



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

JUNE 8, 2026

KING'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

AFL 2026 Round 13

COLLINGWOOD V MELBOURNE

VALE

NEALE FRANCIS DANIHER AO – 1961-2026

On May 25 Australia was saddened to learn of the death of Neale Daniher after a long fight against Motor Neurone Disease (MND). Recruited from Ungarie in the Northern Riverina Football Netball League and Assumption College, Neale Daniher played 82 games for Essendon from 1979 to 1990, kicking 32 goals. He made his debut against Carlton at Waverley Park in Round 3 of the 1979 season (this match was played on 31 March before the rest of the season commenced). Daniher's playing career was severely disrupted by injury; he underwent three knee reconstructions on his right knee during his career. He won Essendon's best and fairest award in 1981 and was appointed captain in 1982, although he never led the side due to injuries. In September 1990, he and his brothers (Terry, Anthony and Chris) created League history by being the first and only quartet of brothers to play for the same team. Earlier in the year the brothers also played together for NSW in a State of Origin match against Victoria. Neale retired from League football after the 1990 season but played for Werribee in the VFA in 1991. He then moved into coaching as Essendon assistant coach in 1992-93 and Fremantle's assistant coach in 1995-97, before being appointed senior coach at Melbourne. He coached the Demons from 1998 to 2007 in 223 games for 108 wins, 114 losses and 1 draw. This included 12 finals, of which the Demons won six and lost six. Daniher coached Melbourne to the 2000 AFL grand final, which they lost to Essendon. Before he was diagnosed with MND in 2013, he had been general manager of football operations at the West Coast Eagles from 2008 to 2013. A patron and vice president of the Fight MND Foundation since 2014, Daniher founded the Big Freeze at the 'G campaign, that was launched in 2015. For this he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2016. On June 14, 2021, he was raised to Officer of the Order of Australia: "For distinguished service to people with Motor Neurone Disease and their families through advocacy, public education and fundraising initiatives." A State Funeral for Neale Daniher will be held at the MCG on Wednesday June 10 at 1:00pm.

100 YEARS AGO

The 1926 VFL season ended in triumph for the Melbourne Football Club. They finished the season as premiers following a convincing 57-point win over Collingwood in the grand final. This was Melbourne's first VFL premiership since 1900. Melbourne had earlier defeated Collingwood (by 11 points) in the second semi-final and Essendon (by 3 points) in the preliminary final to qualify for the premiership match. Under the rules in place at the time, they faced Collingwood again in the grand final as the Magpies had finished on top of the ladder at the end of the home and away rounds. Although Melbourne's win over Collingwood earlier in the finals probably gave them some confidence leading up to the grand final, the Magpies had been something of a "bogey" team for them in previous seasons and during 1926. Prior to the 1926 finals, Collingwood had defeated Melbourne in their previous ten encounters, including both matches played between the teams earlier in the 1926 season. In the Round 4 game played at Collingwood's home ground (Victoria Park), **Collingwood 12.12 (84) defeated Melbourne 12.7 (79)**.

Melbourne had led by 29 points at quarter-time in this match, but the Magpies gradually overhauled them to hold a three-point lead at the final change, and then go on to record a narrow win. Later in the season, in Round 15 at the MCG, Collingwood had a much more convincing victory, leading all day to win by 50 points. The final scores were **Collingwood 13.15 (93) defeated Melbourne 6.7 (43)**. Over 30,000 people had come to the MCG to see the clash between the teams that were in first (Collingwood) and second (Melbourne) places on the ladder before Round 15 began. It was a disappointing day for Melbourne supporters and the result did not augur well for their team's premiership chances. In the *Argus*, under the heading "Convincing Collingwood", reporter "Old Boy" stated that: "... on the day Collingwood, playing magnificent football, were distinctly the masters". He concluded his remarks about the Magpies with: "... on that form no one should look further for the premiers of 1926". As it turned out, after losses to Geelong and Melbourne in the 1925 and 1926 grand finals, Collingwood then held sway for four years in a row, creating what is still an AFL/VFL record with premierships in 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930.

OVER TO YOU

1. Name the years that Jock McHale coached Collingwood to the premiership.
2. Name the years Norm Smith coached Melbourne to the premiership.
3. In which season did Melbourne and Collingwood play the first drawn final?

KING'S/QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY FOOTBALL MATCHES AT THE MCG FROM 1861

Date	Day	Match	Home Team	G	B	Away Team	G	B	Crowd	Neale Daniher Trophy	
24/05/1861	Fri		Melbourne	2	-	(2)	Geelong	0	-	(0)	600
24/05/1865	Wed	ASC Cup	Melbourne	2	-	(2)	Geelong	1	-	(1)	
24/05/1884	Sat	Tour	Carlton	3	14	(3)	Norwood	3	12	(3)	6-12,000
25/05/1885	Mon	Tour	Melbourne	7	16	(7)	Port Adelaide	4	6	(4)	500
24/05/1888	Thu	VFA	Melbourne	3	15	(3)	Carlton	10	6	(10)	5-6,000
	Thu	VFA	North Melbourne	8	11	(8)	Geelong	8	4	(8)	16,000
24/05/1889	Fri	VFA	North Melbourne	2	8	(2)	Geelong	4	10	(4)	20,000
24/05/1890	Sat	VFA	North Melbourne	9	8	(9)	Geelong	0	5	(0)	4,000
25/05/1891	Mon	VFA	North Melbourne	4	6	(4)	Geelong	11	8	(11)	7,000
24/05/1893	Wed	VFA	North Melbourne	2	8	(2)	Geelong	3	6	(3)	2-3,000
24/05/1895	Fri	VFA	Carlton	6	8	(6)	St Kilda	3	3	(3)	3,300
25/05/1896	Mon	VFA	Melbourne	5	8	(5)	Fitzroy	6	3	(6)	4,000
24/05/1898	Tue	Rd 3	Melbourne	6	10	(46)	Collingwood	5	6	(36)	
09/06/1902	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	7	5	(47)	South Melbourne	6	10	(46)	
08/06/1903	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	4	8	(32)	Carlton	1	2	(8)	
06/06/1904	Mon	Rd 6	Melbourne	8	10	(58)	Carlton	5	5	(35)	
04/06/1906	Mon	Rd 5	Melbourne	8	8	(56)	Geelong	11	9	(75)	
08/06/1908	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	10	6	(66)	Essendon	10	12	(72)	
07/06/1909	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	18	9	(117)	Geelong	5	8	(38)	8,495
06/06/1910	Mon	Rd 6	Melbourne	10	7	(67)	Essendon	16	21	(117)	8,810
05/06/1911	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	6	12	(48)	Richmond	9	15	(69)	8,130
03/06/1912	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	8	6	(54)	Essendon	16	12	(108)	12,085
09/06/1913	Mon	Rd 8	University	10	9	(69)	South Melbourne	13	12	(90)	9,458
08/06/1914	Mon	Rd 8	University	3	6	(24)	Fitzroy	15	18	(108)	7,655
05/06/1922	Mon	Rd 5	Melbourne	9	12	(66)	Geelong	9	6	(60)	16,189
09/06/1924	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	11	17	(83)	Richmond	13	9	(87)	27,533
08/06/1925	Mon	Amat	MAFA (VAFA)	21	22	(148)	SA AFL	8	10	(58)	2,656
07/06/1926	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	12	16	(88)	South Melbourne	8	17	(65)	20,974
04/06/1928	Mon	Rd 8	Melbourne	10	14	(74)	Carlton	9	10	(64)	41,402
03/06/1929	Mon	Rd 6	Melbourne	8	13	(61)	St Kilda	8	11	(59)	38,104
08/06/1931	Mon	Amat	MAFA (VAFA)	15	16	(106)	SA AFL	6	16	(52)	1,639
03/06/1935	Mon	Rd 6	Melbourne	15	13	(103)	St Kilda	15	20	(110)	22,711
29/06/1936	Mon	Rep	Victoria (VFL)	16	21	(117)	Victoria (VFA)	10	10	(70)	12,000
12/06/1939	Mon	Rd 8	Melbourne	18	14	(122)	Footscray	15	13	(103)	22,016
17/06/1940	Mon	Rd 8	Melbourne	12	15	(87)	Fitzroy	12	13	(85)	19,737
16/06/1941	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	14	13	(97)	Carlton	19	10	(124)	29,000
12/06/1950	Mon	Rd 8	Melbourne	16	9	(105)	Collingwood	8	11	(59)	55,000
11/06/1951	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	9	13	(67)	Richmond	12	9	(81)	51,000
14/06/1954	Mon	Rd 9	Melbourne	11	13	(79)	Essendon	14	17	(101)	36,800
13/06/1955	Mon	Rd 9	Melbourne	13	16	(94)	Richmond	11	12	(78)	39,949
17/06/1957	Mon	Rd 9	Melbourne	23	16	(154)	Geelong	14	10	(94)	48,001
16/06/1958	Mon	Rd 10	Melbourne	12	12	(84)	Collingwood	10	13	(73)	99,256
15/06/1959	Mon	Rd 8	Melbourne	19	15	(129)	Essendon	8	8	(56)	52,880
13/06/1960	Mon	Rep	Victoria (VFL)	21	15	(141)	South Australia	12	19	(91)	34,062
12/06/1961	Mon	Rd 8	Melbourne	17	19	(121)	Collingwood	7	10	(52)	78,465
10/06/1963	Mon	Rd 8	Melbourne	11	16	(82)	Geelong	4	11	(35)	81,550
15/06/1964	Mon	Rd 9	Melbourne	10	13	(73)	Collingwood	8	15	(63)	86,660
14/06/1965	Mon	Rd 9	Melbourne	9	7	(61)	St Kilda	18	14	(122)	72,114
13/06/1966	Mon	Rd 8	Richmond	10	11	(71)	North Melbourne	8	23	(71)	33,959
12/06/1967	Mon	Rd 9	Melbourne	19	14	(128)	South Melbourne	12	17	(89)	45,723
10/06/1968	Mon	Rd 8	Richmond	11	15	(81)	Hawthorn	11	14	(80)	31,325
16/06/1969	Mon	Rd 10	Melbourne	17	18	(120)	Footscray	12	23	(95)	27,330
15/06/1970	Mon	Rd 11	Richmond	22	15	(147)	Footscray	13	12	(90)	41,866
14/06/1971	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	10	14	(74)	Hawthorn	14	10	(94)	52,256
17/06/1974	Mon	Rd 11	Richmond	19	19	(133)	Footscray	15	11	(101)	68,447
16/06/1975	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	14	11	(95)	Collingwood	9	19	(73)	42,803
13/06/1977	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	11	20	(86)	Collingwood	17	17	(119)	63,966
16/06/1980	Mon	Rd 12	Richmond	16	12	(108)	Hawthorn	11	22	(88)	57,572
13/06/1983	Mon	Rd 12	Richmond	21	15	(141)	Carlton	13	13	(91)	48,243
10/06/1985	Mon	Rd 11	North Melbourne	17	11	(113)	Hawthorn	17	11	(113)	39,084
09/06/1986	Mon	Rd 11	Richmond	15	7	(97)	Footscray	12	8	(80)	35,360
08/06/1987	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	13	12	(90)	Carlton	21	9	(135)	49,812
13/06/1988	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	13	15	(93)	West Coast	10	13	(73)	28,045
12/06/1989	Mon	Rd 11	Geelong	12	17	(89)	Essendon	4	11	(35)	87,653
11/06/1990	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	15	9	(99)	Carlton	13	15	(93)	59,782

Date	Day	Match	Home Team	G	B	Away Team	G	B	Crowd	Neale Daniher Trophy		
10/06/1991	Mon	Rd 12	Melbourne	13	12	(90)	Richmond	14	12	(96)	29,415	
08/06/1992	Mon	Rd 12	Collingwood	11	10	(76)	St Kilda	10	17	(77)	80,060	
14/06/1993	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	24	16	(160)	Collingwood	16	13	(109)	57,833	
13/06/1994	Mon	Rd 12	Richmond	14	18	(102)	Collingwood	4	12	(36)	61,983	
12/06/1995	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	12	8	(80)	Carlton	16	16	(112)	53,290	
10/06/1996	Mon	Rd 10	Melbourne	17	12	(114)	Collingwood	10	16	(76)	48,302	
09/06/1997	Mon	Rd 11	North Melbourne	15	15	(105)	Fremantle	12	7	(79)	20,585	
08/06/1998	Mon	Rd 11	North Melbourne	19	12	(126)	Collingwood	13	19	(97)	58,369	
14/06/1999	Mon	Rd 11	Collingwood	11	12	(78)	Melbourne	13	11	(89)	40,031	
12/06/2000	Mon	Rd 14	Richmond	12	15	(87)	Western Bulldogs	7	10	(52)	49,557	
11/06/2001	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	8	9	(57)	Collingwood	19	20	(134)	62,761	
10/06/2002	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	10	15	(75)	Collingwood	19	12	(126)	65,860	
09/06/2003	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	10	17	(77)	Collingwood	20	13	(133)	60,010	
14/06/2004	Mon	Rd 12	Melbourne	12	10	(82)	Collingwood	11	7	(73)	56,988	
13/06/2005	Mon	Rd 12	Melbourne	17	15	(117)	Collingwood	10	12	(72)	65,347	
12/06/2006	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	22	9	(141)	Collingwood	14	10	(94)	78,773	
11/06/2007	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	13	16	(94)	Collingwood	11	15	(81)	70,660	
09/06/2008	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	13	17	(95)	Collingwood	17	14	(116)	59,548	
08/06/2009	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	8	12	(60)	Collingwood	19	12	(126)	61,287	
14/06/2010	Mon	Rd 12	Melbourne	11	10	(76)	Collingwood	9	22	(76)	67,454	
13/06/2011	Mon	Rd 12	Melbourne	6	5	(41)	Collingwood	19	15	(129)	75,998	
11/06/2012	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	13	9	(87)	Collingwood	19	15	(129)	64,250	
10/06/2013	Mon	Rd 11	Melbourne	5	9	(39)	Collingwood	17	20	(122)	50,835	
09/06/2014	Mon	Rd 12	Melbourne	3	10	(28)	Collingwood	8	13	(61)	68,130	
08/06/2015	Mon	Rd 10	Melbourne	13	7	(85)	Collingwood	17	18	(110)	66,120	T. Cloke (Coll)
13/06/2016	Mon	Rd 12	Melbourne	16	8	(104)	Collingwood	8	10	(58)	60,158	M. Gawn (Melb)
12/06/2017	Mon	Rd 12	Melbourne	15	14	(104)	Collingwood	15	10	(100)	70,926	C. Petracca (Melb)
11/06/2018	Mon	Rd 12	Melbourne	14	7	(91)	Collingwood	20	13	(133)	83,518	M. Cox (Coll)
10/06/2019	Mon	Rd 12	Collingwood	15	8	(98)	Melbourne	15	15	(105)	74,036	A. Treloar (Coll)
13/06/2022	Mon	Rd 13	Collingwood	12	10	(82)	Melbourne	8	8	(56)	76,059	C. Oliver (Melb)
12/06/2023	Mon	Rd 13	Melbourne	8	18	(66)	Collingwood	9	8	(62)	83,578	J. Viney (Melb)
10/06/2024	Mon	Rd 13	Collingwood	14	5	(89)	Melbourne	6	15	(51)	84,659	J. Crisp (Coll)
09/06/2025	Mon	Rd 13	Melbourne	10	11	(71)	Collingwood	11	6	(72)	77,761	J. Daicos (Coll)

* Curtain raisers to main events/senior matches are not listed above.

THE KING'S/QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY CLASH

The highest home and away crowd occurred in the 1958 Melbourne and Collingwood Queen's Birthday fixture, when 99,256 attended the Round 10 match. The popularity of the Queen's or King's Birthday matches is astounding. In the early 1890s, crowds turned out in great numbers. One of the great Queen's Birthday rivalries was Essendon and South Melbourne and their meetings at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground attracted 37,108 on Saturday, May 24, 1890, 37,202 on Monday, May 25, 1891 and 35,409 on Tuesday May 24, 1892. In the years of Queen Victoria's reign, the Queen's Birthday holiday was celebrated on May 24 – the date of her birth in 1819 – whichever day of the week it fell on, except when it fell on a Sunday, when Monday May 25 became the holiday. The first VFL season, in 1897, contained one split round: Round 3, with two matches on Saturday, May 22 and two on Monday, May 24. Full rounds were played on Tuesday, May 24, 1898, Wednesday, May 24, 1899, and Thursday, May 24, 1900, with the exception of the Essendon v Collingwood match, which was brought forward to Wednesday, May 23, 1900, an additional public holiday spontaneously proclaimed to celebrate the "Relief of Mafeking" in the Boer War. When Queen Victoria died early in 1901, and Edward VII ascended the throne, the practice began of gazetting this holiday (known as the King's Birthday from 1901 to 1951) on a Monday early in June, while May 24, though no longer a public holiday, was retained as Empire Day.

ABOUT THE KING'S/QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY IN AUSTRALIA

The day has been celebrated since 1788 when Governor Arthur Phillip declared a holiday to mark the sovereign's birthday. Until 1936, it was held on the actual birthday of the monarch, but, after King George V died, it was decided to keep the date on the second Monday in June. This has more evenly spaced out public holidays throughout the year. While George V's successor, Edward VIII, also celebrated his birthday in June, the three sovereigns since have not: George VI's birthday was in December, very close to public holidays for Christmas, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, while Queen Elizabeth II's birthday fell shortly after holidays for Good Friday and Easter and very close to ANZAC Day. Charles III was born on November 14, 1948, three days after Remembrance Day.

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library Volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, Gerry Verstoep, Gaye Fitzpatrick, and Edward Cohen, with MCC Deputy Librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL

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 COLLINGWOOD V MELBOURNE

Collingwood v Melbourne v by Venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Melbourne	Drawn
Gabba	0	1	0
Lake Oval	2	0	0
MCG	90	59	3
Punt Road Oval	3	2	0
SCG	1	0	0
Victoria Park	56	19	2
Waverley Park	6	4	0
	158	85	5

Highest Score

Melbourne	25.18 (168)	Rd 20	1982	VP
Collingwood	27.11 (173)	Rd 2	1996	MCG

Lowest Score

Melbourne	1.5 (11)	Rd 10	1898	VP
Collingwood	2.2 (14)	GF	1960	MCG

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	94 points	Rd 10	1939	MCG
Collingwood	109 points	Rd 15	1919	MCG

Last Time They Met – Round 24, 2025, MCG

	Collingwood	Melbourne
Quarter time	2.7	3.0
Half time	6.10	5.3
Three-quarter time	7.13	10.5
Full time	11.16 (82)	11.10 (76)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

10	G. Coventry	Coll	Rd 18	1933	VP
10	G. Margitich	Melb	Rd 18	1933	VP
10	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 6	1971	MCG
10	S. Rocca	Coll	Rd 2	1997	MCG

BIG FREEZE AT THE 'G

The annual Big Freeze at the 'G was first held in 2015 as a Motor Neurone Disease (MND) fundraiser. "Big Freeze at the 'G"-branded merchandise is sold, and celebrities and football personalities in fancy dress take a waterslide into a pool of ice-water, situated in the Ponsford Stand, to raise money and awareness. Since 2015 the best player in the Queen's/King's Birthday match has been awarded the Neale Daniher Trophy, named after the Essendon great and former Melbourne coach, whose inspiring battle with MND has galvanised the football community. In 2020, due to the pandemic and Melbourne being in lockdown, the MND Fundraiser, branded Big Freeze 6, was broadcast by Channel 7 from numerous venues on the Queen's Birthday holiday. Although the 2021 Queen's Birthday match was shifted to Sydney, Big Freeze 7, went ahead as scheduled at the MCG.

THE FIRST KING'S/QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY FOOTBALL MATCH

Bell's Life in Victoria of May 25, 1861, included the following account of the first Queen's Birthday match on the MCG:

"Melbourne v Geelong — The match between the representatives of the pivot and of the metropolis was played yesterday, on the Melbourne Cricket Ground, in the presence of about 600 spectators. The Geelongese were under the command of Mr. Rennie; Mr. H.C. Harrison being the captain of the Melbournites, who on this occasion, without a single exception, appeared in their magenta uniform, their opponents being distinguished by red caps. The ball was kept moving with great spirit till the signal was given for luncheon, when the rival forces agreed to a truce. Soon after a renewal of hostilities the first goal was kicked by Mr. Nichols, for Melbourne. On changing ends the metropolitans were again fortunate, Mr. Lucas gaining the credit of kicking the leather sphere through the barriers, and thus terminating the match. To finish the afternoon, a scratch match was played, in which Messrs. Harrison and Gregg joined the visitors from Geelong, and Mr. Baker, on the part of Melbourne, gained two goals."

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:

Q1 1917, 1919, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1935 and 1936.

Q2 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960 and 1964.

Q3 1928.