

RDCA Inc. VETERANS CRICKET ASSOCIATION
2000/2001



ANNUAL REPORT 2000 / 2001

A big year for Veterans Cricket with continued expansion of Clubs and Competition under the umbrella of RDCA Veterans Cricket. The over 40s competition with four Divisions was titled "The Masters" and our new competition for over 50s was titled "The Legends", which was played on alternate weeks to the over 40's competition.

New Clubs from Riversdale, Macleod [both from Greensborough / Heidelberg area], Scoresby joined the over 40s competition, along with the return of Bayswater Park.

This brought the total of number of Clubs to 27, with 42 teams overall across the two competitions. 50% of the participating teams came from 11 Clubs - Four Clubs had three teams and another seven clubs had two sides.

The Legends competition proved very successful for its initial season. The seven Clubs participating were Croydon, Croydon Ranges, Mt. Evelyn, North Ringwood, South Warrandyte, Templeton and Warrandyte. It gave the opportunity for many "Legends" players to play Veterans cricket every weekend in both competitions, along with the introduction of new faces to Veterans Cricket, or the retention of a Club within RDCA Vets such as Templeton. Some weeks Clubs had difficulties putting a full side from their own player list together, so we saw Club co-ordinators using their initiative to network amongst other RDCA Veterans Clubs. This enabled them to take advantage of excess numbers available, no Legends side, Byes or wash-outs, resulting in players filling in at different Clubs to ensure a game was played. Some players may have represented up to 3 sides throughout the season. This proved very interesting for player registration requirements at Sportingpulse.

Another major change this year was the introduction of a computerised Player Registration and Results Reporting System with Sportingpulse. Access to this information for all Clubs was via an Internet Website. Numerous difficulties were encountered with this system at both an input and an output level, the latter being particularly the timeliness of result information. Steps will need to be taken for next season to ensure that the Veterans Executive retains better control of match results information.

Weather was a factor on a number of occasions during the season. A number of grounds were unfit for play in the early rounds, whilst Round 5 of the Masters competition was abandoned due to the forecast of excessive hot temperatures of 43 degrees C.

The competition was very keen and even throughout the season, with positions 3 and 4 in most divisions, being 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.

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Grand Finals for Divisions 1 and 2 were somewhat one sided, with the most exciting Grand Final being in Division 4 where the result was determined in the last over.

Pennants and trophies were presented to the winning captains at our Presentation Night. The premiers for 2000 / 2001 were:

- **Division 4 Premiers Max Brown Trophy**
Parkwood passed Mt. Evelyn in the last over with one wicket to spare - a very exciting nail biting finish.
- **Division 3 Premiers**
 The two new Clubs – Riverside and Macleod from the Greensborough area fought out a tight game. **Riverside** defeated Macleod.
- **Division 2 Premiers Ken Johnston Trophy**
South Warrandyte comfortably accounted for Research following first innings collapse by Research.
- **Division 1 Premiers Bill Dean Trophy**
Norwood comfortably accounted for Parkwood following first innings collapse by Parkwood.
- **The Legends Premiers**
Mt. Evelyn remained clear on top - undefeated with 5 wins, plus a washout and a bye.

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.

Inter-Association Games: Two games were played with RDCA Veterans hosting these at the excellent facilities at Boronia Cricket Ground. The first game was pre Christmas against the Box Hill Reporter Association, which RDCA won, however the game against the Ferntree Gully Association at the end of the season was not so successful.

Short notice was given for both of these matches and a big thank you must go to Executive Member – Jim Dean for his co-ordination of team selection and management. Additionally special thanks must go to Boronia Veterans co-ordinator – Gary Lewis and the Boronia Cricket Clubs committee for the excellent presentation of their facilities support in making these successful games. Thank you also to Peter White of Eley Park Vets for co-ordinating the Box Hill Reporter Association.

All players really look forward to the honour of representing the RDCA and their Association. Positive comment is always received on how much they all enjoy playing in these games.

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Veterans Presentation Night: This year our Presentation Night was held at the *Karralyka Centre – East Ringwood* in the week following the Grand Finals. A very popular evening was enjoyed by approximately 150 attendees. MC - Daryl Stephens of Croydon Veterans, again did an excellent job.

The introduction of a Guest Speaker – Graeme “Smokey” Dawson from sports media fame had a number of amusing anecdotes to entertain us all.

The organising committee of Vair Gobbi, Marg Stafford and Graeme Seymour did an 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 towards Coaching accreditation program, as well as to assist cricketers that represent our Veterans Association either at interstate or overseas carnivals.

RDCA Veterans - “Ringwood Possums” - Veterans Carnival Cricket
Gold Coast – March 2001

Late March a team of 8 flew off to the Gold Coast to enjoy a week of Cricket. Additional players were sourced from the Cricket Society on the Gold Coast. A memorable week was held.

Vancouver – Canada July 2002

Planning is well underway with much interest, especially by wives, for this trip. As well as a week of cricket, touring modules are being developed for pre and post the cricket week.

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 (Chairman), Bill Stafford (Treasurer), Brian Gobbi, Jim Dean, Graeme Seymour, Allan Duffus, David Stickels and Jeff Luscombe. Additionally Marg Stafford and Vair Gobbi, our Social sub-committee experts with Graeme Seymour.

Next season should see the formation of a Veterans competition within the Diamond Valley with the nucleus coming from those Clubs participating in our RDCA Veterans Competition.

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.

Mick Gavin
Secretary

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