MCC Library Fact Sheet
June 9, 2025
King's Birthday Holiday

AFL 2025 Round 13
Melbourne v Collingwood

The Record Crowd for a Home & Away Game

On June 16, 1958, the two clubs that now play an annual King's/Queen's Birthday fixture (and have exclusively since 2001) drew a remarkable 99,256 fans through the MCG gates. Not only did it smash the previous record by a tick over 40,000, the match stood the test of time, as the biggest home and away crowd in VFL/AFL history. Melbourne 12.12 (84) defeated Collingwood 10.13 (73). Melbourne's leading goalkickers were: Ian Ridley (5) and Ron Barassi (3). For the Magpies Ian Brewer scored six goals. Although Melbourne won this game they would be less fortunate in the 1958 grand final when Collingwood surprisingly defeated favourite Melbourne. This meant the Demons could not claim four premierships in a row, a feat achieved by the Magpies in 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930.

The Return of The King's Birthday Match

With the death of Queen Elizabeth II the match which celebrated her birthday from 1952 to 2022 ended. On Monday June 12, 2023, the King's Birthday match celebrated King Charles III. The MCG crowd of 83,578 witnessed Collingwood meet Melbourne. During the season the Magpies suffered a rare loss with many of their matches being won by quite small margins. Melbourne handed Collingwood their first loss in more than two months, claiming a four-point victory. The blockbuster Round 13 match saw Melbourne 8.18 (66) defeat Collingwood 9.8 (62). The Magpies were coached by Craig McRae and captained by Darcy Moore. The Demons were coached by Simon Goodwin and captained by Max Gawn. The leading goal kicker for Melbourne was Bayley Fritsch with three goals and for Collingwood Patrick Lipinski with two goals. Lipinski was returning for the first time for 2023 after a lengthy stint with injury. The best players for Melbourne were Jack Viney, Christian Salem, Steven May, Bayley Fritsch, Trent Rivers and Adam Tomlinson. Collingwood's best were Isaac Quaynor, Tom Mitchell, Darcy Moore, Jack Crisp, Brayden Maynard, Mason Cox and John Noble. On Monday, June 10, 2024, the Magpies met the Demons in the second King's Birthday match. The final score read Collingwood 14.5 (89) to Melbourne 6.15 (51). Captained by Darcy Moore and coached by Craig McCrae, the Magpies' leading goalkickers were Harvey Harrison and Nathan Kruger with three goals each. For the Demons the side was captained by Max Gawn and coached by Simon Goodwin with Jacob van Rooyen kicking three goals. This match was very significant as Christian Petracca was taken to hospital for scans after a marking contest with Darcy Moore. Petracca went to the rooms for treatment at quarter time. He returned and tried to play on in the second term before succumbing to injury. The injury to Christian Petracca would see him hospitalised and miss the rest of the season. On the field the Magpies had two players take fine high marks in Jeremy Howe and Steele Sidebottom. The players awarded Brownlow votes for the 2024 King's Birthday match were Jack Crisp (Collingwood) 3 votes, John Noble (Collingwood) 2 votes and Nick Daicos (Collingwood) 1 vote.

Over To You

1. Which unlikely Melbourne player scored the winning goal to clinch the 1964 flag against Collingwood?
2. Which player was the only man to wear his usual guernsey number in the 1958 Grand Final?
3. Who am I? I was the Collingwood premiership captain in 1953. I wrote "Kiss of Death" in the Sun newspaper and featured in TV's "World of Sport" and "League Teams"?
4. Collingwood fielded three sets of brothers in the 1953 winning grand final team. Name them.
5. Who am I? I had retired at the end of 1946 and was the Demons' Reserves coach. Frank "Checker" Hughes picked me for finals games when I kicked eight goals in the preliminary final against Collingwood, followed by six in the drawn grand final against Essendon and another six goals in the re-match.
6. Having thrashed the 'Pies by 45 points in the 1958 second semi-final, what happened to Melbourne in the grand final?
7. Between 1955 and 1964 how many grand finals were played between Melbourne and Collingwood?
8. How many finals matches did Robert Flower appear in?
9. Who wore guernsey number 36 in 275 matches with the Adelaide Crows?
10. Which Collingwood player was runner-up in the 1990 Brownlow Medal?

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)	5-6000	
24/05/1888	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)	4000	
25/05/1891	Mon	VFA	North Melbourne	4	6	(4)	Geelong	11	8	(11)	7000	
24/05/1893	Wed	VFA	North Melbourne	2	8	(2)	Geelong	3	6	(3)	2-3000	
24/05/1895	Fri	VFA	Carlton	6	8	(6)	St Kilda	3	3	(3)	3300	
25/05/1896	Mon	VFA	Melbourne	5	8	(5)	Fitzroy	6	3	(6)	4000	
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)	8495	
06/06/1910	Mon	Rd 6	Melbourne	10	7	(67)	Essendon	16	21	(117)	8810	
05/06/1911	Mon	Rd 7	Melbourne	6	12	(48)	Richmond	9	15	(69)	8130	
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)	9458	
08/06/1914	Mon	Rd 8	University	3	6	(24)	Fitzroy	15	18	(108)	7655	
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)	SAAFL	8	10	(58)	2656	
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)	SAAFL	6	16	(52)	1639	
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)

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 ON THE MCC WEBSITE
The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at: **http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue**

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 Melbourne v Collingwood

Melbourne v Collingwood by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Collingwood	Drawn
Albert Park	0	2	0
Gabba	1	0	0
MCG	59	87	3
Punt Road Oval	2	3	0
SCG	0	1	0
Victoria Park	19	56	2
Waverley Park	4	6	0
	85	155	5

Last Time They Met – Round 24, 2024, MCG

	Collingwood	Melbourne
Quarter time	5.4	1.1
Half time	8.5	4.4
Three-quarter time	12.8	7.5
Full time	15.13 (103)	8.9 (57)

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

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/King'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 Neil Crompton (Back-pocket).   **Q2** Ray Gabelich. Because of his size, a replacement guernsey was unavailable.
Q3 Lou Richards.   **Q4** Bill, Mick and Pat Twomey, Lou and Ron Richards, Bob and Bill Rose.   **Q5** Jack Mueller.
Q6 Collingwood 12.10 (82) defeated Melbourne 9.10 (64) denying the Demons the chance of four premierships in a row.
Q7 Five . (1955, 1956, 1958, 1960 and 1964).   **Q8** Three (all in 1987, Flower's last season).   **Q9** Simon Goodwin (Current Melbourne coach).   **Q10** Graham Wright.