



## Mercantile Cricket Umpires' Association: Newsletter 3 (BUMPER FEBRUARY EDITION!)

### MEETINGS

#### Tuesdays at St Kilda Sports Club

10th February 2026, 7pm

10th March 2026 – Finals Meeting & BBQ, 6.30pm

### FAMOUS FACE

England's left-handed batting superstar Alastair Cook visited the MCUA's home base, the St Kilda Sports Club, during the summer of 2017/2018. Cooky was spotted celebrating, after his 244\* at the MCG test and was gifted an Emerald Hill Cricket Club baggy cap. Onya Alastair!



# SEEING 'EM WELL

Our very own, Paul Hocking, presiding over South Yarra leg spinner Ryan Hanna.



BBQ assistant at meetings - Damian D'Souza!



## BARRY THE BOSS

A little-known fact is that we have an international umpire in our midst. Barry Drake has been a Chiang Mai International Cricket Sixes umpire panel member for many years now. The Thailand based competition is held every year, from March to April, and features as many as 30 teams.



## CLUBBY OF THE MONTH

Troy Shoesmith is a dedicated club umpire and much respected figure within the MCA. Troy has played for many years with Sacred Heart Cricket Club and still plights his trade on Saturdays in B and D grade. On any given Sunday, Troy can be found umpiring in the MCA and is also the current President of Sacred Heart.

What we love about “Shoei” is his willingness to umpire in any grade and any suburb in the southern and eastern suburbs, from as far as Heatherton to Bonbeach, with the same calm, level-headed demeanour.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Coles Sharks Cricket Club was a founding member of the MCA but unfortunately folded in 2015. Coles won 30 MCA premierships (Myer Emporium 10, Coles 12, Coles Myer 4, Coles Sharks 4). The club had a rich history and was associated with the Coles supermarket chain. David McNamara began playing for Coles in 1986/87 and was awarded 31st Life Member of the MCA in 2017 (also acting as Association secretary for 9 seasons).



David  
McNamara **Coles Myer Ltd.**

## MERCANTILE MUTUAL CUP

From 1992/93 to 2000/2001 the Australian One Day domestic cup was named after sponsor, Mercantile Mutual, a now defunct insurance and financial services company.

Anyone from that era, would surely remember the “signs”, whereby batsmen hitting specific signs around the ground won large cash prizes. Players like Shane Lee and Steve Waugh famously won significant money by hitting these signs, which jackpotted if not struck in a match.



# BY THE NUMBERS

- Number of MCA clubs: 36
- Number of grounds used by MCA: 46

## CLUB & GROUND SNAPSHOT

Suburb (club based)	Club (s)	Ground (s)
Ascot Vale	Flemington	Walter Street Reserve
Ashwood	Ashwood	Essex Heights Reserve
Avondale Heights	Avondale Heights	Canning Reserve
Brighton	Melbourne Strikers	Dendy Park 2
Brunswick	Brunswick	AG Gillion Oval, Holbrook Reserve, McDonald Reserve Coburg (3)
Burnley	Burnley CYMS	Loughnan Oval
Canterbury	Canterbury	Canterbury Sports Ground
Carnegie	Carnegie	Koornang Park Lord Reserve (2)
Clayton	Clayton District, CUCC Kings	Jack Meade Reserve, Namatjira Park (2)
Fairfield	Thornbury Strokers	Sir Herbert Olney Oval, Corben Oval (2)
Glen Iris	Malvern	TH King Oval
Hampton	Karkarook Racing	Dane Road Reserve
Heatherton	Heatherton	Heatherton Recreation Reserve
Kensington	Flemington Colts	JJ Holland Reserve
McKinnon, Bonbeach	Monash University	Mc Kinnon Reserve 2, Bonbeach Reserve 2, Bonbeach Reserve 3 (3)
Moonee Ponds	Moonee Valley	Ormond Park
Newport	Williamstown Colts	Greenwich Reserve, Altona Green Park (2)
Parkville	Indigos, Parkville District, Reds, Royal Park, Royal Park Brunswick, Sunrise, Youlden Parkville (8)	Brens, Flemington Road Oval, HG Smith, Ryder, McAllistar, Ransford, Western Oval, Walker East, Walker West (9)
South Yarra	Barnawartha North, Gunbower United, Melbourne City, Melbourne Falcons, Melbourne High School, National, Power House, Sacred Heart, South Yarra (9)	FP: 1, 3, 4, 5, Como Park, Como Park East, Righetti Oval Kooyong, Waverley Oval Malvern (8)
St Kilda	Emerald Hill	Gary Smorgan, Warick Armstrong Albert Park (2)

# COMPETITION OVERLOAD

## Clubs also playing in other Summer Associations

ECA	Ashwood, Canterbury (turf), Burnley CYMS, Monash University (synthetic)
Cricket Southern Bayside (turf)	Carnegie, Heatherton
MCC (turf)	Melbourne High School Old Boys
VSDCA (turf)	Brunswick, Malvern
VTCA (turf)	Mooney Valley
NWCA (synthetic)	Mooney Valley
NMCA (synthetic)	Royal Park Reds
SECA (synthetic)	CUCC Kings
Western Suburb Churches (synthetic)	Indigos

# RED HERRING

Edmund Herring Oval was one of Melbourne's most boutique grounds, hosting MCA matches (Barnawartha North's home base). Deemed a postage stamp of a ground opposite Melbourne Grammar School, featuring a bluestone retaining wall, solid clubrooms and an excellent turf square.

April 2017: Edmund Herring Oval was closed to facilitate construction of the new Domain metro station.

September 2024: Landscaping underway at Edmund Herring Oval with the installation of irrigation and reinstatement of the bluestone retaining wall.

February 2025: Council confirmed that Edmund Herring Oval grass oval will soon be made available again for community sport (following completion of the Metro Tunnel project).

**February 2026: Edmund Herring Oval has not yet been re-opened to the public.**



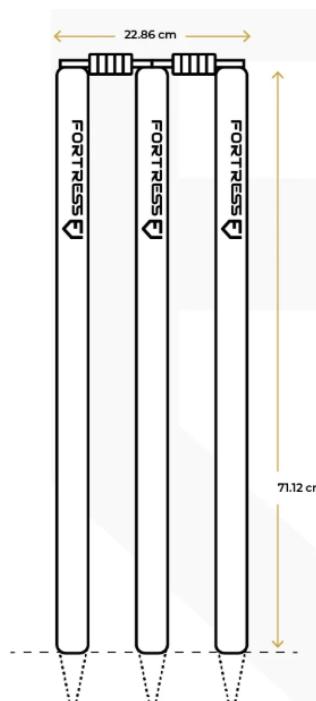
# CENTREMETRE PERFECT

## MCC LAWS OF CRICKET: LAW 8: THE WICKETS

Tops of the stumps shall be 28 inch/71.12 cm above the playing surface.

The bails, when in position on top of the stumps, shall not project more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch/1.27 cm above them.

Each Wicket shall be 9 inches/22.86 cm in width.



**Recommendation of the month:** Invest in a tape measure!

Tape measures available at your nearest Bunnings for under \$10.

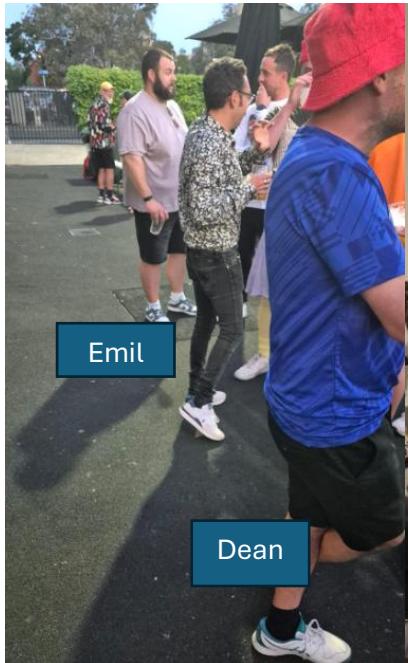


**Editor's treat:** First reader to answer this question is eligible for a free tape measure:

Dispensing with bails (MCC Law 8.5): The umpires may agree to dispense with the use of bails, if necessary.

If they so agree, should bails be removed at both ends?

# OUT AND ABOUT



# CRICKET IS A FUNNY GAME



## TAILS NEVER FAILS

Paul Hocking displaying perfect technique.

**Remember:** Home team tosses the coin, away team calls.

