



## RDCA Inc. VETERANS CRICKET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT - 2003/2004

Season 2003 / 2004 saw a much closer alignment of the RDCA Veterans Executive and Clubs within the RDCA senior association, as the RDCA 'RALF' Strategic Plan for the Executive structure was implemented.

Following the AGM, and initial Executive meeting, Patron and Past President Ken Johnston resumed the reins as Veterans Executive President. Carl Duncan provided new blood on the Executive for the coming season.

Major changes for the season saw the consolidation of Masters teams to 3 Divisions and the continuation of a seven match round competition pre –finals.

A reduction in Masters team nominations, gave us the opportunity to consolidate and downsize the previous four divisions back to three divisions. This resulted in Division One consisting of 8 teams, and Division 2 became basically a combination of previous Divisions 2 & 3 with 10 sides. Division 3, with 10 sides, was made up of second sides from multiple team Clubs.

The Legends (50s) competition with seven teams continued on alternate weeks.

The three Masters' Divisions and the Legend's Division were made up by the following teams:

<b>Masters - Division 1</b>	<b>Masters - Division 2</b>	<b>Masters - Division 3</b>	<b>Legends</b>
Ainslie Park	Chirnside Park	Ainslie Park	Ainslie Park
Boronia	Eley Park	Bayswater Park	Croydon Ranges
Croydon	Heathmont	Boronia	Mt. Evelyn
Croydon North	Lilydale	Chirnside Park	North Ringwood
Croydon Ranges	Montrose	Croydon Ranges	South Warrandyte
North Ringwood	Mt. Evelyn	Mt. Evelyn	Templeton
Parkwood	North Ringwood	North Ringwood	Warrandyte
South Warrandyte	South Croydon	South Warrandyte	
	Wantirna		
	Warrandyte		

**Congratulations must go to North Ringwood who had 3 Masters sides and 1 Legends side in the competition/s**

From a cricket playing point of view, overall the weather did not severely interfere with the scheduling of matches, apart from a number of Legend's games in the first couple of rounds.



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**The Legends competition**, now in its fourth season, increased to seven clubs with Ainslie Park's nomination. Many "Legends" players continue to take the opportunity to play Veterans cricket every weekend in both competitions, and often with a range of Legends Clubs. This enhanced the camaraderie amongst the Clubs and players overall.

The Masters competition across was keen and even throughout the season, with many match results going down to the last over or two. Positions 3 and 4 in most divisions, were decided in the last round - percentages determining positions three to six in a number of Divisions.

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

**Grand Finals for Divisions One and Two** were scheduled to be played on Turf wickets at Croydon and Heathmont. Officials and players anxiously monitored the weather forecasts leading up to the day. The weather was kind allowing uninterrupted play on the day.

Pennants were presented to the winning captains and teams following the Grand Final. This enables all winning players to share the moment with their premiership pennant. Trophies were presented to Club Captains or Club representatives at our Presentation Night. The premiers for 2003 / 2004 were:

- **Division 3 Grand Final** *played at Bayswater Park*  
**Bayswater Park went through the season undefeated** and continued this in the Grand Final.  
**Bayswater Park 8 /127 defeated North Ringwood 107.**
- **Division 2 Grand Final** **Ken Johnston Trophy** - **played at Heathmont**  
**Heathmont**, Div. 3 premiers for season 2002 / 2003, set a challenging, but gettable 136 runs target, due to tight bowling by Lilydale.  
Lilydale's run chase saw them all out for 80.
- **Division 1 Grand Final** **Bill Dean Trophy** -**played at Croydon – Town Oval**  
Croydon on its home turf batted positively to achieve a score of 8/177. **Newcomers to Division 1 - Ainslie Park**, obviously with nothing to loose continued their great batting form of the semi-final to successfully achieve this target with a couple of overs to spare and wickets in hand.  
*Ainslie Park's efforts over past three seasons are to be congratulated –*  
*2001/02 - Division Three premiers, 2002/03 – Division Two Grand Finalists,*  
*2003/04 – Division One Premiers.*
- **The Legends Premiers**  
**Mt Evelyn** was the successful team this season, remaining unbeaten. This makes it three flags out of four seasons.

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.



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**Inter-Association Games:** This year three games were played by RDCA Veterans.

*Monday – Australia Day* [26/01/04] saw two representative sides for 40s and 50s+ take on FernTree Gully District Veterans [FTG] at Heathmont with RDCA as hosts. Two keenly fought matches, as usual were played out, with RDCA winning both games.

The annual pre Christmas game against the Box Hill Reporter Veterans, was deferred to February 2004 and hosted by Box Hill at Mont Albert. On this occasion Box Hill were successful in a closely fought match.

Congratulation to captains – 40s – Neil Mitchell [North Ringwood]], and Jim Dean [Croydon] and 50s – Wayne McCrimmon [North Ringwood] 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 - Heathmont and Mont Albert 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.

*A group of RDCA extra Vintaged Legend players [i.e. 60 years and over] played in the second “North of the Yarra versus South of the Yarra” match at Brighton in early January. Our RDCA Group certainly were the strength of their side equiting themselves very well. This appears to becoming an annual event.*

**Veterans Presentation Night:** Presentation Dinner night was held at Bramleigh Receptions. Approximately 85 attended this evening, which was very disappointing from the Executive and the Social sub-committee’s perspective. Unfortunately the lack of or very late response by Veterans Club Co-ordinators, puts a lot of unnecessary stress and work on the organising sub-committee. This year due to reduced numbers, the previously negotiated package from the reception house had to be down sized to meet the original costs agreed. Pre-dinner drinks were funded by the Veterans Executive and managed by the Sub-Committee members.

The people who did attend had a great evening, not only catching up with their own Club members and partners, but also the friends they have made over the many years of Veterans competition.

For next season the Executive will be seriously considering invoking a rule of the RDCA, which requires a minimum attendance by all Clubs, otherwise the Club will be fined for 6 attendees.



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### **Milestones – RDCA Veterans 100 Game Club.**

The 100 games Club has increased from 7 to 12 with a further 5 players playing their 100th Veteran's game throughout the season. The following players were acknowledged and presented with a certificate on reaching this milestone:

<b>Daryl Stephens</b>	-	<b>Croydon</b>
<b>Ross Fitzgerald</b>	-	<b>Croydon Ranges</b>
<b>Wayne McCrimmon</b>	-	<b>North Ringwood</b>
<b>Alan Duffus</b>	-	<b>South Warrandyte</b>
<b>Graeme Seymour</b>	-	<b>Mt. Evelyn</b>

**Congratulations to all of these on this great achievement and commitment to RDCA Veterans cricket over the past 16 seasons.**

**Congratulations to the players that reached their 50 game milestone –  
Certificates were issued to 9 players from a range of Clubs.**

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

Ken Johnston (Patron & Chairman), Brian Gobbi, Bill Stafford, Jim Dean, Graeme Seymour, Alan Duffus, Carl Duncan and Jeff Luscombe.

Additionally, many thanks to Marg Stafford for her input into the Social sub-committee, with the organisation of the Presentation Dinner.

The Veterans Executive continues to look forward with great anticipation that all Veterans cricket continues 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 a Veterans team nomination from every RDCA club, for the coming season/s.

Time will tell on this aspiration coming to fruition.

**Mick Gavin  
Secretary**

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