

THE YORKER



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GET IN THE SWIM INTRODUCING HARRY GALLAGHER
AND HIS COLLECTION
THE GREATEST FOOTBALL TEAM OF ALL?
CRICKET AND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

IN THIS ISSUE

The installation of Artback NT's touring exhibition *Yiloga! Tiwi Footy* in the National Sports Museum at the MCG from April 11 to July 17 inspired this issue's lead article *What Destiny Awaits: Tiwi footy and the MCG*.

The photographs of Peter Eve and Monica Napper from the exhibition accompany the article as an intimate portrayal of one of the most exciting versions of football. Among numerous reviews is Peta Phillips' of the book *Tiwi Footy* from an earlier edition of *The Yorker*, in which Eve and Napper's work figures prominently.

The MCG has been the venue for many of the Tiwi Islands players' major football accomplishments and while *What Destiny Awaits* celebrates these achievements it notes some obstacles Tiwi footballers have had to overcome to be regarded among our nation's finest players.

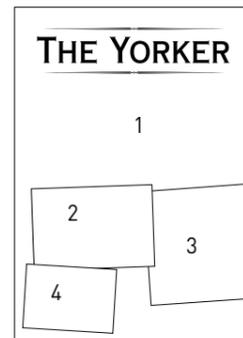
On other matters, the ranking of footballers and teams of different eras is subjective and contentious. Quentin Miller's reflection on the dominance of the Geelong team of the late noughties and the club song's lyric "We are Geelong, the greatest team of all" led him to consider which Australian football team can truly make that claim.

Quentin nominates a few contenders – but do you agree with the selection offered? What of North Melbourne from 1974 to 1978, or South's Blood Stained Angels of 1933 to 1936, or the Essendon sides of 1946 to 1951 – and what of clubs outside Victoria such as Port Adelaide in the 1950s?

Also featured in *The Yorker* is swimming genius Harry Gallagher, Dawn Fraser's coach. A recent donation of swimming books from Gallagher's collection enhanced the MCC's holdings considerably and the man and his library are examined by its cataloguers, Celia Drummond and Sam Gibbard.

Another interesting item examines treasures relating to the second phase of the MCC Library's *The Crooked Staffe: An Exhibition Celebrating Four Centuries of Cricket in Print*. Marie Pernat looks at cricket literature for children with a number of items in the Grey Smith Bar display case, while a selection of eclectic book reviews commissioned for the exhibition by library staff and volunteers under the theme "My favourite cricket book" is also included in this issue.

COVER IMAGERY



1. Januarius Puantulura of Tapalingui marks over Joseph Warlapinni of Millikapiti. "High-FlyingTiwis" in *Football Life*, September 1972. p23. (MCC Library Collection)

2. *Dressing Room*, 2005 Peter Eve, from the exhibition *Yiloga! Tiwi Footy* presented by Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring. The coach reiterates the importance of playing with commitment to his team, the Muluwurri Magpie-Geese/Magpies. An old school classroom serves as a changeroom.

3. A Tapalingui player marks. "High-FlyingTiwis" in *Football Life*, September 1972. p25. (MCC Library Collection)

4. *Half Time Prayers*, 2005 Monica Napper, from the exhibition *Yiloga! Tiwi Footy* presented by Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring. Muluwurri huddle



National Anthem, 2006 Peter Eve, from the exhibition *Yiloga! Tiwi Footy* presented by Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring. The Tiwi take their obligations to conduct a proper pre-match ceremony extremely seriously. No-one talks during the anthem.

WHAT DESTINY AWAITS TIWI FOOTY AND THE MCG



Januarius Puantulura of Tapalingui marks over Joseph Warlapinni of Millikapiti. "High-FlyingTiwis" in *Football Life*, September 1972. p23. (MCC Library Collection)

A couple of days before the Tiwi Bombers played on the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in 2007 the club's president Bill Headley observed: "It's probably the opportunity of a lifetime for some of them and for others what destiny awaits them in their football."¹

The Tiwi Islands and Melbourne are as demographically and culturally distinct as one may imagine. Comprising Bathurst Island and Melville Island, the Tiwi Islands are tropical, approximately 90 kilometres north-west of Darwin (NT) and their 2500 residents are distributed among a number of small disparate communities imbued with a vibrant and unique indigenous culture.

Melbourne, a metropolis located at the other end of the continent some 3750 kilometres south-east of Darwin, is temperate with a multicultural and urban population of around four million. However, as different as they are both societies share a passion for Australian Football and some of the greatest moments in Tiwi football were at the birthplace and spiritual home of the game, the MCG.

As early as the 1930s some Tiwi Islanders played games with footballs that had found their way to the islands. An improvised game called "force-'em-back" involved kicking a ball over a line marked in the sand on the beach near the mission at Nguuiu on Bathurst Island.

Australian Football was introduced to the islands in 1941 by **Br John Pye**. He established a field with goalposts, coached the Tiwi in the rudiments of the sport and by 1944 the islanders played largely to Australian National Football Council rules.

The game advanced further when in 1952 **Br Andy Howley** established a Xavier School for Boys at Nguuiu. The school drew students from both islands and although classwork was an important aspect of the curriculum Howley also instituted a complementary athletic/football program. He divided the boys into football teams according to the area from which they hailed, organised regular training sessions and provided playing strips.

That same year the St Mary's Football Club was founded in Darwin for the 1952/53 season largely to give some Tiwi



David Kantilla (right) contests the ruck for St Mary's in the 1971 NTFL Grand Final. "Football Darwin Style" in *Football Life* June 1971. p.25. (MCC Library Collection)

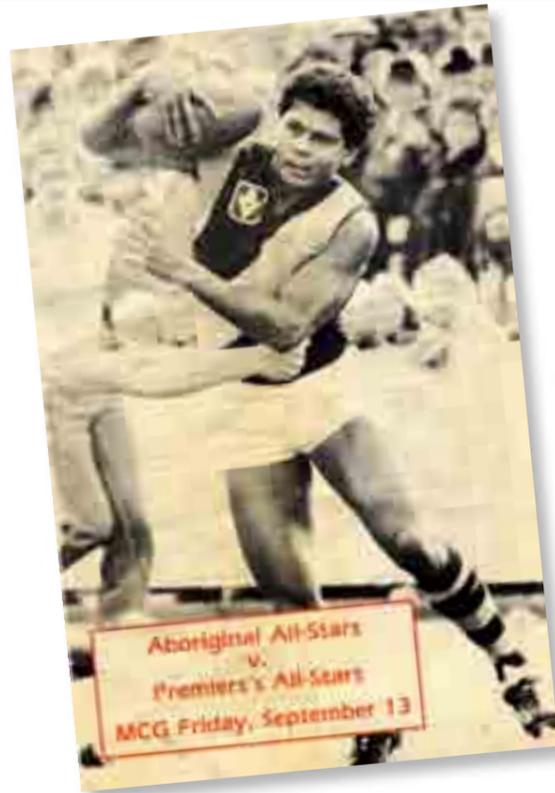
workers in town a recreational outlet. This club would be the conduit through which many Tiwi footballers travelled on their way to the big southern leagues.

The islands were a rich vein of recruits for St Mary's who won their first premiership in 1954/55. Matches between the various Tiwi Islands communities led to the establishment of the Nguilla Football League in 1969/70. It was renamed the Tiwi Islands Football League in 1989/90.²

Football is intrinsic to the modern Tiwi lifestyle. Pye, when interviewed in 1992, remarked that the Tiwi say "the first thing to do when a son is born is check to see whether he can play."³ The Tiwi Islands Shire Council boasts that 900 players are currently registered with the Tiwi Islands Football League and therefore they have the highest participation rate in Australia of 35 per cent.⁴

Not only is the participation rate high, but the islands have produced a disproportionate number of elite footballers. Many have played senior football in South Australia or Western Australia emulating football pioneers **David Kantilla** with South Adelaide from 1961 to 1967 and **Sebastian Rioli** with South Fremantle from 1972 to 1976.

Both were recruited from St Mary's but great legal changes had occurred during the decade that separated their respective moves south. Kantilla – unlike non-indigenous Australians – required permission from the Native Affairs Branch to leave the Northern Territory⁵, but by the 1970s Sebastian could travel across state borders freely.⁶ Sebastian was the first of many Tiwi Islanders to play for the South Fremantle Bulldogs and he had an immediate impact on the WA league. He was even considered for his adopted state's



Program from the Aboriginal All Stars v Premier's All Stars match at the MCG in 1985. Maurice Rioli captained the Aboriginal All Stars and featured on the program's cover. MCCL 11998

representative team weeks after he arrived in Western Australia (he missed selection).

Sebastian's younger brother **Maurice Rioli** was the first of many of "Sibby's" relatives to play with South Fremantle. Maurice joined the Bulldogs in 1975 and won the Simpson Medal as best on ground in the 1980 and 1981 Western Australian grand finals. In 1982 Maurice was lured across the Nullarbor to play for Richmond in the Victorian Football League (now the Australian Football League – AFL) the strongest and most prestigious football competition in Australia.

His outstanding Round 1 debut against North Melbourne on the MCG marked the beginning of the relationship between the Tiwi Islands and the home of football. Rioli kicked three goals and was one of the Tigers' best in their 18-point victory. It was a suitably auspicious start. He won Richmond's best and fairest awards in 1982 and 1983, and came second in the 1983 Brownlow Medal.

Maurice shone on big occasions, even when his team lost. In his first league season the Tigers were beaten by Carlton in the grand final at the MCG but Maurice won the Norm Smith Medal as best on ground. This was the last final Rioli played with Richmond but as the club was one of the MCG's co-tenants he had many opportunities to play at the stadium. Maurice played 58 of his 118 league games from 1982 to 1987 at the big ground.

In all but two years (1988 and 1994) since Maurice's debut, Tiwi Islanders have had a presence in Australian Football's premier competition and the MCG was the stage for many of their football achievements.

YILOGA! TIWI FOOTY

An exhibition by Peter Eve and Monica Napper

A forest of arms holds the Maurice Rioli Premiership Cup aloft in triumph, black and white streamers catch the breeze as hands reach up to touch the Holy Grail... this vibrant photograph from the exhibition *Yiloga! Tiwi Footy* captures the excitement of the Muluwurri Magpies on winning the Tiwi Islands Football League Grand Final in 2007.

Forty photographs of grand final day in the Tiwi Islands from 2004 to 2007 are being toured nationally by Artback NT. The images, which capture the excitement of the big game, including the preparations and the aftermath, are on display at the National Sports Museum from April 11 to July 17.

To accompany these photographs, the NSM has brought together a selection of objects that represent Tiwi football off the islands – from the Tiwi Bombers team in the NTFL through to champion Tiwi footballers who made their mark in other states through the years.

The likes of trailblazers David Kantilla, Maurice Rioli, Michael Long, Ronnie Burns and Dean Rioli are featured, as are current stars Cyril Rioli and Austin Wonaeamirri. Each of these players has left an indelible imprint on the game, paving the way for talented young footballers on the islands to play and excel at Australian football in the future.

Helen Walpole

Of the nine Tiwi Islanders who have played at AFL level prior to the 2011 season, seven have had the opportunity to play AFL football at the MCG and they have amassed an aggregate of 273 AFL matches at the home of football. They have collectively been presented with three premiership medals, played in another three losing grand finals and earned two Norm Smith Medals as best on ground in a grand final.

Michael Long has certainly played his part in those achievements. Long was another product of St Mary's and with Maurice Rioli, who captained the Northern Territory State of Origin team at the 1988 Bicentennial Carnival in Adelaide, won All-Australian selection.

After one season with West Torrens in South Australia he joined Essendon. He would play 190 games for the Dons from 1989 to 2001, and 91 of those matches were at the MCG. A member of Essendon's losing 1990 Grand Final side Long was redeemed as a premiership player for the Bombers in 1993 and 2000.

Maurice Rioli presented him with the Norm Smith Medal in the centre of the MCG immediately following the 1993 grand final. Long said this game was personally important "because I knew Maurice was going to give the medal out and especially having so many Aboriginal supporters behind me."⁷

A knee injury forced him to stand out of the 1994 season but he would return in 1995 and it was in that year he made a profound protest that reshaped football culture. Indigenous Australians have had the same legal rights as other citizens since the late 1960s but that did not excise or inhibit racist attitudes and epithets from society and football.

Maurice Rioli's boxing ability probably protected him somewhat from the racist "banter" or "gamesmanship" prevalent in the 1970s and 1980s.⁸ In 2005 Maurice said: "I didn't notice any



"YILOGA! TIWI FOOTY" IS A TOURING EXHIBITION FROM ARTBACK NT: ARTS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AND NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, THE ARTS AND SPORT.

abuse of any type which required me to get angry or retaliate or get even, I just got on with playing the game."⁹

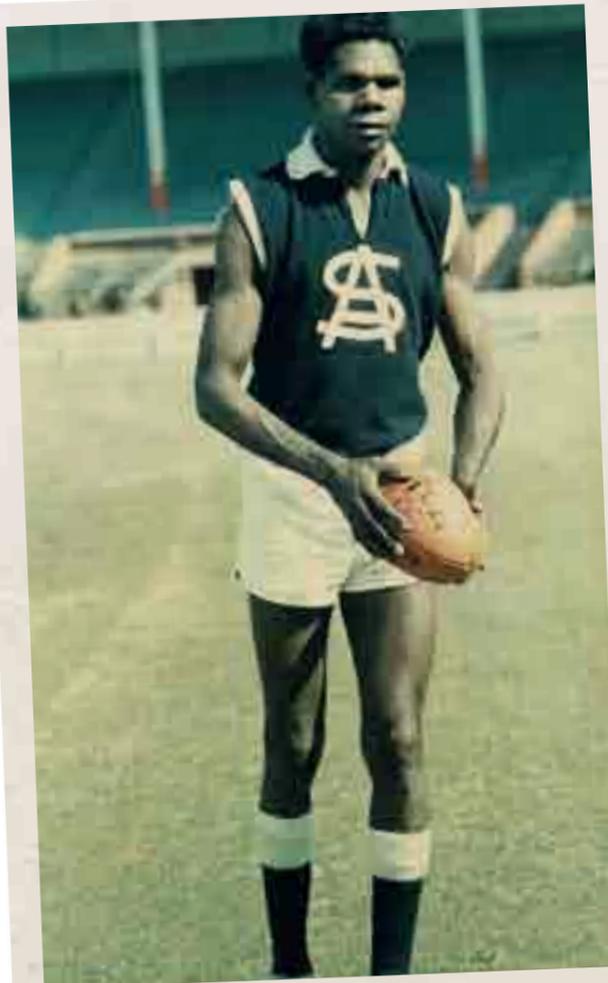
However, Michael Long opted not to leave one such matter on the field. Long turned a racist insult he received from a Collingwood opponent during the 1995 Anzac Day match at the MCG into a catalyst that culminated in the AFL's racial vilification rules. As a result, procedures and penalties for breaches were delineated and the AFL also implemented related education programs.¹⁰

Long's campaign not only initiated mechanisms that allowed the AFL to deal with on-field racism. It also created a climate that was friendlier to the participation of indigenous Australians and other minorities at the game's elite level.

In 1995 there were 35 indigenous players on AFL club lists. By 2000 that number was 50, and in 2011 there are 86.¹¹ Therefore, indigenous Australians currently account for about two per cent of Australia's population but more than 10 per cent of AFL footballers. The effects of Long's activism may not be solely responsible for this overrepresentation but it has probably smoothed the transition of many players to AFL football.

Long is not the only Tiwi Islander to play for the Dons. **Dean Rioli**, Sebastian's son, played 100 games for Essendon from 1999 to 2006. The MCG was the venue for 45 of his matches including his AFL debut in Round 3, 1999. In this game he lined up alongside Long and therefore it marks the first occasion that two Tiwi Islanders played in the same AFL team.

Dean Rioli missed Essendon's premiership win in 2000 with a broken collarbone, but returned to play in the Bombers' losing grand final team of 2001. Long's retirement that year meant that Dean Rioli was forever denied his dream of winning a grand final alongside Long.¹²



AMPARRALAMTUA (DAVID KANTILLA) (1938-1979)

Amparralamtua, better known by his Anglicised name David Kantilla, was the first Tiwi Islands footballer to play in a big southern league. The Bathurst Islander stood a wiry 6ft 5in (195.6cm) and was a fine mark, but at just 12.5st (79kg) he played with the mobility of a rover.¹⁹ He was best and fairest for South Adelaide in his first two seasons of senior football in 1961 and 1962 and played 113 games for the Panthers before he retired in 1967.

Kantilla would return to Bathurst Island between southern football seasons and while based there would play for St Mary's in Darwin during the tropical wet season. Kantilla built a great reputation in the Northern Territory and South Australia but he never played at the MCG. An interstate game between Victoria and South Australia in 1965 was possibly his best opportunity to do so. He was selected in the South Australian squad to play the Big V on June 19 and was even listed in the *Football Record* as the Croweaters' No.10.

However, he did not make the selected 20, and although Kantilla represented South Australia on four occasions he never played in Melbourne. Therefore Victorian football supporters were denied an opportunity to see the man who excelled in the 1964 SANFL Grand Final for South Adelaide and was best on ground against Melbourne, the Victorian premier, the following week. Kantilla was inducted into South Adelaide's hall of fame in 2004 and in 2010 was among six inaugural AFL Northern Territory Hall of Fame "legends".

David Kantilla image courtesy of the South Adelaide Football Club

Ronnie Burns, a nephew of 165-game South Fremantle player and Melville Islander Benny Vigona, represented Geelong from 1996 to 2002 and Adelaide in 2003 and 2004. He was therefore one of the early beneficiaries of Long's stand on racism. Burns was Geelong's leading goalkicker in five consecutive years from 1997 to 2001.

He amassed 154 AFL career games and he is the second most prolific footballer with a Tiwi Islands background behind Michael Long. Burns played 32 games at the MCG and the only venue he graced more times was Geelong's Kardinia Park. His clubs were not MCG tenants and Burns had fewer opportunities to play here than the Riolis and Long, although he did play in two qualifying finals at the MCG in 1996 and 1997.

Only two Tiwi Islanders who have played AFL football have not trodden the MCG at AFL level. **Brian Stanislaus** played one game for Sydney against Adelaide in 1991 at the Sydney Cricket Ground. **Adam Kerinauia** played three matches for the Brisbane Bears in 1992 with two of these at Carrara on the Gold Coast and the third at Kardinia Park, Geelong.

The venues where the Western Bulldogs' **Malcolm Lynch** played his two AFL games in 2007 were more exciting. The Bathurst Islander's first was at Marrara Oval, Darwin where he received "enormous support from family hanging over the fence"¹³ and his second the following week was against North Melbourne at the MCG.

The two most recent Tiwi AFL footballers debuted in 2008.

Cyril "Junior Boy" Rioli, another St Mary's recruit, first played for Hawthorn in Round 1, 2008 against Melbourne at the MCG. He has been a regular member of the Hawks' team since and prior to the commencement of the 2011 season he had played 33 of his 64 AFL games at the MCG.

Cyril was a member of the Hawks' 2008 premiership team and sought advice from uncles Maurice Rioli and Michael Long before the grand final. Maurice told him to "just go out and play your role and enjoy yourself. It's all going to go by really fast."¹⁴ Although Cyril didn't win the Norm Smith Medal to emulate his uncles, he was one of Hawthorn's best and laid a match-turning double tackle on Geelong's Cory Enright and Max Rooke in the third quarter.

The Melville Islander **Austin "Turtle" Wonaeamirri** also made his AFL debut in 2008 and like Cyril Rioli he plays primarily as a small forward. Wonaeamirri had represented St Mary's in Darwin and Norwood in Adelaide but has the distinction of being the first Tiwi Bombers product to play at AFL level.¹⁵ The Bombers were established in the 2006/07 season as a team based in the Tiwi Islands that plays in Darwin's Northern Territory Football League (NTFL). Wonaeamirri's first game for Melbourne was against Geelong in Round 3 at Kardinia Park and his second against the Kangaroos at the MCG the following week. Possibly his most memorable match was at the MCG



First Tiwi Bombers line up 2006, photo Peter Eve, from the exhibition *Yiloga! Tiwi Footy* presented by Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring

against Brisbane later that year. His father had flown down for the game as a guest of Melbourne president Jimmy Stynes.

On cue, Wonaeamirri's performance was outstanding. He kicked two goals and made a dash from the backline in the dying seconds to secure a one-point win for the Demons. His first season was sensational but injury prevented him from playing throughout 2009 and he returned to the Demons' senior team mid-way through 2010. Prior to the start of the 2011 season Wonaeamirri had played 13 of his 26 league games at the MCG.

The Tiwi Islands may be a great distance from the MCG, but over the last three decades the super venue has seen successive generations of Tiwi Islanders forge a national profile, which many have used constructively.

The greats of Tiwi football are remembered with pride in the top end. In 2010 David Kantilla, Maurice Rioli and Michael Long were three of the six inaugural AFL Northern Territory Hall of Fame "legends". When Maurice died on Christmas Day last year the Northern Territory government granted him a state funeral.

The relationship Tiwi footballers have with the MCG often continues long after their playing careers end. Maurice Rioli presented the Kevin Sheedy Cup to Richmond following the first *Dreamtime at the 'G* match in 2005. This annual game between Richmond and Essendon acknowledges and celebrates the role of indigenous Australians in football.

Since 2006 the fixture has been associated with Michael Long's *The Long Walk Trust*, a charity inspired by his walk from Melbourne to Canberra in 2004 which raised awareness of issues affecting indigenous Australians. Like many small rural communities the Tiwi Islands face a variety of social problems. When the Tiwi Bombers were established in 2006 the islanders had an average life expectancy of 48 years and Australia's highest rate of kidney disease.¹⁶ Austin Wonaeamirri's father Matthew noted that football "was like a religion to us [on the Tiwi Islands]" but "we've got to get more kids playing footy, to stop them taking drugs and alcohol."¹⁷

Footballers are a source of pride and role models for their community. Maurice Rioli, Michael Long and Dean Rioli have used their football profiles to foster and advance social and indigenous causes and much of this profile was created on the national stage that is the MCG.¹⁸

Trevor Ruddell

- 1 Michael Horan, "Playing for real" in *Herald Sun*, May 25, 2007. p.102.
- 2 Andrew McMillan, "Footy" in *Tiwi Footy: Yiloga*, F11 Productions, Darwin, 2008. pp.51-55.
- 3 Nick Bideau, "Wet and wintery welcome" in *Herald Sun*, September 12, 1992. p.98. <http://www.tiwiislands.nt.gov.au/Meetings.html> (viewed February 21, 2011)
- 4 Andrew McMillan, "Footy" in *Tiwi Footy: Yiloga*, F11 Productions, Darwin, 2008. p.91.
- 5 Sebastian's club South Fremantle was only required to obtain the usual clearance from St Mary's and the South Australian National Football League (SANFL). The Northern Territory was zoned to the SANFL, and therefore a senior non-South Australian club needed a clearance from the SANFL to recruit any player from the Northern Territory. "WA Superstar Kid! At 18 he's in the State squad" in *Inside Football*, June 24, 1972. p.9.
- 6 John McDonald, "Long may he reign" in *Football Year '93: A Record of the 1993 Australian Football League Season*, Pagemasters Books, Richmond, 1993. p.16.
- 7 Marco Bass, "Maurice Rioli" in *AFL's Black Stars*, Thomas C. Lothian, Port Melbourne, 1998. p.51.
- 8 Sean Callander, "Football Dreamtime" in *AFL Record*, Round 15: July 8-10, 2005. pp.12-13.
- 9 *Football Record*, Round 13: July 1, 1995. pp.3-6 & 19. Michael Long "Eradicating intolerance is a continuing battle" in *The Age*, April 18-19, 2003.
- 10 Samantha Lane, "Goodes eyes off change" in *The Age* February 5, 2011. Sport p.8.
- 11 Peter Wilmoth, "Issues of right and Long" in *The Sunday Age*, July 21, 2002. Agenda p.3.
- 12 Courtney Walsh, "Lynch crowd favourite in Top End carnival" in *The Australian*, June 18, 2007.
- 13 Russell Holmesby, "Rioli sure won't tire of finals success" in *Inside Football*, October 1, 2008. p.14.
- 14 Wonaeamirri played three games for the Bombers in their first season. Rohan Connolly, "The Tiwi Islands, where the game is more than a passion" in *The Age*, March 21, 2009. Sport p.4. Dean Rioli also played with the Tiwi Bombers in 2006/07 but this was after his AFL career had ended. The non-Tiwi Jarrrod Atkinson who had played 17 AFL games for Essendon from 2008 to 2010 was recruited by the Tiwi Bombers in 2010/11.
- 15 Lindsay Murdoch, "A team in big league kick-starts hope on troubled Tiwi Islands" in *Sydney Morning Herald*, October 13, 2006. <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/a-team-in-big-league-kickstarts-hope-on-troubled-tiwi-islands/2006/10/12/1160246262878.html#> (viewed March 10, 2011).
- 16 Lex Hall, "Finals fever envelops the Tiwi Islands" in *The Australian*, March 15, 2010. p.7. Matthew Wonaeamirri was a former chairman of the Tiwi Land Council and an official with the Tiwi Bombers. He passed away following a car accident in November 2010. Anthony Dowsley, "Demons star rushes home after family tragedy" in *Herald Sun*, November 16, 2010. p.7.
- 17 Jake Niall, "On the Long march" in *The Age*, March 25, 2006. Sport pp.25 & 28.
- 18 "Vital statistics", in *Football Record*, Vol 54, No 12, June 19, 1965. p.20.

TIWI TEAMS ON THE MCG

The first senior team to grace the MCG with a number of Tiwi players was the **Aboriginal All Stars** side that met a combined Victorian Football League (now Australian Football League) team called the **Premier's All Stars** in 1985. The match, just the third football game played under the MCG's new light towers, was organised by the National Aborigines Day Observance Committee and was held on Friday September 13, 1985 for National Aborigines Week.

The Aboriginal All Stars were captained by Richmond's 1982 Norm Smith Medallist and Melville Islander Maurice Rioli, while Marcellious Tipengwati of Bathurst Island and Rioli's cousin Benny Vigona (then playing for South Fremantle in Western Australia) also lined up for the indigenous team. Although the All Stars included a number of players with a Tiwi Islands background, it was a representative Aboriginal team selected from leagues and clubs throughout Australia. The debut of an exclusively Tiwi team at the MCG occurred in 1992.

TIWI ISLANDS v KIMBERLEY

SEPTEMBER 13, 1992 - CRA CUP

In 1992 the MCG hosted all-indigenous teams from the **Kimberley** in Western Australia's far north and the **Tiwi Islands**. These sides played in the first of two curtain-raisers to the AFL Second Semi Final between Geelong and West Coast on September 13.

The match was part of a three-week tour of Victoria by the footballers that involved exhibitions of football, art and dance, and was "devoted to the promotion of Aboriginal athleticism and culture, and their contribution to Australian football."²⁰

The Tiwi, in royal blue and red vertical stripes were captained by Gregory Orsto and coached by Marius Puruntatameri Sr, while Kimberley wearing gold with blue trim was captained by Broome's Justin King.

Kimberley dominated the key positions early and a 21-point lead at the first break was extended to 39 points by half time. ABC commentator Maurice Rioli stopped broadcasting to play for the Tiwi Islands in the second half. But it was to no avail initially and the Tiwi were 52 points down at the last change.

The Tiwi play opened up in the last quarter and they reduced the margin to just seven points after a 20-minute, seven-goal rally. But the West Australians steadied to claim the CRA Cup by 16 points, 21.17 (143) to 19.13 (127). It was Kimberley's first win over the Tiwi.

Beagle Bay's Terry Cox kicked nine goals for Kimberley while Albert Dann, Shane McAdam, Wayne Edgar, Tim Carter, Brendan Cox and Gavin Mitchell also played well for the WA side. Henry James Tipungwuti kicked seven goals for the Tiwis whose best play was seen in the last quarter. They were well served by Matthew Wanaeamirri, Sebastian Tipungwuti, John Rioli, Frank Purantatamirri and Brisbane Bears player Adam Kerinaiaua.

Kimberley	6.5	13.9	20.12	21.17 (143)
Tiwi Islands	3.2	7.6	12.8	19.13 (127)

TIWI BOMBERS v RUMBALARA

MAY 26, 2007 - DREAMTIME AT THE 'G CURTAIN-RAISER

After an absence of 15 years, a Tiwi team graced the MCG when the **Tiwi Bombers** from the Northern Territory Football League (NTFL) met **Rumbalara** of the Murray Football League on May 26, 2007. Essendon, which had close formal relationships with both clubs, organised the match as a curtain-raiser to the *Dreamtime at the 'G* with the assistance of the Northern Territory Government, the insurance company TIO and the mining industry.

The Bombers donned Essendon jumpers, black with a red sash while "Rumba" played in blue guernseys with a black, yellow and red band. Rumbalara was established by the indigenous community of Shepparton, Victoria and was officially launched after its admission to the Goulburn Valley Football League in 1997.

It has been a football and community success story since and in 2007 it was the only Victorian indigenous club playing in a weekly competition. The Bombers were essentially a Tiwi Islands Football League representative team and regarded as the first all-Aboriginal club in a senior football league.

The Bombers' first-ever match was against St Mary's (image top right page 9) and they had a very successful trial in the NTFL during the 2006/07 wet season. The Bombers won six out of seven matches, and were a few months from beginning their first full season as an NTFL club.

Essendon chief executive Peter Jackson said the "creation of the Tiwi Island Bombers has had a positive impact and by staging this game on football's greatest stage we hope to provide a further boost."²¹ The Bombers were far superior to the country league Rumbalara, which had named half a dozen players from its Under 17s.²²

The Bombers won by 136 points, 28.20 (188) to 8.4 (52). Ephrem Tipungwuti kicked nine goals for the Bombers while Austin Wanaeamirri, who joined Melbourne in 2008, was one of their best. Phil Guthrie, Rumbalara captain and one of its few non-indigenous players, kicked four goals.

Tiwi Bombers	28.20 (188)
Rumbalara	8.4 (52)



The 1992 Aboriginal football tour program. The tour's highlight was a match between teams from the Tiwi Islands and the Kimberley on the MCG. Photos of an Imalu Tigers (Tiwi Islands) footballer and the MCG feature on the program's cover. MCCL 1553



Full Throttle 2006, photo Peter Eve, from the exhibition *Yiloga! Tiwi Footy* presented by Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring



Imalu Tigers 2007, photo Monica Napper, from the exhibition *Yiloga! Tiwi Footy* presented by Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring

In 1972/73 Tukumpi changed its name to the Imalu Tigers, a change that drew on the legend of a tiger which once prowled Imalu beach.²⁴ That very season Imalu won their first of 15 premierships, making it the Tiwi Islands' most successful club.²⁵ The Tigers were the 2007/08 Tiwi Islands Football League premiers and had earned its place at the MCG through the Norforce Community Division of the 2008 Defence Jobs AFL Carnival in Darwin.

IMALU TIGERS v BRAMBUK EELS

MAY 23, 2009 - DREAMTIME AT THE 'G CURTAIN-RAISER - POMPEY AUSTIN CUP

The **Imalu Tigers**, a perennial power in the Tiwi Islands competition, and the **Brambuk Eels** from Victoria's Western District featured in the 2009 *Dreamtime at the 'G* curtain-raiser. The teams played for the inaugural Pompey Austin Cup, named after a Geelong player who in 1872 became the first Aborigine to play Australian Football at senior level. Pompey was later a member of the 1877 Framlingham side, the first indigenous Australian Football team in Victoria's Western District.

Brambuk's blue guernsey with white trim referenced the colours worn by Framlingham in 1878. Eels' captain-coach Aaron Clarke noted that the match "connected the team with our forefathers and the traditional game of Marngrook, making it a significant cultural event."²³

Imalu also boasted a proud heritage. The club is based at Prilangimpi (Garden Point), a "half-caste" mission until 1967 on Melville Island. Br John Pye was posted to the mission in 1954 and helped establish the Garden Point Football Club. The Tukumpi Birds team, a descendant of Garden Point, was a foundation member of the Nguilla Football League in 1969/70 (now the Tiwi Islands Football League).

The prize of playing on the MCG drew teams from throughout the Northern Territory and the Tigers were undefeated after seven games. However, having earned the game at the MCG Imalu was no match for the Victorian team. The Tigers were drawn from a community of about 400, their oldest player was 38 and they included two 14-year-olds.²⁶ The Eels led at each change to win 13.10 (88) to 7.5 (47). Ruben Hayden and Jack Bell each kicked four goals for Brambuk, and Hayden was named best on ground. Bronson Desantis, Jack Burke, Camden Vigona-Ross, Kevin Pangaraminni and Nicholas Stassi played well for Imalu.

Brambuk Eels	4.2	6.5	10.9	13.10 (88)
Imalu Tigers	2.1	4.3	5.4	7.5 (47)

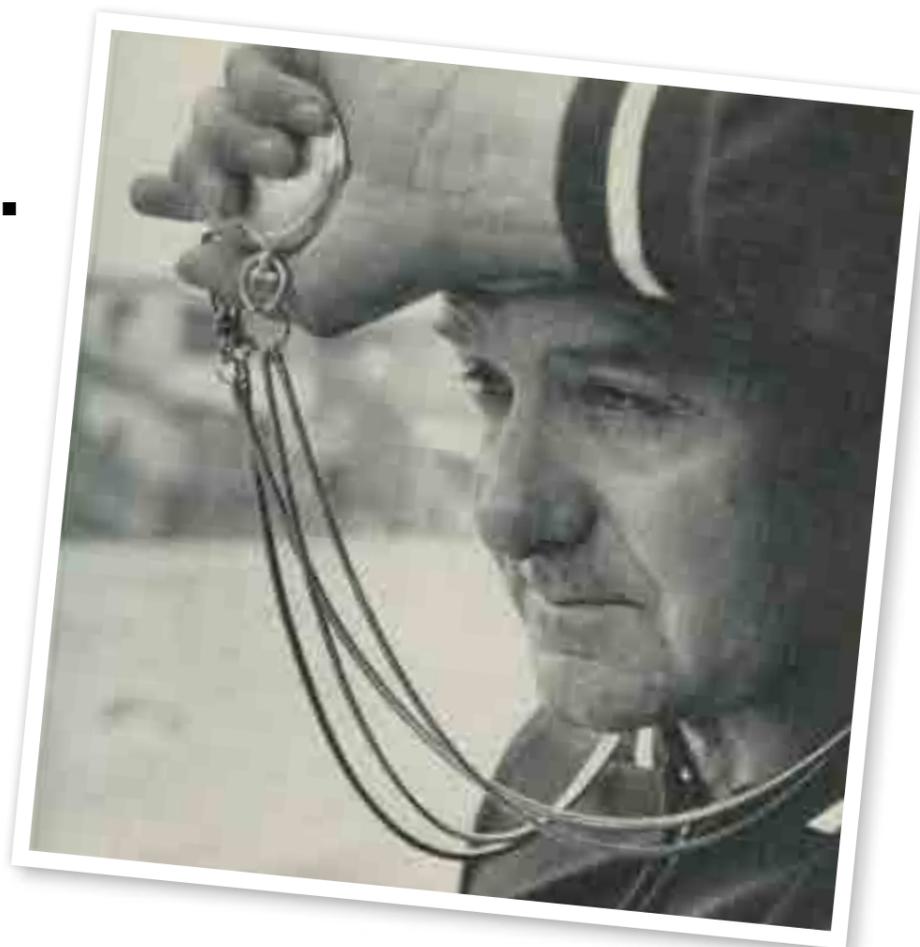
Trevor Ruddell

20 *Aboriginal Football Tour 1992 Programme*
 21 Michael Horan, "Playing for real" in *Herald Sun*, May 25, 2007. p.102.
 22 Paul Daffey, "Rumbalara starts big weekend at MCG" in *The Age*, May 26 2007.
 23 Peter Argent, "Eels too slippery" in *The Koori Mail*, June 3, 2009. pp.92-93.
 24 Andrew McMillan "Footy" in *Tiwi Footy: Yiloga*, F11 Productions, Darwin, 2008. p.67 & 71.
 25 On March 27, 2011 Imalu won its 16th premiership but at the time of their MCG match in 2009 they had won 15.
 26 *The Tiwi Islands Shire Council Annual Report 2008-2009* (p.7) recorded Pirlangimpi's population at 434. Peter Argent, "Eels too slippery" in *The Koori Mail*, June 3, 2009. pp.92-93.

GET IN THE SWIM.

INTRODUCING HARRY GALLAGHER: PIONEERING AUSTRALIAN SWIM COACH

Photograph of Harry Gallagher from Gallagher, Harry, *Harry Gallagher on swimming*, London: Pelham Books, 1970 [plate 12]. MCCL 11595



Dawn Fraser and Jon Henricks are undoubtedly two of Australia's greatest swimmers. Fraser won eight Olympic medals, including four gold, and six Commonwealth Games gold medals. Her 39 world records included a performance in the 100 metres freestyle that stood for 15 years. Jon Henricks won the 100 metres freestyle at the 1953 Australian Championships and repeated the feat in the following three years. He also won two gold medals at the 1956 Olympic Games. While these swimmers' achievements are widely acknowledged, the story of their coach Harry Gallagher is perhaps lesser known.

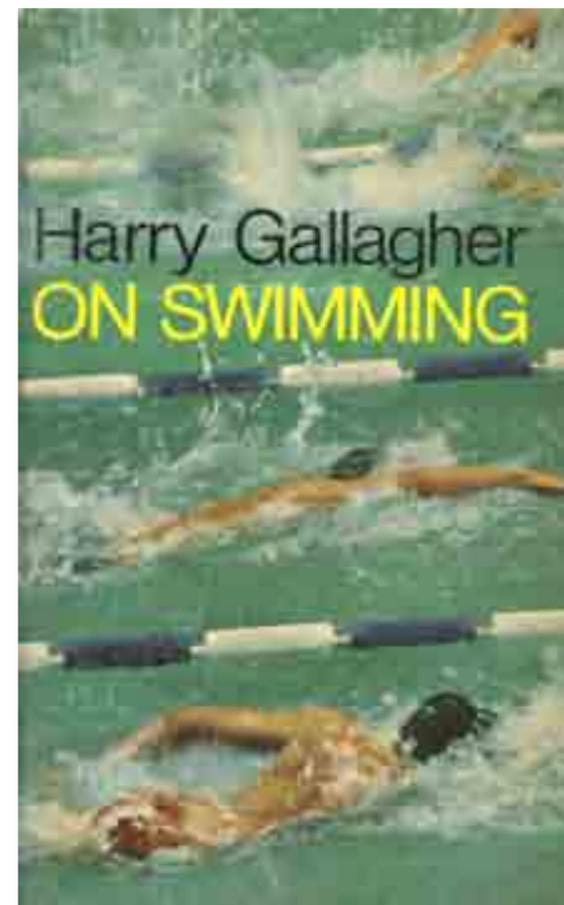
Gallagher coached 24 Olympians. Apart from Fraser and Henricks, he mentored such stars as Lorraine Crapp, Lyn McClements and Michael Wenden. Between them, his swimmers won nine Olympic and 12 Commonwealth gold medals and set 52 world records.

"The Fox", as he came to be known, was born in Sydney in 1924. He was 18 when he joined the Army, serving as a radio operator in a signals unit. Stationed in the tropics and with little to do when there was no action, he began his coaching career by teaching his fellow soldiers to swim in a pool infested with snakes, cockroaches and leeches. By 1951 he was employed as a part-time coach at the Cabarita Ladies' Swimming Club in Sydney, where one of his first pupils was 12-year-old Lorraine Crapp. However, after a year she switched coaches, going to Frank Guthrie in a move that created an amiable tension between the two men for years to come.

When Gallagher became full-time manager of the Drummoyne Pool, one of his first pupils was Henricks. After a thunderstorm flooded their pool in 1952, Harry's swimmers trained at the Balmain Baths where Fraser and her mates caused havoc over what they saw as an invasion of their turf. Despite their initial differences, Gallagher saw Fraser as a potential champion, and she eventually became the first swimmer he coached free of charge.

In preparation for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, Gallagher moved to Adelaide where he took the lease of the City Baths. Henricks and Fraser joined him there as he set about moulding his Olympic champions. Fraser described the training camp as the most concentrated build-up she had experienced, saying that "often the last thing I'd hear at night was Harry Gallagher's voice talking about swimming techniques."¹

The baths were equipped with a gym, kitchen and large underwater observation windows where the coach could film his charges' swimming actions. He also set up a laboratory to develop his scientific approach to swimming, which he pursued in 1950, taking physiology classes under former swimming state champion Frank Cotton at Sydney University. Before training he would record a swimmer's heartbeat and would then also take a recording after training to assess recovery rate. He also began taking blood samples to assist in improving a swimmer's diet.²



Gallagher, Harry, *Harry Gallagher on swimming*, London: Pelham Books, 1970. MCCL11595



Dawn Fraser and her "Professor Higgins" from Fraser, Dawn & Gordon, Harry, *Gold Medal Girl: the confessions of an Olympic champion*, Melbourne: Lansdowne, 1956. MCCL 5477

He also experimented psychologically with his swimmers by doctoring his stop watches to read slower times, which in turn compelled his swimmers to train harder and swim faster. These relatively new ideas began a revolution in Australian swimming.

Harry's interests outside swimming include oil painting and sports cars. Fraser credits him with educating her in art and music, as well as teaching her to read books and write letters. He was her "Professor Higgins."³ He is also responsible for the technique and coaching manuals, *Harry Gallagher on Swimming, Sprint the Crawl* as well as the beautifully written biography, *Memories of a Fox*, all available at the MCC Library.

Despite his tireless efforts in moulding his young charges into Olympic champions, Gallagher and his fellow coaches were not granted official passes into the Melbourne Games in 1956 or the 1960 Rome Olympics. In his biography, Harry gives a priceless description of sneaking into the Melbourne Olympic Pool before Jon Henricks won his 100 metres gold medal:

Today I'd sneaked into the Olympic Pool hiding on the back of a delivery truck. I'd paid the driver a fiver to hide me under the heavy canvas, in among the chemicals. My eyes watered, my nose itched. Acrid smells tried to choke me, but I gulped my coughs back, full of the excitement of the hide and what was to come. Once past the gatekeeper I walked quickly to the washrooms, splashed water on my face and arms, and locked myself in a toilet until it was safe to come out. Then I got lost in the crowd...I pushed forward past the officials. Wasn't going to miss a single

stroke. Didn't care if security caught me now. My boy was going to win *for Australia*.⁴

Years later, Harry Gallagher was officially recognised for his coaching. Inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1984, he received the Order of Australia Medal for his services to swimming in 1986. Three years later, he was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

The MCC Library has recently acquired much of Harry Gallagher's fascinating personal collection of swimming-related books, pamphlets, periodicals and film reels, with a strong emphasis on the history and the science of the sport. This collection is a wonderful addition to the MCC Library and will do much to ensure that the great coach's achievements and his impact on Australian swimming will never be forgotten.

Celia Drummond

¹ Dawn Fraser with Harry Gordon, *Golden Girl: the confessions of an Olympic champion*, Sydney: Lansdowne Press, 1965, p. 42.

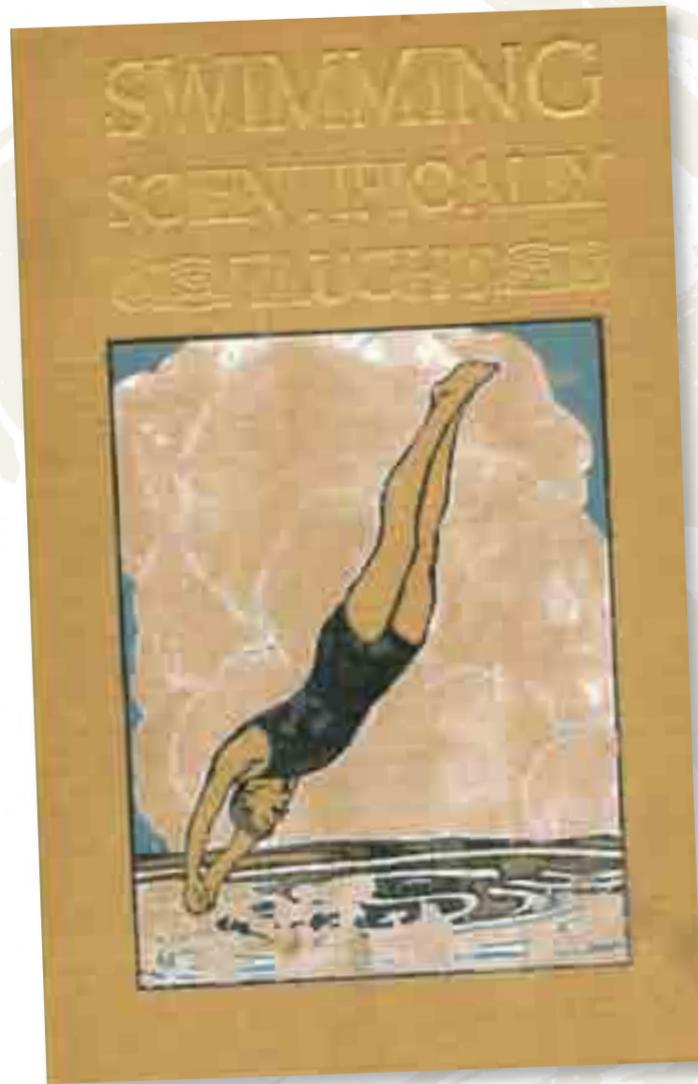
² ABC Radio National's *The Sport's Factor* with Amanda Smith, <<http://fulltext.ausport.gov.au/fulltext/2002/sportsf/s444354.asp>>, 18th January, 2002 (accessed February 2011)

³ Fraser & Gordon, *op.cit.*, p.23.

⁴ Harry Gallagher, *Memories of a Fox*, Kent Town: Wakefield Press, 1998, p.2.

ON SWIMMING

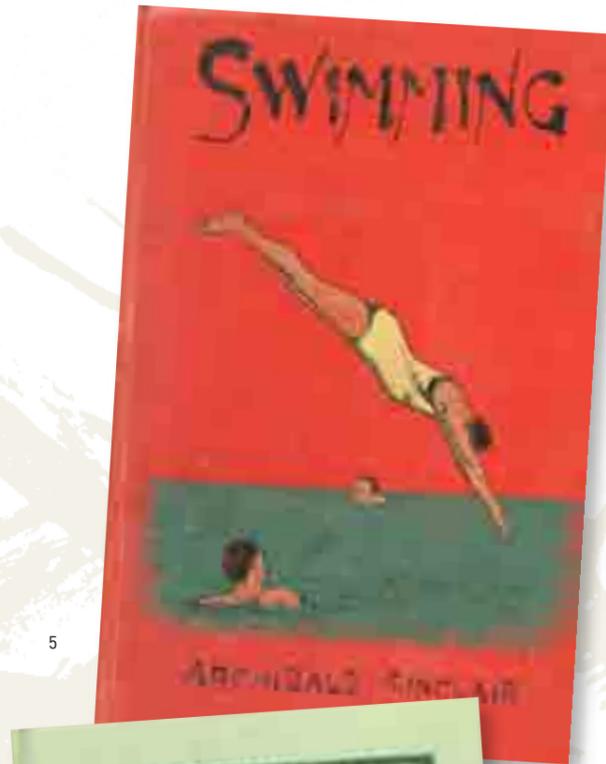
A SELECTION OF BOOKS FROM THE GALLAGHER COLLECTION



4

The Harry Gallagher Collection comprises about 140 items primarily made up of books related to the history of swimming. Unsurprisingly, the focus is on technique and instruction.

Gallagher's 1970 book *Harry Gallagher on Swimming* opens with a chapter on swimming history, and it's clear by the depth of his own collection that the development and history of swimming instruction greatly interested him. There is a tendency in instructional sports literature, historians aside, to ignore the past and focus purely on modern conventions. While this makes sense on some levels, it also deprives the modern-day student of appreciating how many of the lessons they are learning have evolved.



5



6

There is evidence of swimming in ancient cultures stretching back to about 9000 BC. These first representations in cave art are found in the Libyan Desert.⁵ It's not hard to imagine, however, that the practice of swimming may go as far back as humankind itself.

Possibly the earliest printed book on swimming is *Columbetes* by H. Winnmann, published in Latin in 1538. By the 19th century more than 50 books were published in England on swimming alone,⁶ and the modern idea of swimming instruction was born. Two items from the Gallagher collection date from this period and present an intriguing view into early sports literature.



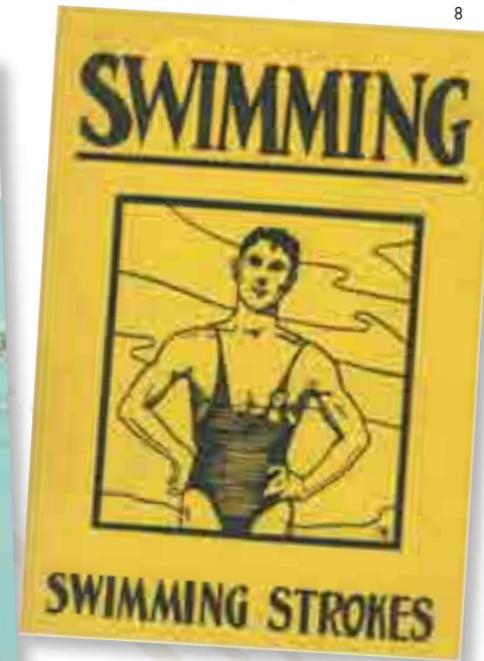
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The first, *Calisthenics: or, The elements of bodily culture on Pestalozzian principles: a contribution to practical education* by Henry de Laspee was published in the 1850s in London. The author starts somewhat humbly with: "It may be stated in the outset, that this work differs from all others which have been published on the same subject. The reader, the teacher, the student, will at once perceive, on comparing them, that the author has entered into deeper principles and sought to meet higher ends than his predecessors."⁷

With intriguing plate illustrations and embossed cloth boards this text sets out exercises for the body, or calisthenics. The book is the only copy held in an Australian library, and its illustrations of more than 2000 figures on 136 engraved plates present a very vivid look at 19th century exercise.



8



11

The second-earliest book in the collection published some time in the late 1880s is "*Manly exercises without a master*"⁸ which contains a "valuable treatise on the art of swimming". We could find out little about the origin of this publication, and found no reference to it in the academic and research catalogues of other libraries in Europe, Australia or the US.

This is not surprising in itself, as the small book is published on fragile cheap paper, similar to the British "penny dreadful" of the Victorian era. This would have been a cheap publication aimed at the mass market and wouldn't have had much perceived lasting value in its day. Due to its fragile nature, most other copies would have deteriorated, been thrown away or lost. Fortunately, this copy survives and now opens a window into early 19th century ideas and techniques in swimming.



10

4 Dalton, Frank Eugen, *Swimming scientifically taught*, London: Funk and Wagnalls, 1912. MCCL 55318

5 Sinclair, Archibald, *Swimming*, London: George Routledge, 1909. MCCL 55316

6 Corsan, George H., *The diving and swimming book*, New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1924. MCCL 55071

7 Menaud, Marc & Zins, Lucien, *Natation: technique & entrainement*, Paris: Editions Amphora, 1965. MCCL 55764

8 McGillvray, Ross, *Swimming and swimming strokes*, Chicago: Regan Publishing, 1923. MCCL 55750

9 Brown, J. H. P., *Modern swimming: an illustrated manual*, Boston: Small, Maynard & Company, 1916. MCCL 55069

10 Henry de Laspee *Calisthenics*. London: Darton & Co. [1856]. MCCL 55741

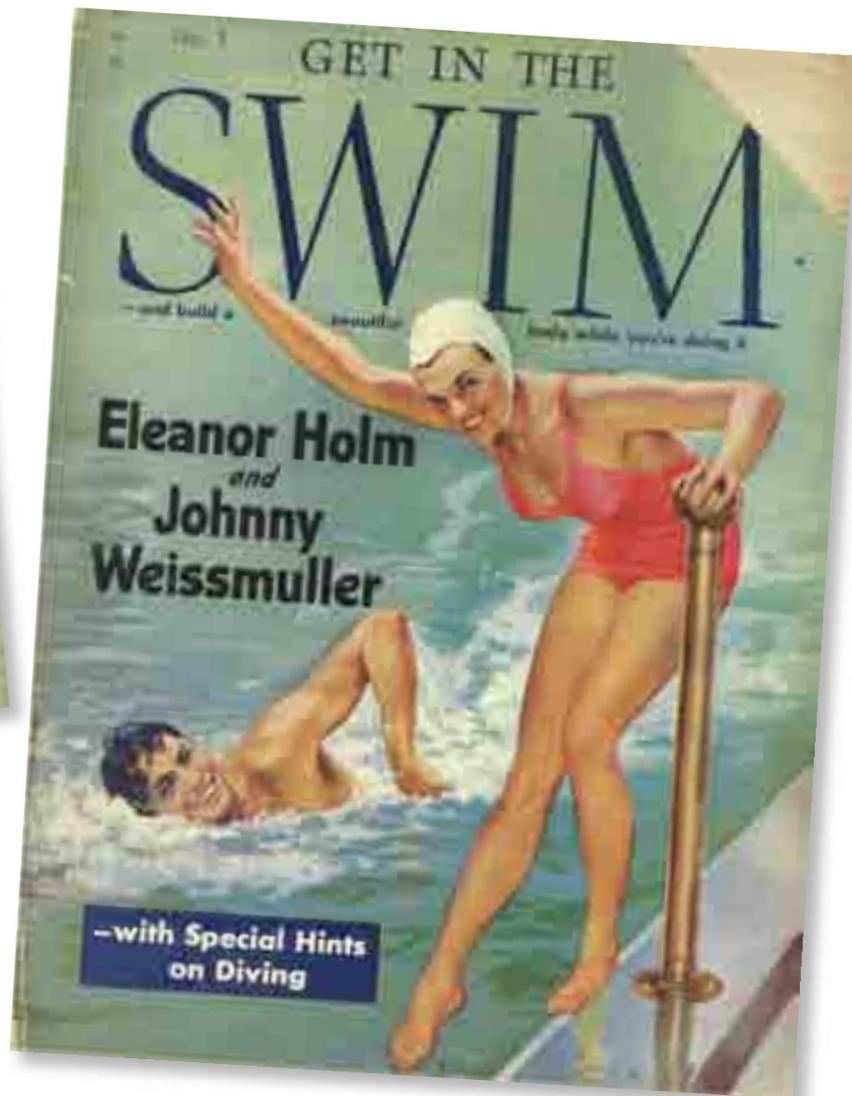
11 *Manly exercises without a master*. New York: Advance Publishing Company, [nd]. MCCL 55753



12



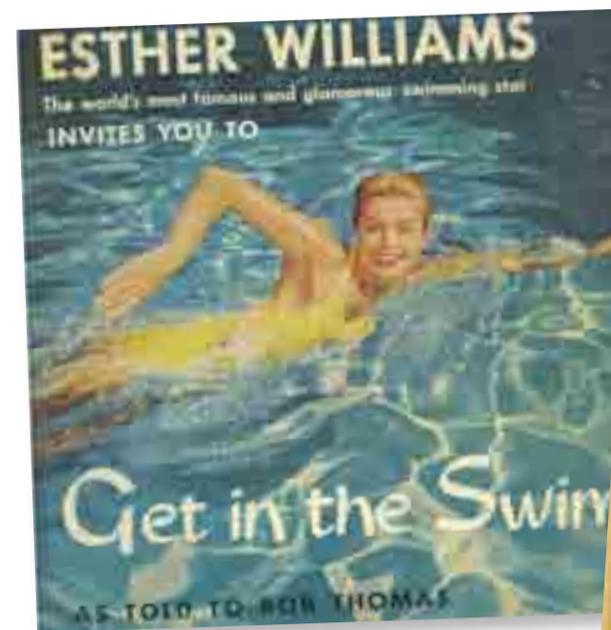
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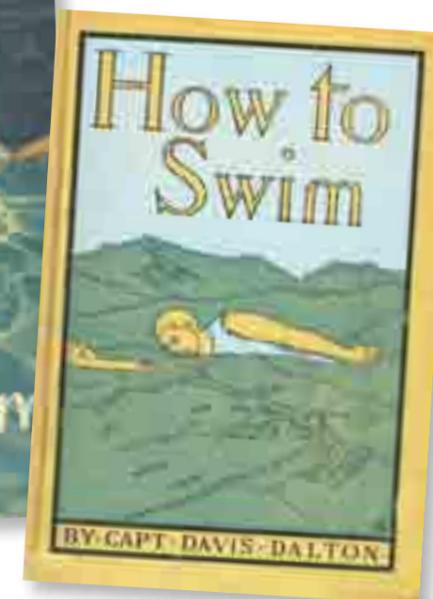
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The balance of the collection is a fascinating bibliographic array on the sport of swimming. There are numerous early 20th century titles with beautifully painted front boards, 1950s and '60s books with attractive dust jackets, foreign language material from France and Sweden, as well as numerous smaller booklets, publications that due in part to their ephemeral nature are scarce. There is also a book titled *Swimming in Japan* with the most beautifully decorated end papers (top page 15). This collection neatly illustrates the evolution of publishing and book design as well as the progression of various swimming strokes and techniques within the sport.

Collectors like Gallagher who accumulate books and material on a particular subject invariably build up comprehensive and invaluable collections. Many titles are overlooked by other collectors and readers as the content is not of interest to them personally, or the book itself is neither rare nor desirable at the time.

With age, however, these once unloved books become scarce in their own right, and in the context of their subject matter become critical research and reference tools. For a research repository like the MCC Library, this collection finds a home like no other and adds immeasurably to our existing collection on swimming and, in a wider sense, sports history in Australia.

Walter G. Douglas, in his small pamphlet *Swimming* printed in 1901, leaves us with a final warning: "Everyone should learn to swim; and even if ladies were taught, many lives would be saved, not only of the gentler sex, but of their male protectors, who are often sacrificed in attempting to save their charges."⁹ One can almost hear Harry himself chuckle.

Sam Gibbard

5 Harry Gallagher, "Harry Gallagher on Swimming" London, Pelhan Books, 1970.

6 Ibid.

7 Henry de Laspee "Calisthenics : or, The elements of bodily culture on Pestalozzian principles : a contribution to practical education" London, Darton & Co, [1856] p. lii

8 Manly exercises without a master, New York, Advance Publishing Company, [18--]

9 Walter G. Douglas "Swimming" : New York, American Sports Publishing Company, 1894, p.4

12 Hedges, Sid G., *Crawl and butterfly swimming*, London: Methuen, 1954. MCCL 11465

13 Hedges, Sid G., *How to swim crawl*, London: Methuen & Co., 1950. MCCL 55730

14 Weissmuller, Johnny & Holm, Eleanor, *Get in the swim : and build a beautiful body while you're doing it*, New York: Anthony P. Cima, 1940. MCCL 55722

15 Thomas, Bob & Williams, Esther, *Get in the swim with Esther Williams*, New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1957. MCCL 55723

16 Dalton, Davis, *How to swim*, New York and London, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1899. MCCL 55724

17 International Young Women and Children's Society, *Swimming in Japan*, Tokyo: International Young Women and Children's Society, 1935. MCCL 55067.

THE GREATEST TEAM OF ALL?

WITH THE GEELONG CATS PLAYING IN THREE OF THE LAST FOUR GRAND FINALS AND WINNING TWO OF THEM, AS WELL AS THEIR PLAYERS WINNING TWO BROWNLOW MEDALS AND SETTING NUMEROUS RECORDS IN THIS PERIOD, IT IS INTERESTING TO COMPARE VARIOUS SIDES TO SEE WHO MIGHT BE CONSIDERED "THE GREATEST TEAM OF ALL", THE CLAIM MADE IN THE CATS' CLUB SONG. THIS CAN ONLY EVER BE A SUBJECTIVE DISCUSSION, BUT HOPEFULLY THE FOLLOWING COMPARISON OF SIDES BACK TO THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR GAME WILL ENCOURAGE SUCH DEBATE.



Nearing the end of a grand era. Carlton players at three-quarter time of the 1910 grand final. *Melbourne Punch* October 6, 1910. (MCC Library Collection)



Collingwood's Albert Lauder clears while teammate Charlie Dibbs shepherds Richmond's Jack Baggott in the 1929 grand final. *Australasian* October 5, 1929. (MCC Library Collection)

EARLY DAYS – THE VICTORIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION – 1877-96

The Victorian Football Association (VFA) was formed in 1877 by Melbourne's senior metropolitan clubs – Albert Park, Carlton, Melbourne, Hotham, and St Kilda – and provincial clubs that did not seek a handicap against them – Geelong, Barwon, Ballarat, Beechworth, Castlemaine, Inglewood and Rochester.

Although Victorian football had no governing body before the establishment of the VFA, premiership teams had been recognised by consensus since 1870 based on their performances throughout the season. So dominant were the Carlton and Melbourne sides until 1877, that premier teams were determined more by the win-loss balance of these two clubs' encounters during the year as any other factor. The strong Carlton side had won premierships in 1871 (led by Jack Conway), 1873 (George Kennedy), 1874 (Jack Donovan), 1875 (Harry Guy) and 1877 (Jack Gardiner). They were undefeated in the 1873 and 1874 seasons.

Between 1878 and 1887 the Geelong side, known as the Pivotonians, won seven premierships and were runners-up twice. They were undefeated in the 1878, 1879 and 1886 seasons. The 1878 team that defeated Melbourne handsomely by five goals to one in a post-season play-off for the 1878 VFA premiership, broke the hold of Melbourne and Carlton on the title. The club became a power of the 1880s and included Charles Brownlow, who captained their 1883 premiership

team, as well as the six McShane brothers of whom Tom headed the VFA goalkicking on three occasions. In 1886 Phil McShane was their leading goalkicker with 51 goals to become the first player to reach 50 goals in a season.

The other powerhouse of this period was the Essendon side that won four successive premierships between 1891 and 1894. The side played 78 games during this period, winning 66, drawing nine and losing only three. Captained by Alick Dick and with the inclusion of champion goalkicker Albert Thurgood in 1892, the side was undefeated in the 1893 season and it was only a loss to Geelong in the last game of 1894 that prevented them repeating the feat.

From 1877 to 1895 the ladder decided who was the premier team. The 1896 season ended with Collingwood and South Melbourne equal on points. Consequently, on October 3, 1896 Collingwood defeated South Melbourne at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground in the first play-off match to decide the premiership.

This was arguably the first "Grand Final" and marks the beginning of the tradition. The obvious benefits of crowds and gate receipts were immediately realised and a grand final to decide the premier became a feature of Australian football.

Year	Team	Captain	Coach	Brownlow Medallist (awarded from 1925)	Matches (including Finals)	Result
1871	Carlton	Jack Conway			6 + 5 draws (out of 13)	Premiers
1872	Carlton	Jack Donovan			6 + 3 draws (11)	Runners-up
1873	Carlton	George Kennedy			6 + 9 draws (15)	Premiers
1874	Carlton	Jack Donovan			12 + 5 draws (17)	Premiers
1875	Carlton	Harry Guy			12 + 4 draws (17)	Premiers
1876	Carlton	Jack Gardiner			15 + 3 draws (20)	Runners-up
1877	Carlton	Jack Gardiner			14 + 4 draws (21)	Premiers
1878	Geelong	Albert Austin			16 + 1 draw (17)	Premiers
1879	Geelong	James Wilson			15 + 1 draw (16)	Premiers
1880	Geelong	James Wilson			14 + 2 draws (18)	Premiers
1881	Geelong	James Wilson			15 + 2 draws (18)	Runners-up
1882	Geelong	James Wilson			20 + 2 draws (24)	Premiers
1883	Geelong	Charles Brownlow			15 + 3 draws (21)	Premiers
1884	Geelong	Harry Steedman			22 + 1 draw (25)	Premiers
1885	Geelong	Hugh McLean			11 + 5 draws (20)	Runners-up
1886	Geelong	Dave Hickinbotham			17 + 2 draws (19)	Premiers
1891	Essendon	William Fleming Alick Dick			17+ 2draws (20)	Premiers
1892	Essendon	Alick Dick			15 + 3 draws (19)	Premiers
1893	Essendon	Alick Dick			18 + 2 draws (20)	Premiers
1894	Essendon	Alick Dick			16 + 1 draw (18)	Premiers

THE OLD DARK NAVY BLUES 1906-10

John ("Jack") Worrall is generally claimed to have been the first official coach of a Victorian Football League side, although there is some argument that Collingwood appointed Bill Strickland as coach in 1898 and that while Worrall would discuss tactics with the team prior to matches, the captain was in fact in charge of the side's moves and tactics during the game.

Be that as it may, under Worrall's guidance the Carlton team won successive premierships in 1906-08. They also played off in the grand finals of 1909-10. The side was captained by Jim Flynn in 1906-07 and in 1908 by Fred "Pompey" Elliott, who also took over as coach in 1909.

In 1906 Carlton won 14 of their 17 home and away matches, defeated Collingwood by 10 points in the first semi final and a week later easily defeated Fitzroy by 49 points in a one-sided grand final. Half forwards Mick Grace and Frank Caine each kicked three goals for the Blues.

A year later, after again heading the ladder at the end of the home and away matches, the Blues easily accounted for St Kilda by 56 points in the second semi final, going on to meet a strong South Melbourne side in the grand final. In an epic encounter the Blues led by 15 points at the final change.

Year	Team	Captain	Coach	Brownlow Medallist (awarded from 1925)	Matches (including Finals)	Result
1906	Carlton	Jim Flynn	Jack Worrall		16 (19)	Premiers
1907	Carlton	Jim Flynn	Jack Worrall		15 (19)	Premiers
1908	Carlton	Fred Elliott	Jack Worrall		19 (20)	Premiers
1909	Carlton	Fred Elliott	Jack Worrall Fred Elliott		16 (21)	Runners-up
1910	Carlton	Fred Elliott	Fred Elliott		15 (20)	Runners-up

COLLINGWOOD IN THE 1920s and '30s "THE MACHINE"

Collingwood was the first and is still the only Victorian/Australian Football League club to win four successive premierships. From 1927 to 1930 the team won 69 matches and lost only 11 with one drawn game. Of the 69 games, there were seven finals victories, two finals losses and the drawn match was also a final. The Magpies were the first side to kick 2000 points in a season, the first team to produce a century goalkicker and the first team to finish on top of the ladder for three successive seasons.

Coached by the tough and imposing Jock McHale, the side included the immortal Coventry brothers, Gordon and Syd, as well as Albert and Harry Collier. In 1927 Syd Coventry won the Brownlow Medal, Gordon Coventry topped the league goalkicking with 97 goals and in the grand final the side defeated Richmond, coached by the equally determined "Checker" Hughes, 2.13 (25) to 1.7 (13). This was the first time a team produced a Brownlow Medallist, headed the goalkicking and won the premiership in a single season.

Year	Team	Captain	Coach	Brownlow Medallist (awarded from 1925)	Matches (including Finals)	Result
1925	Collingwood	Charles Tyson	Jock McHale		14 (20)	Runners-up
1926	Collingwood	Charles Tyson	Jock McHale		15 (20)	Runners-up
1927	Collingwood	Syd Coventry	Jock McHale	Syd Coventry	17 (20)	Premiers
1928	Collingwood	Syd Coventry	Jock McHale		17 +1 draw (21)	Premiers
1929	Collingwood	Syd Coventry	Jock McHale	Albert Collier	19 (20)	Premiers
1930	Collingwood	Syd Coventry	Jock McHale	Harry Collier	17 (21)	Premiers

South Melbourne fought back to get within two points of their opponents but Carlton held on to win by five points 6.14 (50) to 6.9 (45), with full forward George Topping kicking half of Carlton's six goals.

In 1908, the year Richmond and University were admitted to the league, Carlton went through the home and away season with only one loss. In a rain-affected second semi final in which St Kilda did not score a goal until the last quarter, Carlton ran out easy winners by 58 points. Starting firm favourites in the grand final against Essendon, the Blues led by three goals at half time. They managed only one point from then on but held on to win by nine points in a low-scoring game 5.5 (35) to 3.8 (26).

A year later, in a nail-biting finish to a very low-scoring game where scores were level at quarter time (0.5 apiece) and at half time 2.9 (21) each, South Melbourne held off the Blues by two points to secure their first league premiership 4.14 (38) to 4.12 (36).

Carlton again made it through to the grand final in 1910, only to lose to the Magpies by 14 points, 9.7 (61) to 6.11 (47).

In 1928 Gordon Coventry again headed the league goalkicking with 87 goals and the side, having survived a drawn second semi final against Melbourne and winning the replay by just four points, went on to again defeat Richmond in the grand final 13.18 (96) to 9.9 (63).

In 1929 Albert Collier won the Brownlow Medal and Gordon Coventry again headed the league goalkicking with 124 goals. Despite having lost the second semi final against Richmond by more than 10 goals, the Magpies turned the tables in the grand final, defeating the Tigers by 29 points 11.13 (79) to 7.8 (50).

Collingwood's extraordinary run continued in 1930. Harry Collier won the Brownlow Medal, Gordon Coventry again headed the league goalkicking with 118 goals and after winning 15 of their 18 home and away matches the Magpies secured their fourth successive premiership by defeating Geelong in the grand final 14.16 (100) to 9.16 (70), with Gordon Coventry kicking seven goals for the victors.



The Collingwood team immediately before the 1929 grand final. Australasian October 5, 1929. (MCC Library Collection)

GEELONG 1951-53 OR 2007-09?

The Cats won back to back premierships in 1951-52 and were surprise losers to the Magpies in the grand final of 1953. The 1951 side included that year's Brownlow Medallist, Bernie Smith.

In 2007 Geelong won the premiership by a record margin against Port Adelaide, 24.19 (163) to 6.8 (44). The side included the Brownlow Medallist, Jimmy Bartel. Despite starting warm favourites for the premiership in 2008, they were defeated on the most important day by the Hawks. However, 2009 proved to be another stellar season with Gary Ablett Jnr winning the Brownlow Medal and the Cats winning a thrilling grand final against the Saints.

The club won 23 matches in succession between Round 12, 1952 and Round 13, 1953, a record that still stands. It was, in fact, undefeated for 26 consecutive matches from Round 9 in 1952, having drawn a match in Round 11. More recently, the Cats won 15 consecutive matches between Rounds 6 and Round 20, 2007, 15 consecutive matches between Rounds 10 and 22 in 2008 and 13 consecutive matches between Rounds

1 and 13 in 2009. In 2009 the Cats also became the first side ever to win 18 matches in three successive home and away seasons.

The 1950s side included two outstanding rovers in Neil "Nipper" Tresize and Peter Pianto. Until the end of the 2010 season the Cats side contained possibly one of the best-ever on-ballers in Gary Ablett Jnr. Geelong's Team of the Twentieth Century includes both Bernie Smith and Peter Pianto. That team was selected in 2001. It is hard to imagine that Gary Ablett Jnr, three time winner of the AFL Players' Association Most Valuable Player Award, would not join his father in a best ever Geelong side should one be selected. It should also not be forgotten that the current side is competing against four more sides than were in the Victorian Football League in the 1950s.

Mark Thompson coached the Cats for 258 matches but finished his career at Geelong well astern of Reg Hickey, who notched up 304 games as coach during various periods between 1932 and 1959.

Year	Team	Captain	Coach	Brownlow Medallist (awarded from 1925)	Matches (including Finals)	Result
1951	Geelong	Fred Flanagan	Reg Hickey	Bernie Smith	16 (20)	Premiers
1952	Geelong	Fred Flanagan	Reg Hickey		18 + 1 draw (21)	Premiers
1953	Geelong	Fred Flanagan	Reg Hickey		16 (21)	Runners-up
2007	Geelong	Tom Harley	Mark Thompson	James Bartel	21 (25)	Premiers
2008	Geelong	Tom Harley	Mark Thompson		23 (25)	Runners-up
2009	Geelong	Tom Harley	Mark Thompson	Gary Ablett Jnr	21 (25)	Premiers



Decorated football inscribed with Melbourne's 1956 player list. MCC Museum Collection M4161.

The Melbourne Football Club of 1956 which won the VFL premiership and defeated the premier teams of South Australia and Western Australia at season's end. MCC Museum Collection M546.

THE DEMONS' GOLDEN ERA 1955-60

In the history of the Melbourne Football Club, no era has been more successful than the period from 1955 to 1960, when the Demons were premiers in five of those six years with only a loss to their bitter foes Collingwood in the 1958 grand final spoiling what might have been an even more extraordinary run. Coached by the legendary Norm Smith, the side included Denis Cordner, Ron Barassi and Brian Dixon. They were captained by Noel McMahon (1955-56) and John Beckwith (1957-60).

The Demons narrowly missed winning the 1954 flag when they were defeated by Footscray in the Bulldogs' only premiership success. However, young recruits in "Big Bob" Johnson, Clyde Laidlaw and Ian Ridley showed that they would become a strength in years to come.

In 1955, after winning 17 of their 20 home and away matches, Melbourne went on to defeat the Magpies in the grand final by 23 points. In 1956, the city's Olympic year, the club won 18 of its home and away games and delighted supporters by again overrunning the Magpies in the grand final, this time by 73 points.

This was the last league match for Denis Cordner, Stuart Spencer and captain Noel McMahon, all legends of the club. Despite losing these greats, the Demons won 12 and drew one of their 18 home and away matches in 1957 and went on to defeat a strong Essendon side by 61 points in the grand final, thereby securing a hat-trick of premierships.

Year	Team	Captain	Coach	Brownlow Medallist (awarded from 1925)	Matches (including Finals)	Result
1954	Melbourne	Geoff Collins	Norm Smith		13 (21)	Runners-up
1955	Melbourne	Noel McMahon	Norm Smith		17 (20)	Premiers
1956	Melbourne	Noel McMahon	Norm Smith		18 (20)	Premiers
1957	Melbourne	John Beckwith	Norm Smith		14 + 1 draw (21)	Premiers
1958	Melbourne	John Beckwith	Norm Smith		16 (20)	Runners-up
1959	Melbourne	John Beckwith	Norm Smith		15 + 1 draw (20)	Premiers
1960	Melbourne	John Beckwith	Norm Smith		16 (20)	Premiers

In 1958, after winning 15 of their home and away matches and having progressed to the grand final after defeating the Magpies by 45 points in the second semi final, the Demons again faced their arch rivals, starting favourites after a week's rest. Upset by the Magpies' physical play on a dull, wet day, the Demons led by 17 points at quarter time but faltered to be five goals down at the last break. Despite a valiant fight back in the last quarter the "Redlegs" went down by 18 points, thus ending their outstanding premiership run.

In 1959 the Demons were determined to erase the memory of the previous year's disappointment. They won 13 and drew one of their 18 home and away matches. A huge crowd of 103,506 grand final spectators saw the Demons, with Ron Barassi and Brian Dixon starring, increase their narrow margin of one goal at three-quarter time to a 37-point triumph against the Bombers.

After another successful season in 1960, Melbourne met their Magpie foes in yet another grand final and on another wet day. This time the Demons were not to be denied and ran out easy winners by 48 points, thereby giving the club its fifth premiership in six years, a glorious period for the proud club. Surprisingly, no Melbourne player won the Brownlow Medal during this period.

THE HAWKS SOAR 1983-91

The Hawthorn Football Club appeared in a remarkable eight grand finals between 1983 and 1991, winning five of them. They were captained by Leigh Matthews in the 1983-85 appearances, winning in 1983, and by Michael Tuck in the remaining premierships seasons in 1986, 1988-89 and 1991. Between 1982 and 1994 the club played in 13 consecutive finals series.

During this outstanding period, the club produced two Brownlow Medallists in Robert Dipierdomenico (1986) and John Platten (1987) and their full forward, Jason Dunstall, led the AFL goalkicking in 1988-89.

Hawthorn scored a comprehensive 83-point victory over Essendon in the 1983 grand final with Matthews kicking six goals. However, the Bombers proved superior in 1984 and 1985, defeating the Hawks in both grand finals. In 1986 the Hawks were determined to redeem themselves and showed their superiority with a seven-goal win over Carlton in the grand final 16.14 (110) to 9.14 (68). Hawk star Gary Ayres won the Norm Smith Medal for best on the ground.

Year	Team	Captain	Coach	Brownlow Medallist (awarded from 1925)	Matches (including Finals)	Result
1983	Hawthorn	Leigh Matthews	Allan Jeans		18 (25)	Premiers
1984	Hawthorn	Leigh Matthews	Allan Jeans		19 (25)	Runners-up
1985	Hawthorn	Leigh Matthews	Allan Jeans		17 + 1 draw (26)	Runners-up
1986	Hawthorn	Michael Tuck	Allan Jeans	Robert Dipierdomenico	20 (25)	Premiers
1987	Hawthorn	Michael Tuck	Allan Jeans	John Platten	19 (26)	Runners-up
1988	Hawthorn	Michael Tuck	Alan Joyce		21 (24)	Premiers
1989	Hawthorn	Michael Tuck	Allan Jeans		21 (24)	Premiers
1991	Hawthorn	Michael Tuck	Alan Joyce		19 (25)	Premiers

After a 33-point loss to the Blues in the 1987 grand final, the Hawks' resounding victory in 1988 over Melbourne by a then record 96 points was an indication of the Hawthorn side's overall strength.

However, the 1989 grand final against Geelong, regarded as a classic, was a much closer affair. Highlighted by fierce physical contact throughout the game, the Hawthorn team settled early and led by 40 points at quarter time. The Geelong side, with Gary Ablett senior kicking nine goals in a Norm Smith Medal-winning performance, slowly reduced the margin until the Cats got within six points in the last quarter but were unable to bridge the gap before the final siren.

In the 1991 grand final, played at Waverley Park, Hawthorn met the fancied West Coast Eagles, whom they had surprisingly beaten by 23 points in the qualifying final at Subiaco three weeks earlier. With six goals from Jason Dunstall and four from Dermot Brereton, the Hawks ran out easy winners by 53 points 20.19 (139) to 13.8 (86). Forward pocket Paul Dear won the Norm Smith Medal.

THE LIONS FROM BRISBANE 2001-03

The Brisbane Lions club was officially formed in November 1996 as a result of a merger of the Fitzroy and Brisbane Bears football clubs.

Despite playing in the finals in 1997, 1999 and 2000, it was not until 2001 that they reached the grand final. After Jason Akermanis won the Brownlow Medal earlier in the week, Brisbane came up against Essendon, premiers the year before and the team that many believed would be unbeatable for many years. However, the Lions, led by Michael Voss, proved too strong on the big day, winning by 26 points with Shaun Hart best on the ground.

In 2002 the Lions again completed the double. With Simon Black winning the Brownlow Medal, the Lions faced Collingwood on a biting cold grand final day. Collingwood was given little chance against the all-conquering Brisbane

side but showed their true fighting spirit to go down by only nine points 10.15 (75) to 9.12 (66), with the Magpies captain Nathan Buckley winning the Norm Smith Medal for best on ground.

A 50-point win against Collingwood in the 2003 grand final found Brisbane supporters claiming that their side was the greatest of all. However, Brisbane coach and former Hawthorn champion Leigh Matthews opined :

I don't think we have done yet what Hawthorn did in the '80s, really, let alone what Melbourne did in the 1950s. We've played in three consecutive grand finals and we've been fortunate enough, good enough, to win the three, but, I mean, Melbourne won five out of six..... that's a dynasty. Hawthorn were in seven consecutive grand finals in the 1980s.

Year	Team	Captain	Coach	Brownlow Medallist (awarded from 1925)	Matches (including Finals)	Result
2001	Brisbane	Michael Voss	Leigh Matthews	Jason Akermanis	20 (25)	Premiers
2002	Brisbane	Michael Voss	Leigh Matthews	Simon Black	20 (25)	Premiers
2003	Brisbane	Michael Voss	Leigh Matthews		17 + 1 draw (26)	Premiers
2004	Brisbane	Michael Voss	Leigh Matthews		18 (25)	Runners-up

Quentin Miller

CRICKET AND CHILDREN: FOR COUNTRY, FOR GLORY AND FOR FUN

As part of the MCC Library's ongoing display *The Crooked Staffe: An Exhibition Celebrating Four Centuries of Cricket in Print*, a new exhibit of cricket-related childrens' literature is on view in the MCC Library display case outside the Grey Smith Bar. Library volunteer Marie Pernat, who had an enjoyable role selecting items for the display, gives an overview of the exhibit.



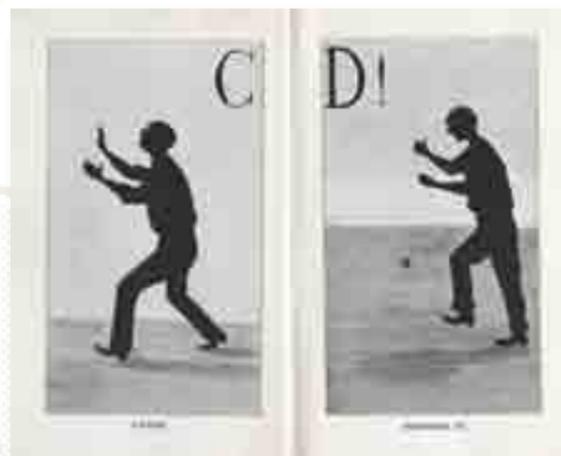
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1 "The great I play: cricket" leaf from John Newbury *A little pretty pocket book, intended for the instruction and amusement of little Master Tommy* London: John Newbury c.1760 MCC Museum's Tony Baer Collection, donated 1968. M6142

2 "Ginger Meggs" cartoons from James Charles (Jim) Bancks *More adventures of Ginger Meggs: Sunbeams book: series 24* Sydney: Sun Newspaper, 1929 MCCL 14967

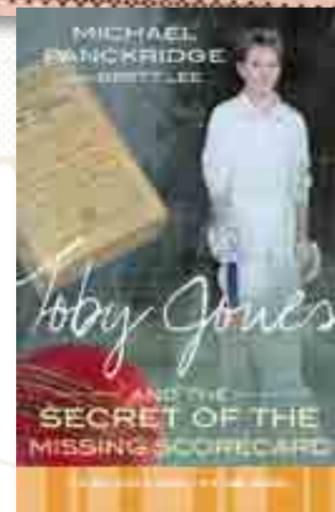
3 Pages from Hugh Feilding *The ABC of cricket: a black view of the game* London: Chatto & Windus, 1903 MCCL 651



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4 "Casey Court" comic in *Illustrated chips* London: Amalgamated Press (nd.) MCCL 38629

5 Michael Panckridge & Brett Lee *Toby Jones and the secret of the missing scorecard* Pymble, Sydney: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2004 MCCL 23069

6 Page 187 of Dorita Fairlie Bruce *That Boarding School Girl* London: Oxford University Press, 1925 (Private Collection)

This selection of print items held in the Melbourne Cricket Club Library traces the historical development of cricket literature aimed at a young audience.

Throughout the works on display, the authors' passion and their fondness for the game of cricket is evident, no matter the form of publication. The drama brought to the fore in school cricket matches, the glory associated with selection as captain and even as a member of the school cricket team, and playing for your country are key themes that emerge around the early twentieth century.

Schoolboy adventures, often described in annual publications very popular with youngsters, related daring events and extraordinary cricket feats. These publications entertained readers with imaginative cricket stories while informing them of the intricacies of the game itself.

Stories of girls playing cricket appeared as chapters in girls' annuals and as part of dramatic and behind-the-scenes happenings, often in connection with boarding school tales.

Books on coaching children in the technical aspects of the game became more prolific later in the twentieth century. The adulation of cricket champions, and their status as idols,

BOOK REVIEWS



Nick Maxwell and Michael Gleeson
One Grand Week
 Melbourne : Weston Media and Communications, 2010
 ISBN 978-0-646-54455-7
 MCCL 56864

Previewing the 2010/11 Ashes series, journalist Will Swanton advanced "Ten Reasons The Poms Won't Win". The Australian debacle that followed showed this article to be somewhat wide of the mark. Former Collingwood premiership captain Tony Shaw undoubtedly sympathises with whatever chagrin Swanton might feel.

In 2008, just after Magpie skipper Nathan Buckley retired, the usually perceptive Shaw argued in the *Herald Sun* that "... defender Nick Maxwell cannot be considered for the club's captaincy because he will struggle to hold his spot in coming years ... he will soon be overrun by the Pies' fleet of young tall."

Shaw was not the first to doubt Maxwell's credentials. Years before, the defender had been overlooked for several national drafts and rejected by Geelong, Hawthorn, Sydney and Port Adelaide. To some, the reservations about Maxwell's talents might even have appeared reasonable, for his path to the 2009 Collingwood captaincy had not followed the usual course. As the Collingwood yearbook noted:

The classic rise to captaincy is typically preceded by a player's emergence as a dominant talent, but the Magpie skipper chose to do things the other way around. First he became captain ... Then, when weighted down with that added responsibility, he became the great player.²

Maxwell's rise towards "that added responsibility" had been solid, if unspectacular. After breaking into the senior side in 2004, he had earned respect from the club's hierarchy by collecting two best clubman trophies and two awards for his tackling and smothering efforts. The transformation in Maxwell's on-field performance had come in a match against Adelaide when he decided "to be the player that influenced games ... no longer the good-average player I have been in the past."

At the same time, he had developed such a strong rapport with the team's recruits that when the Magpies were seeking a captain to replace Scott Burns, coach Mick Malthouse said: "It was a very, very easy choice in the end, to be able to say that we needed a Nick Maxwell to guide these young players." Nathan Buckley agreed:

He's been a leader at the club basically ever since he walked in the door. This is a guy that was born to lead and he's led in all areas of his life.³

Any lingering doubts about Maxwell's class as a leader were well and truly removed by his match-saving efforts in the last quarter of the drawn 2010 grand final.

The Collingwood skipper is the central figure in *One Grand Week*, an inside account of his team's premiership season. Though the cover suggests that Maxwell is the author, assisted by *Age* journalist Michael Gleeson, this is not the usual "as told to" memoir, for it is written in the third person.

According to an *Age* report, Gleeson "reached into" Maxwell's diary "to chronicle the significant moments before and after the Magpies' historic win in the grand final replay."⁴ The result is not simply a narrative of the 2010 finals but a portrait of Collingwood's evolution in the late Malthouse era.

The tied result on September 25 will perhaps provoke comparisons with *The Coach*, John Powers' classic account of North Melbourne's two grand finals in 1977. However, the tone of the two books is very different, for the game has moved far from the fire and brimstone climate that North knew under Ron Barassi.

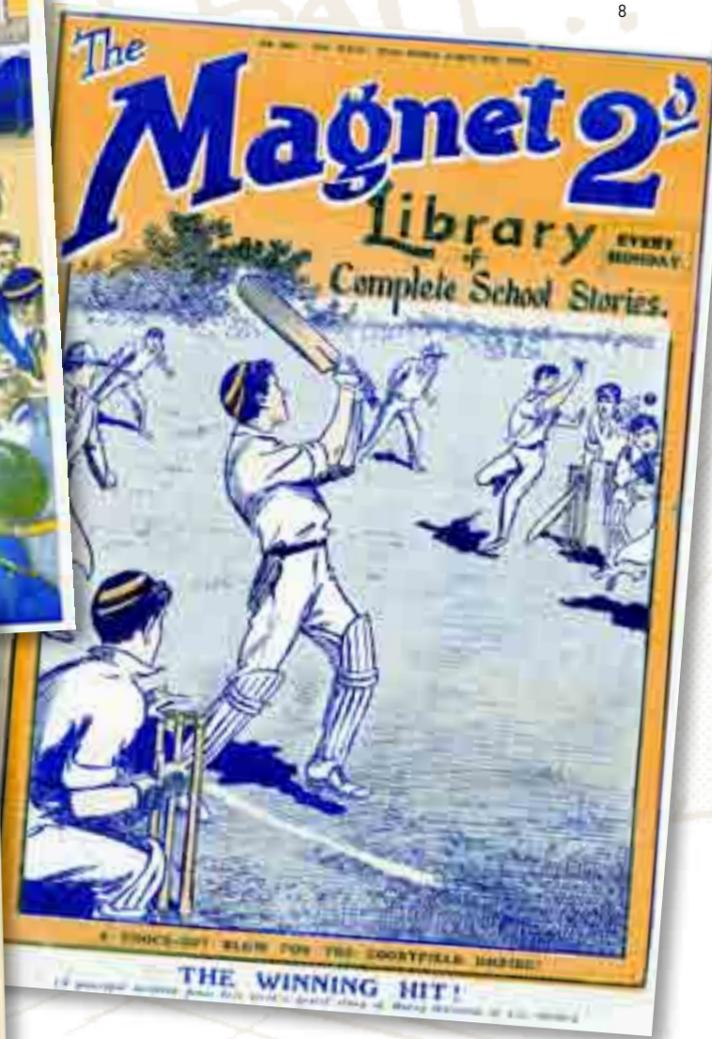
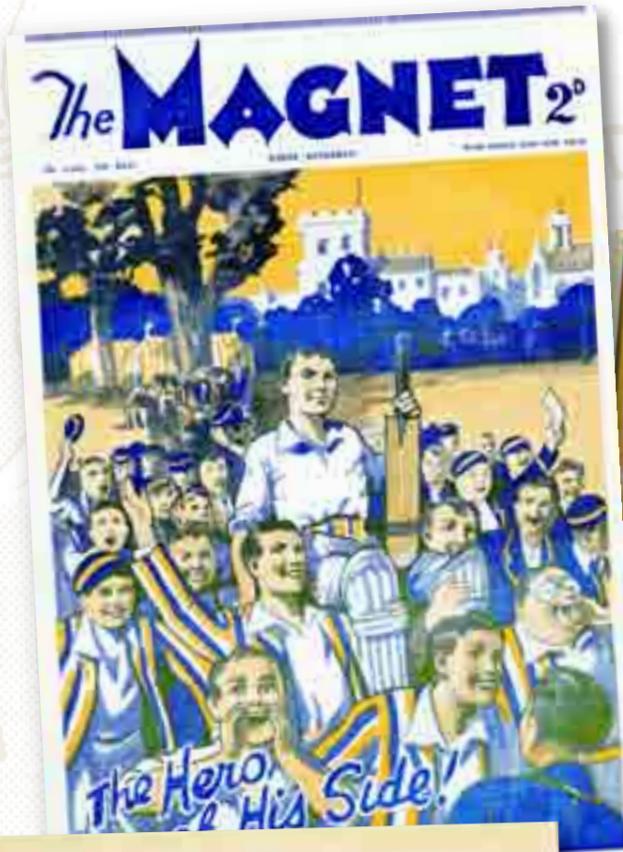
Amid the modern game's multitude of expert advisors, statisticians, assistant coaches and leadership groups, Collingwood has developed a calm, methodical and businesslike ethos in its quest for the ultimate prize.

Like the Powers book, *One Grand Week* gives its readers an intimate view of a club chasing a premiership. The most striking feature of that quest is its relentless and full-time nature. In 2010, Collingwood's players and support personnel faced demands that Barassi's 1977 team would have regarded as fantasies. Chief executive Gary Pert explains that his club took the view "that a football program will win the premiership, not just one coach over another."

The complexity of such a program ranges from high-altitude training in Arizona and countless discussions about training and game plans to fitness programs, detailed studies of "Desire Indicators" and motivational sessions about boarding the "Reality Bus". The process is supervised by a veritable off-field army that includes recruiting and high-performance managers, a director of sports science, coaches for rehabilitation and conditioning, as well as a football technology manager.

Moreover, players' responsibilities now stretch far beyond playing and spending time on the training track. After Maxwell was awarded the captaincy, his first chat with club president Eddie McGuire "immediately touched on boot contracts and membership drives and season long plans." Amid the demands of their club's quest for success, footballers must also deal with personal matters that can range from routine issues to outright tragedy. In 2009, the sad and sudden death of his father turned the world of dashing defender Harry O'Brien "upside down":

I do not wish to dwell on the hardships that I have faced and still am facing to this day, but I do wish to express that it is true that learning the 'hard way' is the most enriching form of learning experience.



introduced another style of book. Sir Donald Bradman still continues to be regularly featured in print, the admiration unabated.

There are numerous examples of fictional cricket contests in magazines for young people, with many antics and tricks being played on schoolmasters. A further light-hearted dimension was added through comics and cartoons, depicting famous cricketers or fictional characters. Cricket was certainly fun.

This exhibition mostly contains Australian and English publications, reflecting the history of organised cricket games for children in these countries. Some recent literature depicts the game being played by youth in other countries. New material includes different formats to encourage involvement in cricket, such as board, dice and card games.

Marie Pernet

⁷ *The Magnet library of complete school stories*
 London: Amalgamated Press, June 2, 1934
 MCCL 38605

⁸ *The Magnet library of complete school stories*
 London: Amalgamated Press, August 9, 1924
 MCCL 38605

⁹ F.W.Martindale
Alice in Holidayland: a parody in prose, verse and picture: perpetrated with profound apologies to Lewis Carroll and Sir John Tenniel
 Leeds, West Yorkshire: Chorley & Pickersgill, [1920]
 MCCL 8464

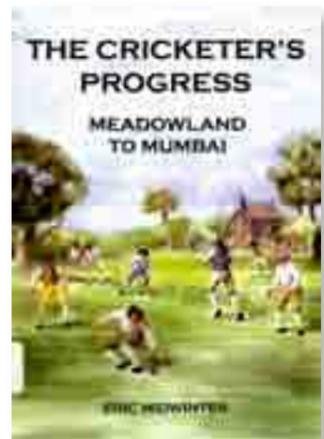
Much less devastating was the battle of American recruit Shae McNamara to overcome his fear of diving into the "dark and cold" waters beneath St Kilda pier, an episode that ended by boosting the team's sense of solidarity and mutual support.

After events in 2007 and 2008 that severely tested Collingwood's patience, Alan Didak had set out to "show the boys how serious he was about being a leader of his club and that he could do it." The story of his efforts makes impressive reading. Despite tearing his pectoral muscle from the bone, Didak played throughout the 2010 finals, regularly producing moments of brilliance that demoralised his opponents.

Though it contains several distracting typographical errors, *One Grand Week* is a thought-provoking and important addition to the rapidly growing genre of football books. With their insatiable appetite for success, the Magpie Army is undoubtedly eager for a sequel.

Alf Batchelder

1. Swanton, Will: "Ten Reasons The Poms Won't Win", *The Daily Telegraph*, November 19, 2010; Ralph, Jon: "Shaw: Maxwell not captain material", *The Herald Sun*, February 12, 2008.
2. Robinson, Mark: "For the love of Nick Maxwell", *The Herald Sun*, September 16, 2010; "Leading from the back", *In Black and White Yearbook*, December 2009, p.29.
3. Sheridan, Nick: "Buckley endorses Maxwell as the Pies' new captain", *The Age*, December 18, 2008.
4. "Inside Circle", *The Age*, December 9, 2010.



Eric Midwinter
The Cricketer's Progress: Meadowland to Mumbai
 London: Third Age Press, 2010
 ISBN 9781898576297
 MCCL 56636

In an earlier edition of *The Yorker*, I reviewed a book by Eric Midwinter. Its title was *Quills on Willow: Cricket in Literature* (reviewed in Vol.No.32, Autumn 2002). In that review I claimed that it was the most excellent book on that subject.

By chance, I received in the post recently a gratuitous copy of Midwinter's latest book. I read it on the trains that took me to and from the Gabba for the First Test. Finding it impossible to put down, I now unequivocally present it as my choice as "Number One Cricket Book".

The first 14 chapters cover cricket's detailed history, beginning in 1598 and ending in 1965. Midwinter counts that year as the moment when cricket's rulers took the "intrepid step that made a definite change in the political route taken by the game".

He identifies this moment as that when the ICC changed its nomenclature from "Imperial Cricket Conference" to "International Cricket Conference". That was more than a semantic allusion. It signified the new concept of "Associate Membership".

The final three chapters that follow, beginning with the title "Commercialism", cover the principal issues that have confronted, and continue to confront, challenges explored in the last 45 years. The final chapter is entitled "The Twenty/20 Vision", which Midwinter cleverly likens to comparable developments of the eighteenth century.

To appreciate the fluidity and ingenuity of the subject matter of *The Cricketer's Progress* one needs to know more about the background of Eric Midwinter. The preface is revealing, as is his prologue.

Eric Midwinter is a descendant of the only man who played Test cricket for both Australia and England – against each other. Midwinter himself is revealed as a social historian, educationist and social policy analyst. Amongst his incredibly varied career, he has been the director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing, professor of education and a co-founder of the University of the Third Age.

A Lancastrian by birth and upbringing, he has published more than 50 books on topics so variegated as British comedy and a guide to the "planning of a celebration of your life". Cricket is his first sport, but he has also written well on Association Football (soccer).

Midwinter's prolific chapters on the history of cricket are so detailed and informed that, to my view, they surpass all the many works that purport to master that field. His mastery of the English language (and indeed his knowledge of prosody) surpasses most of the many litterateurs who have graced the wonders of cricket literature.

Particularly admirable is his lack of arrogance or pretentiousness, typified by his gracious praise of peers. For example, those who know and admire Bernard Whimpress, the former curator of the Adelaide Oval's museum and editor of the excellent journal "Baggy Green", will appreciate that Midwinter describes him as "the talented Australian historian of the fascinating Ashes Treasures" (page 161).

By virtue of its wit, scholarship, mastery of language, vision, modesty and wisdom, Eric Midwinter's *The Cricketer's Progress* has persuaded me that it is the finest book on cricket of all time. It is unquestionably my favourite.

J. Neville Turner



John Stern [editor]
My Favourite Cricketer
 London: A & C Black Publishers Ltd, 2010
 ISBN: 9781408123409
 MCCL 54095

For its devotees, cricket provides various forms of enjoyment. For the more agile, it is a game to be played. For the less gifted, or those who have seen better days, it is a game to be watched, discussed, read about, pondered and, above all, remembered.

Over a lifetime, the cricket enthusiast gathers a host of memories to savour. Despite the passing years, these remain vivid, bringing to life again the guile and splendour of Lindwall, for example, or the brilliance of Warne bowling Chanderpaul in Sydney, the footwork of Neil Harvey, or the effortless but perfectly timed back-cuts of Frank Worrell.

From such recollections, some players emerge as favourites who were widely imitated. Half a century ago, cool young men wore their shirts unbuttoned almost to the waist, à la Benaud, or adopted Slasher Mackay's Groucho Marx walk to the wicket.

A few years earlier, no one was as widely imitated as Keith Miller. Brylcreem and long hair that could be jauntily tossed back were enormously popular. Almost every lad wanted to field at first slip with Miller's flair; probably only Adam Gilchrist has generated the same sense of anticipation that came as Miller walked out to bat and, for those who saw it, the excitement of his 3/5 on the opening morning at Melbourne in 1955 has never been surpassed.

When I was 10, I watched in awe (and considerable disbelief) as Keith Miller signed my new Sykes bat in Lindsay Hassett's sports store. Fifty years later, those feelings returned when he visited the MCC Library. Though frail and supporting himself with forearm crutches, the great man had lost none of the magnetism that had always made him the centre of attention.

An old adage maintains that a book should never be judged by its cover. However, as soon as I saw the cover picture of Fred Trueman signing an autograph for two respectful lads, I knew that I would enjoy *My Favourite Cricketer*. In a handsome little volume, John Stern has gathered 46 essays originally contributed to *The Wisden Cricketer* by "sports writers and celebrated cricket fans".

Their choice of favourites ranges from stalwarts like Brian Close, Jim Parks and Brian Statham to such brilliant figures as Victor Trumper, Len Hutton and Graeme Pollock. Only Gideon Haigh could plausibly justify the inclusion of Chris Tavaré as a favourite, while Christopher Douglas admits that his surprising choice of Jardine is "perverse".

Some essays contain delightful flashes of humour, but none surpasses Robert Kitson's portrait of Geoff Miller, in which the author reveals that he once "had a rabbit called Kallicharan but only because I could not say Venkataraghavan." He honoured Miller by naming a second bunny "Dusty", but "inevitably it died within days." In many cases, the authors display a sense of hero worship that dates back to childhood, but no one puts it better than Frank Keating in describing Tom Graveney:

Recollection warms the memory as well, for you are seldom betrayed by the figure you first lionised in the uncomplicated purity of early childhood ... Yet I am still in schoolboy awe of the valorous chivalry of his deeds at cricket, of the genuine creative invention and authentic artistry of his transcendent batsmanship.

In his portrait of Jeff Thomson, John Benaud notes that, while "heroes can come and go as quickly as their halcyon summers, less fleeting is the fancy experienced when one is touched by genius." That view is certainly supported by Peter Roebuck's essay on Harold Larwood, "a man sustained by pride in his performance, loyalty to the deserving, and the satisfaction to be taken from the contemplation of a job well done."

Although the essays are necessarily succinct, several contain thought-provoking vignettes. In the opening lines of Simon Kuper's study of Graeme Pollock, the "temper tantrum" of "a little bearded white guy" towards a "black ice-cream seller" offers a graphic glimpse of the terrible stain that was apartheid. As Gillian Reynolds discusses the dignity and sporting heroism of Brian Statham, she worries about the game's future:

Given ... that current fashion favours the unsporting I have begun to fear for cricket." With the plethora of ugly incidents in recent years, it is a concern that cannot be lightly dismissed. Indeed, will future generations be able to write of favourite players with the same affection that appears in this gem of a book?

My Favourite Cricketer tempts its readers to keep digesting one essay after another, just to see what particular contributors say about their heroes. The most evocative writing comes from Duncan Hamilton, whose imagination is still dominated by Garry Sobers:

I was aware at once that he was a genius, unique and separate from the merely gifted, and I worshipped him because of it.

At a brief encounter with the great all-rounder in 2007, Hamilton was "a nervous and besotted 11-year-old again." That is the great thing about cricket – the memories never die, and can make all of us young again.

Alf Batchelder



Anthony Clavane
Promised Land: The Reinvention of Leeds United
 London : Yellow Jersey Press, 2010
 ISBN 9780224082631
 MCCL 55895

Compared to cricket, Association Football's collective bibliographic output often fails to live up to much literary scrutiny. Last year, I compiled a bibliography on Leeds United and listed over 280 titles, though I could count on two hands books about the club that would interest people outside the definition of a fan or football historian. How thoroughly refreshing then it was to read Anthony Clavane's *Promised Land: The Reinvention of Leeds United*.

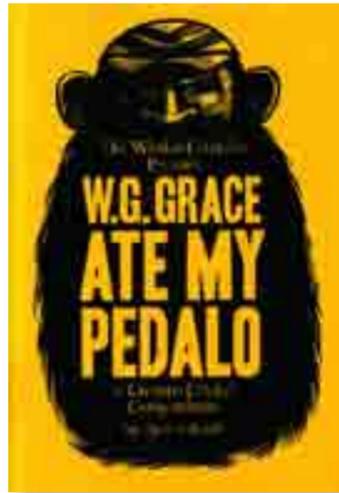
Clavane, a sports editor for the Sunday Mirror in the UK, was born and raised in Leeds and, like most supporters, has maintained a lifelong affinity with the club. *Promised Land* is his attempt to scrutinise both his club and the city he grew up in. He details Leeds United's meteoric rise to the top in the 1960s and subsequent failures and flashes of brilliance that define the rollercoaster of emotion of following Leeds.

But this isn't just a book about a team. It's a journey though Clavane's Jewish upbringing and his deep roots and questions about where he came from and how he himself fits into the fabric of the city. He questions how England's third biggest city, and its football team that was once a powerhouse of domestic and European football, have both struggled with identity and attempts to take on football's and Britain's established order.

From *Billy Liar* to Billy Bremner throughout the book Clavane's analysis is brilliantly observed with literary and cultural references that serve to illuminate the background of the city and the club. Naturally, a Leeds United supporter will appreciate *Promised Land*, but I also feel it has immense value to any sports fan as it examines the wider picture of how sport and society are intertwined immeasurably.

Despite an often painful and troubled journey, Clavane has kept faith with Leeds United. Almost single-handedly, he has also restored my faith in football writing.

Sam Gibbard



Alan Tyers and Beach
W.G. Grace Ate My Pedalo
 London : John Wisden and Co, 2010
 ISBN 978 1 4081 3042 1
 MCCL 54816

Last year, while searching through the effects of his recently deceased Great Aunt Bernard, Humphrey Mattingwicket-Lawrence discovered a complete set of the 1896 editions of *The Wisden Cricketer*. Hailed as "the most significant collection of Victorian cricket periodicals ever held in private hands", these remarkable works have now been republished "exactly as they would have looked in 1896".

While the resulting volume and its literally fantastic illustrations will give the general reader hours of enjoyment, it will also open many previously unknown fields for research by eccentric students of cricket's history.

The unique report of England's South African tour will certainly trigger long and earnest discussion among statisticians. After Cape Colony declared at 4/895, the visitors could manage only 31 and 43. Happily, their cause was not lost, since it was serendipitously discovered "that all five South African centurions have English great-grandparents".

On learning this, England skipper A.J. "Rumpy" Nethercote "had the good sense to telegraph immediately to the Governor of the Cape Colony, who issued them all with certificates confirming that they were born in Hampshire, and thus their runs were credited to the English side."

Around the same time, efforts were being made to bring greater certainty to cricket. In advancing his views on the notion of an Umpire Review System, W.G. Grace maintained that a day's entertainment should not be marred "just because some petty functionary falsely believes me to have edged behind." His solution was straightforward:

I should like to see all contentious decisions reviewed by an expert committee, i.e. me, with stiff penalties for umpires who show dissent, perhaps flogging or prison for repeated offenders.

A similarly resolute philosophy emerged in a letter from General Kitchener in Khartoum, where he had found two

native bowlers who were giving "no end of difficulty in the nets." Since these bounders had apparently achieved their success by tampering with the ball, "I had no choice but to have them both shot as a warning to others."

Kitchener's refusal to tolerate any nonsense came at a time when several key issues were confronting the game and its strong traditions. For example, was the Barmington Army Marching Band a nuisance at cricket? Would Maharajah Lalit Modi's evil notion of a "Player Auction" force cricket's finest talents into the grip of the white slave trade? Could New Zealand be a Marxist plot? Should Ladies be encouraged to play cricket? While the thoughts of Prime Minister Gladstone on that delicate subject were warmly positive, a highly questionable and possibly lecherous tone permeated his reasoning. In contrast, Queen Victoria had no time for anything untoward:

Surely no female would attempt to play at Cricket when there are so many pastimes more suitable to our sex, including wearing an enormous hat made of diamonds, giving birth, baiting the Irish and unlicensed boxing.

Even as she spoke, though, the Queen was losing the argument. The personal notices in the Autumn issue contained an advertisement for a home that sheltered "Fallen Women Cricketers".

Equally disturbing was the trend for prominent players to find themselves in unsavory incidents. One is surprised to find even W.G. Grace himself being forced to admit that he was indeed inebriated "to an unacceptable degree" when he engaged in "the unlawful piloting of a pedal-propelled pleasure craft" after England's humiliating loss to Sudan A. The Great Man's contrition was abject in the extreme:

I've let myself down, I've let Gloucestershire down, I've let the medical profession down, and worst of all, I've let Her Majesty Queen Victoria down.

WG's confession was so moving that it has been echoed by countless sportsmen ever since. To his credit, he failed to conclude with the usual snivel that he just wanted to get back to playing cricket again.

Further concern came when Dr. Grace commiserated with "his defeated Australian opponent during the fiercely contested recent Ashes series." Mr. G.O.P. Sickert thundered that WG's behaviour had been "neither inspiring nor noble". Instead, it was "vile":

Dr. Grace had defeated the fellow fair and square, and should have finished him off with a cutlass, or at the very least, a billy club.

P.C. Lewis of Bow Street was a little more understanding. Even so, he urged The Great Man to check that the Australian had not taken his pocket watch and wallet:

Their ways are not our ways, and they cannot help themselves but to purloin and pilfer wherever possible.

Another known delinquent was "the popular all-rounder and inebriation artist" Mr 'Fat' Freddie Flintstone. As the England team celebrated their Ashes triumph by touring London at "two miles in the hour" in a "motorised omnibus", Freddie kept falling off. In Hyde Park, after "even those who had played only one of the matches or were drawn from the ranks of the lower orders" had received The Most Honourable Order of The Bath, Flintstone had "contrived to fall into The Serpentine and

consume several of Her Majesty's swans".

Such decadence was in sharp contrast to the difficulties cricketers had once faced. In discussing heroes of the modern era, Mr G. Boycott, who was later knighted, advised his 1896 readers:

They have it easy, on their uncovered pitches, do the players these days. When I played, the pitch would be covered in glue and tar overnight, and have sharp rocks stuck into it and be ploughed with a harrow, while demonic creatures of the night performed their foul rituals on its surface. And I still played on it with a stick of rhubarb, and if the mood took me, I would wear my mother's pinafore while I did so.

Though they might have had it "easy", leading cricketers like Mr K.P. Pietersen were nevertheless dedicated to their craft, following a strict routine of daily disciplines and diversions. At 8am KP would "promenade throughout the capital" with his wife, "endeavouring to get noticed in all the right places."

After four hours of "staring into the looking glass practising his cricketing shots and generally admiring his personage", he would invent an exciting new stroke that would repeatedly cost him his wicket. Nevertheless, KP would defiantly inform the press "that I shall continue to play the new shot, despite its obviously disastrous consequences."

In publishing Great Aunt Bernard's archive of 1896 literary gems, writer Alan Tyers and illustrator Beach have given modern readers many extraordinary and priceless new insights into cricket and its past. (A sample of Beach's work appears below.) Those who decide to seek this remarkable publication from their purveyors of fine literature are warned that any similarity to the modern era is entirely intentional and fiendishly clever.

Potential buyers are also advised to note the comment of Sir Geoffrey Boycott: "Spoof Victorian cricket annuals were funnier when I were playing." What a wonderful time that must have been!

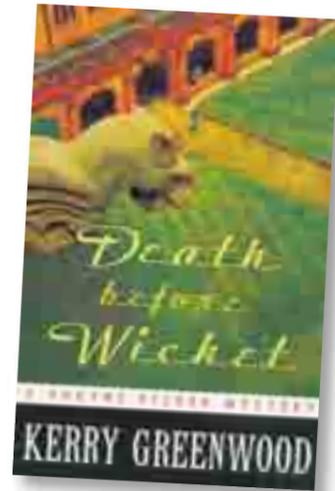
Alf Batchelder



THE RHINOPLASTIFICATOR
 Bout me a bounce. Go on, I dare you.

MY FAVOURITE CRICKET BOOK

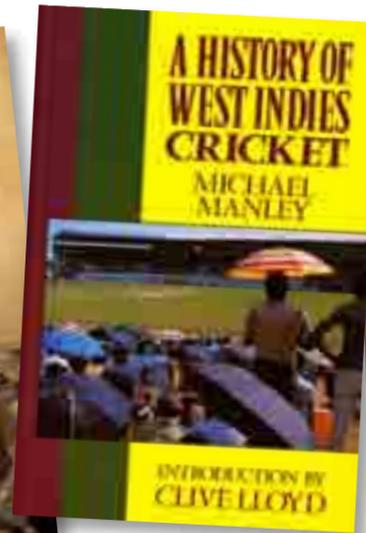
For the MCC Library's *The Crooked Staff: An Exhibition Celebrating Four Centuries of Cricket in Print*, the library's staff and volunteers were invited to write about their favourite cricket books. We received 22 reviews covering a variety of genres including biographies, history, almanacs, humour and crime fiction, to name but a few. Their display in the library generated a very positive reaction and we have included a selection of the reviews for your interest.



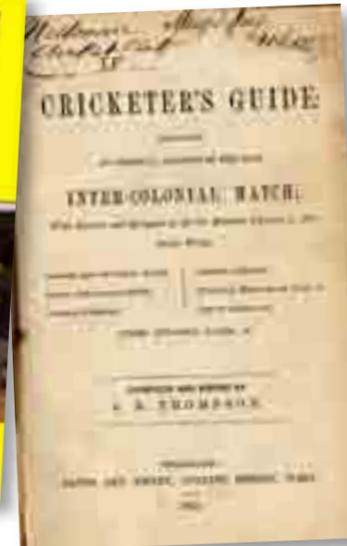
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DEATH BEFORE WICKET BY KERRY GREENWOOD

My sporting career was short and less than memorable. The highlight was coming second-last in a race when I was eight. Sadly it was all downhill from there. My interest in crime fiction started with Agatha Christie's *Cat Among the Pigeons* when I was 12 and has been far more successful.

After several years I discovered the existence of crime fiction with a sports theme: Emma Lathen, Dorothy Sayers and Ellery Queen among others. In spite of my lack of sporting prowess, I like them.

Even those who know little about cricket could enjoy Kerry Greenwood's *Death before Wicket*. The elegant 1920s sleuth Phyrne Fisher leaves Melbourne to attend the second Test against England in Sydney in 1928/29. Australia has lost the first Test in Brisbane by an unprecedented 675 runs (one D.G. Bradman debuted ingloriously with 18 and 1) and is hoping for revenge.

Sadly, the Sydney Test is lost by eight wickets but meanwhile Phyrne has become embroiled in a search for treasures stolen from the University of Sydney, black magic, blackmail, the search for a missing woman, a run-in with one of Tilly Devine's henchmen and the usual pleasant dalliance with assorted young men.

The book is peppered with cricket references: Phyrne's reminiscences of playing backyard and beach cricket with her brothers and her memories of Lionel Tennyson's innings at Leeds in 1921, when he batted with a broken arm, an elderly professor's memories of the Three Graces of Gloucestershire and Warwick Armstrong.

Less engagingly, a match between the faculty and students of Sydney University is interrupted by attempted murder, leading to the immortal observation: "It's a terrible blow to learn that someone with such a beautiful cover drive could be a wicked person."

Well, yes. Theft, betrayal, attempted murder – they're just not cricket.

Deborah Schrader, MCC assistant librarian (cataloguing team leader)

THE SUMMER GAME BY GIDEON HAIGH

Gideon Haigh's *The Summer Game* is my favourite cricket book. In my view Gideon is in a class on his own, and I could just as easily have chosen another of his works. *The Summer Game* is particularly appealing because it covers the period during which my father introduced me to the joys of watching Test cricket.

My first really vivid memory of a specific game comes from the 1954/55 Ashes series. In my mind's eye I can see Frank Tyson bowling at such ferocious speed that he knocked the bat out of Les Favell's hands. Whether that actually happened I can't be sure, but Tyson's fearsome pace was certainly a reality.

Part of Gideon's method in this book is to draw on interviews he had recorded with a wide range of players. Ron Archer recalled his dismissal by Tyson in the Second Test of that series when the second ball he faced came off the face of his bat and was caught in slips. "It wasn't an edge," observed Archer, "the ball was so fast that the force of it turned the bat in my hands." Perhaps there is some truth in my boyhood recollection.

Beginning with the 1949/50 tour of South Africa by Lindsay Hassett's team, *The Summer Game* follows the fortunes of Australian cricket until the Ashes series of 1970/71. Along the way, the world inhabited by the players of that period is vividly recreated. While much of their lifestyle was to be envied, we are reminded that tours were long and remuneration minimal, which placed particular pressures on players with families.

Both Tom Veivers and Peter Burge withdrew from the 1965 West Indies tour for personal reasons, the latter explaining that, apart from financial considerations, he had "two young kids who didn't know him". All the major controversies are there as well, from the non-selection of Keith Miller in the original 1949/50 touring party, to the 1971 sacking of Bill Lawry as captain in favour of Ian Chappell.

But content is only part of the appeal of *The Summer Game*. As always, there is also the author's mastery of the language to be savoured.

Dennis Carroll – MCC Library volunteer

A HISTORY OF WEST INDIES CRICKET BY MICHAEL MANLEY

I was fortunate enough in 1991 to visit the West Indies for a fortnight and enjoy Test matches at Barbados and Antigua. Over the years I had seen a fair amount of West Indian cricket but thought it would be a good idea to improve my knowledge of the history of the region. When I arrived in the West Indies many people were walking around with copies of *A History of West Indies Cricket* and so it was not a difficult choice to buy a copy for myself.

Sir Michael Manley, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, has written this fine account. The structure of the book is a series of reminiscences from the first Test in the series between West Indies and England at Sabina Park in 1986. Thus the book was written at the height of the domination of West Indies over world cricket, and as the Test progresses to its inevitable victory little is said of the actual match.

Manley covers the development of the game and its great players such as Challenor, Headley and Constantine before the war, Worrell, Walcott and Weekes, Rahmadhin and Valentine in the fifties, Sobers, Kanhai and Hall in the sixties and, more recently, Lloyd, Holding, Marshall and Richards.

But it is not just about these great personalities. It is how they, and cricket, fit into the social context of the islands. The history of cricket is the history of the West Indies. The long and difficult transition from slavery in a colonial empire to independence and federation goes hand in hand with the development of cricket.

This book is not as didactic as C.L.R. James' *Beyond a Boundary*, and written 25 years later has a more modern political message. As Clive Lloyd writes in the introduction: "All our experiments in Caribbean integration either failed or have maintained a dubious survivability; but cricket remains the instrument of Caribbean cohesion – the remover of arid insularity and nationalistic prejudices."

Jim Blair – MCC Library volunteer

THE VICTORIAN CRICKETER'S GUIDE FOR 1858/59 BY JAMES THOMPSON

The Victorian Cricketer's Guide for 1858/1859 is my favourite for its author, that almost unknown but significant figure in the start of Aussie Rules, James Thompson. A Cambridge University graduate, Thompson came to the gold rushes, and his love of cricket saw him as a reporter for the local sporting paper, *Bell's Life in Victoria*, and then for *The Argus*.

James was described as "a fairish oar, a fairish cricketer and a fairish billiard player". He was also a fairish footballer and his hugely important role as rule-maker and media publicist ensured that our football game kicked on. He even published its first rules in his *Cricketer's Guide!*

Thompson's animated, detailed, knowledgeable and diverting writing was no less, indeed probably more, devoted to cricket, that "finest and most manly outdoor sport". Entertaining glimpses abound in his review of the 1858/1859 season, the intercolonial match and remarks upon "players of note".

"Was it for this" he asked wryly, "you invested all that spare cash for a Zingari cap, a thunder and lightning shirt, a pair of peg tops with a red stripe down the sides as broad as an admiral's pennant, for this that the fifteen-spring cane-handled bat was bought - the snowy buckskin gloves with the centres cut out, which gives such freedom of motion to the fingers you know - the spring-fastening pads with the artificial knee-cap and lastly, that tremendous belt, whose clasp glistens like a warming pan and bears in relief (hideous mockery!) a Fuller Pilch or a Guy in the act of successfully executing a stupendous off drive."

Some things never change. Resonating down the years are his comments on the media. Consider as our 2010/11 summer proceeds: "You know exactly how it was your side was beaten, and big with the knowledge proceed to impart your recipe against future defeat to co-suffering cricketers, and a disgusted public. If Fortune has smiled, you take a big dip of ink, and with a tremendous flourish, write, 'Did I not tell you how it would be?'"

Gillian Hibbins – MCC Library volunteer

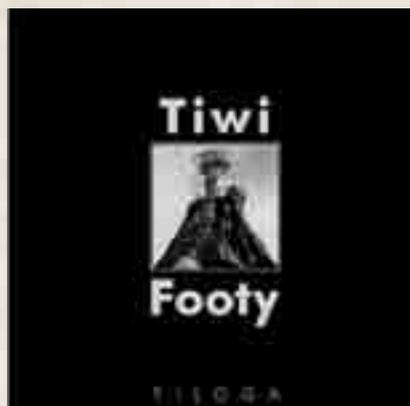
1 Kerry Greenwood
Death Before Wicket: A Phyrne Fisher Mystery
St Leonards (NSW):
Allen & Unwin, 2003
ISBN: 9781741140958
MCCL 38963

2 Gideon Haigh
The Summer Game: Cricket and Australia in the 50s and 60s
Sydney: ABC Books, 2006
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3 Michael Manley
A History of West Indies Cricket
London: Guild Publishing, 1988
ISBN: 0233982590
MCCL 753

4 J. B. Thompson
The Victorian Cricketer's Guide
Melbourne: Sands and Kenny,
1859
MCCL 1006

WITH THIS ISSUE OF
THE YORKER LEADING
WITH TIWI FOOTBALL
IT IS APT TO CLOSE WITH
A REVIEW OF THE BOOK
TIWI FOOTY FROM
A PREVIOUS EDITION.



TIWI FOOTY

Darwin: F11 Productions, 2008

ISBN 978 0 646 48392 4

Photographs by Monica Napper and Peter Eve

Essay by Andrew McMillan

MCCL 37576

Today is the big day. The people are pouring into the ground, arriving by land and sea and in all shapes and sizes. This is the best, the Tiwi Islands grand final, a battle royal between two teams from Melville and Bathurst islands, just north of Darwin in the Timor Sea.

The Tiwis are a proud people, steeped in tradition, but they've long since embraced the new world. Aussie Rules was introduced to the islands in 1941 by Brother John Pye and, despite the difficulties of the war years and the fear of Japanese air attacks, by 1944 he had organised a competition between Tiwi teams.

Yiloga (footy) was to begin its life-long fascination for the islanders, where today the population is about 2600 and there are seven teams in the competition. Grand final day is special, the pinnacle, for the islanders.

This superb book features some amazing photography, so rich in the history of these beautiful islands. The coloured pages, offset by dramatic black and white shots, say it all. The football is a getting together of various tribes from both islands to play the game they love.

This is Aussie Rules played with a passion. It's a bit different, from the manual scoreboard, the goal umpires in shorts and the radio announcer perched on the back of a truck. The ground (Stanley Tipiloura Oval on Bathurst Island) may need a bit of tender loving care, but the game is the most important thing. The Muluwurri Magpies have arrived from Melville Island to do battle with the Imalu Tigers, also from Melville.

The Tiger honour roll includes Norm Smith Medallists Michael Long and Maurice Rioli. Sibby Rioli, Maurice's brother, played for South Fremantle and nephews Dean and Cyril Rioli and many others are among the brilliant footballers to emerge from the Tiwi Islands.

On the big day a steady stream of charter flights arrives from Darwin International airport, boats from Melville Island and cars and trucks are laden with happy, brightly dressed supporters. The crowd numbers around 3000.

The players' preparation is familiar – some are a little nervous, there's the pre-match huddle before the burst through the banner. It's all there. The high marking, the speed, the handpasses skilfully executed by fanatical footballers.

The Muluwurri Magpies have a great win – 25.6 (156) to Imalu Tigers' 12.4 (76) – and there's plenty of dancing, cheering and tears from both the victor and the runner-up. The presentation of the Maurice Rioli Cup and the E.J. Whitten Medal for best and fairest is enjoyed by all, with the exception of the little ones, asleep on Mum's blanket. Just too big a day!!!

Brother Pye was right. "Football," he said, "has unified people on the islands. They are all from different clans, but as soon as you pick a footy team they are all in it together."

This is a book of magnificent photographs capturing the spirit, enjoyment and skill of our national game. It's also a history of the Tiwi Islands, their language and most importantly their friendly and engaging people.

It's highly recommended.

Peta Phillips.



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

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The views expressed are those of the editors and authors, and are not those of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Submissions of research articles and book reviews can be made to The Editor, The Yorker, MCC Library PO Box 175 East Melbourne 8002 or via email to library@mcc.org.au.