



# MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

## AFL 2023 ROUND 9 HAWTHORN V MELBOURNE

LIBRARY FACT SHEET  
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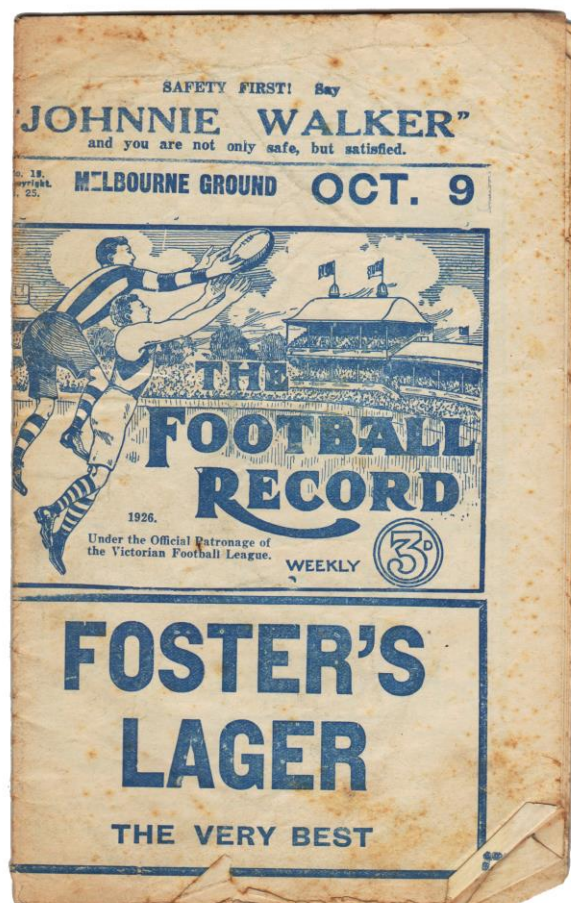
### BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL CLUB

It could be argued that Hawthorn's rise to prominence was based on two events, John Kennedy's arrival at the club as a player in 1950 and the introduction of country zoning in 1967. When Hawthorn entered the VFL in 1925 it had not won a VFA premiership and was not ready to compete successfully. However, having a club with a home ground in an eastern suburb was an attractive proposition for the VFL, especially as the other two debutants that year were Footscray and North Melbourne. In the 32 seasons between 1925 and 1956, Hawthorn finished in the bottom three 25 times, and did not appear in a final. However, under the coaching of former Carlton premiership player Jack Hale, who took over in 1952, steady improvement was made and the club played its first final in 1957. As John Kennedy commented later: "Jack Hale taught Hawthorn to hate defeat". Kennedy retired as a player in 1959 and Hale stepped aside as coach to allow Kennedy to take the reins. The Hawks missed the finals on percentage in 1960 and then the team dubbed "Kennedy's commandos", because of their fitness and physical style, took out the club's long awaited first premiership in 1961.

The Hawks did not immediately repeat that success, but then in 1967 the League introduced country zoning in an attempt to even up the competition. Up until that time country players could choose the team they wished to play for, which meant that the more powerful and wealthy clubs could offer better inducements to potential recruits. Each club was allotted a zone, Hawthorn winning the jackpot with the Mornington Peninsula and West Gippsland Leagues. The zones were supposed to be rotated but that never happened because the clubs with the stronger zones pressured the League into retaining the status quo until country zoning was replaced by the draft in 1986. The Hawks won their second flag in 1971 and further premierships in 1976 and 1978, as well as four more in the 1980s. The long list of premiership players recruited from their zone includes Leigh Matthews, Peter Knights, Michael Tuck, Kelvin Moore, Michael Moncrieff, Gary Ayres, Geoff Ablett, Ian Bremner, Leon Rice, Chris Mew, Dermott Brereton, Peter Russo, Michael McCarthy, and Alan Goad.

### THE ROAD TO MELBOURNE'S SECOND PREMIERSHIP

Melbourne won their first VFL premiership in 1900, the fourth season of the eight team competition which had broken away from the VFA, but their supporters would have to wait 26 years for the next one. Between 1901 and 1915 Melbourne played in just two finals, losing both, and finished last twice. They then dropped out of the competition for the remainder of the war, returning in 1919 to go through the season without a win. However, future dual Brownlow Medallist Ivor Warne-Smith had begun his career during that season and would be joined by another club great, Bert Chadwick, in 1920. The team made the finals in 1925, beating Geelong but losing to Collingwood. Then in the 1926 finals they beat top team Collingwood by 11 points and Essendon by three points to qualify for the premiership decider against Collingwood who had the right to challenge at the time because they had been minor premiers. Melbourne led by 22 points at the first change, but the Magpies reduced that to nine points by the main break. Melbourne then kicked seven goals to Collingwood's one in the third quarter and went on to win by 57 points. Bob C Johnson was the match winner, the *Australasian* newspaper describing his performance thus: "He soared in the air like a bird, marked magnificently and uncannily, and kicked six goals."



Bert Chadwick's personal copy of the 1926 VFL grand final edition of the *Football Record*. [Bert Chadwick Collection, MCC Library]

## This Round in History – Round 9 on the MCG

The highest score is 32.19 [211] by Geelong against Richmond 10.17 [77] in 1989. This is also the highest score on all grounds. The most goals kicked in this round is 14 kicked by Gary Ablett Snr. in the same game. This is the highest overall. The greatest winning margin is 141 points by Melbourne over Hawthorn in 1926 – 21.28 [154] to 1.7 [13]. There has been one drawn game in Round 9 on the MCG. Melbourne and Collingwood each scored 10.5 [65] in 1909. Four drawn games have occurred on other grounds in Round 9. The highest Round 9 attendance was at the MCG in 1964 when 86,664 saw Melbourne 10.13 [73] defeat Collingwood 8.15 [63].

### Statistics for Hawthorn v Melbourne

#### Hawthorn v Melbourne by venue

|                 | Won by<br>Hawthorn | Won by<br>Melbourne | Drawn |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Glenferrie Oval | 15                 | 29                  | 0     |
| MCG             | 46                 | 40                  | 1     |
| Princes Park    | 11                 | 4                   | 0     |
| Punt Road       | 1                  | 3                   | 0     |
| Syd. Showground | 0                  | 1                   | 0     |
| Waverley Park   | 14                 | 3                   | 0     |
|                 | 87                 | 80                  | 1     |

#### Highest Score

|           |             |       |      |     |
|-----------|-------------|-------|------|-----|
| Hawthorn  | 26.22 [178] | Rd 11 | 1982 | PP  |
| Melbourne | 26.20 [176] | Rd 17 | 1940 | MCG |

#### Lowest Score

|           |           |      |      |     |
|-----------|-----------|------|------|-----|
| Hawthorn  | 1.7 [13]  | Rd 9 | 1926 | MCG |
| Melbourne | 3.11 [29] | Rd 2 | 1966 | GO  |

#### Greatest Winning Margin

|           |            |       |      |     |
|-----------|------------|-------|------|-----|
| Hawthorn  | 115 points | Rd 21 | 1983 | Wav |
| Melbourne | 141 points | Rd 9  | 1926 | MCG |

#### Last Time They Met – Round 7 2022, MCG

|                    | Melbourne  | Hawthorn   |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| Quarter Time       | 3.3        | 3.5        |
| Half Time          | 7.5        | 5.8        |
| Three-quarter Time | 13.9       | 8.11       |
| Full Time          | 13.13 [91] | 11.15 [81] |

#### Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

|    |                |      |       |      |     |
|----|----------------|------|-------|------|-----|
| 16 | P. Hudson      | Haw  | Rd 5  | 1969 | GO  |
| 12 | B. Johnson Snr | Melb | Rd 11 | 1933 | MCG |
| 11 | F. Fanning     | Melb | Rd 11 | 1944 | GO  |
| 11 | L. Matthews    | Haw  | Rd 1  | 1981 | MCG |
| 10 | P. Hudson      | Haw  | Rd 22 | 1971 | GO  |
| 10 | J. Dunstall    | Haw  | Rd 22 | 1996 | MCG |

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- These clubs have played each other 168 times, Hawthorn winning 87 of those games, Melbourne 80 and one match was drawn. They have met in seven finals, Hawthorn winning four of those, including the 1988 grand final. Hawthorn has averaged 91 points per game and Melbourne 88.
- Melbourne was a founding member of both the VFA (1877) and VFL (1897). Hawthorn played in the VFA between 1914 and 1924 before joining the VFL in 1925.
- Three Hawthorn players have so far been named as AFL Legends: John Kennedy Snr, Peter Hudson and Leigh Matthews. Two Melbourne players have been named as Legends: Norm Smith and Ron Barassi.
- Melbourne's Norm Smith (coach) and Ron Barassi were named in the VFL/AFL Team of the Century, as was Hawthorn's Leigh Matthews.
- With both clubs struggling financially and on the field, a merger was proposed in 1996, the new entity to be called "Melbourne Hawks". Led by former captain Don Scott, the Hawthorn members scuttled the plan.
- Melbourne has had three nicknames: Redlegs, Fuchsias and Demons. Hawthorn has had two: Mayblossoms and Hawks.
- Leigh Matthews leads Hawthorn's list of best and fairest winners, taking out the award eight times. Melbourne's Allan La Fontaine, Jim Stynes and Clayton Oliver have each won four best and fairest awards.
- Hawthorn's Jason Dunstall kicked 10 goals or more in a match 16 times and Peter Hudson performed the feat 12 times. Dunstall kicked 17.5 against Richmond in 1992 and Hudson kicked 16.1 against Melbourne in 1969. Melbourne's Fred Fanning kicked 10 goals or more six times, including a League record 18.1 against St Kilda in 1947.

#### 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>

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, and Gaye Fitzpatrick, with MCC deputy librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL