



SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 30 April 2009

Presented to Members

at the

Seventeenth Annual General Meeting

of

Centurions Australia Incorporated

held in the

Emerald Hill Hotel

415 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne 3205

at 7.45pm on
Monday, 22 June 2009



Centurions Australia Incorporated Committee – 2008 / 2009

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
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Centurions' Life Members

Richard Parsons (deceased)
Ron Brentnall
Graeme Templar
Neil Kilpatrick

Centurions' Sponsors 2008 / 2009



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Cover page – Presentation of a cheque for \$6,000 to Chief Executive of Asthma Victoria, Robin Ould by Centurions' President Neil Kilpatrick (pictured at left) and Centurions' Vice President and Life-Member, Ron Brentnall (pictured at right)

CENTURIONS AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Centurions Australia Incorporated will be held on Monday, 22 June 2009 in the Dining Room of 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 Sixteenth Annual General Meeting
4. Adoption of the Seventeenth Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 April 2009
5. Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 April 2009 will not be presented until finalisation of the Audit. The Financial Statements will be presented and adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting at a date to be set.
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
9. Election of Auditor
10. General Business

By Order of the Committee

Ron Brentnall
Secretary

28 May 2009

CENTURIONS AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

Seventeenth Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 April 2009

Members,

Your Committee is pleased to present its Seventeenth Annual Report of the Centurions Australia Inc. for the 2008-2009 Cricket Season.

The Report includes the President's Report; the Financial Statements; the Auditor's Report for the Year ended 30 April 2009 and a report on games played during the Season. It also includes a tribute to our Patron, George Tribe, who passed away during the year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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 of five scheduled games and only one game was missed - against Gisborne - due to a washout.

Under an invigorated Committee, games were played against the Suma Park Bellarinas at Queenscliff; the Westgarth Baseballers at Royal Park; the Merv Hughes Celebrity Challenge XI at the Footscray-Edgewater Oval and against the northern Victorian "Wattlesprigs" at our spiritual home ground at Strath Creek. All were cracking days – and saw Centurions' victorious on three occasions.

Our primary goal is to provide our Membership with a high standard of cricket played under quality cricket conditions and this was, again, achieved.

Our third "*Merv Hughes*" **Celebrity Challenge** was played at the Footscray-Edgewater ground in March and, through the magnificent financial and organisational support of the Match **Gold Sponsor**, the Electrical Trades Union, and **Platinum Sponsors Kookaburra Sports; Carlton & United Breweries** and **Metaland** a further \$6,000 was raised for our chosen charity – Asthma Victoria. The Centurions is proud to maintain its association with Asthma Victoria. Our thanks also go to the **Footscray-Edgewater Cricket Club**. The playing conditions and off-field support provided by the Club were second to none.

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**.

Committee Members also attended the **Asthma Victoria Gala Ball** at Docklands in May.

The **Annual Centurions Golf Day** was played at Rosanna Golf Club in April. 25 participants enjoyed a wonderful day using an "Ambrose" format. Prizes were awarded for the winning foursome as well as for the Longest and Straightest Drives and Nearest the Pin. Our thanks goes to the world's premium golf manufacturer **Taylor Made** for the donation of a magnificent golf bag as the major prize and to **Plumbers Supplies Co-op** for the donation of prizes for *Nearest the Pin* and the *Longest Drive*.

The **Centurions Annual Dinner** was held at the Eastern Bell Restaurant in North Balwyn on 30 May 2009. 24 members and their guests enjoyed the hospitality - and the camaraderie - and many stories were told, some to be believed – some not !

It was terrific to hear further news of Vanuatu's **Andrew Mansale**. Centurions will recall that we sponsored Andrew to attend coaching in Australia in 2003. While here Andrew played with the Melbourne Cricket Club 3rd XI and performed creditably. Andrew is now Captain of the Vanuatu XI and has matured into a very capable cricketer. In a recent tournament the Vanuatu XI won 4 of 6 games against the Fiji XI.

Sadly, we lost our **Patron, George Tribe**. George made an outstanding contribution to the success of the Centurions. He left an indelible mark on Australian cricket at all levels – and on the Centurions. George was a humble man and a gentleman. He was a man of integrity and endeavour who will be sadly missed, not only by the Centurions, but by all who love our great game. There is a special tribute to George elsewhere in this Annual Report. *Vale George*

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

- David Power - **Plumbers Supplies Co-operative**;
- James Shepherd - **Maintaining Melbourne Building Services**, and
- to Stephen and Cathy Davey at **Nexacom Pty Ltd** –

each of who provided unquestioned support to the Committee - and our Members - during the year.

My thanks also go to **our Patrons** for their support and assistance during the year. Most importantly, thank you to our tireless, hard-working Committee and to all Centurions members, both past and present. Without you we would not have the robust - and highly respected – organisation we have today.

Neil Kilpatrick
President

ASTHMA VICTORIA

The seventeenth year of our association with Asthma Victoria, was highlighted by our third charity cricket match comprising a **Centurions' President's Invitation XI** competing against a **Merv Hughes Celebrity Invitation XI** played at the Mervyn G Hughes Oval, Footscray on 1 March 2009.

The fund-raising match, in aid of our chosen Charity - Asthma Victoria - again proved successful and, with the aid of "**Gold**" **Sponsor**, the Electrical Trades Union, and "**Platinum**" **Sponsors**, Carlton & United Breweries, Metaland and Kookaburra Sports, we were able to donate \$6,000 to the important work of Asthma Victoria. The Electrical Trades Union has confirmed its continuing sponsorship in 2010 and we look forward to the next fixture.

Centurions' Committee members also attended the Asthma Victoria Annual Fund-raising Ball in May 2009 and maintained their support of the broader work of Asthma Victoria by raising community awareness wherever possible and supporting Asthma Victoria's various fund raising activities.

THE GAMES

Suma Park Bellarinas Queenscliff - 18 January 2009

The match against the Suma Park Bellarinas at Point Lonsdale is always a wonderful outing and is enjoyed by everyone who participates. It has become our "traditional" Christmas / New Year game.

However, with the Suma Park ground being re-surfaced we were fortunate to have the use of the Queenscliff Oval. Many interested spectators were thrilled by the big hitting of the two teams and to see two ex-Test players in action on their local ground.

Ex-North Melbourne player, Neil "Swooper" Petrie, and the boys at Queenscliff made us most welcome and we are very grateful for their support. As always Barrie Provan's hospitality and generosity were limitless and it was very late into the night when we prised ourselves away from the Suma Park homestead after another wonderful day's cricket.

Centurions 7 for 207 (Tim Hargreaves 38; Tim Wright 38; Mark Jones 26; Alan Chadwick 26; Dave Norris "a picket fence" 21 defeated **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)

Westgarth Baseballers Royal Park - 15 February 2009

The Baseballers game is always an enjoyable game. This year we were unable to use our "traditional" ground - the Bill Lawry Oval in Northcote - which was also being revamped after last summer's drought.

However, thanks to the hard work of former Centurions Committee Member, Rex Bennett, we were able to secure the Brunswick ground of the Royal Park CC. Our thanks go to the Royal Park Club for allowing us the use of its facilities

As always, the Baseballers provided a quality team under the guidance of new Baseballers President, ex-Northcote batsman, Bob Jardine. The result was an entertaining and very competitive day's cricket. Ex-Northcote opening batsman, Mark Brasher batted beautifully (as he always does) for the Baseballers with a brisk 40n.o. With solid contributions from several others, including Nick Brandon-Jones 28 and 16-year-old Shaun Brentnall 27no (Shaun was on loan from the Centurions) the Westgarth Baseballers finished with 163.

This total proved too many for the Centurions who were dismissed for 141 with Shaun Brentnall leading the way for Westgarth with the ball. Shaun opened the bowling with 6 tight overs for only 10 runs and Aaron Crispe took 2 for 26.

Westgarth Baseballers 6/163 (Brasher 40 no. Brandon-Jones 28) defeated **Centurions 141** (Ian Sartori 36; Tim Hargreaves 36; Dan Sartori 28; Neil Kilpatrick 15).

THE GAMES (continued)

Merv Hughes Celebrity Challenge Footscray-Edgewater - 1 March 2009

This year the Centurions selected a younger, more athletic team which proved crucial in a closely fought game which went "down to the wire". Led by current Richmond First XI players **Dan Sartori**, **Cam Taylor**; Victorian batting star, **Aiden Blizard**, and South African First Grade player, Antonio Mullins plus former Victorian State players, **Brendan Joseland**; **Michael DiMattina** and **Grant Gardiner**, the Centurions managed a very competitive total of 234.

Surprisingly, it was not Merv Hughes' bouncers which caused the Centurions batsmen most trouble but the slow leg-break bowling of TV commentators **Anthony Hudson** and **Ian Cover** who were ably supported by classic one-liners from **Peter "Crackers" Keenan** standing at First Slip.

When it took the crease the Merv Hughes XI looked intent on finishing the game early. The Centurions bowlers were thrashed to all parts of the Footscray-Edgewater Oval. **Merv Hughes** plus former State players **Peter Bedford** and **Ian Wrigglesworth**, supported by Cricket Victoria Chief Executive and Australian Test All-rounder **Tony Dodemaide**, and District stars **Michael O'Keefe** and **Rainer Reber** each scored freely and it looked a likely Merv Hughes XI victory. However, victory was not to be and Merv's team fell just 9 runs short in a highly entertaining days' cricket.

Our 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..

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

Wattlesprigs 22 March 2009 - Strath Creek

Our final game saw a return to our spiritual home at Don McQueen's **Hume & Hovell Ground** at Strath Creek against a new opponent, *Wattlesprigs*. The Wattlesprigs team is based in Northern Victoria and has toured England under the guidance of ex-North Melbourne player Steve Gemmill.

In a great initiative by the Wattlesprigs the match was played for the **Richard Parsons Shield**. Richard toured England in 2005 with the Wattlesprigs as their "Resident Umpire" and it was a fitting tribute to a dedicated cricket follower who offered so much to both groups. The game was played in great spirit with the Centurions winning on the last ball of the day.

Centurions 6/185 (Dan Sartori 46 retired; Ian Sartori 37 retired; Neil Kilpatrick 36 no; Ron Brentnall 23) defeated **Wattlesprigs 7/182** (Alan Chadwick 3 for 19)

VALE GEORGE TRIBE

"Wisden Cricketer of the Year" - 1955.

George Tribe, our Patron, our mentor and our champion, passed away on 5 April, 2009.

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

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; Bill Fingleton; Stan McCabe; Bill Ponsford; Neil Harvey; the Chappell brothers or Ricky Ponting – it was "George Tribe".

With Northants George scored 10,177 First Class runs with 7 centuries (highest 136 no) and 48 scores of 50+.

But George was best known for his bowling. He bowled both left-arm orthodox and over the wrist "googlies". He 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 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 with 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 then another record of 150 wickets 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 & Nth 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 was a humble man who enjoyed his cricket friendships. He was enjoyable to be with. 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.

