



## **NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT**

for the year ended 30 April 2011

Presented to Members

at the

Nineteenth Annual General Meeting

of

Centurions Australia Incorporated

held in the

Emerald Hill Hotel

415 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne 3205

at 7.45pm on  
Thursday, 23 June 2011



## Centurions Australia Incorporated Committee – 2010/ 2011

President	Neil Kilpatrick
Vice President	Graeme Templar
Secretary	Ron Brentnall
Treasurer	David Norris
Members	Tony Hargreaves David Power Ian Sartori

### Centurions' Patrons

Patron-in-Chief	Jim Higgs
	Gary Cosier Don McQueen Ray Peck Richie Robinson

### Centurions' Life Members

Richard Parsons (deceased)  
Ron Brentnall  
Graeme Templar  
Neil Kilpatrick  
David Cordy  
Tony Hargreaves

### Centurions' Sponsors 2010 / 2011



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#### Cover page – Centurions President's XI v Merv Hughes Celebrity XI – 21 February 2010

Back row from L to R - Phil Cleary; Dave Norris; Tony Hargreaves; David Power; Shane Koop; Shaun Brentnall; Brendan Joseland; David Cordy; Graeme Templar; Ron Brentnall.

Front row – Dean Mighell; Evett Bekker; Craig Osborne; Duncan Snell; Rex Bennett; Grant Gardiner; Joel Bowden; Neil Kilpatrick

# **CENTURIONS AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Centurions Australia Incorporated will be held on Thursday, 23 June 2011 at the Emerald Hill Hotel, 415 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne Victoria, commencing at 7.45 pm.

The Business of the Meeting is :

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting and Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting
4. Adoption of the Nineteenth Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 April 2011
5. Adoption of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 April 2011 as set out in the Nineteenth Annual Report
6. Consideration of the Statement to be submitted to the Registrar of Incorporated Associations in accordance Section 30(3) of the Associations Incorporation Act (1981)
7. Election of Office Bearers; ordinary Committee Members and Life Members
8. Ratification of Entrance Fee and Membership Subscription for the Year Ended 30 April 2012
9. Election of Auditor
10. General Business

**By Order of the Committee**

**Ron Brentnall**  
Secretary

9 June 2011

# CENTURIONS AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

## *Nineteenth Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 April 2011*

Fellow Members,

Your Committee is pleased to present its Nineteenth Annual Report of the Centurions Australia Inc. for the 2010-2011 cricket season. The Report includes the President's Report; the Financial Statements; the Auditor's Report for the Year ended 30 April 2011 and a report on games played during the Season.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The 2010-2011 Season will be seen as one of consolidation for the Centurions. Unlike earlier years, which were bathed in drought and parched surroundings, this season saw the weather Gods turn against us. Early season games were washed out as all suburban cricket suffered from poor weather. It was as if the cricket Gods had programmed rain only on Thursdays & Fridays throughout the season.

Although victory was achieved in only one of our three games it was an enjoyable season. The friendships made demonstrated why cricket is such a wonderful sport. New members were signed – and younger players were “blooded” into the Centurions culture.

The season-opening **Gisborne** game; the Christmas game against the **Suma Park Bellarinas** and the **Westgarth Baseballers** game in February were all weather-affected. The Gisborne game was abandoned without a ball being bowled while the much anticipated Westgarth game (which was to have been played at the picturesque Ivanhoe ground) was rained out and it was disappointing that the strong Centurions team could not take the field.

Our first game was not until 30 January 2011 – against the **Explorers** at Strath Creek. On a fine, sunny day and with a much younger – and more agile – side, the Centurions maintained its winning streak against the Explorers after which the wonderful hospitality of mine host, **Centurion Patron Don McQueen**, prevailed (and in good measure!).

The **Merv Hughes Celebrity Challenge** followed on Sunday, 13 February 2011. And what a result it turned out to be! Unlike last year (which resulted in a legitimate tie off the last ball of the game) – this year resulted in a comparatively “easy” victory for Merv's team – this time off the third last ball!! Had it not been for the last minute, monster-hitting of **Big Merv & Ryder Medallist – Ian Wrigglesworth**, a Centurions victory would have been assured. But it was not to be.

The Centurions scored a coup when recently-retired AFL Senior Umpire (and former RIngwood opening batsman) **Scott McLaren** took the field alongside Sri Lankan Test all-rounder **Ravi Ratnayake**; former Victorian middle order batsman, **Grant Gardiner** & Camberwell batsman **Jack Joslin**.

But it was not the result that mattered. The Merv Hughes Challenge is more about the competitive juices and talents of former first class players; about the camaraderie and, more particularly, about fund-raising for our chosen charity – **Asthma Victoria**.

Asthma is a major – and ever-present – health and social issue for Australian society but, regrettably, it receives little Government funding. We are delighted to maintain our strong 20-year association with Asthma Victoria and we look forward to it continuing.

We must – yet again - thank the **Electrical Trades Union** for its very generous support of the game. As Centurions President, I wish to record my personal thanks – and the thanks of my Committee - to **Dean Mighell & Phil Cleary** for their generous commitment of time and energy to the organisation of the game.

With the traditional Melbourne cricket season all but closed and the AFL Season well under way, the **Suma Park Bellarinas** game was played in early April at the beautiful Suma Park homestead at Point Lonsdale. Normally, the game is played in the heat of mid-January – but late week downpours turned the Suma Park ground into a skating rink – not good for ageing knees; backs; hamstrings - or ankles.

Last year the Centurions achieved a rare (and one-sided) victory over the Bellarinas. But, like a wounded bull, the Bellarinas responded this year with a stronger side, two quality opening bowlers and a performance that produced a resounding victory on its home turf.

There were many who felt that re-construction of the “undulating pastures” of the Suma Park Oval would mean the loss of its charm. I was not one of them. I am, therefore, delighted to say that the re-construction of the oval has not affected the quality of the play – or the enjoyment of the occasion. Players and supporters enjoyed yet another wonderful and competitive day – supported throughout by the wonderful hospitality of Suma Park owner, Barrie Provan. The Suma Park game continues to be a highlight of the Centurions calendar and team positions are always quickly filled.

Our thanks, again, go to the **Footscray-Edgewater Cricket Club** for its continuing support for the Merv Hughes Challenge. The playing conditions and off-field support provided by the Club and its officials (in particular **Club President, Mark Sheehan** and his Committee) were, as always, first class. Our thanks also go to Mark's lovely wife who shouldered much of the catering burden on match day.

**Sponsorship** is very important to the Centurions. Our special thanks goes, again, to those who support us :

- the ETU – Dean Mighell and Phil Cleary
- David Power – **Plumbers' Supplies Co-operative**;
- James Shepherd - **Maintaining Melbourne Building Services**
- Stephen Davey - **Nexacom**

My thanks also go to **our Patrons**; to our tireless, hard-working Committee and to all Centurions members. Without you we would not have the robust - and highly respected – organisation we have today.

**Neil Kilpatrick**  
President

## THE GAMES

**The Explorers**  
**Hume & Hovell Ground, Strath Creek**  
**Sunday 30 January 2011**

**Result :**  
**Centurions 7 for 210 defeated Explorers 8 for 205**

If you were looking for familiar Centurions faces amongst the rose gardens and hills at Strath Creek this year you were in the wrong place.

After many years of fielding "familiar" teams this year saw a complete change and a number of new players were introduced to the Centurions ranks.

Of the Centurions stalwarts only **David Cordy** and **Ian Sartori** played. Part time Centurions **Sean Cordy** and **Ross Simpson** also played while the new players (**James Davies; Rob Montgomery; Darcy Nolan; Des Keenan; Ken O'Meara; Leigh Condon** and **John Nicholson**) enjoyed themselves and a Centurions victory was achieved with one over to spare.

Batting first, the Explorers reached 8 for 205 off 36 overs. Of the eight wickets to fall, seven fell to the "guile" of **Sartori** (4 for 17 off 5 overs) and **Keenan** (3 for 12 off 5 overs). Both exploited the slow wicket and made scoring difficult for the batsmen.

Fortified by a typically tasty Strath Creek luncheon, the Centurions batsmen set about their task in the afternoon. The opening partnership of **Davies** and **Montgomery** was quickly broken and Davies was joined by the always-inventive **Dave Cordy**. The two steadied the ship and put the Centurions on the path to victory with a fighting 53 run partnership.

Both retired on 40 and, although there was a steady loss of wickets, joint Men-of-the-Match **Sartori** (who made a fine 44) and **Keenan** (a lusty 30) joined in a match-winning partnership to see the Centurions across the line. **Ross Simpson** finished 11 not out.

The after match entertainment and hospitality was (as always) enjoyed by those who played and the traditional match at Strath Creek (**pictured below**) offers a wonderful atmosphere for a good game of cricket.

Our special thanks goes to **Centurions Patron, Don McQueen**, for his wonderful hospitality and for the beautiful ground presentation. We are lucky to have such facilities available to us.



## THE GAMES (continued)

**Merv Hughes Celebrity Challenge**  
**Footscray-Edgewater Cricket Ground –**  
**Sunday 13 February 2011**

**Result :**  
**Merv Hughes XI 5 for 249** (McDonald 47; Wrigglesworth 49; Hughes 51) **defeated Centurions 3 for 248** (Howells 44; McLaren 32; Sartori 30; Ratnayake 27; Gardiner 26);

The **Merv Hughes Celebrity Challenge** was, again, played under ideal conditions at the Mervyn G Hughes Oval in Footscray. A sunny day; a beautifully presented outfield and a hard, flat wicket made for a good contest.

In a replica of last year's game it was the belligerent hitting of **Merv Hughes** and District great (and Ryder Medallist) **Ian Wrigglesworth** which brought the game to life after a Centurions victory looked assured.

The two combined in a hard-hitting partnership at the end to control the game. Whereas, last year, their big-hitting partnership failed by the barest margin to secure victory, this year their partnership stole victory from the jaws of certain defeat.

**Big Merv** hit four huge 6's and four 4's in his rapid-fire 51 not out while "**Wriggles**" was more subdued, hitting "only" 6 4's and 2 6's in his innings of 49 retired. The two shared a partnership of 62 off just 5 overs with the well-flighted leg breaks of **Scott McLaren** providing the necessary fodder.

Earlier in the day, the Centurions had raced to a flying start with the ball when Australian Test star - and current Cricket Victoria Chief - **Tony Dodemaide** was stumped attempting to hit **Phil Cleary's** teasing offerings into the next suburb. His partner, Footscray-Edgewater games record-holder and wicketkeeper, **Rainer Reber**, was caught behind by **Geordy Nolan** off **Grant Gardiner's** accurate left arm tweakers.

Clearly, it was inspired Captaincy by **Rex Bennett** to use the slower bowlers after the opening bowlers, tall left arm Yorkshireman **Will Liddle** and Northcote's **Shaun Brentnall** had subdued the early batsmen – containing them to just 47 off 14 overs. But things got even better for the Centurions when prolific Premier Cricket run-scorer, **Michael O'Keefe**, (yet to be dismissed by the Centurions in these games) was caught and bowled by **Phil Cleary** when he leading-edged a looping delivery back to the bowler. Cleary's delight was clear for all to see .....(and hear!).

It was left to former Footscray all-rounder **Darren McDonald** to score a well-compiled 47 to set up his team's innings and when **Big Merv** and **Wriggles** got going nothing was going to stop their march to victory.

This year the Centurions were able to secure the services of Sri Lankan Test player **Ravi Ratnayake** (who played many years with Preston in the VSDCA); English County batsmen **Nathan Hawkes** and **Ben Howells**; Yorkshire Leagues opening bowler **Will Liddle** and Camberwell opening batsman, **Jack Joslin**.

**Merv Hughes Celebrity Challenge  
Footscray-Edgewater Cricket Ground –  
13 February 2011 (continued)**

But perhaps the greatest surprise was the recruitment of recently retired AFL Umpire (and former Ringwood batsman) **Scott McLaren**. After a rusty start with the bat, McLaren acquitted himself well to score a composed 32. His driving and “tucking” of the ball behind square was a feature. **Ratnayake** retired on 27 but the elegance of his batting left no-one at the match in doubt about his superior skills. A tall, left handed batsman, Ratnayake strikes the ball with a vertical bat and his timing and stroke play was exactly what you would expect from a former Test player. He enjoyed the outing.

English County player, **Howells** hit an entertaining, 44. A powerful striker of the ball, Howells hit two massive 6's to close his innings. **Hawkes** was caught at mid-on and, when dismissed with the team score at 33, he had contributed 26. All following Centurions batsmen retired and it was not until the score reached 205 that another “genuine” wicket fell – that of **Ian Sartori**, who was bowled by Wrigglesworth for 30. Those who retired were **Dave Cordy** 18; **Grant Gardiner** 26; **Shaun Brentnall** 15 and **Geordy Nolan** 10.

Unfortunately, left-handed Camberwell opening batsman, **Jack Joslin** didn't get the opportunity to showcase his considerable skills and was caught at second slip early in his innings.

Our thanks go to the Footscray-Edgewater Cricket Club (and to Club President, **Mark “Noddy” Sheehan**, and his lovely wife for their hard work on the day); to **John Lord** and to **Graeme Bugge**.

Our thanks also go **Dave Cordy** for his work in setting up the ground displays and to **Merv Hughes** and his team. Merv has achieved much for Australia on the International Test Cricket arena and it says a great deal of his character; his personality and his love of our great game that he still gives so much back to junior cricket and to charity.

The game would not proceed – or be as successful - without the on-going support and commitment of the **Electrical Trades' Union** – and ETU Secretary, **Dean Mighell** and ETU Media Officer **Phil Cleary**. We are very grateful for what the ETU does for us and we thank them for being such an integral part of the success of the day. After taking the vitally important early wickets of senior players **Tony Dodemaide** and **Michael O'Keefe**, Phil let it be known to anyone willing to listen (and those not so willing!) that his bowling had for too long been undervalued.

Finally, thank you to Centurions' Committeeman, Dave Power, for standing the game as Umpire. Dave did a sterling job.

**Suma Park Bellarinas  
Suma Park Homestead - Sunday, 2 April 2011**

**Result : Centurions 8 for 174** (Dave Norris 35; Nick Watson 36; Geordy Nolan 36; Brett Dalkin 27 not out) were defeated by **Suma Park Bellarinas 3 for 192** (Ross Simpson 1 for 14; Ian Sartori 1 for 18)

After a two-year hiatus (and a further delay caused by the wet weather over the Christmas period) the annual Suma Park game returned to its spiritual home – the lovely Suma Park homestead on the Bellarine Peninsula. With the Suma Park ground now looking like a “real” cricket oval (as distinct from an undulating, farm paddock with wonderful views) the opportunity presented for the Centurions to continue their one-game winning streak against the Bellarinas. But it was not to be...the strong Suma Park team, hurt by last season's uncharacteristic loss, fielded a strong team and had little trouble in winning the game.

The Centurions, fielding a new look team with a number of new members, batted first and, with **Dave Norris**, showing uncharacteristic aggression in his role as opener (36 retired – but with a spanking six over cover!), soon moved to 50 without loss. His partner, **Brett Dalkin** played a supporting role and made a sound 27 before injuring his hamstring. He was replaced at the crease by his brother, another new Centurion, **Chris Dalkin**. Big things were expected from the former North Melbourne 2<sup>nd</sup> Xi Captain - but his bat remained unmarked as he departed, bowled by former Hawthorn and University opening bowler **Campbell Unsworth**. Enter another new Centurion, New Zealander **Nick Watson**, who made an elegant 36 to restore some legitimacy to the innings.

At 1 for 96, there was an air of quiet confidence in the Centurions camp. However, a mid-innings slump when the Centurions “big guns” failed to fire saw the score slump to 6 for 132. Enter **Geordy Nolan**, another new Centurion from Gisborne. Nolan rescued the innings with a forceful 36 retired and the innings closed at 174 off 37 overs.

After a sumptuous lunch the Bellarinas got off to a shaky start (3 for 41) when **Ian Sartori; Darcy Nolan** and **Ross Simpson** each claimed a cheap wicket.

Former North Melbourne batsman, **Neil “Swooper” Petrie** (38) partnered with ex-Balwyn batsman, **Peter Gell**, (36) to restore the Bellarinas' focus. Their free scoring continued when **Les Pimm** (33) and former Centurions President, **Tony Hargreaves** (34) combined in an entertaining partnership to ensure a Bellarinas victory. Only 34 overs were needed by the Bellarinas to reach their modest target.

Once again, the Suma Park game was a terrific day followed by the usual Suma Park hospitality long into the night before the drive up the Princes Highway to Melbourne. Each year the cricket stories get bigger and better. Our thanks (as always) go to Barrie Provan for his superb hospitality and game day organisation. It is a mark of the enjoyment of the game that the Centurions team is always over-subscribed for the Suma Park match.

