



K.J. (Ken) Dunham - 1975/1976

Ken was born and educated in Tasmania and served our country with distinction in the Australian Navy during the Second World War. Later he worked as a Computer Operator with the Department of Defence and he finished his career as Operations Manager.

When Ken moved to the Ringwood area, he originally played cricket with the East Ringwood Cricket Club where he served as Secretary in 1954/55 and Treasurer for 3 years from 1953/54. After several seasons he decided to move to North Ringwood Cricket Club where he enjoyed a long and successful club involvement. He served the club as a delegate to the RDCA, as Secretary and then President (1958/59 to 1968/69). In recognition of this service, he was awarded Life Membership of the club in 1966.

During his years as a player at North Ringwood, Ken took on the role of a volunteer umpire during each of the final series in which he was not participating and following his retirement as a player after the 1967/68 season he became a permanent member of the RDCA Executive and Umpires panel. Ken accepted the position of the RDCA Umpires Association Secretary and later the role as President of that Association. Ken's long-standing service to the Umpires Association lead to him being awarded Life Membership of the Association in 1979. The RDCA 'Umpire of the Year' award is proudly named after Ken Dunham.

Ken served as a Vice President of the RDCA for many years and was awarded Life Membership of the RDCA in 1975/76 in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the Association that also included managing RDCA representative teams in the early 1960s.

The following is part of a Tribute to Ken Dunham, written by Bill Wilkins, that appeared in the RDCA 1993/94 Annual Report. Ken had suffered a heart attack and passed away on 1st July 1994.

"Ken had given what seemed a lifetime to this Association and it will be the poorer for his passing. In 1967/68 he was elected to the RDCA Executive and was immediately appointed as a Vice President, a position he held until 1991. In 1980 Ken was principally responsible for the introduction of computerised records for the Association and this was his main area of expertise provided to the Executive. He also took a strong interest in the development of synthetic wickets and he and I took many trips together over the years to investigate the latest material being offered to clubs.

After Ken's playing days finished, he continued his involvement on a Saturday by becoming an umpire, and it was not too long before he was one of the leading umpires in the RDCA. He served the Umpires Association as Secretary for many years and in 1989 he became President, a position he still held at the time of his death. He was a passionate supporter of moves to improve the standing of the umpiring fraternity and it is no coincidence that the number of umpires in this Association reached record levels under Ken's leadership".

On 29th April 2022 Ken was deservedly inducted into the RDCA Hall of Fame at the RDCA Hall of Fame and Senior Presentation Night Dinner.

The following words about Ken were included in the Hall of Fame program distributed at the dinner :

"A Life Member of the North Ringwood Cricket Club (August 1966) and the RDCA (1975/6), Ken had a long career as a player, administrator and umpire and served on the Association Executive for many seasons. He served his club for eleven seasons as President subsequent to holding the club Secretary and Treasure positions. Ken also held office as the Umpire's Association Secretary from 1975/6 to 1988/9 and then as the Umpire's President from 1989/90 to 1993/4 inclusive. Ken received Life Membership of the Umpire's Association in 1984/5. Perhaps Ken's greatest legacy for the RDCA was his work in taking the Association into the electronic world of team and match result information. Ken was instrumental in setting the platform for the Association's move into the Information Technology platform having designed and programmed the initial systems from scratch."



Field of View Photography

Ken's son Barry proudly collects the RDCA Hall of Fame award at the RDCA Hall of Fame and Senior Presentation Dinner held on Friday 29th April 2022.