

MCG HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1838	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) was founded on November 15. • The first cricket match was played between MCC teams of civilians and military officers on open land near the corner of William and La Trobe streets (November 17).
1840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC began to play cricket matches adjacent to Batman's Hill.
1846	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC members began using a site on the south side of the Yarra River, opposite King Street, on October 3. This became the first Melbourne Cricket Ground.
1848	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC was granted permission by Lt-Governor La Trobe to fence the club's reserve.
1850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A football match was played on the enclosed Melbourne Cricket Ground as part of the Separation Sports and Games (November 16).
1852	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC hosted a match between Victoria and Tasmania at the club's ground, the first intercolonial cricket match to be played in Victoria. The home side won by 61 runs (March 29-30).
1853	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 23 the government granted the MCC a new site for a ground in the Government Paddock, the current site of the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Work commenced on clearing the site and erecting a pavilion.
1854	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first cricket match on the current MCG was played between the members on September 30.
1856	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first intercolonial cricket match played on the new MCG was the inaugural Victoria-New South Wales clash. The visiting side won by three wickets (March 26-27).
1857	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The earliest known pedestrian (running) race on the present MCG site between MCC Member H. Ryder and Mr. Were. It was a steeple chase and included a water jump.
1859	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first football match on the new MCG was played over two Saturdays, July 9 and 23. The Melbourne Football Club defeated South Yarra three goals to nil.
1860	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCG was connected to the Yan Yean Reservoir water supply.
1861	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Trustees, chosen by the Club, were appointed by the Government (December 10): Hon. WC Haines, John Goodman, Thos. Hamilton (President of MCC) and Fred A Powlett. • A celebration of Caledonian Games, including "football" was held on the ground from December 26-28.
1862	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first international cricket match in Australia, XVIII of Victoria versus H.H. Stephenson's All England XI, was played on the MCG (January 1-4). • Major ground improvements were undertaken by MCG caretaker Rowland Newbury and supervised by civil engineer Robert Bagot.
1865	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC established a bowling green.
1866	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Aboriginal cricket team under T.W. Wills played against an MCC team on the MCG before 11,000 spectators on December 26-27. The Aboriginal team played on the MCG a further three times to 1869.
1867	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royalty visited the ground for the first time. HRH The Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, was received at the MCG on November 27. • R.W. Wardill made the first century in an intercolonial match, against NSW at the MCG on December 26.

1868	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On November 30, Scotch College held its first sports meeting on the MCG. This was the first Public School Sports meeting ever held in the colony.
1869	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Winter Athletic Sports Meeting, the first known bicycle races in Victoria were held on July 10 at Croxton Park and at the MCG.
1873	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the MCC Library collection at the MCG with the donation of bound volumes of the Australasian. This is the start of the heritage collections at the MCG.
1874	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A skittle alley was first erected at the MCG in the old cow shed.
1876	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC began construction of the first permanent public grandstand, the reversible stand on the northern side of the ground. • The “best skittles facility in the colonies” was constructed under the new reversible Grand Stand.
1877	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams representing Australia and England played what is regarded as the first Test match (March 15-19). During the match, Charles Bannerman scored the first century in Test cricket.
1878	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March, Moonlight Concerts conducted by Julius Herz were held on the ground for the first time. • On June 29, Sydney’s Waratah Club played Carlton at the MCG under Rugby rules. On July 1, the teams played under Victorian rules.
1878/79	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To attract events to the ground, the MCC financed the tour of Lord Harris’ England cricket team. It was the first of many tours organised by the MCC over the next 20 years. • Fred Spofforth took the first Test hat trick on the opening day of the only Test against England, held at the MCG (January 2-4). Spofforth took 13 wickets for the match, becoming the first player to take 10 wickets in a Test
1879	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night football was first played on the MCG under electric light on August 5 when Collingwood Rifles played East Melbourne Artillery. Melbourne played Carlton under lights on August 13.
1879/80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC players held the first Victorian lawn tennis Double-Handed Championship on the MCG’s recently laid asphalt court. A single-handed tournament was staged shortly afterwards.
1881	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The foundation stone for a new Members Pavilion was laid by TRH Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales on July 4. The Pavilion was opened in time for the match between Victoria and Alfred Shaw’s English XI on December 16. • A scoreboard, reputed to be the first of its type in the world, was erected. It showed the batsman’s name and how he was dismissed. • Sightboards were used for the first time. • Pitches, which previously ran east-west, were realigned to run north-south. • A telephone was installed at the MCG • A two-table billiard salon was opened on the first floor of the Second Pavilion.
1883	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements were made by which the Carlton Football Club played several of their best matches on the MCG.
1884	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reversible stand was burnt to the ground.
1885	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building works commenced on the replacement public grandstand that survived until demolished in 1954 for the

	<p>construction of the Northern (later Olympic) Stand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers from the USS <i>Enterprise</i> played baseball against a team of MCC members in the sport's first recorded match at the MCG (October 8).
1886	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclists competed at the MCG for the Drummond Trophy, forerunner to the Austral Wheel Race (November 13).
1887	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first recorded British Football Association rules (soccer) match on the MCG was played between Victoria and New South Wales on Monday July 18 resulted in a 2-0 victory to Victoria.
1888/89	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During December 1888 and January 1889 the MCG host baseball matches as part of AG Spalding's 1988/89 world tour by the Chicago White Stockings and an "All-America" team of Major League Baseball players.
1890	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March, the Melbourne Football Club affiliated into the Melbourne Cricket Club. The Melbourne Football Club abandoned playing its matches at the Friendly Societies Ground (in Yarra Park, south of the railway line) and played its home matches at the MCG from 1890.
1893	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Olympic champion Edwin Flack won the mile race at the first Australasian Athletic Championships (November).
1894	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC Bowls Section was formed following the takeover of Richmond Bowling Club. Two greens were laid outside western end of MCG. In November, MCC members began using the new bowling greens at the MCG.
1897	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extension (double-deck) was added to the Grandstand.
1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grandstand at the MCG was wholly lit by electric light. • The first lawn bowls Championship of Australia was staged at the MCG in November.
1902	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hugh Trumble, a MCC player, performed the hat-trick to conclude the Test match against England at the MCG on January 4. • Moving pictures were being shown at the ground. • The first year that the VFL Grand Final was held at the MCG.
1904	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 8, in his final Test and first-class match, Hugh Trumble repeated his hat-trick feat of 1902: the only bowler to take two hat-tricks in Ashes Tests. • The open wooden stand on the southern side of the ground was erected.
1905	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier Thomas Bent appointed an additional five politicians to the Trust, which assumed complete control of the ground, thereby curtailing the MCC's freedom of action and making the committee's management "subject to the trustees' approval or consent".
1906	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a new grandstand began in the Members Reserve. It was known from 1912 as the Grey Smith Stand.
1907	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia's first international lacrosse match, against Canada, was played at the MCG before a crowd of 30,000.
1908	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC erected the Harrison Stand in the outer reserve. • The first Australasian Football Jubilee Carnival is hosted at the MCG in August. The carnival commemorated 50 years of Australian football and the competing teams represented all Australian states and New Zealand. The tournament was won by Victoria.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Wallabies (Australia's Rugby Union team) stop at Melbourne en route to the United Kingdom and defeat Victoria 26-6 at the MCG on Monday August 10. • On September 1 an exhibition American football (gridiron) match was played between teams from the visiting Great White Fleet of the United States Navy. • A second scoreboard was erected at the eastern end of the ground.
1910	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Australian lacrosse carnival was held on the MCG.
1910/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa played its first MCG Test match, December 31 to January 4.
1911	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wardill Stand, built in the public section on the southern side of the Ground, was opened on the first Day of the Second Test match against England (December 30-January 3). • University Football Club plays its first League matches as a tenant of the MCG.
1914	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby League (NSW v England) was played on the MCG for the first time on August 15. • Major League Baseball teams, the New York Giants and Chicago White Sox play at the MCG.
1916	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On February 24, in Yarra Park at the back of the Grandstand, the Minister for Defence, Senator Pearce unveiled a memorial to the Soldiers who had fallen in the Great War. The temporary memorial, believed to be the first in Melbourne, was in the shape of a broken column. It was designed by A Phipps Coles and was a gift of the Timber Merchants' Association and other groups.
1917	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC Patriotic Carnival attracted 68,000 over a fortnight and raised £7750 for the State War Council. It included the sale of "The Blackham Ball", the ball souvenired by Australian wicket keeper JM Blackham at the end of the famous Ashes Test match at the Kennington Oval in 1882. • On December 10, a record crowd estimated at 75,000 attended a pro-conscription meeting at which the main speaker was Prime Minister WM "billy" Hughes.
1919	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Grand Review by the Governor-General of the Victorian Returned Naval Men and members of the AIF was held at the MCG.
1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On May 31, HRH The Prince of Wales visited the ground for a children's display
1921	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur Mailey took 9/121 in a Test against England at the MCG: the best bowling figures by an Australian in a Test at the MCG.
1923	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A touring Chinese soccer team defeats Victoria 3 goals to 1 at the MCG on Tuesday October 9.
1924	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On July 2 an Australian soccer XI graces the MCG for the first time when it plays a touring Canadian team.
1924/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio station 3AR received MCC committee approval to broadcast two MCG Tests against England.
1925	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia plays an England professional soccer XI before 10,696 spectators on May 23. It was the second of two practice matches before a five "Test" series.
1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria made 1107 against N.S.W., a world record score in a first-class match.
1927	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRH The Duke and Duchess of York (Later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) visited the MCG for a children's display on April 26. • The Concrete Stand was completed on the site of the club's tennis courts at the western end of the ground.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WH Ponsford scored 437 for Victoria against Queensland, the highest individual score in a first-class match on the MCG.
1928	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC president Sir Leo Cussen laid the foundation stone for the third Members Pavilion on February 25. The Pavilion was completed and opened for the Victoria v England match in November
1929	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio station 3LO paid the MCC a fee of £200 for a 12-month agreement to broadcast cricket and football at the MCG.
1930	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCG hosts the inaugural Australian Women's Amateur Athletic Championships.
1931	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first MCG Test match against the West Indies was played. (February 13-14)
1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1933 MCG Act declared that the trustees controlled the ground "upon trust for the use of the public", with power to delegate "as they thought fit" its management to the club.
1934	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Victorian Centenary celebrations, a children's display was attended by HRH The Duke of Gloucester. • A Victorian Women's Centennial Sports Carnival was held at the MCG.
1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First women's cricket Test to be held at the MCG between Australia and England (January 18-21).
1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A memorial service held at the Ground on February 1, following the death of King George V, an Honorary MCC member since 1881. A week later, 3900 members of the armed services honoured the King in a dignified but colourful parade on the ground.
1937	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Third Test between Australia and England (January 1-7) drew the current world record crowd of 350,534 over six days, despite the new Southern Stand still being incomplete. • The Southern Stand was finished in time for the Fifth Test (February 26 – March 3), which was celebrated as the Diamond Jubilee of Test cricket.
1938	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-class cricket match between DG Bradman's XI and KE Rigg's XI held to commemorate the Centenary of the MCC. Referred to in the Press as "Australia v The Rest" the match ran from December 9 to 13 and was a draw.
1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On New Year's Day, the Victoria v South Australia match drew a crowd of 30,837, a Sheffield Shield record for the MCG.
1942-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 3 the club's ground was requisitioned by the Commonwealth for use as a base for quartering service personnel. • The MCG was occupied by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 11th Replacement Control Depot of the United States Army Air Forces, to whom the ground was known as Camp Murphy (April 3, 1942 – late 1942). About 1500 personnel from the RAAF's No.1 School of Technical Training from December 3, 1942 to January 5, 1943. The First Regiment of the First Division of the United States Marine Corps (January 6, 1943 – October 1943). The Royal Australian Air Force's No.1 Embarkation Depot (November 3, 1943 to April 30, 1944). During this period, the site name RAAF Ransford was introduced in honour of MCC secretary Vernon Ransford. From May 1, 1944 to October 29, 1945, No.1 Embarkation Depot was known as No.1 Personnel Depot.

1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RAAF vacated the MCG and control of the ground reverted to the club on October 29.
1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • League Football returned to the MCG after a five-year absence when Melbourne played Hawthorn on August 17.
1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India played its first MCG Test match. • First drawn VFL Grand Final in match between Melbourne 10.9 (69) and Essendon 7.27 (69). Melbourne won the replay 13.11 (89) to 7.8 (50). • Testimonial match to Don Bradman held on the MCG from December 3 to 7. Bradman scored a total of 19 first-class and nine Test centuries at the MCG.
1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On January 22 25,000 spectators attended a meeting organised by the Victorian Women's Amateur Athletic Association. London 1948 Olympians Fanny Blankers-Koen and Shirley Strickland de la Hunty featured.
1951	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attendance of 29,652 watched the Victorian Soccer team play an England XI on June 9.
1953	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC committee resolved unanimously "to give wholehearted support to the Government for the use of the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the Olympic Games in 1956..." (January 12).
1954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay Hassett Testimonial Match on January 15, 16, 18 and 19. • In the first visit to the ground by a reigning sovereign, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, visited the MCG, where an assembly of ex-servicemen and women's organisations took place on February 25. The Duke was made a life member of the club. • On March 4, the Queen and Duke returned to the MCG for the Education Department Children's display. Admission was by ticket only and there were 17,000 participants. The total crowd of 92,438 was, at this time, the second highest ever for an event at the MCG. (Tickets were so highly sought after that 28,971 attended the rehearsal by the 17,000 children on February 26.) All proceeds went to children's charities. For many of the people in attendance, these Royal events marked their only visit to the MCG.
1956	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northern (later Olympic) Stand was completed. MCC Membership was increased to 9,800 to help finance the new stand. • A crowd of 115,802 attended the VFL Grand Final between Melbourne and Collingwood on September 15. It is the first event at the MCG to draw in excess of 100,000 spectators. • MCC Honorary Life Member, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, opened the Games of the XVI Olympiad at the MCG on November 22. The MCG was the main arena for the Olympic Games and hosted the Opening Ceremony, athletics, hockey, soccer, demonstration baseball and Australian Rules matches and the Closing Ceremony. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 107,700 attended the opening ceremony on November 22. • On November 23, up to 85,001 attended the first day of the Athletics. • 102,800 attended the second day of the Athletics on November 24. • 103,800 attend the third day of the Olympic Athletics on November 26. • Up to 95,423 people attended the fourth day of the Athletics on November 27 • 107,100 attended the fifth day of the Olympic Athletics Carnival on November 28. • A crowd of 100,100 watched the sixth day of the athletics on November 29. • 101,000 attended on November 30, the seventh day of the Olympic Athletics carnival. • December 1, the final day of the Athletics saw a crowd of 104,400 in attendance. A demonstration baseball match was played between an USA services team and an Australian, earlier that day. • 10,805 tickets were sold for the semi-finals of the Olympic Hockey tournament on the MCG on December 3. India beat Germany 1-0 and Pakistan beat Great Britain 3-2 • The Bronze medal playoff for the Hockey was held on December 4th before 15617 (plus officials and athletes). Germany defeated Great Britain 3-1.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16,626 tickets were sold for the Gold medal final in the hockey (with additional officials and athletes in attendance) on December 5. India defeated Pakistan 1-0. • 21,079 paid to watch the Olympic football (soccer) semi finals on December 6. The USSR defeated Bulgaria 2-1 and Yugoslavia defeated India 4-1. • 21,236 tickets were sold for the Bronze medal match in the Olympic football (soccer) held on December 7. Bulgaria defeated India 3-1. This was preceded by an Australian Rules football demonstration match between amateur players from the combined VFL/VFA and the VAFA. • 104,700 attended the Olympic football (soccer) final and the Closing Ceremony of the XVI Olympic Games on December 8. The USSR defeated Yugoslavia 1-0 for the football (soccer) Gold medal.
1958	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 3, HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited the ground to attend a children's display. • The Centenary of Australian Rules football was celebrated in July.
1959	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelist Billy Graham held a crusade that set an all-time record for attendance at the MCG of at least 130,000. • HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent visited the ground for the VFL Preliminary Final on match on September 19.
1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A world record 90,800 attended the second day of the Fifth Test of the Australia v West Indies series. On February 15, Sir Donald Bradman made the inaugural presentation of the Frank Worrell Trophy at the conclusion of that match. • The first Anzac Day football match held on the MCG is played between VFA clubs Sandringham and Moorabbin.
1962/63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first English cricket tour to Australia a recreation match was held during New Year Test match (December 29-January 3).
1963	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first VFL/AFL premiership match held at the MCG on Anzac Day is played between Melbourne and Hawthorn.
1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan played its first MCG Test match (December 4-8).
1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richmond Football Club played its first home match at the MCG on April 19, against Melbourne.
1966	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RM Cowper made the highest Test score by an Australian at the MCG during the 5th Test v England (February 11-16).
1967	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 3rd the foundation stone for the new Western Stand laid by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. • The "Bushfire Test" between "Australia (South Africa)" and "Australia (New Zealand)" was held at the ground from April 7-10. Arranged between the two Australian touring teams to raise money for Tasmanian Bushfire Relief Fund, a total of \$31,561 was collected.
1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Stand (from 1986 known as the Ponsford Stand) was completed. • The MCC Squash Section is established following the creation of courts in the new Western Stand. • On March 11 Gaelic football was played on the MCG between County Meath from Ireland and a team of Australian footballers (some recently retired) called "the Galahs". A crowd of 28,636 attended.
1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC Cricket Museum was opened.
1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Kerry's Gaelic football team defeated a Victorian Gaelic football team that comprised Irish ex-patriots and Australian Rules footballers on March 8. • On April 5, Fitzroy defeated Richmond in the first VFL match on a Sunday, playing before HM Queen Elizabeth II, and TRHs The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and The Princess Anne and a crowd of 38,617.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlton defeated Collingwood before a record VFL Grand Final crowd of 121,696. It is the largest match attendance of any football code in Australia.
1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first official international one-day limited-overs cricket match was played between Australia and England on January 5, after the Third Test was abandoned due to rain.
1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Eucharistic Congress was held at the MCG with three crowds over 100,000 in seven days. A crowd estimated at 120,000 attend the finale on February 25. Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope John Paul II are among the congregation. • First Test match at the MCG against New Zealand.
1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The David Cassidy concert, the first rock concert on the ground, was staged before 21,085 fans on March 10.
1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On January 22, 32,908 watch Victoria lose to Western Australia in the final of the Gillette Cup. This was held before a record crowd for a day's attendance at a one day domestic match (40 eight ball overs per team) in Australia. • The Centenary Test match was held at the MCG from March 12-17. Australia won by 45 runs, the same margin as 100 years earlier. • A crowd of 92,436 attended the Richmond v Collingwood match on Anzac Day at the MCG. • The second drawn VFL Grand Final was played between Collingwood 10.16 (76) and North Melbourne 9.22 (76). North Melbourne won the replay 21.25 (151) to 19.10 (124).
1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On November 18 David Bowie performed before 18,706 fans in pouring rain.
1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Melbourne Military Tattoo was held on the MCG. • A Linda Ronstadt concert held on February 24 attracted a crowd of 28,307.
1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC committee conceived the idea of establishing a publicly owned sports museum at the MCG.
1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new wicket area was laid with a grid of electric cables below, the first Test pitches to boast an underground heating system to stimulate grass growth. • The first Mitsubishi Diamond Vision electronic scoreboard was unveiled. The 1907 scoreboard was relocated to Manuka Oval, Canberra.
1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the opening of the Pavilion to female guests on match days, Mrs Elizabeth Hayes was the first lady to enter the Long Room (July 2). • On July 26 a touring Dublin Colleges (Ireland) Gaelic football team and Melbourne's Under 17s Australian football side draw the first composite/international rules match played at the MCG, 72 points apiece. • An attendance of 81,966 watched Richmond's Kevin Bartlett become the first footballer to play 400 games of League football on Saturday August 6. Bartlett's 403rd and last League match on August 27 is his 200th on the MCG. He is the first player to reach this milestone. • 125 years of Australian Rules football was celebrated at a conference of sporting historians held at the MCG.
1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one-day International cricket match crowd record of 86,133 was established at the Australia v West Indies match on January 22. • North Melbourne Football Club played its first MCG home game against Melbourne on April 28.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four soccer matches between Australia, Manchester United, Glasgow Rangers, Nottingham Forest, Juventus and Iraklis were played on the MCG as part of World Series Soccer from May 27 to June 17. • When Victorian Premier and MCG trustee John Cain switched on the newly installed arena lighting on December 3, cricket was played under lights at the MCG for the first time. Members of the MCC First XI provided the entertainment.
1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Australia v England limited overs match on February 17, part of the World Championship of Cricket at the MCG, was played under lights. This was the first time since 1879 that a major sporting fixture had been played under lights at the ground. • The MCG hosted its first VFL/AFL premiership match under lights between North Melbourne and Collingwood on Friday evening March 29. • A double-header night of soccer was played under the MCG lights on May 26. Vasco da Gama (Brazil) played Udinese (Italy) and Australia played Tottenham Hotspur (England). • A match was played between an Aboriginal All Stars team and the Victorian Premier's All Stars side under lights at the MCG. The game was played on Friday September 13 as part of the National Aborigines Week celebrations.
1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first VFL/AFL double header was held at the MCG on Anzac Day. The Melbourne v Sydney and the North Melbourne v Geelong Round 5 matches took place before a crowd of 40,117. • Opening of The Australian Gallery of Sport at the MCG on November 22, the 30th anniversary of the Opening Ceremony of the XVI Olympic Games. • During his Australian visit HH Pope John Paul II held an Ecumenical service at the ground on November 27 and also hosted the Polish Community celebration at the MCG on November 28. • The Western Stand was renamed the W.H. Ponsford Stand (December 6).
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northern Stand was renamed the Olympic Stand.
1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne Cricket Club's 150th celebration dinner for 2220 members and guests held in a marquee on the MCG on November 15. • The final of the Shell Bicentennial Women's Cricket Cup was held on December 18.
1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91,960 people attended the Victoria v South Australia State-of-Origin football match on July 1.
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of the Southern Stand following the VFL Grand Final (roof removed before the VFL finals). • Hawthorn's Michael Tuck plays his 400th VFL game on August 3 and his 404th on September 1 to break Kevin Bartlett's record as the League's most prolific player. Tuck retired at the close of the 1991 season with a total of 426 career games.
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the start of the World Cup cricket final on March 25, MCC president Dr Donald Cordner opened the Great Southern Stand. Pakistan defeated England before a world one-day international record crowd of 87,182. • The Mitsubishi Diamond Vision scoreboard was replaced by a far more advanced model. • Essendon Football Club played its first home games as a tenant of the MCG. • Collingwood celebrated its centenary with a Thursday evening match under lights against Carlton on May 7. A crowd of 83,262 watched Carlton 16.9 (105) upset the Magpies 9.18 (72). • Kimberley played Tiwi in an all-Aboriginal Australian Rules match on September 13.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the AFL Grand Final, the MCC began its biggest arena renovation program since establishing the ground in 1853. A sand profile was constructed which enabled the ground to drain quickly and provide a much more durable playing surface.
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collingwood played its first home matches as a tenant of the MCG. • Paul McCartney concerts held on March 9 (crowd of 49,816) and 10 (40,578) • The MCG hosted the AFL's first night final on Saturday September 4. Carlton 15.10 (100) defeated Essendon 14.14 (98) in the Qualifying Final before 79,739. • U2 concerts held on November 12 (crowd of 44,339) and 13 (35,742). • Madonna concerts held on November 26 (crowd of 50,933), 27 (50,974) and 29 (45,332).
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collingwood played its first home matches as a tenant of the MCG. • NSW 14 defeated Queensland 0 in the first Rugby League State of Origin match at the MCG on June 8 before a crowd of 87,161. A Rugby League Australian attendance record at the time. • A Sony JumboTron scoreboard was installed in the Olympic Stand at the eastern end of the ground. • In the Boxing Day Test match against England, Australian spin bowler Shane Warne took first Test hat trick on the MCG since Hugh Trumble in 1904.
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rolling Stones' 'Voodoo Lounge' concerts held on March 27 (crowd of 50,934) and 28 (37,500). • Opening Ceremony of the World Police and Fire Games was held on February 26 before an estimated 65,000 people. • Queensland 20 defeated NSW 12 in a Rugby League State of Origin match on May 31. • Sri Lanka played its first Test match at the MCG • Collingwood and Essendon played their first MCG Anzac Day match before a crowd of 94,815. The match was drawn 111 points apiece.
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AFL Centenary Ball was staged on the arena for more than 3000 guests on April 16. • Footscray Football Club played four home matches on MCG. • Michael Jackson concerts attracted 43,014 and 48,689 on November 22 and 24 respectively.
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Three Tenors performed before a crowd of 44,730 on March 1. • NSW 15 defeated Queensland 14 in a Rugby League State of Origin match on June 11. • A Bledisloe Cup Rugby Union Test, between Australia and New Zealand on July 26, set a new record Australian Rugby Union crowd of 90,119. • A World Cup soccer qualifying match between Australia and Iran was staged on November 29 before 85,022 fans. It was the first FIFA recognized full international on the MCG. The match resulted in a 2 – 2 draw.
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Elton John and Billy Joel concerts on March 20-21 attracted 43,272 and 32,956 fans. • The Mushroom Records 25th Anniversary Concert on November 14 drew a record crowd of 55,447.

1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manchester United exhibition match against Socceroos was played on July 15 in front of 71,215. • Australia played Ireland in an international rules football Test on October 8 before a crowd of 64,404. • On November 17, Australia played a soccer friendly against Brazil in front of 79,795.
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawthorn Football Club played its first MCG home match. • The Melbourne Storm played two home National Rugby League matches at the MCG on March 3 and June 23. • Return of the Olympic Flame to the MCG July 30. • Olympic football (soccer) at the MCG. 327,010 attend 12 men's and women's matches played over seven days between September 13 and 26.
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia played soccer friendly against France on November 11 before 53,178. • A World Cup soccer qualifying match on November 20 drew 84,656 to see Australia and Uruguay. • On December 22 the Melbourne Cricket Club and the MCG Trust released a proposal to erect a massive grandstand on the northern side of the ground in readiness for the 2006 Commonwealth Games.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grocon named as building contractor for the Melbourne Cricket Ground northern side redevelopment by the Victorian government on June 27. • Demolition of the Ponsford Stand after the AFL Grand Final as construction begins on the MCG northern side redevelopment. • Opening Ceremony of the 2002 World Masters Games on October 6 with a crowd of approximately 50,000 spectators and competitors.
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC members were the first to occupy sections of the new grandstand, completed in time for the Preliminary Final. • The MCG celebrates its 150th birthday on September 23 with a black-tie dinner in the MCC Long Room attended by a who's who of Australian sport. • The MCG Tapestry, seven metres wide and two metres high, is unveiled on September 23 as the Melbourne Cricket Club's contribution to the ground milestone. • More than 35,000 people attend MCG Open Week from September 28 to October 4, a chance to farewell the Members Pavilion and Australian Gallery of Sport & Olympic Museum before demolition later that month. • Statues of Australia's golden girl Betty Cuthbert (August 8) and Australia's greatest ever cricketer, Sir Donald Bradman, (May 14) are the first two of 10 to be unveiled as part of the Tattersall's Parade of the Champion project. • A total of 179,662 people attend the Boxing Day Test match to witness Australian captain Steve Waugh's penultimate match, and his final act at the MCG. Ricky Ponting starred with an innings of 257 as 29,262 took advantage of free admission on the final day to say goodbye to their hero in a nine-wicket win over India.
2003/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCG's longest-serving grandstand, the 1928 Members Pavilion, was demolished.
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victorian Bushrangers win their first Pura Cup title since 1990/91 with a comprehensive win over Queensland by 321 runs. • The Olympic Flame returned to the MCG on June 5 at half-time of the Hawthorn-Essendon match, as part of the

	<p>build-up to the 2004 Athens Olympic Games in Greece. Torchbearers inside the MCG on the day were Betty Cuthbert, Matt Welsh, Herb Elliott, and Brooke Hanson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statues of Australia's finest all-rounder Keith Miller (February 16), former Essendon champion Dick Reynolds (June 20) and Melbourne legend Ron Barassi (September 22) are unveiled as part of the Tattersall's Parade of the Champion project. • On September 23, one year after the ground's 150th birthday, Victorian Premier Steve Bracks announced that the new western grandstand would again be named after Australian opening batsman, Bill Ponsford. Relocated foundation stones from the old Ponsford Stand and the 1906 Grey Smith Stand were unveiled by Governor John Landy. • Port Adelaide, watched on by 77,671 fans, win its first AFL Grand Final and in the process denies the Brisbane Lions the chance of a record-equalling fourth premiership. • Three days after the AFL Grand Final, on September 28, the MCG turf is ripped up as works commence on installation of the athletics track in preparation for the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. • Demolition commences on the final stage of the redevelopment project, the eastern end of the Olympic Stand, in October.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On January 10, a crowd of 70,101 watched an ICC World XI defeat the Asian XI in a charity match that helped raise \$14.6 million for victims of a tsunami that struck south-east Asia two weeks earlier. • Statues of Fitzroy champion Haydn Bunton (April 16), Hawthorn dynamo and premiership coach Leigh Matthews (August 28) and cricket legend Bill Ponsford (December 16) were unveiled outside the MCG, as part of the Tattersall's Parade of the Champions project. • As part of the Breast Cancer Network Australia's Field of Women event, thousands of women from around the country transformed the MCG's hallowed turf into a sea of pink prior to the Melbourne-Adelaide game on May 6. • On August 5, the AFL, MCC and MCG Trust announced a revision to their current long term agreement that will allow preliminary finals to be hosted by the teams that earn the right to do so. • In the MCG's 100th VFL/AFL Grand Final, Sydney ended a 72-year drought with a four point win over West Coast, in front of 91,898 fans. • On Boxing Day, the MCC honoured former Australian captain Bill Lawry, announcing that the new indoor cricket centre at the MCG would be known as the Cricket Victoria Bill Lawry Centre. • On the same day, the MCG was given Australia's highest heritage honour - inclusion on the National Heritage List - in recognition of its outstanding significance to the nation.
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On February 17, the first of 19 heats in the men's 100m marked the return of athletics to the MCG for the first time since the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, with the staging of the Victorian championships. • On the same day, the completion of the \$434 million MCG northern stand redevelopment project was commemorated with the unveiling of a set of plaques at an official ceremony featuring Governor John Landy and Premier Steve Bracks. • The MCG was one of six winners of the Victorian Heritage Icon Awards, for its outstanding contribution to Victoria's cultural identity, on March 2. • The XVIII Commonwealth Games were held from March 15-26. The MCG was the main stadium for the Games and held the Opening Ceremony, 10 track and field sessions including the finish for the marathon events, and the Closing Ceremony.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 15, The MCG skyline erupted in a blaze of fireworks as the city celebrated the groundbreaking Opening Ceremony to mark the start of the XVIII Commonwealth Games. • Australian Kerryn McCann won the Commonwealth Games women's marathon in dramatic circumstances on March 19, when she pulled away from her Kenyan rival Hellen Cherono Koskei inside the stadium. • In a late start to the AFL season, football returned to the MCG on Anzac Day, with the arena transforming from an athletics track into a grass oval in as little as 30 days. • On April 22, the Federal Government announced \$15 million in funding for the development of the National Sports Museum at the MCG. • On May 25 Australia prevailed 1-0 over Euro 2004 champion Greece in their soccer friendly in front of an attendance of 95,103, a record for an Australian international in Australia. • September 28, the Melbourne Cricket Club Library was officially reopened in the new MCC Pavilion, having had a presence in each of the Club's four pavilions. • In front of 97,431 fans, West Coast claimed the third flag in the club's history after seeing off a heroic Swans challenge to claim a stunning one-point win in the 2006 Grand Final. • On October 10, the MCG was awarded the Sport Australia Hall of Fame's "Spirit of Sport" award for its role in the staging of the Commonwealth Games in March. • The Melbourne Cricket Club's new museum – a magnificent, world-class facility that showcases the rich history of the club and the ground it manages – was officially opened by MCC president David Jones on November 15. • On November 22, more than 300 athletes from almost 30 countries turned out at the MCG to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the Melbourne Olympic Games. The touching ceremony, included runner Ron Clarke recreating his lighting of the Olympic cauldron, while fellow 1500m athlete John Landy, again read the Athletes' Oath. • The final statue in the Tattersall's Parade of Champions project was unveiled on December 22, when Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee was installed outside Gate 1. • Shane Warne captured his 700th Test wicket in front of 89,155 fans on the opening day of the Boxing Day Test against England. Warne, Justin Langer and Glenn McGrath played their final MCG Test, as 244,351 people watched Australia beat England inside three days.
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thousands of people took the opportunity to view the Ashes Urn in the MCC Museum between January 9 and 14, part of Marylebone Cricket Club Travelex Ashes Exhibition. • On January 15, Victoria won its second KFC Twenty20 Big Bash trophy in succession against Tasmania in front of 28,960 fans. The first Twenty20 final held at the MCG. • In front of 79,322 fans, the Wallabies came from behind to record a stirring 20-15 victory over New Zealand in the Bledisloe Cup at the MCG on June 30. • In front of 88,468 fans, Richmond ruined Essendon legends Kevin Sheedy and James Hird's last game in Melbourne by defeating the Bombers by 27 points on August 26. • Argentina overcame a determined effort from the hosts to win its friendly against the Socceroos 1-0 in front of a crowd of 70,171 on September 11. • A crowd of 97,302 witnessed Geelong break its 44-year premiership drought by crushing a hapless Port Adelaide by a record 119 points in the AFL Grand Final on September 29. • On October 7, the Samsung Melbourne Marathon celebrated its 30-year anniversary by allowing all runners to

	<p>finish with a lap of the MCG. Rohan Walker won the men's event in 2:19:16, and Hanny Allston the women's in 2:40:34.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCG etched its name further into the record books, becoming just the second cricket ground in history to reach 100,000 Test match runs during India's second innings of the 2007 Boxing Day Test on December 29.
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On February 1 the MCG hosted its first International Twenty20 match. Australia defeated India by nine wickets before 84,041 spectators. Australia defeated England by 21 runs in the women's match played prior to the men's. • National Sports Museum is opened to the public on March 13. • The Australian Football Hall of Fame in the National Sports Museum is opened on August 5. • Hawthorn upset Geelong in the AFL Grand Final in front of 100,012 spectators. It was the largest attendance at the stadium since the completion of the Great Southern Stand and Northern side redevelopments. • South Africa defeated Australia in the Boxing Day Test match to win their first series in Australia.
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A crowd of 80,000 attended the Melbourne Sound Relief benefit concert on March 14 for victims of the Black Saturday bushfires. • The National Sports Museum hosts "League of Legends – 100 Years of Rugby League in Australia", the inaugural exhibition in the temporary exhibition gallery. • Australia defeated Japan 2 – 1 in a 2010 soccer World Cup qualifier before 74,100 on June 17 to finish top of their pool. • Geelong 12.8 (80) defeated St. Kilda 9.14 (68) to win a closely contested AFL Grand Final in front of 99,251 people.
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A record crowd for a day's attendance at a domestic cricket match in Australia - 43,125 - attended Victoria's Twenty20 match against Tasmania on January 15. • More than 2500 new Australians from 90 countries made the pledge of commitment at a mass citizenship ceremony at the MCG on June 19. The event was one of the largest citizenship ceremonies in our nation's history. • Collingwood 9.14. (68) drew with St Kilda 10.8. (68) in the first drawn VFL/AFL Grand Final since 1977 in front of a crowd of 100,016. Collingwood won the replay on October 2 by 56 points in front of 93,853 fans - 16.12 (108) to 7.10 (52). • England retains the Ashes on Australian soil for the first time in 24 years after a massive victory in the Boxing Day Test at the MCG, winning by an innings and 157 runs. • The MCC announced that cricket great Shane Warne will have a statue at the MCG as part of a partnership with Australia Post to create an Avenue of Legends at the stadium.
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket Victoria announced that a new cricket team – the Melbourne Stars – would play its home matches at the MCG in a revamped Twenty20 Big Bash League from December.