



MCC News



Drought breaks, tears flow

It was an emotional and memorable grand final day at the MCG, as the Western Bulldogs won its first premiership in 62 years.

MCC partnership at new Beaumaris school

The MCC has reached agreement with the Victorian Government to provide world-class sporting facilities at a new school in Melbourne's bayside suburbs.

Minister for Education James Merlino and MCC vice-president Stephen Spargo made the announcement at the new Beaumaris Secondary College site in August.

In a Victorian-first, the MCC will commit several million dollars to fund two competition grade ovals, a pavilion and a multipurpose pitch as part of the redevelopment of the school.

This partnership provides a unique opportunity for students and the local community to access world-class sporting facilities, which will be used by students during school hours and by the MCC's sporting teams and local sporting groups outside of school hours. Arrangements for use of the sports facilities will be finalised next year after consultation with all parties involved.

The Victorian School Building Authority will manage construction of the new school at Sandringham College's former Beaumaris

campus site, with existing buildings being demolished to make way for a new state-of-the-art school.

The school will accommodate 650 students from year 7-12 and is on track to open in the 2018 school year.

"Through the MCC Foundation, we have a strong history of promoting sport in the

community," said Mr Spargo. "Establishing a site with multi-sport facilities for use by both the MCC and the community has been a long-held objective of the Foundation and is something we are very excited about.

"The new facilities will be of great value to the school, along with MCC and local sporting clubs and teams."

An artist's impression of the sports pavilion to be built at the new Beaumaris Secondary College.



Annual General Meeting outcome

The club's Annual General Meeting was held on August 17 in the Members Dining Room, with hundreds of Full members in attendance.

President Steven Smith, treasurer Michael Happell and chief executive officer Stephen Gough addressed the meeting to update members on various club affairs. During general business, members posed a number of operational questions to which the president and CEO responded. Three committee members – Sally Macindoe, Charles Sitch and Mark Smith – stood for re-election by rotation. Rowan Enright, John Mugavin, Stuart Stockdale and Christopher Stolz presented themselves for election via the ballot process. The votes were:

Sally Macindoe	5331
Mark Smith	3949
Charles Sitch	3932
Christopher Stolz	2602
John Mugavin	2410
Rowan Enright	2230
Stuart Stockdale	2052

As a result, committee members Macindoe, Smith and Sitch were re-elected. The president, treasurer and vice-president David Crow were re-elected to their positions unopposed.

The club's 2015/16 annual report is available for members to view at mcc.org.au.

On the cover

Dog day out: An MCG crowd of 99,981 witnessed history on October 1, as the Western Bulldogs defeated Sydney Swans to win its first flag since 1954. See pages 12-13 for details.



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From the President

STEVEN SMITH, PRESIDENT

While AFL home and away crowds were down at the MCG this footy season by approximately six per cent compared to 2015, we had a highly charged month of footy in September with the final series being one of the best in recent memory.

From the arm wrestle between Geelong Cats and Hawthorn in the first qualifying final, with the result dependent on a kick after the siren, through to the emotional grand final win by the Bulldogs, the 'G' was treated to some of the best games of the season in September.

The win by the Western Bulldogs brought all of Melbourne to life. I can't recall so much noise and excitement at a grand final and it was a great result for the game and in particular for those sides which have spent most of their recent history toward the lower end of the competition. It has certainly generated renewed hope in sides like Melbourne and St Kilda as it shows things can turn around quickly if you get your culture and recruiting right and enjoy a bit of luck along the way.

I'd like to congratulate the Bulldogs on their extraordinary success and in particular recognise the critical role played by Luke Beveridge and Peter Gordon.

I'd like to also take the opportunity to congratulate all MCC members who participated in the Rio Olympics or Paralympics. We are thrilled so many of our members qualified for the games and even more delighted that two – Kim Brennan and Will Lockwood - came home with medals around their necks.

On a sad note it was devastating to hear

news of the recent death of the much-loved Max Walker from blood cancer. As we are all aware Max was a former Test cricketer of great repute, a talented member of the Melbourne Football Club for six years and also an enthusiastic member of our club.

Max regularly helped out as a host of functions and as an ambassador for the club and always with that infectious welcoming smile and quick one liner. On behalf of all our members I send our sincerest condolences to Kerry and their family. Max will be greatly missed by us all.

The committee is progressing with the difficult task of finding a replacement for our CEO, Stephen Gough. The process makes you realise just how good Stephen is at his job and how hard it will be to replace him.

However, all good organisations need to reset every so often and this will be an opportunity for the club to review how it goes about its business through a fresh set of eyes. We have been encouraged by the number of talented and qualified candidates who have expressed an interest in one of the most sought after positions in sport in Australia. We hope to make an announcement before Christmas.

The photo ID replacement process is well underway with more than 15,000 members already having organised their replacement photos through Australia Post outlets or at the club (see page 24).

This is an important process for the club as some members simply don't look like they did 10 years ago when the last photo was taken and at times this makes the identification of members on the random

card checks by our staff increasingly difficult. I therefore encourage members who have been contacted by the club to organise this at your earliest convenience, noting that the club is funding the costs of the card replacement.

As we head towards the festive season it is with some trepidation that we approach the Boxing Day Test against Pakistan. After the recent disappointing performances in Perth and Hobart against the South Africans, a win by the Australians in the Melbourne Test looks challenging. However, cricket is a game where if a team can enjoy a bit of luck with the bat and in the field confidence can return pretty quickly and momentum swings can happen literally overnight. Here's hoping!

Notwithstanding the problems with our national cricket side, we can look forward to enjoying the celebrations to be held on Boxing Day to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the 1866 Boxing Day match between an Aboriginal XI and the MCC. This is one of the earliest recorded cricket matches and Cricket Australia intends to celebrate the legacy left by that landmark Aboriginal cricket team before and during this year's game. You should also be aware that in 2018 it is intended to celebrate the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Aboriginal XI tour of England in 1868.

I take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a happy and safe festive season and look forward to seeing many of you at an upcoming club function or at the cricket this summer.

Rowers take home medals in Rio

Our long-standing affinity with the Olympic movement has been strengthened with several MCC members competing at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio.

Ten members wore the green and gold across seven sports, with two – rowers Kim Brennan and Will Lockwood - winning medals.

Brennan (pictured), a former runner who switched to rowing after injury, won gold in the single sculls, to go with the silver and bronze medals she won in London four years ago.

Fellow rower Lockwood won a silver medal in the men's four, after winning

silver in the same event in London, while Jessica Morrison and Sarah Banting were members of Australia's rowing women's eight crew.

Golfer Marcus Fraser finished tied for fifth in the four-round golf tournament.

Skeet shooter Keith Ferguson competed in his second Olympics, while John Peers (tennis men's doubles) and Cameron Clark (rugby sevens) were making their Olympic debut.

At Paralympic level, Barak Mizrachi competed in table tennis while Mitchell Gourley took part in the alpine skiing event.

Congratulations to all our members who competed in Rio and represented our country with distinction.



Big Max departs, a life well lived

We were deeply saddened to learn in grand final week of the passing of former Australian cricketer, Melbourne footballer and much-loved MCC member, Max Walker AM, due to illness. He was 68.

A larger-than-life figure, Max played 34 Tests for Australia between 1972 and 1977, taking 138 wickets at 27.47, with a best of 8/143 among his six five-wicket hauls. Six of those Tests, including his debut, were at the MCG, where he was a crowd favourite.

His right-arm hooping inswingers bowled with an awkward style, earning him the nickname 'Tangles', were a perfect foil for the pace duo of Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson. He also played 17 one-day internationals for Australia, either side of his two years with Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket.

Max relocated from North Hobart to Melbourne in 1966 initially to play Australian football for the Melbourne Football Club, lured to the mainland at the urgings of MCC icon Clive Fairbairn.



Max Walker regales his audience at The Bradman Luncheon in 2012.

As an architect student, he worked at the MCG as a maintenance man and scoreboard operator and spent winter playing football and summer cricket. A lanky ruckman, he played 94 senior VFL games (1967-72), and was part of the Demons' 1971 night

premiership team.

On the cricket field, Max played 68 MCC First XI matches in 11 seasons from 1966-67 to 1976-77 alongside the likes of Paul Sheahan, Graeme Watson, Jeff Moss and Peter Bedford. In that time, in amongst his

'Tangles' was all heart

Former MCC president Paul Sheahan played 31 Tests for Australia, many of them alongside Max Walker. The two were also teammates for Victoria, as well as the MCC in club cricket. Here, Paul pays tribute to a lionhearted and popular figure.

They say the incomparable Phar Lap had the biggest heart of any thoroughbred in Australian racing history ... and it's exhibited in the Melbourne Museum.

If that's true, then my old mate from Tasmania, Maxwell Henry Norman Walker AM (first nicknamed 'Tanglefoot', shortened later to 'Tangles', because of his somewhat ungainly bowling action), should have his heart on show beside Phar Lap's!

It might have been Mike Gatting who referred to the South African spinner, Paul Adams, as having an action like a frog in a blender. Perhaps we hadn't thought of that image when we nicknamed Maxie 'Tangles', but it would have been entirely appropriate, albeit a tad unkind! Billy Birmingham used to joke that his left arm was so jealous of his right that it used to bowl at the same time!

All jokes aside, I don't think there has ever been an Australian bowler whose heart could compare with the big fella's. And, sadly, he was plucked from our midst at the tender age of 68, having battled equally manfully, but very privately, against a rampaging blood cancer for some time.

I first came across 'Tangles' at the

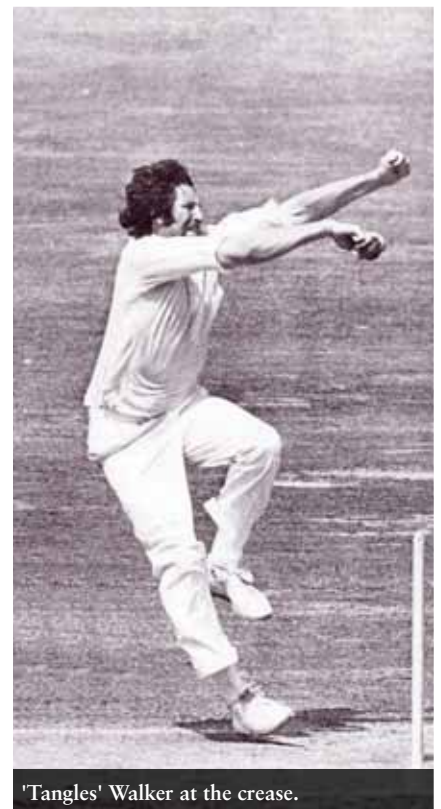
Melbourne Cricket Club in District Cricket (as it then was) in the late 1970s when, curiously, he was shipped across to the mainland for his football prowess but spent his time in the summer playing the game designed for 'flannelled fools'.

He was an awkward cuss to face in the nets because he had the uncanny knack of swinging the new ball in to the right-hander and then making it cut away off the seam towards the slips. His unusually high action (and unerring accuracy) meant that he was able to maintain a 'seam up' approach causing great difficulty for the batsman.

Although he could bat – and Tasmanians will remember that he opened the batting in club cricket there – it was his bowling that caught the eye of the selectors and he didn't let them, or his teammates, down.

Early performances were promising, so it seemed inevitable that he was destined for higher honours ... and of course it turned out that way.

His physical stamina was remarkable, too. Like many fast bowlers and medium-pacers, he was possessed of a physique that never knew when it had had enough! He bowled and bowled and bowled ... and then bowled some more. Frequently the ball



'Tangles' Walker at the crease.

Victoria and Australia representative duties, he took 200 First XI wickets at 16.82, including best figures of 8/34 in the 1968-69 semi final win over St Kilda.

Upon his return from World Series Cricket, he played four seasons with South Melbourne Cricket Club, before hanging up the bowling boots in 1982.

Indeed it was life after playing sport where Max truly made his name. A story teller, author, TV host, broadcaster, entrepreneur and popular corporate speaker, the lover of gadgets connected with sports fans and the community like few before him, with an ability to tell a tale and see humour in any situation.

He was a cricket commentator with the ABC, and was also part of the commercial radio cricket coverage run by 2UE and 3AK. After a brief stint as a cricket expert on Channel 7's World of Sport, he joined

Channel 9 where he read sports reports on National Nine News Melbourne with Brian Naylor.

He also hosted the Nine Network's The Sunday Footy Show from 1993-1998, Nine's Wide World of Sports program until 1999 and was a cricket commentator for Channel 9 between 1986 and 1991.

An MCC member since 1971, he was made a member of the Order of Australia in 2011 for "service to cricket at a national and international level as a player and commentator, and to the community through a range of youth and social welfare organisations."

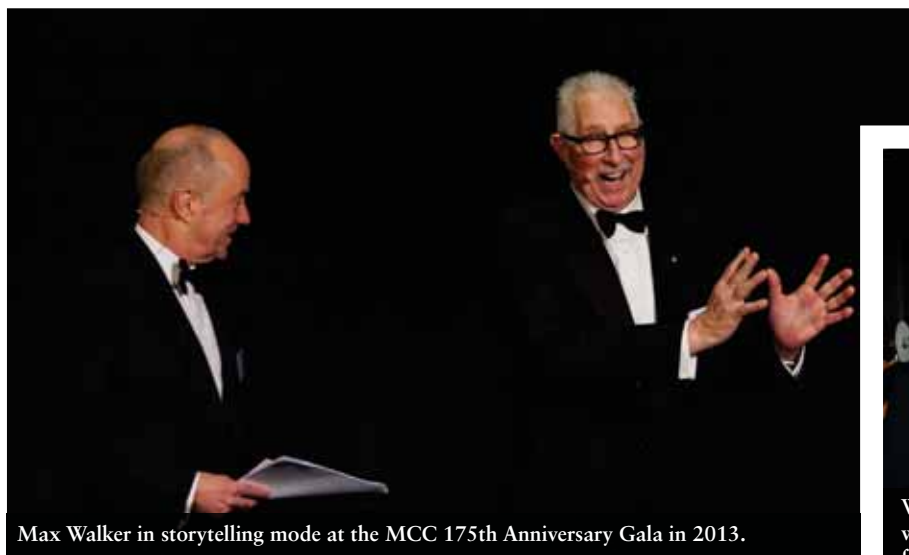
Many MCC members will recall Max's appearance on stage at The Bradman Luncheon in 2012 and the MCC 175th Anniversary Gala the following year. At the former, Max had the audience in stitches with his recollections of World

Series Cricket, which was especially topical because of the mini-series "Howzat!" screening at the time.

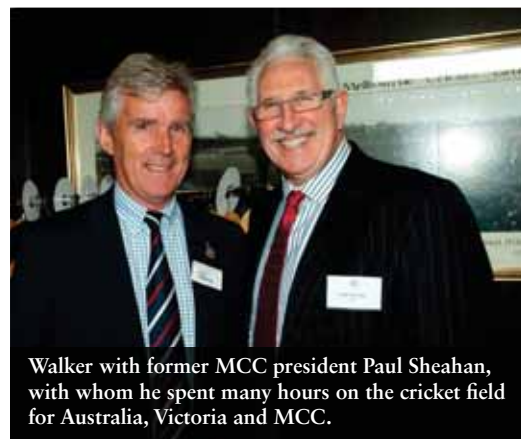
MCC president Steven Smith, whose own Melbourne FC playing career began the year after Max's football days at the Demons ended, said the lovable larrikin would be sorely missed.

"Max Walker has left an indelible mark on the sporting community over many decades," said Mr Smith. "A tireless contributor on the sporting field, we admired his passion for everything he put his mind to and enjoyed his many talents as an entertainer.

"On behalf of the MCC Committee and members of our club, I pass on my sincere condolences to Max's family. He will be sadly missed."



Max Walker in storytelling mode at the MCC 175th Anniversary Gala in 2013.



Walker with former MCC president Paul Sheahan, with whom he spent many hours on the cricket field for Australia, Victoria and MCC.

came his way late in the afternoon to break a stubborn partnership, after a day in the stinking heat, and Maxie would never let you down, whether it was for Ian Chappell in the Australian representative team or for whoever was captaining Melbourne at the time in club cricket. He never knew when to say "No" and he never tossed in the towel.

Ian Chappell tells me that Max and Jeff 'Bomber' Hammond were almost solely responsible for the 1973 Australian Test series victory over the West Indies on their home turf, when the two frontline quick men, Dennis 'Fot' Lillee and Bob 'Fergy' Massie, had both broken down: Massie before the series started and Lillee during the First Test. If ever there was a place to test your mettle it was the relentless heat of the West Indies. Never once did 'Tangles' complain and he finished the 5-Test series with a remarkable 26 wickets at the phenomenal average of 20.73 on the then flattest pitches in the world!

Behind the broadest grin in the world that gave the impression of artlessness lay a clever and calculating cricket brain that I

relied on often in my time as captain of his club side, and I'm sure it came to the fore when he was plotting the downfall of more credentialed foes as well! The fact that he 'morphed' into an entertaining corporate speaker and a writer of renown (not always of highly cerebral literature, I might add!) speaks volumes for his intelligence and understanding of his fellow humans.

"Behind the broadest grin in the world that gave the impression of artlessness lay a clever and calculating cricket brain..."

Sadly he didn't play more club cricket (due to international duties) because those who were not going to play with him at a higher level were denied the opportunity to learn from an astute cricket brain and a man who went to extraordinary lengths to pass on his knowledge and tactics to anyone prepared to learn.

He was a truly remarkable friend and colleague who probably did know how to 'kiss a crocodile' and 'hypnotise chooks' – and mix equally well with 'dingoes and dropkicks' – such were his charm and guile. I'm not sure whether it was hypnotism or mesmerising, but who could ever forget the day at the SCG in 1973 when he made the ball 'talk' in Pakistan's second innings? 'Tangles' bowled Australia to an improbable win by taking 6/15 (from 16 overs!), including the cream of the Pakistan line-up: Sadiq Mohammad, Zaheer Abbas, Majid Khan, Mushtaq Mohammad and Asif Iqbal.

Happily, most of Australia came to know his home-spun humour and magnetism through his career in the media post-career, and we were all the poorer when the powers-that-be removed him from our screens. We were the poorer then and we are certainly the poorer now ... he was what Aussies would describe as a 'great bloke'. In his own understated style, Richie might well have used the adjective 'marvellous'.

-Paul Sheahan

A new level of customer CARE at the 'G

Having identified an opportunity to focus on and strengthen our customer service throughout the stadium, the MCC launched its CARE at the 'G customer service program earlier this year to event staff and key partners.

At the centre of the program is a simple objective – to move from providing good customer service to great customer service, at every event, all year round.

Using feedback from members, patrons and staff about what is important from a customer's perspective, the club has identified four key behaviours that go a long way to shaping a customer's experience.

In short, this includes ensuring our staff are friendly and welcoming, that they show care and help those in need and take ownership to resolve a situation or problem and finally, have the required knowledge to be able to answer likely questions. With this philosophy in mind, CARE was born.

More than 950 MCC event staff and supervisors have participated in a tailored customer service training program throughout the recent AFL season. This has been a significant undertaking, but one that has been well worth it. Every staff member is now fully trained in the CARE customer service philosophy and has genuinely embraced the initiative; such is their pride and passion for both the club and the ground.

Another new concept – the MCC CARE squad - features roving, on-the-spot customer service staff. Their objective is to roam around the stadium, seeking out those who may need assistance either to find a seat, a gate or simply to know where particular amenities or facilities are located.

A range of additional tools and information has also been provided to each event staff member to assist them with their knowledge of the ground. Among them is a series of palm cards that are an easy reference with information regarding every



seating bay and the nearest facilities.

The CARE program is still in its infancy and has been a large focus during the recent AFL season. A CARE "Wall of Fame" has been introduced to share our customer feedback with our staff, which provides the club with a great way of recognising our staff for excellent service. We have also introduced a program to recognise our staff "in the moment" when we observe them caring for and helping customers.

"The club undertook a large amount of customer research during the AFL season, which helps us to understand what is working well, and equally, what can we continue to improve upon," said MCC general manager, people and culture, Donna Price. "These insights have been shared internally and a number of teams are working on future improvements based on customer suggestions for the year ahead."

During this cricket season, the focus on service will continue and will see the introduction of the next intake of event staff, all of which will be trained in CARE as part of their induction program. Our

partners, particularly Epicure, Securecorp and Event Aid - remain central to this program and have introduced the CARE philosophy into their training to ensure customers are receiving a consistent experience.

Whilst it remains a work in progress, we have seen some positive indicators. Customer service is the central pillar of the MCC's current strategic plan and it is with this in mind that this program will ultimately touch all parts of the club, from our event staff, permanent staff, volunteers, tour guides and our partners.

The CARE program is a three-year undertaking, sitting alongside other key projects such as embedding effective safety and security measures; and technology initiatives relating to speed of service, particularly with respect to food and beverage distribution. We hope that all members and visitors notice and experience our commitment to customer service when visiting the 'G.

Awards recognition welcome

The last 18 months has seen delivery of a number of important projects and events for the club and the MCG, and it has been pleasing to receive some recent industry recognition.

In addition to our environmental efforts (see opposite page), we have also earned accolades for our stadium technology upgrade, restaurant design, staff development program, delivery of major sporting events and the fan experience.

The Jim Stynes Grill, which has already proved very popular with members since opening in March, won

a silver medal in the hospitality interior design category at this year's Melbourne Design Awards.

The installation of a new IT network and WiFi at the MCG saw the MCC and its partner, Data and Electrical Solutions, win the BICSI South Pacific Excellence in ICT Infrastructure Installation award. The project also received a certificate of commendation in the National Electrical and Communications Association Excellence Awards.

At the Australian HR Awards, the MCC was a national finalist in the Best Learning and Development Program category, while

this year's global Stadium Business Awards saw the MCG named as a finalist in three categories – venue technology, fan experience and venue of the year.

MCC also received the Service Champion award at the Customer Service Institute of Australia Awards for its CARE at the 'G customer service program.

Finally, the MCG – together with TLA Worldwide and TEG Live – was a state winner and national finalist in the Best Sporting Event category at the Australian Event Awards, recognising the International Champions Cup match between Real Madrid and Manchester City that drew more than 99,000 fans to the 'G in July last year.

Recycling on a grand scale

A host of more than 90 major sporting events and 3.5 million visitors annually, it is no surprise that the MCG produces a lot of rubbish – from pie wrappers and plastic cups to cardboard packaging and food waste.

However, thanks to comprehensive waste recycling efforts, in 2016 alone the stadium has been able to divert more than 1377 tones of rubbish from landfill – this amounts to recycling 77.7 per cent of all waste created at the MCG, up from 60 per cent four years ago.

The MCC's commitment to recycling is managed via strict policies regarding the materials and products allowed to be brought into the stadium, and thorough waste segregation via 20 different streams – including glass, organics, soil and turf and soft plastics.

Last month, MCC was recognised for its achievements in sustainability, receiving the inaugural #SEA Change Solutions award at the Sports Environment Alliance summit in Melbourne.

As a founding member of the Sports Environment Alliance, the MCC has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to operating the MCG in an environmentally responsible manner.

Ongoing upgrades and efforts in water conservation, environmental protection, energy efficiency and waste management have significantly improved the stadium's

green credentials, and confirmed the MCG's standing as one of the most sustainable stadia in the world.

"We are very pleased to receive this recognition," said MCC facilities general manager, Peter Wearne. "It is a fantastic endorsement by leaders within our industry that the MCG's sustainability efforts are at the forefront of best practice.

"Beyond this accolade we are proud of the continued improvement of our recycling facilities at the MCG. "Approximately 10 years ago we were only recycling 10-15 percent of waste produced during events, so to now be above 75 per cent and rising is a great achievement."

The MCC remains at the forefront of water conservation, with the innovative underground water recycling facility housed outside the ground providing secure, long-term sustainable water supply to the heritage-listed Yarra Park and MCG.

Working in tandem with Siemens, the club has also completed a significant energy efficiency upgrade that has seen the MCG generate enough energy savings annually to power more than 835 houses for a year.

"We have a strong belief in the importance of operating the MCG in an environmentally responsible manner and we look forward to further improvements in the years to come," said Mr Wearne.



MCC facilities general manager, Peter Wearne (left), accepts the Sport Environment Alliance's inaugural SEA Change Solutions award that recognises the sustainability initiatives at the MCG.

Heart stopping story with a happy ending

The MCG's reputation as one of the safest places in Australia to have a heart attack was enhanced further on grand final day, with a Western Bulldogs fan still with us to tell his story.

Deep into the final quarter, with the Bulldogs poised to break their long-standing premiership drought, 64-year-old Rob McCarthy suffered a heart attack in his seat on Level 2 of the Great Southern Stand.

McCarthy was saved by off-duty paramedic Liam Moore, who performed CPR, with the assistance of nearby fans and Event Aid personnel on duty.

"I knew that when I got there he still had a pulse, we still had a chance," Moore said.

A defibrillator, which Event Aid teams carry with them at all times for exactly this scenario, was then used to shock McCarthy's heart into a normal rhythm. He was taken to hospital, where doctors performed life-saving surgery.

"Ironically my dad was saying throughout the day: 'If the Bulldogs win



'I'm going to have a heart attack'," said McCarthy's daughter, Bec Ross. "I think if he hadn't have been at the MCG he wouldn't have survived.

"The doctor said because the MCG is so well equipped with so much medical

equipment they were able to get to him and defibrillate him a lot quicker."

McCarthy thanked his rescuers for their help and is now using his story to push for the need for more defibrillators to be located in public places.

Payne's Cup feat honoured

Two exhibitions celebrating the significant achievements made by women in racing over the past century are now on display in the National Sports Museum at the MCG.

Prince of Penzance: Racing into History is a display in the museum's central orientation space, highlighting the 100-1 outsider's historic 2015 Melbourne Cup win.

Visitors can re-live the moment Michelle Payne became the first female jockey to win the great race. The Cup trophy is on display, along with Prince of Penzance's racing colours and saddle, and the strapper's bib worn by Stevie Payne.

In addition, *Women in Racing* is a new permanent exhibit in the Champions Gallery that pays tribute to the women who challenged convention and the social mores of their time to follow their passion in thoroughbred horse racing. Among the items featured are the helmet and riding boots worn by Michelle Payne during her Melbourne Cup triumph.

Payne said she was thrilled to be able to share her Cup victory with sporting fans and was also excited about the *Women in Racing* exhibition, which she believes will shine a spotlight on some of the racing industry's pioneering females.

"The last 12 months have been phenomenal" Payne said. "I have been so humbled by the world's reaction to the win and I am really excited to be able share the moment in such a special way."

The *Women in Racing* exhibition features some fascinating items from earlier times. Among them is the bookie's bag used in 1985 by Marita Hurry (Australia's first female licensed thoroughbred racing bookmaker), binoculars belonging to Victoria Shaw - this country's only female race caller - and the silks and whip used in 2003 Melbourne Cup by Clare Lindop, the first Australian woman to ride in a Melbourne Cup.



LEFT: The *Women in Racing* exhibition in the Champions Gallery. RIGHT: Prince of Penzance part-owner John Richards and strapper Stevie Payne with the 2015 Melbourne Cup and the *Racing into History* display in the National Sports Museum.

Sporting greats join hall of fame

A wealth of sporting talent and achievement gathered in the National Sports Museum on October 13 to celebrate their induction into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

Each inductee and Legend is featured in the Spirit of Sport gallery in the NSM, the home of SAHOF since the museum opened in 2008.

This year, jockey Michelle Payne received the Don Award for the most outstanding achievement in the previous 12 months, while rugby league icon Wally Lewis was elevated to Legend status. Included in

his display case is a biographical video showcasing Lewis' career and achievements, and the addition of his "Golden Boot" award.

The individual inductees this year were Emma Carney (triathlon), Kristy Ellis (surf live saving), Sharelle McMahon (netball), Malcolm Page (sailing), Libby Trickett (swimming), Harry Wells (rugby league), The Hon Bob Ellicott (administration) and Jack Newton (golf).

The inductees visited the NSM to view the SAHOF display and unveil their personal plaque in the gallery.



School holiday Olympic spirit

The week-long holiday activities program in the National Sports Museum from September 19-25 was a huge success, coming hot on the heels of the Rio Olympics.

Seven Australian Olympians visited the museum during the week, taking part in question and answer sessions and posing for photos with people of all ages. Among them were cyclist Shane Kelly, swimmer Lara Davenport, diver Annabelle Smith, table tennis' Trevor Brown, wrestler Albi Abdo and rowing pair Josh Booth and Francis Hegerty.

Also extremely popular were cartoon sessions with Paul Harvey, Mark Knight and Peter Nicholson, Footy Kids book readings with author Lorraine Wilson and a special visit from 1992 Melbourne Cup winning horse, Subzero.

Keep an eye out for more holiday fun from January 9-13. Details can be found at nsm.org.au.



The 2016 Sport Australia Hall of Fame inductees in the National Sports Museum. RIGHT: Sailing great Malcolm Page unveils his inductee plaque in the museum's Spirit of Sport gallery.

Aboriginal Boxing Day match remembered

This year's Boxing Day Test between Australia and Pakistan will honour the 150th anniversary of the 1866 match between the MCC and an Aboriginal XI.

An array of activities will take place to recognise the historical significance of the match in 1866, and celebrate the legacy left by that landmark Aboriginal cricket team.

A piece of commemorative artwork will be integrated into all celebrations associated with the 1866 match and the 1868 Aboriginal team that toured England. Walkabout Wickets was designed by Aboriginal artist Fiona Clarke, a descendent of the Kirrae Whurrong Clan in the Western District in Victoria. She is also a descendent of players from both the 1866 and 1868 Aboriginal teams.

Another commemorative activity will be the inaugural Mullagh-Wills Oration, the first to be delivered with a focus on the connection between historical events and the present, between cricket and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

MCC will host the oration, together with Cricket Australia and Victoria University, in the Jim Stynes Grill at the MCG on December 13. The oration will be co-delivered by 2009 Australian of the Year and advocate for Indigenous rights, Professor Mick Dodson AM, and Dr Greg

De Moore, author of Tom Wills and A National Game.

The oration is named in honour of Tom Wills, the former MCC secretary who captain-coached the Aboriginal XI in 1866, and Johnny Mullagh, the side's star all-rounder who later went on to captain the Aboriginal XI which toured England in 1868 – the first cricket team from Australia to tour internationally.

A very limited number of free tickets is available to MCC members who would like to attend this event. Please email membership@mcc.org.au to request a ticket, which will be issued on a first-in, first-served basis.

The event, which commences at 6.30pm, is being filmed and live streamed free of charge by Cricket Australia at cricketaustralia.com.au/150. Please visit this same web page after December 13 if you wish to view a recording of the oration.

Members and guests attending the Boxing Day Test will see a commemorative pre-match anthem ceremony and a customary Welcome to Country prior to the first ball.

The MCC Museum will also unveil a special display that reflects the historic MCC v Aboriginal XI Boxing Day match, featuring a ball presented to the MCC's WH Handfield "for his excellent bowling in the match".



From left: Artist Fiona Clarke, The Hon Natalie Hutchins, CA CEO James Sutherland and MCC president Steven Smith with the Indigenous painting commemorating the 1866 MCG match between MCC and an Aboriginal XI.

More than just a cricket match

An MCC Library exhibition explores in detail the MCC v Aboriginal XI match on December 26 and 27, 1866. Members are welcome to visit when next at the club and take in scorecards, photographs and other material relating to the historic match.

As Alf Batchelder recounts in his excellent club history Pavilions in the Park, a crowd of around 10,000 people watched on as the Aboriginal XI – captain-coached by Tom Wills (see team photo) - batted first and was dismissed for 39, with MCC honorary secretary WH Handfield taking seven wickets for five runs.

MCC replied with an even 100, captain Richard Wardill making 45 of them and Johnny Cuzens taking 6/24, with deliveries that rose 'well to the bails, with lots of spin and twist and every now and then shooting most dangerously.'



The Aborigines responded with 87. Wills was left undefeated on 25 and Johnny Mullagh produced an innings of 33 that was so highly regarded by the MCC members that they presented him with a new bat.

MCC scored the required 27 runs for victory with the loss of one wicket, "...after which a scratch match was

played between a team of black and white native-born Australians and an All Comers Eleven. On December 29, with the MCG 'as full as on any day of the cricket match', an athletics meeting was conducted on the field, providing another showcase for the Aborigines' skills.

Cricket menu has much to offer

A New Year's Day BBL blockbuster, a 50-over Trans Tasman match in early-December and a Twenty20 international in February are just some of the features of the 2016/17 schedule of cricket at the MCG.

MCC members and their guests will be able to witness three countries play Australia at the MCG this summer. New Zealand will play a one-day international on December 9, the first time the Black Caps have played at the MCG since their World Cup Final loss to Australia in March last year.

A talented Pakistan outfit will play in the Boxing Day Test, as well as a 50-over match on January 15, while Sri Lanka will play Australia in a Twenty20 clash on February 17 to round out our cricket season.

The marquee event of the BBL season will be the New Year's Day clash between Melbourne Stars and Melbourne Renegades. Last season, the two teams smashed the domestic cricket attendance record, with 80,883 watching the Stars triumph and we can expect a similar crowd this time around.

For the first time, MCC members are able to purchase reserved seats for BBL matches, in the same manner as for international fixtures. This reflects the growing popularity of the domestic T20 format, particularly the annual fixture between the two Melbourne teams.

Two of the four BBL matches – on January 1 and 10 – will be double headers, featuring a women's BBL clash earlier in the afternoon.

Visitor tickets and reserved seats to all MCG cricket matches are now on sale. A limit of four visitor tickets will apply to Full and Restricted members on all days except Day 1 of the Boxing Day Test, when there is a limit of two.

All other details pertaining to the cricket season, including access for Provisional members, can be found at mcc.org.au/cricket201617 or in the eight-page cricket guide now available to members.



2016/17 cricket at the MCG

Boxing Day Test

Australia v Pakistan (Dec 26-30)

One-Day Internationals

Australia v New Zealand (Dec 9)

Australia v Pakistan (Jan 15)

Twenty20 International

Australia v Sri Lanka (Feb 17)

T20 Big Bash League (men's)

Stars v Renegades (Jan 1)

Stars v Strikers (Jan 10)

Stars v Heat (Jan 17)

Stars v Sixers (Jan 21)

T20 Big Bash League (women's)

Stars v Renegades (Jan 1)

Stars v Strikers (Jan 10)

Sheffield Shield

Victoria v SA (Nov 26-29)

Victoria v NSW (Feb 1-4)

Melbourne Stars membership offer

After a very popular debut last summer, the Melbourne Stars are again offering a unique MCC membership upgrade for this season's BBL tournament.

The package, available to all categories of MCC members, includes invitations to special events, ticketed access to the Etihad Stadium derby on January 7 and a membership pack. You can also choose between receiving a comfortable seat cushion or a Stars member carry bag.

Only 500 of these memberships (cost is \$45) are available, so don't miss out on this strictly limited offer.

Whether you have renewed your MCC membership for the current season or are still do so, you can buy your MCC Stars membership by logging in to the MCC website and using your seven-digit reference number.

With the Stars men's lineup containing names such as Kevin Pietersen (pictured), Peter Handscomb, James Faulkner, Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis, along with Australian captain Meg Lanning and Jess Cameron headlining the women's team, let's hope the MCG-based sides can each take home a BBL title.



Guns N' Roses to rock the 'G

After an eight-year hiatus, the MCG will return to concert mode when US hard rock band Guns N' Roses takes to the stage on Tuesday February 14.

The tour will mark the first time that founder Axl Rose and former members, Slash and Duff McKagan have played together for Australian fans since their infamous 1993 Use Your Illusion tour.

While there is no MCC Reserve for this event, MCC members were given an opportunity to purchase tickets before the public in a priority pre-sale from August 25-26. Members who didn't purchase during the priority pre-sale can still obtain tickets in the public sale, subject to availability.

The club also made available two entertainment packages for MCC members – dining in the Jim Stynes Room and a cocktail function in the Frank Grey Smith Bar.

While both of these functions sold out, due to overwhelming demand we have expanded the cocktail party offering into the Members Dining Room. For \$265 per



person, which includes your concert ticket and seating on Level 2, members and up to four guests will be able to enjoy a two-hour grazing-style menu and drinks package.

Only a limited number of cocktail party packages remained available as we went to print. To book, or to ascertain availability, please visit mcc.org.au.

Music event a winner with fans

The versatility of the MCG has few peers and its reputation was enhanced further when it hosted a mini music festival on November 13.

Part of City of Melbourne's Melbourne Music Week, the Love Live Music event was an MCC initiative designed to demonstrate the venue's flexibility and attract new visitors to the stadium.

More than 1000 fans took in the 'G like few before them, moving between performances from 17 local acts in nine locations around the venue. Some of the more popular included the player change

rooms, Robert Flower Terrace, STUMPS Tavern, Tower 6 and Frank Grey Smith Bar.

The lineup featured a mix of Melbourne musicians playing everything from acoustic tunes and smooth jazz to upbeat pop and indie rock. Among them were The Delta Riggs, Pierce Brothers, Woodlock, The Pretty Littles, The Vanns, Masco Sound System, Coby Grant, The Higgs and Reuben Stone.

Those who attended had a very enjoyable Sunday session at the 'G, and we have plenty of ideas to make the event even better next time around. Stay tuned.

Mark your diaries: AFL 2017 schedule

The AFL released its 2017 home and away fixture in October, with a greater emphasis on Saturday afternoons at the MCG among the more notable features.

The MCG will host 46 matches, the same number as last season, starting with tripleheaders in the opening two rounds.

A Carlton v Richmond clash kicks the season off on Thursday March 23, the first of two Thursday night matches in the opening two rounds.

The following evening, reigning premier Western Bulldogs opens its flag defence against Collingwood, before a rejuvenated Essendon rounds out a busy 48 hours at the 'G when it takes on Hawthorn on Saturday March 25.

Marquee matches on Easter Monday, Queen's Birthday, Anzac Day, Anzac Eve and Dreamtime at the 'G have all been retained.

Richmond will play 11 matches at the MCG, down from 14 last season. Fans of Collingwood (14 games), Melbourne (12), Hawthorn (11) and Carlton (10) will also see plenty of action at the home of football.

Detailed arrangements for the 2017 AFL season, including access for Provisional members as well as visitor ticket on-sale dates, will be confirmed early in the New Year.



Images courtesy of Lucinda Goodwin



Emotions run high as footy fairytale comes true

The 2016 AFL Grand Final was a memorable occasion, as the majority of the football community – those who don't support the Sydney Swans - shared in the joy of a history-making day at the 'G.

There was barely a dry eye in the house come 5.00pm on Saturday October 1, as the final siren at the MCG delivered the Western Bulldogs' first premierships in 62 years, defeating the highly fancied Sydney Swans by 22 points.

Such a fairytale seemed just that only a few weeks earlier, as an injury-hit Bulldogs strived to become the first club to win the flag from seventh position at the end of the home and away rounds. The 13.11 (89) to 10.7 (67) grand final scoreline was its fourth finals win in succession and ended the longest-running premierships drought among current AFL teams – and Melbourne fans need little reminder of who now holds that unwanted mantle.

In a seesawing struggle that had the crowd on the edge of their seats all afternoon, the Bulldogs led by eight points

at the final change. Twice the Swans closed to within one point in a thrilling final quarter, before Liam Picken kicked truly on the run at the 17-minute mark that put the Dogs seven points up. However, it wasn't until Tom Boyd's 55-metre goal four minutes later that the Bulldogs looked home with a 15-point lead.

Picken added another major five minutes later to seal the Bulldogs' victory. It triggered emotional scenes everywhere you looked inside the 'G and at the Whitten Oval, where thousands of long-time Bulldogs fans who were unable to attend the game celebrated together.

For the victors, Norm Smith medallist Jason Johannisen provided dash off half-back all afternoon, while GWS recruit Boyd was influential, kicking three goals and taking some strong contested marks in

the vital third quarter. Josh Kennedy, Tom Mitchell and Dane Rampe were the Swans' best.

After the match, Bulldogs coach Luke Beveridge made the magnanimous gesture of presenting his premierships medal to injured captain and spiritual leader, Robert Murphy. It was one of the more memorable moments seen at the MCG in recent times – and that's saying something.

For the second year running, the MCG was central to the build up to the match during the week, thanks to the AFL's Foxtel Footy Festival in Yarra Park and the grand final parade, which finished outside MCG Gate 3 in Yarra Park. These events attracted healthy crowds and demonstrated the versatility of the parkland on the stadium's doorstep.

The following morning, several thousand



MCC Full members took their place in the rain outside Gate 2 to queue for walk-up seating in the Reserve to see the big match. The club had announced early in grand final week that it would review the walk-up numbers of Full members and guest cardholders before determining whether Restricted members would be afforded access. After the initial queue cleared and the morning unfolded, it was felt the Members Reserve would reach capacity without the need to sell entry tickets to Restricted members. So it was that the final ground attendance of 99,981 featured an MCC Reserve right on its capacity, with performers Vance Joy,

Living End and Sting providing the perfect lead-in to the main event. It was the last grand final on CEO Stephen Gough's watch, and it was a beauty. On the Sunday after the grand final, around 25,000 people flocked to MCG Open Day, taking the rare opportunity to go behind the scenes at Australia's favourite stadium, including a kick on the turf and a peek inside the changerooms. Bulldogs fan or not, it capped off a memorable grand final weekend.



Hockey's unsung hero gets his due

Long-time player and administrator Brian Lane was recognised for his lifelong contribution to MCC hockey at the Sporting Sections Annual Dinner on November 16, where he was the recipient of the prestigious Hans Ebeling Award.

Perpetuating the memory of one of the MCC's greatest contributors, the Hans Ebeling Award was introduced in 1981 to honour those who have given outstanding service to our Sporting Sections. Brian's achievements and tireless efforts make him more than a worthy winner.

On the field, Brian's involvement has spanned 40 years, starting with his junior days in 1976 before progressing into senior ranks in 1984. Since then, he has played more than 450 matches and is still going strong.

However, in an era where it is increasingly difficult to attract and retain volunteers, it is Brian's off-field service to the MCC Hockey Section in a variety of roles that merits recognition.

After two years as men's hockey secretary (1992-93) he acted as junior treasurer from 1995 to 1997, starting a 20-year role in the junior section. In that time, he has played an active role in developing introductory programs for players aged 5-12, including establishing HookIn2Hockey and pathway programs to enable young players to develop their skills and progress through to Hockey Victoria competitions.

Not content with guiding the next generation of hockey players, he also served as men's treasurer for 11 years (1997 to 2008), as well as the past seven years as section treasurer. He has also served on the Hockey Section Committee for the past 13



MCC president Steven Smith with 2016 Hans Ebeling Award recipient, Brian Lane. **BELOW:** A roll call of previous Hans Ebeling Award winners at the MCC Sporting Sections Annual Dinner in November.



years, and since 2001 has been an integral part of the working relationship between MCC Hockey Section and the management committee at Melbourne High School, our hockey home ground.

His hockey peers have doled out several accolades over the years in recognition of his efforts. Among them are the Trevor King

Trophy (1996), O'Sullivan-Stevens Trophy (1997 and 2008) and David Pettit Trophy (2003), before being awarded Hockey Section Life membership in 2012.

Brian can now add to his collection one of the highest honours the MCC bestows, and one that he thoroughly deserves.

Junior hockey players wanted

It would be remiss of us to acknowledge the efforts of Brian Lane (see above) without raising awareness about the opportunities for children to give hockey a try at MCC.

The MCC Hockey Section is seeking interest from boys and girls aged 4-10 in taking part in its HookIn2Hockey program in February and March next year.

The eight-week program will be held each Saturday morning from 9.00am-10.00am at Melbourne High School in South Yarra, commencing on February 11. Alternative sessions

on Wednesday evenings are also available for those who can't attend on the weekend.

The program is a great introduction to hockey in a safe, non-competitive atmosphere with the emphasis on involvement, skill development and fun. Children are grouped by age, size and ability – and don't fear if you miss the first session; you can join the program in any week.

A "come and try" session is being held on Saturday February 4 from 9.00am, which will allow your child to have a taste of what MCC junior hockey is all about.

To find out more about HookIn2Hockey or to register your interest, please contact John Hooper on jghooper@hockey.net.au or 0416 185 005. Further details are also available at mcchockey.org.



Baggy green in Tremain's sights

Consistent performances at Sheffield Shield level from MCC paceman Chris Tremain have raised the prospect of earning higher honours in the long form of the game.

The 25-year-old tall fast bowler made his first-class debut for NSW against Victoria in 2012. He joined Victoria, and MCC, in 2014 after limited opportunities with the Blues.

Tremain has started the current Shield season in sparkling form, taking 16 wickets at 14.56 while helping the Bushrangers to victory in its first three matches of the season.

With Australian cricket commencing a self-declared rebuild, Tremain is one of several younger players to have been mentioned as possible Test inclusions as the summer unfolds.

The national selectors clearly have their eyes on him, having granted him his one-day international debut on the tour to South Africa in October, where he took seven wickets in four matches. Former MCC paceman Dan Worrall was also chosen to make his debut in that series.

Tremain is just one of several MCC players to have earned representative selection as the new Premier Cricket season got underway.

Fellow quickie Jackson Coleman made his Victorian limited overs debut in a Matador Cup match in October, while four MCC players – Coleman, Seb Gotch, Sam Harper and Blake Thomson – acquitted themselves well in a Victorian XI v South Africa match on the MCG in November.

Batsman Patrick Rowe was selected in the Cricket Australia XI to play in this year's under 19 national championships in Adelaide, following his performances at the under 17 carnival in Queensland.

In Premier Cricket, some patchy weather in the early rounds of the season has contributed to a slow start for our men's teams. After seven rounds, our First XI sits outside the eight with three wins, two washout draws and two losses. The best performers thus far are batsmen Gotch (204 runs at 68.00), Matthew Brown (302 runs at 60.40) and Thomson (237 runs at 59.25),

while Pat Smith is our leading wicket taker with eight.

Our women's teams are in much better early-season form. The First XI is on top of the ladder with four wins from five matches, as is our undefeated women's Premier Reserve team.

In the women's First XI, Amy Vine has scored 269 runs at 67.25 and Hayley Jensen 186 runs at 93.00. Natalie Plane has taken 11 wickets at 11.00, ably supported by Jensen and Tegan Orwin, with eight and six wickets respectively.



Chris Tremain in action for Australia in the one-day series in South Africa. BELOW: Natalie Plane has been in good early season form for the MCC.



Jessica Graham with MCC Squash Section chairman Peter Wright at the section's annual dinner in October.

Our young squash gun

MCC Squash Section member Jessica Graham has shown she is a name to remember, winning the under 19 Australian Girls Championship in Sydney.

The 17-year-old Graham claimed the title after winning a gruelling five-game encounter with South Australian Lauren Aspinall, 6-11, 13-11, 3-11, 11-8, 11-3.

"It was a great match and it was really good for all the hard work I had put in before hand; it was just an incredible feeling," Graham said afterwards. "I've never been one to stop running in a match, so I was just going to keep fighting for every single ball."

Graham's successful campaign at the national championships came on the back of representing Australia at the 2016 World Junior Squash Championships in Poland in August. One to watch for the future.

Anyone for tennis?

As we reported in our previous edition, the MCC Tennis Section has relocated to new facilities in Mount Waverley after merging with Glen Iris Tennis Club to form MCC Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club.

The first-class amenities at 260 High Street Road in Mount Waverley include 12 en-tout-cas courts, members' bar, function room, barbecue facilities, large viewing balcony and views of Riversdale Golf Course. The club provides opportunities for players of all ages and abilities to enjoy the game. There is a wide range of social

tennis options, as well as competition teams from juniors to the highest level of club competition in Australia.

MCC members are invited to join the MCC Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club. Benefits include competition play, court access for social play and access to member facilities. There is a variety of membership options available.

For more details, please visit mccglenirisvalley.org.au or contact (03) 9807 7755.



Ted wins lacrosse scholarship



The MCC Lacrosse Section has struck an award in honour of the late Rob Pettit, a long-time section secretary and life member of the Victorian Lacrosse Association.

Ted Jowett is the recipient of the inaugural Rob Pettit Junior Scholarship, given to a junior who shows true MCC spirit and dedication to their sport. A Year 7 student at St Michael's Grammar, Ted receives two pieces of lacrosse equipment as part of the scholarship, which also gives him an invaluable window into the world of professional lacrosse.

Ted is pictured here with Lacrosse Section coach, Alex Fagan, receiving his scholarship at the MCC Lacrosse Section end of season dinner at the MCG.

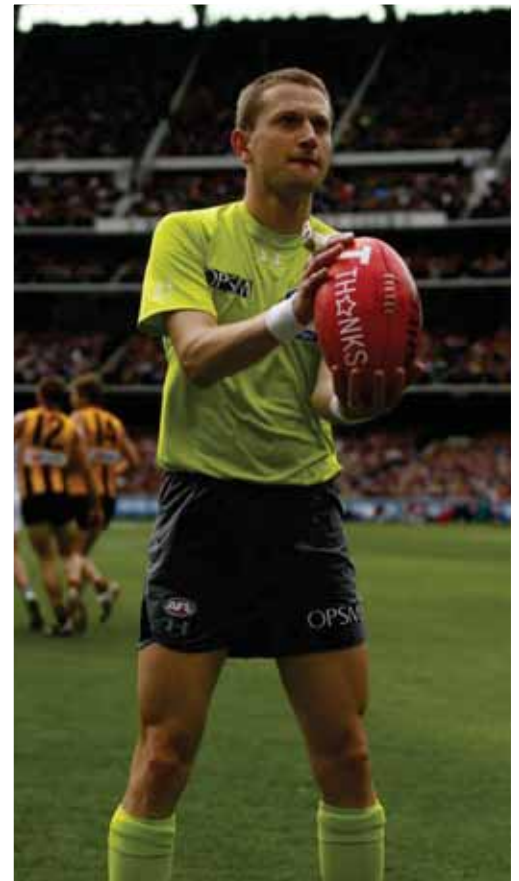
Quiet achiever on footy's big day

One of the challenges for a club as large as the MCC is keeping abreast of notable achievements of our members, whether that be in sport or any other field of endeavour. It was therefore, with much delight, that we were informed that MCC member Robert Haala played a significant role at the AFL Grand Final.

The 34-year-old Haala officiated as a boundary umpire in the Bulldogs' win over the Swans, his third grand final in the past five years. He was also named AFL Umpires Association Boundary Umpire of the Year in 2006 and 2007.

An MCC member for the past 15 years, Haala made his AFL boundary umpiring debut in 2004 and has notched up 285 games, patrolling the outer edge of the playing field with minimum fuss or fanfare.

To be selected to umpire the AFL Grand Final is a tremendous achievement, recognition from his peers that he is at the top of his game. Well done, Robert.



Shooter on target

MCC Target Shooting Section member Alexis Preston was part of Australia's winning World Universal Trench Championships ladies team in Morocco. The 16-year-old is pictured (right) with teammates Amanda Holt and Anna Shedrina after their triumph, during which they hit an impressive 564 of 600 targets.



A new frontier for women's footy

A group of MCC members will be front and centre in the next evolution of women's sport when they take the field for their respective teams in the AFL Women's League early next year. At least five members have been selected by AFL clubs for the inaugural season, which will be played around Australia in February and March - Meg Hutchins and Penny Cula-Reid (Collingwood); Ellie Brush and Phoebe McWilliams (GWS GIANTS) and Lauren Morecroft (Western Bulldogs).

The AFL's step into professional female sport follows the lead taken by sports such as hockey, cricket and netball and represents a major opportunity for women to fulfil ambitions that hitherto seemed unattainable. And for all five MCC women, it has been quite a wait to reach the big time.

Hutchins, a six-time All Australian who has also been appointed Collingwood's full-time women's operations manager, was one who doubted this opportunity would arise during her playing days with Victorian Women's Football League club Eastern Devils.

"It has always been a dream to play in an AFL-sanctioned competition," the 34-year-old said. "I was always privileged to represent Victoria at a national carnival, but the dream of playing for an AFL team was never on my mind, as it was never an option.

"This changed once the exhibition series (between Melbourne and Western Bulldogs) was introduced in 2013 - mainly due to the hard work of Debbie Lee, Susan Alberti and many more amazing people with the vision and determination to make this happen."

For McWilliams, 31, being involved in the AFL women's competition means a temporary relocation to Sydney for five months while she trains and plays with the GIANTS. The key position player, and former MCC staff member, has been a mainstay at St Kilda Sharks for 10 years, represented Victoria four times and achieved All Australian honours. She will now bring her experience to a developing football region.

"The AFL needs players to move to New South Wales to strengthen the talent in the region, as generally NSW is seen as a weaker state compared to Victoria and Western Australia," said McWilliams. "As a senior player, being part of a young and developing side really appealed to me and



MCC members Meg Hutchins (Collingwood), Lauren Morecroft (Western Bulldogs), Phoebe McWilliams (GWS GIANTS) and Penny Cula-Reid (Collingwood) will take part in the inaugural AFL Women's League early next year.

as soon as I met the girls I knew I had made the right decision.

"Every female footballer who has been chosen would say that this is an absolute dream come true," she said. "We have been given an opportunity to play football as a semi-professional career. I just want to absorb as much as I can from the GIANTS program, give it my absolute all and play good football."

Cula-Reid, who captains McWilliams at St Kilda Sharks, will play alongside Hutchins at Collingwood - the club she barracks for - after her name was called late in the draft.

It is not the first-time the 28-year-old has been a trailblazer for women's football,

Almost 15 years ago, as a schoolgirl, she went to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and effectively forced AFL Victoria to create a youth girls competition after being told she could no longer play with the boys.

"When I look back and see what we were able to achieve just by sticking up for ourselves, it does make me happy," she told Port Phillip Leader after being drafted. "It's an honour, quite humbling, when people say I've been some sort of pioneer or role model."

The 29-year-old Morecroft is a tough, uncompromising defender who plays for Diamond Creek in the VWFL. A lifelong Melbourne supporter, she was drafted to the Western Bulldogs in the 2014 AFL Women's Draft and played against the Demons in that

year's exhibition match.

In 2015 she found herself in red and blue and, now, is back in the Bulldogs colours again, where she will build on her reputation as one of the competition's best shut-down players.

The final member of the quintet, Ellie Brush, featured prominently in the previous edition of *MCC News* magazine. The 28-year-old plays for Canberra United in Australia's W-League and, in the off season, plied her trade for Houston Dash in the National Women's Soccer League in the USA. She is one of many multi-talented females who will be emboldened by the opportunity presented by the AFL Women's League.

There is much excitement and anticipation around what this new competition will bring. Hutchins is one who can already see the bigger picture.

"I am really looking forward to seeing how many more females, families, and young girls come along to the games," she said. "This league is going to be amazing in creating systemic, long-term change in female sport, equality and empowerment.

"Young girls growing up now have realistic role models that they can aspire to be like. They will see that being fit, strong, active and healthy is so much better than being "skinny and beautiful" like models."

We wish our girls well in the new league. Keep an eye out for them when the action kicks off in early February.



Bradman Luncheon delivers as function season hits its stride

The winter and spring period traditionally brings a multitude of entertaining functions for members and guests to enjoy, and this year was no exception.

First up was the VRC/MCC Recognition Raceday Event on July 23 in the Champagne Bar at Flemington, thanks to the strong relationship with our reciprocal club.

The Bradman Luncheon on August 25 was another outstanding affair, held to honour Australia's greatest cricketer.

Opera Trust scholar Jonathan Wilson was accompanied by Opera Australia soprano, Hannah Dahlenburg, to perform the first Queen of the Night aria from *The Magic Flute*. They later returned for a rendition of *The Waltz Song* from *Romeo and Juliet*.

In his welcome, MCC vice-president Stephen Spargo highlighted the history of The Bradman Luncheon, now in its 16th year. He reflected on the first luncheon in 2001 - the year of Bradman's death - and the subdued promotion, which stated that it would be "a memorable occasion for cricket lovers with the intention of becoming an

annual event celebrating his cricketing life and achievements." Mission accomplished.

Master of ceremonies Gerard Whateley then held court on stage with MCC Test cricketer Brad Hodge, who spoke about his playing commitment to the Adelaide Strikers in the Big Bash League and what his future may hold. Coaching holds some appeal, he said, but the sacrifices it takes are big, including being taken away from family.

Our keynote speaker, former Australian all-rounder Doug Walters, entertained with a collection of amusing stories and anecdotes, as only the boy from Dungog can. He recalled his first meeting with Bradman when The Don was chairman of selectors, noting that Bradman couldn't remember Walters' name!

Walters noted that the teams of today miss out on some of the experiences that were shared when he played, such as travelling together, sharing rooms, associating at the bar, getting to know teammates and doing things as a team. He spoke about many of his amusing experiences whilst being on tour.

The final word came from Tom Bradman, grandson of Sir Donald. He read a text from his father John, who was unable to attend, saying The Bradman Luncheon is a special and enjoyable occasion to their family. He noted that Sir Donald would be touched that his life was being celebrated and remembered in this way.

Four days earlier, more than 150 members and guests attended a luncheon for dual MFC/MCC members in the Hans Ebeling Room prior to the Carlton-Melbourne match on August 21.

Several former Melbourne players were among the audience, and anticipation among members was high as the Demons needed to win to keep faint finals hopes alive. It was not to be, however, as the Blues won an uninspiring clash by 20 points.

The MCC Young Members Club held a Scotch Malt Whisky Appreciation Evening in the Long Room on August 18. This very popular event was again hosted by the Scotch Malt Whisky Society and involved tasting some of the finest and rarest single cask malts in the world.



The scotch tasting was followed shortly after by a Young Members' Ball on September 3, themed 'Old Hollywood Glamour'.

Welcomed on the red carpet by 'Marilyn Monroe', more than 350 members and guests enjoyed pre-dinner drinks and canapés in the Long Room before heading into the Members Dining Room which was styled in glamorous gold, sparkling black and twinkling crystal.

Guests enjoyed two songs from 'Marilyn', including the famous 'Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend'. Later, there was a buzz about the room when the social media photo area opened, with photos captured and converted into an instant animated file ready to share on social media.

After dining on a Hollywood-inspired menu, guests hit the dance floor and partied hard to a wide selection of tunes played by the band Radio Star.

As the AFL Finals Series got underway, an intimate group of 50 diners enjoyed a unique dining experience in the MCG Culinary Centre on September 14. This was the second consecutive year that our hospitality partner, EPICURE, has opened up its kitchen to allow members and guests to savour delicious fare and speak to the chefs in intimate surrounds. Expect to see it on the menu again in 2017.

As Sydney and Western Bulldogs prepared for their grand final battle on the first Saturday in October, a big week of functions was in full swing at the MCG.

The 24th Sporting Sections Grand Final Week Luncheon was held on Monday September 26 and was again hosted by popular duo Ian Cover and Tony Leonard. West Coast Eagles coach Adam Simpson provided a fascinating insight into the world of AFL coaching, demonstrating why he is so highly regarded among his peers.

That evening, the 11th edition of the annual Brownlow Dinner with the Coodabeens again proved to be one of the club's most popular events. More than 480 attendees packed the Members Dining Room as the Coodabeens brought their usual wit, humour and song. Pictured at right is our "Brownlow medallist", Jeffrey Greening.

Finally, our Women of the MCC special interest group held a function in the Committee Room on October 20 to recognise the contributions made by elite female athletes, in particular our Olympians.

Several Olympians from yesteryear were in attendance, as were four who competed in Rio - women's eight cox Sarah Banting, backstroker Belinda Hocking, Paralympic table tennis player Barak Mizrachian and rowing men's coxless fours silver medallist Josh Dunkley-Smith.



All eyes on the big screen this summer

Cinema at the 'G, presented by Bank of Melbourne, will return to the stadium next February after a very successful debut earlier this year.

On February 24 and 25 next year, up to 2000 people on each night will be watching a movie on the giant scoreboard screens while sitting on the MCG turf. If feedback from past attendees is any guide, moviegoers will be in for a unique and memorable experience.

While ticket prices had not been finalised before we went to print, we can confirm that the movies screening will be the highly anticipated Australian film *Lion* (February 24 – starring Nicole Kidman) and *Sully* (February 25), which is directed by Clint Eastwood and stars Tom Hanks.

MCC members will be given a pre-sale opportunity through the Eventopia website on December 12, before the public is able to



purchase tickets from December 14. It's the ideal date night or Christmas present.



T20 action for young members

The MCC Young Members Club will host its annual cricket function at the final MCG cricket match of the summer when Australia takes on Sri Lanka in a Twenty20 international on Friday February 17.

All bookings include finger food and drinks in the Hans Ebeling Room, as well as a reserved seat on Level 2 to watch the cricket. For those members who can get to the ground early, the Southern Stars will play New Zealand in a women's T20 prior to the men's match.

Full and Restricted members may each bring up to four guests to the function, while the limit for Provisional members is two.

Please note that tickets to this function do

not admit guests to the ground. Members should pre-purchase their visitor ticket requirements for guests as it cannot be guaranteed they will be available on the day.

Dress code is smart casual, collared shirt. No denim and no sneakers. Bookings open on January 10. For further details, please visit mcc.org.au.



YOUNG MEMBERS' CRICKET FUNCTION

WHEN	Friday February 17, 2017
TIME	7.00pm (men's match stars 7.30pm)
WHERE	Hans Ebeling Room
BOOK	Opens January 10

YOUR FUNCTIONS CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	FUNCTION	BOOKINGS OPEN	VENUE
Wednesday	December 7	New 50-Year Members' Luncheon	N/A	Members Dining Room
Tuesday	December 13	Members' Dinner	Book now	Members Dining Room
Sunday	December 25	Christmas Day Luncheon	SOLD OUT	Members Dining Room/Long Room
Monday	December 26	Boxing Day Breakfast	SOLD OUT	Members Dining Room
Tuesday	December 27	Women in Cricket Test Breakfast	Book now	Members Dining Room
Thursday	January 26	Australia Day Luncheon	Book now	Long Room
Tuesday	February 7	Members' Golf Day	January 3	Kingston Heath Golf Club
Thursday	March 9	Women in Wine	January 24	Long Room
Tuesday	February 14	Guns N' Roses concert cocktail party	Book now	Members Dining Room
Friday	February 17	Young Members' Cricket Function	January 10	Hans Ebeling Room
Wednesday	March 22	MCG Footy Season Launch Luncheon	February 14	Members Dining Room

Encore for Coney at Members' Dinner

Former New Zealand captain and one of cricket's most popular and entertaining after-dinner speakers, Jeremy Coney MBE, is our guest speaker at this year's Members' Dinner on Tuesday December 13.

Coney is arguably the most popular and entertaining speaker in the dinner's 23-year history, having delivered an outstanding address back in 2001. He now has the distinction of being the first speaker to come back for an encore performance.

The multi-talented Coney is an anecdotal raconteur extraordinaire. An achiever both academically and in sport, as well as having worked on radio and television, he has a wide and interesting range of experiences from which to draw.

Jeremy played 52 Tests for New Zealand from 1974 to 1987, including three years as captain (1984-87). A technically correct batsman, steady medium-pacer and fine slips fielder, he scored 2688 Test runs at 37.57 and also played 88 one-day internationals.

He famously arrived at the MCG in December 1973 for 12th man duties, the biggest occasion of his cricketing career to that point, minus a pair of boots. Dispatched to the city, legend has it that he returned with the footwear – plus a guitar!

Jeremy's love of music and drama were recognised in 1989 when he played the lead role of Dexter Haven in the Australasian



premiere of *High Society*, a hit musical set in the 1950s.

Hosted by Tim Lane, this prestigious, black-tie evening is open only to MCC members. Tickets cost \$135 per member, which includes canapes on arrival and a three-course meal with fine wines and beverages.

A limited number of spaces was still available at the time of going to print. Bookings can be made online at mcc.org.au/membersdinner.



MEMBERS' DINNER

WHEN	Tuesday December 13
TIME	6.45pm for 7.30pm
WHERE	Members Dining Room
COST	\$135 per member

'Buck' Rogers pads up on Day 2

The Boxing Day Test is fast approaching and with that comes two highly entertaining breakfast functions at the MCG during the Test.

Demand for the Boxing Day Breakfast was so strong that all tickets were sold within 48 hours of going on sale on November 8.

There is still space available, though, for the Women in Cricket Test Breakfast on Day 2 of the Test in the Members Dining Room on Tuesday December 27. Bookings are being taken online at mcc.org.au/day2breakfast.

The breakfast will once again be hosted by Angela Pippas, and our special guest is recently retired Australian opening batsman, Chris Rogers (pictured).

Rogers, a West Australian who moved to Victoria late in his career, played 24 Tests between 2013 and 2015, having earlier played one Test in 2008 against

India. He scored 2015 runs at 42.87, with five centuries, including a second-innings Ashes hundred at the MCG during the 2013 Boxing Day Test.

Forthright and articulate, Rogers' views on the game and his experiences will be fascinating. With the recent release of his autobiography, *Bucking the Trend*, there will be much to discuss.

The breakfast package includes a sit-down breakfast, full beverage service and a reserved seat on Level 2 of the Members Reserve to watch the cricket.

Full and Restricted members may bring up to four guests (of either gender), but will need to ensure they pre-purchase visitor tickets, as a function booking does not admit guests into the Members Reserve.

Note: This function is not open for booking by Provisional members, as their card is not eligible to enter the Reserve on Day 2 of the Test.



WOMEN IN CRICKET TEST BREAKFAST

WHEN	Tuesday December 27
TIME	7.30am for 9.30am
WHERE	Members Dining Room
COST	\$85 (member) \$95 (guests)

Celebrate our national day

The annual Australia Day Luncheon will again be held in the Long Room next year as MCC members and their guests celebrate our national day in fine style.

Now in its 12th year, the function has grown to become an anticipated event on the members' calendar. Guest speakers have included Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Ron Barassi, Sir Arvi Parbo, Major General Michael Jeffery, Ron Clarke, John Bertrand, Les Carlyon, Raelene Boyle and last year's guest, The Hon Frank Vincent QC (pictured).

The Australia Day Luncheon includes a keynote speaker, musical entertainment and a three-course meal with beer, wine and soft drinks. Members of all categories can each bring up to nine guests.

Bookings opened on November 22 and will be accepted on a first-in, first-served basis via the club website or in person at the club office.



AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON	
WHEN	Thursday January 26
TIME	12.00pm for 12.30pm
WHERE	Long Room
COST	\$95 (members) \$105 (guests)



Tee off at Members' Golf Day

Members should mark their calendars for the next MCC golf day scheduled for Tuesday February 7 at Kingston Heath Golf Club.

The package includes green fee, light pre-round refreshments and gourmet barbeque and beverages at the conclusion of the round. There will also be prizes on offer, as well as the awarding of the President's Cup.

Online bookings for this rare opportunity to experience one of Australia's premier golf courses will

be accepted from Tuesday January 3 on a first-in, first-served basis.

The event is open to MCC members of all categories, provided they hold a club, VGA or WGV official handicap. Members wishing to play together must book together.

MEMBERS' GOLF DAY	
WHEN	Tuesday February 7
TIME	1.00pm
WHERE	Kingston Heath Golf Club
COST	\$195 (members)



Women in Wine returns

The Women of the MCC special interest group warmly invites all members and their guests to attend the 11th annual Women in Wine Function in the Long Room on Thursday March 9 from 6.00pm. Jo Marsh, of Billy Button Wines, will be presenting a range of her outstanding wines. A Wine Society Young Winemaker of the Year winner, Jo forged her winemaking career at Seppelt Great Western and Feathertop Wines, before branching out to create

wines under her own label – Billy Button Wines - on Alpine Valleys turf.

Jo's premium wines will be matched with a delicious range of tasting plates from the talented chefs at Epicure. As a bonus, Jo will be offering her wines for sale on the night at very favourable prices.

Bookings open on Tuesday January 24 at 9.00am. Further details will be available on mcc.org.au early in the New Year.



Off and racing

One of the many benefits of MCC membership is our reciprocal partnership with the Victoria Racing Club (VRC).

MCC members, along with up to four guests, may access the Members' Enclosure at Flemington for selected VRC-hosted race meetings during the 2016/17 season (please refer to table). Access to the enclosure is not applicable for any other VRC racedays.

MCC members and their guests must pay the admission fee to the

racecourse of \$12 (\$15 for public holiday meetings, excluding Melbourne Cup Day) and then proceed to the Raceday and Ticketing Office to obtain Members' Enclosure ticketing.

Upon presentation of your photo ID membership card, MCC members can obtain a complimentary Members' Enclosure pass and purchase passes (\$25 each) for up to four guests.

VRC members' dress regulations apply and these can be viewed at vrc.net.au.

MCC member access at Flemington

2016

Saturday December 10	Western Health Community Raceday
Saturday December 17	Christmas Raceday

2017

Sunday January 1	New Year's Day (public holiday pricing)
Saturday January 14	Chester Manifold Stakes Day
Saturday January 28	January Raceday
Saturday March 4	Australian Guineas Day*
Saturday March 18	Autumn Raceday
Saturday April 9	Community Raceday
Tuesday April 25	ANZAC Day (public holiday pricing)
Saturday May 6	Mother's Day Raceday
Saturday May 20	National Hall of Fame Raceday
Saturday June 10	June Raceday
Saturday June 24	Provincial and Country Raceday
Saturday July 8	Flemington Finals Day
Saturday July 22	Recognition Raceday

* Total cost for this day is \$50 - \$20 for racecourse admission and \$30 for Members' Enclosure ticketing.

Trevor set for Boxing Day century

Trevor Burgess is set to become the only current MCC member to reach 100 years of age when he notches up his century on Boxing Day this December.

A regular at the Test match each year, Mr Burgess has been a member since 1981 and we look forward to celebrating his milestone with him at the cricket.

Sadly, our previous two centurions, Robert Halliday and Charles Geer, have departed in the last 12 months. But as these tables show, there are several other members set to join Mr Burgess in the centurions club within the next year, all being well.

Among them are Sir Lenox Hewitt, Arthur Atkins, Bruce Oliver, Edward Beaumont and our longest-serving member, Kenneth McKenzie, who joined the club way back in October 1931.

LONGEST-SERVING MEMBERS

Name	Elected
Kenneth McKenzie	30/10/1931
Hon Anthony Street	29/10/1932
Stewart Gray	18/12/1933
Bruce Oliver	18/12/1933
Ronald Quin	18/12/1933
Maurice Smith	17/12/1934

OLDEST MEMBERS

Name	Age
Trevor Burgess	99
Sir Lenox Hewitt OBE	99
Arthur Atkins	99
Bruce Oliver	99
Kenneth McKenzie	99
Edward Beaumont	99
William Rudd	98
John Lush	98
Arthur Collinson	98
Kathleen McDonnell	98

Inaugural USA members' tour

The club is pleased to announce that, for the first time, an MCC members' tour to the USA will be undertaken in August next year.

With plenty of tennis, golf, food, wine and history to enjoy, in addition to the good camaraderie and company of fellow MCC members, this is one tour not to be missed.

The itinerary will include a wide range of experiences and activities, starting with a few days in New York to take in all that the city that never sleeps has to offer, including centre court tickets for Day 1 of the US Open tennis at Flushing Meadow and potentially a Broadway show.

The tour then makes its way south, spending a few days travelling through Philadelphia, Washington DC, Charleston and Savannah, where there is plenty of time to take in the history of these unique places. For those who like golf, Savannah and – later in the tour, Monterey - will present an opportunity to play on some great courses.

It's then on to the Napa Valley to take in the world-famous wine region. We then head west to San Francisco to experience the foodie culture, Alcatraz, the famous Golden Gate Bridge and the town of Sausalito among many others.

The tour then moves through Monterey and along the Pacific Coast to Paso Robles. The journey concludes by taking in Santa Barbara and Malibu, before finishing up in Santa Monica, Los Angeles with the option to extend your travel should you wish to see more of this great land or its neighbouring



countries.

Our members have enjoyed some amazing shared travel experiences in recent years, including an Ashes Test at Lord's, a Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean, a South African cricket and safari experience, visits to Gallipoli and the Western Front, river cruising along the Rhine or the Danube and touring Switzerland. This USA tour is sure to rank with the best of them.

To register your interest, please email membership@mcc.org.au or phone 03 9657 8888 to receive an itinerary and booking form.



A reminder to members

The club continues to be concerned by an increase in misbehaviour in the Members Reserve, with the Discipline Sub-committee required to meet on a regular basis to deal with cases of alleged misconduct or card misuse by members or guests.

In November alone, the sub-committee heard 15 cases and handed down a raft of penalties, including the suspension of membership for periods ranging from 3-5 years. The majority of cases involved lending a membership card to a non-member.

In other cases, the offence has been committed by the guest of a member. However, as all members are responsible for the behaviour and actions of their guests in the Reserve at all times it has been the member who has suffered the consequences.

We take this opportunity to remind members that your card is not transferable under any circumstances, and that members are responsible for the behaviour of their guests at all times. If you purchase a visitor ticket to bring a guest into the Reserve, please ensure you accompany them where possible.

Membership photo refresh underway

Tens of thousands of MCC members will be required to update the photo used on their membership card this summer as part of a program that will ultimately involve re-issuing a newly designed card. The club progressively introduced photo identification on membership cards from 2004. Many members' photos have since aged to the point where they may no longer provide our event staff the ability to perform a suitable visual identity check.

Members with a photo on their membership card that is seven years old or more have been contacted via email or letter with detailed instructions as to how to submit a new photo.

Those people who have more recently become members do not need to take any action at this time.

This is a major initiative being undertaken in partnership with Australia Post. Members have the option to complete the photo update at an Australia Post outlet or in person at the club office during business hours or on event days. Please note that delays can be expected if completing on event days.

There is no fee associated with completing this process.

Members will not receive a new card immediately after their photo has been updated. Please retain your current membership card for access to the Members Reserve until notified by the club.