



HIGHLANDS DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Bradman Museum Theatrette
Wednesday 19 July 2017 at 7.00pm**

HDCA ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

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19 JULY 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The past season could reasonably be regarded as one of contrasts, weather wise!!! Soon after the resumption of play after the Christmas break, Australia's eastern seaboard, in particular, experienced above average summer temperatures. These extended into the early days of February 2017. The playing conditions left many grounds devoid of a suitable grass covering challenging the fielding team with an 'uneven bounce'. Coupled with this was the hot temperatures and on at least two weekends the mercury reached into the forties. Fortunately common sense prevailed amongst players, led by their captains and official umpires when available, to ensure player welfare rated as the highest priority. If this is to be a trend into future seasons, serious considerations may need to be given in the development of a 'heat policy' with the Sports Medicine Australia guidelines an effective starting point. A monitoring process is desirable.

In direct contrast to the first six weeks of 2017 the latter weekends in March destroyed any chance of play due to the lasting effects of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Consistent heavy rain caused the Wingecarribee Shire Council to preserve grounds used by HDCA closing many ovals thus resulting in a disappointing conclusion to the 2016-2017 season. Frustrated players, umpires and spectators waited in vain for the skies to clear but this didn't eventuate. Leading teams who performed consistently during the competition took the 'spoils!'

The season commenced with the Board facing a major dilemma with regards to turf wicket preparation. This concern took time to resolve resulting in a major proportion of the season's budget devoted to paying for this task. A curator was identified for Lackey Park to commence his 'apprenticeship' under the direction of Terry Loader and Damien McMillan is thanked for his commitment to this task. Welby Oval turf wicket, prepared by Steve Allport, was curated up until Christmas but unfortunately this didn't continue into 2017. As a result the opportunities for second grade games to be played on turf wicket diminished and, apart from one game, the wicket remained unattended.

Ground facilities remained a major priority for the Board. It was anticipated that 'movement' could be generated as a result of the HDCA's contribution to the local Council's request for responses to their Parks Strategy. I wrote to the Mayor to express the dilemma HDCA faces with regards the quality and maintenance of turf wickets during May but any real contributions by the appropriate sections of Council only eventuated after the season concluded. However, it is anticipated that the experience possessed by incoming HDCA Facilities Board member Simon Haire will generate traction in this area of concern.

During the recent Cricket Australia's pay negotiation process with the country's most gifted players, the matter of grassroots crickets was raised with an emphasis on grounds, facilities and volunteers. In the Weekend Australian 27-28 May 2017 page 44 CA CEO James Sutherland indicated that 12% of CA budget is devoted to grassroots levels, remembering that just under 60% of the 1.4 million playing cricket are under the age of twelve. The elite players currently share a quarter of CA's

budget. 'Cricket Australia now knows it has 5 584 cricket facilities which includes 7 750 ovals – because we have just completed the most ambitious audit of sporting facilities in Australian history.' It is somewhat disappointing that players' pay claims are linked to addressing local cricket grounds and facilities – almost a trade -off situation!

Former Wallaby Peter FitzSimons (like him or not) reported in The Sydney Morning Herald on Thursday 1 June 2017 that 'As to the sportpeople (elite players), they must recognise that while they sit atop the pyramid of their sport, they didn't get there alone. They learnt those skills because from an early age they were taught by amateur coaches, while wearing uniforms paid for by chook raffles sold by volunteers, on fields mown by the captain's uncle.' The message here is that without grassroots support, cricket, especially away from the major centres, will continue to struggle. Volunteers are 'scarce on the ground' in a number of roles and it is hoped that CA'S audit prioritises funding in country areas throughout Australia to continue to develop and foster talent and competition. NSW Country has long been a nursery for 'baggy green wearers' due to local, zone and intra-state matches and needs to remain competitive, challenging players' abilities. Finally, to demonstrate this point look no further than the Boy from Bendemeer NSW. 'Josh Hazlewood, whose service to the nation is recognised by the legions in club land who knows a thoroughbred when they see one. In Hazlewood they also see something that is sometimes thought to be lost in this country; a laconic, uncomplaining bush type who gets the job done.' The Weekend Australian 3-4 June 2017 p 41. Support 'from the centre' will go a long way to identify the next Hazlewood!

The identification of an individual prepared to manage the Board's financial requirements came to fruition at the beginning of the season. Mrs Gabby Kent, possessing expertise and experience in financial management, has impressed the Board through her diligence, commitment, knowledge and 'preparedness' to learn about the idiosyncrasies of the elements that are contained in a cricket cash flow mechanism. Her persistence and tolerance, especially during the early months in developing transparent details of the income sources and expenditure requirements, was very commendable and all who read the budget gained a thorough understanding of HDCA's financial position. During the formative stages in developing a 'financial picture' Deanna Pagnini, supported by Rina Hore, provided appropriate direction and advice to Gabby. As a result of the time taken to develop of the budget, clubs and affiliates were not able to be provided with their annual fee contribution. However, once identified the response from clubs and affiliates was appreciated. Forward financial planning should eliminate a similar delay in 2017-2018.

The annual Review conducted in April 2017 continued the Board's desire to encourage shared ownership and responsibility amongst all clubs and affiliates in highlighting the positive aspects in a number of areas, both on and off the field of play, as well as identifying initiatives and programs that require further and continued improvement. As anticipated the meeting was conducted in a non-threatening and supportive atmosphere where viewpoints could be expressed without fear of embarrassment or negativity. Once the collation process was compiled, both immediate and broader actions to be addressed by clubs and affiliates, coupled with Board portfolio members and their related committees, can provide direction in the coming seasons.

This process will continue into 2017-2018 with the current Board developing a HDCA Future's Model. In the model the Board has identified where HDCA cricket is currently situated, where it needs to go - with Stephen Covey's second habit for highly effective people 'Starting with the end in mind' and

the steps required to reach the ultimate outcomes or goals. Initial discussion in analysing the details provided in the Model took place at the HDCA June General Meeting with input welcomed from delegates in any aspect. The shared ownership of the Model's contents will drive change over a number of seasons with fine tuning occurring along the way. Hindsight is foresight. Anyone who knows anything about implementing cultural change knows it is, of necessity, a slow and arduous process.....You can't force cultural change, you can't impose it, and HDCA needs clubs and affiliates to support them in this process rather than establish barriers to hinder progress.

As always the most important features that come to mind as Chairman, when reflecting on the past season, are three fold. Fundamental to any not for profit organisation is the love and commitment of its volunteers – umpires, scorers, managers and coaches. This is closely followed by players of all ages who play for the love of the game while the third group are those who support the game – administrators, selectors, supporters and family members. Without their combined dedication to the summer game as we know it, cricket would not flourish for the enjoyment of all. I wish to acknowledge and thank all who have supported the game throughout this last season.

One cricketing enthusiast who deserves special mention is the HDCA Head Coach Steve Edwards. Entering his sixth season in his role he remained just as motivated, dedicated and thorough as he was when he took on this HDCA responsibility. His exceptional organisation and administrative skills were clearly reflected each week throughout the junior representative season. The opportunity for all players to be able to perform to the best of their ability is directly related in the results recorded by all three junior teams. Steve galvanised a support team of coaches and managers and quickly gained the confidence of any new families being introduced to this level of cricket. Whilst there were no Southern Zone premierships in 2016-2017 all teams reached the semi- final level and there were some outstanding individual and team performances that were highlighted at the annual junior representative presentation hosted at the Bradman Theatre in February 2017. As players moved into the senior ranks, both locally and away from the Southern Highlands, their ability to perform with both the bat and ball can be attributed to their results achieved at junior level.

In May 2017 Charlie Dummer was included in the Under 19 ACT/Southern Academy squad to be part of the National Championships in Brisbane during December whilst Dominic O'Shannessy and Ravi Wikramanayake achieved similar honours contesting the Under 17 Championships, also in Brisbane, during September and early October. These three talented players are products of HDCA and are congratulated on their achievements. In their formative teenage years, Steve engineered valuable support in providing cricket opportunities through a variety of representative matches.

At the Southern Zone level Rodney Cavalier AO continued to guide the Zone in meeting challenges and keeping Country Cricket NSW and Cricket NSW up to date about issues relating to country cricket.

Remaining with this theme, Bowral Cricket Club are to be congratulated on achieving at the pinnacle of the Country Plate competition by bringing home this distinguished trophy to the Southern Highlands. Games commenced at the beginning of the season and Bowral travelled to Grafton during the Christmas-New Year break to contest the final series. This is the third time in the past ten years that a HDCA team has achieved this milestone.

One issue that remains on the HDCA's radar is the lack of qualified umpires available to officiate at local grade cricket games. Numbers have slowly diminishing for a variety of reasons and, during this off season, HDCUA is determined to develop strategies to get interested people qualified. The Board will continue to strongly support any attempts to increase umpiring numbers. The opportunity to attend an umpiring course at Bradman Museum on 26 and 27 August 2017 is available to all. Of major significance at this time is the total rewrite of the MCC Laws of Cricket. An extremely well qualified panel, that included experienced ICC test umpire and now an Australian match referee Simon Taufel, was a member of this prestigious group. Simon's umpiring knowledge is second to none and HDCA are extremely appreciative of the contribution he is making at this local level. To ensure as many players as possible are up to date HDCA encourages everyone to attend the umpiring course in August. To reinforce these rule changes it is imperative that all senior team captains and junior coaches and managers attend the pre-season Captains' meeting that will be gazetted prior to the commencement of the 2017-2018 season.

In conclusion I take this opportunity to thank all Board members for the generosity that they have displayed with their time and the contribution you have made. Retiring member Terry Loader deserves special recognition for his role managing Facilities over an extended period of time and the recipient of the Paul Stutchbury Memorial Award for the 2016-2017 season. Few Association Boards around Australia would have two appointed members of the calibre of Rina Hore and Rodney Cavalier AO to assist in effective decision making, drawing on their experiences at high levels of cricket administration. Board membership is not an exclusive club. All clubs and affiliates are encouraged to share the workload and nominate. New ideas are always welcome.

John J Morris

HDCA Chair 2016 – 2017

JUNIOR CRICKET 2016/17 SEASON

Over the past three seasons the HDCA has been working hard at meeting our clients demands regarding the ever-changing environment in junior sport.

Three years ago, we introduced the Cricket Australia T/20 Blast into our junior programing. This format was introduced to fill the gap between Milo In2cricket and regular hard ball cricket. I can happily say that this format has been a huge success with over 350 boys & girls participating in the program.

Now that we had bridged the gap between In2cricket and the regular hard ball cricket we felt it was time this past season to look at our playing conditions for the age group competitions.

Members from our junior clubs and schools met and we decided on what format of competition would best suit the needs of our clientele (the Children).

Below is the competition structure that we adopted for the season

COMPETITION RULES 1.0 Competition Structures Junior cricket games will be played in the Highlands with the following divisions and structures:

Primary Cricket (Years 4, 5 & 6) Essentially 9 a side T20 matches played on Saturday mornings

Junior Cricket (Years 7 & 8) Essentially 11 a side 30 over 1 day matches played on Saturday mornings

Open Cricket (Years 9 & 11) Essentially 8 a side T20 matches played on Tuesday after school

You will note from above that we took away the age division, this allowed children to play in a division where they felt more comfortable to play in. Smaller team sizes in two of the age groups made for more player involvement, shorter game time and easier for clubs and schools to fill teams.

This year Goulburn had enough teams in their U/16s age group to run their own competition, so this was the first year for some time that we did not have them in our competition.

Junior cricket in the Highlands is quite healthy now, 285 children participated in our weekly competitions, 113 T/20 Blast and 90 In2cricket.

That gives us 488 children participating in cricket in the Highlands.

We Had a very disappointing end to our season with the semis and finals being washed out, except for the Opens mid-week competition.

Opens

PREMIERS – Chevalier College

RUNNER UP – Robertson/Burrawang

Juniors

PREMIERS – Chevalier College

RUNNER UP – Bowral McGraths

Primary

PREMIERS – Bowral Walkers

RUNNER UP – Bowral Clarkes

Under 10's

The U/10's was a non-competitive competition format

T/20 Blast

113 Children participated

In2Cricket

90 kids participated

This is my last term on the HDCA Board after four and a half years. I would like to thank all board members over this time for their support and especially the cricketing members of the HDCA.

Being new to the area 5 years ago this has been a great way for me to get involved in the community and meet new people.

As Cricket Australia roll out their new junior playing conditions for the coming season, I feel we are in good stead to adopt them from our current playing conditions. Lastly for me I hope that I have contributed in some way of helping improve junior cricket in the Highlands over my time.

Regards,

Jock McIlhatton

Financial report: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Total income: \$61,062

Total expenses: \$46,538

Total profit: \$14,524

Current bank balance (July 18 2017): \$51,110

INCOME	\$
Team Fees	\$ 52,960
Rep Parent Contribution & Clothing	\$ 5,552
T20 Blast	\$ 650
SZ reimbursement	\$ 1,690
Cricket NSW covers grant	\$ -
Bank Interest	\$ 210
Total	\$ 61,062

Expenses	\$
Council Fees	\$ 7,690
Scorebooks	\$ 1,183
Insurance	\$ 2,455
T20 Blast Labour (Angus)	\$ 400
Prize money	\$ 1,600
Umpires	\$ 5,740
Turf Prep	\$ 11,223
Rep Clothing	\$ 7,496
Balls	\$ 1,560
Rep Catering	\$ 1,345
Catering	\$ 1,003
Grounds maintenance	\$ 2,427
Trophies	\$ 1,169
Season launch (catering)	\$ 330
Southern Zone Fees	\$ 918
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 46,538

HDCA Treasurers Report	
Reporting Period:	Jul-17 Treasurer: Gabby Kent
P/L Tracking against budget	Budget for 2017/18 not set
Cash Flow Closing Position:	\$51,110 Balance (both accounts)
Treasurer Update	
Closing Financial Position for 2017-18 Financial Year was;	
Total Income: \$61,062. Total Expense: \$46, 538	
One outstanding liability remaining - \$300 prize money payable to Bundanoon for 3rd grade. Waiting on bank details ACTION ON BUNDANOON CLUB.	
No Outstanding Debtors	
Overall comment: Budget for next year now in draft. Any items that the clubs want to include to be tabled at the July 2017 AGM for consideration. Ideally, the Budget should be finalised in August at the HDCA Board meeting. Budget finalisation is dependent on club team numbers. A draft budget will be managed too in the interim prior to it being baselined.	
Activities next period	
Meet with Rina to draft up the budget and collate any input from SMEs. Present draft budget in August to HDCA Board	

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION (HDCUA) REPORT

It was a season of many disappointments, with active members at a low level working on HDCA games. Thanks must go to Ian Mein and Bill Cruise for controlling first grade games individually with Angus Humphries filling in when available and all others that helped out on Representative games including John Burgoyne and Simon Taufel.



Two HDCA umpires Dennis Purcell and Angus Humphries about to commence the 2016-2017 representative season at Bradman Oval in charge of the Under 16 game between HDCA and Illawarra.

HDCUA prepared a strategy plan for 2016/17 including training courses only for it to fall flat with no takers. Angus Humphries followed up on this with a scenario of umpire payments based on the Camden Association and conditions each club must meet.

John Burgoyne tried his hand in the Sydney Grade Competition enjoying the experience of umpiring in a well-structured competition. He also managed to support local and zone games as required and the National Women's T20 carnival in Wollongong.

Sadly the wet weather played havoc with the final series and no games were played for the first time in many years. With a "Dad's Army" of members we will be certainly hoping for an influx of new members for next season. The Southern Zone Umpires Association have organised an umpiring course on 26 and 27 August 2017 at the Bradman Museum and it is anticipated new members will be identified and prepared to stand in the 2017-2018 season.

John Burgoyne Hon Sec

HDCA JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET RESULTS

UNDER 16

Game 1

HDCA 352 (Valentino Woszczalski 126, James Morton 62, Blake Denney 50, Ravi Wikramanayake 34, Ryan Emmerick 26) defeated Illawarra 40 (Robert McLeod 5 wickets for 16, Dominic O'Shannessy 4 wickets for 17)

Game 2

HDCA 197 (Edward Haydon 31 not out, Emmerick 29, Morton 25, O'Shannessy 25) defeated South Coast 137 (O'Shannessy 7 wickets for 21, Dale Young 2 wickets for 20)

Game 3

HDCA 2/157 (Wikamanayake 68, Woszczalski 62 not out) defeated Goulburn 155 (McLeod 2 wickets for 23, Haydon 2 wickets for 15)

Semi Final 1

HDCA 92 (Morton 24, Dominic Haire 12, Denney 10, Darcy Murchie 10) was defeated by Shoalhaven 6/93 (Emmerick 2 wickets for 7, O'Shannessy 2 wickets for 16, McLeod 2 wickets for 48)

Semi Final 2

HDCA 177 (Ben Tucker 42 not out, Denney 33, Wikramanayake 24, O'Shannessy 16, McLeod 11) defeated by ACT 1/179 (Haire 1 wicket for 21)

UNDER 14

Game 1

HDCA 146 (Oscar Murton 75, Jack Baldwin 10) defeated Far South Coast 70 (Toby Smith 4 wickets for 33, Zac de Hosson 2 wickets for 5, Riley Hurford 2 wickets for 5)

Game 2

HDCA 9/159 (de Hosson 42, Baldwin 39, Warwick Preston 23) defeated by Shoalhaven 9/160 (de Hosson 2 wickets for 12)

Game 3

HDCA 3/46 (Preston 22, Cameron Taylor-Helme 12 not out) defeated Monaro 40 (de Hosson 5 wickets for 13, Hurford 2 wickets for 6, Smith 2 wickets for 8)

Game 4

HDCA 8/202 (Angus Hayman 39, Baldwin 29, Murton 28, Jason Good 27, Preston 21) defeated Goulburn 45 (Hurford 4 wickets for 4, Taylor-Helme 2 wickets for 5, Baldwin 2 wickets for 5, de Hosson 2 wickets for 7)

Game 5

HDCA 132 (Taylor-Helme 39, Preston 27, Good 24) defeated by South Coast 168 (de Hosson 4 wickets for 23, Hurford 2 wickets for 26)

UNDER 12

Game 1

HDCA 158 (Hayden Willebrand 69, Bill Kowalski 22, Jack McCallum 15) defeated by Illawarra 5/159 (Kowalski 2 wickets for 13)

Game 2

HDCA 8/103 (Wiloughby Watson 28, Daniel Tredinnick 24, McCallum 11) defeated South Coast 102 (Watson 3 wickets for 3)

Game 3

HDCA 4/166 (Willebrand 86, McCallum 34, Kowalski 16, Watson 13) defeated Goulburn 163 (Max Harmey 3 wickets for 12, Willebrand 3 wickets for 44, Watson 2 wickets for 26)

Semi Final 1

HDCA 9/111 (Willebrand 36, Tresdinnock 14, Watson 13) defeated by Shoalhaven 8/119 (Flynn Corby 2 wickets for 18, Darcy McNamara 2 wickets for 22)

Semi Final 2

HDCA 0/54 (Watson 15 not out, Eric Heinecke 10 not out) defeated Far South Coast 53 (Kowalski 3 wickets for 6, Willebrand 2 wickets for 8, Watson 2 wickets for 14)

COUNTRY CRICKET McDONALDS COUNTRY CUP

Game One against Corrimal

Robertson/Burrawang opened their season in the open Country Cricket McDonalds Cup with a resounding 45 run win against Corrimal. Playing away, the local team batted first and from thirty six overs accumulated 156 runs. The four main contributions with the bat were provided by captain Nathan Wright with 39 runs, Mitchell Wright 23 runs, Aaron de Jaga 22 runs and Ben Wright 21 runs.

Chasing an achievable target the coastal opposition fell well short as a result of determined bowling by the five Robertson/Burrawang bowlers. Nathan Wright registered a fine double taking three wickets for 18 runs from 17 balls while Sean Young and Mitchell Wright took two wickets each costing 22 runs and 23 runs respectively. The remaining two wickets were accredited to David McMillan one for 24 and Wayne Angel one of 21.

Game Two against Wollongong

A strong all round performance by Robertson/Burrawang Cricket Club has seen the team progress to round four of the NSW McDonalds Country Cup. Travelling to North Dalton Park the visitors proved far superior to Wollongong winning the game by 33 runs.

Winning the toss and electing to bat seven batsmen reached double figures. The highlight of the innings was a well compiled 75 runs by opener Ben Wright. Valuable support was provided by Mathew Arnull contributing 38 runs to the total of 237 runs. Others to make important contributions were Tom Angel with 27 runs, while three others, Mitch Wright, Matthew Cupitt and Zac Clewett remained at the crease long enough to each put together innings of 20 runs. In reaching their total the visitors lost seven wickets.

Needing to maintain a run rate of four and a half runs an over, the hosts found the task beyond their capabilities on the day managing 204 runs. Honours with the ball went to Mitch Wright who dismissed half the opposition batsmen from his 8.1 overs having only 25 runs taking from his bowling. Aaron de Jaga chimed in with two wickets for nine runs from his four overs while Cupitt, Sean Young and Nathan Wright took a wicket each for 28 runs, 35 runs and 35 runs respectively.

Their opposition in their next away game will be Southern Spirit, a Central Coast based team. Success in this final round will take the HDCA team to Grafton on 29 December 2016 for the semi-finals.

Game Three against Southern Spirit

The hosts gained first use of the wicket and completed their innings accumulating 209 runs. Wayne Angel was the stand out bowler for Robertson/Burrawang completing eight overs and returning the figures of four wickets for 36 runs. Mitchell Wright finished his ten over spell taking two wickets for 39 runs. Four bowlers Sean Young, Nathan Wright, Matthew Cupitt and Ben Hamilton took a wicket apiece for 36 runs, 26 runs, 17 runs and 20 runs respectively. In the field Hamilton, Cupitt and Stephen Goodfellow assisted their bowlers taking two catches each.

After the break the visitors realised that consistent batting was required at a rate of at least four runs per over to run down the opposition's score. Unfortunately the side failed to establish any sizable partnerships and was dismissed for 169 runs. In typical fashion Hamilton led the scoring off the bat with 42 runs with encouraging support from Ben Wright 26 runs and Zac Clewitt 23 runs. Three batsmen, Aaron de Jager, Matthew Arnull and Goodfellow each contributed 13 runs.

Once the competition was completed and statistics for the competition released Ben Wright was ranked fourth amongst the batsmen with a highest score of 75 runs, an aggregate of 122 runs returning an average of 40.67. Mitchell Wright, with the ball, completed the competition with a third placed ranking taking 9 wickets, his best return being five wickets for 25 runs at an average of 9.67. Keeping it in the family Nathan Wright, with 5 wickets, was ranked thirteenth with his best figures of three wickets for 18 runs with a 14.80 average.

Failing one win short of a semi- final berth, Robertson/Burrawang continue to demonstrate their strength in all facets of the game in this highest country competition and no doubt will accept a similar challenge during season 2017-2018.

COUNTRY CRICKET McDONALDS COUNTRY PLATE

Game 1 against Ulladulla United for East Bowral Blues

Ulladulla won the toss and elected to bat. At the completion of their innings the visitors had scored 177 runs. The chief destroyer for East Bowral Blues was Trent Woods. With his left arm pace bowling he returned the impressive figures of five wickets for 32 runs. Ian McDonald provided valuable support capturing three wickets for 38 runs while Bruce McAulay, one wicket for 26 runs and Baiden Pepperall one wicket for 40 runs, ensured the opposition's innings was completed in the fortieth over.

Whilst the required target was achievable in scoring three and a half runs per over, the local team found runs difficult to score and finally capitulated in the thirty first over with the innings closing with 98 runs. Pepperall completed an encouraging double top scoring with 26 runs. McAulay assisted with 25 runs with McDonald 12 runs.

This was the debut season for East Bowral Blues and the players will gain from the experience and hopefully will renominate in 2017-2018 to test their cricketing skills.

Game 1 against Bomaderry for Bowral Cricket Club

Winning the toss against the hosts Bomaderry were invited to bat first and struggled against the varied attack provided by the HDCA team. Their brief innings concluded after the twenty eighth over losing nine wickets for 129 runs. Patrick Jackson found the pitch to his liking and dismissed three opposition batsmen at the coast of 8 runs from his six overs. J. Whitfield, with 29 runs taken from his five overs, captured two wickets. The remaining wicket takers were Murray Burgoyne, one wicket for 12 runs from twelve balls, P. Irvine one wicket for 19 runs from four overs and JK Whitfield sending down six overs to return the figures of one wicket for 37 runs. In the field captain Chris Weller lead by example taking three catches with one each taken by Steve Woods and J K Whitfield.

Requiring less than three runs an over Bowral reached their target within fifteen overs. Jackson completed a fine double plundering 79 runs that included eight sixes and six fours. With Steve Woods, the pair added 108 runs for the first partnership before Woods returned to the pavilion after a handy contribution of 28 runs managing two sixes and a four along the way. J K Whitfield, batting at number three attacked the bowling from the outset scoring 18 runs not out with three fours and a six. Bowral took fifteen overs to account for the coastal team.

Game 2 against Warnervale

Bowral kept their hopes alive in the NSW McDonalds Country Plate with a six wicket win in their game against Warnervale. The hosts batted first and found the tight bowling displayed by the visitors difficult to score from and capitulated after 41.5 overs with a score of 161 runs. The pick of the bowlers were Peter Crawford capturing three wickets for 32 runs from his ten allocated overs. Captain Chris Weller provided wonderful support by also taking three wickets for 27 runs from his eight overs. A wicket each was recorded by Jack Whitfield and Josh Whitfield with 36 runs and 21 runs taken from their bowling respectively.

In reply Bowral's openers put together a solid partnership of 60 runs setting the tone for the innings. Patrick Jackson top scored with 37 runs while Scott Woods' contribution of 15 runs ensure a solid foundation from which the incoming batsmen could build. The visitors reached their required target in the thirty third over being four wickets down for 162 runs. Other major contributors to the scoring were not out batsmen Max McIlHatton and Chris Weller with 33 runs and 28 runs. Jack Whitfield completed a fine double with 32 runs.

Game 3 against Nowra

In their challenge to remain in the competition it was a trip to Nowra to take on the local team at the Nowra Showground.

Winning the toss the visitors elected to bat first. Opener Patrick Jackson demonstrated to the opposition bowlers that he possessed the skill to defend good length balls while taking advantage of anything loose. He established a solid foundation for his team before being dismissed for 49 runs. As the innings progressed teammates Jack Whitfield, 37 runs, captain Chris Weller 27 runs and Murray Burgoyne 24 runs continued to contribute to the total and in the forty ninth over, Bowral was dismissed for 180 runs.

Feeling confident in defending this total, the bowlers remained focussed on their plan of attack causing the hosts to scramble for every run. Despite their best efforts Nowra capitulated by the thirty fourth over and their batsmen floundered with 112 runs to their credit. Jackson opened the attack and dismissed three opposition batsmen during his ten over spell at the cost of 14 runs.

However it was the guile of Angus Lowden who caused the opposition the greatest concern devastating the Nowra middle order returning the figures of five wickets for 15 runs from twenty five balls. Both Burgoyne and Peter Crawford made short work of the remaining batsmen taking a wicket each for 21 runs and 27 runs respectively.

The fieldsmen provided great support for their bowlers taking six catches whilst behind the stumps reliable Max McIlhatton took a neat stumping.

As a result of this win the team prepared for a trip to the North Coast during the Christmas-New Year holiday season with a potential win in the semi- final ensuring a chance to take out the Country Plate.

Semi Final and Final

Possessing a team of both youth and experience Bowral Cricket Club was crowned the Country Cricket NSW McDonalds Country Plate champions after defeating Yass in the final of the competition in Grafton during the Christmas – New Year break. The match was the culmination of three months of representative cricket and demonstrates the team's commitment to resilience, perseverance and determination.

Having progressing through the preliminary rounds with wins against Jamberoo, Warnervale and Nowra, the HDCA team qualified for the final round of matches travelling north to take on their first challenge, a semi- final match against Temora.

Having first use of the wicket, Bowral totalled 148 runs being dismissed in their forty third over. Jack Whitfield headed the batting credits with 42 runs, well supported by Ryan Haigh with a neatly compiled 35 runs. Temora's contribution to the score was 30 extras.

Following the break the opposition prepared to run down the target set by Bowral but fell 37 runs short. Patrick Jackson continued his great form with the ball taking four wickets for 37 runs. Peter Crawford was responsible for dismissing two Temora batsmen for 16 runs while Whitfield duplicated Crawford's attacking ability with his two wickets adding 20 runs to the opposition score. Murray Burgoyne send down thirty balls to finish with one wicket for 15 runs.

The semi- final win saw the team enter the final against Yass. Winning the toss and electing to bat, Bowral remained at the wicket for thirty four overs compiling 174 runs. The batsmen were tested by the opposition bowlers with wickets falling in a regular pattern until an eighth wicket partnership between Peter Crawford, 66 runs, and captain Chris Weller, 38 runs, added creditably to the score. Opener Patrick Jackson commenced the innings with 13 runs.

Yass required a run rate of just over three runs per over to achieve their target and while occupying the crease for forty three overs the challenge was beyond them with their final batsmen returning to the pavilion with the scorebook displaying 139 runs. Jackson dismantled the top order batsmen returning the encouraging figures of three wickets for 16 runs from his ten over allocation.

Player of the match Crawford demonstrated his all-round ability capturing two wickets for 26 runs off eight overs. Fellow opening bowler Burgoyne equalled Crawford's wicket taking ability with only 17 runs taken from his six overs. Weller and Whitfield completed the demolition with a wicket each having 32 runs each taken off their bowling from a combined total of ten overs.

Safe hands saw Jackson, Whitfield and Scott Woods responsible for the removal of three batsmen.

The team's long return journey from the North Coast back to the Southern Highlands was made much easier knowing that their combined batting, bowling and fielding skills had proved successful against fellow country teams.

Their achievement was acknowledged when the statistics for the entire competition were released. Patrick Jackson's performances with both the bat and the ball were outstanding. Ranked one as a bowler Jackson captured 15 wickets with a best performance of four wickets for 37 runs at a rate of 6.07. With the bat he proved just as successful. Ranked third he scored 184 runs with his highest score of 79 runs. This left him with an average of 36.80.

Others from Bowral to figure in the top twenty rankings of the Country Plate with the bat were Jack Whitfield and Chris Weller. Whitfield contributed 130 runs for his team with a personal best of 42 runs averaging 32.50. This ranked him tenth while team captain Chris Weller was ranked sixteenth scoring 101 runs and averaging 33.67 whilst his highest score was 38 runs.

With the ball Peter Crawford was ranked fifth taking 8 wickets returning a best performance of three wickets for 32 runs resulting in a 15.63 average. Included in the top twenty was Angus Lowden capturing 5 wickets at a cost of 3.00. His five wickets for 15 runs was his best performance.

The Country Plate challenge has been accepted within the Southern Highlands over a number of years. A HDCA team was victorious in 2007-2008 while four seasons later Robertson Burrawang Cricket Club was the winner of the final. As a result of Robertson Burrawang's win they were promoted to the higher graded Country Cup and have achieved with creditably since, just missing out on a semi- final berth in 2016.



Back Row left to right

Mitch Murray, Scott Woods, Murray Burgoyne, Ryan Haigh, Pat Irvine, Angus Lowden, Jock McIlhatton.

Front Row left to right

Jack Whitfield, Peter Crawford, Pat Jackson, Chris Weller, Josh Whitfield, Max McIlhatton

SOUTHERN ZONE BURNS CUP

The HDCA team was unsuccessful in their attempt to enter the semi-finals of the Southern Zone open Burns Cup competition with a loss to South Coast last Sunday. Playing away the Highlands team found the opposition bowling difficult to get away and after 34.4 overs were all out for 169 runs. Only opener Ben Wright demonstrated any resistance with a fine 85 runs. Three other batsmen recorded double figure, Jack Whitfield 26 runs, James Goring 19 runs and Ben Hamilton 11 runs. Extras contributed 14 runs.

In reply South Coast took thirty six overs to reach their target finishing with 174 runs for the loss of four wickets. Hamilton took two wickets for 30 runs from nine overs while Mitch Wright and Michael Heyhorn each capturing one wicket for 15 runs. In the field Matthew Arnull, Grant Pike and Heyhorn were rewarded with a catch each.

COUNTRY CRICKET NSW PLAN B REGIONAL BIG BASH

Round two of the Plan B regional Big Bash was played at Bradman Oval when the home team, the Southern Crew, were pitted against the Orana Outlaws based in Dubbo. The local team was confident going into the match after their first round win against ACT Aces.

Batting first the hosts lost six wickets in their twenty over scramble finishing with 133 runs. Robertson/Burrawang player Ben Hamilton took a liking to the opposition bowling to score 33 runs.

In reply the western region team managed to score the required runs in 18.2 overs. Wingello Tiger's bowler Matthew Pike was asked to bowl three overs but luck did not go his way. However, he was well placed to dismiss one of the opposition players with a neat catch.

OVER 60 REPORT

Highlands Over 60s had another successful season, the eighth since its inception, culminating in a well-attended AGM in May 2017.

At the AGM the organisation voted to change its name to Highlands Veterans in line with NSW and Australian practice that brings Over 60s, Over 70s and now Over 50s age groups all under the one umbrella.

Highlands is hoping to gradually incorporate an over 50s team into its schedule starting in the 2017-2018 season although the state carnival is beyond us at this stage.

This season just six matches were played by the Over 60s for two wins and four losses. A total of nineteen (19) players turned out for the Highlands.

It was a great shame that the final two scheduled games were washed out. However Highlands has been fortunate to secure Chater Oval as its home ground, with Peter Jensen and Rod van Beek putting in a lot of effort to liaise with the ground's owners and gain support.

Highlands was this season represented in matches beyond the local area with players enjoying selection in the State of Origin series vs Queensland and the national carnival in Perth.

As well some players took the opportunity to play in the NSW carnival with other regions as well as the Over 67s carnival at Mudgee.

In 2017/18 Highlands will for the first time nominate a side to contest the NSW Over 60s Championships at Penrith as well as play its scheduled eight matches home and away against Central Coast, Port Jackson, ACT and Western Wildfires.

New players are always welcome especially those approaching age 60. Interested cricketers are welcome to contact Norm Stanton or Peter Jensen.

Game One against Central Coast

Highlands Over 60s cricketers opened their season with an exciting game against Central Coast who won the match with a boundary on the last ball of the match. The visitors struggled to get a team for the game and in the true traditions of seniors coarse cricket had to borrow a player from the opposition to make it ten-a-side. Nonetheless it was no walloping in Woy Woy as the visitors dominated for most of the match only to let it slip in the final over.

A damp wicket prompted the captains Ives and Jensen to opt for a split innings game playing two lots of 20 overs so that neither side would be too disadvantaged. It probably wouldn't have opened in

W.G.Grace's time but seniors' cricket is different. Highlands were sent in and were soon discovering the vagaries of the wicket in tumbling to 3 for 6 in the first six overs and soon after 4 for 17. Slightly under-age "young guns" Peter Jensen and Rod van Beek, prevented by Over 60s playing conditions from batting in the top four, turned the situation around with a fifty partnership. Jensen was in imperious form, launching on to the pavilion roof and then finishing at the retirement score with another maximum hit to retire on 45. Van Beek continued in comfortable fashion before being stumped for 36 and received good support from Ray Sharman to see Highlands to 4 for 105 at the half way mark of twenty overs.

The home side took to the crease and lost an early wicket to Rod Watling, celebrating his selection for the NSW City side to play England next month. At the other end Allan Drummond looked very handy in his first game for Highlands and the first eight overs yielded just 15 runs. Left-armed Ray Sharman came into the attack and had steadfast Gordon Ives, Australia's 70s vice-captain, trapped LBW to leave Central Coast on 2 for 17 after ten overs. Dennis Stevenson was compiling runs in steady fashion to guide the home side to 3 for 51 after 20 overs, a significant lead for the visitors.

Following the lunch break Highlands innings resumed in less emphatic fashion, Sharman's 21 complemented by 17 from Watling but the later order couldn't capitalize and 150 was a little under par. Still it left Central Coast with exactly 100 to win the game from their remaining 20 overs which was considered to still be a big ask. The crucial partnership was between Stevenson who retired on 42 and wicket-keeper Garry Castles (33) who put on 53 for the fourth wicket. Even with two overs to go Highlands seemed to be in the box seat with 21 runs required. However Bob Newman was up to the task and clubbed five fours and a six in his 32 to steer Central Coast home, the winning boundary coming through the fielder's hands at deep mid-wicket.

Highlands were disappointed to go down in identical fashion to a loss some seasons ago against ACT, déjà vu all over again for veterans Lunt and Babbage. Nonetheless it was a good start to the season, Watling, Jensen, van Beek and Babbage all having played for Hastings at the NSW State Championships in Tamworth the previous week.

Game Two against ACT

Unfortunately there is no way to sugarcoat the Highlands/ACT Over 60s match. Despite the generous, gentlemanly comments of the ACT skipper, Denis Axelby, at the after-match presentation, Highlands were comprehensively defeated in their second game of the season. This was their worst ever loss to ACT and the writing was on the wall before the match. Highlands again struggled to put a side on the paddock, as is the way in coarse cricket, recruiting John Rennie's brother-in-law and a fellow from the South Coast who probably regretted his decision.

Not that ACT fielded their strongest side either. In fact on paper Highlands looked a good match but to be all out with five overs to be bowled in scoring just 110 and then watch ACT pass their score in just the 23rd over made for a forgettable day's cricket. Highlands' skipper John Rennie recorded the only win of the day in calling the toss correctly but it was all downhill from there. The visitors were soon 2 for 10 in the eighth over. Making his long-awaited debut Wayne McDonnell showed he can hit a cricket ball as hard as he clobbers a 16 yard hit in hockey. But after two boundaries he was bowled for 12. He bought new spikes for the occasion so will be back.

Norm Stanton began some form of recovery with John Rennie before apparently seeking to shake hands with the bowler and being stumped (or was it run out?) for 25 leaving Highlands at 5 for 60. Rennie battled on after the drinks break before being caught for 13 and it was left to Peter Burgoyne to salvage something with the tail. Despite a useful last wicket partnership of 20 with John Morris, Burgoyne's dismissal for 28 signalled the end. The cardinal sin of not batting the overs had been committed, so resembling the Australian XI frailty. Tony Paterson's 1 wicket for one run from 4 overs won him the man-of-the-match with two wickets each to Denis Mankey, Ross Calvert and Mark Kennedy.

After lunch Highlands made some early inroads with the ball, Rennie trying to surprise the hosts by opening with left-arm spinner Ray Sharman. There was a measure of success with him taking two wickets but the runs were flowing as well. Morris would have been delighted on having occasional Highlands all-rounder and ex-Australian over 60s player, Paul Cullen, caught behind for 9 leaving ACT at 3 for 37 and Highlands perhaps reassessing their chances. However Denis Mankey hit eight fours in making 35 retired, despite the protests from the Highlands that he should have retired at 30. The stewards were not interested. Mankey was well supported by Axelby (24) and Turner (17), both unbeaten when the Highlands total was passed. Morris (1-15) and Sharman (2-36) were the wicket takers although Rod van Beek bowled an unlucky spell and Allan Drummond toiled manfully.

Game Three against Western Wildfires

After being comprehensively defeated by ACT in their previous match Highlands Over 60s had a comfortable win against Western Wildfires at Lithgow.

While the visitors probably made harder work of gaining a win than they might have, Highlands always looked the more likely on a day in which fielders at deep square leg could have been forgiven for sneaking across the road to the Aquatic Centre. With conditions so tiring, the captains agreed to play a split innings format in which one team bats for 20 overs, the other teams gets 20 overs at the crease and then both innings resume after the lunch break. It makes sense for cricketers not exactly in their prime.

Skipper Rod Watling decided on the basis that fielding would be more taxing later on to allow the home side first use of a rock-hard wicket. Watling and Allan Drummond bowled tidily to restrict the Wildfires openers to 21 from the first ten overs. David Babbage executed a smart stumping that belied his age to end the opening partnership and the introduction of left arm spinner Ray Sharman dealt further blows to the home side. With Steve Walsh being bowled last ball before the twenty over break - after batting so patiently - Wildfires had slumped to 4 for 46.

On the resumption of play George Lunt made it clear he was going to occupy the crease with dogged determination and, although he lost Babbage and Drummond early, Frank Nevill's 25 helped push the run rate along. Peter Jensen came in at number 5 and immediately took to the bowling with such mastery that he reached the retirement score at 33 in facing just 17 balls, so guiding Highlands to 3 for 84 at the lunch break.

On resumption Wildfires began steadily as if a deficit of 38 was no problem at all but Gurney (31 retired) and Fitzgerald (22) eventually found some form before the innings petered out

with Peter Burgoyne bowling a tidy spell and Watling resuming, so keeping the Wildfires to 7 for 130. The wickets were shared for the visitors: Watling (1 for 10 from 7 overs), Drummond (1 for 20 from 7), Sharman (3 for 14 from 7), Stanton (1 for 18 from 7) and Jensen (1 for 15 from 3).

Highlands were left with 47 to win the match and they achieved this with six overs to spare but rather surprisingly lost 7 wickets in the process. Wayne McDonnell was first to go hitting the ball solidly in making 11 followed by opener Lunt being stumped for a patient 14.

Ray Sharman struck a handy 19, despite incurring an injury, before Watling and Burgoyne saw the tally reached to give Highlands another good win over the Wildfires.

Game Four against Port Jackson

Highlands Over 60s were soundly beaten by Port Jackson in a rain-affected match at Chevalier College. The statistics were a true reflection of the game with the visitors retiring six batsmen in coasting to 3-165 while the home side had five batsmen failing to trouble the scorers as they finished all out for 114. The very fact that a match was played at all in conditions more suited to the native England of several of the Sydneysiders was an indication of Chevalier's ground staff's generosity and co-operation.

The two captains agreed that a split innings format would at least enable bowlers to get a bowl and batsmen (with retirement at 15) to get some sort of time in the middle with there being every possibility of the match being abandoned along the way.

Port Jackson got away to a very good start, any advantage of bowling on a tricky damp wicket being nullified by the ball becoming slippery on a damp outfield as the innings progressed. Cam McDonald and Rupert Matthews batted well in the conditions even though Paul Cullen's four overs cost just one run. McDonald retired at the compulsory 15, followed by Matthews' dismissal, bowled by Rod van Beek for 13 in the final over before the break, to leave Port Jackson on 1-48 at the innings break.

Unfortunately the home side started disastrously. While George Lunt stuck around in his inimitable fashion he saw John Hitchenson and Frank Nevill go for ducks. Highlands recovered with the arrival of Paul Cullen at the crease and he accumulated runs well to retire for 15 to take the home side to 2 for 36 at the break.

After a necessarily warming lunch Port Jackson resumed with intentions clear, the captains having agreed to a 35 over innings. Skipper Simon Lyon, Paul Bray, Chas Viner, Paul Adams, Wasantha and David Massey all found the boundary with some regularity and had few problems making the retirement score of 15.

Rob Crough, making his debut for the home side, grabbed a wicket with a well-flighted delivery and a run out provided brief respite but Cam McDonald renewed his innings as the first of the retirees and with a well-struck 32 helped Port Jackson to 165 from their 35 overs.

Facing a deficit of 130, Highlands resumed with George Lunt retiring hurt. Peter Jensen was in imperious form after providing a difficult chance on arrival at the crease and had his 15 in no time. Skipper Rod Watling also made the retirement score as did John Burgoyne. However the

collapse of wickets seemed to indicate Highlands' best chance was to get the retirees back in as soon as possible. Unfortunately they were all dismissed going for runs, with Jensen top scoring on 31, leaving John Rennie stranded on 15 in the 34th over as the home side fell well short on 114.

Wasantha with 3 for 7, Harris with 2 for 7 and Bray grabbing 2 for 16 were the main wicket takers.

Game Five against Central Coast

Central Coast Cyclones defeated Highlands Over 60s in their first outing for 2017 at Chater Oval.

The home side was hoping for a win having secured such a wonderfully picturesque venue. However they could only tally a mediocre 157 runs on a fast outfield and good wicket and was overtaken by the visitors with two overs to spare.

After being sent in Highlands lost an early wicket but Peter Jensen and John Rennie put together a sound partnership of 50 runs before Jensen was LBW for 31 runs. Rennie was soon affected by the oppressive conditions and needed a rest bringing Rob Crough to the crease. Crough was bowled for 11 runs but Phil Reardon was in great touch and was joined by Rod van Beek and these two ran extremely well between wickets to take the score to a healthy 3 wickets down for 93 run at the twenty over drinks break.

The captains had agreed a split innings format best suited the energy-sapping heat and so Central Coast took the field.

Highlands had immediate success when Rod Watling had the dangerous Dennis Stevenson well caught by 'keeper Jensen. Bob Newman, who had virtually won the previous encounter between these teams, was in equally good form and when joined by Keith Vallis they produced a valuable partnership. Newman retired at the compulsory 40 runs bringing Len Hardy to the crease but the accomplished former Sydney 1st grader surprisingly hit a full toss to Rod Watling on the first ball of John Burgoyne's spell. At the lunch break Vallis was still there and he and skipper Greg Buscombe had steered the Cyclones to 3 wickets for 86 runs.

Highlands resumed their innings looking to build on the slender advantage of seven runs but van Beek was caught for 18 runs and wickets tumbled. Reardon was still batting splendidly and shared a useful partnership of 33 runs with Norm Stanton, dismissed for 14 runs, but when Reardon retired on 40 runs the tail failed to wag and Highlands were dismissed for 157 runs in the thirty eighth over. The courageous Rennie had returned to the crease and remained not out on 20 runs. Len Hardy was the pick of the bowlers with 3 wickets for 29 runs from his six overs but Buscombe and Keith Vallis, each with 1 wicket for 20 runs, provided good support.

Central Coast resumed its innings needing 72 runs from twenty available overs to win the match. They lost Buscombe early on, bowled by Wayne McDonnell, but Vallis was striking the ball well and found the boundary five times before retiring on 40 runs. Campbell, 11 runs and Castles 14 runs made handy contributions before former skipper Gordon Ives fittingly struck a boundary to take the visitors to 160 runs, 18 sundries being a significant factor.

Rod Watling was most economical for Highlands taking 1 wicket for 9 runs from his six overs while John Morris, Reardon, McDonnell and Burgoyne each grabbed a wicket. Highlands Over 60s were delighted by the decision of owners Frank and Andy Hook to allow them the use of Charter Oval after no cricket had been played there in recent seasons and the visitors were most impressed by the ground, the rural surroundings and indeed the catering!



Back row left to right

Peter Reardon, Norm Stanton, John Morris, Rob Crough, John Burgoyne, Wayne McDonnell

Front row left to right

John Rennie, Peter Jensen, George Lunt, Rod van Beek, Rod Watling

Photograph supplied by Southern Highlands News prior to the game against Central Coast

Game Six against Western Wildfires

Some cricket grounds are noted for their crowd capacity and facilities, others for their ambiance and aesthetics; Charter Oval in the already picturesque Southern Highlands is one such cricket venue.

An overnight downpour a soft wicket despite the rising morning temperature. The Western Wildfires arrived safely, the pitch marked and cones placed realistically. All was in readiness.

The toss was won by Southern Highlands and we chose to bat on a wicket that was slightly soft and

seaming. Rod Van Beek and Allan Drummond opened the batting and took the score to 5 before the partnership was broken by Walsh.

Enter Peter Jensen who took to a steady bowling attack. He was ably assisted by Frank Nevill, together they carved out 83 at the conclusion of 20 overs. Highlands turned a good position into a match-winning one in the next phase of the game. All bowlers managed to find line and length on most occasions. Wildfires found it difficult to find the pickets with any regularity. Neville Castle, Wildfire first drop, batted aggressively before retiring on 25 runs. Barry Pearse stolidly compiled 20. After the first half of the innings, the visitors were 3- 57. Ray Sharman (1-7) from 5 overs and R. Watling (0-10 from his 6 overs) were linchpins of the attack.

It was a (green) cordial lunch with Subway accoutrements and a chance to converse with the lads from the land of munitions, railways and sandstone. Southern Highlands resumed the second portion of their innings and made slow but steady progress.

Re-enter Peter Jensen who proceeded to dispatch the bowling to all parts of this lovely ground. Some pickets may now be in need of repair. Peter's 69 runs was a dominant performance.

The total of 181 would prove to be a formidably defensible total.

The Wildfires attempted to increase the run rate with judiciously-taken singles but the bowlers were relentless. Allan Drummond bowled clinically at the death to achieve figures of 1-7 from his 6 over spell. A special mention to Brian King who kept wicket for the entire game.

The captain of the Wildfires was greeted with a "Happy Birthday" chorus from the local team as he strode to the crease. He valiantly tried to turn over the strike but the Southern Highlands attack stayed the course. In a scene reminiscent of a Shakespearean drama, a thunder and lightning squall saw players ducking for the pavilion cover and the match was over. It was, in the end, a convincing win to Southern Highlands.

Game Seven and Game Eight

Both these games were washed out as a result of the consistent rain that fell during the latter part of the 2016-2018 cricket season.

HDCA AGM 2017

Report on Strategy

It appears that not all the HDCA board directors and club delegates have not been sufficiently engaged with the documented HDCA strategy. It should be the new 2017/18 board's priority to review the current strategy and set a direction that the clubs and teams endorse as the future for HDCA.

There is a lack of consulting, reporting, feedback, actions and accountability in the areas of club structure compliance, competitions and facilities. Chairman John Morris has continually raised this issue and is simply worn out by the lack of take up and support from committee members and club delegates.

The winding back by Terry Loader has, and will continue to have a significant impact to the management of turf facilities. This must be addressed by the incoming board as it will be the arrow head of the incoming facilities director.

Below is a short summary of the season, attached is the actual strategy document. Hopefully clubs will read the entire four pages and provide an update on the night of their club's progress.

Proposed 2016 – 2017 Actions

2016-2017 Outcomes

<p>i. <i>The HDCA Board to strengthen links with all clubs and affiliates demonstrating leadership and initiative to promote a desired inclusive cricket culture, reflecting effective shared ownership and responsibility.</i></p>	<p>Overall very slow progress was made.</p> <p>Season review meetings were held.</p> <p>Chairman worn out and not continuing.</p>
<p>ii. Commence the implementation process to change the current club membership structure to that of a six (6) Club based Association Member Structure and have in place for the 2017/2018 Season</p>	<p>Bowral Cricket has produced a vision for their club.</p> <p>There is very little collective interest in a Club Championship and home ground investment of time or thought to improve the facilities within the region.</p>
<p>iii. The HDCA as a minimum should always have one club from Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong to form the Association Membership Foundations.</p>	<p>These three (Towns) clubs do exist but Moss Vale and Mittagong require assistance and protection to survive and then grow.</p>
<p>iv. All Clubs to assist in the preparation and costs associated with the preparation and maintenance of grounds is required to enter into a shared user Agreement with the HDCA, WSC or its nominee.</p>	<p>All teams contribute via paying match fees; these will continue to rise over the coming seasons. Board will need to make a decision of future model for Turf Wickets.</p>

v. Introduce a club championship system to grow junior numbers and club culture ease the transition to senior cricket.	No interest, no progress.
vi. Through the local Council's recently published Park Strategy continue to develop yearly/seasonal action plans to maintain and improve ground facilities as well as the development and identification of additional turf wickets and to work with other sports to develop indoor training facilities.'	No feedback and HDCA do not have a representative on the WSC Sport & Rec committee.
vii. The identification of an appropriate person to fulfil the role as HDCA treasurer and manage the budget and financial reporting responsibilities.	Was filled by Gabby Kent, but has become vacant again.
viii. To evaluate the Code the Conduct Model introduced in 2015-2016 to identify areas for further development and consider new initiatives.	No progress to report
ix. Explore the feasibility of hosting a mid-week u/16 open competition.	Achieved, Competition was commenced this season by the Junior Committee.
x. Highlight the past contributions (Paul Struchbury Award & Life members) and maintain a recognition and reward program for volunteers.	Awarded this season but was not actually presented because the recipient never turned up to a meeting or event. Consider suitability for trophy presentation etc.

Highlands District Cricket Association



Strategic Framework 2016-2020



Cricket Australia - Mission for Club Cricket

Recognise, support and link the cricket community to ensure cricket clubs are the preferred destination for all Australians seeking an active and healthy involvement in the community

Cricket NSW - Mission for Club Cricket

To support Associations & Clubs to grow the game and provide an enjoyable experience for all.

HDCA - Mission

Build a Club Based Association that grows, participation, facilities and provides an enjoyable experience for all levels of players, members and community stakeholders.

Pillars	Players	People	Places	Partnerships	Promotion
Objectives	 <p>Provide an inclusive, accessible, clear and attractive playing pathway for current & prospective players.</p>	 <p>Support volunteers, administrators, coaches, scorers and umpires in making sure that community cricket is well run, vibrant and relevant.</p>	 <p>Provide access to facilities of the right type and the right quality in the right locations to support and grow participation demand.</p>	 <p>Work as one team to ensure strong partnerships & relationships internally and externally to allow cricket to be unified, effective & prominent in Australia.</p>	 <p>Promote the game and inspire involvement in club cricket through marketing, promotion, communications and digital initiatives.</p>

Pillars	Players	People	Places	Partnerships	Promotion
Focus Areas to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Endorse and educate all association players that the HDCA embraces the MCC preamble “Spirit of Cricket” as the guide for conduct of all members. ii. Provide a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment to engage members of the community. iii. Grow T20 Blast engagement and numbers each season. iv. Provide a range of game formats to grow appeal, participation and performance to aid player retention. v. Encourage all club players to trail for representative teams. vi. Provide a high level of support and coaching for junior representative teams. vii. Acknowledge success at all levels. viii. Zero tolerance for nepotism. ix. Utilise the Australian Cricket Pathway to promote maximum cricket participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increase the standard of administration and communication across the association. ii. Implement a Club based structure for the purpose of increasing clubs ownership in the structure and development of competitions and facilities. iii. Make all levels of engagement inclusive and enjoyable. iv. Increase the number and standard of accredited coaches, as outlined in the Cricket Coaches strategy plan. v. Maintain and grow support and use of the My Cricket Platform to aid clubs and the HDCA Administration vi. Develop a volunteers Recognition Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Work with each club to develop a facilities improvement plan for grounds in their village or towns. ii. Improve each cricket asset and facility in the WSC to ensure that players are getting value for effort. iii. Strive to protect and enhance the current WSC assets as a strategic move to increase the overall quality and number of turf wicket grounds. iv. Lobby WSC to contribute to the preparation cost of turf wickets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Implement umpires and captains reports in assisting to grow numbers and standards of umpires to achieve an 80 % spread across our matches. ii. Align with other sports to secure access to an indoor facility in the Highlands region. iii. Support each club and their respective sponsors to increase investment in the Association’s mission to grow cricket in the Highlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Maintain and grow the amount of support and coverage for all clubs, representative teams and individual achievement through local media outlets, print, radio media and social media networks. ii. To assist clubs to advertise and deliver preseason registration days. iii. Promote the T20 Smash as a commercial asset of the HDCA

Highlands District Cricket Association



Pillars	Players	People	Places	Partnerships	Promotion
Supporting Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed the junior participation pathway formats in Clubs and Associations, Support the adoption of a Female Coordinator on each association committee Conduct annual survey of all stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the A Sport For All Resource and Training Program (Diversity and Inclusion Education) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support affiliates to identify key priorities to enable high quality competition, utilising the national community cricket facilities Strategic Framework resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work effectively with the CNSW Regional Development Manager and coaching structure. Supporting CA, CNSW & CCNSW programs and initiatives. 	<p>My cricket Website for information and performances to be up to date for the benefit of all clubs and players.</p>

For resources and information to assist Clubs and Associations, visit community.cricket.com.au



Highlands District Cricket Association

Immediate Actions 2016-17

- xi. The HDCA Board to strengthen links with all clubs and affiliates demonstrating leadership and initiative to promote a desired inclusive cricket culture, reflecting effective shared ownership and responsibility.
- xii. Commence the implementation process to change the current club membership structure to that of a six (6) Club based Association Member Structure and have in place for the 2017/2018 Season
- xiii. As a minimum one club from Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong is needed to form the Association Membership Foundations.
- xiv. All Clubs to assist in the preparation and costs associated with the preparation and maintenance of grounds is required to enter into a shared user Agreement with the HDCA, WSC or its nominee.
- xv. Introduce a club championship system to grow junior numbers and club culture ease the transition to senior cricket.
- xvi. Through the local Council's recently published Park Strategy continue to develop yearly/seasonal action plans to maintain and improve ground facilities as well as the development and identification of additional turf wickets and to work with other sports to develop indoor training facilities.'
- xvii. The identification of an appropriate person to fulfil the role as HDCA treasurer and manage the budget and financial reporting responsibilities.
- xviii. To evaluate the Code the Conduct Model introduced in 2015-2016 to identify areas for further development and consider new initiatives.
- xix. Explore the feasibility of hosting a mid-week u/16 open competition.
- xx. Highlight the past contributions (Paul Stuchbury Award & Life members) and maintain a recognition and reward program for volunteers.