



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

ANZAC EVE

AFL 2023 ROUND 6 RICHMOND V MELBOURNE

LIBRARY FACT SHEET APRIL 24, 2023

SQUADRON LEADER

KEITH "BLUEY" TRUSCOTT DFC and Bar

Keith Truscott attended school at South Yarra Primary School and Melbourne High School. In 1935 Truscott was a member of Melbourne's second eighteen, or reserves, premiership victory against Geelong. He debuted with Melbourne in Round 7, 1937 and went on to play on the half forward flank in premiership sides in 1939 and 1940. Truscott was solidly built and a determined player at 178cm and 85kg. Demon coach Frank "Checker" Hughes described Truscott: "On the half-forward flank wing we had the red-headed bullet, 'Bluey Truscott'." In the 1939 Grand Final against Collingwood he contributed two goals. After the 1940 Grand Final Truscott wrote the extra verse for the club song "It's a Grand Old Flag":

*Now the Tigers they are haughty in the year 1940,
But the Demons would not be licked.
And we found them ahead at the final bell,
With the spirit of "twenty six".*



Keith "Bluey" Truscott receives instruction from "Checker" Hughes in a publicity photo prior to his last match in May 1942 against Richmond.

He trained in Canada before flying Spitfires with 452 Squadron in England. With 15 German aircraft destroyed, five probable and ten damaged, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and a Bar was later added. In 1941 he had to bail out over the English Channel. A group called "Red heads of England" raised 15,000 pounds for a new Spitfire. Squadron Leader Keith Truscott returned to Australia in 1942. On May 16, 1942, he led out the Demons wearing guernsey number one against the Tigers at Punt Road Oval. A crowd of 20,000 onlookers saw Truscott appear in his 50th match. Richmond captain Jack Dyer took "Bluey" to the wing where the fans gave three cheers. Truscott flew Kittyhawks with 76 Squadron over New Guinea in the Battle of Milne Bay. Tragically at Exmouth, Western Australia, on March 28, 1943, he was escorting a Catalina when he crashed into the mirror-like surface of the sea.

Squadron Leader Keith William Truscott DFC and Bar was buried with full military honours at the Karrakatta Cemetery in Perth. His mother placed a bunch of roses on his coffin. Melbourne coach Frank "Checker" Hughes donated the Keith "Bluey" Truscott Memorial Trophy for the Demon's best and fairest player. Truscott was only aged 26 years. He had become engaged to an English girl, Margaret and they were to be wed when she arrived in Australia.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Melbourne Football Club has a fine tradition in honouring players killed in World War II with annual memorial trophies. The Best and Fairest is awarded the Keith "Bluey" Truscott Memorial Trophy, while second in the Best and Fairest wins the Syd Anderson Memorial Trophy, and third in the Best and Fairest award wins the Ron Barassi Snr Memorial Trophy. The Best First Year player award is named in honour of Harold Ball.

OVER TO YOU

Between 1939 and 1941 Melbourne won three flags. As mentioned above, four members of those teams lost their lives in World War II. Can you identify the Melbourne premiership sides that each of these Demons played in?

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.
- 2021:** Inaugural Frank "Checker" Hughes Medal for the best player on the ground is presented to Melbourne's Christian Petracca.

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

April 24		MCG Match	Home Team		Opponent		Att.
1915 Saturday		VFL Round 1	Melbourne	12.10 (82)	Richmond	11.7 (73)	7,385
1937 Saturday		VFL Round 1	Melbourne	14.8 (92)	Richmond	9.12 (66)	19,726
1965 Saturday		VFL Round 2	Melbourne	11.14 (80)	North Melbourne	10.12 (72)	21,744
1976 Saturday		VFL Round 4	Melbourne	17.12 (114)	Carlton	24.13 (157)	34,991
1987 Friday	N	VFL Round 5	North Melbourne	18.19 (127)	St Kilda	16.14 (110)	16,078
1995 Monday	N	AFL Round 4	Richmond	21.8 (134)	North Melbourne	13.7 (85)	62,606
1998 Friday	N	AFL Round 5	Richmond	12.14 (86)	West Coast	10.11 (71)	34,837
1999 Saturday		AFL Round 5	Melbourne	13.12 (90)	Port Adelaide	9.12 (66)	24,533
2000 Monday		AFL Round 7	Richmond	10.9 (69)	Carlton	18.12 (120)	63,149
2010 Saturday	N	AFL Round 4	Melbourne	15.13 (103)	Brisbane Lions	7.11 (53)	36,396
2015 Friday	N	AFL Round 4	Richmond	6.15 (51)	Melbourne	12.11 (83)	58,175
2016 Sunday	N	AFL Round 5	Melbourne	20.9 (129)	Richmond	14.12 (96)	59,968
2017 Monday	N	AFL Round 5	Richmond	12.16 (88)	Melbourne	11.9 (75)	85,657
2018 Tuesday	N	AFL Round 5	Melbourne	8.8 (56)	Richmond	15.12 (102)	77,071
2019 Wednesday	N	AFL Round 6	Richmond	12.13 (85)	Melbourne	6.6 (42)	72,704
2021 Saturday	N	AFL Round 6	Melbourne	12.10 (82)	Richmond	6.12 (48)	56,418
2022 Sunday	N	AFL Round 6	Richmond	8.6 (54)	Melbourne	9.22 (76)	70,334

FRANK "CHECKER" HUGHES MEDAL

Tonight's best player on the ground will receive the Frank "Checker" Hughes Medal. Inaugurated in 2021, it commemorates the World War I serviceman and seven-time premiership player and coach Francis Vane "Checker" Hughes MSM. Born in February 1894, Hughes had played 24 games for Richmond in 1914 and 1915, before he enlisted. He served with the 57th Battalion of the 15th Brigade, 5th Australian Division. He rose through the ranks to quartermaster sergeant, and received a Meritorious Service Medal in 1918. While in Mametz, France, he helped establish an Australian football ground. He returned to Australia and the Richmond Football Club in May 1919. He played in the Tigers' 1920 and 1921 premiership teams and ended his League playing career in 1923 after 87 games and having booted 51 goals. He then refined his coaching arts at Ulverstone, Tasmania, returned to Tigerland in 1927, and coached Richmond to grand finals in 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1931, before breaking through for his first premiership as a coach in 1932. Richmond player Jack Dyer remembered, "Checker Hughes, the psychologist of the game, was a great coach and he beat champions with good players because he knew and understood them... with a few scathing words he could lift a side."

He was enticed by Percy Page, Melbourne's secretary and a former Richmond secretary, to join him at Melbourne the following year. Hughes instilled a ruthless attitude in Melbourne's players, epitomised by the "Red Demons" moniker he bestowed on them and the club. Under Hughes' guidance from 1933 to 1941, and then from 1945 to 1948, his Demons won flags in 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1948. Therefore, Hughes was fundamental to the development of two great eras at two great clubs. He had a life-long commitment to the game and was a selector at Melbourne for two decades following his formal retirement as coach. He even stepped in as an acting coach of Melbourne for one match in 1965. Hughes died in 1978. He was an inaugural inductee of the Australian Football Hall of Fame as a coach in 1996, and is a member of the Richmond Football Club Hall of Fame as well as the Melbourne Football Club Hall of Fame.



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 Richmond v Melbourne

Richmond v Melbourne by venue

	Won By Richmond	Won By Melbourne	Draw
Docklands	1	1	0
MCG	74	64	1
Motordrome	1	0	0
Punt Road	32	18	1
Waverley Park	0	1	0
	108	84	2

Last Time They Met – Round 6, 2022, MCG

	Richmond	Melbourne
Quarter time	2.2	2.6
Half time	5.3	3.12
Three-quarter time	7.4	8.19
Full time	8.6 [54]	9.22 [76]

Highest Score

Richmond	30.16 [196]	Rd 2	1942	PR
Melbourne	26.19 [175]	Rd 21	1993	MCG

Lowest Score

Richmond	1.6 [12]	Rd 10	1908	MCG
Melbourne	4.10 [34]	Rd 11	1910	MCG

Greatest Winning Margin

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

Frank "Checker" Hughes Medallists

2021	Christian Petracca	Melbourne
2022	Clayton Oliver	Melbourne

OVER TO YOU ANSWER:

Syd Anderson: 1939, 1940 and 1941.

Harold Ball: 1939 and 1940.

Ron Barassi Snr: 1940.

Keith "Bluey" Truscott: 1939 and 1940.

Richmond & Melbourne 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

FLIGHT SERGEANT BILL COSGROVE

William Nicholas Pax Cosgrove was born on November 11, 1918. Pax, the Latin word for peace, was chosen as a part of his name because he was born on Armistice Day. He attended school at Xavier College. He debuted with Richmond in Round 1, 1940, against Footscray. He idolised his Tiger captain Jack Dyer. He played 34 second eighteen games in 1939, 1940 and 1942, and three senior games in 1940.

Cosgrove attained the rank of Flight Sergeant. He flew over 50 missions over Libya, Abyssinia, Burma, Iraq, Sumatra, Java and New Guinea. He was married to Dorothy (Dot) in 1940 and trained with Melbourne's Keith "Bluey" Truscott. Against the Japanese in Java his RAF Squadron 84 had lost all its aircraft. In a remarkable journey in two 30 foot lifeboats, Cosgrove and others made a voyage from Java to Australia's west coast, 1500 miles across the Indian Ocean. On April 20, 1942, the men spotted Frazer Inlet, north of Carnarvon, after 47 days at sea. Cosgrove returned to airborne duties with 30 Squadron, flying a Beaufighter.

He proudly had a fearsome tiger's head painted by the cartoonist Sam Wells on one side of the Beaufighter's nose with the inscription, "Eat-Em-Alive" (pictured right, with Cosgrove crouching on the nose of his Beaufighter). On the other side was written, "Jack Dyer IV". On August 11, 1943, his Beaufighter and his body were recovered. His widow was notified of his death. She had proudly given birth to their daughter Madeline Dorothy on February 1, 1941. He was the uncle of former Australian Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, CVO, MC.



A memorial service on the MCG in 1993 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Keith "Bluey" Truscott DFC & Bar.

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 Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL