



# MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

## JUNE 7, 2026

### AFL 2026 ROUND 13

### ESSENDON V CARLTON

#### A LOW SCORING GRAND FINAL

Both these sides were inaugural members of the Victorian Football League when it was formed in 1897. Eleven years later, in 1908, they met in a Grand Final for the first time. The only finals played prior to the Grand Final at this time were two semi finals, the winners of which progressed straight to the premiership match. Essendon defeated Collingwood by 35 points in the First Semi Final and Carlton easily accounted for St Kilda by 58 points in the second semi final.

Carlton were firm favourites, with 17 of their players having competed in the previous year's Grand Final. Essendon had a number of players unavailable and were forced to select two country players who had each only played one League game, and a college boy who had never played a League game.

In an extraordinary game, the two sides managed just three goals in the first quarter, with Carlton leading at the first break 2.3 (15) to Essendon 1.1 (7). The second quarter saw Carlton manage another three goals to Essendon's one, the half-time score seeing Carlton 5.4 (34) to Essendon 2.4 (16). Amazingly, Carlton scored one behind in the third quarter and failed to score at all in the final term, which saw them with a total of 5.5 (35) at the final bell. Essendon fought bravely, kicking one goal in the third quarter but none in the final term and could not bridge the gap finishing with a score of 3.8 (26) to go down by just nine points. No player in the match scored more than one goal. **Carlton 5.5 (35) def. Essendon 3.8 (26)**. This win saw Carlton become the first VFL team to win three consecutive premierships.

#### PERCY OGDEN

Described in *The Encyclopedia of AFL Footballers* as "a long driving kick and deadly around goals... he was said to have a rare combination of strength, agility and determination. He could rove all day, had fine dash and never flinched." Ogden started his football career with Collingwood, coming to the Magpies in 1905 from the Victorian Football Association club Preston. After playing only four games for the season, he went off to Essendon a few years later. He played with the club from 1910 to 1915 and from 1918 to 1921. He starred in Essendon's back-to-back premierships in 1911 and 1912 and represented Victoria from 1912 to 1914 and from 1919 to 1921, captaining the side in 1920. He captained Essendon in 1919 and was the club's captain-coach in 1920 and 1921. He was captain-coach at Northcote in 1922. In 1923 he wanted to return to Essendon but found he was residentially tied to Fitzroy who did not require his services, so he returned to his old side Preston, retiring at the end of the 1925 season. Percy's son Gordon played for Melbourne from 1928 to 1937, and his other son Terry played for Melbourne in 1932 and Carlton in 1934.

#### 100 YEARS AGO

The Round 1 edition of the 1926 *Football Record* told us of membership fees:

"Essendon's membership list shows that many who joined up with Footscray and North Melbourne when these clubs became Leaguers to help them along are returning, though it is claimed by both Scraymen and Northerners that their membership is bigger than last year's. While the big majority paid straight out for their tickets those who found a bit of a pinch in weighing out 7/6 in one lump took advantage of the scheme by which they were enabled to easy payments each week to meet the expense of the cardboard purchase. It was a privilege greatly appreciated and availed of by apprentices and others with slender purses, but with the irresistible desire to become club members."

Next week's Round 2 edition told us:

"Somebody says that the railways commissioner has started to sloganize his trains especially for football, seeing that he has named the express after Hagger as the "Geelong Flier". It should not be surprising if the Tramway Board came along with a special such as the "Collingwood Comet" after Syd Coventry; the "Nonpareil" after Warne Smith; and the "Shooting Star" after Jack Moriarty, and so I can see barrackers swarming into cars named after their heroes. So there's an idea free, gratis and for nothing for those whose business is to carry the crowds to the football grounds."

#### WHICH YEAR WAS THAT?

Australian cricket greats Neil Harvey and Alan Davidson play their final Test match in the drawn 5th Test against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Great Britain ends its amateur-professional classes in cricket, Geelong wins the Grand Final and Bob Skilton wins the Brownlow Medal.

## THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 13 AT THE MCG

The highest Round 13 score at the MCG is 29.18 (192) by Geelong against North Melbourne 17.13 (115) in 1992. The overall Round 13 record is 34.16 (220) by Fitzroy against North Melbourne 10.10 (70) at the Junction Oval in 1983. The highest score in a quarter at the MCG is 10.1 (61) by Geelong during the last quarter against Richmond in 1972. The overall Round 13 record for the highest score in a quarter is 13.2 (80) by South Melbourne against Carlton in the third quarter at the Lakeside Oval in 1934. The most goals kicked by an individual at the MCG in this Round is 11 by Doug Wade for Geelong against Richmond in 1972. The overall Round 13 record is 16 goals by Gordon Coventry for Collingwood against Hawthorn at Victoria Park in 1929. The highest Round 13 attendance at the MCG is 83,407 in 2009 when Essendon defeated Carlton.

### STATISTICS FOR ESSENDON V CARLTON

#### Essendon v Carlton by Venue

	Won by Essendon	Won by Carlton	Drawn
East Melbourne	14	11	1
MCG	39	33	4
Princes Park	28	48	1
SCG	0	1	0
Victoria Park	0	1	0
Waverley Park	11	6	0
Windy Hill	27	30	0
	119	130	6

#### Highest Score

Essendon	28.14 (182)	Rd 21	2005	MCG
Carlton	27.13 (175)	Rd 14	1975	WH

#### Lowest Score

Essendon	2.2 (14)	Rd 10	1903	PP
Carlton	1.2 (8)	Rd 15	1898	EMCG

#### Last Time They Met – Round 24, 2025, MCG

	Essendon	Carlton
Quarter time	1.4	3.4
Half time	2.6	7.6
Three-quarter time	5.6	11.8
Full time	8.8 (56)	13.12 (90)

#### Greatest Winning Margin

Essendon	109 points	Rd 6	1985	WH
Carlton	102 points	Rd 2	1936	PP

**Which Year Was That? Answer: 1963**

### VALE JOHN FRASER OAM

Dr John Fraser OAM, Carlton Football Club's Chief Medical Officer through the 1980s, including the premiership year of 1987, passed away on February 14 at the age of 90. John, younger brother of 1960 Wimbledon Champion, Neale (who died in 2024), reached the men's singles semis at Wimbledon in 1962 (Neale also lost in the semis that year) and progressed to the singles quarterfinals of the Australian Championships the following year. During his tennis career, he won nine A-Grade Victorian Tennis Pennants for the Melbourne Cricket Club. The clubhouse for the MCC's former courts by the Junction Oval was named the Fraser Pavilion, after Neale and John, from 1997 until 2017. John was a former president of Tennis Victoria and vice president of Tennis Australia, and a life member of both organisations. Beyond his achievements on court, John devoted his professional life to the care and wellbeing of athletes. After graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1958, he became a respected general practitioner and a pioneer in sports medicine. He served as the official doctor to the Australian Davis Cup team and as Honorary Medical Officer of the Australian Championships from 1963 to 1998. He later contributed to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Medical Commission from 1995 to 2003.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

In his seven seasons with Essendon, their star full forward John Coleman kicked 10 goals in a match no less than 12 times, was the Victorian Football League's leading goalkicker five times and is third on Essendon's all-time leading goalkickers list with 537 goals. He played in their 1949 and 1950 premiership sides, was selected as an All-Australian five times and was selected at full forward in Essendon's Team of the Century and the AFL Team of the Century. In 1996 he was elevated to Legend status in the Australian Football Hall of Fame.

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