



# MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

## ANZAC EVE

AFL 2021 ROUND 6  
MELBOURNE V RICHMOND

LIBRARY FACT SHEET  
APRIL 24, 2021

### HECTOR MILNE AND THE GREAT WAR

Hector Milne played 26 games for Richmond in 1899 and 1900 and also played for North Melbourne. He served on Richmond's committee and was a key figure in the club's successful application to join the VFL in 1908. His enlistment papers show that he was a member of the militia prior to World War I, initially in the Infantry and then in the Light Horse. The following reference to Milne appeared in the *Richmond Guardian* of August 8, 1914:

"One prominent member of the Richmond committee, who is no less keen in his military enthusiasm, had a rough night on Wednesday. He is an officer in the Light Horse and most of the men in his division are farmers and selectors up among the hills of Scoresby. To get to them early and notify mobilisation the Richmondite had to ride his horse hard all night, but he got through. On Thursday the division were booked to entrain for a seaport town, but the horse did not get there. The faithful steed had done his work the night before. He saw the troops he had helped to assemble, neighed gently – and fell down dead. War is no time for hesitation, and the officer had to hurry off and secure another steed."

A letter from Milne then appeared in the same paper on October 17, 1914:

"We are still alive. Things are going all right and I hope to be going away shortly. I have a lot of Richmond boys down in the Light Horse and they are worthy chaps too. I had a great surprise the other morning when going into my tent. On my stretcher were a pair of silver spurs and chains and a brief note saying to accept them as a small token of 'heartfelt esteem and admiration from the men of the Light Horse'. I tried to find out the 'offenders' but was unsuccessful, so I am holding them pending further investigations. With kind regards to our Richmond friends – Yours as of old, H M."

At the age of 34, Hector Milne would enlist in the 7th Light Horse Regiment at Liverpool, NSW, on December 7, 1914, giving his next of kin as his wife Linda Milne of Watson's Bay. He then embarked for overseas service on May 21, 1915. The *Richmond Guardian* published a letter from him on December 11, 1915, written while he was convalescing at the Number 1 Australian General Hospital in Cairo after having been wounded on Gallipoli. It read:

"A few lines to let you know that I am now in the above hospital. Three weeks ago I happened to get in front of a Turkish bullet (like a big mug) and this little token of esteem from Abdul (we all call the Turks 'Abdul'), combined with an idiotic attack of gastritis, put me out for the count and consequently I 'stretchered' over to Egypt to recover. I am getting on A1 now, and trust to be back in the 'forward' line again. Back play is no good in this match because it is only the forward play that counts. It puts me in mind of the old days when I was playing with Richmond against Port Melbourne on their own ground, but sometimes it is not half so exciting: at other times, well, 'nuff said'. It is not so bad in the firing line, the only drawbacks being shrapnel, high explosive shells and bombs; otherwise things are A1. Abdul is a good fighter, and in the majority of cases a very humorous individual, especially when any of our fellows have a shot at his periscope which is always having a 'screw' at our trenches. If we miss it he will signal a 'miss'. If we hit it he goes down for a few seconds and then he will signal a 'bull' or a 'magpie'. These little exchanges of mutual humour help to create amusement in our trenches and doubtless cause the same in 'Abdul's' trenches."

After discharge from hospital, Milne's problems with gastritis became chronic and in February 1916 he was evacuated to Australia to recover. On December 9, 1916 a further article about him appeared in the *Richmond Guardian*:

"Richmond footballers and supporters will regret to hear that their former delegate and committeeman, Hector Milne, has recently had the misfortune to lose an eye. He fought through the Gallipoli campaign and later on was invalided home. Recovering, he was sent to Sydney, and during some field practice had the bad luck to run a bayonet into his eye, with the result that he has lost the sight of that eye altogether."

In fact Milne had lost his eye some time earlier and had been discharged as medically unfit on November 7, 1916. A brother, Herbert "Boxer" Milne, played 153 games with Fitzroy and South Melbourne and also served in World War I.

## FOOTBALL AT THE MCG ON APRIL 24

- 1915:** Four VFL premiership matches were played on April 24 for the first time. Melbourne defeated Richmond 12.10 (82) to 11.7 (73) at the MCG. The following day the ANZACs stormed the beaches of Gallipoli.
- 1937:** Richmond and Melbourne meet again. It is the first football match at the MCG on April 24 since 1915. April 25 was named ANZAC Day in 1916.
- 1995:** The first AFL match on a Monday evening was played between Richmond and North Melbourne at the MCG.
- 2000:** Easter Monday fell on April 24. The Richmond v Carlton fixture drew 63,149, the largest crowd for a match on the day before ANZAC Day.
- 2015:** The first ANZAC Day eve ceremony is held before the Richmond v Melbourne match. A cauldron was lit by Ron Barassi Jr prior to the game. The torch was carried into the MCG by the Creswick Light Horse.
- 2017:** The Anzac Eve match draws a crowd of 85,657, a record attendance for the date.
- 2020:** The match on ANZAC Day eve is postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and national lock down.

## SENIOR MATCHES AT THE MCG ON THE EVE OF ANZAC DAY- APRIL 24

April 24		MCG Match	Home Team		Opponent		Att.
1915 Saturday		VFL Rd 1	Melbourne	12.10 (82)	Richmond	11.7 (73)	7,385
1937 Saturday		VFL Rd 1	Melbourne	14.8 (92)	Richmond	9.12 (66)	19,726
1965 Saturday		VFL Rd 2	Melbourne	11.14 (80)	North Melbourne	10.12 (72)	21,744
1976 Saturday		VFL Rd 4	Melbourne	17.12 (114)	Carlton	24.13 (157)	34,991
1987 Friday	N	VFL Rd 5	North Melbourne	18.19 (127)	St Kilda	16.14 (110)	16,078
1995 Monday	N	AFL Rd 4	Richmond	21.8 (134)	North Melbourne	13.7 (85)	62,606
1998 Friday	N	AFL Rd 5	Richmond	12.14 (86)	West Coast	10.11 (71)	34,837
1999 Saturday		AFL Rd 5	Melbourne	13.12 (90)	Port Adelaide	9.12 (66)	24,533
2000 Monday		AFL Rd 7	Richmond	10.9 (69)	Carlton	18.12 (120)	63,149
2010 Saturday	N	AFL Rd 4	Melbourne	15.13 (103)	Brisbane Lions	7.11 (53)	36,396
2015 Friday	N	AFL Rd 4	Richmond	6.15 (51)	Melbourne	12.11 (83)	58,175
2016 Sunday	N	AFL Rd 5	Melbourne	20.9 (129)	Richmond	14.12 (96)	59,968
2017 Monday	N	AFL Rd 5	Richmond	12.16 (88)	Melbourne	11.9 (75)	85,657
2018 Tuesday	N	AFL Rd 5	Melbourne	8.8 (56)	Richmond	15.12 (102)	77,071
2019 Wednesday	N	AFL Rd 6	Richmond	12.13 (85)	Melbourne	6.6 (42)	72,704

## ARTHUR HARRISON

Arthur Charles Harrison was born in Collingwood in 1893 and attended the Central State School in Richmond. Having played his early football with the Preston Juniors, Harrison made his VFL debut for Richmond in their Round 15 match against South Melbourne at the Lake Oval in 1911. This proved to be his only game for the Tigers as he moved to Fitzroy, playing 19 games (3 goals) for the Maroons in 1913 and 1914, mainly as a back pocket and change ruckman.

Although he played ten games for Fitzroy in 1913, Harrison was not selected in the side that defeated Collingwood in a semi-final or the one that lost to St Kilda the following week. As Fitzroy had finished on top of the ladder, they were entitled to challenge St Kilda to a grand final match and Harrison came into the team for this game when Tom Willoughby was suspended. The Maroons defeated St Kilda by 13 points in the grand final to take the premiership.

Harrison's final game for Fitzroy was in their 1914 semi-final loss to eventual premiers, Carlton. He did not play in 1915, although the *Football Record* reported that he was present at the Round 10 match between Fitzroy and Carlton, at which he said farewell to his old mates prior to heading for the front. He survived the torpedoing of the ship on which he was travelling to Gallipoli. He was wounded during the fighting in Turkey and repatriated, only to return just before the general evacuation. He was then sent to fight in France and was again wounded, returning to service after spending a period in the Birmingham Hospital. Unfortunately, his luck ran out when he was killed in action during the furious fighting at Bullecourt on May 3, 1917.

In the *Winner* former Fitzroy player Gerald Brosnan wrote that Harrison "was a young and promising player" for Fitzroy, who was "extremely popular with his comrades". Harrison's death was marked with a number of notices in the Melbourne newspapers in early June. The Fitzroy Football Club's notice on June 9 stated that he was: "A sportsman of the best. He died a hero's death."

Like so many of the Australians who died in the terrible battles on the Somme, Harrison has no known grave and is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.



## This Round in History – Round 6 on the MCG

The highest score on the MCG in Round 6 is 31.18 (204) by St Kilda against Melbourne 21.15 (141) in 1978. The biggest winning margin at the MCG in Round 6 is 107 points by Melbourne 19.23 (137) when defeating South Melbourne 3.12 (30) in 1939. The lowest Round 6 score at the MCG since 1925 is 1.11 (17) by South Melbourne against Melbourne 8.15 (63) in 1962. This is the overall Round 6 record. The biggest bag of goals in Round 6 at the MCG took place in 1993 when Geelong's Gary Ablett Snr kicked 14 goals against Essendon. The highest score in a quarter for Round 6 at the MCG is 11.5 (71) by St Kilda against Melbourne in the second quarter in 1978. The highest score for a quarter was in Round 6. Essendon scored 15.4 (94) against the Gold Coast Suns in the first quarter at the Docklands in 2011.

### Statistics for Melbourne v Richmond

#### Melbourne v Richmond by venue

	Won By Melbourne	Won By Richmond	Draw
MCG	62	74	1
Punt Road	18	32	1
Waverley Park	1	0	0
Motordrome	0	1	0
Docklands	1	1	0
	82	108	2

#### Last Time They Met – Round 5, 2020, MCG

	Richmond	Melbourne
Quarter time	3.2	3.1
Half time	7.3	3.2
Three-quarter time	9.7	5.2
Full time	12.7 (79)	8.4 (52)

#### Highest Score

Melbourne	26.19 (175)	Rd 21	1993	MCG
Richmond	30.16 (196)	Rd 2	1942	PR

#### Lowest Score

Melbourne	4.10 (34)	Rd 11	1910	MCG
Richmond	1.6 (12)	Rd 10	1908	MCG

#### Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	121 points	Rd 21	1993	MCG
Richmond	93 points	Rd 9	1980	MCG

### 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>

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.

### Melbourne & Richmond Honour Roll

#### WWI Melbourne

James Henry Bonelli  
 Clifford Charles Burge  
 Jack Lindsay Doubleday  
 William Nicholson Fischer  
 Albert John Gourlay  
 Malcolm Stuart Kennedy  
 Frank Leslie Lugton  
 James Robert Mackie  
 William Maxwell  
 Fenley John McDonald  
 Thomas Alexander Ogilvie  
 Arthur Mueller "Joe" Pearce  
 Leo Vincent Rankin  
 Harold Holt Rippon  
 John Filomeno Percival ("Percy") Rodriguez  
 Robert Royle  
 Alfred Walter Williamson

#### WWI Richmond.

Arthur Charles Harrison  
 Leslie Edward Lee  
 William "Bill" Nolan

#### WWII Melbourne

Sydney Louis Anderson  
 Ernest John Atkins  
 Harold Charles Ball  
 Ronald James Barassi  
 Patrick Lawrence ("Laurie") Brady MSM  
 Arthur Noel Ellis  
 Reginald Clyde Helmer  
 Crawford Derek Mollison  
 George Frederick Regan  
 Beresford Stanley Reilly  
 Archibald Frederick Roberts  
 Keith William Truscott DFC & BAR  
 Percival Barnes Wood

#### WWII Richmond

William Nicholas Pax Cosgrove  
 William Henry Garvie

## PLAYED FOR BOTH

Ken Albiston made his VFL debut for Richmond in Round 13, 1946, against North Melbourne at the Arden Street Oval. Recruited from Melbourne High School Old Boys, Albiston played six seasons with the Tigers. He appeared in 58 games for Richmond from 1946 to 1951, kicking 76 goals. He then moved to Melbourne, where he played 45 games, and kicked 49 goals, from 1952 to 1954. He was a member of Melbourne's losing grand final team in 1954 against Footscray. Prior to his VFL career, Albiston served for seven months in the Royal Australian Air Force during the final year of World War II.

## JACK DOUBLEDAY

Jack Doubleday, who was a high achiever at both school and university (he is pictured in his robes, right), played 53 games of VFL football for University and Melbourne from 1912 to 1915.

We learn from Jim Main and David Allen's book *Fallen. The Ultimate Heroes. Footballers who never returned from war* (2002) that Doubleday was born in Prahran in 1890 and educated at All Saints' Grammar School and then at Wesley College. He won gymnastics championships at both schools and flourished at Wesley both in the academic sphere and on the sports field. Doubleday was a member of Wesley's winning Head of the River crews in 1909 and 1910, a prefect, captain of boats and vice-captain of the first cricket and football teams. He also showed some talent as a musician being gold medallist for two consecutive years at Daylesford in the under 16 violin and he is reported to have distinguished himself at an early age as a lifesaver, at one stage rescuing eight people from drowning.

After completing his secondary education at Wesley, Doubleday studied dental science at the University of Melbourne. He continued to excel at sport, winning Blues in both rowing and football. He rowed in the University of Melbourne crews that won the Australian Universities Boat Race from 1911 to 1914 and started playing football for the University Club in the VFL in 1912, making his debut in their Round 11 loss to Melbourne. Doubleday notched 36 games (and 17 goals) for the Students from 1912 to 1914 as a half forward or half back and was regarded as one of their best players during this time.

When University disbanded after the 1914 season due to continued losses and a lack of players due to World War I, Doubleday and a number of other University players crossed to Melbourne. Doubleday played all 17 games (4 goals) for the Redlegs in the 1915 season, his final game being their semi-final loss to the eventual premiers, Carlton. Doubleday concentrated on his studies after 1915, winning the prize for Practical Dental Surgery in 1916 and being an examiner in that subject at the Dental Hospital in 1918. Having been a sergeant in the Wesley Cadet Corps, he enlisted on September 27, 1918. According to an early Wesley history "a combination of circumstances" prevented him from joining earlier. Nevertheless, he became a lieutenant in the Australian Dental Corps and left Australia bound for the Western Front in October 1918. Unfortunately, he never made it to foreign shores, dying at sea as the result of influenza on October 30, 1918 – just 12 days before the Armistice. Doubleday is commemorated at the Chatby Memorial, east of Alexandria in Egypt – the memorial there includes the names of nearly 1,000 officers and men whose only grave is the sea.



LEST WE FORGET