

## ANNUAL REPORT 1998/99

Veterans Cricket in the RDCA has been growing in strength over the past 11 years, now boasting 25 Clubs and 32 teams competing across 4 Divisions. We welcomed the following new Clubs - North Eltham, and Croydon Ranges along with the return of Montrose.

Overall the weather was kind to the season; with predominantly blue skies the order of the day. The only exception being the Grand Final round, which was interrupted with a tropical downpour at/near the tea break or at the commencement of the second innings. The top three divisions co-operated and played the game out to obtain a decision.

The Inter-association game against Ferntree Gully District Veterans continues to be a much sought after game to participate in. Selection this year saw the nomination of two very keen and talented sides, with many new faces. Inclement weather overnight again forced the relocation of both games from the turf at Bayswater to alternate facilities at The Basin. This was a disappointment as many players were looking forward to a game on turf - memories of the past!! Captains Steve Pascoe and Ian Spencer led their charges to resounding wins in both the over 40s and over 50s, with high standard performances across the teams. Thanks must go to team managers and selectors for their efforts - Bill Stafford, Alan Duffus, David Stickels and Jeff Luscombe.

The Veterans Dinner Dance and Presentation Night this year was held at Rembrandts - a very pleasant venue, with many of the cricketers and their partners demonstrating they have not lost their nimbleness on the dancefloor. Approximately 180 attended and all had an enjoyable night. Unfortunately we still have a number of Clubs who did not have any representation at this night. The organising committee of Vair Gobbi, Marg Stafford and Graeme Seymour did an excellent job, along with David Stickels for his MC role. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to:

- Lloyd and Norma Callen Support through donation of cricket bats for annual raffle
- Brian and Vair Gobbi Dedicated long term commitment and efforts to the development of the RDCA Inc. Veterans Assoc.
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Our raffles at this night, especially the bat raffle - again kindly donated by Callen Sports, has enabled us to improve our bank balance. This will allow us to continue our financial support of RDCA junior cricket development through sponsorship towards Coaching accreditation program, as well to assist crickets that represent our Veterans Association either at interstate or overseas carnivals.

A representative side of 13 players, and some partners, travelled to Albury to participate in a Golden Oldies carnival in mid March. An enjoyable time was had by all, with 2 wins and a loss being achieved. Thanks to Graeme Seymour for co-ordinating this trip.

Planning arrangements are underway for an RDCA Veterans side to go to Rotorua - New Zealand in March 2000, plus options to take in the sights of New Zealand before or afterwards.

With the introduction of semi-finals this season and a number of pre-season team promotions/relegations, the competition within the 4 divisions of 8 teams was very keen and of a high standard. The difference between the top 6 teams within each division was very marginal and depended on player availability on the day.

Division 4 Premiers                      Max Brown Trophy

Winner of the trophy was Ainslie Park following a draw due to inclement weather preventing a decision being obtained.

Division 3 Premiers

Lower Eltham came out on top of Kilsyth, in a keenly fought game.

Division 2 Premiers                      Ken Johnston Trophy

Warrandyte were successful, though not without some worries, in chasing Norwood's very sporting declaration following a very heavy rain interruption.

Division 1 Premiers                      Bill Dean Trophy

Croydon Ranges went through the season undefeated and carried the same form through the finals. This new club is carrying on the tradition established by one of its former founding clubs —Croydon Hockeyers, in not knowing how to lose, irregardless of the size of the target it sets or has to chase.

Most Clubs are providing after match hospitality, and this provides an excellent way of renewing and building friendships amongst players and partners/supporters. All clubs are encouraged to maintain this facet of Veterans cricket..

All players of the Association over the coming months, are to be canvassed on the development of a Division for an over 50s competition. With many of the founding clubs and limited recruiting, a number of clubs can already put such a side together. This is possibly a way of keeping many of our players involved in Veterans cricket for a much longer time.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to thank our hardworking committee for their efforts and commitment throughout the year. Ken Johnston (Chairman), Jeff Luscombe (Registration), Bill Stafford (Treasurer), David Stickels, Graeme Seymour, Allan Duffus, Harry Sandford (Newsletters), as well as Marg Stafford and Vair Gobbi on sub-committees. Special thanks to Brian Gobbi for his guidance and support to me, as I attempted to fill his shoes in this secretary role. Additionally Bill Dean, our Patron, for his support and availability of advice and assistance.

The Executive looks forward with great anticipation, as RDCA Veterans cricket goes forward into the new millennium, playing cricket in a friendly and positive spirit.

*RDCA Veterans Motto:*

*Strive to do our best, Never give up, and treat people with respect*