



# MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

**AFL 2023 ROUND 11  
NARRM V WALYALUP**

**LIBRARY FACT SHEET  
MAY 27, 2023**

## **NARRM AND WALYALUP**

Geelong is the only AFL club that has, and has always had, an Aboriginal name. The name of the settlement, later to become the city, was apparently derived from *Diljang*, the name for the region in the local Wadawurrung dialect meaning a "tongue of land or peninsula". Last year the Melbourne Football Club was rebranded Narrm in recognition of the Sir Douglas Nicholls Indigenous Round. For the Sir Douglas Nicholls Indigenous Round this year, over AFL Rounds 10 and 11, the Demons will again play using the Indigenous name Narrm, and they are joined by Fremantle, who are temporarily rebranded Walyalup.

What are the origins of these Aboriginal names? It seems that Narrm is a name in an eastern Kulin dialect, but it did not initially refer to greater Melbourne, but an area by the bank of the Yarra opposite the old wharf, west of Queens Bridge. An early reference to the region as "Naarm, or Narm, or Nearm" is in the papers of George Augustus Robinson, the Aboriginal Protector for the Port Phillip District from 1839 to 1849, who wrote:

"Bare.rar.run: Derrimart's country";

"My bank W. belongs to Derrimart";

"Naarm, or Narm, or Nearm, where the steamer stops, belongs to Derremot".

According to Ian D. Clark, Derrimut was a Bunurong *arweet* (clan head) of the Yalukit-willam clan whose estate, "included the south bank of the Yarra River, from the punt at South Yarra to the Yarra wharf, where steamers moored." While Derrimut's mother was from a Woi wurrung-speaking (Wurundjeri) clan, he would have inherited his responsibilities and rights to Country from his Yalukit-willam father through patrilineal descent. Robinson's account suggests that Derrimut's lands extended along the Yarra's south bank from Robinson's residence, by the river at Chapel Street, South Yarra (now a part of Melbourne High School), west to the then wharf (where Crown Casino would be established) at Southbank. It was in this area at Southbank that the first Melbourne Cricket Ground was located from 1846 to 1854. The 1858 testimony of William Hull, an MCC Member, suggested that Derrimut's Country also extended to at least a portion of Melbourne's CBD by the wharf, on the Yarra's north bank.

Walyalup is a Nyoongar word meaning "the place of the Woylie" (*Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*), a type of bettong, also known as a kangaroo rat, that was once common in Fremantle. Like Melbourne, for Kulin clans on the other side of the continent, the Fremantle area was a traditional meeting place of local clans before British colonisation.

## **THEIR ONLY FINAL**

In 2006, at the end of the home and away matches, Fremantle had finished third on the ladder and Melbourne seventh. The Dockers lost to Adelaide in a qualifying final and Melbourne beat St Kilda in an elimination final. This meant the two sides met in a semi final, played in Subiaco. The crowd of 42,505 fans saw a close fought tussle in the first half, with the Dockers leading by just three points at quarter time and six points at the main break. With four goals to the Demons' three in the third quarter, the Dockers led by 17 points at the final change, but keeping the Demons to just one goal in the last quarter, Freo ran out victors by 28 points.

**Fremantle 14.18 [102] def. Melbourne 11.8 [74]**

Matthew Pavlich, Ryan Murphy, Jeff Farmer and Matthew Carr each kicked two goals for Fremantle while Russell Robertson and David Neitz, with three goals each, were Melbourne's leading goalkickers

## **FREMANTLE'S FIRST COACH**

In 1995 the Fremantle Football Club was admitted to the AFL. Gerard Neesham, who had played 79 games for East Fremantle, 97 games for Swan Districts, nine games for the Sydney Swans and 42 games for Claremont, had coached Claremont for 171 games between 1987 and 1994, was an obvious choice for the senior coaching position. Fremantle's side struggled early and won just 32 of its 88 games under Neesham. The club finished thirteenth in 1995 and 1996, twelfth in 1997 and second last in 1998, at which point the club parted ways with Neesham. In 2000 Neesham set up the Clontarf Foundation which encourages school and football participation amongst indigenous youth in Western Australia.

## This Round in History – Round 11 on the MCG

The highest Round 11 score at the MCG is 25.11 (161) by Collingwood against St Kilda in 1995. The overall record is 25.29 (179) by Fitzroy against Geelong 8.8 (56) at the Brunswick Street Oval in 1944. The most goals in a game is 12 by Bob Johnson Snr for Melbourne against Hawthorn in 1933. The overall Round 11 record is 15 by Gordon Coventry for Collingwood against Essendon at Victoria Park in 1933. The highest score in a quarter in this round at the MCG is 10.5 (65) which has been achieved twice, both times by Richmond against Footscray. The first instance was in the third quarter of a 1970 clash and the second in the last quarter in a 1978 match. The overall Round 11 record for the highest score in a quarter is 11.5 (71) by Fitzroy against Geelong in the third quarter at Brunswick Street in 1944. The highest Round 11 attendance at the MCG is 87,653 in 1989 when Geelong defeated Essendon by 54 points. The overall Round 11 attendance record is 92,935 at Waverley Park in 1981 when Hawthorn defeated Collingwood by 46 points.

## Statistics for Melbourne (Narm) v Fremantle (Walyalup)

### Melbourne v Fremantle by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Fremantle	Drawn
MCG	9	8	0
Docklands	2	1	0
Subiaco Oval	3	11	0
WACA	1	2	0
Marrara	2	1	0
Cazaly Stad.	0	1	0
Perth Stad.	1	0	0
	18	24	0

### Highest Score

Melbourne	25.10 (160)	Rd 20	2000	Dock
Fremantle	22.12 (144)	Rd 10	1999	MCG
Fremantle	22.12 (144)	Rd 21	2007	Subi

### Lowest Score

Melbourne	4.9 (33)	Rd 16	2020	Caz
Fremantle	6.11 (47)	Rd 16	2020	Caz

### Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	83 points	Rd 20	2000	Dock
Fremantle	90 points	Rd 9	2013	Subi

### Last Time They Met – Round 20, 2022, Perth Stad.

	Melbourne	Fremantle
Quarter time	4.3	2.2
Half time	7.7	3.4
Three-quarter time	10.11	4.5
Full time	12.13 (85)	5.9 (39)

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

10	Tony Modra	Frem	Rd 10	1999	MCG
----	------------	------	-------	------	-----

## PETER BELL - From West to North and Back

Coming to the Fremantle Dockers from the South Fremantle club, and being a member of the club in its inaugural year 1995, Peter Bell was the AFL's first Korean born player. However, having played only two games for the season, he was delisted and picked up by North Melbourne where he played in their premiership sides of 1996 and 1999. He was chosen as an All-Australian in 1999 and won the club's best and fairest award in 2000. By the end of that season he had played 123 games (120 goals) for the club. But, the West beckoned and, despite North being desperate to retain his services, he returned to the Dockers in 2001 where he won their best and fairest award that year and again in 2003 and 2004. After a stellar season in 2003 he was again selected as an All-Australian. In 2002 he was appointed captain of the club and retained the position until the end of 2006. He retired after Round 14 of the 2008 season having played 163 games (130 goals) for the Dockers. He was made a Life Member of the Fremantle Football Club in 2007, and the following year was made a Life Member of the AFL. In 2018 he was appointed Executive General Manager Football of the Dockers. He is also a past president of the AFL Players Association and was the inaugural Chairman of the AFL Players' Trust.

## PLAYED FOR BOTH

Harley Bennell went to the Gold Coast club from the Peel Thunder side in the WAFL. He played a total of 81 games (92 goals) for the Suns between 2011 and 2015, but after several off-field incidents, was traded to Fremantle at the end of the 2015 season. Injury problems saw him play only two games (3 goals) for the Dockers in four seasons, and he went off to the Demons at the start of the 2020 season. More off-field problems saw Bennell play only five games (3 goals) for Melbourne in 2020 and he retired at the end of the season.

## FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogu>

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.