

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Tuesday, 19 January 2021

HONOURING A GREAT VICTORIAN: DANIHER'S WAY UNVEILED AT MCG

Daniher's Way has been unveiled in the shadows of the MCG, recognising the enormous contribution of football legend and FightMND campaigner Neale Daniher to Victoria.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula joined Daniher in Yarra Park today as they dedicated the footpath from William Barak Bridge to the MCG in honour of the former Essendon captain and Melbourne coach. Signs will mark the thoroughfare, with plaques telling Daniher's story.

The Premier also announced a \$1 million donation to the organisation Daniher co-founded – FightMND – which helps support people with Motor Neurone Disease and funds research into finding a cure.

The Andrews Labor Government has now donated \$6 million to fight MND since 2015.

Daniher has made an outstanding contribution to Victorian life, first through the game he loves and more recently through his tireless efforts to fight "The Beast."

The MCG is where Daniher made his name for Essendon, in a career cut short by injury. It's where he later coached Melbourne for 10 seasons – from 1998 to 2007.

The ground has now become indelibly linked with Daniher's efforts to raise awareness about MND and to help to find a cure.

The Queen's Birthday Monday at the MCG is synonymous with the march of fans across William Barak Bridge to the MCG, and the Big Freeze event inside the stadium.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"This is a small gesture to a man who has made a huge contribution to football, to medical research and to Victoria."

"Neale made his name on the MCG, but his lasting contribution will be through his tireless work to not only raise awareness of MND, but to find a cure."

Quote attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula

"When we are back at the footy, Daniher's Way will be walked by thousands of fans every weekend who will know Neale's story of community, determination and never giving up."

Quote attributable to Neale Daniher

"I thank the Victorian Government for this honour of Daniher's Way and for its donation towards the fight against MND. We continue to fight 'The Beast' and this contribution is significant and greatly appreciated."

Quote attributable to Melbourne Cricket Club President Michael Happell

"The MCC couldn't be prouder to have this path named after Neale. Neale's contribution to the community, brought to life at the annual Big Freeze match, has become part of the fabric of the football season."

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