



NOVEMBER 2018 #170

# MCC News



# Super Showdown

MEGASTARS OF WORLD WRESTLING  
TRANSFORM MCG INTO ARENA SPECTACULAR

# MEMBERS' TRAVEL EXPERIENCES NOT TO BE MISSED

Two exciting members' tour experiences in mid-2019, each culminating with access to the Ashes Test at Lord's, are now available for booking.

Both tours - titled History and Cruise Europe - will depart Melbourne on July 29 and return on August 21 and promise to be memorable and enjoyable.

## History tour

The History tour is a fabulously informative tour for WW1 history enthusiasts, but also for lovers of all things French and European - not to mention cricket lovers wanting to experience a Test match at Lord's.

Starting off with four nights in the heart of Paris, there is a balance of organised and free time to explore this amazing city which offers literally, something for everyone, including a full day trip to the Normandy Beaches.

Leaving the lights behind it's off to Champagne for lunch and a tour of a famous Champagne House before crossing over to Amiens for three nights to start our personalised WW1 history trail with renowned war historian Michael McKernan. Along the way, Michael will share wonderful tributes and stories of our Australian diggers.

Moving onwards to Lille, we will visit the nearby Menin Gate Last Post ceremony in Ypres and a host of other battle sites and memorials. Past participants have said this tour is a very moving experience.

These are places that every Australian should visit at least once in their lifetime and you will be impressed with the respect the locals have for our nation.

After leaving Lille we head for the fascinating city of Bruges, steeped in art, culture and history, enabling you to enjoy the last few days in Europe before boarding Eurostar for the English capital and a stay at the five-star, luxurious May Fair Hotel. Finally, you can tick off a bucket list item with attendance at the Lord's Ashes Test.



## Cruise Europe

The Cruise Europe tour will feature a seven-night cruise through Croatia before a journey to the English countryside and onto London for the Ashes Test at Lord's.

Croatia shares the Adriatic Sea with its neighbour Italy, making it a highly desirable destination for travellers from around the world attracted by good value, generous sunshine, unrivalled history and a coastline that is truly spectacular.

We visit three significant destinations; Zagreb, Split and Dubrovnik whilst cruising the Dalmatian coast; as well as getting the chance to visit many other locations.

We have exclusively chartered ships from the Katarina-Line. Our ships are of equal standard with different styling, yet both have a fabulously relaxed ambience.

This is a cruise where you can relax, unwind, watch the world go by and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow like-minded MCC members - it doesn't get much better than this!

Throughout the tour, the emphasis is on high-quality food, local wines and unique experiences. City tours are leisurely walking tours with experienced local guides. Ample time is available to do your own exploring.

The cruise itself starts and ends in the coastal city of Split visiting several islands including the iconic walled town of Dubrovnik, meandering amongst the historic and quaint islands along the Dalmatian coast steeped in tradition and history.

You will finish with a two-night visit to the English countryside before heading to the Lord's Test in London, where you will be based at the luxurious, five-star May Fair Hotel.

## HOW TO BOOK

For each tour, payment of a \$3000 per person deposit via the MCC website is required by Friday December 21.

Members are permitted to bring one non-member with them on either tour.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT STEVEN SMITH

The siren has sounded on another AFL season, and from the club's perspective it was an outstanding success.

Thanks to the presence of the four big MCG clubs – Collingwood, Richmond, Melbourne and Hawthorn – the ground hosted six finals matches. Five of those matches attracted crowds in excess of 90,000 people, with our season-ending attendance of 2.953 million our best overall result in eight years.

These are exceptional numbers, and I would like to thank our management and staff, including our casual events workforce and major suppliers, for the smooth operation of the ground right the way through the finals series. The MCG looked spectacular.

We witnessed an absorbing grand final that went down to the final minutes, as West Coast Eagles triumphed over Collingwood by five points in front of 100,022 fans. Congratulations to West Coast chairman Russell Gibbs and coach Adam Simpson on the club's fourth premiership.

No doubt Collingwood will bounce back from such a close defeat and return even stronger next season. Likewise Melbourne, who teased us with the prospect of that elusive flag before falling to the Eagles in the preliminary final, will enter 2019 with high hopes.

On a disappointing note, our ticketing services supplier, Ticketek, recorded technical

difficulties with its system during on-sales for some of the early finals matches. This led to frustration and poor experiences for many of our own members, as well as members of the AFL and competing clubs and it is an issue we are working hard on to ensure there is no repeat next season.

Less than 24 hours after the football season, the ground began a week-long conversion for the WWE Super Show-Down event held on October 6. More than 70,000 passionate wrestling fans saw a spectacular event, as the MCG was broadcast around the globe.

We thank Visit Victoria for bringing this event to Melbourne, and we look forward to similar success with two concerts at the ground this summer – Bon Jovi on December 1 and Eminem on February 24.

The cricket season is now upon us, and by the time members read this we will have just hosted a Twenty20 international between Australia and India (November 23). The Indian community in Melbourne was expected to support the event in large numbers, with a crowd in excess of 70,000 forecast.

That match is the first real test of curator Matt Page's new approach to our cricket

pitch preparation, after some promising signs in the first two Sheffield Shield matches. While we expect improvement to come in the longer-term, we are confident that our pitches will provide a more even contest between bat and ball this summer.

While Australian cricket has had a difficult year on and off the field, I am sure that when Boxing Day comes around our members will again support the match in large numbers, along with the BBL season involving Melbourne Stars.

The Pavilions in the Park hospitality concept in Yarra Park, which we trialled last summer, will return for the first three days of the Test and will add to the cricket experience for members and their guests, as well as taking some of the pressure off the more popular bars within the Reserve.

We have also had a big year as ground manager, winning a number of awards which have recognised the efforts of our very talented management team.

Our focus on improving customer service was recognised with the "Customer Service Organisation of the Year – Large Organisation" at the 2018 Australian Service Excellence Awards. This is the pre-eminent award in customer service in Australia and we were thrilled to win it, particularly as we still have more to do with the implementation of our CARE customer service project.

As part of the project we have rolled out a range of customer service initiatives in the last 12 months, including queue

management technology, an enhanced MCG app, the introduction of the MCC Plus rewards program for members and a shuttle service for mobility-impaired patrons attending MCG events.

In the sustainability field, we took out first place in the Innovation category at TheStadiumBusiness Awards Design and Development Awards in London, edging out a number of venues in the UK, USA and Spain.

The award was for our effort in becoming the first sporting venue to close the loop on organics recycling, with waste produced at the stadium treated in-house via an organics dehydrator. Being a community leader in environment and sustainability is a pillar of our strategic plan, and we continue to make great strides in this area.

In looking back over the year we should be proud of what the club has achieved. Apart from the many awards won by our management team, the extension of the AFL agreement until 2057 was significant and allows us to ensure the MCG will remain one of the best stadiums in the world with a redevelopment of the Great Southern Stand in the next decade. The future is exciting for both the club and the ground.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas.

# OUTDOOR HOSPITALITY EXPERIENCE RETURNS FOR TEST



After a successful debut last summer, the Pavilions in the Park hospitality experience will again be on offer for members and guests on the first three days of the Boxing Day Test.

Members will be able to relax, socialise and mingle in hospitality marquees in Yarra Park, directly outside the MCC Members Reserve entrance, while enjoying food and beverages in comfortable surrounds.

The addition of Pavilions in the Park came in response to feedback from members about the club's ability to cater for the sustained strong demand for food and beverages on major event days.

The relaxed garden atmosphere will again feature two marquees – namely "Bat and Bowl Bar" and "Long Bar" – complete with TV monitors and seating.

There will be a giant screen that allows you to watch the cricket in a park setting, as well as food trucks and music.

Importantly, all categories of members will be able to scan in to the exclusive zone throughout the day, including Provisional members who cannot otherwise access the Reserve on the first two days of the Test. Valid visitor tickets holders will also be able to scan their ticket to enter at any time.

Open from 10.00am to 8.30pm on December 26, 27 and 28, this will be a great way to catch up with friends at the cricket during the Test, as well as review the day's play with fellow members and guests. The normal Members Reserve rules and regulations will apply with respect to dress standards and behaviour.



# AWARD WINS KEEP COMING

The club was thrilled to be recognised with three major awards in recent months across the customer service and sustainability sectors.

First, the MCC was acknowledged for its commitment to putting customers and fans first, being named "Customer Service Organisation of the Year – Large Business" at the 2018 Australian Service Excellence Awards.

The club has implemented a range of customer service initiatives in the last 12 months to improve the experience for the millions of visitors to the iconic stadium each year. These include:

- Launch of a revamped MCG app designed to assist match day patrons with helpful information, as well as direct customer service support.
- Installation of WaitTime technology in the venue to better inform customers about available food and beverage offerings nearby and approximate queue times.
- Introduction of MCC Plus, a rewards program designed to further engage and benefit MCC members.
- Partnering with Traveller's Aid to offer a shuttle service for mobility-impaired patrons attending MCG games during the 2018 AFL season.

The club has also continued to invest in its innovative CARE customer service program. Across four years, more than 5000 people who influence the customer experience have been trained in the key habits, values and behaviours that the MCC has identified as being critical to great customer service.

The Australian Service Excellence Awards are overseen by the Customer Service Institute of Australia (CSIA). The CSIA is regarded as Australia's peak customer service body to provide education, certification and recognition to organisations and individuals in the field of service excellence.

At TheStadiumBusiness Awards Design and Development Awards in London in early November, the MCC took out first place in the "Innovation category", edging out a number of venues in the UK, USA and Spain.

The MCC "demonstrated genuine, industry-changing innovation" for becoming the first sporting venue to close the loop on organics recycling, with waste produced at the stadium treated in-house via an organics dehydrator.

"Disposal of waste and issues with landfill are a global problem and venues in particular generate substantial organic material," said the award judges. "The solution implemented at the MCC not only recycles this waste in-house, reducing costs and emissions associated with transport, but also turns it into a useful product that can benefit local environment and communities."

The award comes off the back of previous recognition for the organics dehydrator at the Green Sports Alliance Awards in the USA.

To round out a hugely successful fortnight, the MCC won the "Contribution to Sustainability" award at the Melbourne Awards, presented by City of Melbourne.

The award celebrates "projects or activities that create a more environmentally sustainable city through advancements in sustainable innovation and design, or the development of new sustainable projects or programs".

Thanks to comprehensive waste management policies implemented since 2016, there are few things at the stadium that don't get recycled.

From introducing new waste streams and reimagining the use of the humble plastic bag, to investing in the organics dehydrator and implementing strict policies for materials brought into the venue, the MCC has invested heavily in sustainability efforts throughout the iconic stadium.

The club also congratulates MCG Trust member Ian Carson, and his wife Simone, on being named joint Melburnian of the Year at the Melbourne Awards for their tireless work with SecondBite over the past 15 years. Very well deserved.



TOP: A group of MCC staff, led by people and culture general manager, Donna Price (front, centre), with our major customer service award. CENTRE: MCC Facilities team members Marshall Holding, Vince Macolino and Peter Wearne with the Contribution to Sustainability award at the Melbourne Awards. BOTTOM: One of the thousands of event staff and contractors who contribute to quality customer experiences at the MCG.



# A CARBON NEUTRAL SEPTEMBER AT THE 'G

The MCG and its surrounding Yarra Park became carbon neutral territory in September when the iconic sporting precinct offset all emissions from venue operations generated during its busiest month of the year.

On average, the MCG precinct consumes around 1.65 million kWh of electricity during September – comparable to the monthly energy demand of 4000 average Victorian homes.

But in 2018, the stadium has joined the EnergyAustralia carbon neutral movement.

This means EnergyAustralia, on behalf of the MCC, will offset all the emissions not only from the venue precinct for the entire month, but also the emissions from transport of more than 530,000 people to and from the precinct, and from food and beverage manufacture and preparation.

This is the first time a stadium in Australia has completely offset its carbon emissions for any period of time. The Australian-first initiative is one element of a broader partnership between the MCC and energy retailer EnergyAustralia aimed at finding better, smarter ways for all Victorians to use energy.

The hope is that the MCG can lead by example and inspire sports fans to cut down on their own carbon footprints.

To make the stadium precinct carbon neutral for September, EnergyAustralia purchased carbon credits from projects which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in this case a revegetation project in the Northern Territory and a clean-energy initiative in India.

MCC CEO Stuart Fox said offsetting carbon emissions during the stadium's busiest time of year was the equivalent of planting (and maintaining) 100,000 trees or taking 50,000 cars off the road for the month.

"It takes months of planning and preparation to prepare the MCG for all the activity, fanfare and excitement of September," said Mr Fox. "It's satisfying to know we can provide fans with a great experience while offsetting their impact on the environment."

The MCG already recycles 83 per cent of the waste generated at the stadium and has reduced annual carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent.

Mr Fox said carbon neutrality was just one of many recent initiatives to make the

MCG and its surrounds more sustainable, including the purchase of a bulk food dehydrator to treat organic waste, re-labelling bins to reduce contamination, re-allocating old furniture and equipment, using recycled plastics for bollard replacement in Yarra Park.

EnergyAustralia managing director Catherine Tanna said whether it's the average suburban house or the home of sport, going carbon neutral is for everyone.

"There's great potential for applying what we learn and to help households and businesses across Victoria use energy more efficiently, so they save money and help the environment," Ms Tanna said. "It's exciting working with the MCG to address some of the big energy challenges Australians are facing."

The MCG's status as a carbon neutral precinct for the month of September was certified by the Australian Government against the National Carbon Offset Standard. Becoming certified ensures genuine and verified carbon abatement is being achieved.

# SHARING KNOWLEDGE ACROSS THE WORLD



The reciprocal relationship between ourselves and Marylebone Cricket Club at Lord's in London has been strengthened in recent months with the introduction of a staff exchange program.

Staff exchanges between the two MCCs first took place in the 1990s and are a wonderful opportunity for staff from both organisations to travel overseas and experience stadium and club life on the other side of the world.

Club operations and interest groups coordinator, Anna Fowler, and brand marketing executive, Michael Tarran, were chosen from a strong field of interested Melbourne CC staff to spend three weeks at Lord's in August. They also were able to visit other venues and events in London to gain a broader experience.

"One of the highlights for me was the people and the culture," said Anna. "Everyone was so welcoming and friendly, as well as generous with their time. It was also noticeable on a match day that there's a real spirit of team work amongst the entire club."

Michael and Anna have both reported back with a number of observations that we hope to put into practice in the future.

As the AFL Finals Series reached a crescendo in September, Marylebone CC employees Clare Corrigan (executive assistant, membership and operations) and Peter Cooper (head steward) arrived in Melbourne for a two-week stint at the 'G.

In that time, the UK duo experienced everything from a Friday night preliminary final, the Footy Festival and AFL Grand Final Parade, the grand final itself and the post-match party, culminating with the WWE Super Show-Down. In between all these events, they became regular faces around the club as they met with each department to get to know each area of our club.

Both Clare and Peter were blown away by the size and scale of the venue and our operations, and we are sure that there will be a few hints and tips passed back to the UK upon their return.



## READY TO LEARN

The MCC has been a regular contributor to the success of the Venue Management School, run by the Venue Management Association. This year, nine MCC staff members attended their first or second year of the week-long course, which was held from November 11-16 in Kingscliff, New South Wales. Another (Raman Tiruchunapalli) attended the Leadership Institute, a program designed specifically for emerging leaders in the venue management industry.

Back row: Nathan Ervin, Megan Bowles, Ben Woodhouse, Anna Milne, Vince Macolino, Jess Ware and Jo Fisher. Front: Raman Tiruchunapalli, Beth Fearnside and Alyce Kirwan.



## GO GREEN WITH MELBOURNE STARS

This summer's T20 Big Bash League competition sees the MCG hosting five Melbourne Stars men's matches, along with two women's BBL games.

The Stars are again offering a unique MCC membership upgrade. For just \$45, members will receive invitations to special events, ticketed access to the Marvel Stadium derby on January 19, Stars merchandise discounts and a membership pack, including your choice of MCC/Stars seat cushion, scarf or Stars carry bag.

Whether you have renewed your MCC membership for the current season or are still to do so, you can buy your MCC Stars membership by logging in to the MCC website and using your seven-digit reference number.

Be there to support the Stars in their quest to home this year's BBL/WBBL titles.



## CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA-INDIA CONTESTS

With cricket season upon us, a new display outside Frank Grey Smith Bar presents a range of objects from cricket showdowns between Australia and India.

Among the items are a vest worn by Sachin Tendulkar during the 1999 Boxing Day Test; a stump from the 1986 Tied Test; a pair of batting gloves used by Greg Matthews when making his first century on the MCG on Boxing Day in 1985, and a women's Test series trophy from 1975.

Other paraphernalia includes a booklet from the 1945 Australian Services XI Tour of India, Weg's World Boxing Day poster from 2007 and the official magazine of the 1947/48 Test series between Australia and India, shortly after India gained independence.

Be sure to check it out at the cricket this summer.



## MCG TURNS POIGNANT PINK

More than 12,000 women, men and children helped turn the MCG pink on Sunday August 12 prior to the Melbourne v Sydney Swans match at Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA)'s Field of Women event.

The icon pink lady represents the number of people who will be diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and this year also celebrated 20 years since the BCNA's formation.



## ICONIC MOMENT IN SPORT REVISITED

During the 200 metres medal presentation at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games, Australia's silver medallist Peter Norman declared "I'll stand with you" and stood in silent solidarity on the dais as Americans Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their gloved fists in a powerful statement about racial discrimination and inequality.

To mark the 50th anniversary of this historical and powerful moment, the National Sports Museum reflects on the impact of Norman's protest with a new showcase, A Stand for Humanity: Peter Norman and the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games.

Available for viewing until December 10, the display features a number of powerful items including the Olympic silver medal awarded to Norman during the presentation and the Australian team tracksuit top he wore on the podium.

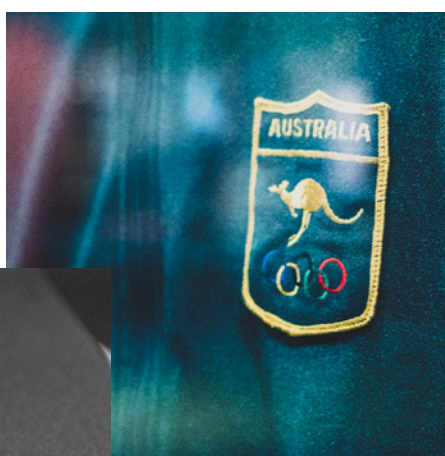
Also featured is the Olympic Project for Human Rights badge Norman donned as a gesture of his support for the protest. Previously assumed to be lost, the museum is privileged to share this unique item with visitors.

A photo of the historic statement - now considered one of the most iconic images in Olympic history - is also on display.

Recognition for Norman, who died in 2006, has been long overdue.

He was recently posthumously awarded an Order of Merit by the Australian Olympic Committee. From next year, October 9 will be known in Australia as Peter Norman Day, as it is in the USA, and a statue of Norman will be erected outside Lakeside Stadium in South Melbourne.

66  
I'LL STAND  
WITH YOU  
Peter Norman 99



## SPORTING GREATS JOIN HALL OF FAME

A wealth of sporting talent and achievement gathered in the National Sports Museum in October to celebrate their induction into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

Each inductee and Legend is featured in the Spirit of Sport gallery in the NSM, the home of SAHOF since the museum opened in 2008.

Cricket great, the late Richie Benaud, was posthumously honoured as the 40th Legend of Australian sport. Australian wheelchair racer, Kurt Fearnley, won The Don Award - presented to the sportsperson who most inspired the country throughout the year.

The individual inductees this year were Drew Ginn (rowing), Sam Coffa (Commonwealth Games administration), Gai Waterhouse (horse racing), Robyn Maher (basketball), Wendy Botha (surfing), Darren Lockyer (rugby league), Harry Kewell (soccer) and Allan Moffat (motor racing).

A number of this year's inductees are pictured here with swimming legend Dawn Fraser after visiting the NSM to view the SAHOF display and unveil their personal plaque in the gallery. Photo credit: The Sport Australia Hall of Fame



# AN INDIAN SUMMER AWAITS

After a tentative few months, Australia will be looking to return to top form when it takes on India in a home Test series this summer.

Currently ranked the number one Test nation in the world, Virat Kohli and his team are in the country for a four-match series, including the third Test at the MCG starting on Boxing Day.

The two countries will also contest a number of Twenty 20 and 50-over matches, with the MCG to host one of each in November and January respectively.

Melbourne Stars will play five BBL and two WBBL games at the MCG in January and the first part of February as part of an expanded competition. Of those, the marquee day on the calendar will be the doubleheader

between Melbourne Stars and Melbourne Renegades on New Year's Day.

Visitor tickets and reserved seats to all international and BBL matches are now on sale.

A limit of two visitor tickets will apply to Full and Restricted members on Day 1 of the Test, and four for all other international and domestic match days. Provisional members will not be able to use their card to access the Members Reserve on the first two days of the Test.

All other details pertaining to the cricket season, including access entitlements for Provisional members, can be found in an eight-page cricket guide now available at [mcc.org.au](http://mcc.org.au).



## 2018/19 CRICKET AT THE MCG

### Twenty20 International

Australia v India (November 23)

### Boxing Day Test

Australia v India (December 26-30)

### One-Day International

Australia v India (January 18)

### Big Bash League

Stars v Renegades (January 1)  
Stars v Scorchers (January 9)  
Stars v Hurricanes (January 14)  
Stars v Heat (January 27)  
Stars v Sixers (February 10)

### Women's Big Bash League

Stars v Renegades (January 1)  
Stars v Hurricanes (January 14)

### Sheffield Shield

Victoria v WA (December 7-10)



# MUCH TO LIKE ABOUT AFL SCHEDULE

The MCG will host 45 matches in the 2019 AFL home and away season, commencing with Richmond v Carlton on Thursday March 21 as part of a triple header in the opening round.

After a hugely successful 2018 that saw the highest home and away season attendance at the MCG since 2011, there are many positives in next year's draw.

There are seven Friday night matches at the MCG (up from five in 2018), plus Thursday nights in each of the opening two rounds. All 18 clubs will play at least one home and away match at the MCG.

A grand final rematch will be held between Collingwood and West Coast Eagles on a

Saturday night in Round 3, and our operational teams will be challenged by four games in six days across the Easter/Anzac Day week (April 20-25).

Several established marquee matches have been retained, including on Anzac Day, Easter Monday, Anzac Day Eve, Dreamtime at the 'G and Collingwood hosting Melbourne on Queen's Birthday Monday.

Detailed arrangements for the 2019 AFL season, including access for Provisional members as well as visitor ticket on-sale dates, will be confirmed early in the New Year.



## BIG ACTS KEEP ON COMING

Global rap icon Eminem will perform a massive show at the MCG on February 24 as part of the next instalment of his Rapture stadium tour.

The MCG performance will be the 15-time Grammy winner's only show in Melbourne. Eminem's previous Australian visit for 2014's Rapture Tour thrilled audiences at sold-out stadiums across the country and every seat was filled during his previous Lose Yourself Australian tour in 2011.

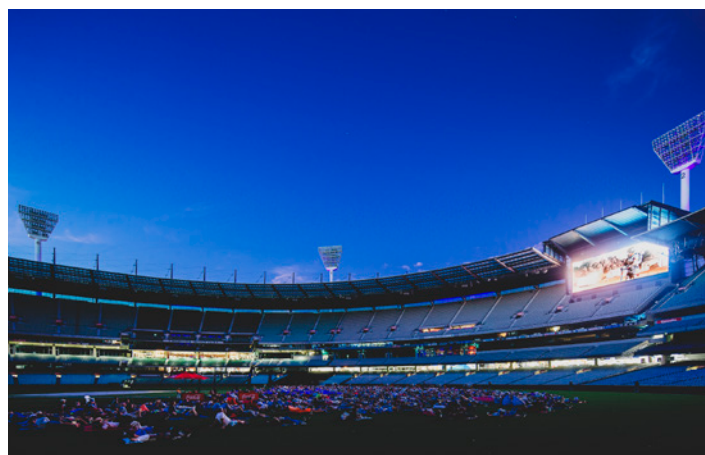
While there is no MCC Reserve for this event, members had an opportunity to purchase tickets in a pre-sale from October 19-21. As we went to print, only a limited number of public tickets remained available for this hugely popular event.

### EMINEM FUNCTION PACKAGES

MCC members can also purchase an entertainment package in the Jim Stynes Grill. The \$320 per person stand-up function includes a two-hour, grazing-style menu comprising canapes and food stations, drinks package, concert ticket and reserved seat outside on Level 2.

Note: the booking member must be present at the function and is responsible for the behaviour of the guests in their booking.

**For more details, and to book packages online, please visit [mcc.org.au](http://mcc.org.au).**



## BLOCKBUSTER MOVIES ON THE MCG TURF

Two recently released and hugely popular movies – *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *A Star is Born* – will headline Cinema at the 'G, presented by Bank of Melbourne this summer, as the iconic MCG once again transforms into the city's most spectacular open air cinema.

Now in its fourth year, attendees will be able to sit back and relax on the hallowed MCG turf on February 1 and 2 as a movie lights up the giant scoreboard screen.

Opening night will feature American musical romantic drama film *A Star is Born*, starring Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga, while *Bohemian Rhapsody*, a biographical film about British rock band, Queen, will screen the following evening.

Attendees can bring blankets, pillows and snacks to create a picnic on the famous patch of grass, or enjoy a range of cinema fare from the MCG onsite caterers.

MCC members have a pre-sale opportunity on Monday November 26, before the public is able to purchase from November 28.

**For updates on ticket availability, please visit [mcg.org.au/cinema](http://mcg.org.au/cinema).**



## A SHOW LIKE NO OTHER

It was an amazing night at the MCG on Saturday October 6, as more than 70,000 fans came to see the WWE Super Show-Down event.

The event was the culmination of months of logistical planning between the MCC, promoter TEG Dainty and the WWE organisation, and a week-long stage bump-in immediately after the AFL Grand Final.

More than half of the ticket holders came to Melbourne from interstate, underlining why the Victorian Government continues to seek out new events for our city. And there is no place like the MCG to host a big spectacular.

With the weather gods smiling, fans were greeted to five hours of non-stop entertainment, as some of the biggest names in WWE strutted their stuff. Among them were Triple H, The Undertaker, Ronda Rousey, The Shield, AJ Styles and John Cena.

It was also a successful night for local talent, with Buddy Murphy becoming the first Australian to ever win a main roster title.

When it was all over, our hard-working team transformed the arena again, this time for the Melbourne Marathon event that was to be held seven days later.

# EAGLES FLY HIGH



# ON FOOTY'S BIGGEST STAGE

The 2018 AFL Grand Final was a heartstopper, as West Coast Eagles took the premiership cup out of Victoria for the first time in six years with a narrow win over Collingwood.

Collingwood fans have seen this before. Defeat snatched from the jaws of victory on the last Saturday in September.

After piling on the game's opening five goals to open up a 29-point lead late in the first quarter, the Eagles slowly edged their way back into the contest, levelling the scores at three quarter time.

The Eagles then dominated general play in the last term but trailed by two points with two minutes to play, having missed their previous four shots at goal.

Enter Dom Sheed, who marked 40 metres out from goal on a tight angle with less than two minutes to play, after Jeremy McGovern had repelled a Pies challenge at the other end with a towering mark. Under enormous pressure, he slotted the goal to put West Coast four points up and send Eagles fans into a frenzy.

The final score was 11.13 (79) to 11.8 (74). Eagles midfielder Luke Shuey (34 possessions, nine clearances, eight tackles, eight inside 50s and one goal) was a thoroughly deserved winner of the Norm Smith Medal.



Earlier in the day, and overnight for some, thousands of MCC Full members took their place in the queue outside Gate 2 for walk-up seating in the Reserve to see the big match.

After the initial queue cleared, it was felt the Members Reserve would not reach capacity without Restricted members. In the end, more than 700 Restricted members were able to purchase an entry ticket to see the big game in a packed MCC Reserve.

The final ground attendance was 100,022 – the biggest grand final crowd since 1986. American group Black Eyed Peas and Australian music icon Jimmy Barnes whipped the crowd into a frenzy before the match, with 'Barnesy' returning to the stage for the post-match premiership party.

The grand final capped off an enormous month of finals footy at the MCG. The ground hosted six games in 23 days, with five of them attracting crowds in excess of 90,000, and a total of 540,850 people through the turnstiles.





## HOLLY LEADS WOMEN'S FOOTY CHARGE

The MCC's first season as a member club in the Victorian Amateur Football Association has been an outstanding success, capped off by Holly Bailey winning the women's competition's Division 3 best and fairest award.

Under the guidance of head coach Lachlan Worthy and playing home matches at Beaumaris Secondary College, the MCC team made it through to the preliminary final before bowing out to Westbourne Grammarians. This was a tremendous result in what is still the formative stages of MCC women's football.

Midfielder Holly Bailey (pictured above) polled three votes in her side's five-point win over Powerhouse in the final home

and away round to edge past Shannon Danckert (Emmaus St Leo's) and Anita Ovenden (Preston Bullants) to win the best and fairest.

Of Bailey's 22 votes, 21 came from best-on-ground performances, with five three-vote games coming in the first eight rounds.

The MCC also had the leading goalkicker in the Division 3 competition, with Alexandra Clayton scoring 33 goals from 16 matches.

If you are interested in playing or assisting with an MCC football team next season, or know someone who is, please contact us on **(03) 9657 8888** or email **[melbcricketclubfc@gmail.com](mailto:melbcricketclubfc@gmail.com)**

BELOW: MCC Clay target shooter Renae Birgan on the winner's dais, and being grilled by Ian Cover at the Sporting Sections lunch in September



## SHOOTER RENAE ON TARGET

MCC Target Shooting Section's Renae Birgan had some outstanding achievements at the 2018 World FITASC Sporting Championship held in July in France.

The 35-year-old clay shooter won the Ladies French Grand Prix and the Ladies FITASC Sporting World Championship, which resulted in also securing the 2018 Ladies World Cup title.

Renae's performance was feted at the MCC Sporting Sections Grand Final Week Luncheon in September, where she gave a tremendous insight into her chosen shooting discipline. Well done, Renae.

The Target Shooting Section, specifically the Full-Bore Rifle Club, recently presented a trophy to Werribee Secondary College's winning cadet unit at the annual inter-school competition between Army Cadet Corps Units. This was the 60th anniversary of the MCC arranging the trophy.

This year the trophy was resplendent in a superb glass-fronted cabinet, custom made from Australian red gum by clay target member, Peter Muir-Smith. This case should protect the trophy from damage for another 60 years.



BELOW: Amy Yates broke the record for the highest individual score by an MCC female cricketer. LEFT: Young fast bowler Jackson Coleman in action for the Demons First XI.



The start of the 2018/19 Victorian Premier Cricket season has been an encouraging one for our MCC teams.

# RECORDS BROKEN HISTORY MADE

A number of milestones and achievements have been recorded in the early rounds of 2018/19.

Our new home at Beaumaris Secondary College has settled in well, hosting several matches in the opening rounds. Ground staff Scott West and Mark Towson are to be commended for the quality of the pitches and outfield they have produced.

The benefit of having our own ground to maintain was demonstrated on October 20, when heavy rain in Melbourne prevented most other matches from taking place. Our Third XI was able to get almost a full day's play in, achieving the only result across all four grades of the competition.

For the history buffs, the first century scored on the South Oval at Beaumaris belongs to Charles Lill, who blasted 121 from 118 balls in the Third XI

on October 13. Charles is the grandson of former long-serving MCC CEO and Demons cricketer, Dr John Lill.

A more significant milestone occurred at the Albert Ground in November, when Amy Yates registered the highest individual score by an MCC female cricketer. Amy's innings of 173 not out from 169 balls contained 16 fours and five sixes, as she batted through the 50-over innings against Ringwood.

The opening partnership of 200 between Amy and captain Teagan Parker was also the highest partnership for any wicket in any grade in our women's cricket history. To top off Amy's day, she collected three wickets later in the afternoon.

After six completed rounds of men's Premier Cricket, the First XI was in sixth place in the 18-team competition with three wins, three losses and one draw.

A highlight was a blistering 154 from 155 balls by Meyrick Buchanan against Camberwell Magpies at the Albert Ground, while leg-spinner Sean Sturrock has shown good form with bat and ball.

The Second XI was in seventh position with the same win-loss ratio, while our third and fourth elevens had also started well, both sitting fourth on the ladder.

In the women's Premier competition, our First XI was in third place with four wins from seven matches, with the Second XI in second position, having won five of its seven matches. Our community team has won two of its eight T20 rounds.

In the Club XI competition, MCC's Division 2 team had won one of its first four matches, while our Division 3 team has yet to register a win.

At first-class level, five MCC players – Chris Tremain, Will Pucovski, Cameron White, Seb Gotch and Jackson Coleman – have played for the Victorian Bushrangers during the first four rounds of the Sheffield Shield competition. Tremain has been outstanding, taking 24 wickets, while Pucovski again demonstrated his outstanding talent with a superb 243 against Western Australia at the WACA Ground.

Tremain, White and Gotch and Coleman were also in the Victorian squad for the domestic one-day series in October, with the Vics taking out the title at the Junction Oval after defeating WA in the final.



ABOVE: Bill Henderson and MCC president, Steven Smith, at the Sporting Sections Annual Dinner.



Bill celebrates with his Squash Section colleagues.

## TIRELESS BILL WINS HANS EBELING AWARD

MCC Squash Section life member Bill Henderson was recognised for his dedication to MCC sport at the Sporting Sections Annual Dinner on October 31, where he was the recipient of the prestigious Hans Ebeling Award.

Perpetuating the memory of one of the MCC's greatest contributors, the Hans Ebeling Award was introduced to honour those who have given outstanding service to our Sporting Sections. Bill becomes the 36th winner of the award since its inception in 1981.

Bill has been an invaluable contributor to the MCC Squash Section for more than 25 years. He has played more than

600 matches with the MCC, in grades ranging from A2 to F, and is showing no signs of slowing down.

In that time, he has won five MCC squash championships (three in Veterans grade, one in C grade and one in D grade) and been runner-up on three other occasions.

Having joined the Squash Section Committee in 1992, Bill has served as treasurer since 1994. He was awarded Life membership of the section in 2011 and can now add the MCC's highest sporting section honour to his mantelpiece.

## TENNIS GIRLS TRIUMPH

Congratulations to our tennis section, MCC Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club, whose Grade 1 Ladies team won the Tennis Victoria Pennant premiership in early September.

Tamara Bajagic, Georgiana Ruhrig, Helena Spiridis and Emily Tinker easily defeated Geelong's Centre Court Indoor. This was a great result for the girls, some of whom were playing in Grade 3 as recently as last season.

To find out more about the MCC Tennis Section and how you can become a member of MCC Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club, please visit [mccglenirisvalley.org.au](http://mccglenirisvalley.org.au)



## A VERSATILE ARENA

The MCG has seen a lot of sports over its 165-year history, but did you know that hockey is among them?

Thanks goes to Mark Hodgson, who supplied this image of a match held on October 7, 1988 between MCC Hockey Section and Oxford University that formed part of the MCC's 150th birthday celebrations. (Photo credit: Gavin Hatfield.)

# BECC'S STAR ON THE RISE



The club is always delighted to discover bona fide sports stars amongst our ranks, and in Rebecca Allen we certainly have that and more.

'Bec', a 26-year-old shooting guard, is currently a leading member of the Australian women's basketball team, the Opals, which recently won silver at the FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup in Spain.

Alongside several seasons in the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) with Dandenong Rangers, AIS, Melbourne Boomers and South East Queensland, Allen has completed several seasons in America with New York Liberty in the Women's National Basketball Association.

She is also currently playing professionally in Poland with Arka Gdynia in the Euro League, having also represented club teams in France and Slovakia.

Her form in the WNBL caught the eye of Australian Opals head coach Brendan Joyce, with the 21-year-old invited to her first senior national team camp in January of 2014. Later that year she won a bronze medal with the Opals at the World Cup, but then missed selection for the Rio Olympics.

"It's always great to wear the green and gold and I've been on the other end of it where I didn't make the team so that makes it even more special to be back in the group," Allen told Fairfax Media before heading to Spain for the World Cup in September.

A Restricted member along with her twin brother, Chris, and father, John, she is an avid Essendon supporter. Prior to playing overseas, big events like Anzac Day and the Dreamtime game were mandatory family days in the Members Reserve.

As an interesting aside, Allen went to Carey Baptist Grammar and was a classmate of the current Australian women's cricket captain, Meg Lanning, another young star doing great things on the world sporting stage.



MCC member Rebecca Allen in action for the Australian Opals basketball team (right) and New York Liberty (top). CENTRE: Allen (fifth from left) was part of the silver medal winning Australian team at the 2018 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup.





# GOOD TIMES ROLL AT CLUB FUNCTIONS



The function season was again in full swing at the MCC over the winter and spring period, with a number of quality events and activities on offer for members.

As the winter chill set in, two functions were held on the same day at different locations. On August 11, the VRC/MCC Members' Raceday Event was held at Flemington, while the Women of the MCC group held a function in the Hans Ebeling Room at the MCG ahead of the Hawthorn v Geelong Cats match.

The following day, almost 100 members and guests attended a luncheon for dual MFC/MCC members in the Committee Room prior to the Melbourne-Sydney Swans match. The lasting memory of the day was Breast Cancer Network Australia's giant pink lady that adorned the turf prior to the game, as thousands stood in poignant pose to signify the thousands who are affected by breast cancer each year.

For the 18th consecutive year, we celebrated the life of Sir Donald Bradman at The Bradman Luncheon in the Members Dining Room on August 27, what would have been the 110th birthday of Australia's greatest cricketer.

On the menu were two cricketers known for their ability to enjoy themselves and have a laugh on the field – Damien Fleming and George Bailey.

MC Gerard Whateley first spoke to former swing bowler Fleming

about his new role as part of Channel 7's cricket coverage, and how Australian cricket was dealing with the fallout from the ball tampering incident in South Africa.

After main course it was Tasmanian Bailey, a former Australian one-day captain who also played five Tests, who took to the lectern. A measured and insightful man, George interspersed his many cricket stories with heartfelt reflections on the broader game and what it means to him.

He spoke about his passion for the game, the life of the modern cricketer, perils of social media, his desire to leave the game in Tasmania better for the next generation, life in the IPL, and his role in the 2013/14 Ashes Series whitewash and as a member of Australia's World Cup winning squad in 2015.

George's sense of fun was prevalent throughout his address, and he received a standing ovation at its conclusion. One can only hope there are more George Baileys on the Australian cricket horizon.

During the AFL's bye weekend before the finals series, around 400 members and guests attended the Young Members' Ball on September 1. The circus-themed event included pre-dinner drinks and canapés in the Long Room before everyone adjourned to the Members Dining Room for dinner and a night of dancing.

An intimate group of 60 diners enjoyed a unique dining

experience in the MCG Culinary Centre on September 12.

Our hospitality partner, EPICURE, opened up its kitchen to allow members and guests to savour delicious fare and speak to the chefs in intimate surrounds.

As West Coast Eagles and Collingwood prepared for their grand final battle on the last Saturday in September, a big week of functions was in full swing at the MCG.

The annual Sporting Sections Grand Final Week Luncheon was held on Monday September 24 and was again hosted by popular duo Ian Cover and Tony Leonard.

Dual premiership player and current Gold Coast Suns coach, Stuart Dew, joined our hosts on stage to discuss the left-footer's playing career, which included flags with Port Adelaide (2004) and Hawthorn (2008). The straight-talking and dry-witted Dew made no effort to hide the task in front of him at the Gold Coast, but he left everyone in the room with the impression that a turnaround in their on-field fortunes was achievable.

That evening, the Brownlow Dinner with the Coodabeens again proved to be one of the club's most popular events. More than 450 attendees packed the Members Dining Room as the Coodabeens brought their usual wit, humour and song for a 13th consecutive year.

The MCC XXIX Club Annual Dinner returned to its traditional home in grand

final week, being held in the Members Dining Room on September 27. Former Victorian fast bowler, MCC and Melbourne University CC premiership player James Sutherland proposed the toast to the XXIX Club, just weeks before finishing his 17-year stint as CEO of Cricket Australia.

To round out the week, more than 700 members and guests enjoyed lunch in style on grand final eve as part of the annual Grand Final Eve Luncheon. The Members Dining Room, Long Room, Committee Room and Jim Stynes Grill were all made available for what has fast become a very popular way to spend the public holiday before football's biggest day.

The MCC Young Members Club, catering for the interests of members aged 18-40 years, held three events in October/November, each one a sell-out affair.

On October 11, young members attended a Scotch Malt Whisky Appreciation Evening in the Long Room. This very popular event was again hosted by the Scotch Malt Whisky Society and involved tasting some of the finest and rarest single cask malts in the world.

On October 13, the MCG arena played host to a yoga session, which was attended by 60 enthusiastic young members. The following month, a Wine Appreciation Evening was held on November 22 in the Long Room.



# YOUR FUNCTIONS CALENDAR

There's a broad range of entertaining functions to cater for members and guests over the next six months. Please mark your diaries and keep an eye on the club website, email newsletters and social media for updates during the year.

<p><b>BON JOVI PRE-CONCERT FUNCTION</b></p> <p>Jim Stynes Grill and Frank Grey Smith Bar Saturday December 1</p> <p><b>SOLD OUT</b></p>		<p><b>MEMBERS' DINNER</b></p> <p>Members Dining Room Tuesday December 11</p> <p><b>BOOK NOW</b></p>
	<p><b>CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON</b></p> <p>Members Dining Room/Long Room Tuesday December 25</p> <p><b>SOLD OUT</b></p>	<p><b>BOXING DAY BREAKFAST</b></p> <p>Members Dining Room Wednesday December 26</p> <p><b>SOLD OUT</b></p>
<p><b>WOMEN IN CRICKET TEST BREAKFAST</b></p> <p>Members Dining Room Thursday December 27</p> <p><b>BOOK NOW</b></p>		<p><b>AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON</b></p> <p>Long Room Saturday January 26</p> <p><b>BOOK NOVEMBER 27</b></p>
	<p><b>MEMBERS' GOLF DAY</b></p> <p>Kingston Heath Golf Club Tuesday February 5</p> <p><b>BOOK NOVEMBER 27</b></p>	<p><b>EMINEM PRE-CONCERT PACKAGE</b></p> <p>Jim Stynes Grill Sunday February 24</p> <p><b>BOOK NOW</b></p>
<p><b>MCG FOOTY SEASON LAUNCH LUNCHEON</b></p> <p>Members Dining Room Wednesday March 20</p> <p><b>BOOK FEBRUARY 12</b></p>	<p><b>YOUNG MEMBERS' ANZAC BALL</b></p> <p>Members Dining Room Saturday April 27</p> <p><b>BOOK MARCH 5</b></p>	



## 'DEANO' PADS UP MEMBERS' DINNER

Former Australia, Victoria and MCC batsman, Dean Jones, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Members' Dinner on Tuesday December 11 in the Members Dining Room.

Jones will respond to the toast to cricket, which will be proposed by Bernie Geary OAM, the former Victorian Commissioner for Children and Young People.

'Deano' played 52 Tests for Australia between 1984 and 1992, scoring 3631 at 46.55 with 11 centuries. The most famous of these, of course, was his 210 during the Tied Test in Madras in 1986.

He also played 164 one-day internationals (1984-94) and was a member of Australia's 1987 World Cup victory.

The positive aggression he brought to his strokeplay and running between the wickets, combined with dynamism in the

field, saw him play a key role in revolutionising the shorter format of the game.

A passionate Victorian, he scored nearly 10,000 first-class runs for the Big V at an average of more than 54. Only Brad Hodge has scored more runs for Victoria.

In retirement he has been a forthright commentator, and has also held coaching roles in a number of cricket leagues around the world.

Hosted by Tim Lane, this prestigious, black-tie evening is open only to MCC members. Tickets cost \$135 per member, which includes canapes on arrival and a three-course meal with fine wines and beverages.

A limited number of spaces was still available at the time of going to print. **Bookings can be made online at [mcc.org.au](http://mcc.org.au).**

### Members' Dinner

When: Tuesday December 11  
Time: 6.45pm for 7.30pm  
Where: Members Dining Room  
Cost: \$135 per member



## TEST MATCH BREAKFASTS POPULAR

The annual Boxing Day Test is fast approaching and with that comes two highly entertaining breakfast functions at the MCC during the Test.

Demand for the Boxing Day Breakfast was so strong that all tickets were sold soon after going on sale on November 13.

There is still space available, though, for the Women in Cricket Test Breakfast on Day 2 of the Test in the Members Dining Room on Tuesday December 27. Bookings are being taken online at [mcc.org.au](http://mcc.org.au).

The breakfast will once again be hosted by Angela Pippas, and our special guest was still being confirmed as we went to print.

The breakfast package includes a sit-down breakfast, full beverage service and a reserved seat on Level 2 of the Members Reserve to watch the cricket.

Full and Restricted members may bring up to four guests (of either gender), but will need to ensure they pre-purchase visitor tickets, as a function booking does not admit guests into the Members Reserve.

Note: This function is not open for booking by Provisional members, as their card is not eligible to enter the Reserve on Day 2 of the Test.

### Women in Cricket Test Breakfast

When: Tuesday December 27  
Time: 7.30am – 9.30am  
Where: Members Dining Room  
Cost: \$85 (members)  
\$95 (guests)



## LUNCH AT THE 'G ON AUSTRALIA DAY

MCC members and their guests can celebrate our national day in fine style at the annual Australia Day Luncheon in the Long Room on January 26.

Now in its 14th year, the function has grown to become an anticipated event on the members' calendar.

Previous guest speakers have included prominent Australians such as Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Ron Barassi, Sir Arvi Parbo, Major General Michael Jeffery, Ron Clarke, John Bertrand, Les Carlyon, Raelene Boyle, The Hon Frank Vincent QC, Kitty Chiller and last year's speaker, Dr Brendan Nelson.

Tickets to the Australia Day Luncheon include a three-course meal with beer, wine and soft drinks. Bookings opened on November 27 via the club website or in person at the club.

### Australia Day Luncheon

When: Saturday January 26, 2019  
Time: 12.00pm for 12.30pm  
Where: Long Room  
Cost: \$100 members and \$110 guests



## TEE OFF AT MEMBERS' GOLF DAY

The next MCC golf day is scheduled for Tuesday February 5 at Kingston Heath Golf Club.

Members can enjoy a rare opportunity to experience one of Australia's premier golf courses, as well as light pre-round refreshments, gourmet barbeque and beverages at the conclusion of the round. There will also be prizes on offer, as well as the awarding of the President's Cup.

Online bookings will be accepted from Tuesday November 27 on a first-in, first-served basis.

The event is open to MCC members of all categories, provided they hold a club, VGA or WGV official handicap. Members wishing to play together must book together.

### Members' Golf Day

When: Tuesday February 5  
Where: Kingston Heath Golf Club Time: 1.00pm  
Cost: \$220 per member  
Bookings: Open from November 27



## RACING AT FLEMINGTON JUST THE TICKET

MCC members can enjoy a range of benefits as part of our reciprocal partnership with the Victoria Racing Club.

Access to the Members' Enclosure at Flemington is available for members and up to four guests for selected VRC-hosted race meetings during the 2018/19 season (please refer to table). Access to the enclosure is not applicable for any other VRC racedays.

MCC members and their guests must pay the admission fee to the racecourse of \$12 (\$15 for public holiday meetings, excluding Melbourne Cup Day) and then proceed to the Raceday and Ticketing Office to obtain Members' Enclosure ticketing.

Upon presentation of your photo ID membership card, MCC members can obtain a complimentary Members' Enclosure pass and purchase passes (\$25 each) for up to four guests.

VRC members' dress regulations apply and these can be viewed at [vrc.net.au](http://vrc.net.au)

### MCC member access at Flemington

**Sat December 15** - Community Raceday  
**Sat December 22** - Christmas Raceday  
**Tues January 1** - New Year's Day (public holiday pricing)  
**Sat January 12** - Chester Manifold Stakes Day  
**Sat January 19** - January Raceday  
**Sat March 2** - Australian Guineas Day\*  
**Sat March 16** - Autumn Raceday  
**Thur April 25** - ANZAC Day (public holiday pricing)  
**Sat May 4** - Living Legends Raceday  
**Sat May 18** - National Hall of Fame Raceday  
**Sat May 25** - National Jockeys Trust Raceday  
**Sat June 8** - June Raceday  
**Sat June 22** - Provincial and Country Raceday  
**Sat July 6** - Flemington Finals Day  
**Sat July 20** - Recognition Raceday

\* Total cost for this day is \$50, comprising \$20 for racecourse admission and \$30 for Members' Enclosure ticketing.



## CENTURIES AT EVERY TURN

The Australian cricket team would be envious of the number of century makers in the MCC membership ranks.

At the time of writing, four MCC members had reached or gone past the ripe old age of 100, with our oldest member, Trevor Burgess, set to celebrate his 102nd birthday on Boxing Day.

Arthur Atkins, Edward Beaumont and William Rudd have also raised the bat in recent times, while we extend many happy returns to Gwynne

Duigan, who is due to join the 100 club on New Year's Eve.

A host of other members are also due to reach the hundred mark next year.

When it comes to length of service, though, Anthony Street remains at the top of table. The 92-year joined the club at the height of the Great Depression in 1932 at the tender age of six, having been nominated soon after birth, at a time when there was no age restriction on membership.

### Longest-serving members

Name	Member since
Anthony Street	29/10/1932
Stewart Gray	18/12/1933
Ronald Quin	18/12/1933
Maurice Smith	17/12/1934
John Gahan	18/12/1936
Arthur Morris	18/12/1936
William Melville	18/12/1936
Sidney Akhurst	18/12/1936
Richard Gardner	18/12/1936
Evan Nutting	18/12/1936

### Oldest members

Name	Age
Trevor Burgess	101
Arthur Atkins	101
Edward Beaumont	101
William Rudd	101
Gwynne Duigan	99
Sidney Akhurst	99
Vernon Gibson	99
Thomas Iser	99
Arthur Charlwood	99
Arthur Morris	99

# MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Australia's biggest sporting club is showing no signs of slowing down, with the number of members at its highest level in history.

There were 131,797 financial members at August 31 this year, with another 214,490 nominees waiting to join. More than 46 per cent of those on the waiting list are under 15 years of age and we are still accepting around 10,000 new applications each year. The wait to receive a Provisional membership offer is presently at 17 years.

With a membership age range from 15 to 101 (average age 45), around 36 per cent of members live outside metropolitan Melbourne, including nearly

4500 people who reside overseas.

We have 63,416 Full members (2726 of whom are 50-Year men), 42,325 Restricted members and 26,056 Provisional members. Females comprise 25 per cent of membership, a number that is steadily rising, and 35 per cent of waiting list candidates.

There were 39,927 members who did not attend a single MCC event in the 2017/18 season (September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018). In fact, 58 per cent of members attended two events or fewer in the last 12 months and only 21 per cent entered the Reserve on six or more event days.

Melbourne (17 per cent) is still the most heavily supported AFL team among MCC members. The two big Victorian-based clubs, Essendon (13 per cent) and Collingwood (12 per cent), are next in line, with Carlton, Richmond, Hawthorn and Geelong also well backed.

Interestingly, more than 6300 members (5.1 per cent) have no team listed. While many of those will genuinely not follow a team (or AFL), we suspect a few of you have slipped through the cracks, so please visit the website or email the club with your nominated team so we can tailor relevant communications about matches in the 2019 AFL season and beyond.

## BREAKDOWN OF AFL TEAM OF SUPPORT AMONG MCC MEMBERS



**OTHER 1.4%**

**MELBOURNE 17.4%**

**ESSENDON 13.5%**

**COLLINGWOOD 12.1%**

**CARLTON 9.7%**

**RICHMOND 8.9%**

**HAWTHORN 8.4%**

**GEELONG 8.3%**

**ST KILDA 5.5%**

**NTH MELBOURNE 3.2%**

**WST BULLDOGS 2.5%**

**SYDNEY SWANS 2.4%**

**BRISBANE LIONS 2.4%**

**NO TEAM LISTED 5.2%**