

ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB

“ CELEBRATING 100 YEARS”

Presentation to Heidelberg Historical Society

9th December 2025



Thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to present to your Members tonight ...

In many respects, the Club is analogous to the history of the 'District of Heidelberg'

In the last 100 years, we have:

- Moved from “rural” to “suburbia”
- Seen significant “demographic” and “social” change
- Seen businesses and sporting Clubs thrive and wither

Through sheer hard work and generations of great leadership, the Rosanna Cricket Club has survived those 100 years

It is an incredibly proud of the contribution that it has made to the local sporting community as evidenced by the fact that since 1925:

- 1,500 players have represented the Club at the senior level
- Similar number having played in our junior sides since 1960



Our Ethos

- To play hard, but fairly
- To respect the 'Laws of the Game' and be respected by the opposition
- To be part of a cricketing family and, of course, to win premierships!



Era 1925 to 1949

The Club was formed on the 12th August 1925

First President, local Dentist, Dr John Mills

Season 1925-26

- First season in the Heidelberg District Cricket Association (HDCA)
- Competing Clubs were Alphington, Fairfield, Fairfield Diggers, Fairfield Footballers, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, North Ivanhoe and Rosanna
- Home Ground Heidelberg Park (Warringal Parklands)

Season 1927-28

- Club moved to Rosanna Reserve – renamed De Winton Park in 1930

Season 1932-33. 2nd X1 side entered



Season 1939-40. The Club Won its first Premiership (1st X1)

ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB **Premiers 1939-40.**



Standing—W. H. BOND (Pres.), R. McCOLL, W. P. LUBY, D. E. PRITCHARD, E. N. ENGLISH, A. R. GRAHAM (Scorer).

Seated—D. J. PRITCHARD, R. B. STONE (V. Capt.), ALLAN GRAHAM (Capt.), J. MAXFIELD (Sec.), R. R. RUSSELL.

In Front—R. HALL, D. HAYDON. Inset—W. E. COOMBE

H. PULLAN COOKE Studios

World War 2:

- 1941-42. Only 1st X1 entered for competition
- Competition was suspended for 3 seasons between 1942 and 1945
- Reformed for Season 1945-46; Only one Grade of competition
- Season 1946-47. 2nd X1 entered

1947-48. The 1st X1 won its second 1st Grade premiership

1948. Life Membership Awards Introduced



Era 1950 to 1974

Golden Era

- Post WW2, Rosanna experienced a significant growth in population with many new families moving into the area
- An additional three senior X1's were progressively introduced between 1961 and 1970 to cater for increased player numbers
- Season 1960-61. HDCA establishes a Junior Grade competition for players Under 16 years of age. The competition was expanded in Season 1971-72 to include an Under 14 grade



- Off the field, the Club was led by several outstanding administrators. Three standouts were:
 - Bill Luby. President from 1959-60 to 1969-70
 - Brian Carlton. Club Secretary from 1954-55 to 1963-64
 - Barney Luby. Social Secretary extraordinaire for 35 years
 - All three gentlemen left an indelible mark on how a community sporting Club should be run!
- On the field, the Club enjoyed extraordinary success. It finished the era having won 25 Senior and 6 Junior Grade premierships:
 - 1st X1 Won 11 Premierships; Runners Up 7 times
 - **1st X1 Played in 11 consecutive Grand Finals between 1954-55 & 1964-65 (Won 6, Lost 5)**
 - 2nd X1 Won 8 Premierships; Runners Up 3 times
 - 3rd X1 & 4th X1's both won 3 Premierships



- Other highlights:

- Season 1961-62. Triple Premiership. 1st X1, 2nd X1 & 3rd X1.

First time that this feat had been achieved in HDCA history!

- Season 1966-67. The Club won its first Junior Premiership

- Season 1969-70. The Club claims its second Triple Premiership. 1st X1, 2nd X1 & 4th X1



Era 1975 to 1999

Part 1 – Crisis Management

The early/mid 70's saw a changing of the guard. Many long-standing Club administrators and a substantial number of players from the previous era had retired.

Despite a good flow of former juniors coming through our lower X1's, our on-field success had waned. And, in the blink of an eye, the Club faced a crisis.

Prior to the commencement of the 1976-77 season, a disgruntled group of approximately 25 younger players quit the Club. The loss of so many players led to a dramatic fall in performances with 3 of our 4 Senior X1's finishing last on the ladder at seasons end.



In a further fall from grace, our 1st X1 was relegated to 2nd Grade for the 1977-78 Season. This was due to the HDCA having a relegation/promotion system in place

This meant, for the first time in 50 or so years, that the Club would not be playing in the 1st Grade in the HDCA!

Devastated, but not deterred, the Club rolled up its sleeves and re-structured its operations with a single focus of re-claiming its mantle as the “Premier Club” in the HDCA



Actions taken included:

- Modernising its administrative structure with the adoption of a new Constitution and a streamlined Committee
- Appointment of a senior Coach
- Devoting more resources to our Junior program

Results were immediate:

- Our 1st X1 won the 2nd Grade premiership - thereby being reinstated to the HDCA's 1st Grade competition for Season 1978-79
- Our Under 16 side was also victorious winning our 7th premiership at that level of competition.



Era 1975 to 1999

Part 2 – Challenges with our Junior Program

By the early 80's, our Junior program had become the “lifeblood” of the Club.

**** The program was critical to providing the next wave of senior players and future leaders. Without it, the Club would not continue to develop and remain successful ****

Whilst the Club thought it had a good ‘handle’ on this issue, things turned pear-shaped quickly. Between Seasons 1989 and 1992 the Club was unable to field any Junior sides



The crux of the issue was two-fold:

- Not having enough parents and senior players to manage and coach the boys throughout the week and on match days
- Cricket was also facing challenges from other sporting codes such as Tennis, Basketball and Little Athletics

Realising how important the Juniors were to its existence, the Club embarked on a sustained recruitment drive in the local area

Thanks to the hard work of a re-invigorated Committee, several devoted parents and senior Club players, the program was re-instated with an Under 14 side being formed for Season 1992-93



Within two seasons, our numbers had increased and we had sides entered in all age Groups – Under 12, 14 and 16

Over the next 8 seasons, the boys were successful in winning 12 premierships and were runners-up 5 times

Importantly, many of this cohort went onto to become Senior Grade premiership players with some going on to hold senior Committee positions

Seven have since been elected Club Life Members with our current President, Luke Anderson, being a ‘graduate’ from the Under 14 side of 1992-23



Era 1975 to 1999

Part 3 – Honouring our Club Greats

- 1981. W P (Bill) Luby Memorial Award introduced. An annual award, it acknowledges and recognises a member who makes an “over and above” contribution to the Club during that season
- 1983. Hall of Fame introduced – acknowledging Milestones in Games played, Runs made, Wickets taken and Fielding dismissals. These records are updated annually
- 1991. Barney Luby Club Champion Award introduced. Awarded at the conclusion of each season. Recognises the player who accrues the greatest number of All-Rounder points across all Senior Grades



Season 1998-99

- 1st X1 Batting, Bowling, All-Rounder and Fielding Trophies named after Club playing greats – Dick Russell, Steve Durant, Ron Webster and Brian Carlton
- Senior Grade Aggregated Wicket Keepers Award introduced. Named after Club legend Denis Groom, the award recognises the leading wicket keeper each season based on the number of dismissals across all senior Grades

Finished the era with 13 Senior and 22 Junior Grade Premierships



Era 2000 to 2024

Another era of challenges ...

The Club joins the Diamond Valley Cricket Association

Celebrate our 100th Birthday

2001

- Banyule Council approved funding of \$450,000 to demolish and rebuild the De Winton Park Pavillion and refurbish the adjoining social rooms. The Club and its co-tenants (Macleod Rosanna Football Club) contributed over \$50,000 to the project
- Concerns raised about the viability and long-term future of the HDCA



Season 2002-03

De Winton Park unavailable due to above building works. 1st & 2nd X1 relocated to Elder Street Reserve (Watsonia).

Impacts finances and social calendar

2003

- Brian Carlton and John McKenzie presented with Commonwealth Community Sports Awards by the Federal Member for Jaga Jaga, Ms Jenny Macklin MP. The Awards were presented in recognition of their long and distinguished service to the Rosanna Cricket Club and overall contribution to community sport
- Cricket Victoria establishes My Cricket Website. Electronic scoring introduced
Player statistics captured



ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB BEST EVER 1925-2003

1925 to 1950

Val Ellen
Reg Stone
Alan Graham (Capt)
Dick Russell (VC)
Bob Hall
Steve Durant
Dick Curtis
Don Pritchard
Kel Vertigan
Clyde Hodgson
Bill Luby
Dudley Pritchard (12th)

1951 to 1960

Geoff Crawford
Val Ellen
Ron Webster
Dick Russell (Capt)
Brian Carlton (VC)
Graham Goudy
Steve Durant
Darrell Burgin
Bernie Bryer
Ken Stephens
Bob Tuttleby
Ron Brasher (12th)

1961 to 1970

Alan Bell
Kevin Fahey
Ron Beel (VC)
John McKenzie
Dick Russell
Ron Webster (Capt)
Duncan Pollock
Des Flynn
Bill Lambert
John Newham
Ray Lake
Geoff Winterton (12th)

BEST EVER TEAM

Geoff Wilson
John McKenzie
Ron Beel
Dick Russell (VC)
David Jones
Ron Webster (Capt)
Steve Durant
Martin Legge
Dan Flynn
Michael Lewis
Des Flynn
Kevin Fahey (12th)

PREMIERSHIPS

1925-50: 1939-40, 1947-48
1951-60: 1950-51, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1957-58, 1959-60
1961-70: 1961-62, 1962-63, 1966-67, 1969-70
1971-80: 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78
1981-90: 1982-83, 1986-87
1991-03: 1993-94, 1996-97

1971 to 1980

Kevin Pyers (VC)
John McKenzie
Mike Beshara
Dennis Hartney
Ron Beel
Ron Webster
Martin Legge
Leigh Dudman
Duncan Pollock
Mark Luby
Des Flynn (Capt)
John Greening (12th)

1981 to 1990

Geoff Wilson
Tony Canavan
Dennis Hartney
Peter Horsford
David Jones
Mike Beshara
Gerard Sholly (VC)
Martin Legge (Capt)
Paul Fahey
Anthony Lambert
Dan Flynn
Ted Flynn (12th)

1991 to 2003

Geoff Wilson
Daniel Thorpe
Gavin Pilkington
David Jones (VC)
Chris Leech
Mark Muscat
Paul Fahey (Capt)
Dan Flynn
David Gilbert
John Raywood
Michael Lewis
Colin McDonald (12th)

2004

Announcement of our
Greatest Ever Team
along with Era
Teams



Season 2008-09

De Winton Park again unavailable due to levelling and re-sewing of the playing surface. 1st & 2nd X1 relocated to Ford Park (Bellfield). Finances are again impacted

2009

Veterans X1 for players “Over 40’s” formed. Won back-to-back premierships in its first two seasons

2011

Team of the Decade for 2001 to 2010 announced



2012

HDCA disbanded.

Rosanna makes the decision to join the Diamond Valley Cricket Association (DVCA) along with neighbouring Clubs Heidelberg and Banyule. Other local Clubs, Greensborough and Macleod, had left the HDCA a few seasons earlier

Season 2012-13

Our first season in the DVCA:

- 1st X1 won the DVCA Money Shield
- Club claimed its **third** Triple Premiership (1st X1, 2nd X1 & 4th X1)
- **First ever 3-Peat Premiership win by our 1st X1**

(Having won back-to-back 1st Grade premierships in the final two seasons of the HDCA 1st Grade competition)



Season 2012-13

Geoff Wilson Medal Award introduced. Named in honour of modern-day Club great, it is awarded each year to the “Most Valuable Player” as voted upon by the Senior X1 Captains at the conclusion of each Round

Season 2014-15

Denis Groom becomes the first player to play 500 senior games

2020 – 2022. Two major challenges:

Covid Pandemic

- Match-day and training protocols
- Revised playing conditions
- Impact on Social calendar and fund raising



(Another) redevelopment of De Winton Park .. and further disruption ...

- Over \$1M in funds provided by State Gov't and Council to upgrade the playing service and practice facilities at De Winton Park
- Pavillion - new toilets and changerooms built to ensure that they were female friendly
- Car park finally sealed!
- 1st & 2nd X1 relocated to Banyule Flats Reserve during the redevelopment
- Finances and social calendar again impacted



2022

- Life Members Alan Bell and John McKenzie, recognised by Cricket Victoria for their 50 years of service to cricket
- Team of the Decade for period 2011 to 2020 announced

Season 2022-23

- Geoff Wilson became only the second player to reach the 500 games milestone
- My Cricket portal replaced by Play Cricket
- **The Club won its first Barclay Shield - the highest level of competition in the DVCA**



Season 2024-25

- 100th Year
- Launch of 100 Not Out – a 3 Volume publication on The Centennial History of the Rosanna Cricket Club
- **Club won its 100th premiership (DVCA T20 Competition). Our 100th flag in our 100th year!**
- 1st X1 wins the Barclay Shield – its second in 3 seasons!
- Gala celebration at Heidelberg Golf Club – 160 attendees
- Upgraded Website

Finished the era with 21 Senior Grade and 12 Junior premierships.



Season 2024-25

We won our 100th Flag in our 100th year !!



1st X1 Barclay Shield Premiership Season 2024-25



The future

The Club is at an interesting stage at 100

Post Covid, there are challenges with player numbers, particularly at the Junior level

As ever, the Club will define a strategy for future success and implement it to set the foundation for the next 100 years

We cannot do otherwise

The weight of history demands nothing less!



This concludes the formal part of tonight's presentation

Before closing, I would just like to take you through a few slides from our new Website and a top-line summary of Club playing records and significant performances and achievements ...





ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB

Encouraging Cricket Participation in the Local Area

PLAY WITH US IN 2025 - 2026

Come and join a successful club in the local area. Our family friendly club is supported by excellent coaching, facilities and organisation. Players of all ages, abilities and genders are welcome.

Learn more about playing for Rosanna by clicking Find out more below or complete registration by clicking Register button below which will take you through to the Cricket Australia PlayHQ website for the following competitions (make sure to scroll down to select the relevant competition within the PlayHQ website):



ROSANNA

Encouraging Cricket Participation

[Premiership Records](#)[Hall of Fame](#)[Batting Records](#)[Bowling Records](#)[Games and Fielding Records](#)[Trophy Winners](#)

Club Records

The club has maintained numerous records on team and individual performances over its history. During last season as part of our centenary year and preparation for our "100 Not Out - The Centennial History of the Rosanna Cricket Club" publication, significant effort was undertaken to bring all our club statistical records up to date. Various key records have been placed on the website.

Premiership Records

The club has won over 100 premierships since its formation in 1925 with over 500 premiership players. Lists of all Premierships, Runner-Ups, Premiership Players and Premiership Teams are provided for all Senior, Junior and Veteran teams and an analysis of premiership player achievements.



ROSANNA CRICK

Encouraging Cricket Participation

[Honour Boards](#)

[RCC 100](#)

[Premiership Decade Tributes](#)

[Brief History](#)

[Annual Reports & Season Stats](#)

History of the Rosanna Cricket Club

The club has maintained numerous records on team and individual performances over its history. During this season as part of our centenary year and preparation of our club history publication, significant effort has been undertaken to bring all our club statistical records up to date. Various key records will be placed on the website as the season progresses.

Honour Boards

The club Honour boards display the key positions held over the club's history, the annual major awards presented to players and inducted life members.

[View](#)

Breakdown of Premierhips

<u>Era</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Total</u>
1925 to 1949	2	0	2
1950 to 1974	25	6	31
1975 to 1999	13	22	35
2000 to 2024	21	12	33
	61	40	101

Club Records and Significant Achievements

Most Number of Games Played:

Denis Groom 528

Geoff Wilson 503

400 - 499 x 2

300 - 399 x 8

Highest Career Run Scorers:

Geoff Wilson. 13,034 @ 29.16; Highest score 198 Not Out

Dick Russell. 10,474 @ 37.68; Highest Score 170

Most Centuries:

Dick Russell x 20 (all 1st X1)

Geoff Wilson & Mark Muscat x 13



Highest Score:

235. Matthew Joyce (3rd X1. Season 2002-03)

Most Runs in a Season:

Mark Muscat. 947 @ 63.13 (Season 2009-10)

Sam Sheehan. 850 @ 50.00 (Season 2024-25)

Dick Russell. 822 @ 68.50 (Season 1947-48)

Highest Partnership:

304. Marc Sidoti & Nick Gieschen; 4th Wicket
(3rd X1 Season 1997-98)



Highest Career Wicket takers:

Bill Wilson. 800 @ 10.92

Charlie Carter. 782 @ 9.59

Steve Durant. 733 @ 11.74

Most Wickets in a Season:

Wally Coombe. 73 @ 9.90 (1st X1. Season 1940-41)

Most Wickets in an Innings:

Harry Bell. 10/34 (1st X1. Season 1931-32)

Most wickets in a Match:

Harry Bell. 18/42 (1st X1. Season 1931-32)



Players who have taken a Double Hat Trick:

- Mick Lewis 6/44 (1st X1. Season 1993-94)

Players who have taken a Hat Trick in each Innings of the same Match:

- Steve Durant. 7/58 & 7/9. 1st X1. Grand Final. Season 1950-51

Fielding – Wicket Keepers – Most Dismissals:

- Denis Groom 734
- Haedar Almatrah 464
- Dan Flynn 350



Most Number of Premiership Caps:

- Nick Carlton x 12. 8 x Senior; 4 x Junior
- Steve Durant x 11. All Senior; 7 x 1st X1; 4 x 2nd X1
- Huss Almatrah x 11. 5 x Senior; 6 x Junior

Most Number of 1st X1 Premiership Caps:

- Ron Webster x 8

Club has produced three First Class players:

- Andrew Wildsmith
- Mick Lewis
- Adam Crosthwaite



Andrew Wildsmith

- An elegant left-handed batsman and more than capable bowler
- Debuted with our Under 16 side in Season 1970-71 as a 12-year-old
- Played in 4th X1 Premiership side that year
- Played in 4 consecutive Under 16 premiership sides between 1970-71 & 1973-74
- Captained the Under 16 premiership sides in 1972-73 & 1973-74
- After juniors, played District Cricket for Northcote
- Played 2 games for Victoria in Season 1983-84
- Won the coveted Jack Ryder Medal for the best player in District Cricket in Season 1984-85



Mick Lewis:

- Joined the Club in Season 1992-93 as an 18-year-old
- Played 60 games over 6 Seasons between 1992-93 & 1996-97
- A ‘tear away” fast bowler, he took 209 wickets @ 15.11 – including a Hat Trick & a Double Hat Trick
- Moved to District Club, Northcote, in 1997-98
- Made his First-Class debut for Victoria in 1999-00
- Played 82 x First Class Matches & represented Australia in 8 x One Day Games and 2 x T20 Internationals



Adam Crosthwaite:

- Joined the Club in Season 1995-96 as an 11-year-old. Appointed Captain of our Under 12 side that Season
- A wicket keeper and hard-hitting middle order batsman, Adam showed outstanding leadership qualities and discipline for such a young person
- Played in the Under 14 premiership side in 1997-98
- In total, he played 30 junior & 23 senior games with the Club before moving to District Club, Richmond, in 2000
- Made his First-Class debut for Victoria in 2002-03
- Played 31 x First Class Matches & 26 x T20's games for Victoria, NSW and SA
- 2002. Represented Australia in Under 19 World Cup Championship competition



ANDREW WILDSMITH

RYDER MEDALLIST

1984/85

SCORED 779 RUNS . AVERAGE 55.6

TOOK 16 WICKETS . AVERAGE 20.4

VICTORIAN REPRESENTATIVE

1983/84

PLAYED 2 GAMES . 12th MAN 3 GAMES

SCORED 13 RUNS . AVERAGE 6.5

TOOK 1 WICKET . AVERAGE 14

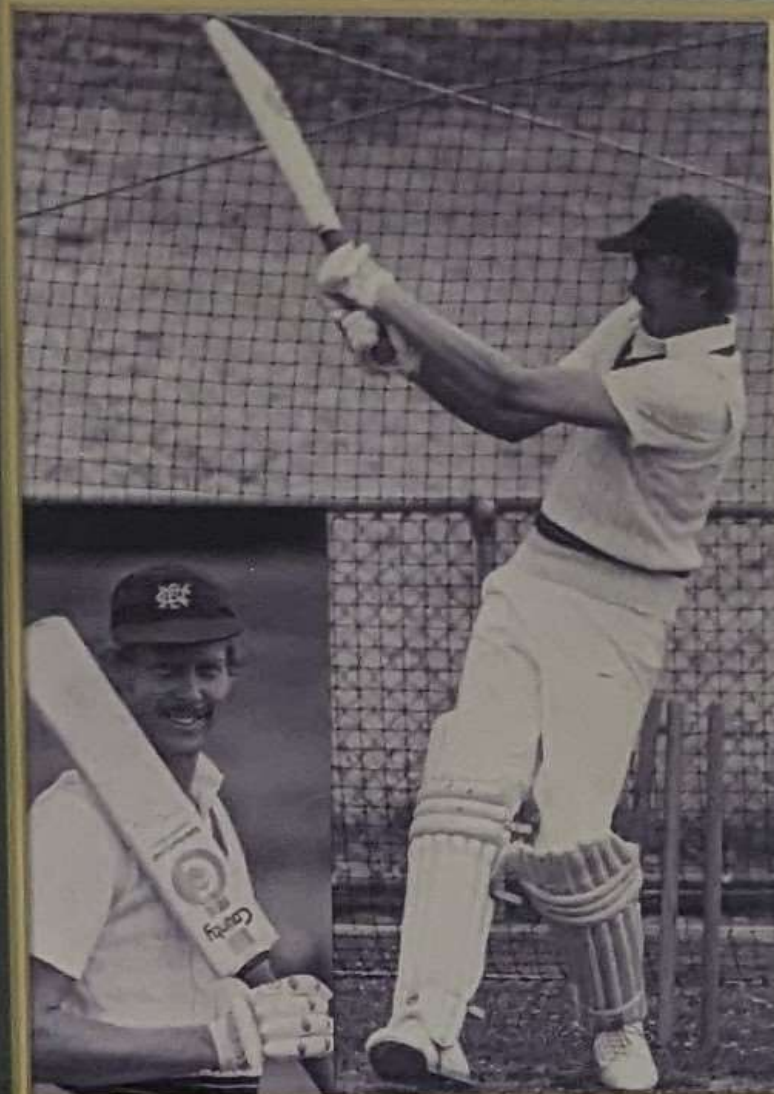
ROSANNA REPRESENTATIVE

1970/71 To 1973/74

PLAYED 39 GAMES

SCORED 697 RUNS . AVERAGE 24

TOOK 105 WICKETS . AVERAGE 12.9

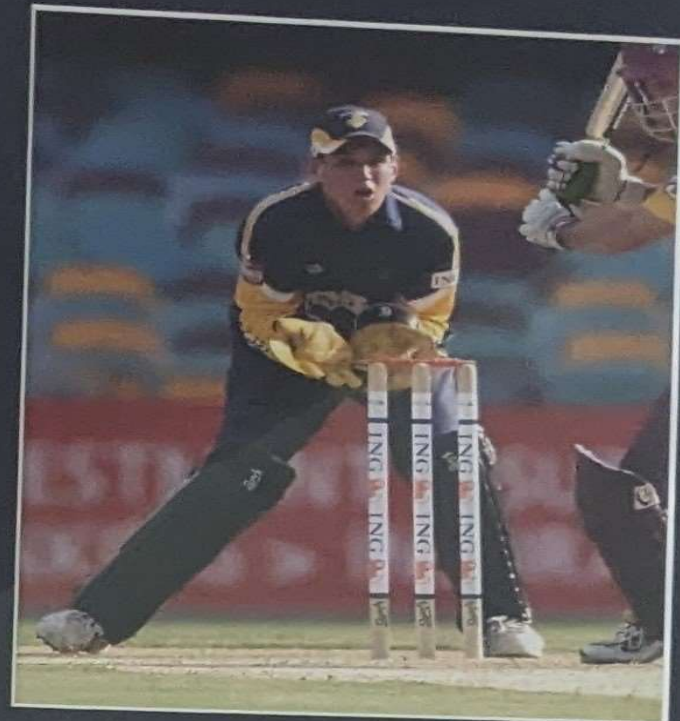


Michael Lewis



ROSANNA SUPERSTAR

AUSTRALIAN MATCHWINNER



CRICKET VICTORIA

Presented to the
Rosanna Cricket Club

By Cricket Victoria in appreciation and recognition
of the contribution to Victorian Cricket
through the development of

Adam Crosthwaite

who made his debut for the Victorian Bushrangers
in Season 2002/2003

R.F. Merriman
R.F. Merriman
President

K.W. Jacobs
K.W. Jacobs
Chief Executive Officer



The authors with the editorial and proof-reading Team behind 100 Not Out

Left to Right ... Mark Luby, Garry Carlton, Peter Hodder, Dennis Hartney, Geoff Wilson, John McKenzie and Alan Bell, Insert: Gary Bryant

100 NOT OUT

*THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE
ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB*



VOLUME 1
1925 to 1999-2000

Researched & compiled by Life Members:
ALAN BELL & DENNIS HARTNEY

