

Highlands District Cricket Association



Annual Report

2020/21



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Directors & Office Bearers 2020/2021

Chairperson	Simon Taufel
Deputy Chairperson & Director Corporate & Volunteers	Graham Brake
Director Cricket Operations (Senior)	Jack Whitfield
Director Cricket Development & Child Protection Officer	Andrew Middleton
Director Junior & Representative Cricket	Sam Nasser
Director Grounds & Facilities	Brett McAulay
Director Marketing & Public Relations	Carisa Wells
Secretary Administrator	Tahlia Wellington
Treasurer	Salman Yusuf
Delegates GIZ	Rina Hore
	Simon Taufel
Code of Conduct Commissioner & Patron	Rodney Cavalier AO

Premiers

SENIORS

1 st Grade	Robertson Burrawang Cricket Club
2 nd Grade	Wingello Tigers Cricket Club
3 rd Grade	Mittagong Cricket Club

JUNIORS

Stage 3	Bundanoon Cricket Club
Stage 2A	Oxley Glory
Stage 2B	Bowral Cricket Club

WOMENS

Tina Macpherson Cup	Robertson Burrawang Cricket Club
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Report from the Chair

Simon Taufel

Following the challenges of last year, the bushfires, extreme heat and poor air quality, this year provided us with the COVID-19 pandemic. We should be really proud how all the Association and Club volunteers pulled together and cooperated with CNSW to ensure we had a cricket season at all. We saw how the pandemic placed lives and livelihoods under threat, and while the safety of our participants was our primary focus, we also had to be mindful of the economic impact on our people and Member clubs. It was fortunate that only one junior round was impacted by a COVID outbreak and we thank everyone, including the team marshals, for their cooperation during the season with the QR codes and compliance protocols put in place.

2020/21 has been a season of much progress. We thank our principle sponsor, the Mittagong RSL for continuing to support our local cricket. Among our list of achievements, we are proud to name the inaugural Tina Macpherson Cup, our first all female competition involving around 60 females of all ages. Well done to Robertson Burrawang CC for taking the trophy in a very tight finish against Wingello. We also inaugurated the HDCA Academy for over 80 junior representative and promising players – a ten week program supported by the HDCA level 2 coaches offering holistic development and training.

In the junior game, we have seen our participation rates climb over the past 3 years by 24.4% (up from 246 to 306 cricketers). Over the same period, the number of teams has increased by the same percentage (from 25 teams to now 31). Well done to the junior clubs and their volunteers to recruit and promote the game and we hope that the better junior pitches in the Shire are having a positive impact. There is still more work to be done in retaining Stage 2 players for the Stage 3 competition and seeing more teams compete at this level going on to senior grade formats.

As for seniors, to see six 1st grade teams this year was a massive step forward. Well done to Moss Vale for showing a lot of courage and resilience in seeing the season out with a large number of injuries. I'm confident that this was a year of learning for them and next year will be a better one. Congratulations also to Robertson Burrawang for fielding a second 1st grade team. It shows how successful the club has been in attracting players and building depth of talent. With the overall number of senior teams up this year also, I'd like to thank all nine senior clubs and volunteers for their efforts. The standard of cricket continues to grow and while the grading process is never perfect, to have seven of the nine clubs represented across the semi finals in three grades is a very good outcome.

We have been served exceptionally well by our Association office bearers, supported by Tahlia Wellington in the role of Secretary/Administrator. She has contributed a mountain of hours, well in excess of the value of honorarium paid. To put into words what a wonderful servant of the local game she has been, is somewhat difficult. Tahlia has laid the platform for her successor to follow with ease. The Association website has been rebranded and is up to date with resources and news stories. She has established a HDCA Facebook page that continues to grow in popularity and patronage. Her dedication and attention to detail with meeting minutes, grant applications, Association compliance and correspondence has been welcomed and appreciated by everyone and her support to this Chair has been invaluable. Thank you, Tahlia, we salute you and your contribution.

Salman Yusuf in the role of Treasurer has done a sterling job in organisation and maintenance of our Association accounts. Right from the budgetary process, to managing periodical payments and reporting on our financial position regularly, he has been a pleasure to have in our team and he leaves the Association this year with our heart felt appreciation. The incoming Treasurer will have a much easier pathway thanks to the groundwork laid by Salman over the past few years.

I'd like to recognise individually our Board members. Graham Brake as deputy has been a pillar of support and offered some excellent wise counsel when required. His considered thinking and business acumen has served us well. I thank him for his contribution this year and wish him well as he stands down from the Board due to increased work commitments.

Jack Whitfield, as always, has put in a mountain of work managing the senior cricket committee, grading of the players, wet weather, draws, ground allocations and playing conditions (not to mention also playing and being part of a premiership winning side). Jack continues to do his best in a volunteer role while also becoming a father for the first time. Thank you to Jack.

Brett McAulay has done very well this year in appointing and bedding in two new groundsmen at Lackey Park and Welby Oval. This was no easy task as replacing Damien and Dave was always going to be tough, but Brett did it well with the groundstaff (Jacob Moore and Matt Cupitt of Lawns'n' Moore along with Dale Young) – both in providing quality turf pitches and staying within budget. Brett has also strengthened the HDCA's relationship with our local Council staff. Together with Mark Tickner, Rachel Forte, Iain Greaves, Guy Stern, Greg Bray and Peter Caldwell, we now have a more cooperative and productive way forward in managing our grounds and being able to build better ones. Managing the grounds and facilities portfolio is a significant piece of work and everyone should be grateful for the dedication and diligence that Brett has given over the past year. Well done, Brett, we look forward to the new synthetic pitches at Bundanoon and Boronia this year.

Andrew Middleton and Carisa Wells joined our Board at the start of this year and for different reasons are stepping down. Andrew has been a great resource in the Association exploring stronger ties with our local schools. He has contributed his experience and expertise in the area of child protection and we look forward to him continuing this role next year. Carisa has been an exciting and dynamic member of our Board, offering some female wisdom while self-confessing her lack of cricket knowledge (not such a bad thing at times). She has assisted us with promotional and media opportunities in order for us to get our messages out into the community. Carisa's lateral thinking has been an asset and to her and Andrew we also say, thank you.

Sam Nasser joined the Board mid season but his contribution was there from the very start of 2020/21 in our junior and representative competitions. I've thoroughly enjoyed Sam's passion, commitment and enthusiasm for our local game. Together, with his wife Naz, they are the glue that

has held many things together this year. Sam has been instrumental, with his team of HDCA coaches and volunteers, in delivering two of our most significant achievements for season 2020/21 – the HDCA Academy and our first all female cricket competition, the Tina Macpherson Cup. I know our past Patron, Graeme Watson, would be mighty proud and chuffed at these achievements in seeing our funds spent on the future of our game. Sam's only flaw is that he never says "no" to anyone! I would encourage everyone to continue to support Sam in his efforts going forward. His vision and drive is worthy of the cooperation of everyone in the district. Great work, Sam.

Thank you to the ongoing support from CNSW. To our local support personnel in Sean Barret and Martin Gleeson, you two have been a very valuable resource in supporting our COVID planning especially. In general, it has been comforting to be able to call on you both when something difficult or new has cropped up. Your support in delivering computer scoring, grant opportunities, and club support has been very welcome.

The Highlands Cricket Umpires Association has served our local game with distinction. They have supplied a record number of appointments across the senior and Stage 3 competitions. While not all may agree with their decisions from time to time, no one can dispute how welcome their officiating is every Saturday and how much smoother the matches are conducted in their presence. Well done to Angus Humphries, the HDCUA Secretary, and all the umpires for their service.

We thank the Bradman Foundation and acknowledge the contribution of Rina Hore, who also served as HDCA delegate to the Greater Illawarra Zone. The HDCA is fortunate to have access to Bradman Oval for grade and representative matches. The new nets at Bradman, funded by the efforts of the Bowral CC are a very welcome addition to the facility. The new groundsman, Phil Kerr, has done an outstanding job in improving the playing surface and together with Jock McIlhatton, they have promoted more cricket on Bradman Oval in inclement weather. Well done to all the staff at Bradman.

To our Patron and Code of Conduct Commissioner, Rodney Cavalier AO, we extend our appreciation for his continued service to cricket. Unfortunately, Rodney has some work to do this season given that we had three breaches of Code to process, compared to none last season. Two players were found guilty of a level one breach and one coach guilty of a level three breach. I take this opportunity to remind everyone that cricket is a game to be enjoyed and the traditions respected. At the local level especially, we are all volunteers and no one deserves to be disrespected or criticised for doing their best. Our past patron, Graeme Watson, said it best when he told me what the spirit of the game meant to him – "it's about your mates and creating friendships that last a lifetime." Congratulations are extended to the Mittagong CC who this year took out the HDCA Spirit of Cricket Award after points were allocated after every senior match by the appointed umpires.

Thank you to the members of the HDCA Judiciary. Their wisdom and experience are essential when dealing with reports, evidence and submissions. We acknowledge John Morris, Phil Kerr, Jeff Mitchell, Tina Macpherson and Norm Stanton.

At the end of last years Annual Report, I wrote the following as we headed into season 2020/21...

"Rest assured, our administration remains focussed on the following three key deliverables;

- 1. To grow the game – making it more accessible and affordable.*
- 2. To make local cricket sustainable and viable for the future (growing revenue to reinvest back into it).*
- 3. To leave the game in better shape than when we found it."*

As I leave the HDCA at this AGM and reflect on my time with the organisation, I think we can hold our head up and say that this Board and team have delivered on the three goals above. And with that, it is with a sense of pride that I now hand over the baton to the next Chair to carry on the legacy we leave.

Respect, humility, and servant leadership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Taufel', written in a cursive style.

Simon Taufel
Chair
Highlands District Cricket Association



Report from the Deputy Chair – Director of Corporate and Volunteers *Graham Brake*

Well, another season is past, and we take this opportunity to reflect on what we have learnt, what we can do better and plan for the future.

I've personally learnt much from my time on the board and have been able to utilise these learnings on the board and also in my career outside cricket. There are two standout phrases that encapsulate not only the past 12 months but my time on the board and I would encourage the incoming board to utilise:

1. ***The standard we choose to walk past, is the standard we accept*** – Simon's Mantra.

This is such an important ethos to remember and build upon. It is so relevant not only to our cricketing lives, to hold ourselves accountable for each other's actions, the team on and off the field. It's not just them: it's also me, it's my responsibility as well. What am I doing to improve the game, my life, the situation.

2. And of course: ***Start, Stop, Continue.***

Such a great filter to run our decisions through as we look to grow the game in The Highlands.

What should we **Start**, what is missing in the game and needs resources to start.

What do we need to **Stop** doing? What are we doing that is wasting time, energy and resources and, What are we doing well that should **Continue**? The growth in teams and the financial stability of the association reflects there are many things we should continue.

Across my two specific portfolios:

Learnt:

I have found it challenging finding volunteers who are willing to step forward based merely on email communication and requests.

We have however found some outstanding people to support cricket through our combined contacts and personal invitations.

Do Better:

The investment of time has been my greatest challenge. There is much potential to continue to build the game and its profile in the community. Resourcing this with time has been a weakness.

The Future:

The incoming board has such a solid foundation to continue the growth strategy across juniors and women's cricket. The association has funds at its disposal to invest in improving infrastructure and investing in the promotion of the game.

I would finally like to personally thank the board for their support, vision, and courage to make cricket better.

All the best...I look forward to seeing you out in the middle in 2021-22

Graham Brake



Report from the Director of Senior Cricket *Jack Whitfield*

After a disappointing end to the 2019/2020 season with Covid-19 I think we can all agree it was great to get out on the park and complete a full season of cricket.

3rd Grade

This year with 9 team competing in 3rd grade the competition was always going to be tough. Old heads mixing with up and coming juniors continues to make 3rd grade the breeding ground of our future cricketers and it was fantastic to see the junior ranks grow again this season. Mittagong & Robertson-Burrawang were out of the blocks quickly setting the standard early and would eventually meet in the Grand Final where Mittagong would take home the trophy. Well done to Chancy and the team!

A big congratulations goes out to Wingello & Robertson-Burrawang who had several recurring female players in their teams this year. It is fantastic to see the girls coming through and getting to compete with the men. We look forward to seeing them return next season.

Third Grade Premiers – Mittagong Lions



2nd Grade

“Who will take out Ricky Martin’s Wingello side?” is often the question on the lips of 2nd graders at the start of each season. Having finished in the top 2 for the last 5 seasons Wingello often set the benchmark for 2nd Grade. As it turns out the Bowral Blues had the answer to everybody, going through the regular season undefeated and cruising through to the Grand Final.

Going into the Grand Final with a few injuries and niggles the Bowral Blues weren’t able to hold off Ricky’s Wingello side. Wingello’s 2nd premiership in 4 years, well done to Ricky and the team.

Once again another fantastic season for 2nd grade where every club was represented. Let’s strive for the same next season.

Second Grade Premiers – Wingello Tigers



1st Grade

In 2020/2021 1st Grade would field 6 teams for the first time in a long time. Moss Vale committed to pushing their 2nd Grade side up and whilst they went through the season without a win it was a move that showed real determination by Moss Vale and I congratulate them for it. Robertson Burrawang deciding to nominate a second 1st grade proved a good choice with the youngsters finishing a handful of points behind the top four.

The top four this year was one of the tightest ladders we’ve seen in recent years with just 0.32 of a point separating 2nd and 3rd place. Ultimately the Grand Final was set up for the Robertson Burrawang Bulls and Bowral to fight it out on the last weekend in March. With the previous encounters between the two sides very even during the season both sides went in feeling confident however it was Robertson Burrawang that were victorious when the captains shook hand late on the second day.

Well done to all the clubs this year in 1st grade, it was a tough years cricket and hopefully we will have the same sides go around again next year.

First Grade Premiers – Robertson Burrawang Bulls



Final thoughts

Cricket in the highlands couldn't happen without a lot of help from club committees and my fellow board members however there are a few people I'd like to acknowledge.

Firstly, our groundsmen this year have been fantastic. I think the 1st grade playing group would agree that we saw some fantastic wickets this year and look forward to seeing them again next year. To Phil, Jake, Matt & Dale thank you for all your efforts.

To Angus Humphreys and the HDCUA, what a year. I don't think I've seen a season where 2nd grade has been umpired as much as this year. A fantastic effort by the team and one that is greatly appreciated by the playing group.

To the Senior Competition Committee thank you for your continued effort to push our competitions in the right direction. I look forward to working with you all again next year.

Only 19 weeks left until next season!

Jack Whitfield.







Report from the Director of Junior and Representative Cricket

Sam Nasser

I began my Voluntary Role as Director of Junior Cricket in August 2020.

I want to thank the other members of the HDCA Board, the Highlands Academy team, Angus Humphries and all the umpires, club committees, coaches, managers, scorers and all other volunteers for their ongoing support of Junior Cricket, Rep Cricket, Girls and Women's cricket. Thank you for all that you do. It takes more than a bat and ball to have a game of cricket and all the above people make the other things needed happen.

We have several Board members standing down this year and on behalf of all involved in Junior Cricket I would like to thank them all for their contribution. Treasurer Salman Yusef has done a great job managing the HDCA finances and we thank him for that. Graham Brake has done a good job on the Board as has Carisa Wells and Andrew Middleton and we thank them for their efforts. Tahlia Wellington has done an amazing job administering our junior and women's programs in a challenging season and she will be sorely missed. I would like to pay a special tribute to Simon Tafel our outgoing Chair for driving us to the strong position the HDCA is in today. In his 5 years he has completely changed the associations functions and financial position for the better and created a great platform for others to build on. We thank Simon very much for his contribution over all those years.

Below is a summary of the 20/21 season of junior cricket in the highlands with a few thoughts thrown in along the way.

Competitions

Stage 1

We had 12 teams play in our Stage 1 competition. A big thank you to all the Coaches and volunteers who helped run the games and make it a fun and skills-based morning for our up-and-coming stars. We had some hiccups with scoring but in the end decided not to score stage 1 and let the coaches focus on skills and fun. There are no finals in Stage 1 or stats to fuss about moving forward. Kids showing improvement in skills while having fun was the goal and we achieved that.

Stage 2b

Stage 2b had 6 teams in that competition. Again, a big thank you to all the Coaches, scorers, volunteers and umpires who helped run the games. The standard of cricket was good, and we were lucky to have a good bunch of coaches in stage 2b who really helped some of our players come through with vastly improved skills. Bowral Thunder won an incredibly exciting 2b GF against a

spirited Bowral Blues team that are a beacon of good sportsmanship, the game was decided on the last ball of the game with an attempted runout.

Stage Two B Premiers – Bowral Thunder



Stage 2a

Stage 2a had six teams in the competition. Very even competition with the Oxley Daredevils who proved too strong again as they did last year to go through undefeated. Oxley won a hard-fought GF against Chev who battled to the end. A big thank you to all the Coaches, scorers, volunteers and umpires who helped run the games.

Stage Two A Premiers – Oxley Glory



Stage 3

Stage 3 had 5 teams in the competition. In the end, the 2 dominant teams in Bundanoon and Bowral Kookaburras were set for a great GF but the rain stopped the show for the second year in a row in Stage 3. Bundanoon won the premiership because they finished higher on the table. A big thank you to all the Coaches, scorers, volunteers and umpires who helped run the stage 3 games.

Stage Three Premiers – Bundanoon



HDCA has conducted a survey of players, coaches and parents to have a look at the participation drop off from stage 2 currently with 12 teams to stage 3 currently with 5 teams. The review is ongoing. The survey findings are below.

Stage 3 Survey 43 responses

	Responses
Coaches/Managers/Club Official	10
Stage 2 player/parent	16
Stage 3 player/parent	17

	Yes	No	Maybe	Total
Are you playing Stage 3 cricket next season?	22	7	14	43

If no or maybe, select the reason?				
Other Commitments		2	6	8
exceeds my strength		3	3	6
Short of my strength			4	4
Playing 3 rd /2 nd grade		2	2	4

How would you like the competition to look?		Stage 2	Stage 3	Official	Total
Saturday 2 Day			8	2	10
Saturday 1 Day		8	6		14

	Midweek T20	5	2	6	13
	Other/both	2	1	2	5

If midweek, what afternoon would be best?		Stage 2	Stage 3	Official	Other	Total
	Monday	1				1
	Tuesday	2		2		4
	Wednesday	4	5	2	1	12
	Thursday	2	5	3		10
	Friday	1	1	1		3
	Will not Play	1	5	2	2	10

Women's Cricket

We held a trial match pre-Christmas to gauge if we had enough players for a women's competition and 26 turned up for a trial game. From there we called on clubs to get involved. Teams from Bowral, Wingello, Robo and Mossy were nominated, and all agreed to play under the stage 2 rules with some modifications to protect beginners.

The competition began on 3rd Feb with 34 players making up 4 teams of 8 or 9 players. By week 4 we had 61 players wanting to play raising hopes of an 8-team competition next season. Robo won the final and the inaugural Tina Macpherson Cup in a thrilling run chase after Wingello set an imposing total of 8/125 giving Robo 126 to get in their 20 overs to win. Robo got the runs after 19.3 overs with Charlotte Menzies finishing the game with 4, 6, 4 after needing 12 from the last over. A big thank you to all the scorers, volunteers and umpires who helped run the games.

Tina Macpherson Cup Premiers – Robertson Burrawang



The HDCA undertook a survey to gain feedback on how we can improve female cricket within the district. The overall feedback was positive with some growth opportunities also identified. The survey findings are listed below.

Women's Comp Survey 26 responses

On a scale of 1 to 10 how much did you enjoy the overall women's competition?	Enjoyment rating 8-10
How did you feel about the duration (in weeks) of the competition?	84% said comp was too short
How did you feel about the duration of each game (in hours/overs)?	93% happy with 20 over games
Would you be interested in playing in a winter competition?	50/50
If we were to look at the same model, which day would you prefer to play on?	50% said Wednesday 23% said Friday

Representative Cricket

District Academy

The Highlands District Cricket Academy was launched to assist in the development of our best 80 young cricketers. Our 1st season of Academy was a success and gave our rep coaches time to think about their squad development and to instil values, spirit and teamwork while giving the Academy Coaches the scope to focus and drill down on skills and technique. We also played inter district trial games to give those on the improve a taste of cricket at the next level. All 80 positions within the academy were filled. Special thanks to Jodi Cooper and Nasrine Nasser for their help in administering the Academy and throughout the whole season. The Academy program for 2021 will be released in Winter. Special thank you to Jock McIlhatton, Dan Brooks, Jack Whitfield, Cam Belshaw, Elliott Brooks, Alan Nasser and David Kent for all their passionate commitment to our junior cricketers and help with the Academy.

A survey was carried out by the HDCA to continue to improve our District Academy. The HDCA will use this feedback in preparation for next seasons Academy. Below is a summary of the Survey findings and breakdown.
Academy Survey 22 Responses

On a Scale of 1 to 10, how much did you enjoy the overall Academy experience?	Average score was 7
On a Scale of 1 to 10, how satisfied were you with the level of communication?	Average Score 7.8
On a Scale of 1 to 10, how satisfied were you with the cost of the Academy program?	Average score was 8.3
How did you feel about the duration (in weeks) of the Academy program?	69% said just right 31% said too short
How did you feel about the duration of each Academy session (in hours)?	84% said just right
How did you feel about the timing of the Academy Program	63% said just right 37% said too late

Would you be interested in a program which commenced during the winter season?	68% want a winter program
How likely would you be to trial for future academies?	77% Said yes
Generally - respondents want more fielding, more coaches and more targeted coaching	

District Reps

U12s

Our U12s were very well Coached by Michael Heinecke and Robert Cockburn. We played 1 trial game, 3 x 40 over games and 4 x T20s. 8 games in total for 2 wins and 6 losses. A particularly good effort considering they were playing against older players. Our U12s were a young team with over half the team eligible for U12s again next season.



U13s

Our U13s were very well coached by Matt Watson and Jason Harwood. In the U13s we played 3 x 40 over games and played great cricket in each game. Sam Harwood, Mali Cassar and Harry Kawalski were selected to represent GIZ at the Youth Championships so very well done to those 3 players.



U14s

Our U14s Coaches, Darren Torr and Rick Mooney worked extremely hard and coached the team well. We played in the Bradman Cup U14s Carnival finishing 5th with a few U13s players stepping up, and we played 3 x GIZ 50 over games. Competing hard in each game. We are enormously proud of Jesse Hol, Darcey Kent and Will Torr who were selected to represent GIZ in the youth Championships.



U16s

Very well coached by Craig Willebrand and Craig Thomson. Played 4 x 50 over games winning 2 and let 2 slip through the fingers. Our U16s also won the Bradman Letter game against Cootamundra, keeping the letter in the Highlands. James Smith and Will Thomson were selected in the GIZ Youth Championships team and Hayden Willebrand was selected in the Bradman Cup Team.



Girls/Women's Reps

Well coached by David Kent, our girls played 2 x T20 games against a combined Illawarra, Shoalhaven and South Coast team and made a good account of themselves against a much stronger opponent.



Our Open Women's team played 2 games against Illawarra and won both games in a tough battle each time.



The following girls were selected in the Country Championship and/or in the Margret Peden Cup.

Caitlin Appleyard
Hillary Swan
Keira Hol
Annalee Watson
Maeve Kauflin
Neve Wallace



Congratulations and well done to the girls above.

Greater Illawarra Zone Cricket

A review by Steve Davies and delegates from the 4 districts into the rep program is under way to set the program for next season looking at such things as a girls U15s team from each district. The review is ongoing.

Congratulations to the players who made the jump to the next level by gaining selection to the Illawarra & Highlands Regional Academy Squad for 2021. The squad is listed below.



Illawarra & Highlands Regional Academy Squad 2021

U13 Players	Association	U14 Players	Association	U15 Players	Association
Heath Barkley	Illawarra	Riley Broadhead	Illawarra	Jake Brown	Illawarra
Sam Barrett-Lennard	Highlands	Mali Cassar	Highlands	Jesse Hol	Highlands
Jed Burton	Illawarra	Jack Cattley	Illawarra	Charlie Hartwright	Highlands
Patrick Cockburn	Highlands	Rohan Day	Highlands	Darcy Kent	Highlands
Callum Cooney	Illawarra	Harrison Deck	Illawarra	Hector James	Illawarra
Liam Gammone	Illawarra	Noah Fien	Illawarra	Caleb Neich	Illawarra
Nick Heinecke	Highlands	Cooper Garrard	Illawarra	Connor Robbie	Illawarra
Kyden Leadbitter	Illawarra	Arlan Grose	Illawarra	Wyatt Toland	Illawarra
Tom McKinley	Illawarra	Sam Harwood	Highlands	William Torr	Highlands
Noah Nasser	Highlands	Logan Jensen	Illawarra	Finn Warburton	Illawarra
Mackensie Perry	Highlands	Thomas King	Illawarra		
Hudson Shaw	Illawarra	Hamish Murray	Highlands		
Oliver Smith	Illawarra	Blake Cattle	Illawarra		

The district presentation for season 2020/2021 was held on Sunday 27th June at Bradman Pavilion.

Congratulations to the award winners.

District Award Winners

Stage or Rep Level	Player Name	BB/HS	Wk/Runs	Ave
Stage 2B				
Batting Average	Fletcher Colgan	43	138	138
Batting Aggregate	Ben Searl	55	142	
Bowling Average	Ben Searl	3 for 2	5	3
Bowling Aggregate	Helena Evans	5 for 6	11	
Allrounder	Fletcher Colgan			
Stage 2A				
Batting Average	William Torr	38	168	56
Batting Aggregate	Rohan Day	35	225	45
Bowling Average	Aston MacDonald	5 for 1	11	2.09
Bowling Aggregate	Josh Mattick	5 for 4	16	4.69
Allrounder	Nick Campey			
Stage 3				
Batting Average	Flynn Corby	104	281	140.5
Batting Aggregate	James Smith	100	332	110.7
Bowling Average	James Smith	3 for 4	7	3.4
Bowling Aggregate	Curtis Boese	4 for 23	11	5.7
Allrounder	James Smith			
Girls Rep Cricket				
Batting Award	Annlee Watson			
Bowling Award	Neve Wallace			
Bradman Junior Girls Cricketer	Neve Wallace			
U12s Representative				
Batting Average	Nicholas Heinecke	42	85	14.2
Batting Aggregate	Nicholas Heinecke	42	85	14.2
Bowling Average	Noah Nasser	2 for 14	8	16.8
Bowling Aggregate	Noah Nasser	2 for 14	8	16.8
Fielding Award	Hamish Johnson			
Bradman U12s Cricketer	Noah Nasser			
U13s Representative				
Batting Average	Sam Harwood	95	156	52
Batting Aggregate	Sam Harwood	95	156	52
Bowling Average	Rohan Day	3 for 10	3	11.7
Bowling Aggregate	Neve Wallace	4 for 34	6	14.2
Fielding Award	Hamish Murray			
Bradman U13s Cricketer	Sam Harwood			

U14s Representative	Player Name	BB/HS	Wk/Runs	Ave
Batting Average	Jesse Hol	87	94	31.3
Batting Aggregate	Jesse Hol	87	94	31.3
Bowling Average	Darcy Kent	2 for 7	4	12
Bowling Aggregate	Darcy Kent	2 for 7	4	12
Fielding Award	Ben Searl			
Bradman U14s Cricketer	Darcy Kent			
U16s Representative	Player Name	BB/HS	Wk/Runs	Ave
Batting Average	William Thompson	38	70	70
Batting Aggregate	William Thompson	38	70	70
Bowling Average	James Smith	4 for 12	8	11
Bowling Aggregate	James Smith	4 for 12	8	11
Fielding Award	Flynn Corby			
Bradman U16s Cricketer	James Smith			

A special congratulations to the winner of the **Ross Bull Memorial Shield - Young Club Person of the Year** - winner 2020/2021 Xavier Wilshaw from the Bowral Blues Stage 2B team.

Xavier has reminded all of us what the game of cricket is about when he told the square leg umpire, he had dropped the ball in an attempted runout on the last ball of the Stage 2B Grand final that decided the winner. It was one of the best acts of sportsmanship I have seen. The spirit of cricket in the Highlands is in good hands with players like Xavier and the other nominees for the Ross Bull Junior Club Person of the year, David Williams, Henry Rough, Caitlin Appleyard, Art Truman.

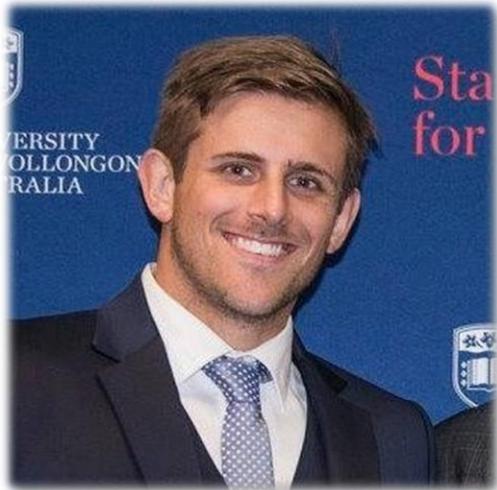
I think that is a fair overview of the season 2020/2021. I am happy to answer any questions?

Thank you all for your support in making a great season happen and I look forward to seeing you all next season.

Yours in Cricket
Sam Nasser







Report from the Director of Grounds & Facilities

Brett McAulay

This year was seen as a building year for the Grounds & Facilities Portfolio as the HDCA aimed to pursue grants, and re-establish new curators through the challenge of COVID.

As is well known, ground maintenance and turf wicket preparation is the largest operational expense within the HDCA. It is pleasing that Lackey Park and Welby oval continued to be reliable and high quality wickets throughout the season, which was very challenging due to the introduction of two new curator teams to the grounds. While it was a learning experience, the overall quality of the fields was desirable and sustainable.

Lackey oval was taken over by Dale Young who had his first year in control of a cricket wicket. Jacob Moore and Matt Cupitt took care of Welby oval. With a high load of cricket fixtures, both grounds held up throughout.

It is the intention of the HDCA to continue working with both parties, and with good communication and cooperation this should be achieved.

In general, the 2020/2021 season proved to be satisfying with fixtures. A larger number of junior and senior teams was handled well by the portfolio of grounds, where recent works bore fruit (Stephens Park, Lackey turf, Brian Martin Oval). Thank you to Sam Nasser and Jack Whitfield for managing this the fixtures throughout the season.

The works on the grounds were handled well this season. Brian Martin Oval had a synthetic pitch replaced, and Eridge Park is the next on the list to have this completed. A long-term plan has been laid with WSC to regularly replace pitches before their quality becomes dangerous, and unusable.

Facility works have been generally put on hold by WSC due to their pending development of a long-term strategic plan. We are pushing to have exclusions made so we can continue to push projects ahead. A huge success has been the successful applications for grants to upgrade the synthetic pitch at Boronia Park and Bundanoon oval. These are booked for October 2021 and June 2021 respectively.

Moving forwards into 2021/2022 season the HDCA is still looking to push for Jurd Park, but the main holdup is the WSC plan mentioned above. While everything is on hold, it is a good time for clubs and the HDCA to get their designs, plans and funding for when the floodgates open.

Finally, we would like to thank all the clubs and affiliates, the Wingecarribee Shire Council and their representatives, and the Bradman Foundation.

The Bradman foundation has worked cooperatively with the HDCA to support local cricket with their fantastic facilities. Thanks in particular to Rina Hore, Jock McIlhatton and Phil Kerr.

The Wingecarribee Shire Council has been instrumental in enabling us to manage this challenging season with facilities, and have always responded well when assistance is requested. This has been highlighted with their commitment to regular repair works when the drought began to extend the expected time for the drainage to fill in. Thanks to Mark Tickner, Julianne Billington and Rachel Forte in particular

Most importantly, thank you to all our member clubs and affiliates for your volunteer work, patience and cooperation which fills in the gaps, and without which, we would not be able to operate. We look forward to doing well, and even better for Highlands cricket with you in the coming seasons.

Regards,

Brett McAulay
Grounds & Facilities Portfolio

Report from the Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Carisa Wells

The last year has seen the communications and public relations (PR) of the HDCA grow. The Facebook page with regular posts by Tahlia is the go-to place for information on all things local cricket. We've had a number of press releases picked up in the local papers (Southern Highlands News) and stories written on some of the weekend events. Radio (2ST) has also been a new addition to the local cricket PR portfolio.

Unfortunately, with this year of Covid it has been impossible to run a major fundraising event, however it's my hope that with some experienced new Board members, that will again be able to take place in the next 12 months.

It has been an honour to serve on the Board of the HDCA with the other passionate people involved. I wish to thank Simon Taufel for inviting me to contribute to keeping the treasured game of Bradman alive and well in our home region. I look forward to watching the future success of the HDCA from the sidelines.

Carisa Wells

Marketing and Public Relations

Report from the Code of Conduct Commissioner

Rodney Cavalier AO

Inactivity by this office is a sign of good health for our game on and off the field. The number of matters that came before me was very few. Receiving none is what our game and the District Association seek.

A key principle of advancing cricket has been bringing the Spirit of Cricket to a central tenet of our game. They must be as central to player conduct as the Laws of the game. The Spirit of Cricket is part of the Laws. Each is enforceable.

The umpire cannot be wrong. Even when he may appear to be wrong, the umpire is right. The Association and our judiciary will stand behind that principle. We will always support an umpire. Reported dissent has declined markedly.

This report is not the place to name names. One incident involved an explosion of temper followed by contrition. A plea of guilty and suspension was accepted without rancour. Players and officials must contain ire and disappointment however understandable it might be. Abuse is never acceptable.

Another incident occurred at an Association meeting. This was the first time our Code extended to behaviour away from a match. The investigation and judiciary meeting were fraught. The judiciary made a decision based on the evidence, the person offending appealed as is the right of anyone accused. The Region upheld our decision.

I feel a need to remind all who are involved in the affairs of the Association that the time expended by officials at all levels is their gift to us. No one is paid for the hours volunteered.

In conclusion, I thank the members of the judiciary for their contribution, a devotion above and beyond. I thank players and officials in our clubs and representative teams for supporting the Association in respecting the Spirit of the game and its laws.

Rodney Cavalier AO
COMMISSIONER



Report from the Secretary Administrator

Tahlia Wellington

I have been fortunate over the past 12 months to have been involved in many facets of the game of cricket within the Southern Highlands. From our junior and senior competitions, through to our representative program and our inaugural women's competition. I have witnessed first hand the level of commitment of those volunteers within our game.

Senior Cricket as run by Jack Whitfield has been smooth sailing for the past year. Jack's diligence in ensuring all avenues of the senior cricket competition are covered has lead to a simple role for me in this portfolio. Jack is always readily available to discuss any matter that arises and for this I am extremely thankful.

Junior, representative and women's cricket is a mouthful to say and takes an absolute mountain of work to achieve. Sam Nasser stepped into the role just prior to the 2020 – 2021 season and took on all of this and more. From an administrative stand point I owe Sam and his wife Nasrine a considerable of thanks for their combined efforts to ensure that all I's were dotted and all T's were crossed. The availability of Sam to discuss any and all tasks assisted greatly in ensuring the administrative side of these portfolios were run smoothly.

I have been assisted by all other board members at various points throughout the past season, and I am beyond thankful for the support shown to me by Graham Brake, Brett McAulay, Andrew Middleton, Carisa Wells and Salman Yusuf.

Following on from the early end of the 2019 – 2020 season, we were faced with an uncertain start to the 2020 – 2021 season. I would like to extend my thanks to those who assisted in ensuring we were all able to play in a COVID safe manner:

- CNSW, in particular Sean Barrett who provided guidance on COVID compliance.
- Jack Whitfield, Sam Nasser and Simon Taufel who worked to ensure that our rules were such that ensured the safety of all within our game.
- All clubs and affiliates who adopted the COVID changes and rolled out our plans to ensure the safety of all who attended our matches.
- The individuals in each team who put their hand up to be COVID marshal, and then continued to show up each week, donning the yellow vest (or red arm band) and ensured the safety of our community.

This season we moved to a "membership pack" that sought to combine all of the pre-season paperwork in one user friendly document. I would like to thank all of the clubs and affiliates for their support in moving to this new method.

The 2020 – 2021 season saw an increase in MyCricket compliance, and I would like to thank all of the volunteers who contributed to this. We saw an increase in online scoring and those who were privy to this reaped the reward of decreased post-match volunteer hours. Leading into the 2021 – 2022 season, I would encourage all teams to look at the possibility of online scoring each match. To ensure

the success of this, we will need a commitment from all teams to ensure their teams are entered into MyCricket prior to the commencement of the game. When one team online scores, we all benefit.

Prior to the commencement of the 2020 – 2021 season, we launched our Facebook page. As at the end of May, we have a total of 286 people following our page, with nearly 7000 individual acts of engagement. It is interesting to note that 2 of the top 3 posts (in regards to engagement) were those of our inaugural women's competition. It is wonderful to see that this competition has been so well received by all within our community.

I would like to extend my thanks to all who have contributed to our [facebook page](#) , with special mention to:

- Angus Humphreys who each and every week of the season provided an umpiring question and answer for our "What's your decision" posts. Thank you for the time and effort you put into this. Your content assisted me greatly, and was a very popular post each week, providing insight into various cricketing matters.
- Everyone who commented on the above posts, providing your insight into the way you believe our game is played. Especially to Tony Capps who was always so very quick with his correct responses.
- Jack Whitfield and Simon Taufel who assisted in the running of the page, ensuring prompt responses to enquiries.
- Carisa Wells who provided invaluable insights into the world of social media.
- Simon Taufel and Carisa Wells who provided videos/photos to be used on our page.
- Everyone who let me know promptly when an error had been made in one of our posts.
- Each club/individual who shared successes at their clubs so that we too could help celebrate them.
- Phil Benson who continually provides free access to the incredible photos he takes of the games played across our association. These photos can be found on his facebook page [Phil's Cricket Shots](#).
- Everyone who promoted, shared, liked our page.

The page has proven to be an effective and efficient way to communicate with our wider community. I would like to extend my thanks to all who contributed in a positive way on this page and provide a gentle reminder that we are all covered by the social media policy (this can be found as annexure G in the [member regulations](#)).

This season we issued a number of targeted surveys, I would like to extend my thanks to every person who took the time to complete these and provide much needed feedback. Thank you to Sam Nasser who continues to work to collate all of this feedback and ensure that our programs are meeting the needs of our participants.

At the start of the season, Simon challenged each of the volunteers within our association to name our "Why", the reason we all do what we do. My "Why" is to help to make the roles of our volunteers a little bit easier by removing some of the administrative burden. MY hope is that by doing this, our volunteers can focus on what they do best, which is provide avenues for our locals to play the great game of cricket. I hope that over the past 2 years I have achieved this. At the AGM I will be stepping down from my role as Secretary Administrator, and I am looking forward to seeing (and assisting where necessary) how my successor continues in this venture.

I have been incredibly fortunate to have received some great support from all the HDCA board, clubs and affiliates. I have felt welcomed and assisted throughout my tenure. I am thankful for the

challenges and recommendations put forward to ensure that the work I completed was beneficial for all. I wish you all well as you continue your role in growing and improving cricket within the Highlands.

I have one final person to thank who has provided support in excess of anything that should be required of a volunteer. From day one, right through to my seven hundredth, Simon Taufel has exhibited what it truly means to be a servant to the game. The number of volunteer hours Simon has afforded this association is well into the thousands and we are all richer for having had his guidance. He has been available whenever I have had a question whether down the road or across the globe. No question has been too trivial, nor any subject taboo. The success I have had in the role of Secretary Administrator is attributable mostly to Simon ensuring that I always knew what was required of me and ensuring that I never missed a deadline. I have learnt a great deal having been given the privilege of working with Simon and I am saddened for the association that his tenure has come to an end. From the bottom of my heart, thank you Simon, for everything you have done for this association, and all of the support you have provided me in my role.

Kind regards,

Tahlia Wellington

HDCA Secretary Administrator

Report from the Treasurer

Salman Yusuf

Financial Highlights for Season 2020/21

HDCA current year earnings were \$34,453 compared to a budgeted amount of \$5,570.

Team fees were higher than budget on account of 5 more senior and 2 junior teams.

There was one more affiliate and additional income generated through affiliates ground hire.

HDCA Academy and Women cricket made positive contributions.

Sponsorships were higher by \$1000 compared to budget.

Representative clothing resale was lower than budget

Representative cricket operational income is lower as Parent Contribution moved to Academy.

Expenses for the season are detailed below:

Council fees were reduced during October to December due to Covid19.

Turf preparation and umpiring cost were lower than the budget. This is mostly due to cancellations of games due to inclement weather conditions.

All expenses were either in line or lower than the budget.

A Provision of \$10,000 is made for Bundanoon & Boronia Pitches Contribution to the Council.

The HDCA is in a very strong financial position compared to the beginning of the year with estimated bank balance of \$125,480, fixed assets net book value of \$4,023 and current assets net book value of \$4,936.

Salman Yusuf CPA, ACMA

HDCA Treasurer

09 June 2021

Independent Review Report

Scope

I have reviewed the attached financial statements, being general purpose financial report, of Highlands District Cricket Association Inc. (HDCA), for the year ending 31st May 2021, as set out on the attached pages. HDCA is managed by the Committee and is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information contained therein, and has determined the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent review of the financial statements in order to express an opinion to the Members of the Committee on their preparation, presentation, accuracy and compliance with the constitution of HDCA. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of HDCA.

The financial statements have been prepared for distribution to the members of HDCA, for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting requirements under the Constitution of HDCA and NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members, or any other purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My review has been conducted in accordance with Australian standards for review engagements. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies adopted by HDCA. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards.

Review Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of HDCA for the year ending 31st May 2021, are properly drawn up. Based on my review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report of HDCA for the year ending 31st May 2021, does not give a true and fair view of the financial position of Highlands District Cricket Association Inc. and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the last 12 months, in accordance with the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Regards



Muhammad Asim
CPA #9348778



Highlands District Cricket Association Inc.			
Profit & Loss Statement			
For the Year Ending 31st May 2021			
	Budget	Actual	
Receipts (Income)			
Team fees and memberships	76,430	89,421	
Academy	-	12,400	
Representative Clothing sale	1,500	600	
Representative Cricket operational (Jeffrey & Creighton Cup) *	3,900	1,150	
Greater Illawarra Contribution	1,350	1,250	
Women Cricket	-	1,440	
Sponsorships	12,357	13,358	
Bank Interest	300	322	
Table of 10	-	-	
Others	-	500	
Total Receipts	95,837	120,440	
* - \$375 from previous year and \$725 this season			
Payments (Expenses)			
Score books (Senior)	600	665	
Insurance	1,980	1,980	
Academy Expenses	-	9,037	
Council Fees	8,075	6,993	
Operational Refund	-	-	
Prize Money & Trophies	3,100	2,285	
Umpires	15,275	13,950	
Turf Prep	32,023	26,841	
Rep Cricket Clothing Stock	500	-	
Rep Cricket Clothing Resale	-	-	
Representative cricket operational	5,470	2,300	
U14 Carnival	-	190	
Covid Supplies	5,000	1,918	
Ground Maintenance	4,000	945	
Purchase of Assets	2,000	-	
Secretary Administrator	7,500	7,500	
Table of 10 - Fundraising auction claims	-	(5,979)	
Others	900	770	
Total Payments	86,423	69,394	
Net Surplus (Deficit)	9,415	51,046	
Asset Transfers & Provisions			
Rep Clothing Stock	(1,189)	(1,189)	
Rep Clothing Sale	0	(2,748)	
Roller / Mower	(1,656)	(1,656)	
Machinery replacement accrual	(1,000)	(1,000)	
Bundanoon & Boronia Pitches Contribution to Council	0	(10,000)	
Current Year Earnings	5,570	34,453	

Regards



Muhammad Asim
CPA #9348778



Highlands District Cricket Association Inc.		
Balance Sheet		
As at 31st May 2021		
		Amount \$
Bank		
Current Account		3,311
Savings Account		122,169
Total		125,480
Assets		
Fixed Assets		4,023
Current Assets		4,936
Total		8,959
Total Assets		134,439
Liabilities		
Provision for Bundanoon & Boronia Pitches to Council		10,000
Machinery replacement provision		2,000
Total Liabilities		12,000
Net Assets		122,439
Equity		
Current year earnings		34,453
Retained Earnings		87,986
Total Equity		122,439
Salman Yusuf CPA, ACMA		
HDCA Treasurer		

Regards



Muhammad Asim
CPA #9348778





Report from the Highlands District Cricket Umpires Association

It is with much pleasure that we present the Highlands District Umpires Report for Season 2020/21

It was pleasing to have a full season of cricket, and it was great to have guidelines to make the game COVID-19 safe.

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Russ Watman. Russ was an absolute driving force of our Association (and in seasons past Robertson Burrawang Cricket Club and Highlands District Cricket Association.) Russ was a Life Member of all 3 entities, such was his passion and commitment to the game. We will miss his counsel at our meetings.

Our active membership comprises of Richard McHarg – President, John Burgoyne – Vice President, Norm Stanton – Hon. Treasurer, Angus Humphreys – Hon. Secretary, Mark Coles, Bill Croese, Graham Dodd, Iain Greaves, Byron Kaufline, George Lunt, Denis Purcell, Sajad Qassir and Simon Taufel.

Our Life Members are Bill Croese, Ian Mein and Norm Stanton.

Our Association certainly punched above its weight when it came to coverage of fixtures. We were able to cover all 1st grade fixtures, 73% of 2nd grade, 50% of Stage 3 fixtures, and every junior representative fixture that was scheduled in the Highlands. All finals were covered by match officials, both at a junior and senior level. At this point thanks are extended to Aaron de Jager and Tony Capps who, both as qualified umpires, were able to assist us in the appointments of 2nd and 3rd grade semi-finals, despite their playing commitments.

Our Association also covered the inaugural Tina Macpherson Cup, which comprised of Women's T20 matches played on Wednesday afternoons/evenings. Thanks are owed to Simon Taufel, Byron Kaufline and John Burgoyne, who made themselves available for this competition.

As in seasons past we were also able to assist the Bradman Foundation cover some of their matches throughout the season.

This season we utilised the services of Simon Taufel in a mentoring and coaching level, and many umpires were able to stand with Simon and receive tips and feedback to further improve our skills. Unfortunately, Simon has left our district, so this opportunity won't exist for next season.

We have started to develop a relationship with Camden/Campbelltown Umpires Association, and we are hoping this relationship will grow in Season 2021/22. To David Stewart, we extend our gratitude for the opportunity to explore umpire exchanges.

Congratulations to Mittagong Cricket Club who were the winners of the Spirit of Cricket award for season 2020/21, with an average score of 8.86 out of 10. Alex Debs, from Hill Top Northern Villages Cricket Club, was 1st Grade player of the year as judged by the umpires on the 3/2/1 basis scored for each match. Congratulations Alex!

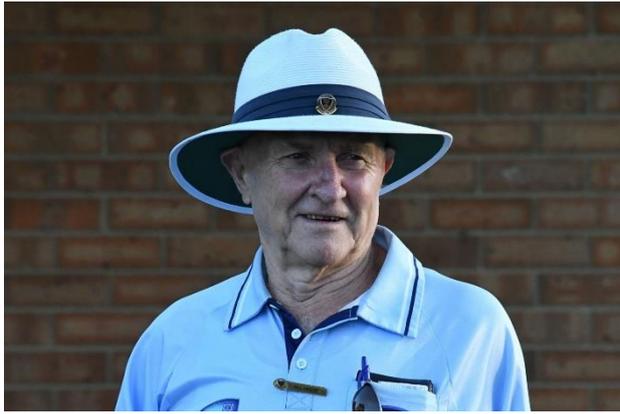
Player behaviour this season was mixed, certainly not the worst we have seen, but not the best either. It's probably timely to remind all participants that the umpires are not responsible for player behaviour, but the leadership of the clubs and teams are. We are hoping to see improvement in this area in the upcoming season.

Thanks, thanks, thanks to Jack Whitfield and Sam Nassar (Senior and Junior Directors of Cricket), Salman Yusuf (Treasurer HDCA) and Tahlia Wellington (Secretary/Administrator HDCA). These wonderful people are supportive of the HDCUA and in turn assist us with administrative functions. THANK YOU.

As mentioned earlier Simon has left our District and will be a huge loss to our Association. His wise counsel and support of our body is truly appreciated and will be sorely missed. Thank you Simon for all you have done for Highlands Cricket.

We are always on the lookout for umpires to join our ranks – to get the best seat in the house so to speak. Next season is proving to be a challenge with regards to umpire availability, so now more than ever we are looking for people to join our ranks. We will always extend open arms for those who wish to remain involved in the game in a different capacity.

Richard McHarg & Angus Humphreys



A huge thanks to Phil Benson who captured many great photos of our game and shared them throughout the season. Thanks Phil!!

Report from Greater Illawarra Cricket

Rina Hore

The Highlands delegates to Greater Illawarra were Simon Taufel and Rina Hore. Rina held the office of Deputy Chairperson.

Summary of the season

Karen Ferguson who was the Women's Cricket Female Advisor, resigned due to insufficient time to dedicate to the role. Her position was filled by Maryann Head who has had many years of experience and is instrumental in the running Female Cricket within Cricket Illawarra.

There is an ongoing issue with Zone clothing poor stock control, so the Treasurer was asked to recount stock and advise how much asset losses were to be realized in the accounts.

The delegates agreed to set up a Zone cricket subcommittee to review the Creighton Cup format, grounds allocation and selection criteria. Michael Pike is the HDCA's rep on this committee. Rina is the Zone delegates rep on this committee a series of recommendations include returning to 3 rounds and a final plus align senior T20 games with the regional Bash draw.

The HDCA did well promoting the coaching courses and clinics provided by Steve Davies and CNSW amongst our clubs.

David Sloane was appointed the Zone's Code of Conduct Commissioner. We have asked the Zone Administrator, Tim Hore, to better direct correspondence to Tahlia, Jack, and Sam on matters that they need to action or be consulted on.

Coach & Academy Changes

In May Mitch Calder was appointed as Phil Wells replacement as the NSW Zone Academy Coach for the Greater Illawarra Zone.

Mitch has been honing his skills as the Illawarra / Highlands Regional Academy Head Coach for the last 3 seasons, assisting Phil as a Zone Academy specialist coach along with playing & coaching at Campbelltown in the Sydney Cricket Premier Competition.

Mitch is also Managing Partner – Top Edge Cricket, his private coaching business that has been running successfully in Wollongong over the last couple of years.

At this year's girls Academy trial Paul Brockley reported excellent numbers and flagged running two Regional Academies aligning to what we in the Male Program. Jo Kelly to run the South Coast / Shoalhaven Academy & Sophie Heath (with support from Trav Burton) running the Illawarra Highlands Academy.

The HDCA delegates supported setting up two Female Regional Academies, as it will help grow the numbers of female cricketers in all four associations.

The HDCA hosted the first over and under 18 girls matches within the Zone.

The Under 12 boys inter Association coaches ran a post season T20 competition amongst themselves with all Associations taking part, the zone is supplying the balls free of charge for these matches.

Results of the Inter Association matches.

Under 12's Final **South Coast def by Illawarra**

Under 13's Final **Highlands def by Illawarra**

Under 14's Final **Shoalhaven def South Coast**

Under 16's Final **Illawarra def Highlands**

Under 18's Final **Illawarra v South Coast (14th FEB)**

Creighton Cup Final **Illawarra drew South Coast** (washout)

Youth Championships.

Congratulations to the Greater Illawarra Colts Southern Pool winners

Congratulations to the Illawarra Highlanders Under 13's Thunder Pool Winners

It is the first time that the zone has fielded an under 13's Mollie Dive side

Further GIZ Representative Selections.

NSW Bush Blues

Kerrod White

Brynley Richards

Eric Denhartog

NSW Bush Breakers

Sophie Heath

Joanne Kelly

Allison Brockley (Team Management)

Under 19 Female State Challenge

Metro –

Dharmini Chauhan

Country Challenge –

Kayla Burton

Tara Rudd

Kate Lea

Under 16 Country Challenge

Angus Campbell

Thomas Williams

Under 14 state Challenge

Josh Garner

Jackson Ingram

Jacob Coleman

Blake Mackrell

Noah Wraight

Baxter McDonald

Rina Hore

GIZ Delegate

Report from CNSW Community Cricket

Sean Barrett and Jenna Purcell

Introduction

The CNSW Community Cricket team in the Shoalhaven region are a part of the CNSW Community Cricket Southern NSW & ACT hub. From this we deliver resources and expertise across the Shoalhaven region to inspire everyone to love cricket, making our game Australia's Favorite Sport and a sport for all Australians.

The Shoalhaven region covers two associations (Highlands DCA and Shoalhaven DCA) and nineteen clubs, who we work with to continue to promote cricket and assist volunteers to continue their love of the game. We also manage cricket relationships with 64 schools in this region assisting and delivering a range of Cricket Australia program offerings.

Highlights

Some of the highlights this season saw the appointment of a Secretary/Administrator in the SDCA which was a very important part of the Shoalhaven Cricket's Future Directions Strategy.

The Highlands Association saw a new Women's Team competition formed with 4 Club side from Wingello, Bowral, Robertson and Moss Vale competing and the establishment of the Highlands Academy.

The region also saw an increase in Cricket Australia Cricket Blast entry level programs participants, an increase in Junior Teams across the region and registered senior players and team numbers.

Woolworths Cricket Blast

There was an increase of 14% in the Woolworths Cricket Blast participation across the Shoalhaven region with 9 Clubs running Junior Blasters and/or Master Blasters.

This program saw 248 participants involved in WWCB across the region, which is an overall increase over 30 participants.

Three new Clubs were engaged to participate in WWCB with Wingello (HDCA) and Sussex Inlet (SDCA) supported by Cricket NSW and the Woolworths Community Fund to run their programs. This Fund assists areas that were impacted by the bushfires to implement Entry level programs. The other new Club was Hill Top Northern Villages with support from CNSW.

Community Cricket Staff visited center's across the region to provide support to new coordinators, and engage with participants and parents. Centre's that were visited were North Nowra Cambewarra, Bay & Basin, Berry-Shoalhaven-Heads, Hill Top Northern Villages, Sussex Inlet, Bowral and Wingello.

Junior and Senior Cricket

The Cricket competitions numbers across the region are outlined below.

Seniors SDCA					Seniors HDCA				
Grade	18/19	19/20	20/21	Diff	Grade	18/19	19/20	20/21	Diff
1st Grade	6	5	5	0	1st Grade	4	4	6	+2
2nd Grade	8	6	8	+2	2nd Grade	6	7	7	0
3rd grade	8	7	8	+1	3rd grade	7	7	9	+2
4th Grade	6	8	6	-2	Women's	0	0	4	+4
Total	28	26	27	+1	Total	17	18	26	+8

Juniors SDCA					Juniors HDCA				
Grade	18/19	19/20	20/21	Diff	Grade	18/19	19/20	20/21	Diff
Stage 1	10	13	11	-2	Stage 1	10	9	12	+3
Stage 2	7	11	11	0	Stage 2	11	14	12	-2
Stage 3	8	9	12	+3	Stage 3	4	6	5	-1
Total	25	33	34	+1	Total	25	29	29	0

School Programs

Despite the challenges in the schools space with COVID 19 and inability of schools to interact with other schools and the reluctance of schools to let sporting groups access the school grounds at times, the CNSW Community Cricket team was able to assist teachers to self-deliver school programs. School engagement was down overall on previous years but overall nearly 30% of schools in the region participated in Cricket Australia's outlined curriculum programs, which was consistent with other years of participation:

School program numbers for Shoalhaven Region

- Mascot Challenge (Kinder to year 2) 688 participants
- Sporting Schools (All Ages) 593 participants
- Health / PE (Year 3 -6) 924 participants
- School Cups (Stage 2 and 3) 903 participants
- School Ambassadors 70 teachers an increase of 13 since last year

Moving forward the Community Cricket team have planned to run more School Cups in the region in 2021, and that all schools will have access to attend in their local area. We have taken the Schools feedback regarding travel, timings and participation outcomes on board to deliver our targets.

Club Engagement

The majority of Club engagement activities during the season were delivered on-line with the COVID19 requirements restricting face to face meetings.

The Community Cricket team still delivered the following support to club and association volunteers:

- Online Registration setup in the MyCricket Club administration website process,
- E- Scoring
- Endorsement of Australian Cricket Safeguarding Children Framework
- Woolworths Cricket Blast Coordinator Training

- Level 1 Community Coach Courses run by CNSW Coaching & Talent Specialist in Shoalhaven and Highlands
- CNSW Conducted Junior Coaching Forums which were combined with all 4 associations across the Greater Illawarra Zone.
- Coaching masterclasses were well attended across the region with sessions on Fielding x 2 , Spin Bowling and Fast bowling.
- Multiple Coach Education Webinars were also held with all coaches able to access these on-line.

Shoalhaven Future Directions Project

The previous year the SDCA Future Directions project was presented and ratified and the final strategy is to be a collaboration between the SDCA, the member Clubs and CNSW.

The governance model that was recommended was ratified by the clubs prior to the season starting and eventually the Executive consisted of President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President and Treasurer.

With this came an important appointment of a paid Secretary Administrator. The roles of Secretary and Recorder were to be removed and replaced with the funded Secretary/Administrator role to Administer the senior and junior competitions , be an ex-officio member of the Executive to assist with the day to day administration of the Association and work under the direction of the Executive and in consultation with local Cricket Manager.

The executive undertook some major project work to update the SDCA constitution and A-Z Junior and Senior playing Conditions documentation, and utilizing the services of the paid Secretary role was able to deliver on these objectives within an abridged timeframe. The creation of the Club Volunteer of the Year Award which was presented at the Senior Presentation Night, was seen as a great step to recognizing our great Club volunteers.

The Future Directions project will continue to provide the Association, its clubs and CNSW with the direction and focus across the project timeline and across the key areas of Governance, Club Support, Schools, Competition Structure and facilities.

Sydney Thunder Engagement

The Sydney Thunder were again active in the Shoalhaven region for this season, though as a necessity the format had changed from previous years.

The CNSW Country Blitz saw a different offering this year with a virtual blitz video conference set up with Sydney Thunder players dialling into Schools across the region to talk to them about their Cricket experiences, with over 200 school students participating. Player that participated included Sam Bates, Baxter Holt, Liam Hatcher, Jason Sangha and Alex Ross.

The players also dialed into an evening session aimed at Club to provide an insight into their Cricket schedules and upcoming preparation for the season. This was opened up to all Club volunteers across the Greater Illawarra Zone.

The Sydney Thunder School Holiday program was held at Hayden Drexel Oval, Worrigeer in January and was well attended with 40 registrations. The participants took part in Cricket activities delivered by CNSW staff and Club volunteers.

Infrastructure & Facilities

The region has received support from CA/CNSW and State and Local Government for upgrades to current facilities and infrastructure over the past 12 months. The relationship the Associations and Local Councils have and support from CNSW locally has gone a long way to building better facilities for the Cricket Communities to enjoy. Some of the major projects that were undertaken the previous season are:

- Bowral CC and Bradman Centre practice nets official opening held in March.
- Synthetic wickets replacements by Shoalhaven City Council at Ray Abood Oval, Nowra Showground (Junior Field), Ulladulla Sports park, as well as work to upgrade Practice Nets at Sanctuary Point Oval and Crookhaven Sports park.
- CNSW, SDCA and Shoalhaven City Council are continuing their communication regarding Artie Smith Oval and the Major Precinct upgrade with cricket a major stakeholder throughout the design stage
- The HDCA and CNSW have been invited to participate in the initial communications regarding Lackey Park Redevelopment which is seen by all involved as an important project for Cricket in the region.

Looking to the future, Shoalhaven City Council has committed to a number of projects in the next 12 months including various synthetic wicket replacements including Jerry Bailey Oval Shoalhaven Heads and both Cricket NSW and Shoalhaven City Council are supporting the Berry Shoalhaven CC with their proposal to upgrade the training Practice Net facility at berry Sporting Complex and have secured funding through successful grant applications.

Wingecarribee Shire Council are also developing a plan around the replacement of synthetic wickets and with support from ACIF grants will proceed soon with replacement synthetic wickets at Boronia Park and Bundanoon Oval.

Wingello Tigers CC home ground of Bill O'Reilly Oval, has been identified by Australian Cricket as a bushfire affected club from the summer of 19/20. As part of Cricket's commitment to providing support for communities affected by significant events such as bushfires, the Community Bushfire Recovery Fund has been developed. Whilst we acknowledge that some time has passed since the events of last summer, Australian Cricket is working with bushfire affected clubs to ensure that infrastructure and facilities remain fit for purpose to support cricket across affected regions.

Both Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) and Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) are both currently working with local Clubs, Associations and CNSW to assess the current status of all facilities, fields and pitches, and consulting on guidelines required.

Sean Barrett
Cricket Manager

Jenna Purcell
Participation Office



MittagongRSL

 *Kingsgrove Sports Centre*