



# MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

## ANZAC EVE

**AFL 2022 ROUND 6**  
**RICHMOND V MELBOURNE**

**LIBRARY FACT SHEET**  
**APRIL 24, 2022**

### **CLYDE HELMER**

Clyde Helmer was born in the northern Victorian town of Mooroopna on April 22, 1916, the third child of Nils Helmer (an immigrant from Sweden) and his wife Eva. Clyde had an elder brother (Neil) and three sisters, the eldest of whom (Elna) died when she was just nine months old.

Both Clyde and Neil showed talent as footballers at an early age and, after attending the local state school, played for the local Mooroopna club. Neil briefly tried out with St Kilda but after failing to win a place in their senior side returned to his home town.

Meanwhile, cousin Fred Hawking, who was a star player for Geelong (102 games 1932-38 and 1941), suggested that the Cats give Clyde a trial. His move from the family home to live in Geelong upset his mother greatly but Clyde (or 'Snowy' as he was known due to his blonde hair) soon proved that he was well up to VFL standard. After starting the 1937 season in the reserves (and eventually playing at centre half forward in the Cats' 1937 reserves premiership side) he made his senior debut in the Round 7 match against Fitzroy at Corio Oval. He played seven further games on the half forward line during his first season and in the years that followed developed into one of the best centre half forwards in the competition. He kicked at least one goal in every one of his 20 games in 1938, including two in Geelong's second semi final loss to Carlton and six in their preliminary final defeat by Collingwood. An excellent mark, who could kick the ball a long way, Helmer was just over six feet and agile on the ground as well as good in the air. From 1937 to 1941 he played 71 games for the Cats in the number 29 guernsey, kicking 137 goals. He was the centre half forward in the 1939 Victorian state side against South Australia.

An engineering tradesman, Helmer enlisted in the Army in 1942. Geelong did not field a team during the 1942 and 1943 VFL seasons due to travel restrictions but Helmer, who was doing a bomb disposal course at Wagga in NSW, turned out for two games with Melbourne during the 1942 season. These were their Round 15 win against Hawthorn, in which he kicked two goals, and their Round 16 loss to South Melbourne, in which he kicked one goal. During 1944 Helmer played for the South Sydney club in the NSW (Australian) Football League.

After completing the course in Wagga, Helmer was posted to New Guinea where on April 24, 1945, he was killed at Aitape, near Lae, while attempting to defuse a bomb. He had married Marjorie 12 months earlier; they had no children. Helmer is buried in the Lae War Cemetery and he is commemorated at the Mooroopna Football Club by the Helmer Trophy being awarded to the best and fairest player each season. On May 5, 1945, the players, in a match between his old club South Sydney and the RAAF, stood in silence for a minute in tribute to Helmer.

Helmer's nephew John (Neil's son) continued the family tradition by playing 50 games for Geelong from 1956 to 1962. Tragically, he died in 1982 (at just 44 years of age) suffering a heart attack while making up the numbers for the Drysdale club in a reserves match against Queenscliff.

### **BILL GARVIE**

Garvie was born at Cobden in Victoria on New Year's Eve, 1910. He joined Richmond from Hamilton in 1934. During the 1934 and 1935 VFL seasons he played nine senior games for the Tigers and 29 games in the reserves. He was a clever wingman/rover who made his VFL debut in Richmond's Round 3 match against Carlton at the Punt Road Oval in 1934. Despite his obvious talent – he was reserves' best and fairest in 1935 – Garvie found it hard to break into the strong Richmond senior sides of the mid-1930s and eventually moved to Carlton in 1936. He played in the Blues' reserves side in 1936 and then with VFA club Oakleigh. Meanwhile, he played two games of district cricket for Richmond during the 1933/34 season. Employed as a conductor by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board, Garvie enlisted in the army in November 1942. He served in the 20th Field Bakery Platoon and was posted to the Atherton Tablelands. He was seriously injured in an accident near his camp on June 27, 1944, and died soon after. He had married Jean Kathleen Crawford in 1938. Garvie is buried at the Atherton War Cemetery between Atherton and Cairns.

[Details of the lives of Helmer and Garvie are taken from Jim Main and David Allen, *Fallen – The Ultimate Heroes: Footballers who never returned from war*, 2002.]

## FOOTBALL AT THE MCG ON APRIL 24

- 1915:** Four VFL premiership matches were played on April 24 for the first time. Melbourne defeated Richmond 12.10 [82] to 11.7 [73] at the MCG. The following day the ANZACs stormed the beaches of Gallipoli.
- 1937:** Richmond and Melbourne meet again. It is the first football match at the MCG on April 24 since 1915. April 25 was named ANZAC Day in 1916.
- 1995:** The first AFL match on a Monday evening was played between Richmond and North Melbourne at the MCG.
- 2000:** Easter Monday fell on April 24. The Richmond v Carlton fixture drew 63,149, the largest crowd for a match on the day before ANZAC Day.
- 2015:** The first ANZAC Day eve ceremony is held before the Richmond v Melbourne match. A cauldron was lit by Ron Barassi Jr prior to the game. The torch was carried into the MCG by the Creswick Light Horse.
- 2017:** The Anzac Eve match draws a crowd of 85,657, a record attendance for the date.
- 2020:** The match on ANZAC Day eve is postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2021:** Inaugural Frank "Checker" Hughes Medal for the best player on the ground is presented to Melbourne's Christian Petracca.

## SENIOR MATCHES AT THE MCG ON THE EVE OF ANZAC DAY- APRIL 24

April 24		MCG Match	Home Team		Opponent		Att.
1915 Saturday		VFL Rd 1	Melbourne	12.10 [82]	Richmond	11.7 [73]	7,385
1937 Saturday		VFL Rd 1	Melbourne	14.8 [92]	Richmond	9.12 [66]	19,726
1965 Saturday		VFL Rd 2	Melbourne	11.14 [80]	North Melbourne	10.12 [72]	21,744
1976 Saturday		VFL Rd 4	Melbourne	17.12 [114]	Carlton	24.13 [157]	34,991
1987 Friday	N	VFL Rd 5	North Melbourne	18.19 [127]	St Kilda	16.14 [110]	16,078
1995 Monday	N	AFL Rd 4	Richmond	21.8 [134]	North Melbourne	13.7 [85]	62,606
1998 Friday	N	AFL Rd 5	Richmond	12.14 [86]	West Coast	10.11 [71]	34,837
1999 Saturday		AFL Rd 5	Melbourne	13.12 [90]	Port Adelaide	9.12 [66]	24,533
2000 Monday		AFL Rd 7	Richmond	10.9 [69]	Carlton	18.12 [120]	63,149
2010 Saturday	N	AFL Rd 4	Melbourne	15.13 [103]	Brisbane Lions	7.11 [53]	36,396
2015 Friday	N	AFL Rd 4	Richmond	6.15 [51]	Melbourne	12.11 [83]	58,175
2016 Sunday	N	AFL Rd 5	Melbourne	20.9 [129]	Richmond	14.12 [96]	59,968
2017 Monday	N	AFL Rd 5	Richmond	12.16 [88]	Melbourne	11.9 [75]	85,657
2018 Tuesday	N	AFL Rd 5	Melbourne	8.8 [56]	Richmond	15.12 [102]	77,071
2019 Wednesday	N	AFL Rd 6	Richmond	12.13 [85]	Melbourne	6.6 [42]	72,704
2021 Saturday	N	AFL Rd 6	Melbourne	12.10 [82]	Richmond	6.12 [48]	56,418

## FRANK "CHECKER" HUGHES MEDAL

Tonight's best player on the ground will receive the Frank "Checker" Hughes Medal. Inaugurated in 2021, it commemorates the World War I serviceman and seven-time premiership player and coach Francis Vane "Checker" Hughes MSM. Born in February 1894, Hughes had played 24 games for Richmond in 1914 and 1915, before he enlisted. He served with the 57th Battalion of the 15th Brigade, 5th Australian Division. He rose through the ranks to quartermaster sergeant, and received a Meritorious Service Medal in 1918. While in Mametz, France, he helped establish an Australian football ground. He returned to Australia and the Richmond Football Club in May 1919. He played in the Tigers' 1920 and 1921 premiership teams and ended his League playing career in 1923 after 87 games and having booted 51 goals. He then refined his coaching arts at Ulverstone, Tasmania, returned to Tigerland in 1927, and coached Richmond to grand finals in 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1931, before breaking through for his first premiership as a coach in 1932. Richmond player Jack Dyer remembered, "Checker Hughes, the psychologist of the game, was a great coach and he beat champions with good players because he knew and understood them... with a few scathing words he could lift a side." He was enticed by Percy Page, Melbourne's secretary and a former Richmond secretary, to join him at Melbourne the following year. Hughes instilled a ruthless attitude in Melbourne's players, epitomised by the "Red Demons" moniker he bestowed on them and the club. Under Hughes' guidance from 1933 to 1941, and then from 1945 to 1948, his Demons won flags in 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1948. Therefore, Hughes was fundamental to the development of two great eras at two great clubs. He had a life-long commitment to the game and was a selector at Melbourne for two decades following his formal retirement as coach. He even stepped in as an acting coach of Melbourne for one match in 1965. Hughes died in 1978. He was an inaugural inductee of the Australian Football Hall of Fame as a coach in 1996, and is a member of the Richmond Football Club Hall of Fame as well as the Melbourne Football Club Hall of Fame.



## This Round in History – Round 6 on the MCG

The highest score on the MCG in Round 6 is 31.18 [204] by St Kilda against Melbourne 21.15 [141] in 1978. The biggest winning margin at the MCG in Round 6 is 107 points by Melbourne 19.23 [137] when defeating South Melbourne 3.12 [30] in 1939. The lowest Round 6 score at the MCG since 1925 is 1.11 [17] by South Melbourne against Melbourne 8.15 [63] in 1962. This is the overall Round 6 record. The biggest bag of goals in Round 6 at the MCG took place in 1993 when Geelong's Gary Ablett Snr kicked 14 goals against Essendon. The highest score in a quarter for Round 6 at the MCG is 11.5 [71] by St Kilda against Melbourne in the second quarter in 1978. The highest score for a quarter was in Round 6. Essendon scored 15.4 [94] against the Gold Coast Suns in the first quarter at the Docklands in 2011.

### Statistics for Richmond v Melbourne

#### *Richmond v Melbourne by venue*

	Won By Richmond	Won By Melbourne	Draw
Docklands	1	1	0
MCG	74	63	1
Motordrome	1	0	0
Punt Road	32	18	1
Waverley Park	0	1	0
	108	83	2

#### *Last Time They Met – Round 6, 2021, MCG*

	Melbourne	Richmond
Quarter time	2.2	3.3
Half time	6.6	3.7
Three-quarter time	10.8	5.8
Full time	12.10 [82]	6.12 [48]

#### *Highest Score*

Richmond	30.16 [196]	Rd 2	1942	PR
Melbourne	26.19 [175]	Rd 21	1993	MCG

#### *Lowest Score*

Richmond	1.6 [12]	Rd 10	1908	MCG
Melbourne	4.10 [34]	Rd 11	1910	MCG

#### *Greatest Winning Margin*

Richmond	93 points	Rd 9	1980	MCG
Melbourne	121 points	Rd 21	1993	MCG

### FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

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

<http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue>

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers

David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, and Gaye Fitzpatrick, with MCC Deputy Librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.

### Richmond & Melbourne Honour Roll

#### **WWI Melbourne**

James Henry Bonelli  
Clifford Charles Burge  
Jack Lindsay Doubleday  
William Nicholson Fischer  
Albert John Gourlay  
Malcolm Stuart Kennedy  
Frank Leslie Lugton  
James Robert Mackie  
William Maxwell  
Fenley John McDonald  
Thomas Alexander Ogilvie  
Arthur Mueller "Joe" Pearce  
Leo Vincent Rankin  
Harold Holt Rippon  
John Filomeno Percival ("Percy") Rodriguez  
Robert Royle  
Alfred Walter Williamson

#### **WWI Richmond.**

Arthur Charles Harrison  
Leslie Edward Lee  
William "Bill" Nolan

#### **WWII Melbourne**

Sydney Louis Anderson  
Ernest John Atkins  
Harold Charles Ball  
Ronald James Barassi  
Patrick Lawrence ("Laurie") Brady MSM  
Arthur Noel Ellis  
Reginald Clyde Helmer  
Crawford Derek Mollison  
George Frederick Regan  
Beresford Stanley Reilly  
Archibald Frederick Roberts  
Keith William Truscott DFC & BAR  
Percival Barnes Wood

#### **WWII Richmond**

William Nicholas Pax Cosgrove  
William Henry Garvie

## MELBOURNE'S 1940 PREMIERSHIP TEAM

Reigning premiers Melbourne finished the 1940 VFL season on top of the ladder with 14 wins and four losses; Richmond was second with 12 wins and six losses. In the second semi final the Tigers scored a surprise six-point win over the Demons to put them straight into the grand final. After overcoming Essendon by just five points in the preliminary final, Melbourne was far too good for Richmond in the grand final, establishing a 59-point lead by three quarter time and eventually winning by 39 points – 15.17 (107) to 10.8 (68). The Melbourne team was:

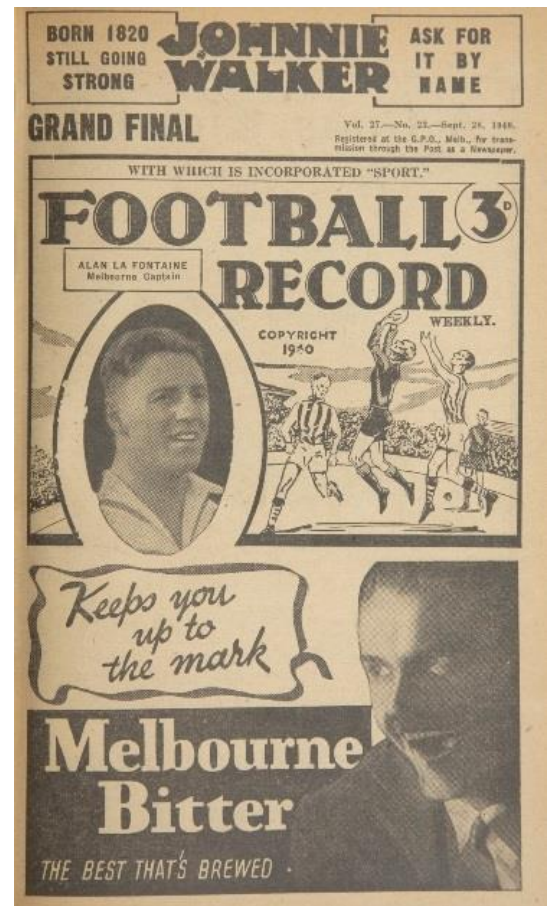
B: Richie Emselle, Frank Roberts, Harold Ball  
HB: Col McLean, Gordon Jones, Dick Hingston  
C: Ray Wartman, Allan La Fontaine, Syd Anderson  
HF: Maurie Gibb, Ron Baggott, Keith Truscott  
F: Fred Fanning, Norm Smith, Alby Rodda  
Foll: Jack Mueller, Jack O'Keefe, Percy Beames  
Res: Ron Barassi Snr.  
Coach: Frank 'Checker' Hughes

Sadly, by the end of the Second World War, four members of this team – Syd Anderson, Harold Ball, Keith 'Bluey' Truscott and Ron Barassi Snr – had died. Anderson served in the RAAF and was killed when his plane was shot down in New Guinea in May 1944. Ball was captured, and later executed, in 1942 when the Army unit he was attached to was overwhelmed by the Japanese during their invasion of Singapore. Truscott became a celebrated 'flying ace' serving first with the RAF in Britain and later with the RAAF in New Guinea. He died during a training exercise in Western Australia in March 1943. Ronald Barassi Snr, whose son (Ron Jnr) played in six Melbourne premierships sides in the 1950s and 1960s, and later coached both Carlton and North Melbourne to premierships, enlisted in the army soon after, and was killed in Tobruk in 1941.

## I REMEMBER

Lindsay Thompson, a Richmond supporter, who was Premier of Victoria in 1981 and 1982, and an MCG Trustee for many years, served in New Guinea during the Second World War as a member of a Signals Unit. After training in Victoria, his unit was sent to Brisbane during 1942 to establish a Land Headquarters Signal Unit at the partially built University of Queensland at St Lucia. The following year the unit was transferred to Port Moresby. The first part of the journey from Brisbane was via troop train to Townsville, followed by boat trip on the converted coastal vessel *Canberra*. In his autobiography, *I Remember*, Thompson recalled that his unit left for Townsville in late September 1943 in "good spirits". His "spirits" had certainly been lifted by listening to the final stages of the 1943 VFL grand final, in which Richmond defeated Essendon by five points, just before boarding the train.

Following World War II, Thompson completed arts and education studies at the University of Melbourne and became a teacher, working first at the Malvern Central School (Spring Road) and later at Melbourne High School. He was elected to the Victorian Legislative Council as the member for Higinbotham in 1955. His son, Murray, played 14 senior games for the Tigers (three in 1973 and 11 in 1976) and kicked three goals.



LEST WE FORGET