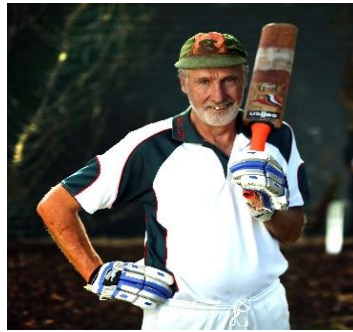




W.G. (Bill) Stafford - 2012/2013



Bill's first involvement with cricket was at Hexham where he played senior cricket as the club did not have juniors. He was able to play junior cricket when at boarding school in Hamilton. A move to the city with his employer saw Bill playing cricket for the CBC Bank team in the Mercantile Cricket Association for 6 years where he played in 4 successive premierships. He also won a competition batting average during this period.

At this stage of his life Bill was also heavily into Australian Rules Football and he had a distinguished career at East Burwood Football Club. He played in the 1973 and 1976 premierships, won the Best and Fairest award in 1975 and 1979 and was selected in East Burwood's Team of the Century (with close friend and fellow RDCA Life Member Ian Spencer).

In 1978/1979 cricket season Bill, with the encouragement of Ian Spencer, joined the then Croydon Hockeyers Cricket Club where he played some 346 senior games and 189 veteran's games as well as playing in 3 senior and 8 veteran premiership teams. Bill has always had a strong interest in the development of junior cricket and has filled the positions of Junior Co-Ordinator and Junior Coach for many years.

In 1998/1999 the Croydon Hockeyers Cricket Club merged with the Croydon United Cricket Club to form the new Croydon Ranges Cricket Club. After being President of Croydon Hockeyers for 6 years in the 1980's and 1990's Bill was elected as the inaugural President of Croydon Ranges, a position he held for 9 years until 2006/2007. He then served on the club's general committee and as Treasurer.

One of Bill's major achievements was establishing Croydon Ranges' Access All Abilities (AAA) program which provided an important link for disadvantaged people in becoming involved in cricket. The program is still going, now at Croydon North C.C.

Bill's involvement with the RDCA administration commenced in 1992 when he joined the Veterans Executive in 1992 and he served as the veteran's Treasurer for 20 years until 2011/2012. From 2000/2001 Bill served as the veteran's representative on the RDCA General Committee which in turn became the Board of Management in 2003/2004. He remained in that position until 2011/2012 when he retired in order to become the Senior Coach at Croydon Ranges.

During his time with the RDCA Executive, Bill was heavily involved in the formulation of RDCA Strategic Plans, he was the project leader of the group that planned the implementation of the MyCricket system. and he was heavily involved in establishing the Executive's Business Continuity Plan. Bill was also part of the "GARP" (Growth and Retention Project) review that resulted in the implementation of several innovative ideas, including the 'split innings' concept.

Bill has been strongly supported by wife Marg, who also served on the veterans Committee for many years. In recognition of their joint service to the Veterans competition and committee Veterans' competitions have been named in their honour in the past.

In later years Bill joined the Association's Junior Committee in 2014/15 and has served for 7 years as the VMCU Junior Representative Co-ordinator as well as doing all the junior fixturing and My Cricket requirements for the last 6 years at the time of writing. Bill then assumed the role of Junior Competition Secretary in 2020/21.

In recognition of his excellent service Bill was deservedly elected as a Life Member at the 2012/2013 Annual General Meeting of the Association.

In April 2022 Bill was deservedly inducted into the RDCA Hall of Fame at the Hall of Fame and Senior Presentation Night dinner held on the 29th April. The following words about Bill were included in the Hall of Fame program that was distributed on the night:

"Bill has demonstrated outstanding administrative support to our Association and to the Croydon Ranges (Croydon Hockeyers) Cricket Club while having an imposing playing record spanning many years. Twenty-four years on a club committee at Croydon Hockeyers/Ranges Cricket Club, including 15 years as President and 7 years as Treasurer. At RDCA level Bill was the Veterans competition Treasurer and committee person for 20 years and the Veterans representative on the Board of Management for 11 seasons. Added to this is a continuing role on the Junior Association committee (8 years to date) and the Association's representative on the VMCU Carnival committee for 7 years. Bill's playing record is outstanding. Over 530 senior games in all grades, approximately 12,300 runs, two RDCA batting awards and a number of premierships and club awards. He was instrumental in establishing the Croydon Ranges All Abilities program and is a Life Member of the club and the RDCA."



Field of View Photography

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