

National Heritage List

The National Heritage List recognises and protects our most valued natural, Indigenous and historic heritage sites. It is a snapshot of the nation's most important places.

The List reflects the story of our development, from our original inhabitants to the present day, Australia's spirit and ingenuity, and our unique, living landscapes.

Each place in the List has been assessed by the Australian Heritage Council as having outstanding heritage value to the nation, and is protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This means that approval must be obtained before taking any action that may have a significant impact on the national heritage values of the place. In this way, we can retain our heritage for future generations.

To ensure ongoing protection, each listed place should have a management plan outlining how the heritage values of the site will be conserved and interpreted.

The National Heritage List enables all Australians to celebrate, value and protect our unique heritage.



For further information visit www.heritage.gov.au



Australian Government

Melbourne Cricket Ground



National Heritage List

www.heritage.gov.au



The MCG is closely associated with the development and history of cricket and Australian football – Australia’s two most popular spectator sports. Renowned for its electric atmosphere, it has witnessed the achievements of many of our most celebrated sportspeople. This world class stadium received Australia’s highest heritage honour when it was included in the National Heritage List on 26 December 2005.

An important place of social value

- For 150 years, the MCG has hosted major national and international sporting events.
- Famous for the development and continuing tradition of cricket, the MCG is also recognised as the birthplace of Australian football.
- The MCG has assumed an identity far beyond a sporting venue – it is now an important part of Australia’s social fabric. Its value for the community lies in both the events that attract millions of people each year, as well as the experience of the place itself.

The home of landmark events

- The Melbourne Cricket Club arranged the first inter-colonial cricket match at the MCG in 1856. Two years later, members of the club helped develop the codified rules for Australian football.
- In 1877, the first cricket Test match between Australia and England was held at the MCG.
- It was the main stage for the 1956 Olympic Games. These ‘Friendly Games’ left an enduring legacy for Australia and the Olympic movement.

Achievements by significant people

- The MCG is associated with some of sport’s greatest moments and most inspiring sportspeople. Nineteenth century cricketer Tom Wills who helped organise the first domestic cricket match in 1856 also developed Australian football to keep cricketers fit during winter.
- Sir Donald Bradman set a remarkable record at the MCG, scoring nine centuries in 17 Test innings.
- It is the home ground of Australian football legend and Melbourne Football Club premiership captain Ron Barassi.
- At the Melbourne Olympics, thousands of spectators cheered legendary sprinter Betty Cuthbert as she won three gold medals.

Key events since the MCG was included in the National Heritage List include the re-development of the northern side of the stadium (completed in 2006), the 2006 Commonwealth Games and the opening of the National Sports Museum in March 2008.