



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2021 ROUND 4 MELBOURNE V GEELONG

LIBRARY FACT SHEET APRIL 11, 2021

THE FIRST MATCH

Melbourne first met Geelong on Saturday September 1, 1860, at the Argyle Ground in Geelong. The match resulted in a draw. The *Geelong Advertiser* noted that the "ball used in the match was an oval one, and to this circumstance as much as any other was attributed the fact that no goal was kicked..." It also explained that there "were many 'purls' and spills." One comment from a Melbourne supporter in the *Advertiser* criticized the fact that because onlookers had encroached on the play "the ground could not be kept clear for the players". Despite a vigorous match, *Bell's Life in Victoria* pointed out, "At the end of the game, when time was called, three cheers were mutually given."

THEIR FIRST VFA MATCH

The Victorian Football Association was formed on May 7, 1877. The foundation members were Melbourne, Carlton, Hotham, Albert Park, St Kilda, Geelong, Barwon, Ballarat, Beechworth, Castlemaine, Inglewood and Rochester. In Geelong, football was never more popular with some 20 clubs. The local private schools were also excellent recruiting grounds. Melbourne and Geelong first VFA match was on Queen's Birthday May 24, 1877. Mark Penning's excellent work *Origins of Australian Football: Victoria's Early History, Vol 2*, recounts that, "Melbourne travelled to Geelong to play the Pivot. The match took place at the Argyle Ground before 2,000 spectators. The teams went to the break (half time) on even terms. In the second half Geelong struggled to contain the premiers who began to assert their authority and Fred Baker and W. Moffatt kicked magnificent long goals from 50 metres." Melbourne won the game by three goals to Geelong's one.

THEIR FIRST VFL MATCH

Melbourne and Geelong were both foundation members of the Victorian Football League in 1897. Played at the MCG on May 15 the Round 2 match saw Melbourne skippered by Ned Sutton and Geelong captained by Jack Conway. Melbourne dominated play with fast clever football and magnificent dashes. Melbourne 9.10 (64) defeated Geelong 3.1 (19) with Melbourne forward Jack Leith kicking four goals. Geelong defenders Peter Burns and Teddy Rankin also excelled.

THEIR FIRST FINAL

In 1897 the Round Robin finals system saw the top four clubs play each other once. Essendon won the first premiership with three victories. No grand final was involved. Geelong, despite losing its first three games of the season, finished on top of the ladder. At the Brunswick Street Oval on September 4, 1897, Melbourne met Geelong for the first VFL final between the teams. Geelong started slowly, without a goal in the first quarter, while Melbourne kicked three. From then the game was very close with the final scores reading Geelong 5.16 (46) to Melbourne 5.7 (37). The following story about the game appeared in the *Geelong Times*, "Henry Young (Geelong) was fighting the game with great earnestness in the first quarter against Melbourne followers who included Gerald Sheehan. The latter had received some hard knocks which surprised him, and at last he said to the big Geelong follower, 'Don't you know me?' 'No, I don't know you' answered Young. 'I'm your cousin Gerald' responded Sheehan. 'Oh, are you? How are you getting on?' They shook hands, and the relationship between the contending footballers having been established, Henry Young treated his cousin with special leniency for the remainder of the game."

OVER TO YOU

1. Geelong won back to back premierships in the early '50s. Whom did they beat, and who coached them?
2. Who are the two Geelong full forwards who led the VFL goalkicking wearing number 23?

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, and Gaye Fitzpatrick with MCC deputy librarian – research Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.

This Round in History – Round 4 on the MCG

The highest score in Round 4 on the MCG was 25.15 [165] by Melbourne in 2000 against St Kilda 11.9 [75]. The highest score in any quarter in Round 4 at the MCG was in 1938 when Melbourne kicked 11.5 [71] in the fourth quarter to beat South Melbourne by 52 points. The highest tally of goals by an individual in Round 4 on the MCG is 12 goals by Tony Lockett for St Kilda against Melbourne in 1987. Gary Ablett's 10 goals for Geelong against Richmond in 1988 is the second-highest. There has been only one drawn game on the MCG in Round 4. It was the Anzac Day match of 1995 when Collingwood 17.9 [111] drew with Essendon 16.15 [111]. The only drawn game also drew the largest attendance at the MCG for a fourth round match – a crowd of 94,825.

Statistics for Melbourne v Geelong

Melbourne v Geelong by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Geelong	Drawn
Brunswick St.	0	1	0
Corio Oval	8	30	1
Docklands	0	1	0
East Melbourne	1	0	0
Kardinia Park	18	40	1
MCG	52	54	0
Olympic Park	0	1	0
Princes Park	0	1	0
Punt Road	3	0	0
SCG	0	1	0
Waverley	3	3	0
	85	132	2

Highest Score

Melbourne	26.18 [174]	Rd 1	1994	MCG
Geelong	37.11 [233]	Rd 19	2011	KP

Lowest Score

Melbourne	26.18 [174]	Rd 1	1994	MCG
Geelong	37.11 [233]	Rd 19	2011	KP

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	79 points	Rd 7	1909	MCG
Geelong	186 points	Rd 19	2011	KP

Most Goals in a Match

11	Fred Fanning	Melb	Rd 4	1944	KP
11	Gary Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 15	1993	MCG
10	Harry Harker	Melb	Rd 18	1921	MCG
10	George Moloney	Geel	Rd 15	1932	Corio
10	Gary Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 16	1994	KP

Last Time They Met – Round 4, 2020, MCG

	Geelong	Melbourne
Quarter time	2.1	0.1
Half time	2.2	2.3
Three-quarter time	6.4	3.5
Full time	7.5 [47]	6.8 [44]

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue>



Geelong v Melbourne at Corio Oval, *Australasian*, July 29, 1899, p.253.

Left to Right: V. Cumberland (M), F McGinis (M), J. Parkin (G), J. Elliot (M), J. Conway (G), J. Leith (M).

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS: Q1 Reg Hickey coached them to premierships against Essendon (1951) and Collingwood (1952). **Q2** Doug Wade and Larry Donohue.