Vale
John Beckwith
1932-2024

The football world was saddened to learn of the death of John Beckwith on May 29, aged 91. Described as a "tower of strength" throughout his playing career, Beckwith was renowned for a number of special qualities; for being able to find the boundary line when under attack, for being cool and disciplined under pressure, and for being one of the club's greatest leaders. Recruited from Black Rock in 1951 as a "brilliant junior footballer", Beckwith made his senior debut in 1951, going on to play 176 games, including in that number five premierships for Melbourne. While the team lost to Footscray in the 1954 grand final, they rebounded to win the 1955 premiership in fine style against Collingwood, and Beckwith was acknowledged as the Demons' most consistent player that season. In 1956, he continued to excel as part of the famed Olympic Premiership side that thrashed Collingwood by 73 points. Taking on the captaincy of the club in 1957 aged only 24, he and his deputy, Ron Barassi, formed the youngest leadership combination in the VFL at the time. In his first season in charge he inspired Melbourne to a premiership victory over Essendon by a remarkable 61 points, and was honoured with the best and fairest award. Injury and the 1958 grand final loss to Collingwood were low points in the seasons that followed. The team came back strongly in 1959 to win the club's 10th premiership. Barassi took on the captaincy in 1960 with Beckwith his deputy. That year he added a fifth premiership to his personal tally and was made a life member of Melbourne. This grand final was his last game with the Demons but Beckwith continued to be an integral part of the club, and coached Melbourne from 1968 to 1970. A member of Melbourne's Team of the Century, he was also one of the initial inductees in the club's Hall of Fame in 2001, and was named as a "Hero" for the club's 150th in 2008.
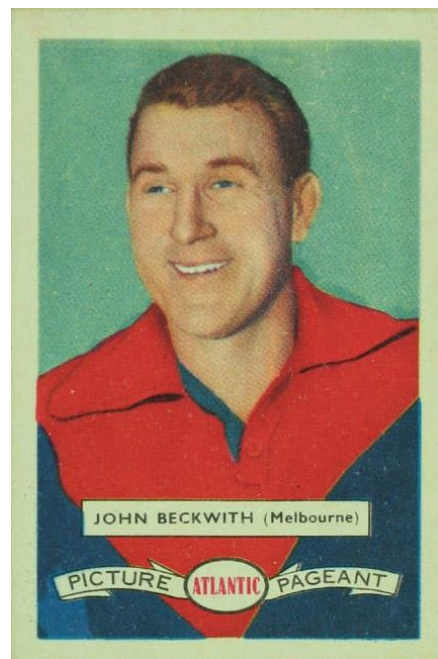
The 1951 King's Birthday Matches

In 1951 the three King's Birthday holiday matches were played on 11 June. North Melbourne played Fitzroy at the Brunswick Street Oval, North won by 33 points. The Shinboners were led by coach Wally Carter and captain Les Foote and Fitzroy were coached by Norm Smith and captained by Alan Ruthven. North 12.12 (84) defeated Fitzroy 6.15 (51). Richmond played Melbourne at the MCG with an attendance of 51,061. (In the corresponding match in 1950, a King's Birthday match record attendance of 55,002 saw the Demons comprehensively defeat the Magpies). The Demons were coached by Allan La Fontaine and captained by Denis Cordner. The Tigers were coached by Jack Dyer and captained by Bill Morris. Richmond won by 14 points – Richmond 12.9 (81) to Melbourne 9.13 (67). South Melbourne played Footscray at the Lake Oval and won by 47 points - South 17.14 (116) defeated Footscray 9.15 (69) and a crowd of 17,000 attended the match. The Swans were captained/coached by Gordon "Whopper" Lane and Charlie Sutton was Footscray's captain/coach.

Over to You

1. Who has played the most games for the Demons?
2. Who has played the most games for the Magpies?
3. Who is thought to have written the second verse to Melbourne's club song?
4. Where did the Magpies song originate?
5. Where was the Queen's Birthday game between Melbourne and Collingwood played in 2021?
6. In the 2023 Magpie premiership team, who was a former Swan and Hawk?
7. Which player has appeared in the most Queen's Birthday clashes between the Magpies and the Demons?
8. When did the "Big Freeze", inspired by Neale Daniher to aid Motor Neurone Disease (MND) commence at the MCG?

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	
	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)

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 falls 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 on 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 by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Melbourne	Drawn
Albert Park	2	0	0
Gabba	0	1	0
MCG	85	59	3
Punt Road	3	2	0
SCG	1	0	0
Victoria Park	56	19	2
Waverley	6	4	0
	153	85	5

Last Time They Met – 2023 Qualifying Final, MCG

	Collingwood	Melbourne
Quarter time	4.2	1.0
Half time	5.3	2.4
Three-quarter time	9.4	4.9
Full time	9.6 (60)	7.11 (53)

Highest Score

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

Lowest Score

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

Greatest Winning Margin

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

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

| 10	Gordon Coventry	Coll	Rd 18	1933	VP
10	George Margitich	Melb	Rd 18	1933	VP
10	Peter McKenna	Coll	Rd 6	1971	MCG
10	Saverio 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 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.

Over to You Answers:

Q1 David Neitz (306 games). **Q2** Scott Pendlebury (394 games). **Q3** Keith "Bluey" Truscott. **Q4** It started life as a marching song called "Goodbye Dolly Gray" in the USA during the Spanish-American War (1898) and grew in popularity during the Boer War (1899-1902). **Q5** The Sydney Cricket Ground, due to Covid 19. This was Nathan Buckley's last game as the Magpie coach and Collingwood 11.14 (80) defeated Melbourne 9.9. (63). This saw Collingwood, 16th on the ladder, beating Melbourne, on the top. **Q6** Tom Mitchell. **Q7** Scott Pendlebury. (Collingwood) in 14 matches. **Q8** 2015.
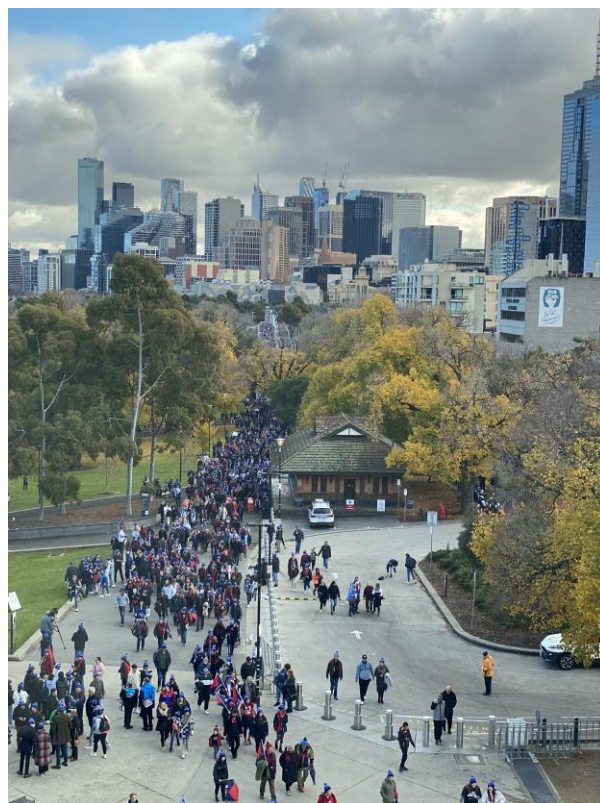
The view from the MCC Library window as Big Freeze at the 'G marchers make their way from Federation Square to the stadium on the Queen's Birthday holiday in 2022.

Lynda Carroll Photo