

**The Ninety – Fifth**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**and**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**of the**  
**ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB Inc.**  
**Season 2022/23**

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**Annual Meeting:**  
**De Winton Park**  
**Grove Road, Rosanna**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 at 7.30 pm**

**ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB'S  
MAJOR SPONSOR 2022/23**



**viewbank**

Early Childhood Centre

03 9432 8288

***“Meeting the needs of children and parents”***

**ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB'S  
GOLD SPONSORS 2022/23**

**KATE THWAITES MP**  
Federal Member for Jagajaga



**ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB'S  
SILVER SPONSORS 2022/23**



**Rosanna Legends Coterie Group**

# ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB'S BRONZE SPONSORS 2022/23



# Rosanna Legends Coterie Group

***Alan Bell***  
***David Crawford***  
***Garry Carlton***  
***Gary Bryant***  
***John McKenzie***  
***Mark Horsford***  
***Mark Prince***  
***Michael Langford***  
***Peter Jones***  
***Peter Waddingham***

**PREMIERS – Heidelberg District Cricket Association & Diamond Valley Cricket Association**

<b>First Grade</b>	1939/40	1947/48	1950/51	1954/55	1955/56	1957/58	1959/60	1961/62
	1962/63	1966/67	1969/70	1972/73	1974/75	1982/83	1986/87	1993/94
	1996/97	2005/06	2007/08	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2022/23	
<b>Second Grade</b>	1957/58	1959/60	1961/62	1063/64	1964/65	1965/66	1969/70	1977/78
	1985/86	2012/13	2017/18					
<b>Third Grade</b>	1950/51	1961/62	1963/64	1964/65	2001/02	2005/06		
<b>Fourth Grade</b>	1968/69	1969/70	1970/71	1979/80	1997/98	2001/02	2012/13	2013/14
	2017/18							
<b>Fifth Grade</b>	1981/82	1983/84	1992/93	2021/22				
<b>Sixth Grade</b>	1981/82							
<b>Seventh Grade</b>	1984/85							
<b>Veterans Comp</b>	2009/10	2010/11	2018/19	2022/23				
<b>Under 17 A</b>	2008/09	2011/12						
<b>Under 16 A</b>	1970/71	1972/73	1977/78	1978/79	1984/85	1987/88	1988/89	1999/00
	2000/01	2003/04	2014/15	2017/18	2019/20			
<b>Under 16 B</b>	1971/72	1973/74						
<b>Under 16 C</b>	1966/67	1967/68						
<b>Under 14 A</b>	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1986/87	1994/95	1995/96	1997/98
	1998/99	2002/03	2015/16					
<b>Under 13 A</b>	2010/11							
<b>Under 12 A</b>	1993/94	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	
<b>Under 12 B</b>	1999/00							

**RUNNERS UP – Heidelberg District Cricket Association & Diamond Valley Cricket Association**

<b>First Grade</b>	1934/35	1938/39	1949/50	1951/52	1956/57	1958/59	1960/61	1963/64
	1964/65	1970/71	1981/82	1988/89	1992/93	1994/95	1995/96	2004/05
	2014/15							
<b>Second Grade</b>	1940/41	1960/61	1966/67	1968/69	2002/03	2007/08	2016/17	2019/20
	2021/22							
<b>Third Grade</b>	1965/66	1968/69	1975/76	2000/01	2002/03	2017/18	2022/23	
<b>Fourth Grade</b>	1974/75	1981/82	1995/96	1999/00	2005/06			
<b>Fifth Grade</b>	1969/70	1974/75	1978/79	1982/83	1988/89	1993/94	1998/99	2018/19
<b>One Day Grade</b>	2003/04							
<b>Veterans Comp</b>	2013/14	2014/15	2017/18					
<b>Northern T20</b>	2020/21	2022/23						
<b>Under 18 Teal</b>	2021/22							
<b>Under 17 B</b>	2010/11							
<b>Under 16 A</b>	1969/70	1974/75	1976/77	1979/80	1982/83	1996/97	2002/03	2007/08
	2013/14							
<b>Under 16 B</b>	1968/69	1972/73	2007/08					
<b>Under 15 B</b>	2011/12							
<b>Under 14 A</b>	1971/72	1972/73	1978/79	1996/97	1999/00	2000/01	2005/06	2012/13
	2013/14	2017/18	2018/19	2020/21	2021/22			
<b>Under 12</b>	1994/95							

**ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB Inc.**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**SEASON 2022/23**

The 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and Financial Statement for the twelve months ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 is presented by the Committee of the Rosanna Cricket Club.

The General Committee members for 2022-23 were:

PRESIDENT	Michael Langford
VICE-PRESIDENT	Nicholas Horsford
TREASURER	Gary Bryant
SECRETARY	Oliver Toussaint
JUNIOR MANAGER	Andrew Wolczko
CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS	Houssam Almatrah & Duncan Sanderson
SPONSORSHIP & MARKETING MANAGER	Aayat Khanna
SOCIAL MANAGER	Mark Schott
BAR MANAGER	Max Balcombe

non-committee roles for 2022-23

CLUB STATISTICIAN	Ian Gordon
COACH	Chris Milne

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The Executive Committee comprised the President, Vice-President, Junior Manager, Secretary and Treasurer who attended to any matters requiring immediate attention.

## LIFE MEMBERS

Number	Year	Name	Number	Year	Name
1	1948	Jack Maxfield (dec)	35	1992	Andrew Heath
2	1952	Vern George (dec)	36	1993	Garry Carlton
3	1952	Bill Luby (dec)	37	1993	Geoff Wilson
4	1952	Cec Myers (dec)	38	1993	Brian Flynn (dec)
5	1952	Reg Stone (dec)	39	1993	Cecily Flynn
6	1954	Charlie Carter (dec)	40	1995	Anthony Lambert
7	1959	Don Pritchard (dec)	41	1996	Dan Flynn
8	1959	Dick Russell (dec)	42	1999	David Jackson
9	1964	Brian Carlton (dec)	43	1999	Peter Jones
10	1964	Steve Durant (dec)	44	2000	David Jones
11	1964	Barney Luby (dec)	45	2001	Chris Leech
12	1968	Jack Sullivan (dec)	46	2001	Darrel Leonard
13	1968	Bill Wilson (dec)	47	2002	Grant Pyers
14	1969	Bob Durrant (dec)	48	2002	Peter Waddingham
15	1969	Ron Webster (dec)	49	2004	Peter Hodder
16	1971	Alan Bell	50	2005	Paul Leonard
17	1973	Ron Beel	51	2009	John Raywood
18	1974	Bob Higgs (dec)	52	2011	Steven Nikolovski
19	1975	Bob Jamieson (dec)	53	2011	Haedar Almatrah
20	1976	Kevin Fahey (dec)	54	2011	Luke Anderson
21	1977	Ron Jones (dec)	55	2011	Paul Fahey
22	1980	Des Flynn (dec)	56	2014	Mark Muscat
23	1980	Roy Hartney (dec)	57	2016	David Crawford
24	1980	Bill Lambert (dec)	58	2016	Houssam Almatrah
25	1983	Paul Gregor	59	2018	Andrew Wolczko
26	1983	John McKenzie	60	2018	Chris Payne
27	1984	Kevin Pyers	61	2018	Gary Bryant
28	1984	Rod Webster	62	2019	Scott Dunbar
29	1985	Mark Luby	63	2019	Mick Langford
30	1985	Denis Groom	64	2021	Nick Carlton
31	1986	Dennis Hartney	65	2021	Neil Crosthwaite
32	1987	Pat English	66	2022	Scott Shelton
33	1989	Ivon Ditcham	67	2023	Sam Sheehan
34	1989	John Ditcham			

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Thanks to the Banyule City Council, the Parks & Gardens Department and Nicole Waldron, Sport & Community Liaison Officer, for their attention to matters raised by our club.
- Thanks to Cr Tom Melican of Banyule City Council for his support.
- Thanks to the Macleod Football Club Committee for their co-operation and assistance.
- Thanks to Ann Perrett, Shane McCarter and the DVCA Management Committee.
- Thanks to Peter Waddingham for auditing the club books.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

What a season – Barclay Shield premiers and all other senior teams in the finals, with the 3s unfortunately losing the grand final in a close game. Congratulations also to the Vets on winning the C Grade Flag. Under 18s also playing finals and the under 16s being far more competitive than expected. Woolworths Blasters building numbers again – thanks Bully. The T20 programme was also a success just missing out on the ultimate goal - losing the grand final in diminishing light.

We again advertised for the senior coaching position receiving far more interest than previously with discussions taking place with four candidates and were very pleased to appoint Chris Milne for two years. Well done to Huss and Horse who led this process. I was very pleased to announce that Chris has agreed to add a third year. Thank you also to our Thursday net captain “Gus” Logan who again did a great job and enabled Milne to coach rather than co-ordinate.

The work done by the committee was again outstanding. The executive of Vice President Nick Horsford, Secretary Ollie Toussaint and Gary Bryant as treasurer means the club is in very good hands for the future.

The club remains in a very strong financial position as outlined in the Treasurer's report. It needs to be noted that in recent years significant investments have been made to benefit both the playing group including the new electronic scoreboard, portable net for centre wicket practice, Frogbox and during the off season a second bowling machine for use in the outdoor nets (with assistance of a successful grant application) and off field with electronic honour boards and the Square technology which makes life easier for volunteers in the bar/canteen and for Gary.

Andrew Wolczko took over from Eamon and Ruth Bourke as Junior Coordinator. Our juniors are of significant concern with the club only fielding an Under 18 team ‘coached’ by Pat Bourke and Riley O’Sullivan and an Under 16 team coached again by Geoff Wilson. This is an area that needs significant focus and time to ensure that we continue our success at all levels.

It was great to have a full social calendar again with events scheduled throughout the season and very well supported by club members of all ages. Thanks also go to:

- The numerous general committee members especially the Social committee
- Chris Milne in his first year as coach was a valuable addition to the club
- All our captains along with our junior coaches and team managers
- Special thanks to Mark Prince for volunteering to score for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI every week
- Mick Potenza and Duncan Sanderson for coordinating the selection of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XIs along with the Vets team, these are very important roles which play an important part in keeping older players around the club as well as providing an outlet for the frustrated coaches and parents of our juniors!
- Matt “Swanny” Jackson for again organising the club clothing for both on and off field
- James Bull for successfully managing the In-2-Cricket programme.
- Michelle Smith for her work catering for social functions

We appreciate the ongoing support of the Banyule City Council and the Macleod Football Club to ensure that we have one of, if not the best, facility in the DVCA to play and watch cricket. Next season will provide new challenges and opportunities as we prepare to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> year during season 2024/25.

**Mick Langford**  
**President**

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the third straight season we had a (mostly) delayed start, however this time it wasn't Covid-19 affected. October proved to be one of the wettest months in recent memory and as such, the club only managed one full game prior to November. Thankfully once the rain subsided, we were able to consistently stay on the park to play some fantastic cricket over the various grades and finish the season with the ultimate goal!

The 2022/23 season was my second as Club Secretary and while I started to feel like I was getting the hang of it I'd like to once again thank the numerous support I received in this role from various club members – most notably Gary Bryant who continues to go above and beyond their committee position of Treasurer.

Unfortunately this season we had to say goodbye to our 5<sup>th</sup> XI side, however due to the further pressure on spots I believe this was a blessing in disguise for the club. All four senior sides ended up playing finals which is a massive credit to the coaching staff, and a fabulous way for our new senior coach Chris Milne to start his tenure at Rosanna!

From the four finalists, two went on to play off in their respective grades' Grand Finals, with our Barclay Shield side coming out on top with a flawless display against Epping. This was the club's first 1<sup>st</sup> XI flag in a decade, and the first in DVCA's top grade. I was lucky enough to play a minor role in this amazing group which is something I won't forget for a very long time.

Not often would an event rival a 1<sup>st</sup> XI Premiership, however Geoff Wilson's 500<sup>th</sup> game was just that. I won't list Geoff's accolades as they'd be longer than this report, though hitting the winning runs in your 500<sup>th</sup> must be right up there! Personally, I've been lucky enough to have been coached and captained by Geoff, and I'm much better for it. The impact he's had on so many current and past players is immeasurable and we thank you for your service to the club over the past 50 years!

To the unsung heroes of the club, Mark Prince, Alan Bell, John McKenzie, Mick Potenza, Michelle Smith (and many others I've likely missed), the club is the way it is because of people like you, and we thank you for your ongoing support and work, both on and off the field.

Something that was touched on last season was that our junior program is a definite room for improvement. Unfortunately we haven't been able to make an immediate turnaround in this area as we're still at a point where we're only filling two sides. Rosanna is a very strong club due to strong junior programs in the past, so it's imperative the whole club places a lot of focus in bringing this program back to the heights of recent years.

To the rest of the committee (Mick, Nick, Wol, Aayat, Maxy, Schotty & Swanny), thank you for your support and the thankless work you do for the club. Once again I look forward to getting more youth on our committee to bring new ideas to the table. Finally, I would like to thank our sponsors, Banyule City Council and all of our members. Without you all the club would not survive, and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

**Oliver Toussaint**  
**Secretary**

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

This season was solid for the club financially. The club posted a profit of \$1,363.05 for the financial year, with the net asset position increasing from \$49,727.77 to \$50,248.25.

The main financial performance trends were:

- The major fundraiser was the very successful \$2k draw, along with a few smaller fundraisers through the season.
- The Toyota Good for Cricket Raffle was solid but should be pushed harder next season.
- Sponsorships were solid. Thanks in particular to Eamon and Ruth (Viewbank early childhood centre) for their continued support as our Premium sponsor. We also thank Kate Thwaites, TS Finance (Tim Sheehan), the Harp of Erin, Café Matto and The Phantom. We need to build on our sponsorship base going forward.
- The coterie group (Rosanna Legends) was again a success, but we need to reinvigorate next season.
- We did not need to pay Ground Hire fees again this season (the final stage in the Council COVID support). Keeping in mind that these are of the order of \$6k per season, we will need to increase revenue next season as we return to normal operations.
- For the current season it was decided to keep subs at the COVID levels. However, subs will need to rise next season now that Government support has ceased.
- Bar & canteen profit were particularly strong, thanks to a full season, with multiple teams in finals and Premierships in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Veterans teams.
- We continued to make significant investments in infrastructure at De Winton Park, including a \$5000 contribution to the Electronic Scoreboard. Our remaining commitment to this will be paid off over the next 2 seasons.

Treasurer acknowledgements

- Eamon and Ruth Bourke for their major sponsorship.
- Everyone who helped in the bar and canteen - there are too many to mention, but I would like to acknowledge John McKenzie and Alan Bell for their stalwart service on game days.
- Michelle Smith for catering multiple events and Gerald "Duck" Carey for cooking the spit for the \$2k draw.
- Max Balcombe for doing a great job as Bar Manager.
- All players and friends of the club who supported the club at functions and games.

Looking forward to another successful season in 2023-2024.

## PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

Year ending 30 June 2023 (preliminary)

Sales	Bar	Sales	\$39,513.00
		Less: Cost of Sales	
		Opening Stock	\$991.77
		Purchases	\$21,502.54
		Closing Stock	\$97.90
			\$22,396.41
		<b>Gross Profit from Trading</b>	<b>\$17,116.59</b>
	<b>Canteen</b>	Sales	\$6,773.50
		Less: Cost of Sales	
		Opening Stock	\$0.00
		Purchases	\$4,202.93
		Closing Stock	\$0.00
			\$4,202.93
		<b>Gross Profit from Trading</b>	<b>\$2,570.57</b>
	<b>Gear</b>	Sales	\$4,174.02
		Less: Cost of Sales	
		Opening Stock	\$13,002.80
		Purchases	\$3,878.50
		Closing Stock	\$13,108.90
			\$3,772.40
		<b>Gross Profit from Trading</b>	<b>\$401.62</b>
<b>Total Gross Profit from Trading</b>			<b>\$20,088.78</b>

### Other Income

Fund Raising & Social Functions	\$15,372.09
Less Costs	\$13,967.47
	\$1,404.62
Senior Subs	\$6,070.00
Student Subs	\$1,350.00
Junior Subs	\$4,184.63
Sponsorships	\$8,542.00
Player Sponsors	\$1,600.00
Legends	\$2,410.00
Match Fees	\$2,735.00
Interest	\$243.82
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$28,540.07</b>

### Expenses

Utilities	\$1,967.36
Ground and Pavilion Fees	\$0.00
Trophies & honour Boards	\$2,923.00
Coaching	\$11,000.00
Training Costs	\$2,570.00
Balls & Equipment	\$3,966.19
Balls change in stock	\$54.80
Match Day Costs & Fines	\$9,195.03
Amenities	\$5,556.77
DVCA	\$1,440.00
Banking and EFTPOS expenses	\$1,646.35
Infrastructure	\$6,946.30
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$47,265.80</b>

<b>Net Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$1,363.05</b>
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<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>As at 30th Jun 2023</b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Savings (Transaction Account)	<b>\$2,904.01</b>	
Savings (Investment Account)	<b>\$32,648.24</b>	
Bar Stock	<b>\$97.90</b>	
Canteen Stock	<b>\$0.00</b>	
Gear Stock	<b>\$13,108.90</b>	
Ball Stock	<b>\$1,489.20</b>	
Unpaid Subs	<b>\$0.00</b>	
Debtors	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$50,248.25</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>\$50,248.25</b>

**Gary Bryant**  
Treasurer

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## **JUNIOR MANAGER'S REPORT**

Season 2022 - 2023 saw the club field two junior sides – U18's, and U 16's along with our Junior Blasters program which saw 23 children enrolled with the weekly activities conducted at De Winton Park.

The U16 team was once again coached by Geoff Wilson and we entered a team into the lowest grade possible because 4 players were still eligible for Under 14s (as we didn't have a team), and one was a first year Under 14 player. So initially we started with only 9 players, but were able add a couple more once the season got under way. It was a big step for these boys, potentially playing against boys 2 or 3 years older but with the experienced tutelage of their coach Geoff Wilson we were secure in the knowledge they were in good hands.

To compound the development of these boys in the U16's environment the DVCA took the decision to promote the group from the White grade to the Red grade after the initial grading period. Although we voiced our concerns with the Administration of the DVCA we certainly hoped we could be competitive and keep the boys motivated with the challenge that was presented to Geoff and the team. A testament to Geoff's coaching and willingness to teach the finer points of cricket to our players ensured the team tried its best to be competitive in this grade. As proof of the boys development a number of boys played in our senior mens team. I would like to acknowledge Geoff's efforts and thank the parents that helped with the team during the season with team management and scoring.

Our numbers in the U18's were down on the previous year however with some excellent recruiting by a couple of our junior representative players saw us welcome Daniel Colley & Marcus Jones with Anusha Joshi to the team. The team was adeptly coached by Pat Bourke and Riley O'Sullivan again this season. The nucleus of the team having played right through there junior years at Rosanna. After playing together with each other for many years they once again making the finals and embodied team spirit and enjoyed their cricket.

A number of players represented the club in the DVCA and other metropolitan carnivals and representative teams, we congratulate them all for their efforts and wish them well in their future endeavours in cricket.

In summary I would like to take the opportunity to thank the following:

- Our junior coaches in for their efforts and their assistants for their weekly dedication.
- Our Team Managers for their continual support to the coaches.
- James Bull and Steve Austin for their fabulous efforts' week in, week out in running the junior blasters program.
- The Rosanna CC Executive lead by Michael Langford and Gary Bryant for their support over the season.
- The DVCA for their commitment to junior cricket season.
- The parents who go to great lengths every week to get the players to training, to the game and their support every Friday at the games!

**Andrew Wolczko**  
**Junior Manager**

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## CAPTAINS

The following players were appointed as Captain of their respective teams:

TEAM	CAPTAIN
First XI	Sam Sheehan
Second XI	Matthew Macaulay
Third XI	Dean Spokes
Fourth XI	Michael Potenza
Veteran's XI	Duncan Sanderson

## AWARD WINNERS

### Representative Achievements

Anusha Joshi	U17 Mel Jones Shield
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### Association Awards

Sam Sheehan	DVCA Barclay Shield Team of the Year (Captain) 428 runs @ 35.66
Nathan Pietsch	DVCA B Grade Bowling Average 16 wickets @ 9.81
Alex Dickson	DVCA F1 Grade Bowling Average 20 wickets @ 14.35

### Club Awards

<b>Geoff Wilson Medalist</b>	Nathan Pietsch
<b>W.P. Luby Memorial Award</b>	Michelle Smith

<b><i>BARNEY LUBY AWARD – CLUB CHAMPION</i></b>	Nick Carlton
<b>Runs Aggregate</b>	Sam Sheehan
<b>Wickets Aggregate</b>	Nick Carlton
<b>Senior Coach's Award</b>	Nick Rowe
<b>T20 Player of the Season</b>	Nick Carlton
<b>Vets Player of the Season</b>	Steven Nikolovski

## Club Champion Points

PLAYER	POINTS
Nick Carlton	167.50
Sam Sheehan	161.00
Matthew Macaulay	155.85
Tom Bourke	146.00
Matthew W. Jackson	143.78

## Senior Awards

	Batting	Bowling	Fielding	All Rounder
<b>1<sup>st</sup> XI</b>	<i>Dick Russell Trophy</i> Sam Sheehan	<i>Steve Durant Trophy</i> Nick Carlton	<i>Brian Carlton Trophy</i> Tom Bourke & Riley O'Sullivan	<i>Ron Webster Trophy</i> Nick Carlton
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> XI</b>	Matthew W. Jackson	Nathan Pietsch	Hayden Smith	Matthew Macaulay
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> XI</b>	Shyam Madan	Nicholas Spokes	Chris York	Alexander Dickson
<b>4<sup>th</sup> XI</b>	Geoff Wilson	-	James Young	Geoff Wilson

## Junior Awards

<b>U18</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Coach's Award</b>
	Leo Dench	Thomas Bourke	Idhant Yarlalagadda	Sam Rackley
<b>U16</b>	<b>Coach's Award</b>	<b>Most Improved</b>	<b>Most Improved</b>	
	Kevin Matthew	Ryan Bourke	Harry Eagleson-Brash	

## Senior Milestones

Geoff Wilson	500 Games	Geoff Wilson	13000 Runs
Nick Carlton	250 Games	Sam Sheehan	4000 Runs
Oliver Toussaint	150 Games	Dalton Marsh	2500 Runs
Pat Bourke	100 Games	Nick Horsford	2500 Runs
Mitchell Crispe	100 Games	Matthew Macaulay	2000 Runs
Max Balcombe	100 Games	Scott Shelton	1500 Runs
		Riley O'Sullivan	1000 Runs
Nick Carlton	250 Wickets	Thomas Bourke	1000 Runs
Oliver Toussaint	200 Wickets	Matthew R Jackson	500 Runs
Matthew W Jackson	150 Wickets	Ekansh Rao	500 Runs
Patrick Bourke	100 Wickets	Nathan Pietsch	500 Runs



## Juniors

<b>100 or more runs in a season</b>		<b>10 or more wickets in a season</b>	
Leo Dench	249 Runs	Noah Dench	11 Wickets
Idhant Yarlaga	234 Runs		
Tom Bourke	220 Runs	<b>50 or more runs in an innings</b>	
Shyam Madan	178 Runs	Leo Dench	100* (U18 Blue)
Nathan Ball	120 Runs	Shyam Madan	53* (U16 Red)
Krish Shetty	119 Runs	Leo Dench	53* (U18 Blue)
Marcus Jones	114 Runs	Tom Bourke	52* (U18 Blue)
		Idhant Yarlaga	51* (U18 Blue)
		Idhant Yarlaga	51* (U18 Blue)
		Nathan Ball	50* (U18 Blue)
		Krish Shetty	50* (U16 Red)
		Tom Bourke	50* (U18 Blue)

## **RECOGNITION OF OUR UNDER 25 YEAR OLD PLAYERS**

Once again 'the Phantom' recognised senior players under 25 years of age across all Grades by donating financial benefits based upon players making in excess of 40 runs per innings and taking more than 3 wickets per innings. Sponsorship was based at \$1 per run and \$10 per wicket achieved over these levels. The following achievements are recognised, and the sponsorship graciously acknowledged.



<b>Player</b>	<b>Total Player \$</b>
Alex Dickson	\$50
Shyam Madan	\$34
Jonathan Potenza	\$30
Nick Spokes	\$30
Brett Smith	\$20
Pat Bourke	\$20
Max Balcombe	\$18
Riley O'Sullivan	\$14
Harley Jackson	\$11
Aayat Khanna	\$10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$237</b>

Congratulations to all players under 25 that contributed on field through their efforts and raised \$237. Special thanks to 'the Phantom' for his/her wonderful gesture and contribution to the club

## **CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS' REPORT**

In recent years, the role of chairman of selectors has been split role. This was once again the case for the 2022-23 season with Chris Milne and myself looking after the 1s and 2s while Duncan Sanderson and Mick Potenza looked after the 3s and 4s. Despite the odd grievance, the process worked quite well and we always worked together with the clubs best interests in mind.

Overall, it was a very pleasing season for the club with all four senior sides playing finals and the club being successful in winning its first Barclay Shield Premiership. A fantastic effort by all involved, particularly the players who represented the club in the finals campaign. As a supporter, it was great to see the enjoyment and level of commitment shown throughout the season by all involved, and it was no surprise that this translated into some great individual and team performances.

The continued growth of young players was a highlight, and we hope this trend continues for many years to come. This progression and development shown by our home-grown players has us as the envy of the competition with 9 of the 11 who played in our Barclay Shield Premiership being Rosanna Juniors. A statistic that all involved should be very proud of.

A big thank you to our coach Chris Milne who I believe has just signed on for another 10 years. Chris was a fantastic addition to the club, and it showed that with a different set of eyes, a fresh outlook, and a few tweaks we were not far away. Good Luck to Chris and his team again for the coming season.

Well done to the captains for their commitment and thank you for your support throughout the season. Selection wasn't always easy, but we were always able to work together to ensure appropriate solutions were sought to ensure the club was well represented for the weekend.

Thanks to Mick and Duncan who did a fantastic job organising the 3s and 4s. The teams were often thrown into disarray very late in the piece due to movement in the higher grades however they always approached things positively and ensured we were putting our best foot forward on the weekend.

Finally, a thank you to the committee and in particular our executive for all their support throughout the season. As a Rosanna man, it is comforting to see the club in such great hands and particularly some excellent young men on the executive coming through to show the way for the future.

Well done to all on an outstanding season for the club and looking forward to many more.

**Houssam Almatrah**  
**Chairman of Selectors**

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## **CLUB COACH'S REPORT**

What an incredible season it was for the Club. To go through a season and have all senior teams including our T20 squad make it through to the finals was a fantastic achievement and great reflection on all the hard work and investment throughout the season.

Congratulations to our Vets team. To remain undefeated during the season and to go on and win a grand final by 9 wickets on our home deck was an outstanding achievement and a great result for the Club. To the 11 players that created Club history by becoming Rosanna's first Barclay Shield Premiership Team; congratulations on an extraordinary season. It was such a privilege observing the growth and talent on display each week.

Thinking back to July last year at our season launch, our journey began by highlighting a few desired outcomes:

- We wanted to win Premierships (the obvious goal), we wanted to see players make senior 100's. This was highlighted by Sam's 1<sup>st</sup> XI hundred against MacLeod and then Matty's massive 150+ against Banyule (although not a hundred, Horse's 64 in the grand final was outstanding).
- We wanted to see players dominated with the ball. Across the grades we viewed some outstanding performances, none better than our 1<sup>st</sup> XI restricting Epping to just 78 runs in the grand final (although Jacko's demolition of Lalor in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI was very special).
- We wanted to see Rosanna players represent at the league awards night. There is no greater sign of respect and recognition than to be named captain of the division 1 team of the year. A fantastic achievement from our Club captain (Sam Sheehan). Well done to both Nathan Pietsch and Alex Dickson on claiming league bowling averages.
- We wanted to see continued growth and development from our younger players. So many of them made great contributions throughout the year across all grades, and I feel there are more exciting times to come.

So, I guess the question we need to answer in preparation for next season is; how did we achieve all this? There are many contributing factors to consider, however there is one key underlining component in achieving success. The idea that within a sporting Club environment, there are many important roles to play and there needs to be many great people willing to fulfil them.

It starts with the playing group and their commitment to continuously work on their craft, to challenge themselves and to be determined to represent Rosanna Cricket Club to the best of their abilities. I thank all the playing group for their efforts during the season.

Success requires individuals to step up and lead as captains. It requires these people to be selfless, show composure and continuously demonstrate outstanding leadership regardless of the situation. Thank you to all the captains across the grades, you all did an outstanding job.

Success needs dedicated people to commit to important support roles such as scoring, thank you Princey, Chairman of Selectors, thank you Huss on a great job. Training and Net coordinators – thank you to Gus, Mick, Dunks, Sam, Huss, Geoff, and Horse for all your help throughout the year.

Success relies on a group of incredible people who serve on the committee. These individuals do so much behind the scenes which more often than not goes unacknowledged. Thank you to Mick, Gary, Olly, Horse, Swanny, Schotty, Aayat, John, Allen, and Maxy. Apologies to anyone who I may have missed.

I would also like to acknowledge all past players, coaches (both Senior and Junior), committee members, Club volunteers, supporters, life members and Club legends who have all contributed and had a significant influence on the current playing group. Premierships are never won in a season; they take years of hard work and dedication from a number of great people; thank you to all who have been involved over the years.

Finally, this season's success means that as a Club we deserve to acknowledge ourselves as the best Cricket Club in the Diamond Valley. We have warranted the right to celebrate and enjoy the taste of our own bathwater, however, at some stage during pre-season our attention will turn to the task at hand, and we will get back to business. Winning a premiership is hard work, defending them is a much greater challenge, a challenge that I'm positive we are all up for.

**Chris Milne**  
**Club Coach**

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## 1<sup>st</sup> XI CAPTAIN'S REPORT

We entered the 2022/23 season with plenty of unknowns but with a level of optimism that if we maximised our individual strengths and stuck to our brand, results would follow.

And, that's exactly what happened, with the 1st and 2nd XI teams being undefeated for the first three months of the season in all formats - one dayers, two dayers and T20 cricket. A stunning effort and a credit to the group, noting the key driver of the early success was creating an environment that was fun and not taking ourselves or the game too seriously - a recipe that was critical in the months that followed.

The first part of the season leading into Christmas was filled with wash outs - I think four Saturdays on the trot were washed out, but we went to Christmas undefeated at 5-0. Obviously a perfect start and setup post-Christmas.

The best win throughout this period was quite difficult to land on, as a lot of these wins were in tightly contested affairs, but the one that stands out was the run chase against North Eltham, mowing down their 202 with Aayat hitting the winning runs via a boundary in the 82nd over. We sung the song post game like we'd won the flag! It was a special win.

We returned post-Christmas and the wins continued and most importantly, winning became a habit.

Heidelberg first up was another super win, getting the result against the odds. The Burgers ended up needing five off the last over, with their number 9 skying one to deep mid wicket where Dalts made no mistake. We could sense something special was building as everything we touched turned to gold.

Our first taste of defeat in any format came on 11 Feb against Epping. I must acknowledge this achievement which I put down to competitiveness and a great will to win. These two traits are critical for any sporting team wanting success.

The season did seem to disappear in the blink of an eye as it always does, finishing the H&A season having lost only two games, finishing 2nd on the ladder and earning a home final. A terrific effort which resulted in a great opportunity for our group in the weeks that followed.

We went into the finals series with a philosophy of embracing the opportunity and to play without a fear of failure. I know it sounds simple, but far too often do we see teams put too much pressure on themselves and play introverted cricket, which ultimately result in their demise.

Diamond Creek in the semi was a special game, as we love playing against this team, respect them and we were as determined as ever to get the result, noting we've fallen short against them in finals many times before.

Winning by 9 wickets was as convincing as it gets, chasing 129 in 41 overs. We were now as ready as we've ever been to play in a Grand Final, having developed strong habits as a team that consistently delivered results.

I doubt many other Clubs would have expected Rosanna to battle it out for the title, but here we were, up against the minor premier, Epping, who we'd lost to convincingly only weeks earlier.

The toss was crucial and thankfully, like on many occasions in the season, the coin fell our way and we elected to bat.

We posted 173 from our 80 overs, with Horse posting a career performance, making 64. It was an innings of great discipline, skill, self-awareness and a team first attitude, scraping every run together to get us to a competitive total.

A special mention to Rizz O'Sullivan as well, who waited in his pads for hours to be unleashed into the action. Rizz' 46 off nearly as many balls was equally as important as Horse's knock, playing with that confidence we've been craving from batsman and not having any fear of failure.

Turning up on day 2, we knew we had enough runs if we bowled as we had all year. And that we did.

After a fast start from the Pingers, putting 30 on the board for no loss in 10 overs, it was Nick Rowe, as he'd done all season, who turned the tide. Rowe is everyone's favourite teammate. He works tirelessly on his game, doesn't seek recognition at any stage, is a competitor and loves winning. Rowe started the rut for the opposition, dismissing their captain, caught behind. A key wicket.

From this point, the game shifted drastically, with Shelts, Rowe and Aayat in particular putting a stop to the scoreboard, except in the wickets column.

Epping proceeded from 0/30 in 10 overs to 5/46, with Olly's direct hit run out being one of many season highlights. At that point, we knew the title was ours.

We finished the game by taking 5/32, and dismissing Epping for 78 in 62 overs. Staggering really.

The Premiership was ours - our first in Barclay Shield.

Aayat's individual performance also must be mentioned, with figures of 2/4 off 16 overs, including 14 maidens. A remarkable effort and was a key player for us all season.

I thought I'd finish with a dot point or two on our premiership XI.

- Horse - career best season. Maturing player and leader. Great team man.
- Dalts - developing player whose best is to come in A grade. Great set of hands in the field.
- Doc - heart and soul. Club man. Talented. Consistent. Competitor.
- Rizz - live wire! Point of difference with the bat. Best fielder.
- Pat - emerging batsman. Talented bowler. Huge year and was enormous under pressure in the big games.
- Tommy - outstanding first year. No fuss. Mature for his age. Nothing phases him with bat or with the gloves.
- Aayat - no one can hit him off the square. Variety. Accuracy.
- Shelts - aggressive. Leader with the ball. Competes hard and is as desperate to win as anyone. Whacks em too!
- Rowe - ultimate team man. Hardest worker. No fuss. Excellent fielder.
- Olly - accurate. Craft. Selfless. Young leader.

Finally, I want to thank a few more people.

Mark Prince - thank you for all your work again. We love having you in our group and we value you enormously. I'm glad we delivered you a premiership!

Chris Milne - a huge thanks for all your work from when our journey begun at the start of preseason in July, and right up to that last ball of the GF in late March. You've fitted in our club wonderfully well and on behalf of the playing group I thank you for your commitment and hard work.

Garry Carlton, Pete Waddingham, John McKenzie, Alan Bell, John Raywood - thank you for your weekly support, coming to watch all our games!

The committee - thanks again for your support and charging me with the responsibility to lead this group. I feel great support from the committee week in week out, so we can focus on winning games of cricket for this great club.

Well done again to everyone in the perfect year and I look forward to the premiership defence next year.

**Sam Sheehan**  
**First XI Captain**

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> XI CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Overall 2022/23 was another successful year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> on the ladder and featuring in a finals series, however like last season we fell short in the biggest game of the year. The season saw some great wins, forgettable losses, some great individual performances and the continued development of up-and-coming juniors which is a significant positive for the club.

Firstly I'd like to thank the executive for their support this year, in both on and off field matters. We are very fortunate as a cricket club to have such a supportive and hard-working executive, and without them our successes on and off the field would not be possible. Also I would like to thank the coach Chris for his support throughout the year, and I'd like to congratulate him on an amazing first season at the club. I'd also like to give special thanks to Huss Almatrah, who was able to find time to be a sounding board and provide help and guidance despite his new commitments to fatherhood. And lastly I'd also like to thank the senior players in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI who have supported me on and off the field this season, I couldn't do this job without you.

The season began with excessive rain and no cricket played for the first four rounds. The next four rounds saw three tight wins against Diamond Creek, North Eltham and especially Riverside which could have gone either way and put us in great position at 4-0 leading into the Christmas break. Notable performances pre-Christmas include 68 from Steve Ryan against Lalor taking us from 4/50 to a competitive score, and then in the same game Matt W. Jackson taking 6 wickets to secure the win. In the 1 wicket win over Riverside Jackson Wolczko showed us way he has been so sorely missed taking 3/9 off 7 overs haven't not bowled a ball in years to restrict them to a mediocre total, and Lachy McGregors confidence to back his skills to score the remaining runs in the final over.

Post Christmas had mixed results, firstly with a bad loss to Heidelberg followed by the team amassing 326 with significant contributions from multiple players against Banyule resulting in a 152 run win. Next round Nathan Pietsch and Matt W. Jackson put on a batting clinic turning 3/6 into 3/115 to again defeat Lalor, this time by 7 wickets. Round 12 saw another disappointing loss to eventual premiers Epping, and to continue the ups and downs post-Christmas round 13 saw an outright victory against Bundoora United. Notable contributions were Nathan Pietsch taking 8 wickets for the match and Mohamed Ali hitting a rapid 53 to give us a significant first innings lead in quick time. The final round had us loose to runners up Diamond Creek, in a game where we were well placed to chase down their total until a batting collapse saw us lose 7/25 to fall 37 runs short.

Finishing second we secured a home final against Epping at Greensborough College and felt we were a strong chance to win the game. Unfortunately another batting collapse made scoring difficult and we were only able to muster 118. Early wickets at the end of day one left us feeling like we were still a chance however a lack of scoreboard pressure and a few chances not going our way meant day 2 drifted away without much fuss. The only shining light in the game was a run-a-ball 55 from Mohamed Ali.

2022/23 saw a number of junior cricketers featuring. Idhant Yarlagadda had his most consistent run in the top order this season and although he did not post a significant score this year he continues to grow as a batter and I know that a break away innings is not far away in 2023/24. Jacob Janezic also played several games and continues to show growth and promise. And lastly Shyam Madam debuted late in the season showing great promise and was rewarded with selection in the semi-final. I feel a great sense of responsibility captaining, mentoring and preparing these players for the challenges of senior cricket and I hope I served them well this season.

In summary, 2022/23 was again another successful season that unfortunately saw us again fall short in the finals. The ongoing success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI means that there are several players who are highly skilled and ready to step up and perform at the highest level for our club when required, as well exposing our leading juniors to a standard of cricket that continues to support their development. I hope that I again have the opportunity to captain the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI next season to continue to support and help grow our up and coming cricketers and to push for that elusive premiership that has evaded us the last 2 seasons.

**Matthew Macaulay**  
**Second XI Captain**

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> XI CAPTAIN'S REPORT

As I reflect on my second year as captain I'm reminded of the raw emotion of our game. The joy and excitement of victory and the immense pain of defeat particular at the end of the year. On paper it was an excellent season for the thirds cricket team, improving on last season's performance and making it to the grand final but unfortunately not quite getting the result we all wanted. The team itself had improved significantly with players like Alex Dickson, Nick Spokes and Ekansh Rao having very strong years combining with some good contributions lead to many close and important victories.

While this season had many challenges the level of improvement from the playing group was significant. In previous years we were a middle of the ladder team with an inconsistent list of players sometime barley even getting a team together to a being the team to beat going into finals. While there's no doubt the early season success of the high grades improved the availabilities and forced down, out of form players I would say the greatest strength was the improvement by players such as Max Balcombe and Jono Potenza who in the past had been in and out of the side. This coupled with some very strong season from Dicko taking 29 wickets at an average of 12 and Nick taking 16 wickets at an average 9 meant it was always tough playing us.

Throughout the year there where many incredible performances both individually and as a team. The most notable was in the semi-final playing against Heidelberg where Dicko just ripped through the opposition like a hot knife through butter. No one will forget his hatrick that day especially if you played for Heidelberg. He finished with 6/24 as we rolled them for 83. Another that springs to mind is Sharm's 4/16 against Lower Plenty in one of the controversial games I can remember. Many of our strong individual performances where with the ball as that was our strength but with the bat Ekansh's 53 and Maxy B's 58 against Riverside where very memorable.

It was a tremendous effort to get ourselves into the Grand Final but unfortunately it just wasn't meant to be. While I don't think we played our best cricket that weekend I am proud of our effort and how the team dealt with the result. The game itself was in the balance throughout the weekend, we probably taking the lead early with some quick wickets but they gradually fought their way back into the match. I thought that the bowlers bowled well and our fielding wasn't bad but through a combination of good batting with a buit of luck they ended the first day with a score of 164. Unfortunately for us it was just to much as we fell short of glory. Only losing by 14 runs was a real kick in the guts but it is what it is. Some notable mentions where Nick with 5/37 and Dicko with 4/40 with the ball and Harley 35 with the bat.

Finally I would like to thank many people for the help I received this season especially Mick Potenza and Duncan Sanderson for helping me select the teams. Aside from that there where a whole host of people at the club I would seek for advice and had many conversations with guys like Huss and Geoff that had improved my thinking of the game and made me a better captain. I thank everyone for their support and I'm looking forward to another good season.

**Dean Spokes**  
**Third XI Captain**

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## 4<sup>th</sup> XI CAPTAIN'S REPORT

A season that took forever to kick off due to inclement weather and under prepared grounds ended in an unexpected semi-final appearance.

Plenty of juniors had their first taste of senior cricket. Ryan Bourke, James Black, Angus Gillies, James Young and Harry Eagleson-Brash all showed promise and will hopefully go on to play plenty of cricket for Rosanna.

Some of the major highlights of the season were Geoff Wilson's 500th game, Haedar Almatrah taking 5 wickets and making a century in the same game and an important one-day victory against Diamond Creek who would go on to become our conqueror in the semi-final.

Max Stacy and James Young were consistent performers with the ball and excelled in the field. Geoff Wilson and Jonathan Potenza were the biggest contributors with the bat. Ryan Bourke threw himself into the wicketkeeping duties and performed admirably. Andrew Williams was a mainstay of the side and chipped in with both bat and the ball.

I didn't expect to be captaining again this season but would like to thank the club and executive for once again giving me the opportunity to play with both of my sons, Antonio and Jonathan. We even managed to squeeze in a game with my nephew, Anthony, which gave us four Potenzas on the field.

Massive thanks also to Oliver Toussaint for all of his help in sorting out DVCA issues during the season. Andrew Logan did a great job running training sessions every Thursday night and Dean Spokes and I were able to work together closely to select our Third and Fourth elevens each week.

Congratulations to Dean Spokes on captaining the Third Eleven to a Grand Final against Lower Plenty. So close but yet so far. It was a privilege to have played a number of games with club legend, Geoff Wilson, this season.

To Huss, Mick Langford and Gary Bryant, I am so appreciative of the support and friendship you have afforded my family and I over many years. The work you guys continue to put in around the club is amazing. Always respect for you.

Finally, a huge thanks to all of the players who took the field in the Fourths this year and those I have played with previously. I enjoyed your company and appreciated your efforts. I wish the entire RCC community all the best for the future.

**Michael Potenza**  
**Fourth XI Captain**

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## VETERAN'S REPORT

After a few very lean seasons behind us, the Vets kicked off the 2022/2023 with a nice win over Research Eltham Collegians at DeWinton. With wicket taking a problem in previous seasons we bowled the opposition out for 124 and chased down the runs for the loss of one wicket. With the Wildthing returning after a year off and taking ridiculous one-handed blinders in the field and our recruit Youngy jaggig 3 wickets, the feeling was perhaps we would be in for a more enjoyable season on the park.

With the dread Covid behind us and solid win in round one, we thought what could go wrong. Well in Round 2 we had a forfeit followed by a bye in round 3 and another forfeit in round 4. So here we are sitting on top of the ladder after round 4 thinking easy game this, but we'd much prefer to be playing cricket!

Sanity finally returned for the rest of the season, and we enjoyed playing some more cricket in round 5. The lack of cricket showed as we slumped to 5/50 before Springer, Youngy and Bully came to the rescue with the later clubbing a 6 off the final ball of the innings to set a good target of 8/163. With our second recruit, Lamb Shanks finally getting to debut for the club, the bowling unit turned up the heat and bowled so well to have them out for 119. With Springer almost taking a hat trick and a couple of catches to go with his 41no, I think he was last seen drinking beers and signing autographs. The only downside was this was Hendo's last game of the season before heading off to Norfolk Island to play in the NPL.

Vets is far more than just cricket; we are a great family within the club and getting a big group together at Leeky's place before Xmas for a BBQ is what we are about and why we really enjoy playing cricket together.

With another great win in round 6, and the reality we would be playing finals, attention soon turned to qualifying as many players as possible. Round 7 was a testing and competitive hit out in the eve of the finals. We made a solid 4/168 with Niko and Bully batting well and each retiring on 40. ERC chased well and needed 5.1 runs an over off the last 14 overs. The bowling unit delivered again with Youngy, Springer and Chainsaw restricting them to 6/148. This left us undefeated and gave us confidence going into the GF.

GF day arrived with magnificent weather and a tremendous club turn out at DeWinton to cheer us on, which was greatly appreciated. The bowling and fielding set the standard for the whole game, and it was Vivek who got the side rolling when he cleaned bowled their opening batter with the second ball of the match with an absolute peach! Panton Hills were in serious trouble at 4/44 after 18 overs and finally limped to 6/130 with all the bowlers making great contributions. The run chase started favourably with PH putting down a few catches. Perhaps a good sign it would be our day. Niko put on a batting clinic with a well-made 40 retired at close to a run a ball. Leeky and Dunks saw off some tight bowling and lifted the scoring rate and got the job done with Leeky retiring at 40 off 57 balls and Dunks 31 not out off 41 balls while Bully came in to hit the winning runs and was 3 not out. In the end we finished at 1/132 inside 28 overs to enjoy a comfortable win. It goes without saying, we had a great night celebrating the win!

It's also very fitting to thank all 18 players who played vets during the season as they all played an important part in our GF winning season. It was also really pleasing to see Gazza and Bully win their first premierships after playing a lot of cricket for the club, along with Duck who has been with us for

3 years and Shanks and Youngy, who played their first games for the club this year and were a huge part of our success.

While we had great contributions from all players at different times throughout the season, we had two players who really enjoyed a consistent season and deserved their standing in the MVP awards. The winner was Niko with 135 runs at 135 and 5 wickets at 12.2 and a catch. Youngy finished 2nd after being our best bowler all season taking 9 wickets at 11.7 along with making 39 runs at 19.5, and 2 catches. Springer finished 3rd with 65 runs at 65 along with 3 wickets at 20.7 and 4 catches. A special mention to Lamb shanks who took 5 wickets at 5.0 who always came on and killed the opposition run rate with his fast hooping in swingers.

The season finished in customary fashion with the end of season trip up to Merrijig. Thanks again to Dan for hosting the boys. We certainly had a brilliant long weekend of golf, drinking, punting, local footy along with late nights around the fire.

Thanks all for a fantastic season and look forward to doing it all again next year.

**Duncan Sanderson**  
**Vets Captain**

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## UNDER 18 COACH'S REPORT

Season 22/23 saw a successful return for our under 18's team, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> position with a record of 5 wins and 4 losses, ultimately leading to yet another finals appearance. We welcomed many former under 16's and fresh faces into our line-up this season, who fitted seamlessly into our group of unique individuals, who again managed to maintain an effortless balance of fun and success.

Unfortunately, we fell short in an agonisingly close run chase against Thomastown United in the Semi Finals, however that took nothing away from the highlight packed season that was. Most notably, an outstanding team effort in round 8 that saw us hand eventual premiers Epping their only defeat for the season.

Furthermore, I would like to congratulate our standout performers for the season. Leo Dench led from the front scoring 249 runs @35.57, including a memorable 100\* against North Eltham, whilst also taking 7 wickets @15.43. Idhant Yarlagadda and Thomas Bourke were also reliable with the bat, scoring 234 and 220 runs respectively. Moreover, Jacob Janezic took his opportunities with the ball, taking an impressive 14 wickets @14.64.

An unfortunate part of coaching this age group is saying goodbye to many leaving our junior program. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank these players for their commitment and contribution, whilst encourage them to continue to develop their craft at the senior level.

Lastly, an extended thankyou to everyone that helped out during the season, in particular Riley O'Sullivan and Andrew Wolczko for their ongoing efforts.

**Patrick Bourke**  
**Under 18's Coach**

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## **UNDER 16 COACH'S REPORT**

Just like the previous two seasons, we started late due to terrible weather in October and played mainly T20 games, with only two 2-day games, one of which was heated out on the second day. No players from the previous season were eligible to play, meaning that the whole group was playing their first season in Under 16s, including four players who were still eligible for Under 14s. Given we had such a young group and limited numbers (starting the season with 10 players), we nominated for the lowest Under 16 White Grade.

We finally got to play in late October, winning the first two grading games against Heidelberg and Montmorency, but losing the third to Laurimar (who had dropped down from the grade above) with all games showing the frailty of our batting, but with a very competitive bowling line-up. The Montmorency game was quite remarkable. On a very slow and soft ground, we were bowled out for only 52, which didn't seem like anywhere near enough, especially when Montmorency were 2/38 off 10 overs. However, in a remarkable 7.3 overs, Montmorency lost 8/11, with Abishua Jacob in only his second game of cricket getting 5/5 off 4 overs and Jai Lundberg taking a great catch, very similar to one he took in the first game against Heidelberg to dismiss former player Noah Dench.

Much to our dismay, we were promoted to the Under 16 Red Grade after 3 games (along with 3 other teams), which was far more challenging, playing against much older and physically mature players. We were soundly beaten by Lalor (the eventual premiers) in Round 4 in a 2-day game, making only 48 off 28 overs batting first, with Lalor making 181 off 52 overs (they were 5/18 at one stage having reversed the batting order). The following game we were trashed by Lower Eltham, against much older and physically mature players.

It was pretty clear that we were well out of depth playing in the higher grade and, despite asking the DVCA to review the decision to re-grade the team, we had no joy at all. The DVCA wasn't even prepared to look at the situation and our request was summarily denied. This meant that we had to dial back our expectations and re-set our goals for season, as it was pretty clear we would struggle to be particularly competitive against the 4 teams which had remained in the grade after the re-grading. Thus, our hope was to be competitive against the teams that were re-graded with us and to focus on improving for next season, when we should have plenty of top-age players and a lot more experience for those new to the game.

As it happened, we ended up showing more improvement than we expected (though the batting was still very fragile) and were able to beat one of the better teams Greensborough, after a great unbeaten partnership of 55 between Ryan Bourke and Harry Eagleson-Brash took the team from 5/47 to 5/102, scoring 14 in the last over to win the match (chasing 93). Both made their highest scores ever in the partnership.

With only 3 games after Christmas, all against the teams who had been re-graded from White, we were very hopeful of being able to get a win or two to avoid the wooden spoon. We played Banyule after

Christmas and had yet another extraordinary game. We were bowled out for 73 (one of the highlights was Simon Abebe scoring his first runs for the club) and Banyule (who eventually finished third) were cruising at 2/51 before a magnificent bowling spell by Harry who got 6/7 off 4 overs, including a hat-trick, ably supported by Antonio Potenza dismissing their top scorer, changed the game. Within a handful of overs, we had Banyule reeling at 9/62, but a smart last wicket partnership, with players a lot better than the normal number 10 and 11 batsmen, got them over the line.

Against Riverside (the eventual runners-up) in a 2-day game, we bowled them out for 118 (with skipper Shyam Madan getting 5/7) and we were 1/14 overnight. Unfortunately, the DVCA called off the second day too early due to heat, with a cool change coming through at around 4.30. The game was delicately poised and hence a huge disappointment when we didn't play.

In the final game of the season, we played Heidelberg for the second time, with the winner avoiding the wooden spoon. We completely dominated the game, with the team leaders both stepping to make half centuries (captain Shyam scoring 53 retired and vice-captain Krish Shetty scoring 50 retired) meaning that we set a total of 3/161, which proved to be far too much for Heidelberg.

While the final ladder position (7<sup>th</sup> out of 8 teams) wasn't overly flattering, we can take a lot of positives out of the season:

- Our bowling stood up very well in most games and should only get better in the future, particularly if we can pick up some likely recruits.
- While we struggled to bat out our overs, except for the last game, there's enough there to suggest that we'll improve on this season, especially if we can play more 2-day cricket, to which we are probably better suited.
- The fielding improved as the season progressed, with James Black, Kevin Mathew and Harry being the standouts. Ryan took on the keeping duties and did a good job for someone still learning the caper.
- A number of players made their senior cricket debut for the club, namely James, Harry, Ryan and Angus Gillies, with Krish playing a few games as well and Shyam playing in the 2nds (including the semi final) and 3rds (including the grand final).
- We welcomed Haydon Swetnam and Abishua Jacob as new players to the club, hopefully with a few more for next season to bolster our numbers.

As always, there are plenty of people to thank for their efforts during the season including:

- My assistant, Eamon Bourke, who has done and continues to do a great job with our juniors, playing a vital role both at training and on matchday.
- Lisa Gillies, who took on the role of Team Manager and was a great support organising matters off the field.
- All the parents/family members who came to watch and helped out during the season especially with electronic scoring. Their support is incredibly important to make the team run as well as it does. Knowing that there is help is available as and when needed is vital.

Finally, to all the players, thanks for all your support. I hope the season was enjoyable, despite the lack of success, and we can build on our base for next season to be much more fruitful.

**Geoff Wilson**  
**Under 16's Coach**

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## JUNIOR BLASTERS REPORT

We had 23 junior blasters sign up this year, 6 of which were rolled over from the previous year. We also had 2 extra join us for the last 2 sessions of the season. There was one girl and 22 boys, within the age range of 5-11 there was a mixture of abilities and experience. For the first part of the year sessions ran for an hour with Steve Austin running the sessions with help from James Bull.

Unfortunately Steve was injured for the second part of the season and so sessions were run by James with the parents helping.

The sessions comprised of warmup games and then practicing basic bowling and batting skills. For the bowling and batting drills the group was divided into two smaller groups allowing for more individual coaching. The Blasters showed great improvement with their skills, and we were able to progress the drills quickly. After Christmas we split the group into two, an older and younger group. Both groups were introduced to an adapted game of paired cricket.

Looking ahead to next year, there is potential to join an under 10's league if we can maintain the numbers we had this year.

**James Bull**  
**Junior Blasters Coach**

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