



### **W.D. (Bill) Dean OAM, J.P - 1970/1971**

Bill Dean was not your normal cricket administrator. By his own admission he wasn't a very good cricketer but cricket was in his blood. Bill was a member of the Heathmont Cricket Club where his batting was a source of some comment: "It was D-day for Heathmont last Saturday when the "Old Gentleman" William Dean saved us from certain disgrace. We had lost 8/60 and a hat-trick was in the making when Bill joined John Chambers. It was quite an ordeal for these two and to our amazement, the score soon passed the century and went on to 135, John scoring 55 not out and "Sir William" 35". This was the Ringwood Mail report of the C Grade Semi-final in 1963.

In another article, Bill was reported as being third in the Heathmont C Grade averages, with an average of ten. In a further report, Bill is credited with having invented the 'shovel' shot in which he 'shovelled' the ball over the heads of slips. All this indicates that Bill was one of the triers down in the lower grades and shows why he understood and had a great affinity with the many 'triers' in the RDCA. They were in his thoughts later as President of the Association when he was striving to provide competitive cricket for those in all grades.

Bill quickly progressed up the ladder in cricket administration in the RDCA. He became Social Secretary and instituted the well-known presentation nights in the form of dinner dances at Mirama Court, Mitcham. In 1968, Bill was elected President of the Association and began an unbroken term of twenty years in that position.

During this period the Association trebled in size. Many adjustments had to be made to cope with the enormous influx of both senior and junior players. Many reorganisations of the way the Association was run had to be thought about and put into operation. Chandler Shield was reorganised. Then A grade was reorganised. All the time the objective was to raise the standard of cricket in the RDCA.

But when Saturday came, Bill was able to put all these worries behind him and venture out to local cricket grounds, sometimes to a Chandler Shield match but sometimes to a C Grade match or an F Grade match. As long as the ladies provided him with a cup of tea and a sandwich or a cake, Bill was ready to visit any grade.

In 1988-89, Bill was invited to be Patron of the RDCA, a position he held for a number of years. In 1991, Bill was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia 'for service to sport', a well-deserved recognition of his dedication to cricket in the Ringwood District and to cricket in general.

In March 2021 Bill was inducted into the inaugural RDCA Hall of Fame.

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Field of View Photography

Bill's son David proudly collects the RDCA Hall of Fame award at the RDCA Centenary and Hall of Fame Dinner held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

The following words about Bill were included in the RDCA Centenary and Hall of Fame program for the dinner held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012:

"A Member of the Heathmont Cricket Club, Bill was elected to the RDCA Executive in 1961 as Social Secretary. Bill was then elected President of the Association at the 1968-69 AGM and held that position for 20 years, an Association record. A driving force behind the establishment of the very successful Veteran's competition, Bill held the position of Patron of the Veterans competition and the Association for many years. Bill's legacy was an intent on raising the standard of local cricket whilst ensuring that the game was played in the right spirit. In 1991 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for 'Service to Sport'. At Association level, as well as being President, Bill has the highest Premier Grade Best and fairest and the Best Player Leaving Juniors awards still named after him. He was elected as a Life Member of the Association in season 1970-71."

At the RDCA Hall of Fame and Senior Presentation night held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Bill was deservedly elevated to **LEGEND** status within the Hall of Fame.

## LEGEND STATUS



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Bill's son David proudly accepts Bill's Legend Status award.