



Tony Gawne – 2012

Cricket became part of Tony's life in 1962 at St. Colman's Shepparton after which he graduated to senior cricket with St. Brendan's Cricket Club in 1965 and then Central Park Cricket Club in 1967. A move to Champagnat College in Wangaratta followed in 1968 and meant a move to play cricket in that locality before the move to Melbourne.

St. Faith's Cricket Club in the South Suburban Churches Cricket Association was Tony's first Melbourne club before moving to Clayton United Cricket Club in 1976 after St. Faiths went into recess. After these two clubs amalgamated in 1979, Tony served as club President for 4 years and Secretary for another 5 years. He was fortunate enough to play in five A Grade premierships and in three losing grand final teams. Tony was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his fine service to both clubs.

The 1991/1992 season saw Tony join the Wantirna South Cricket Club where he remains an active and valued member at the time of writing (June 2021). He played senior and veterans cricket until retiring at the end of the 2007/08 season. Tony has been actively involved in the Wantirna South administration since joining the club. Junior coaching, Junior Co-Ordinator (5 years), club committee person, club Secretary (14 years) have all been part of Tony's involvement and he has always enjoyed the support of his wife Maree and their family in his endeavours. Tony was awarded Life Membership of the club in 2001 and Maree had the same honour bestowed upon her in 2010 – both richly deserved.

Continuing his involvement in local football, Tony and his family joined the Wantirna South Football Club in 1996 when the boys moved on to Under 16 and Under 18 age groups. Tony joined the senior club committee in 1998 and served as Club Secretary (4 years) and President (6 years). Again, Tony and Maree were awarded Life Membership of the club in 2009.

Tony's involvement with the RDCA goes back to around 1993 when he volunteered his services as Registration Secretary on the Junior Committee. This kept Tony busy for 5 years however he also found time to jointly coach the RDCA Under 16 team. Tony then spent 3 years on the then Senior Operations Committee whilst at the same time completing many ex-officio tasks for both Junior and Senior RDCA Committees. Tony later moved on to the new Senior Committee in 2009 and has continued to serve on that body until the time of writing (June 2021).

Tony has somehow found more time in which to extend his RDCA service. He was the Association's Member Protection Officer and in 2011 he became Secretary of the RDCA Umpires Association after becoming an RDCA umpire in 2008. Tony was a member of the RDCA's Trollope Shield umpiring panel until semi-retirement from umpiring in 2021.

Tony was rewarded for his contribution to the RDCA by being elected as an Association Life Member at the 2012 Annual General Meeting and he is also a Life Member of the Umpire's Association. No doubt Tony's passion for both his club and the Association will continue for many years to come.