight into the trend for converting old badges into hat pins is revealed in an article in a 1906 issue of the Melbourne society weekly magazine *Table Talk.*

On page 27 of the Thursday September 27, 1906 issue the "Ladies Letter" column contains the following paragraph...

Above: Ladies at the MCG await the flight of Gaston Cugnet's monoplane during the 1910 Austral Wheel Race. *Melbourne Punch*, December 8, 1910. (MCC Library collection)

This information points to the custom being undertaken quite early in the history of MCC Membership badges.

The tradition seems to have been quite widespread as the May 9, 1911 edition of the Kalgoolie Miner contains a lost and found reference to a lost MCC hat pin.

the life and noise, and from time to time their intentions laughter broke out to be echoed by the crowd.

If the members of the Melbourne Cricket Club do not wear their hearts upon their sleeves, they at any rate wear them upon their waistcoat, for their badge this year is a sentimental-looking, if pretty, enamelled design, in the form of a heart. Next year we shall see many a young member's best girl exploiting his heart—the enamelled one only of course—on the end of the long skewer with which she stabs her hat. For you must know it is quite a custom to have these badges made into hat pins after their year of office is over.

Above: "LOST, between G.R. Brown's Vivian Street, Hat Pin, inscribed Melbourne Cricket Club. Reward G.R. Brown. *Kalgoolie Miner* (Western Australia), May 9, 1911.

MCC Spoons

The MCC Museum collection contains another set of items that has been made out of recycled MCC membership badges, they form part of a set of 5 spoons (M3584.1-.5) housed in a two-part box (M3584.6). As there is no provenance detail in the club's possession it appears that they were donated at some stage prior to the establishment of the MCC Museum collection in 1968.

Each of the spoons is stamped on the back with text including GROSVENOR DELPHIC E.PN.S.and A1. Attached to the end is a membership badge. The badges are all MCC Country badges, they are from seasons 1946/47, 1948/49, 1950/51, 1952/53 and 1953/54.

As there are gaps in the run with no spoon for 1947/48, 1950/50 and 1951/52 they may originally have been part of an eight piece setting and three other spoons may still exist. If you know any more details about these spoons, we'd love to hear from you.

Spoons have been part of MCC history, as they were frequently awarded as sporting prizes, most regularly by the MCC Rifle Club. The MCC Museum collection contains spoons ranging from 1900, soon after the Rifle Club's establishment through to 1963.

The earliest is a sterling silver dessert spoon with inscription engraved diagonally on scrolls at the end of the handle reading "M.C.C.R.C.M.R.C. / MARCH COMPETITION, 1900. / WON BY / B. PYMAN. / TOTAL OFF RIFLE / 195 OUT OF 210." This was awarded for the monthly prize for the Melbourne Cricket Club rifle club's miniature rifle club. The spoon was made by Walker & Hall with the (W&H) flag trademark beside three assay marks on reverse.

The most recently awarded is a silver dessert spoon. It is engraved with text reading M.C.C.R.C / S A POND / 18'5'63. Stamped on the back is GROSVENOR | EPNS | SUPER A1.

The most recent additions to the collection are two small silver tea spoons. The engraving on the first spoon reads 'M.C.C. RIFLE CLUB/WON BY/H.C.D.W./19.3.27.'. Engraving on the second spoon reads 'M.C.C. RIFLE CLUB/ WON BY/H.C.D.W./26.3.27.'. Both spoons are hallmarked on the underside of the spoon handle to indicate that they were assayed in London in 1902-03.

The two teaspoons were kindly donated by Michael Sayn in July 2014. The items were found by the donor at the Daylesford transfer station (tip) in March 2013, and subsequently offered to the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Endnotes
1. Including Mossgreen, Sporting Memorabilia Auction (#68MG)07/09/2015 Lot # 136 of 782: "MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB, 1910-11 membership badge, made by P.J.King, No.3( ). At some stage was converted to a hat pin with blob of metal covering number (pin now missing)." Sold for 439.20 IBP
2. http://www.bartitsu.org/index.php/2010/07/the-sting-of-a-hornet-edwardian-hat-pin-self-defence/
3. https://summertime76.wordpress.com/2015/07/03/the-merry-widow-hat/

Twenty pennants:

The Melbourne Cricket Club's First XI Premierships since the commencement of District Cricket

Part 8 — 2009/10 and 2012/13

By Ken Williams

In the seasons following its 1997/98 premiership the Melbourne Cricket Club's first XI was to make regular appearances in the finals, but it was not until 2009/10, under the leadership of Adam Dale, that it broke through to win its next pennant. Further success followed three years later, when, under Andrew Kent's captaincy, the club won its 20th, and most recent, first XI premiership. The last instalment of *Twenty Pennants* traces the progress of the club's first XI after the successful 1997/98 season, with emphasis on the 2009/10 and 2012/13 premierships.

Between its 18th District first XI title in 1997/98 and its 19th in 2009/10, Melbourne succeeded in reaching the finals eight times in 11 seasons, but only twice, in 1999/00 and 2004/05, did it get through to the final, only to be soundly beaten on both occasions. Inevitably, many changes to playing personnel took place during this period, with only one player appearing in both the 1997/98 and 2009/10 premiership XIs – middle-order batsman Simon Dart, who had actually spent all but one of the intervening seasons playing with Hawthorn-Waverley/Hawthorn-Monash University.

There were several changes of captaincy over this time. Warren Ayres, who had led the 1997/98 premiership side stood down at the end of the 2000/01 season after four years at the helm in favour of Brad Hodge. Hodge led the team for three seasons, but with international and interstate commitments increasingly restricting his availability at club level, he was replaced by Andrew McDonald in 2004/05. McDonald also led the side for three seasons, but he too missed many matches through representative commitments, and in 2007/08 the club brought in an outsider, former South Australian batsman Chris Davies[1], as captain. Davies returned to Adelaide after just one season, however, and was replaced by another player from outside the club, former Queensland and Test bowler Adam Dale. This proved an inspired choice, as Dale went on to play a key role in the side's next premiership success.

Melbourne's two appearances in a final during the period from 1998/99 to 2008/09 occurred in 1999/00 and 2004/05.

The first was against Richmond at the Albert Ground in a match highlighted by an extraordinary batting performance by Richmond. At one point its score stood at 5/103, but it then recovered to post a total of 568, the second-highest ever recorded in a final, behind only Prahran's 688 against Collingwood in 1921/22, and the highest in any game since St Kilda's 8/664 (Bill Ponsford 295) in a 1926/27 semi-final against South Melbourne. Three players – David Harris 112, Ian Hewett 125 and keeper Gavan Holland 108* at no. 10 – scored hundreds, the last five wickets putting on 465 runs. The innings did not end until 40 minutes into the third day, having lasted for 789 minutes. Despite the onslaught, fast bowler Shane Harwood finished with figures of 5/96 from 38.2 overs.

Melbourne's hopes of a competitive reply depended heavily on the experienced pair of Ayres and Hodge. Hopes faded when Hodge fell cheaply, but Ayres fought valiantly, recording his fifth century of the season (111 in five hours with one six and 18 fours). As a result of his almost single-handed resistance, play had to be extended for an hour on the reserve day before Richmond could claim victory, with Melbourne still 319 runs short of its opponent's total. Ayres' hundred took his season's tally to the current competition record of 1166 runs at 58.30, in the process becoming the first player to twice make 1000 runs in a season (a feat since equalled by St Kilda's Graeme Rummans).

Melbourne's opponent in the 2004/05 final was St Kilda, the match being played at the latter's ground. Again, Melbourne gained an early ascendancy when St Kilda's Graeme Rummans, Shaun Craig and Michael Klinger, who had scored nearly 2500 runs between them during the season, fell within the space of five balls to Harwood and Phil Halbish with the score on 24, but a rearguard unbeaten 90 by skipper Tim O'Sullivan lifted the total to 296. In reply Melbourne lost early wickets and never threatened to reach that total, being dismissed for 185. This was St Kilda's third premiership in a row, and its fourth in five seasons. Next season it would win its fourth consecutive pennant to equal its own record from the 1920s and that set by Melbourne in the mid-1930s.

Above: The 2009/10 premiership cup.
(MCC Museum collection, M16642)

The early part of the period witnessed the departure of several players who had played key roles during one of the club's most successful eras. Fast bowler Brad Williams, batsman and premiership skipper Michael Sholly and all-rounder Richard Herman all left at the end of the 1998/99 season. Williams, who had won the bowling average with 41 wickets at 16.17 in 1998/99, moved to Western Australia in what proved a successful bid to revive his first-class career. Sholly had scored 3697 runs for the first XI in two stints after first appearing in 1981/82, while Herman had scored 4430 runs and taken 284 wickets since making his first XI debut 1983/84. Another premiership player to leave at the end of the same season was Simon Dart, although he would return in 2009/10 and be part of that season's premiership XI.

The following season saw the final first XI appearances by the club's two most capped players, Rob Templeton and Steve McCooke. Templeton's four appearances mid-season brought his first XI tally to 302, in which he set a competition record of 671 dismissals as well as making 4125 runs, while McCooke, who had first appeared as far back as 1976/77, made a record 314 first XI appearances in which he scored 5149 runs and took 312 wickets.

Warren Ayres' outstanding career for the club, in which he won the batting award six times in compiling a record 11,154 runs at 44.61, came to a close at the end of the 2001/02 season, following his appointment as captain-coach of Dandenong. He was to play a further six seasons at first XI level with Dandenong, in which he would add a further 4123 runs to his record-breaking tally. Yet another premiership player to leave around this time was fast bowler Simon Cook, who appeared for the last time in 2003/04. In a career punctuated by serious injury and several seasons in NSW, he captured 212 wickets at 21.19 in 116 first XI appearances.

The loss of these fine players was offset by the recruitment of a number of highly talented newcomers. Three made their debuts at the start of the 1999/00 season. The most senior was 25-year-old Shane Harwood[2], an aggressive fast bowler from Ballarat who had been keenly sought by several Melbourne clubs over a number of years. He made an immediate impact, capturing 46 wickets in his first season. Also appearing for the first time were two 18-year-olds, all-rounder Andrew McDonald[3] and top-order batsman Andrew Kent[4]. Harwood and McDonald both enjoyed successful first-class careers and went on to play for Australia – Harwood at ODI and T20 level and McDonald in four Tests against South Africa in 2008/09. Kent, unlucky not to earn first-class honours, recently became only the second player to score more than 10,000 runs for the club.

Others to appear at first-class level who made their debuts for Melbourne in the early 2000s included Rob Cassell[5], Peter Nevill[6] and Michael Hill[7]. Cassell, who made his debut in 2001/02 was a highly talented fast bowler who represented Victoria in the following season. Unfortunately his career was curtailed by injury, although he was able to return to play

a key role in the club's 2009/10 premiership victory. Nevill, an excellent keeper-batsman, made his first XI debut in 2002/03 and was the team's regular keeper from 2004/05 to 2007/08, before moving to NSW and recently earning Test honours. Hill, a stylish left-handed batsman, is the son of a Test cricketer, his mother Sharyn (née Fitzsimmons) having played three Tests for the Australian women's team in 1978/79. He represented Victoria at first-class level from 2009/10 to 2013/14 and has been appointed Melbourne's captain for the 2015/16 season.

Another newcomer to make an impact during this period was Liam Buchanan[8] who was recruited from Geelong in 2002/03 and played for five seasons. A powerful middle-order batsman, he was a prolific run scorer, three times making more than 800 runs in a season: 888 at 46.73 in 2002/03, 891 at 46.89 in 2004/05 and 840 at 64.61 in 2005/06. Included among his nine centuries for the club were two double centuries, 239 against Footscray-Victoria University in his first season and 212 against University in 2005/06, the former being the highest individual score for Melbourne since the mighty Warwick Armstrong made 265* against St Kilda in 1919/20.

The 2009/10 Premiership

Under the captaincy of 41-year-old Adam Dale, who was in his second season at the club, Melbourne secured its 19th District/Premier premiership when it defeated St Kilda in a keenly contested final at the University Oval.

At the start of the season Melbourne regained the services of Rob Cassell and Simon Dart who had not played for several seasons. Cassell, whose fast bowling had revealed such promise that he had represented Victoria as a 19-year-old in 2002/03, had played virtually no cricket over the past four years because of injury, but had spent the previous winter at the Centre of Excellence in Brisbane in a determined attempt to return to the game. Dart, who had played for Melbourne from 1995/96 to 1998/99, had spent the previous 10 seasons with Hawthorn Waverley/Hawthorn-Monash University, during which time he had been a prolific run scorer. Both would play important roles this season.

Melbourne players pose with the premiership cup and pennant after defeating St Kilda in the 2009/10 final against St Kilda at the University Oval.
At rear: Peter O'Rourke (team manager), Darcy Daly (acting 12th man), Phil Halbish, Ben Way, Rob Cooper, Simon Dart, Rob Cassell.
Front row: Andrew Kent, Peter Petricola, Sean Sturrock, Ash Middlin, Adam Dale (captain/coach), Michael Hill, Michael Symons (scorer).

Skipper Dale had had an unusual cricket career. He made his District debut with Northcote as a 17-year-old in 1985/86, but made no great impact, taking 76 wickets for the club over six seasons. In 1991/92 he joined North Melbourne, where he captured 44 wickets and won the club's bowling average, but moved to Brisbane soon afterwards as the result of a work transfer. Joining the Wynnum-Manly club for the 1993/94 season, he soon became one of the most successful bowlers in the Brisbane grade competition, but it was not until 1996/97, when he was 28, that he received recognition from the Queensland selectors. His exceptionally accurate in-swinging deliveries were immediately successful at first-class level and he went on to be a member of that season's Sheffield Shield winning side as well as those in 1999/00 and 2000/01. Meanwhile the Australian selectors had also taken notice and he played two Tests for Australia, in India and the West Indies in 1997/98 and 1998/99, as well as playing 30 ODIs. Returning to Melbourne in 2003 after retiring from first-class cricket, he reappeared with North Melbourne in 2003/04, taking 61 wickets at 12.37, in the process assisting that club to one of its rare appearances in a final. He then spent the next four seasons playing in the sub-district competition before being appointed Melbourne's captain and coach in 2009/09. He took 32 wickets at 14.21 in his comeback season and was to fare even better in the present one. [9]

Melbourne began the season confidently, winning each of its first five matches, all 50-over contests, but then failed to win any of the four two-day matches which followed. Two more wins in one-day matches followed, ensuring the club finished on top of the one-day premiership table (essentially a competition within a competition) but disappointment followed, however, as it was eliminated by St Kilda in the one-day semi-final. Wins in the remaining four two-day matches, however, ensured the side finished on top of the overall premiership table at the end of the home-and-way programme, two points clear of St Kilda.

Since 2007/08 the finals had been contested by the top eight sides and not six, which meant that all finals were cut-throat contests, with no double chance for sides finishing on top, as had previously been the case when six teams took part.

Melbourne was relatively untroubled to beat Prahran in the qualifying final. After the cheap dismissals of openers Ben Way and Rob Cooper, followed by the dismissal of Andrew Kent at 55, Melbourne was rescued by a fluent fourth-wicket stand 112 by Hill (101) and Dart (55). Later a hard-hit 61 from Cassell, his highest score for the club, lifted the total to 328. Prahran never threatened that total, although opener Brendan McGuinness carried his bat for 110, he and Neil Schlittler (64) adding 102 in a fourth-wicket stand. Cassell and pace bowler Phil Halbish shared the bowling honours with three wickets apiece.

The semi-final against Carlton proved a much tougher, affair, with Melbourne managing to hang on for a draw which allowed it to progress to the final. Sent in to bat, Carlton's top-order scored freely, enabling it to post a healthy total of 323. Melbourne was soon in trouble, losing Cooper for a duck before stumps on the first day and a further four wickets fell in quick succession next morning to leave it at 5/88 with well over four hours left for play. It was saved from defeat by a dogged partnership by Dart, who remained unbeaten on 76, and Peter Petricola (67) who defied the Carlton bowlers for almost three hours while putting on 118 for sixth wicket. When the eighth wicket fell nearly three-quarters of an hour remained, but no. 10 batsman Cassell managed to stay with Dart (who batted for 309 minutes and faced 224 balls) until the close.

Meanwhile St Kilda had easily beaten Ringwood in the other semi-final, leaving the two most successful sides in the history of the competition to contest the final. There was added rivalry, as St Kilda, which had won five premierships in six seasons between 2000/01 and 2005/06, had equalled Melbourne's record tally of 18 premierships.

2009/10 FINAL
MELBOURNE v. ST KILDA
Played at University Oval, Parkville, on March 27, 28 & 29, 2010.
Melbourne won on first innings. Toss: Melbourne.

Melbourne

AJ Kent c Rowan b Mueller	5	(2) c Rowan b Forbes	29
BH Way c Rowan b Babula	0	(1) b Mueller	0
RJ Cooper c Beer b Quincy	114	lbw b Mueller	6
MW Hill c Rowan b Lalor	12	not out	20
SP Dart b Quincy	7	not out	7
PA Petricola c Rowan b Mueller	4		
† AJ Middlin c Warren b Mueller	48		
PJ Halbish c Rowan b Babula	21		
RJ Cassell c Rowan b Warren	8		
* AC Dale lbw b Quincy	0		
SA Sturrock not out	0		
B 2, lb 3, w 1, nb 5	11	B 11, lb 1	12

1/0 2/9 3/29 4/38 5/57 6/181 230 1/0 2/17 3/64 (3 wkts) 74
7/212 8/224 9/224 10/230

Bowling: First Innings — Babula 23-7-61-2; Mueller 28-9-56-3; Warren 9.3-3-28-1; Lalor 6-4-5-1; Quincy 13-3-18-3; Beer 21-5-54-0; Sykes 7-3-20-0; Forbes 2-1-5-0. Second Innings — Mueller 12-3-31-2; Babula 4-0-6-0; Quincy 5-3-12-0; Beer 12-9-8-0; Warren 5-4-2-0; Forbes 8-1-3-1.

St Kilda

† DN Rowan c Middlin b Cassell	0	MA Beer not out	18
DM Forbes b Dale	22	DE Babula b Dale	4
RJ Quincy c Middlin b Dale	8	DM Mueller c & b Cassell	3
* GC Rummans c Middlin b Dale	10	B 7, lb 6	13
MC Sykes c Middlin b Halbish	43		
PSF Handscomb c Dart b Cassell	42	1/0 2/19 3/37 4/44 5/125	175
GA Lalor lbw b Dale	6	6/143 7/143 8/156 9/164 10/175	
AC Warren b Dale	10		

Bowling: Cassell 24-6-66-3; Dale 38-19-43-6; Halbish 19-8-32-1; Hill 5-2-8-0; Sturrock 4-0-12-0.

Close of play scores: 1st day — Melb (1) 6/195 (Cooper 104, Halbish 5); 2nd day — StK 5/133 (Sykes 59, Lalor 2).

Umpires: AP Ward & JD Ward.

MELBOURNE 1st XI AVERAGES 2009/10
Batting & Fielding

	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/St
MW Hill	18	16	4	575	101	47.91	1	3	3
SP Dart	16	15	4	526	143*	47.81	1	4	8
PA Petricola	6	6	1	206	67	41.20	–	2	0
RJ Cooper	16	18	0	626	140	34.77	3	1	8
BH Way	19	20	2	601	68	33.38	–	5	6
MJ Brown	14	11	2	236	62*	26.22	–	2	4
PJ Halbish	18	13	3	241	68	24.10	–	1	4
SA Sturrock	13	8	6	48	13*	24.00	–	–	4
AJ Kent	19	21	3	419	116*	23.27	1	–	3
RJ Cassell	17	10	2	176	61	22.00	–	1	2
AJ Middlin	19	16	4	232	48	19.33	–	–	42/0
JM Haddart	6	4	0	59	38	14.75	–	–	1
AC Dale (capt)	19	8	2	56	26	9.33	–	–	5

Also batted: DP Daly (1 match) 26; JF Graham (4 matches) 6, 37* (ct 3); AR Keath (5 matches) 15*, 1, 11 (ct 1). Did not bat: NH Quinn (2 matches) (ct 1); PJM Smith (3 matches) (ct 1).

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	Best	5wI	10wM
RJ Cassell	219.1	42	672	47	14.29	6/37	2	–
AC Dale	332.3	114	682	43	15.86	6/43	2	–
PJ Halbish	249	48	701	27	25.96	5/31	1	–
MW Hill	92.3	18	327	12	27.25	3/16	–	–
RJ Cooper	34	6	119	4	29.75	2/10	–	–
SA Sturrock	170.2	14	629	19	33.10	3/14	–	–
SP Dart	41.2	2	150	4	37.50	3/34	–	–
PJM Smith	34.5	5	159	2	79.50	1/57	–	–
JF Graham	40	5	144	0	–	–	–	–

Also bowled: MJ Brown 15-1-57-2; AR Keath 21-1-108-1; NH Quinn 15.4-5-31-2; BH Way 2-0-5-0.

	Runs	Wkts	Avge
Total for	4320	137	31.53
Total against	3900	171	22.80

The final was a typically dour affair with scoring rates seldom exceeding two runs an over. Winning the toss and electing to bat on a pitch which provided plenty of bounce for the quick bowlers, Melbourne struggled early, as openers Kent (who went in first instead of the out-of-form Cooper) and Way fell almost at once, and were soon followed by Hill, Dart and Petricola, leaving it in deep trouble at five for 57. Cooper, who had been dismissed for 0, 3 and 0 in his three previous innings, remained at the crease however, and he and Ash Middlin proceeded to put on 124 for the sixth wicket in what was to prove a match-winning stand. At stumps he was unbeaten on 104 with the total standing at 6 for 195. Next day, Melbourne failed to add greatly to that total, being dismissed for 230, with Cooper being eighth out for 114 with the score on 224. He had batted for nearly five hours, faced 403 balls and hit 14 fours in what turned out to be the only score of 50 or above in the match.[10]

Melbourne's total appeared well within reach, but the course of the game changed dramatically as Dale and Cassell broke through St Kilda's top order, Dale claiming the key wickets of Rob Quiney and Graeme Rummans to leave the Saints struggling at 4/44. Mitch Sykes and 18-year-old Peter Handscomb then steadied the innings with a stand of 81 for the fifth wicket, but Cassell made an important breakthrough when he dismissed Handscomb shortly before the close of play. Next morning Melbourne's bowlers polished off the remaining five wickets for the addition of 40 runs, leaving it ahead on the first innings by 55 runs. Dale capped off a splendid season to take the bowling honours with 6 for 43. With 78 overs remaining, Melbourne batted a second time and had reached 3 for 74, an overall lead of 125, when St Kilda's captain Rummans conceded defeat. Cooper's fine century saw him adjudged as the winner of the John Scholes medal for the player of the final.

The opening attack of Cassell and Dale played a major role in the side's success. In a remarkable comeback from serious injury, Cassell bowled with hostility throughout the summer and deservedly won the club's bowling award with 47 wickets at 14.29, his performances including a hat trick against Camberwell Magpies and best figures of 6/37 against Prahran in the last home-and-away match. Dale was not far behind with 43 wickets at 15.86, while solid support came from Phil Halbish (27 at 25.96). Keeper Ash Middlin, who had taken over behind the stumps after Peter Nevill's move to Sydney a year earlier, gave good support to the bowlers with 42 catches.

The batting was also strong, with four players exceeding 500 runs. Hill with 575 runs at 47.91 won the club's batting for the first time by the narrowest of margins from Dart, who compiled 526 runs at 47.81. Both batsmen were not out in the second innings when play in the final was called off; had Dart scored just 2 more runs, he and not Hill would have won the batting award. Cooper, whose hundred in the final was his third for the season, was the leading runscorer with 626 at 34.77 closely followed by fellow-opener Way with 601 at 34.77.[11]

* * *

Disappointment lay in store before the start of the 2010/11 season when Cassell moved to South Australia after rejecting an offer to play for Victoria. As Halbish had announced his retirement after the 2009/10 final, it meant that Melbourne had lost the services of two of its three main bowlers from the previous season.[12] Kent took over the captaincy from Dale and would lead the side for the next five seasons. An interesting newcomer was 18-year-old Alex Keath, a talented all round sportsman who had turned down offers from several AFL clubs in favour of pursuing a cricket career.[13]

Melbourne had very similar records in both 2010/11 and 2011/12, finishing seventh at the end of the home-and-away matches in the former season and sixth in the latter, and then suffering heavy defeats in the quarter-finals at the hands of Geelong and Richmond. The same two players won the batting and bowling averages each season. Newly appointed skipper Kent who was in excellent form, compiled 785 runs at 46.17 including four hundreds in 2010/11 and 803 runs at 47.23 next season, while Nick Quinn, who had previously won the club's bowling award in 2003/04 and 2006/07, captured 22 wickets at 17.54 in 2010/11 and 37 at 19.32 in 2011/12 to claim two more bowling awards.[14]

Two significant departures were those of Adam Dale, who retired after the 2010/11 season and Simon Dart a year later. The former had taken 97 wickets at 16.12 runs apiece in his three seasons with the club, while Dart's two stints had yielded 2601 runs at 34.22.[15]

The 2012/13 Premiership

The club's first XI enjoyed an outstanding season by winning the overall premiership after having won both the One-Day and T20 titles. In addition, Brenton McDonald, in his first season with the club after having previously represented Footscray Edgewater and Richmond (where he had been a member of the previous season's premiership XI), became only the second Melbourne player, after dual winner Warren Ayres, to win the coveted Jack Ryder medal.

Suffering only two defeats in the 19-match home-and-away programme, Melbourne headed all three competition tables, going on to defeat St Kilda in the T20 final in December, Prahran in the One-Day final in January and ended the season by defeating Ringwood by 7 wickets in the Premier final to secure its 20th pennant.

Above: The 2012/13 premiership cup.
(MCC Museum collection, M16745.2)

2012/13 Premiership Team
Back row: P.C. O'Rourke (team manager), B.G. McDonald, P.J.M. Smith, A.R. Keath, B.H. Way, C.E. Thompson, N.H. Quinn,
R.J. Cooper (emergency), P.A.Petricola (emergency).
Front row: M.S. Anderson (chairman of selectors), M.J. Brown, M.W. Hill, D.S. Crow (MCC chairman of cricket),
A.J. Kent (captain/coach), A.J. Middlin, M.R. Begbie, M.W.D. Sholly (Premier cricket chairman).
Absent: J.W. Paynter (12th man), M.F. Symons (scorer).

Melbourne completed the home-and-away rounds in first place, and proceeded to the semi-finals after a rain-affected draw against Frankston Peninsula in its quarter-final. It was untroubled to beat Dandenong in its semi-final clash, after Alec Keath and McDonald combined to dismiss the Panthers for 191. Melbourne lost only two wickets in overhauling that total with Michael Hill (69*) and McDonald (89*) putting on 168 in an unbroken third-wicket stand.

The final, against Ringwood at St Kilda, was an engrossing contest, although Melbourne eventually secured a comfortable victory. Ringwood batted first after being sent in, but although several of its batsmen made starts, only opener David King (56) was able to make a substantial contribution, with McDonald (5/68) claiming key wickets to restrict the Rams to a moderate total of 234. A tense struggle for the first innings lead ensued on the second day as Ringwood's attack, headed by Ian Holland, made steady inroads. When Melbourne's seventh wicket fell at 178, 56 runs in arrears, the pendulum appeared to have swung strongly in Ringwood's favour. Nineteen-year old opener, Mathew Begbie was still at the crease, however, and he partnered Pat Smith and Chris Thompson, neither renowned as batsmen, in stands of 33 for the eighth wicket and 44 for the ninth to guide Melbourne to a small first innings lead. Last out for 93, Begbie batted for 280 minutes, faced 197 balls and hit 12 fours in an outstanding innings which deservedly saw him receive the John Scholes medal as player of the final.[16]

With a slim chance of gaining an outright victory, Ringwood forced the pace in its second innings, declaring at 7 for 194, leaving Melbourne with 174 to win. Despite losing two early wickets, it cruised to a seven wicket victory with Michael Hill and Keath contributing hard-hit half centuries.

The season's honours belonged to McDonald, the 28-year-old younger brother of former skipper Andrew, who enjoyed an extraordinarily successful season in which he compiled 568 runs at 43.69 and captured 54 wickets at 15.98 with leg spin. He was the season's overall leading wicket-taker and his all-round contribution saw him poll 37 votes from the umpires to win the Ryder Medal by a wide margin. His consistency throughout the season was reflected in the fact that he polled votes in 11 of the 19 home-and-away rounds.[17]

Hill won the club's batting award for the second time with 577 runs at 44.38. He made one of only two centuries recorded by the club during the season, 101 against Fitzroy-Doncaster. The other came from Brad Hodge who compiled his 16th hundred for club when he smashed 125 in a T20 fixture against Camberwell Magpies. Begbie twice narrowly missed reaching three figures when he was dismissed for 99 against Footscray Edgewater and for 93 in the final. Appearing in only limited-overs matches Hodge compiled 352 runs 58.66 to finish at the head of the batting table, but did not bat enough times to win the club's award. Others to score heavily were Alec Keath with 556 runs at 32.70 and skipper Andrew Kent, 628 runs at 28.54.

Although he finished just behind Alec Keath in the averages, McDonald won the club's bowling award. Keath took 34 wickets at 15.61, but was ruled ineligible as the club's rules stipulated that the winner of the bowling trophy had to send down at least half the number of overs sent by the bowler delivering the highest number. McDonald bowled 326.3 overs, by far the greatest number in the competition, while Keath sent down 160.5, just under half (49.25%) of McDonald's total. There is not the slightest doubt, however, that McDonald fully deserved to win the award. Other bowlers to do well were the new-ball pair of Smith and Thompson, who captured 35 and 24 wickets respectively. Keeper Ash Middlin gave excellent support behind the stumps with 42 dismissals.[18]

*   *   *

In the two most recent seasons, Melbourne has added to its list of titles by winning the Premier one-day competition in 2013/14. It eventually finished the season in sixth place, but was eliminated when rain washed out the second day of its quarter-final against third-placed Geelong. In 2014/15 it seemed Melbourne had every chance of securing its 21st first XI pennant when it finished the home-and-away programme in top place and easily beat arch rival St Kilda in the quarter final. However Monash Tigers (formerly Richmond) proved far too strong in the semi-final, the match being given up after the first day. The season almost certainly saw the last appearances by Brad Hodge[19], who had first played as a 17-year-old in 1991/92, while skipper Andrew Kent, who announced at the end of the season that he was stepping down from the captaincy after five seasons at the helm, became only the seventh player in the history of the competition to reach 10,000 runs.

The future appears bright, with two of the club's highly talented young players, Sam Gotch and Sam Harper, being awarded rookie contracts for the state during the winter.[20]

2012/13 FINAL
MELBOURNE v. RINGWOOD

Played at St Kilda Cricket Ground on March 30, 31 & April 1, 2013.
Melbourne won outright by 7 wickets. Toss: Melbourne.

Ringwood

DA King lbw b McDonald	56	(2) lbw b Keath ... 3
NM Walsh b McDonald	0	
TD Stray c Begbie b Smith	12	(1) b Keath ... 68
KI Holland run out	32	b Keath ... 5
† JDB Loorham c Keath b McDonald	0	(3) c Middlin b Keath ... 10
* BA Osborne c Middlin b Thompson	40	(6) b McDonald ... 12
BT Walsh lbw b McDonald	18	(4) b Quinn ... 13
DN King c Begbie b McDonald	13	(7) run out ... 33
JW Ashton not out	13	(8) not out ... 28
BG Allan b Keath	34	(9) not out ... 6
MD Tapp c Way b Keath	2	
Lb 11, nb 5	16	B 2, lb 9, w 2, nb 3 ... 16
	234	(7 wkts, dec) 194

1/37 2/100 3/102 4/152 5/161 6/185
7/186 8/229 9/233 10/234

1/35 2/98 3/94 (7 wkts, dec) 194
4/93 5/112 6/123 7/186

Bowling: First Innings — Smith 16-6-45-1; Thompson 13-5-33-1; McDonald 23.2-9-68-5; Quinn 18-4-47-0; Keath 8-0-30-2. Second Innings — Smith 3-0-23-0; Thompson 6-0-44-0; Keath 18-3-44-4; McDonald 16-0-46-1; Quinn 8-1-26-1.

Melbourne

MR Begbie c Tapp b DN King	93	c Stray b Tapp ... 5
BH Way lbw b Tapp	10	c Loorham b Holland ... 13
MW Hill c BT Walsh b Holland	43	c Osborne b DN King ... 79
AR Keath lbw b Holland	0	not out ... 50
* AJ Kent c Stray b Holland	13	not out ... 25
BG McDonald c Holland b DA King	34	
MJ Brown c Loorham b DA King	0	
† AJ Middlin c Loorham b DA King	0	
PJM Smith c Osborne b Holland	22	
CE Thompson c Loorham b Holland	21	
NH Quinn not out	0	
B 1, lb 9	10	Lb 3, w 1 ... 4
	255	(3 wkts) 174

1/13 2/71 3/71 4/103 5/139 6/139
7/178 8/211 9/255 10/255

1/6 2/34 3/137 (3 wkts) 174

Bowling: First Innings — Tapp 21-3-87-1; Allan 6-1-25-0; Holland 24-7-88-5; DN King 7.1-2-15-1; DA King 8-3-27-3; Ashton 1-0-3-0. Second Innings — Tapp 5-3-3-1; Allan 8-0-24-0; DA King 6-0-33-0; Holland 12-3-43-1; Ashton 4-0-50-0; DN King 9-2-28-1.

Close of play scores: 1st day — Melb (1) 1/49 (Begbie 12, Hill 25); 2nd day — Ring (2) 6/99 (Stray 63, BT Walsh 2).

Umpires: GC Joshua & AP Ward.

MELBOURNE 1st XI AVERAGES 2012/13

Batting & Fielding

	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/St
BJ Hodge	8	7	1	352	125	58.66	1	2	4
MW Hill	14	15	2	577	101	44.38	1	3	2
BG McDonald	24	21	1	568	90*	43.69	–	2	8
MR Begbie	9	9	0	303	99	33.66	–	3	6
AR Keath	21	20	3	556	75	32.70	–	3	14
MJ Brown	15	14	4	320	77	32.00	–	4	3
AJ Kent (capt)	24	24	2	628	64*	28.54	–	3	6
PA Petricola	18	17	6	294	88	26.72	–	1	4
BH Way	8	10	1	238	68	26.44	–	1	2
AJ Middlin	24	7	4	66	21*	22.00	–	–	33/9
RJ Cooper	13	10	2	160	43	20.00	–	–	8
PJM Smith	21	8	3	80	23	16.00	–	–	2
WN Ryan	16	12	6	75	18	12.50	–	–	1
JW Paynter	15	5	2	31	12	10.33	–	–	3

Also batted: AJ Boyle (2 matches) 0 (ct 1); AB McDonald (3 matches) 37, 5, 89* (ct 1); NH Quinn (14 matches) 8, 3*, 0* (ct 3); SA Starrock (8 matches) 2 (ct 3); CE Thompson (14 matches) 0, 19, 21 (ct 3); DJ Worrall (3 matches) 5 (ct 1). Did not bat: JE Koop (1 match).

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	Best	5wI	10wM
DJ Worrall	43	11	101	8	12.62	5/57	1	–
JR Paynter	71	11	272	19	14.31	5/24	1	–
AR Keath	160.5	26	531	34	15.61	4/41	–	–
BG McDonald	326.3	72	863	54	15.98	5/13	3	–
PJM Smith	197.4	30	738	35	21.08	6/20	1	–
WN Ryan	61	4	250	11	22.72	2/19	–	–
CE Thompson	183.5	46	570	24	23.75	5/20	1	–
SA Starrock	42.3	4	197	8	24.62	2/24	–	–
NH Quinn	163.5	24	537	13	41.30	2/24	–	–

Also bowled: AJ Boyle 26-1-116-1; MJ Brown 11-2-39-2; RJ Cooper 4-0-19-0; MW Hill 6-1-17-0; BJ Hodge 13-1-68-1; JE Koop 2-0-16-0; AB McDonald 9-0-29-1; AJ Middlin 1-0-2-0; PA Petricola 1-0-5-0.

|	Runs	Wkts	Avge
Total for	4674	144	32.45
Total against	4532	229	19.79

End notes

1 Davies compiled 262 runs at 26.20 in his sole season at Melbourne. Two seasons earlier, he had made a single appearance for Richmond, scoring 28. He played 25 first-class matches for South Australia from 1997/98 to 2003/04 in which he scored 1266 runs at 28.13 and also played 38 one-day matches for the state.

2 Harwood played 66 matches for Melbourne from 1999/00 to 2008/09 in which he captured 134 wickets at 19.58 and scored 1045 runs at 26.79. At first-class level, he represented Victoria 43 times and captured in all 137 wickets at 17.25. He took a hat trick on his first-class debut, against Tasmania at the MCG in 2002/03. In addition, he played extensively at One-Day and Twenty20 level, representing for Australia in three Twenty20 Internationals for Australia (he dismissed England's Andrew Flintoff for a duck on his debut at Sydney in 2006/07) and in an ODI against South Africa at Port Elizabeth in 2008/09.

3 McDonald played 106 matches for Melbourne from 1999/00 to 2012/13 in which he scored 4031 runs at 51.67 including 8 centuries and captured 127 wickets at 23.04. Prior to joining Melbourne, he had played for North Melbourne in 1998/99, making 185 runs at 23.12 and taking 2 wickets. He appeared 71 times for Victoria at first-class level, making 3516 runs at 40.88 with 8 hundreds and capturing 163 wickets at 2818. In all first-class matches, which included a stint at Leicestershire and a few games with South Australia at the end of his career, he scored 4825 runs and took 201 wickets. His four Test appearances were all against South Africa in 2008/09, in which he made 107 runs at 21.40 to took 9 wickets at 33.33.

4 To the end of the 2014/15 season, Kent has played 292 first XI matches for Melbourne, scoring 10,099 runs at 35.68 including 16 hundreds. Only Warren Ayres (11,154 at 44.61) has made more runs for the club. During the 2014/15 season he became only the seventh player in the history of the competition to reach 10,000 runs, the others being Ayres (15,277), Gary Watts (12,933), John Scholes (12,693), Jack Ryder (12,677), Peter McAlister (11,893) and Darren Dempsey (10,154).

5 In an injury-ridden career, Cassell made 61 appearances for the club in which he captured 130 wickets at 18.87. At first-class level he played 2 matches for Victoria and 7 for South Australia, taking in all 24 wickets at 32.37.

6 Nevill made 80 first XI appearances for Melbourne prior to his move to Sydney in 2008, in which he completed 131 dismissals (115 caught & 16 stumped) and scored 1844 runs at 32.35 including 3 hundreds. Making his debut for NSW in 2008/09, he has now played 50 matches for the state and recently made his Test debut in the 2015 Ashes series, taking 17 catches and making 143 runs. In 61 first-class matches to date, he has dismissed 193 batsmen and scored 3181 runs at 41.85 with 6 hundreds.

7 To date, Hill has played 113 first XI matches for Melbourne in which he had scored 3361 runs at 35.01 including 5 hundreds and three fifties at 24.63. Since making his first-class debut in 2009/10, he has played 19 first-class matches for Victoria, scoring 823 runs at 26.54. He also played one match for Tasmania in 2014/15.

8 In his five seasons with Melbourne, Buchanan scored 3252 runs at 42.23 including 9 hundreds. He also represented Geelong in two stints between 1997/98 and 2011/12, bringing his overall record to 7517 runs at 34.64, including 14 hundreds. In addition to his two double hundreds for Melbourne, he made 245 for Geelong against Casey-South Melbourne in 2009/10, a record for that club. He never appeared at first-class level, but played nine one-day matches for Victoria in 2005/06.

9 Dale played 35 matches in his three seasons at Melbourne, capturing 97 wickets at 16.12. Including his stints at Northcote and North Melbourne he captured a total of 279 wickets at 17.86 in Melbourne Premier cricket. Prior to playing for Melbourne, he had played 48 matches for Queensland and captured a total of 245 wickets at 20.75 in all first-class matches. He took 6 wickets at 31.16 in his two Tests.

10 Cooper played 118 first XI matches from 2002/03 to 2012/13 in which he made 2887 runs 26.24.

11 Way played 67 first XI matches from 2005-06 to 2012/13 in which he made 2014 runs at 31.46.

12 Halbish played 143 first XI matches for Melbourne, capturing 229 wickets at 25.00 and scoring 1710 runs at 19.21. Prior to joining Melbourne in 2000/01, he had played with Prahran for two seasons, bring his overall career tallies to 289 wickets and 2005 runs.

13 To date, Keath has made 2101 runs at 35.01 and taken 79 wickets at 19.62 in 78 first XI appearances for Melbourne. He has also played 7 first-class matches for Victoria, making 174 runs at 17.40 and taking 4 wickets.

14 To date, Quinn has taken 206 wickets at 22.33 in 122 first XI appearances.

15 Dart played 102 first XI matches for Melbourne from 1995/96 to 1998/99 and from 2009/10 to 2011/12. Between those seasons, he played 159 matches for Hawthorn-Waverley/Hawthorn-Monash University in which he scored 6349 runs at 49.60 including 14 centuries. In 2004/05 he made 1098 runs at 84.46 to head the competition batting averages. In all first XI Premier matches he scored 8950 runs at 43.87 and took 162 wickets at 28.27. He played 10 one-day matches for Victoria in 2000/01 and 2001/02 and would have represented the state at first-class level in the latter season but for a broken finger suffered while batting in a club game.

16 To date, Begbie has played 28 first XI matches in which he has scored 771 runs at 27.53.

17 In his two seasons with Melbourne to date, McDonald has played 43 first XI matches, capturing 92 wickets at 17.42 and scoring 869 runs at 31.03. He spent the 2013/14 playing in Adelaide in an unsuccessful attempt to break into first-class cricket, although he appeared in two one-day matches for South Australia. Returning to the Melbourne Cricket Club in 2014/15, he won the club's bowling for a second time with 38 wickets at 19.47. Including his matches with Footscray Edgewater and Richmond, he has taken 181 wickets at 22.83 and scored 2153 runs at 26.91 in Melbourne Premier matches.

18 Smith has taken 108 wickets in 23.88 in 69 matches since making his first XI debut in 2009/10; Thompson took 35 wickets in 24 appearances between 2010/11 and 2013/14; Middlin, who made his debut in 2004/05, played 105 first XI matches in which he completed 158 dismissals (141 caught & 17 stumped) and scored 1231 runs at 23.22.

19 Hodge's five appearances in 2014/15 brought his career tally to 6264 runs at 51.76. He also took 80 wickets at 24.45 for the club.

20 Gotch, who made his debut in 2010/11, has made 1496 runs in 45 first XI appearances to date, while 18-year-old Harper made his first XI debut in 2014/15, claiming 27 victims behind the stumps in 12 matches, as well as scoring 235 runs at 26.11.

Book Reviews
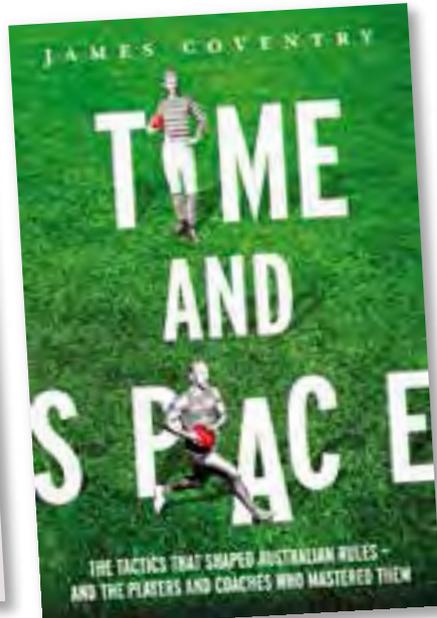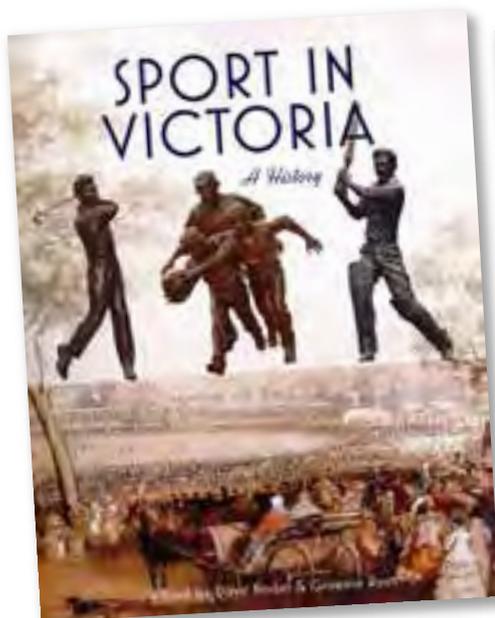
Graeme Ryan and Dave Nadel (eds.)
Sport in Victoria: A history
Ryan Publishing: Melbourne, 2015
ISBN: 9781876498474

Murray Bird
Athenians and Red Invincibles: The origins of Queensland football
Sports Publishing: Morningside (Qld), 2015
ISBN: 9780646938073

James Coventry
Time and Space: The tactics that shaped Australian Rules - and the players and coaches who mastered them
ABC Books, HarperCollins Publishers Australia: Sydney, 2015
ISBN: 9780733333699

Many Melburnians choose to see their city as Australia's sporting capital. For over a century the state has consistently produced the largest attendances and has two of Australia's iconic sporting grounds, in Flemington Racecourse and the MCG. These venues host Australia's largest annual sporting events. Much of Australia's sports history is Victorian. In the seminal era for Australian sport between the gold rush of the 1850s and the eastern seaboard depression of the 1890s, when the *traditional* sporting landscape of Australia was set, Melbourne was Australia's largest city, and arguably had the most enthusiastic and democratic sporting culture in the world.

Therefore, it is appropriate that Graeme Ryan and Dave Nadel have created the encyclopedia *Sport in Victoria*. A wide variety of subjects are included in the book from the dominant sports such as Australian football, cricket (written by MCC Library volunteers Ray Webster and Ken Williams) and netball, to competitions played on the margins of public awareness like the local gridiron league or Melbourne's own trugo. The major sporting clubs and venues in the state are also given entries.

The huge scope meant it was always going to be a tremendous undertaking and therefore, Ryan and Nadel recruited highly respected authors from a variety of backgrounds – such as academic historians, journalists and respected amateurs – to contribute entries that reflect their core passions. As one may expect the tone shifts from entry to entry, one entry may be factual, while another may be presented as an argument or an apology. In many ways the composition of the entries reflects the diversity of sport history in Victoria too.

The one commonality between the entries was that they are necessarily tight. I am sure all contributors would have liked more space to discuss their passion (my single contribution to the book was a 300 word article on the 130-year history of the Richmond Football Club, and I used every word allocated). Like other encyclopedias, its main value is as a reference tool that presents an excellent starting point for further research. Many entries are complemented with illustrations and the book will engage readers at all levels. *Sport in Victoria* provides a long needed overview of Victorian sport.

But the influence of Victorian sport did not stop at the Murray. In the nineteenth century many Victorians migrated to neighboring colonies and took their games with them, including Australian football. In the 1860s and 1870s adherents of the game, then known as Victorian football, were competing with followers of English sports to be the dominant football game in Australasian cities outside Victoria.

It may surprise many that the first colony to adopt Australia's football game outside Victoria was Queensland – today possibly the most passionate rugby league region of the world. Murray Bird's *Athenians and Red Invincibles* charts the adoption, rise and decline of Australian football in Queensland, from the establishment of the Brisbane Football Club in 1866 through to 1890.

It is comprehensive, and includes appendices profiling clubs and match details of football games played in Queensland throughout the period. In the body of the book Bird profiles the major figures in the sport's development. The book is more than just a description of the history of Australian rules north of the Tweed, but looks at how the Australian game was supplanted by rugby in the 1880s. Therefore, it would be of great interest to historians of all football codes.

Another rigorous book, that is sure to be a much consulted reference at the MCC Library, is Paul Coventry's *Time and Space.* However, unlike *Sport in Victoria* and *Athenians and Red Invincibles* its scope is national. Coventry charts major developments in the evolution of Australia's game from its establishment to the modern era. He focuses on the personalities who saw opportunities in exploiting loopholes in the laws, or a better way of managing footballers – whether tactically on the ground, or physiologically and strategically off it.

From 1860 and Tom Wills' tactical exploitation of the absence of an offside rule, to Alastair Clarkson's cluster in the twenty first century, the book reminds us that the rules of the game are just one aspect that directs play, as much of it relies on a general acceptance of convention. Therefore, players and coaches who are perceptive enough to see an opportunity in breaking with accepted techniques and strategies are a mechanism for the sport's evolution.

Often the discussion of developments in Australian football history has had a singularly Victorian focus, which is somewhat understandable given the sport originated in Melbourne in the 1850s and its major audience has been centered on the city since then. However, Coventry, a South Australian, brings a national perspective to his examination of football innovations and tactical changes.

Therefore, champions of the game who are largely unknown to a majority of Victorians, such as Australian Football Hall of Famers like Western Australia's Jack Sheedy and South Australia's Jack Oatey, are justifiably given major roles in the game's evolution.

Victorians played a great part in developing Australian football and many other sports. Australia's sports economy and many of its administration bases are centered in Melbourne, but Bird and Coventry remind us that although many sporting initiatives and developments emanated from Victoria, they followed their own trajectory outside its borders. To misquote "Orange and Blue", a Sydney based 1880s football writer and supporter of the Australian game, "Victorian – perish the thought!"

Trevor Ruddell

Paul Connolly
The Streak: Queensland's Eight-Year Domination of Origin
Hardie Grant Books: Richmond (Vic), 2015.
ISBN: 9781743790694

State of Origin rugby league is one of the most compelling annual sporting contests in Australian, if not world, sport. It captivates two states like few events can, and divides much of the rest of Australia into supporters of either the Maroons of Queensland, or the Blues of New South Wales. Prior to 2006, State of Origin series were highly competitive with 36 wins each, both states having a three series straight win. But over the following eight years it was Queensland who reigned supreme.

Paul Connolly has expertly crafted this amazing story of Queensland's dominance in State of Origin from 2006 to 2013. Whether you are interested in stats and plays or the personalities and drama, it is all there in numbers, anecdotes and pictures. Connolly's book is done with a proficiency we can all appreciate.

The first section describes the games and is peppered with wonderful and appropriate quotations from coaches and players. Therefore, readers relive the action while knowingly enjoy the claim by New South Wales' coach Ricky Stuart after Game 1 in 2006 that, "State of Origin is now all about NSW.

Queensland must look at us and wonder where things went wrong". This unfortunate quote is soon followed by one of his players Danny Budarus' reflection after the Maroons won Game 3 in the last few minutes, "We had it won out there... What the hell just happened?" By 2008 Budarus conceded, "They [Qld] just have some freakish talent."

Connolly nominated Queensland's Johnathon Thurston as the best half back of all time, but he also recognised the team as a whole is seriously talented. Who would argue with this? Connolly praises Mal Meninga, who was the Maroon's coach throughout the streak, particularly his ability to inject the team with a fierce competitive spirit that is so evident as Queensland repeatedly claimed victory in the last minutes of games. Cooper Cronk's drop goal in Game 3, 2012, and the self-confidence it required, is typical of Queensland's attitude.

The career of Darren Lockyer, the Queensland captain from 2006 to 2011, ended with a much deserved victory, but one must wonder if Ricky Stuart's negativity contributed to the mindset of both sides. "We're not expected to win," he said, "... It's because of the quality of the Queensland football team."

A section titled "Turning Points and Memorable Moments" concerns wider issues such as queries about Greg Inglis' eligibility to play for Queensland, New South Wales arrogance, the seven rookies in the 2006 Maroon side as well as the great name players. New South Wales champion Andrew Johns' retirement, his last State of Origin match coincided with the Blues' 2005 series win , injuries to key players such as Blue Mark Gasnier, and many similar events are discussed.
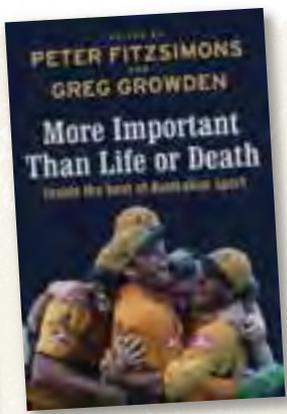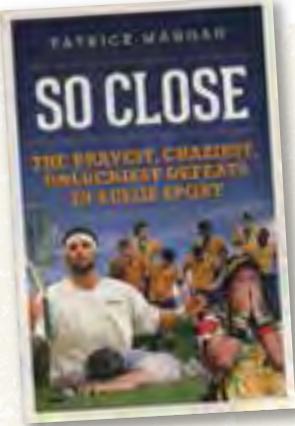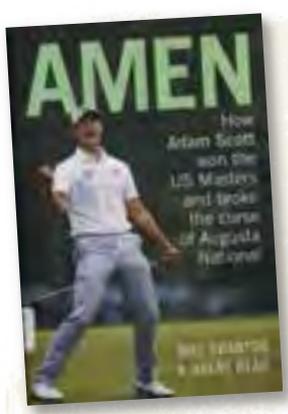
Will Swanton and Brent Read
Amen: How Adam Scott won the US Masters and broke the curse of Augusta National
Allen & Unwin: Crows Nest (NSW), 2013
ISBN: 9781743318461

Patrick Mangan
So Close: The bravest, craziest, unluckiest defeats in Aussie sport
Hachette Australia: Sydney, 2013
ISBN: 9780733630248

Peter Fitzsimons and Greg Growden (eds.)
More Important Than Life or Death: Inside the best of Australian sport
Fairfax Books: Crows Nest (NSW), 2013
ISBN: 9781743313190

There isn't anything quite like feeling the adrenalin rush of a victory or the emptiness of defeat. In competitive sport, there are always winners and losers, but the most difficult part for barrackers is to accept this fate. Sometimes deeds and agonising failures on the sporting field become more than just a staged public event. They become moments that are engraved in the internal biographies of thousands of Australians, who forever remember their impact on a personal level.

We all recall where we were when Cathy Freeman ran for gold in the Sydney Olympics and when Brett Lee and Andrew Flintoff shook hands at the end of the Edgbaston 2005 Ashes Test Match. These moments not only define the athlete but they teach us how to pull ourselves up, hold our heads high, and to soldier on.

These three books, *Amen* by Will Swanton and Brent Read, *So Close* by Patrick Mangan, and Peter Fitzsimons and Greg Growden's anthology *More Important Than Life or Death,* delve into the moments of triumph, despair and hilarity in Australian sport.

Amen explores the "curse" at the US Masters and Adam Scott's eventual triumph at Augusta National. The book is laced with insightful anecdotes from Scott's confidants and famed Australian golfers who suffered from the curse. As the story unfolds, Swanton and Read compare crucial moments that Scott faced in the 2013 US Masters to the prior downfalls of many great Australian challengers on this famous golf course.

For the Cane Toads to win eight consecutive series was inconceivable in 2005. The team had outstanding talent and a great work ethic, but maybe there was a less tangible factor at work too – passion. Spine tingling is the only way to describe Thurston's reception by the crowd when he appeared in a wheelchair after Game 3, 2011. Equally, Cronk's explanation of his feelings after his match saving field goal is what this team is all about – raw emotion and the will to win.

The Streak would not be thorough if it did not include controversies and Connolly does not disappoint. Referee decisions, illegal actions, "open warfare" (Game 3, 2009), racial vilification, the spear tackle on Queensland's Darius Boyd in 2010, political gaffs, knock-on tries, obstructions, the "Punch" and it's repercussions, all come under the Connolly microscope.

There is a significant section devoted to the big name players as well as coach Mal Meninga. The Maroon captains are also featured. NSW is allocated a few pages, as if an afterthought. The statistical summary of the scores, records teams, locations and referees for the period complete the story.

This book is outstanding. It is beautifully written, extremely well organised, and the photography is superb. The eclectic sports lover will certainly enjoy *The Streak*, but the rugby league tragic, particularly those with a maroon tinge, will find this book a real treat, an essential addition to their collection as they relive the memories of eight great years.

Lesley Smith

The retelling of Scott's victorious putt resonates deeply with not only all Australian golfers, but also with all Australian sport fans. In the words of Swanton and Read repeated pondering, "If the Putt Goes in..." places where you were, and what you felt at tense moments in Australian golf history?

Peter Fitzsimons and Greg Growden's *More Important Than Life or Death* and Patrick Mangan's *So Close* explore the ecstasy of triumph and the pain of defeat in a variety of memorable (or forgettable!) Australian sporting moments. Fitzsimons and Growden's book feature Fairfax's best sports writing, while Mangan draws upon his favourite memories to compile a series of stories about Australian sport's unexpected, shocking, unfair and gleeful moments.

Both books often retell the defeats, triumphs and personalities from a deeply personal perspective while simultaneously integrating fine journalistic work. From the Colliwobble exploration in *So Close* (oh, this story never gets old!), to Malcolm Knox's brilliant summation of Peter Roebuck's fascinating life in *More Important Than Life or Death*, there is certainly a story or two for every sport-crazed fan to read.

Although we can't always escape lazy or ill-informed writing in some mainstream media, these three books reflect Australia's more thoughtful, quirky and colourful writing. What better way to survive Melbourne's inclement weather than to relive Adam Scott's glory.

Michael Collins

WORLD OF CRICKET

Mike Coward
The Bradman Museum's World of Cricket
Allen & Unwin: Crows Nest (NSW), 2015.
ISBN: 9781760111946

The Bradman Museum, which since 2010 has incorporated the International Cricket Hall of Fame, celebrates its 25th anniversary with this glossy volume of cricket photography. It's a curious mixture of potted Australian cricket history, items from the Don's personal archives, and reproductions of the work of three major cricket photographers.

The Bradman material is more of a novelty than a revelation. During the '60s and '70s, Bradman developed a slideshow for public speaking engagements. Bradman's typed commentary, with handwritten annotations, is reproduced here along with the images. Slideshows are not renowned for their collar-grabbing vitality, and the Don's contribution to the maligned medium falls within the expected bounds of measured pleasantness.

Bradman takes his audience on a tour through cricket's history, its famous grounds, players, and even fashions. ("The usage of breeches, silk stockings, buckled shoes, frilled shirts and peculiar hats followed.") The spiel has been honed, sometimes to the point of banality, but Bradman's connoisseurship is evident, his evaluations generous, keen-eyed and appreciative. Even his erstwhile antagonist Bill O'Reilly comes in for praise.

Bradman includes three images of himself, two of which are "unfortunate memories": a duck in Melbourne in 1932/33, and the final, infamous capitulation to Hollies at The Oval in 1948. Bradman's self-deprecation is reflected by the book as a whole, which takes the idiosyncratic world of cricket for its subject, rather than any one player.

Bradman is however an orienting presence in Coward's text. Over three concise essays, Coward sketches the history of Australian cricket in the post-Bradman era. "Post-Bradman" is perhaps the wrong term: it connotes absence, whereas the Don "imposed his will as an administrator and legislator with the same certainty and infallibility that characterised his batting."

Bradman was conscious that Test cricket in the 1950s was, in Coward's words, "being endured, not celebrated", a turgid exercise beset by slow over rates and controversial bowling actions. As Board of Control (ACB) chairman at the dawn of the '60s, Bradman was instrumental in returning the game to its former heights. Among other achievements, he oversaw the "thrilling and transformative" 1960/61 series between Richie Benaud's Australians and Frank Worrell's West Indians.

It is perhaps ironic that Bradman's progressive administration instincts, attested by Benaud, helped lay the groundwork for modern cricket's ever-narrowing focus on "attractive play" – spectacle, in today's parlance. Benaud and Bradman were to fall out during the World Series Cricket revolution, but innovation was already established as a driving force. Coward leads the reader through the various consequences, from World Series Cricket (WSC) to the World Cup and Twenty20.

Readable as it is, Coward's text functions as a scene-setter. The heart of the book is the work of photographers Bruce Postle, Philip Brown, and the late Vivian Jenkins. Sports photography is a demanding discipline, requiring almost superhuman concentration and a sixth sense for capturing what Jenkins called "peak action". The photographs presented here, selected by Brown, display cricket in its many moods: tough, beautiful, funny, and often strange.

Postle's father Cliff was a sports photographer, and Bruce went on to work for a number of newspapers, including 27 years at *The Age*. His black and white match photography is excellent, but Postle's commitment to the story didn't begin and end at the boundary rope. When Jeff Thomson dislocated his shoulder at the Adelaide Oval in 1976, Postle captured the moment. He then headed to the hospital where, "with a characteristic mix of guile and gumption", he was able to snap the convalescent bowler.

Jenkins was a Packer man – his non-cricket work included Jack Thompson's 1972 nude centrefold for *Cleo* – and as the official photographer for WSC and later for the ACB, he was in a prime position to capture those colourful years. Colour is the appropriate word: Jenkins was the first Australian photographer to shoot the game in polychrome. The uncertainty of the times comes through vividly in Jenkins's WSC work: Dennis Lillee steaming in at a virtually empty Waverley park in 1977; Ian Chappell and Clive Lloyd conducting a toss in front of an audience of empty stands later the same year. Jenkins was there as Packer's innovations became accepted. His vibrant images perfectly convey the excitement of cricket in its short and long forms.

Brown's use of colour is if anything more striking than Jenkins's. His match photography is superb, and he has an eye for the bizarre: Darren Gough appearing to have literally lost his head as he recoils from a high ball; Merv Hughes on hands and knees, communing with a canine pitch invader. Brown's work captures a variety of subjects and moods. Elyse Perry is shown defying gravity in the field; Andrew Flintoff holds his head in agony during the ill-fated (for England) 2006/07 Ashes; Chaminda Vaas stares at the camera, cricket ball cradled in the hands that took 355 Test wickets.

Brown gives space to photos of non-superstars: batmakers, sign-writers, children with bat and ball on the street or the beach. These are some of his finest images, and they give some foundation to the idea of a "world of cricket".

Tim Howard