



# *Law 43*

*December, 2023*



*Christmas in Fed Square, Melbourne*

## **In This Issue:**

- **From the Editor**
- **...And the President – “Greg’s Take”**
- **A Day of Remembrance: Honouring Our Heroes Through Cricket**
- **Umpiring Challenges**
- **Shane Herbert Tribute**
- **A few more Interesting “Snibbits” about our Great Game**
- **A Personal Reflection on Gratitude**
- **Umpires Had No Other Choice But to Give Batter “Timed Out”, Says MCC**
- **MCC Responds to ‘Several Questions’ it Received Over “Timed Out” Dismissal**
- **Marist Cricket Carnival**
- **Some John Collins’ Wisdom with Absolutely Nothing to do with Cricket**
- **Our Association Book Reviews**
- **VCAUSA Calendar and VCAUSA Items for Sale**

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# Law 43

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## CONTENTS

From the Editor .....	3
.... And the President – “Greg’s Take” .....	4
A Day of Remembrance: Honouring Our Heroes Through Cricket.....	5
Umpiring Challenges .....	6
Shane Herbert Tribute .....	7
A few more Interesting “Snibbits” about our Great Game ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	7
A Personal Reflection on Gratitude .....	8
Umpires Had No Other Choice But to Give Batter “Timed Out”, Says MCC .....	9
MCC Responds to ‘Several Questions’ it Received Over “Timed Out” Dismissal .....	9
Marist Cricket Carnival .....	11
Some John Collins’ Wisdom with Absolutely Nothing to do with Cricket.....	12
Our Association Book Reviews .....	15
VCAUSA Calendar and VCAUSA Items for Sale .....	16

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## FROM THE EDITOR



As indicated with the cover picture taken in Fed Square on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, while I was heading to our Department Christmas Lunch at Zinc, my thoughts were focussed on a Christmas Greeting to the readership. Have a safe and enjoyable Festive Season and let us hope for five days of exciting cricket commencing on Boxing Day.

In this issue, I am pleased to bring you the usual thoughts from the President, Greg Azzopardi. Eric Kelly has given readers two book reviews, the first being his comments on Mike Hussey's "Underneath the Southern Cross", and the second a review of one of the many books by Peter Fitzsimons, this one entitled "Gotta Love This Country". Perhaps you could be encouraged to drop into a book store or go to your local library in order to read these books for yourself. John and Suzanne Collins have offered readers some "Aussie English" to add to your wisdom in regards to our language,

I am pleased to bring you an article by Malcolm Wood, in which he has summarised what occurred prior to the start of his match at Ringwood on 11<sup>th</sup> November and it is to be hoped that in all cricket matches due to commence at 11:00 a.m. on that day, a similar Remembrance Day ceremony was observed. For my part, at about five minutes to 11:00 a.m., I found myself in Camberwell Road heading for Kevin Bartlett Oval in Burnley. While I pulled over, stopped my car and listened to a most moving Remembrance Day ceremony, broadcast by 3MBS radio, which concluded with those three immortal words in one of the two images in Malcolm's article, I was saddened to observe that I was the only Australian in that vicinity of Melbourne who had paused to remember how fortunate we are to have our freedom, while everyone else around was either rushing past in their cars or hurrying along the adjacent footpath to where I was parked. What has happened to our country?

There follows an article entitled "Umpiring Challenges" (thanks to Vallinayagam Selvaraj) describing an incident near his ground on 21<sup>st</sup> October, which was clearly a challenge for the Umpires. Thanks also to Paul Jensen for his note on the Tribute paid to long-standing Association Member, Shane Herbert, by Shane's Club, Northcote, during Round 3 this season. Thanks again to Malcolm Wood for a second article entitled "A Personal Reflection on Gratitude" which I recommend to you.

With all the discussion in the press following the recent "Timed Out" decision, I thought it was appropriate to reproduce the two articles on this matter, which I received in a recent issue of "Playing the Game", forwarded to me by Darrell Holt.

As usual, the back page contains the future VCAUSA Calendar and items for sale.

I have to inform readers that this is my final issue as Editor of "Law 43" after a little more than ten years of doing this task for the VCAUSA. During an interview with the Premier Umpiring Management in the off-season, I was made the "generous offer" of becoming an unpaid, off-field observer, in order to remain on the Premier Panel. Knowing as I do how short of fit and capable umpires are all Melbourne suburban Cricket Associations, I chose not to accept this offer and have been welcomed by Garry Male, Umpiring Manager for the Eastern Cricket Association. While I felt during August that it may be possible to continue as Editor, it has proven to be quite impractical given that I no longer have regular contact with members of the Premier Panel who should, after all, be the source of articles for the VCAUSA Newsletter. Clear evidence of this point, are just the seven "Bios" which have been available from the 28 new recruits to the Premier Panel this season and the absence of any publishable information to date, from the Umpiring Management Team. Should there be a VCAUSA Member willing to continue to edit "Law 43" in the form in which it has been published



for these past years, I should be more than happy to assist that person with the provision of template files, etc., from my personal computer.

*Trevor Finlayson*

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## .... AND THE PRESIDENT – “GREG’S TAKE”



Well, folks, we were all geared up for what was shaping up to be an epic full season of Premier Cricket but leave it to Melbourne's whimsical weather to throw us a curveball. The past couple of weekends have been a real downer - nothing but rain, rain, and more rain. It's like Mother Nature decided to test our cricketing spirit. But hey, the silver lining is finally peeking through those stubborn clouds, and guess what? We've got a Super Saturday in store for us, featuring not one, not two, but three T20 matches. Now that's a game-changer, literally, in our regular Premier cricket scene. How cool is that? So, end the calendar year on a high and enjoy the best seat in the house. Make sure that you keep your eye on the ball as it will be flying in all directions.

A massive shoutout to all you awesome members who joined the party at Leyalina in Carlton for a feast that'll be etched in our memories. Round two at that spot, and you know what? It lived up to the hype. It was great to see so many new members attending and special kudos to Vivek for pulling off some event magic. I won't lie; I walked away a few kilos heavier. No regrets, though - it was a culinary journey worth every bite. Keep a look out in the new year for our next dining experience.

Now, let's shift gears and talk Melbourne Boxing Day Test. Who's hyped for this one? The Great Southern stand is practically calling our names. Are we going to be cheering for the entire Aussie squad, or do we have our eyes set on a select few players to do well? So many questions are swirling around: How long will the Test stretch? Is Warner going to keep his spot on the team? And, of course, Melbourne is notorious for keeping us on our toes with its unpredictable weather. Only time will tell on that front.

As we wrap up the chapters of 2023, here's a quick shout to all of you - stay safe and soak up the holiday vibes with your crew, whether you're jet-setting to exotic locations or just chilling at home (like yours truly). Can't wait to catch up post-break, all refreshed and raring to roll for the Premier Cricket grind. The finals are beckoning, and we're ready to bring our A-game!

Catch you on the other side of the break, and here's to a cricket-filled, joyous holiday season!

Cheers,

*Greg Azzopardi*

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## DO WE STILL HAVE “CRICKET CHARACTERS” (CONT'D)?

“He played a cut so late as to be positively posthumous.” (*John Arlott*)

“Hick scratches around like an old hen in the crease there.” (*Henry Blofeld*)

“Fred Titmus has two short legs, one of them square.” (*Brian Johnston*)

“On the first day, Logie decided to chance his arm and it came off.” (*Trevor Bailey*)

(from *No-Balls and Googlies – A cricket companion* by Geoff Tibballs)



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# A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: HONOURING OUR HEROES THROUGH CRICKET

On November 11th, 2023, a unique and profound event took place across the Victorian cricket grounds. It was a day where sport and solemn remembrance intertwined, creating moments of reflection that transcended the boundaries of cricket.

As a former Royal Australian Navy officer, who served for eleven years, including a deployment to Iraq, I have experienced first-hand the values of courage, mateship, and resilience. These are values I observed mirrored in the spirit of cricket – a game known for its fairness, competitive spirit, and camaraderie.



Remembrance Day ceremony at Ringwood Ground,

This year, Remembrance Day held a special significance. Falling on a Saturday, it coincided with our usual cricket matches. Recognising the importance of this day, Cricket Victoria announced that games would commence five minutes later than the usual 11:00 a.m. start time. This significant adjustment was to allow for a period of reflection and remembrance at each ground.

I had the privilege of umpiring the match between St Kilda and Ringwood at Ringwood with Mark Malmberg, where we were given the honour of leading the Remembrance Day ceremony. Dressed in my umpire attire, adorned with the medals from my service in Iraq, and my returned from active service badge, I felt a surge of pride and humility.

Before the one-minute silence at 11:00 a.m., we addressed the gathering. We gave a speech to give tribute to the brave souls who had stood on countless battlefields and paid the ultimate price for our freedoms. We recited the Ode of Remembrance together, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and servicewomen. These ceremonies, replicated at each ground, were led by individuals with varying connections to the defence forces. It was a powerful demonstration of our collective respect and gratitude towards those who have served.



Malcolm Wood (right) and Mark Malmberg address the teams during the Remembrance Day ceremony at Ringwood.

Reflecting on the day, I am filled with gratitude towards Cricket Victoria for incorporating this act of remembrance into the cricket schedule. To the Ringwood club, for allowing us the honour of leading the ceremony, I extend my heartfelt thanks. The opportunity to wear my medals and badge was not just a personal moment of pride, but also a symbol of respect and remembrance for my fellow servicemen and women.

This Remembrance Day served as a reminder of the enduring legacy of those who have served and sacrificed. It was a demonstration of how sports like cricket can bring people together, not just in competition, but in unity and respect for something greater than the game.

*Malcolm Wood (Former Lieutenant, Royal Australian Navy)*



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## UMPIRING CHALLENGES

Every day we learn new things in this world, from our surroundings. A cricket field is no different. Each game throws different challenges for the players and the umpires, to learn new lessons from the experience. I am going to share something that my umpiring partner, Gerry Schembri, and I experienced on the cricket field.

It was a Men's Third XI game between Camberwell Magpies and Kingston Hawthorn at Watson Park, Ashburton. I was appointed as an umpire for day two of the game, Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> October. It started as a very normal day for a game of cricket, sunny and clear weather. First over of the day was at Gerry's end and it went smoothly. At 11.34 a.m. the bowler at my end was about to start his run-up when we heard a bang of sound and a cloud of smoke rising from one of the cars parked in the nearby Munro Avenue.

We umpires immediately stopped the game and collected the ball from the bowler. We got together to analyse the situation as no one was aware about what had happened. Our primary aim at that time was the safety of the players and ourselves. Meanwhile, the fire on the car was rising and a gulf of thick smoke was going up. We also heard intermediate loud noises of tyres bursting.

One of the players from the fielding team said that he saw a person deliberately throw a Molotov Cocktail inside the car. At that instance we realised it was a deliberate act and we wanted to make sure that it is not a one-off incident. The captains of both teams took charge of controlling their players and made sure that none of them went near the fire zone.

As umpires, we had to consider several factors at that point of time – **Safety of the players and officials, safety of the pitch, smoke coming out of burning car, possibility of game resumption**, etc. We chose to wait for the Fire Brigade and Police to come to understand whether an evacuation was needed. Luckily, the Fire Brigade came within 10 minutes, and they quickly cordoned off the area around the car. The thick smoke from the burning car was also moving on the other side of the ground on account of the direction of wind.



Deliberately lit car fire in Munro Avenue  
(Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> October)

Once the area was safe for normal activities to resume, the umpires got together and discussed about the resumption of play, to calculate lost time and any overs deduction. We then called the captains and checked with them about the players mindset about the incident. The captains advised that all players are in good mindset about the resumption of the game. We restarted the game at 11.54 a.m., overall, 20 minutes only loss of play. There were several things to consider and act on during that short period of time – Safety of all participants, one team approach of the umpires, Player management by the captains, protecting the pitch, ready to act as witnesses in case of a police enquiry. Immediately at the end of the game, my partner sent a message to Darren Anderson reporting the specific incident.

Overall, it was a big learning experience for all of us on the field, which will stay in our memories for some time. We learned during the tea break that the culprit was apprehended by the police and no witnessing was needed from us.

*Vallinayagam Selvaraj*



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## SHANE HERBERT TRIBUTE

A tribute to Shane was held at Bill Lawry Oval at lunch during the CV Round 3 match, Northcote vs Prahran.

A gathering of former players and officials wished Shane a happy retirement and celebrated an appreciation of his services to the game.

Shane is a Northcote Life Member and a member of the CV 200 club. He commenced scoring at 4<sup>th</sup> XI level 1985/86, 3<sup>rd</sup> XI 1986/87 to 1988/89 and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 1989/90. His 1<sup>st</sup> XI career consisted of a total of 500 games commencing from the 1990/91 season.

Shane was a great umpire man, very welcoming and protective.

With comments like "I made more mistakes than the ump's," he then would shut down any conversation regarding umpires costing a side victory.

Congratulations to Shane on his long scoring journey, from the VCAUSA.

*Paul Jensen*



Shane Herbert (left) and Paul Jensen at the Northcote Tribute to Shane, during Round 3, 2023.

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### A FEW MORE INTERESTING “SNIBBITS” ABOUT OUR GREAT GAME

“No good hitting me there, mate, there’s nothing to damage.” – *Derek Randall to Dennis Lillee, after being hit on the head by a bouncer.*

“I just want to get into the middle and get the right sort of runs.” – *Robin Smith, suffering from Diarrhoea on an England tour of India.*

“Kid yourself it’s Sunday, Rev, and keep your hands together .” – *Fred Trueman after Revd David Sheppard dropped a succession of catches.*

“Richie Benaud eyes the camera with the look of a disdainful lizard.” – *Brian Viner.*

“I’m a big believer that the coach is something you travel in to get to and from the game.” – *Shane Warne with another dig at John Buchanan.*

“Hell, Gatt, move out of the way, I can’t see the wickets.” – *Dennis Lillee after stopping in mid run-up to bowl to Mike Gatting.*

“Well, Andrew Strauss is certainly an optimist – he’s come out wearing sunblock.” – *Australian commentator in the fifth Test of the 5-0 series whitewash in 2006-07.*

“Gatting at fine leg – that’s a contradiction of terms.” – *Richie Benaud*

“It couldn’t have been Gatt. Anything he takes up to his room after nine o’clock, he eats.” – *Ian Botham on the Mike Gatting barmaid scandal.*

“I can’t really say I’m batting badly. I’m not batting long enough to be batting badly.” – *Greg Chappell.*

“It’s a catch he would have caught 99 times out of 1,000.” – *Henry Blofield.*

“The hallmark of a great captain is the ability to win the toss at the right time.” – *Richie Benaud.*

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## A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON GRATITUDE

In the world of cricket umpiring, where each game is a step on a never-ending ladder, it's rare to pause, look around, and enjoy the moment. We often aim for that higher grade, but recently, a young man's story reminded me of the beauty of the here and now. I apologize if I've already shared this story with some of you, but its impact was profound enough that I felt compelled to share it again.

I met this young man at a Cricket Southern Bayside umpire training and development night. In his mid-20s and a cricket enthusiast through and through, his father was a well-known senior figure in one of the Association's clubs. This young chap lived and breathed cricket. When we chatted, his eyes lit up as we delved into the nuances of Premier first-grade cricket.

Then, he shared his journey. A decade ago, a brain tumour had crippled the right side of his body. His recovery was tediously slow over many years, involving relearning to talk, regaining vision, and moving his body. Unfortunately, his leg had not fully recovered, and his movement was clearly impacted. Despite it all, his passion for cricket didn't wane. Cricket Southern Bayside gave him a chance to umpire in their lower grades. His face brightened as he narrated his story, filled with nerves, fear, apprehension, but also joy. It was an amazing story.

His dream? To umpire in our Premier cricket, even the fourth grade would have been a dream for him. Simple, yet it hit me hard. I remembered my days in the fourth grade, always eyeing the next level – the thirds, then the twos, and then the ones. But did I ever stop and think, "How lucky am I?" or "How good is this?" Here was a young man who would have dreamed of doing what we do each week, yet how often are we solely focused on reaching the next level?

Reflecting on this, I realized how much perspective this young man brought me. We often chase after what's next without cherishing where we are. There's always a higher grade, a bigger match. But how often do we stop to soak in the moment and be grateful that we are part of the best competition in the state, possibly the best club competition in the world?

This encounter deeply impacted me. I'm not saying I don't have ambitions – that's normal for any of us on our panel – but I'm going to make a point in every match to ask myself: How privileged are we to be umpiring Premier cricket? How lucky am I to be doing this each weekend with my mates, solving tough problems, witnessing amazing moments, and just being that third team out there in the middle? There isn't a piece of this I don't love.

This young man, with his unyielding spirit and love for cricket, unknowingly taught me a valuable lesson: gratitude.

As umpires, players, or fans, we're part of a game that's so much more than just scores and victories. It's about the journey, the people we meet, and the memories we create. And sometimes, the greatest joy lies not in reaching the top but in cherishing each weekend.

Maybe this is a bit deep for "Law 43", but I thought it was worth sharing.

*Malcolm Wood*

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## UMPIRES HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO GIVE BATTER “TIMED OUT”, SAYS MCC

Given that 'Time' had not been called by the umpires, and that at the time of the appeal more than two minutes had elapsed, umpires Richard Illingworth and Marais Erasmus "correctly" gave Sri Lankan batter, Angelo Mathews, 'Timed Out', during the World Cup game in Delhi on Monday, according to a statement issued by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the guardians of the Laws. "There was no other action for the umpires to take within the Laws of Cricket", says the MCC.

The relevant Law here is, says the MCC, Law 40.1.1, which states: "After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be ready to receive the ball, or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within three minutes of the dismissal or retirement. If this requirement is not met, the incoming batter will be out, Timed Out". The Club points out the match was being played under International Cricket Council One Day International Playing Conditions, but that except for the fact a two, not three minute, timing requirement is involved, "the Law and PCs are otherwise identical".

The key part of the Law is that the batter must "be ready to receive the ball" within the allocated time period, says the MCC, as "being on the field, or even at the wicket, is not enough to avoid being Timed Out". It points to Mathews "taking more than 90 seconds to get to the 30-yard circle" at which time the batter "appeared to notice that he was short on time, jogging the final few yards to the wicket. He had not, at this stage, begun to take guard and was not close to being in a position to receive the ball".

Mathews' "helmet malfunction has been shown to have taken place one minute and 54 seconds after the previous wicket had fallen". The MCC emphasised that "had the umpires been informed of a significant, justifiable, equipment-related delay within the two-minute allowance, they could have treated it as a new type of delay (as they would when, for example, a bat breaks), possibly even calling Time, allowing for a resolution of that delay without the batter being at risk of being Timed Out.

Instead, "Mathews did not consult with the umpires, which a player would be expected to do when seeking new equipment. Rather, he just signalled to the dressing room for a replacement. Had he explained to the umpires what had happened and asked for time to get it sorted out, they might have allowed him to change the helmet, perhaps calling Time and thus removing any possibility of being Timed Out".

(From *Playing the Game* No. 4339-21140, Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2023)

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## MCC RESPONDS TO ‘SEVERAL QUESTIONS’ IT RECEIVED OVER “TIMED OUT” DISMISSAL

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) says it received "several questions" about Angelo Mathews' 'Timed Out' dismissal in his side's World Cup match against Bangladesh in Delhi on Monday. They were: 'Is the 'Timed Out' Law required'; 'Should there be an allowance in the 'Timed Out' Law for equipment malfunction or other reasonable delays'; and 'What role does the 'Spirit of Cricket' play in the situation that prevailed on the day.



In answer to those questions, the MCC says first that without the Law "a batter could waste time at the fall of a wicket, choosing not to come to the crease in a timely manner". That is particularly problematic in timed cricket, when the light may be fading and a draw a favourable result, but it is also relevant in limited overs cricket, where the fielding side is often punished for slow over-rates. Even if the intent is not specifically to waste time, a Law is required to keep the game moving and prevent significant delays between wickets falling.

In regards to a malfunction or other reasonable delays, the Club points out that it constantly reviews the Laws but the fact that the 'Timed Out' Law had never previously been invoked in international cricket, and only six previous times in first-class cricket "suggests that there is not a great need for change at this point". It goes on with: "Furthermore, should the umpires think that there is a significant delay unrelated to the fall of wicket, they are entitled to make clear that this is a different interruption, and, if necessary, call Time – as they would at any interruption in play. Under those circumstances, a batter cannot be Timed Out".

Lastly, reference is made to part of a statement the Club issued following the run out of non-striker Charlie Dean in a Womens' One Day International at Lord's last year, which read: "Cricket is a broad church and the Spirit by which it is played is no different. As custodian of the Spirit of Cricket, MCC appreciates its application is interpreted differently across the globe. Respectful debate is healthy and should continue, as where one person sees the bowler as breaching the Spirit in such examples, another will point at the non-striker gaining an unfair advantage by leaving their ground early. Whilst [this] was indeed an unusual end to an exciting match, it was properly officiated and should not be considered as anything more".

The intention of that statement last year was, says the MCC, "in part to outline that the Spirit of Cricket is not owned by any one player, country or culture and that the game is played with subtle differences across the world. At the Spirit of Cricket's core are the values of respect and fair play, yet its application is interpretive, as issues considered to be totally reasonable in the eyes of some may be deemed unacceptable to others. It is recognised that there are times when players will choose not to complete certain dismissals, not to appeal or, upon reflection, to withdraw an appeal."

"Provisions exist within the Laws of Cricket to facilitate these choices. It should be stressed that none of this is a requirement of the Laws of Cricket or the Spirit of Cricket, yet there are occasions when a fielding captain will feel that withdrawing an appeal, for example, would be 'the right thing to do', and such occasions are often rightfully held up as a positive example of the Spirit of Cricket."

It concludes by saying a "good illustration" of this is the MCC's 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Spirit of Cricket award where recipient, Nepal's Aasif Sheikh, refused to run out Ireland's Andy McBrine, who had been accidentally upended by bowler Kamal Airee while attempting a run. "Had Aasif run out McBrine, he would have been well within his rights under the Laws of Cricket, and nobody could reasonably say that he had acted outside the Spirit of Cricket," says the MCC, "however, he chose to take a different course of action, and in doing so, rightly earned plaudits the world over."

"Whilst the Laws and Playing Conditions govern the game, much like within legislation which governs society and other sporting codes, there will be frequent shades of grey in interpretation and not all scenarios can be foreseen and specifically codified. In these instances, it is the players who will ultimately determine how their game is to be played."

(From *Playing the Game* No. 4339-21141, Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2023)

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## MARIST CRICKET CARNIVAL

It was an enjoyable few days for a group of eight umpires, mostly from the Eastern Cricket Association Umpires' Association, to be invited to officiate in the recent Marist Cricket Carnival from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December, which this year was hosted by the staff of Marcellin College in Bulleen. The Carnival is an annual event the hosting of which is shared amongst the several Marist Brothers Colleges throughout Australia.

For the Bulleen Carnival this year, teams came from Marcellin College, Bulleen, Marist Sion, Warragul, St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, Marist College, Bendigo, Trinity College, Lismore and Newman College, Perth. Each team consisted of 12 to 14 young cricketers of varying ages between 14 and 17, together with their coaches and managers and in a few instances a dedicated scorer. The Carnival consisted of a "round-robin" event, with three 50-over per side matches on each day, played on the two Marcellin College ovals, (Bray and Lyons) and the Hudson Oval at neighbouring Trinity College, kindly provided Trinity College for the duration of the Carnival. The dedication of the staff of both Marcellin College and Trinity College, in preparing and maintaining the grounds for the five days of cricket, was most commendable.

Some excellent cricket was played and I, myself, was privileged to witness, together with my colleague Stephen Lennon, "from the best 'seats' on a cricket ground", an amazing performance by the Captain of the Newman College Team, Will Malajczuk. Will is a left-hand bat and a right-hand off-spinner. Newman College batted first and we witnessed Will hit 158 and then get a five-for with his off-spin spell of 10 overs. At the end of that day. it was announced by Marcellin College Head of Sport, Ben Reynolds, in summarizing that day's matches, that on that very day, Will Malajczuk had been selected in the Western Australia Under-17 Team for this coming summer of fixtures. Clearly he will be a name to look out for in the future of Australian Cricket. It is worth noting that one name amongst the alumni of Newman College, Perth, is that of Justin Langer!

But remember that cricket is very "levelling" game. In the following day's match, Will was dismissed for just two!

The accompanying image was sent to us as a memory of the Carnival by Ben Reynolds. Can you spot any particular umpire? For the record the results of all matches are as follows:



Photographic memory of the 2023 Marist Cricket Carnival. (Image courtesy of Ben Reynolds.)

### Round 1 (3<sup>rd</sup> December)

Marist College, Bendigo	8/246 from 50 overs
Trinity College, Lismore	10/83 from 40.1 overs
St Gregory's College, Campbelltown	8/220 from 50 overs
Marist Sion, Warragul	10/141 from 42 overs
Marcellin College, Bulleen	2/81 from 19.5 overs
Newman College, Perth	10/80 from 28 overs

### Round 2 (4<sup>th</sup> December)

Marcellin College, Bulleen	8/164 from 43.4 overs
Marist College, Bendigo	10/162 from 49.3 overs
Trinity College, Lismore	10/90 from 45.2 overs



St Gregory's College, Campbelltown	3/91 from 19.5 overs
Newman College, Perth	7/213 from 50 overs
Marist Sion, Warragul	10/103 from 41.2 overs

**Round 3 (5<sup>th</sup> December)**

Marist Sion, Warragul	10/157 from 45.5 overs
Marist College, Bendigo	6/185 from 50 overs
St Gregory's, Campbelltown	10/177 from 49.4 overs
Newman College, Perth	3/180 from 45 overs
Trinity College, Lismore	10/73 from 30.1 overs
Marcellin College, Bulleen	2/74 from 13.1 overs

**Round 4 (6<sup>th</sup> December)**

Newman College, Perth	6/345 from 50 overs
Trinity College, Lismore	10/90 from 39.4 overs
Marist College, Bendigo	10/126 from 47.2 overs
St Gregory's College, Campbelltown	3/127 from 20.3 overs
Marist Sion, Warragul	10/61 from 27 overs
Marcellin College, Bulleen	5/62 from 19.2 overs

**Round 5 (7<sup>th</sup> December)**

St Gregory's College, Campbelltown	10/129 from 49.1 overs
Marcellin College, Bulleen	10/124 from 49.3 overs
Trinity College, Lismore	10/110 from 48 overs
Marist Sion, Warragul	5/113 from 35.1 overs
Marist College, Bendigo	10/79 from 36.5 overs
Newman College, Perth	4/82 from 21.4 overs

As can be seen from the above summary of results, three teams, Newman College, Perth, Marcellin College, Bulleen and St Gregory's Campbelltown, ended the Carnival with four wins and one loss. But Newman College, Perth won the Carnival on account of their superior runs per wicket tally.

*Ed.*

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## SOME JOHN COLLINS' WISDOM WITH ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH CRICKET

Some true Aussie English that is slowly slipping from our vocabulary.

**Act**  
Common phrases are: He's bungin' on an act – I was only bungin' on an act, etc. To pretend to be something which you are not, is to "bung on an act". It is wiser and safer to be natural, to speak the truth about yourself.

**Crook**  
No good. Sick. "Things are crook – I am crook – The weather's crook – That bloody beer's crook. But "She went crook on me" means she abused me. And "I'm crooked on her" means I don't like her any more. Probably because she went crook on me.

**Egg**



A verb of encouragement. To “egg someone on” is to urge him to greater effort – or to persuade him to do something that you would not do yourself. But you would ‘not egg on’ a ‘bad egg’. ‘Bad eggs have natural criminal and anti- social tendencies, and should not be encouraged.

**Mate**

Your best friend. When your ‘mate’ is in trouble, you go to his assistance, no matter what he has done. A man must ‘stick by his mates’. The word is also used loosely as a general form of address for acquaintances and strangers. ‘G’day, mate’ ‘How ya goin’ mate?’ ‘Good on ya, mate.’ ‘No, not now, mate.’ ‘Righto, mate, be seein’ ya.’ Etc.

**Trot**

You can be ‘havin’ a good trot’ or havin’ a bad trot’ depending on how you are goin’. A run of bad luck is a ‘bad trot’ and vice versa. Trotting races are known as ‘the trots.’ But if you’ve ‘got the trots’ or you have a ‘touch of the trots’, you’re suffering from diarrhoea.

(Courtesy of John and Suzanne Collins)

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## GIANT OVERSTEP BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF LORD’S IN 2010

There were at least visual shades of Lord’s in 2010 when Indian cricketer, Abhimanyu Mithun bowled a giant overstep ‘No Ball’ during his Northern Warriors side’s Abu Dhabi T10 match against the Chennai Braves on Saturday. Bowling the fifth over of the innings, Mithun’s foot landed further down the pitch than did Mohammad Amir’s in that infamous Test at Lord’s 13 years ago, an event for the latter that eventually saw him banned and serve time for spot-fixing.

Law 41.8 requires an umpire who considers a bowler has delivered a deliberate ‘No Ball’ can “direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling” for the remainder of the innings concerned, but neither of the two on-field umpires, Sri Lankans Lyndon Hannibal and Ranmore Martinez, or TV umpire Gawie Botha of South Africa, went down that route.



Abhimanyu Mithun’s offending delivery in Abu Dhabi on Saturday (left), compared with Mohammad Amir’s at Lord’s in September, 2010 (right).

(From *Playing the Game* No. 4362-21229, Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023)

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## SHEFFIELD SHIELD PLAYERS GENERATE EXTRA PAPERWORK FOR UMPIRES

Umpires Mike Graham-Smith and Nathan Johnston had an extra level of paperwork to fill out after last week’s Sheffield Shield match between South Australia and Victoria in Adelaide, with four players up on Code-of-Conduct offences.

Two of the charges laid involved “Abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match” and the other two “Showing dissent at an umpire’s decision during a match”.

Fergus O’Neill of Victoria and Henry Hunt of South Australia were both found guilty of “abuse” offences and as they were their first over the last 18 months, they were given an “official reprimand”.



Two other Victorians, Mitchell Perry and Peter Siddle, both showed dissent at an umpire's decision, and they too were listed as first offenders and officially reprimanded.

While no details of just what drew the umpire's attention on each occasion have been made public, all four charges were rated at Level One, and take the number of cases on Cricket Australia's Code-of-Conduct Register for the 2023-24 season to 15.

Not included in the list of offenders during the game was Victoria's Peter Hanscomb, who lingered at the crease after being given out. While exact details have not become public, there are suggestions that the way the dismissal was handled by one of the umpires on-field made the situation appear much more belligerent on Handscomb's part than was actually the case.

(From *Playing the Game* No. 4362-21230, Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2023)

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## **‘INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS’, ‘INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT’, LEADS TO PLAYER SANCTIONS**

One player has been suspended for three games and another given a one-match suspension which was rescinded because of his previous good behaviour, as a result of incidents that occurred during a Victorian Premier League (VPL) First XI fixture between Essendon and Casey South Melbourne last weekend. Casey South Melbourne's Harrish Kannan, considered by many a Victorian State Side prospect, was banned for three matches as a result of a clash with State Player James Seymour who, despite his behaviour, will play this weekend.

Kannan, 19, for whom it was his first appearance at the tribunal, was found guilty of making inappropriate comments to an opposition player. VPL operations manager, Darren Anderson declined to discuss details of Kannan's report but it is understood it stemmed from an exchange with Seymour during a break in play.

Seymour was reported for making inappropriate contact with another player and received a one-match suspension after being found guilty. Anderson said though his good record over a long time in the VPL game meant he was eligible for a deduction in demerit points. "His suspension was removed and he has two demerit points against his record. 'He's eligible to play this weekend,' said Anderson, who indicate the incident involving Seymour happened when he was bowling and trying to field the ball and Kannan was at the non-striker's end.

Seymour's case was the second in the VPL this season of a player making contact with an opponent. Ringwood's Jackson Freeman was found guilty of pushing St Kilda's Lewis English in round four and suspended for one match. The same game also saw St Kilda skipper Adam Crosthwaite outed for two games for showing dissent towards the umpires. This week, Crosthwaite, 39, stepped down from the St Kilda captaincy, saying it was "time for a new face at the club".

(From *Playing the Game* No. 4360-21226, Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2023)

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## OUR ASSOCIATION BOOK REVIEWS

### ***Underneath the Southern Cross* – Michael Hussey, ISBN 9781742706573 (Hardie Grant Books, 2013)**

At the end of Michael Hussey's tenth summer in first-class cricket (aged 30) he finally was selected to play his first Test for Australia against the West Indies in November 2005. A lot of things went his way in the first six matches with him scoring three hundreds and Australia winning the two series. A pretty good way to start his Test career.

He was not naive either, as he realized that it was only the beginning with a lot of things to learn and milestones to achieve if he was to succeed.

He had played his cricket in his home State of Western Australia, then headed over to the English County to play for many years, learning his trade.

Michael was one of the most loved Australian cricketers to have worn the baggy green, whose hard work was rewarded with accolades at the highest level of international cricket. Michael Hussey's huge popularity does not solely rest on his playing record. It is also the way he played the game, with an integrity and sense of value, that endears him to his Australian and International fans.

Michael's impressive record reads;

<b>Tests:</b>	79 matches	6,235 runs	highest score 195
<b>Sheffield Shield;</b>	112	8,007	223 NO
<b>First Class:</b>	273	22,783	331 NO
<b>International One Day:</b>	185	5,442	109 NO
<b>Australian Domestic One Day:</b>	84	2,720	106
<b>International T20:</b>	38	721	60 NO
<b>Indian Premier League:</b>	45	1,691	116 NO
<b>Big Bash T20:</b>	4	35	21 NO

Michael has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest batting average in Australia (51.53) at the time of publication in 2013.

A remarkable story of one who persevered at his love of the game to become a dominant player throughout the world of cricket.

Well Done (one of my favorite players).

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### ***Gotta Love This Country* – Peter Fitzsimons, ISBN 987 1 76029 048 1 (Allen & Unwin, 2015)**

This is a book that celebrates the Good, the Generous, the Kind and Downright Strange Stories from around the country from the grassroots sporting fields. The stories come from all walks of life and are retold for our enjoyment. It took me several tries to read this book as at first, I was not able to grasp the intention of the stories until the second or third read. It was then that the penny dropped, and I could read them separately and take them in for what they are. I then enjoyed them a lot more.

There are stories that were interesting in the fact of the humanity and humility of the participants in matches for kids playing soccer, rugby, cricket, and other sports. Most of the participants were young



(from six upwards), both boy's and girl's teams with funny and sometimes extraordinary actions being told, up to Ricky Ponting playing road cricket with some youngsters.

I cannot go into great detail, as there were so many stories with different challenges that were overcome and learnt from. The book contains more than 250 pages with each story only being one page in length.

Peter Fitzsimons has gained a very interesting book that can be easily read at your leisure. I hope you can enjoy it as well.

*Eric Kelly*

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## VCAUSA CALENDAR

Date	Activity	Notes
Sunday, 7 January, 2024	Social Cricket Match vs Mount Waverley Vets	Ground TBA
Early January, 2024	CV T & D Session	On-line via "Teams"
Tuesday, 30 January, 2024	CV T & D Session	In person at CitiPower Centre
Tuesday, 27 February, 2024	CV T & D Session	Including BBQ commencing at 6:00 p.m.
Friday, 5 April, 2024	CV Premier Awards Night	At the MCG
Friday, 19 April, 2024	VCAUSA Annual Dinner and Presentation Night	Venue TBC
Sunday, 9 June, 2024	VCAUSA/SACUSA Joint Committee Meeting	Mount Gambier, South Australia

### VCAUSA Items for Sale (subject to limited stock and sizes)

**VCAUSA off-field jackets** as shown in the picture were introduced several years ago. They are popular, and fit for purpose to wear off-field to and from matches, and at social and training events. Please contact Dan Bomford if you are interested in purchasing a jacket or any of the other items listed below.



**Embroidered, new style, VCAUSA off-field polo shirts.** Made from 100% lightweight polyester, they are now available for purchase in sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL.

Member pricing for jackets and polo shirts appears on the Annual Membership Form available from the website at <https://www.vcausa.asn.au/>

**Association Ties**                    \$25

**Association Caps**                 \$15

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