



NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN / WINTER 2009

Fellow Centurions,

This season will be remembered as one of the Centurions' most active. Last season, because of the drought conditions, we were unable to complete a number of games. This season, however, we played four games and the only game missed - against Gisborne in November - was due to a washout - the delicious ironies of Melbourne's weather!

Under an invigorated Committee, games were played against Suma Park at Queenscliff; Westgarth Baseballers at Royal Park and the "Wattlesprigs" at Strath Creek. All were cracking days - and saw Centurions' victorious on three occasions.

On top of this our third "Merv Hughes" Celebrity Challenge was played at the Footscray-Edgewater ground in March and through the magnificent support of the Electrical Trades Union raised a further \$6,000 for our chosen charity - Asthma Victoria. Many Centurions members enjoyed the opportunity to play quality cricket in a friendly, yet competitive spirit. Next year we will have a full playing calendar - likely to start with the Gisborne game in November 09. Be watching for it. Remember, precedence in selection goes to Centurions' financial members and those who commit to play early.

A new Centurions' polo shirt was designed and delivered and, in addition to the donation to Asthma Victoria, the Centurions Committee also donated \$1,000 to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. Our season finishes with two non cricket-playing events which our hard working Committee hope our members will support.

Forthcoming Events

Golf Day

The Annual Centurions Golf Day will be played at **Rosanna Golf Club on Friday, 17 April 2009** commencing with Registration at 12 noon (cost \$50). Tee-off is at 12:30pm. All details (including a Nomination Form are available on the Centurions website (www.centurions.com.au) or contact **Ron Brentnall 0400 938 980**. In an Ambrose format there will be prizes for the winning foursome as well as prizes for the Longest and Straightest Drives and Nearest the Pins. We expect Merv Hughes to be playing and as this day is always well-attended, don't leave your nomination to the last minute. Centurions Members are asked to wear the new Centurions polo shirt.

Annual Dinner

The Centurions Annual Dinner will be held at the Eastern Bell Restaurant in Belmore Road North Balwyn on **Saturday, 16 May 2009 at 7.30pm**. Menu will be a la Carte. It will be an informal affair and reasonably priced. To book your place at the table call Tony Hargreaves on 0419 898 636.

New Centurions Polo Shirt

Centurions' members have always been recognised for their turnout and presentation. It is important that all members acquire the new Centurions polo shirt. It is an attractive design in green which can be worn socially. To purchase your new shirt call **Neil Kilpatrick on 03 9846 6494 or 0438 588 791**. Cost is \$50.

Match Results

V Bellarinas at Queenscliff - 18 January 2009

With Suma Park oval still being revamped we were fortunate to have the use of the Queenscliff oval. The crowd was swelled by many interested spectators from the surrounding caravan park as well as beach goers. Neil "Swooper" Petrie and the boys at Queenscliff made us most welcome and we are very grateful for their support. As usual

Barrie Provan's hospitality and generosity was limitless and it was very late when we all prised ourselves away from the Suma Park homestead.

Centurions 7 for 207 (Tim Hargreaves 38, Tim Wright 38, Mark Jones 26, Alan Chadwick 26, Dave Norris "a picket fence" 21 def **Suma Park Bellarinas 7 for 180** (Ian Holten 33, Ian Redpath 35 not out, Ian Callen 32 - Greg Cull 2 for 11, Alan Chadwick 2 for 10)

V Westgarth Baseballers at Royal Park 15 February 2009

Always an enjoyable game this year we were unable to use the Bill Lawry Oval also being revamped. Thanks to Rex Bennett Royal Park CC came to the rescue with their Brunswick ground. Mark Brasher batted beautifully for Westgarth with a brisk 40 n.o and with solid contributions from several others including Nick Brandon-Jones 28 and 16 y.o Shaun Brentnall 27 n.o on loan from Centurions the Baseballers finished with 163. This proved too many with Shaun Brentnall leading the way for Westgarth opening the bowling with 6 tight overs for only 10 runs and Aaron Crispe 2 for 26.

Westgarth 6/163 def **Centurions 141** (Ian Sartori 36, Tim Hargreaves 36 Dan Sartori 28 Neil Kilpatrick 15)

V Merv Hughes XI Celebrity Challenge at Footscray Edgewater- 1 March 2009

Led by our young brigade Dan Sartori, Cam Taylor and Aiden Blizzard (all current Richmond First XI players) with support from South African import Antonio Mullins plus former State players Brendan Joseland and Grant Gardiner, we managed a competitive total of 234. Surprisingly, our batsmen had most trouble facing Anthony Hudson and Ian Cover's bowling as well as contending with Crackers Keenan's wisecracks and "one-liners" from 1st slip.

Merv's team thrashed our bowling with State squad players Michael O'Keefe, Peter Bedford, Ian Wigglesworth, Tony Dodemaide, Rainer Reber and Merv himself smashing the ball to all parts before falling short by just 9 runs.

This was our major fund raiser for the season and our sincere thanks go to **Dean Mighell** and **Phil Cleary** from the **Electrical Trades Union** for their wonderful, ongoing financial and match day support.

Other great contributors to the success of the day were the Footscray Edgewater CC, as well as Dave & Shaun Cordy and Brook Grumont for their tireless work on the day.

Centurions 234 (Dan Sartori 31, Cam Taylor 40, Brendan Joseland 42, Ian Sartori 45, Aiden Blizzard 15, Mike Dimmattina 14) def **Merv Hughes XI 225**.

V Wattlesprigs - 22 March 2009 at Strath Creek

Our final game meant a return to our spiritual home at Don McQueen's (*Australian Bard of the Year*) Hume & Hovell ground at Strath creek against a new opponent, *Wattlesprigs*. In a great initiative by Wattlesprigs (Steve Gemmill) the game was played for the **Richard Parsons Shield**. Richard toured England in 2005 with the Wattlesprigs as their resident umpire.

The game was played in great spirit with the Centurions winning on the last ball of the day. Fortunately, after several extremely worrying moments in the recent Bushfires, Don's great venue survived only losing a nearby shed.

Centurions 6/185 Dan Sartori 46 n.o Ian Sartori 37 n.o Neil Kilpatrick 36 n.o Ron Brentnall 23 def **Wattlesprigs 7/182** Alan Chadwick 3 for 19

Yours in cricket

Neil Kilpatrick
President

VALE GEORGE TRIBE

George Tribe, our Patron, our mentor and our champion, passed away on 5 April.

George will be remembered fondly by all who knew him. He was a friend to many and could always be found at Test matches at the MCG imparting knowledge and wisdom - and telling stories of the golden era of cricket.

George was born in Yarraville, on 2 October 1920.

He played three Test matches for Australia in 1946/47 under the great Sir Donald Bradman.

When he nervously asked Bradman, in his first Test against England in Brisbane on 29 November 1946, "where would you like the field placed Mr Bradman?" Bradman responded, "you're the bowler, that's your job".



George will be best remembered for his First Class record with Northamptonshire, in County Cricket. Indeed, his First Class performances with Northants were the stuff of *Trivial Pursuit* legend.

For many years the question would be asked "Which Australian Test Cricketer has scored the most First Class runs?". Most often the question would be wrongly answered - it was not Bradman; Fingleton; McCabe; Ponsford; Harvey or the Chappell brothers - it was "George Tribe".

With Northants George scored 10,177 First Class runs with 7 centuries (highest score 136 not out) and 48 scores of 50+.

He was a "*Wisden Cricketer of the Year*" in 1955.

But George was best known for his bowling. He bowled both left-arm orthodox and over the wrist "googlies" and took **1,378 First Class wickets**.

On no less than 23 occasions he took 10 wickets or more in a match and, on a staggering **93 occasions he took 5 wickets or more in an innings**. His First Class bowling average was just 20.55.

In 13 games for *Victoria*, **George took 86 wickets at 19.25 (with a best analysis of 9 for 43)** but, frustrated at the lack of opportunities, he moved to England and signed for Milnrow in the Central Lancashire League in 1947, where, in his first season he took 136 wickets. This was followed by a record 148 wickets in 1948 and another record 150 in 1949.

In 1951 George joined Northamptonshire, where he played nine seasons and achieved "the double" of **1,000 runs and 100 wickets** in seven of those seasons - a rare performance. Only twelve players in the history of cricket have achieved the double on more occasions - and, remember, George only played nine seasons - not a full career! One wonders what might have been.

His value to Northamptonshire was soon apparent as the County moved from being the perpetual back-markers to challenge seriously for the County Championship.

In 1958 as a 37 year old, George took the extraordinary match figures of **15 for 31** against Yorkshire - (i.e. 7/22 & 8/9) - still a Northants record nearly 60 years on !

He also took match figures of 15 for 75 (also against Yorkshire) in 1955. On three occasions he took more than 13 wickets in a match for Northants.

George returned to Australia in 1959 after finishing his First Class career at Northants and was appointed Captain-Coach of Yarraville in the (then) very strong Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association. Having commenced his senior career with Yarraville in 1936/37 as a 16 year-old it was fitting that he should later return as Captain-Coach.

Later he coached University; Richmond and North Melbourne with success in District Cricket. He was a friend to many.

George also played Victorian League Football with Footscray. Having started in 1940 he went on to play 66 games and kick 80 goals as a “dangerous small forward” (using today’s vernacular). His brother, Tom, played 101 games of VFL football with Footscray.

George had a enjoyable personality. He will be sadly missed by all sporting followers and it was wonderful to see a strong contingent of Centurions members at his funeral.

Vale George.