

# The Changing Face of The MCG

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## Activity

Imagine how the MCG might be used in the next century. Consider how technology might impact on the MCG. Will a stage rise up out of the ground for concerts, will the turf wickets for cricket be airlifted in by helicopter? What might people in the deluxe seats expect? How will the catering be done? Will there be a retractable roof, a ground surface that is dry in winter, a new transport system to get people into the ground? Write about your ideas for the MCG of the future. You may also wish to include one or more illustrations of your ideas.

## FACT FILE

*The first Inter-colonial (or inter-state) cricket match was played at the MCG in 1856. Thomas Wentworth Wills created the game of football to keep cricketers fit during the winter, with Melbourne Football Club being founded in 1858. Events held at the MCG during the late 1800s included moonlight concerts, baseball, bicycle racing and rugby. Between 1942 - 45, during World War II, the MCG was at times occupied by the US Army Air force, the US Marines and the RAAE. In 1956 the MCG was the main stadium for the athletics, track and field and the opening and closing ceremonies for the Melbourne Olympics. Billy Graham held a religious crusade in 1959 and drew a crowd of 143,750. Since the 1970s, the ground has been used for such concerts as Madonna, U2, Sir Paul McCartney, Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson and the 3 Tenors.*

