



RDCA Inc. VETERANS CRICKET ASSOCIATION
2002/2003

ANNUAL REPORT **2002 / 2003**

Our 15th season was another successful season, with a number of players achieving the milestone of 100 Games, within RDCA Veterans Cricket.

The AGM saw the re-appointment of Brian Gobbi as President. The initiative of 2001 / 2002 to increase the season to 9 games was overturned, with the season being returned to 7 rounds plus 2 finals. This was done to ensure appropriate scheduling of the Masters (40s) and Legends (50s) competition on alternate weeks, plus inter-association games & finals, not to mention the Christmas / New Year break.

The Veterans Executive continued to support RDCA Junior cricket and provided sponsorship of \$750.00 to assist with representative sides cricket shirts. In addition, the Veterans Executive provided response from a Veterans' cricket perspective to the RDCA senior Executives recommendations outlined in their Strategic Plan 2002 – 2006. Veteran's Executive representation has had some discussions with senior RDCA Executives over the future implementation of the Strategic Plan.

From a cricket playing point of view, overall the weather did not severely interfere with the scheduling of matches, though due to the protracted dry summer, some semi-finals games required relocation to ensure superior conditions were enjoyed.

We saw the return to the competition a side from Heathmont to Division 3, after quite a few seasons absence. However Wonga Park [Masters – 40s] and Lower Eltham [Legends – 50s] had to withdraw from the competition due to insufficient core numbers.

This brought the total of number of Clubs to 23, with 36 teams nominated across the Masters four Divisions and the Legends competition. - Four Clubs had three teams and another nine clubs had two sides.

The Legends competition, now in its third season, had six Clubs participating. The Clubs participating were Croydon/Croydon Ranges [composite], Mt. Evelyn, North Ringwood, South Warrandyte, Templeton, and Warrandyte. Many "Legends" players continue to take the opportunity to play Veterans cricket every weekend in both competitions, at times with a range of Legends Clubs. This enhanced the camaraderie amongst the Clubs and players overall.

The competition across all four Divisions continued to be very keen and even throughout the season, with many match results going down to the last over or two. Division one with only six strong teams, resulted in keen interest in the results of every round, and their likely impact on ladder positions. Often the ladders did not project the evenness of the competition, as a number of Clubs failed on the points basis, however were often only beaten in the last over. Positions 3 and 4, in most Divisions, were decided in the last round - percentages determining positions in the four in a number of Divisions.

With the exception of "The Legends" competition, which did not have finals, the Semi-Finals were keenly played.



RDCA Inc. VETERANS CRICKET ASSOCIATION 2002/2003

Grand Finals for all Divisions started with one eye on the weather, wondering whether they would get a start, or have to relocate to alternate venues.

Divisions 2 and 3 necessitated the relocation of their finals to alternate facilities, due to excessive wet conditions from the Saturday afternoon/evening as well as Sunday morning.

Divisions 1 successfully used the Turf wicket after the meticulous lead-up preparation and pre-match covering of the Turf wicket, by host Club Croydon.

Pennants were presented to the winning captains and teams following the Grand Final. Three of the four premierships clubs were first time premiers in the RDCA Masters competition. Trophies were presented to Club Captains or Club representatives at our Presentation Night.

The premiers for 2001 / 2002 were:

- **Division 4 Premiers** **Max Brown Trophy –** **played at Eley Park**
Eley Park successfully contained North Ringwood to 8/125 and finished at 4 /130, to claim their first RDCA veteran's premiership.
- **Division 3 Premiers** **relocated from Mt. Evelyn to Silcock Reserve**
The top two sides of Mt. Evelyn and Heathmont played out this final. An extremely high scoring game, which went down **to the last over and last ball**. **Heathmont** successfully defended their total of 199 by one run. ***Congratulations to Heathmont on achieving a pennant in their first season back in the RDCA Veterans competition.***
- **Division 2 Premiers** **Ken Johnston Trophy** - **played at Boronia**
Boronia and Ainslie Park, both played off for Division 3 flag in the 2001/2002 season, and meet again in 2002/2003 for the Div. 2 Flag. This time Boronia prevailed after restricting Ainslie Park to 10/117, and passing this total at 7/118. Congratulations to both clubs for being the Grand Finalists in consecutive years, across Divisions 2 and 3.
- **Division 1 Premiers** **Bill Dean Trophy** -**played at Croydon – Town Oval**
Croydon successfully contained **Parkwood** to a moderate score of 10/102 through good tight bowling and excellent fielding. Croydon obtained the necessary runs with a minimum of fuss. Congratulations to Croydon, their first RDCA Veterans flag after being a founding club within the RDCA. The celebration of this premiership is one that was still continuing on the Wednesday Association Dinner...***in fact I don't think it had stopped.***
- **The Legends Premiers**
North Ringwood were the successful team this season, remaining unbeaten.

All 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.



RDCA Inc. VETERANS CRICKET ASSOCIATION 2002/2003

A big thank you must go to the RDCA senior Executive for their on-going support. Premiership pennants continue to be provided by the RDCA, as well as initiating successful submissions for financial grants for RDCA Veterans Cricket from the Victorian Cricket Association's pool of funds, during the previous off-season.

Inter-Association Games: This year three games were played by RDCA Veterans. The first game was hosted by the RDCA at Croydon against the veterans from the Box Hill Reporter Association, on 15/12/02, with the RDCA having a very solid win. Monday – Australia Day [26/01/03] saw two representative sides for 40s and 50s+ take on Ferntree Gully District Veterans [FTG] at Boronia. Two keenly fought matches, as usual were played out, with FTG winning the 40s and RDCA winning the 50+s.

.Congratulations to captains – 40s – Steve Pascoe [Warrandyte], and Jim Dean [Croydon] and 50s – Mick Gavin [Mt. Evelyn] and all players who represented the RDCA. Very positive comment is always received on not only the spirit, but also the excellent standard of cricket that is played in these games. The competitive nature results in players going up a cog or two in intensity.

I would like to publicly thank the host Clubs of - Croydon, Boronia and Fair Park Reserve and both the Associations of FernTree Gully District and Box Hill Reporter for the games, facilities and after-match activity.

Additionally, I would like to complement our Selection Panel of Wayne McCrimmon [North Ringwood], Graeme Seymour [Mt. Evelyn] and Ken Johnston [Patron] for their efforts in putting competitive sides on the park.

Veterans Presentation Night: Our Presentation Night returned to **Bram Leigh Reception Centre at Croydon** in the week following the Grand Finals. Approximately 130 attendees enjoyed a very popular evening.

MC – Alan King of Warrandyte Veterans, again did an excellent job, not to mention the unforgettable speech from Croydon winning captain – Barry Jacquier. Timewise it made up for all those previous seasons, when they missed out on being there. ***Realistically though, I think it summed up the enjoyment and enthusiasm we all have for playing the game of cricket, and if we happen to win a premiership at our years, it is a bonus!!!***

The organising committee of Vair Gobbi, Marg Stafford and Graeme Seymour are to be congratulated on their excellent job again and continue to surpass previous years' memorable nights.

Our raffles at this night, has enabled us to improve our bank balance. This will allow us to continue our ongoing financial support of RDCA junior cricket development through sponsorship – this year with covering carnival uniforms, as well as to assist cricketers that represent our Veterans Association either at interstate or overseas carnivals.



RDCA Inc. VETERANS CRICKET ASSOCIATION 2002/2003

Milestones – 100 Veterans, Club, Games.

The following players joined President Brian Gobbi, as members of the RDCA Veterans 100 Game Club.

Kevin “Bluey” Dunn	-	Mt. Evelyn & Kilsyth
Harry Lakeland	-	Croydon Ranges
John Dewey	-	Croydon Ranges
Bill Stafford	-	Croydon Ranges
Mick Gavin	-	Mt. Evelyn
Charlie Attard	-	South Warrandyte

Congratulations to all of these on this great achievement and commitment to RDCA Veterans cricket over the past 15 seasons.

Carnival Cricket – 16 – 21 March 2003. As well as 2 RDCA sides, many Veterans clubs took the opportunity to enter a team or participate in a composite team, within the Australian Veterans Cricket Carnival, played at facilities within the RDCA and FTG area.

Games were played on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Unfortunately the Friday games were abandoned due to wet weather, but lunch and early after match bar activities were brought forward instead. A number of the teams playing, had travelled from interstate. All players, officials and travelling companions, enjoyed Excellent after match activities.

Executive Committee Efforts: Finally it would be remiss of me not to thank our hardworking committee for their efforts and commitment throughout the year:

Brian Gobbi (Chairman), Bill Stafford (Treasurer), Jim Dean, Graeme Seymour, Allan Duffus, Ken Johnston and Jeff Luscombe.

Additionally, many thanks to, Marg Stafford and Vair Gobbi, our Social sub-committee experts, with assistance and guidance from Graeme Seymour.

The Veterans Executive continues to look forward with great anticipation, to all Veterans cricket continuing to be played in a friendly and positive spirit, with the renewing of many old friendships.

Aspirations of the Veterans’ Executive would be to receive nomination from RDCA clubs, currently not represented in the Veterans competition, for the coming season/s.

**Mick Gavin
Secretary**

***RDCA Veterans Motto:
Strive to do our best, never give up,
and treat people with respect***