



### **K.B. (Ken) Johnston - 1990/1991**

Ken started with Croydon North Cricket Club in 1951 under the guidance of close family friend and fellow RDCA Life Member Mervyn Cooper who at the time was captain of the Second Eleven. In the mornings' Ken would play Under 16's with Croydon United Cricket Club (formerly St. Johns) as Croydon North did not have a junior side until 1954. Ken then captained Croydon North's first Under 16 team in 1954/55 at age 14.

Ken played in three First Eleven, 2 Veteran and a Third Eleven (he was captain) premierships with Croydon North between 1961/62 to 1989/90 and he was awarded Life Membership of the club in 1971 - a First Eleven premiership year. As a wicketkeeper and opening batsman, Ken enjoyed a long and successful playing career, representing the Association on many occasions including one match on the MCG. His activities were not confined to the playing field though - a club committee member and club delegate to the RDCA for over 20 years were roles also undertaken by Ken and he was Club Secretary for 8 years.

There is a strong family connection with the RDCA as Ken's father, Reg, is also a Life Member of the Association and was also President of the Association for 5 years from 1963. Ken's Uncle, Alby Westcott, is also a Life Member of the Association.

Long service to the Association saw Ken rewarded with RDCA Life Membership in the 1990/91 season. Ken joined the RDCA Executive in 1964 and over time served as Social Secretary, Vice President, Senior Vice President and as an Association selector. In 1970 Ken was Team Manager of the RDCA Under 21 team that won its first VJCU (Victorian Junior Cricket Union) premiership. (Steve Pascoe was Captain and Ann Pascoe was Scorer - both RDCA Life Members in later years).

In 1988 Ken was instrumental in establishing the RDCA Veterans Competition. Ken served as President and Secretary of that competition for its first four years and was President for 15 of the first 17 Veterans seasons. In recognition of his untiring involvement with the Veterans competition, Ken was appointed as Patron of the RDCA Veterans Competition in 2001. The RDCA Veterans Division 2 Premiership Trophy is the Ken Johnston Shield. In 2006 Ken was deservedly recognised for over 50 years of Service to Cricket with the Cricket Australia Award.

Ken sadly passed away in September 2010.

At the RDCA Centenary and Hall of Fame Dinner held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Ken was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Pictured below is Ken's wife Dianne who travelled from North Queensland to attend the dinner and proudly accept Ken's award.

The following words about Ken were included in the RDCA Centenary and Hall of Fame dinner held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

"A wicket-keeper and opening batsman Ken enjoyed a long career at Croydon North C.C. from juniors through to Veterans and covering around 40 years. Three first eleven premierships were no doubt highlights as would have been two Veterans' titles as well. A club and RDCA Executive member in various roles across many years, Ken was a strong driver in the establishment of the Association Veteran's competition of which he was the inaugural President for 13 years, Secretary for 3 years and then Patron for many years. Ken has a Veterans Association grade named after him and was awarded both club and Association Life Memberships."



*Hall of Fame Induction*

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