

**Victorian Metropolitan
Cricket Union**



**93rd
ANNUAL
REPORT**

SEASON 2005-2006

VICTORIAN METROPOLITAN CRICKET UNION INCORPORATED (Founded 1913)

OFFICE BEARERS Season 2005-2006

Patron:

R F Merriman AM

President:

Kevin Noy

Vice President:

Geoff Gook

Administrator:

Dennis Crook

Treasurer:

Bruce Dowland

Minute Secretary/Assistant Administrator

David Beatty

Board of Directors:

Vacant	South Metro Region
David Beatty	Outer East Metro Region
Ian Giddons	North Metro Region
Geoff Gook	West Metro Region (Vice President)
Stuart King	South East Metro Region
John Toogood	Inner East Metro Region
Marlene Tate	North West Metro Region
Bill Anderson	North East Metro Region
Tony Isaacs	Victorian Turf Cricket Association

Life Members:

H N Wright (1977), K Mitchell (1980), A K Swift (1981), L E Champion (1987), RC Allen (1988), Mrs. A Mitchell (1990), F Barling (1995), J Beitzel (1997), D Nolan (2001)

Delegates to Victorian Cricket Association: D Crook, K Noy

Cricket Victoria Delegate to VMCU: J Atkinson

Honorary Auditor:

Michael Lawson

Sub Committees:

Match – Wright Shield:

David Beatty (Chair), Peter Howarth, Gary Watson

Match – VMCU Shield:

Geoff Gook (Chair), Josh Browne, Arthur Ince, Pat Meehan, Tim Court, David Law

Finance: Kevin Noy (Chair), Bruce Dowland, Dennis Crook

Rules: Bill Anderson (Chair), Marlene Tate

Appeals: David Beatty (Chair), John Toogood, Dennis Crook

Information Technology: John Toogood

Umpires: Tony Isaacs (Chair), Ian Giddons, Marlene Tate

Game Development: Tony Isaacs

Web Site: John Deighton

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have much pleasure in presenting the 93rd Annual President's Report to the Union. This year could be seen as one of consolidation and steady progress for the Union on several fronts.

Firstly we continued and formalised our dialogue with the Board of Cricket Victoria and reached the point where we will provide an annual budget as a way of substantiating our needs each season rather than just receiving a dividend. It will enable us to have our programmes compared with other priorities and hopefully be fully funded, particularly where junior development is involved.

Through the various sub committees looking at rules, different classes of membership, umpires recruitment, alternative cricket formats and I.T we have endeavoured to find ways of improving the management of the Union and provide member associations with options to consider.

We responded to a Premier Cricket review proposing various changes to that competition from the position of ensuring we, as the controlling body for metropolitan cricket, were included in discussions that would impact on our associations and regions. Along similar lines we are actively involved in the CV Game Development Committee looking at the structure and implementation of development programmes.

A major part of our time continues to be devoted to our own Neil Wright Under 21 and VMCU Shield competitions. Both are now highly regarded by member associations and, more importantly, CV as part of the Pathway structure that aims to improve the quality of players moving on to Premier Cricket.

We made a change to the Neil Wright structure that provided smaller associations the opportunity to play each other in a 2nd level of the competition with the winner moving into the first level the following season and this was a successful innovation. The overall winner was again DVCA who have been consistent finalists in the last 6 seasons. We also selected a representative side to play VCCL in Nagambie but unfortunately were well outclassed in this match.

The Shield competitions again provided excellent cricket for a number of young players and this year included teams from Mornington Peninsula Cricket Association. The Bietzel Shield was won by ECA, while CMCA were successful in both the Russell Allen and Keith Mitchell Shields. The most pleasing thing to me this year was to see the attitude of both coaches and players in ensuring matches were conducted very much within the spirit of the game. An extensive end of season review was undertaken and highlighted just how much work goes into the planning and presentation of these matches and I must again acknowledge the many people who contribute to this success.

It was a pleasure to head a Board of Directors that took charge of their various responsibilities and in my view made a significant contribution at both regional and association level.

The administrative team of Dennis Crook and Bruce Dowland, assisted by David Beatty ensured we all stayed on track and I sincerely thank them for their efforts.

Cricket continues to increase in popularity and the demands on volunteers to run it increases accordingly but for those of us who love the game it remains a great satisfaction to be part of its development.

Yours in Cricket

Kevin Noy
President

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Cricket administrators all agree that we can no longer think in terms of seasons. We now need to plan and act strategically on a year round basis if we hope to keep up with the ever demanding, changing and complex issues related to our game

This, of course, is no news to all of you involved in voluntary work at your local club or association. Accordingly, with this in mind, I thought I would list below, in point form, some of the things we need to do to keep grass roots cricket on the park.

VMCU

- Continued growth of representative competitions.
 - # Over 1000 participants in the VMCU Shield –January 2006
 - # Restructure of Wright Shield to create a level playing field for all participants
 - # staging annual VMCU – v- VCCL U21 games
- Exploring alternative forms of cricket in order to retain and increase interest in community cricket.
- Planning and running Umpire Seminars in order to recruit and new and retain existing umpires.
- Examine & develop our Rules to encourage new forms of membership for the VMCU.
- Explore and employ new technology in order to provide the best services and facilities we can for our members

CV

- Member of CV Development Committee
- Prepare and present to Board of CV Annual Budget – Financial Responsibility/Accountability.
- Liaise with CV on current issues of importance and relevance.
 - # National Census – Vic participation rate up 10.4% in 2005
 - # Statewide Registration Program
 - # Premier Cricket Restructure – Flow on to community cricket

VSDCA

- Member of Standing Committee set up to examine:
 - # Ground Usage
 - # Ground Costs
 - # Relations with Local Councils

Then there is of course the day to day running of the show during the “real season”!

Dennis Crook
Administrator

RULES SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The Rules committee developed a proposal for a new Restricted Membership Category suitable for groups which are not traditional Metropolitan Cricket Associations. These groups are currently unaffiliated and will have basic peak body membership benefits available through VMCU membership. E.g. appeals processes and Member protection.

The Rules committee will continue to identify areas of common interest with the aim of developing the VMCU website as a more useful resource for member associations. Listing reported players, alternative policies, rules, and grading structures are possible inclusions.

Bill Anderson
Chairman

APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

During the season a number of appeal applications were received which were rejected by the VMCU Appeals Registrar on the basis that they did not comply with the VMCU Rules.

Ultimately, two lengthy hearings were conducted in July both heard by the Appeal Panel consisting of Ron Tucker (Chairman), David Beatty and Tony Isaacs.

The VMCU Board wishes to express its gratitude to these volunteers for the enormous amount of work, time and effort they put into this, often, difficult work of the VMCU.

David Beatty
Chairman

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

With the latest round of improvements well advance for season 2006/07 we can be confident that Cricket Victoria's Real Sport web management systems are again up to the task. Feedback from member associations using Real Sport during 2005/06 have indicated a much greater degree of satisfaction than recorded for the previous season & although few have committed to the full range of competition management functions that are available there have been indications more will venture down that path in 2006/07.

I have compiled some interesting statistics (*following*) with regard to our nineteen member associations & their varying levels of IT awareness/acceptance as it relates to web presence & use of the Real Sport systems (*People Management & Competition Management*).

- ♦ Eight associations are currently using people management.
 - Three of these also use competition management but only two utilize the full range of functions, the other using it to generate ladders & offer a game summary only.
 - Two others offer match results & further detail through posts in people management either as news items or on a dedicated page.
 - The remainder offer their match results and/or statistics by a link to external services.
- ♦ Eight associations use various stand-alone web services independent of the Cricket Victoria/Real Sport free services.
- ♦ The remaining three associations have no effective web presence.

The VMCU website once again enjoyed explosive traffic during January (*almost 100,000 page views*) when the Junior Carnival was conducted, eclipsing all previous records. Our thanks to the volunteers & administrators who worked tirelessly to ensure that results were again available online despite an early snag with Wright Shield results.

Some changes have occurred with staffing in the IT department at Cricket Victoria during the course of 2005/06. Rebecca Brown accepted a full-time position after earning an enviable reputation in a part-time capacity with the department. Congratulations also to Cricket Victoria's erstwhile IT Manager Sheldon Dyer who recently accepted a position with Cricket Australia as their national IT Manager. My thanks to Rebecca, Sheldon & Rachel Bartlett for their assistance generally & in particular with getting VMCU volunteers adequately trained in using the Real Sport competition management system.

John Toogood
Chairman

UMPIRE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

I reported last year that the VMCU Board had established an umpires' sub-committee. That sub-committee had sent a questionnaire to all affiliated Associations seeking feedback on a range of umpire related issues.

The sub-committee analysed the responses from 12 Associations and reported back to both the Board and a Delegates meeting.

One of the significant findings was that many Associations have less than 50 umpires and whilst some umpire training is available, there was not an emphasis on that issue. It was therefore resolved by the VMCU Board that, when making its application for funding from Cricket Victoria, it would include a request for an amount to allow the VMCU to sponsor an umpires training day.

Funding has been allocated. The day will be open to umpires from all Associations and will be held in approximately mid November 2006.

Tony Isaacs
Chairman

GAME DEVELOPMENT/ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF CRICKET

Both Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria have an agenda of encouraging cricket to be played in forms different to the standard structure. Following that lead, the VMCU Board has allocated a director to investigate the feasibility of alternative forms of the game being played at a community based level.

Presently the report to the Board is that the most feasible concept would be one where local community groups play each other in a relaxed family atmosphere on a Friday evening over a short season. The reality seems that unless an Association shows interest in supporting such a competition, then it is unlikely to happen. One Association has shown interest in setting up a pilot 'community cricket season'.

Tony Isaacs
Chairman

REGION REPORTS

REGION 9 – WEST METRO

This year saw a change with our Regional Cricket Manager, Ken Davis moving within Cricket Victoria to be more involved with the women's cricket development.

Ken served the Region well with some new initiatives such as the development of the wicketkeeper and spinners school. We wish Ken well for the future.

Daniel Trevillian has thrown himself into the position and is currently meeting with the Clubs and attending Annual Meetings. I am sure Daniel will make a strong impression in the Region and with his vibrant personality will relate easily with the young ones.

The Under 12 Tri Series was once again held to assist in the selection of Mitchell representative teams and it would seem at this time the concept will continue.

Congratulations to the West Metro Junior Cricket Association for their success in the Jim Beitzel Shield (Under 16) coming runners up to the Eastern Cricket Association.

Our Junior Associations have had little success in the V.M.C.U. shield competition and it beholds these Associations to increase their support and infrastructure to improve their chances and opportunity for success in the three competitions.

This coming season will see a change in representation on the V.M.C.U. Board as Carol Jones from the W.D.C.A. will take up the position.

Geoff Gook
Chairman
West Metro Region

REGION 10 – NORTH WEST METRO

It has been a very successful season for this Region. Both NWCA and MMVCA have reported an increase in the number of teams entered which has been remarkable considering that Australia lost the “Ashes”. We wonder what would the increase in numbers have been had Australia won the “Ashes”!

Region 10 has been beset with the normal problems of lack of grounds, ground closures at a moments notice and late advice of ground allocations. As we all know this makes the very complex task of fixturing even more difficult. We are trying to set up a combined meeting of all Local Government Authorities under the chairmanship of the Cricket Victoria Regional Manager to see if systems can be improved to at least obtain allocations a week or two earlier. Both Associations attract teams from at least 7 different municipalities and across both Region 9 and Region 10 which makes it even more difficult.

MMVCA ran an extremely successful 20/20 competition and NWCA an equally successful Luscombe Shield One Day Final. In representative matches junior teams performed well in the VMCU Carnival matches in January. The NWCA Mitchell Shield team were defeated by old rivals Moorabbin in the Grand Final however the NWCA Josh Browne Plate team were declared joint premiers in their match with Eastern. NWCA Wright Shield team defeated MMVCA in their tier 2 Grand Final.

Region 10 now has a new Regional Manager Stuart Clark who replaced the long serving Gary “Colonel” Sanders. We all thank Gary for his outstanding contribution to cricket in this region and wish his successor Stuart the best of luck.

Both MMVCA and NWCA have encountered problems this season with finding suitable administrators to run their respective Associations. NWCA’s hard working and extremely dedicated Chief Executive Officer Terry Scott retired in July 2005 after over 20 years devoted and efficient service. Unfortunately his replacement was unable to continue in the role so in October I “persuaded” him to come out of his short retirement and steer our ship back on its proper course. As a suitable replacement is very, very hard to find it looks as if Terry will be with us for the foreseeable future. MMVCA are in a similar position with Daniel Bugeja resigning after only a few months in the role. This has placed more work on Executive members.

The problem of finding volunteers for any role is becoming acute and it is something that needs a combined VMCU and Cricket Victoria approach to see if some solution can be found.

Marlene Tate
Director
North West Metro

REGION 11 – NORTH METRO

The number of players participating in both junior and senior cricket continues to grow in the Jika competition, with an increase of additional new teams competing, in both of the underage and senior groups.

Milo

The numbers involved in the Milo program remain healthy with 428 participants, even though two centres could not run their programs for health and safety reasons as to their grounds / facilities due to renovations / upgrades were construction sites.

Cricket Victoria Pathway Program

The development work undertaken in the region continues to see playing numbers grow. It is good to see many participants of the Milo Have a Go program are continuing on by progressing to the competitive stages of cricket in the Under 11 competition, with the numbers in this age group increasing.

The number of girls involved within the area still remains strong.

This work is complimented by the work done by the Regional Cricket Manager in the Schools especially with the Super 8s and the Kanga 8s.

The work done with the representative squads in providing quality coaching, and a chance for those involved to see and to play against quality opposition, this gave those participating a better understanding of their own game and what they require to do to progress to Premier Cricket, this was most beneficial, and will have a flow on effect within the competitions

One of the regions players Arthur Nitsopoulos from Northcote United won the “Player of the Series” in the Under 14 State Championships.

In season 2005/06 North Metro in partnership with North East Metro fielded a composite side in the Under 15 girl’s championships. The girls defended the title they won last season.

On the field, in the senior competition, the participation increased dramatically with the Jika Cricket Association Senior Competition switching to an eight team competition, playing equally seven one day and seven two day games

With 388 new registrations and increased teams, for the senior competitions, this was very well received especially the one day games and the increase was way above expectations.

The Association continues to foster its relationship with the Local Councils and with other Associations and matches were played between representative sides with the Diamond Valley, Heidelberg and the North West Associations.

The working relationship with Cricket Victoria’s Regional Manager - North Metro, David Hall continues to be strong, and the support with the under age Pathways and coaching courses is invaluable.

Ian Giddons
Regional Director
North Metro Region

REGION 12 – NORTH EAST METRO

Both Associations report very healthy growth in participation at all levels. Grounds shortages continue to be an issue and last season, for the first time, DVCA had to introduce a Sunday comp for a lower senior grade. This is not likely to improve in the near future as growth and interest in the sport in the region continues to flourish.

After outstanding service Paul Reid retired as DVCA President and VMCU Director for the region. Mark Maxwell was elected President of the DVCA and Bill Anderson from the HDCA was appointed as the VMCU Director.

The RCC has agreed to an exhaustive nomination and initial selection process for our Regional squads. The possibility of deserving young players falling into cracks in the pathway will be greatly diminished.

DVCA U21's again won the Wright Shield and on first attempt the HDCA U14s were runners up in the Allen Shield. Lloyd Mash from the Eltham CC had an impressive debut season with the Victorian Bushrangers.

Extreme Heat Policies are currently under review by both associations with common objectives balancing cricket with player safety. **All Seasons pitches** are being progressively rolled out by local Council. Despite some concern from clubs, the consensus is that more time is required for fair evaluation.

Intercomp matches continue a healthy rivalry between the DVCA and HDCA at all levels, with Jika CA also competing in the junior TriSeries matches in all grades.

The DVCA **Competition Structure** is currently under review, and the HDCA has implemented the 8 team composite structure (7 x 1day, 7 x 2 day) in all grades for next season.

Bill Anderson
Regional Director
North East Metro

REGION 13 – INNER EAST METRO

About Region 13:

The Inner East Cricket Region (*region 13*) encompasses that area of eastern metropolitan Melbourne defined by the Cities of Whitehorse, Boroondara & Manningham municipal boundaries and is effectively administered by the Inner East Cricket Council (*IECC*). The IECC comprises a Cricket Victoria (*CV*) Regional Cricket Manager (*RCM*), a Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union (*VMCU*) Regional Director & representatives of community cricket, notably from associations based within the region (*Eastern CA & Box Hill Reporter District CA*).

Cricket Victoria:

We began season 2005/06 with another RCM ‘re-shuffle’ & continued our run of good fortune when Rohan O’Neill was sent to us in place of Rhys Miller, Rhys having well filled the shoes of his predecessor Marty Gleason. No doubt being a good salesman for the game & CV is a pre-requisite for the position but I feel the Inner East has been particularly fortunate to have the benefit of these three ‘ambassadors’ during my time as regional director.

Objectives:

An emphasis of the VMCU this season has been to keep sight of our regional objectives while continuing to develop them for the benefit of community cricket & the game in general. During season 2005/06 the IECC renewed a commitment to the following objectives -

- To facilitate a viable, productive inter-face for VMCU affiliates with CV at the regional level by -
 - * maintaining a regular dialogue with regional cricket stakeholders,
 - * fostering regular regional council meetings & ensuring useful input by all participants,
 - * promoting VMCU programmes to CV through the RCM in order to secure an appropriate level of ‘integration’ with the pathway.
- To support CV community cricket introductory & development programmes ensuring that our region remains at the forefront in this regard.
 - * Milo ‘Have-A-Go’ Introductory Programme - actively assist the RCM to promote & increase participation by clubs.
 - * ‘Have-A-Game’ Development Programme - support our neighbouring region’s trial of this CV programme & raise awareness of clubs in our region with a view to engaging the concept at the earliest opportunity.
- To ensure the ultimate success of recent undertakings with regard to Regional U14 & Dowling U16 Shield competitions for the benefit of our affiliates & development of the game in general.
- To help improve accessibility for & raise awareness of our affiliates & other cricket stakeholders in the region to opportunities that are presented from time to time through the VMCU, CV and/or Local Government Authorities (*LGA’s*) for volunteer training, accreditation & development of administrative skills.
 - * Accreditation - CA coaching, Good Sports, RSA courses, Food Handling Courses etc.
 - * Non-accredited courses - Orientation to Coaching etc.

- * LGA workshops/forums/seminars on legal liability, liquor licensing, food handling/licensing, financial planning, volunteer training & retention, club promotion/development, administration & management skills etc.
- To encourage & assist at every opportunity innovations that enhance and/or expand our concept of cricket to include lower profile & non-traditional forms of the game such as -
 - * Veterans' Cricket,
 - * Women's Cricket,
 - * One-Day Cricket,
 - * Indoor Cricket,
 - * U10 & other Modified Rules Development Cricket,
 - * All Abilities Cricket
 - * 20/20 Cricket,
 - * Six-A-Side Cricket,
 - * Double-Wicket Knockout Cricket,
 - * Twilight Cricket,
 - * Tennis-Ball Cricket,
 - * Beach/Caravan Park Cricket.
 - * To investigate new funding opportunities for expansion & development of community cricket & in so doing, benefit the wider game.
 - * To promote increased participation rates in all identifiable forms, at all levels of the game.

Milo 'Have-A-Go':

The region was graced with an increase over season 2004/05 from 38 to 42 centres. 60% of all clubs in the region now boast a Milo 'Have-A-Go' centre. The stated objective of last year to surpass our nemesis (*Outer-East Region*) has been achieved making ours the pre-eminent region for Milo 'Have-A-Go' by 2 centres (*Outer-East had 40*). Full credit must go to our club administrators, Regional Cricket Manager & past cricket managers for setting such a high target to overtake.

Professional Players:

In what is believed to be a first, the stated policy of CV with regard to grant funding of clubs engaging professional players has been formally acted upon at the regional level. Several 2006 grants round applicants were flagged by the IECC to the VMCU & CV as clubs actively employing or seeking to employ professional player(s).

While the Regional Council does not condemn the practise, where permitted under respective association rules, we could find no justification for supporting grant applications from such clubs. Allocation of grant funding is clearly at odds with the spirit of the programme where it is seen to be little more than a de facto 'subsidy' of professional player remunerations.

Highlights:

- ♦ A total of five Inner East cricketers were selected in various age groups to represent Victoria through VPSSA teams competing in the 2006 National Championships. Congratulations to Conor O'Beirne & Lachlan Johns (*U13*), Meghann Lanning (*U15*), David Wildsmith (*U17*) & Jack McNamara (*U19*) having all been selected as a result of their performances both this season & last season in club cricket combined with their contributions to the Inner East Emus.
 - * Recently it was announced that another five Inner East players will trial for the VPSSA campaign to wrest glory in the 2007 National Championships.
- ♦ Both the Dowling U16 & Regional U14 teams made their respective semi-finals with the latter progressing to their final only to be washed out twice resulting in a shared flag with Southern Rangers.
- ♦ Victorian Secondary School Sports Australia (VSSSA) U15 team -
 - * Will Shute from Camberwell Magpies Cricket Club & Ayrton Dehmel from Warandyte Cricket Club were selected in the final squad of 13 to represent Victoria at the School Sports Australia Championships in Perth during March this year.
 - * Five others from the region were selected to represent Victoria in the National Championships during January 2007 (Stephen Catros - *St Andrews Christian College*, Amrith Eldridge - *Auburn Sth PS*, Matthew Keys - *Camberwell Sth PS*, Tom Russ - *St Dominics PS*, Hugh Tyson - *Canterbury PS*).

Recognition:

- ♦ RCM Rohan O'Neill - his energetic enthusiasm for the task & willingness to assist at all levels has helped to ensure that the Inner East remains a model for other regions.
- ♦ Tony Tongue - our 'partner in crime' on the regional executive, Tony is an invaluable source of administrative expertise & experience.
- ♦ Regional Teams -
 - * Commonwealth Bank State Championship
 - > Tamara Mason & Steve Seymour (U14 Girls)
 - > Ingrid Noack & Nicole Smith (U16 Girls)
 - * Commonwealth Bank Cup
 - > Ian Speed & Stuart Walsh (U18 Boys)
 - * Dowling U16 Shield
 - > Terry Hahn, Rob Cooper, Les Allan (Scorer)
 - * Regional U14
 - > David Woodruff, Tom Evans, Kevin Jones (Scorer)

John Toogood
Regional Director
Inner East Metro Region

REGION 14 – OUTER EAST METRO

I was again pleased with achievements within the Region, due to the enthusiastic and effective input of the Regional Council members:

Pat Meehan (RDCA), Murray Wilson (FTGDCA), Allan Hughes (YVCA) and Rob Elliott (new CV Regional Cricket Manager).

Andrew Larratt was replaced early in the year, after accepting a position with Cricket Australia, following his 7 excellent years as Outer East RCM. We wish him well in this deserved appointment. Rob handled the challenge of his mid-season appointment well, adopting a watch and listen approach to understand and get on top of the job, proving a worthy replacement.

The coaches and managers of the various Pathway squads were again able to work well with our aligned Premier clubs, Ringwood and Hawthorn-Monash Uni, to the benefit of the region's best young cricketers. The formal selection strategy now set in place ensures associations are able to include their best players in all Pathway squads.

The under 16s progressed to the state (Dowling) final, to be narrowly (and controversially) beaten after a valiant effort. They were well led by Noel King, Brett Cavigan (co-coaches), Mike Dudley (manager) and David King (capt).

Other highlights included:

- Milo Have-A-Go participants increase further;
- Girls' Cric-Hit continues to grow;
- Girls' U16 (combined with Inner East) finish 6th in state championships;
- Brendan Walsh and Glenn Maxwell awarded VIS scholarships;
- Tom Stray - Vic U19 and Aust U19 World Cup rep;
- Youth Leadership initiative with City of Knox, Ringwood and Hawthorn-Monash;
- Kanga 8 programme continues to thrive;
- Premier 1st XI debutants: from FTGDCA, Peter Dunlop (Fitzroy - Doncaster), Andrew Devenish, Simon Anning and Mark Winton (Hawthorn - Monash Uni), Scott Wilcox and Brendan Walsh (Ringwood) and Glenn Maxwell (Richmond; from RDCA, Daniel Rawson (Ringwood) and Darren Kimberley (Hawthorn-Monash);
- Steve Pascoe (RDCA) volunteer of the year;

On a somber note we were saddened by the loss of recent Under 18 rep, Ben Bartolo, following a car accident.

David Beatty
Chairman
Outer East Region

REGION 15 - SOUTH EAST METRO

The South East Metro Region has had another solid year continuing to grow the sport in this area of Melbourne, as the cricketing landscape continues to evolve in different areas. The growth in the sport as a flow on of the Ashes series in England was enormous, especially in relation to junior teams in the CMCA and SD&CCL, and affected many other areas in the region.

Development

Milo Have-A-Go numbers were at an all time high for the Region with 30 clubs registering for the program and nearly 1300 children participating. This program is the simplest way for clubs to establish links with schools to ensure the ongoing viability of their clubs in the future. This is continuing to be embraced by clubs in the South East. We again assisted the Southport Schools Sports Division in running their Cricket Gala Days which involved over 500 kids playing Kanga 8s.

The Milo Kanga 8s program is slowly starting to gain some momentum in the region with 32 teams (15 girls, 17 boys) entered this year from schools in the South East. The older version of the game (Super 8's at both Years 7/8 and 9/10) is again slower in its growth with 13 and 9 teams respectively. In an area that has a huge cricket following, the Super 8s numbers go against the trend.

Coaching & Pathway

During the season, two Level One Coaching Courses were conducted in the region as well as one Level O Orientation to Coaching Course. A number of Coaches in the region undertook Level 2 Accreditation and were assessed in a practical situation by the Regional Cricket Manager.

The Region had a great year in Pathway cricket with no Seagulls team finishing lower than 6th in the State. The highlight was undoubtedly the Boys U16 team winning the Dowling Shield. This follows the success of this age group who won the State U15 Championship last year. Congratulations to the leaders Coach , David Longhurst, and Captain, Steven Singh. Also to Maurice Clayton, who was awarded Player of the Final as well as Player of the Carnival.

The Boys U18 had a great Carnival making the main Semi-Final in Hamilton before succumbing to the Southern Rangers. This was the best performance by a Seagulls U18 team to finish 3rd in the State. The first ever Boys U14 team had a solid tournament before losing their Quarter Final and winning their final match to be 5th in the State. For all Boys squads, both Melbourne and St Kilda Cricket Clubs assisted greatly with both Coaching and the provision of facilities for which we are most grateful.

For the girls, the inaugural U14 team played very well to finish 6th in the State. This was made all the more creditable when considering that all but one of the girls is eligible for this age group again next year. The combined U16 Southern Dolphins (with South Metro) were unbeaten after the group games but unfortunately missed the Final on percentage. They then lost their next game to finish 4th in the State.

State Representation

The following Seagulls players were successful in making State teams during the season:

- U19 Male - Matthew Wilkie
- U17 Male - Clive Rose, Matthew Wilkie
- U15 VSSSA - Peter Handscomb (Captain)
- U19 Female - Penny Cula-Reid
- U17 Female - Ella Austin
- U15 Female - Lauren Wood (Captain)

Stuart King

Chairman

South East Metro

NEIL WRIGHT SHIELD REPORT

Once again 12 teams drawn from affiliated associations were fixtured for the 3 pre-finals rounds. Moreland Moonee Valley re-entered after several years' absence, replacing Jika. Rounds 2 and 3 and the final were played on Premier Club grounds, round 1 and semi finals at VSDCA grounds. This year saw the introduction of a 2 Tier structure in recognition of the growing differences between larger and smaller associations.

The pre-finals rounds were conducted with enthusiastic, quality competition being the order of the day. The common theme running through post-match reports was the high standard of umpiring and the excellent spirit in which games were played.

In Tier 1, which consisted of 8 teams, both VTCA North and South, Box Hill Reporter and Diamond Valley moved through to the semi finals at Balwyn and Kew. Diamond Valley and Box Hill were successful in making their way through to provide a replay of last year's final.

The hospitality and conditions provided by Fitzroy-Doncaster C C were in keeping with the important occasion, especially in view of the inclement weather which washed out most other games around Melbourne that day. After Box Hill Reporter was dismissed for 126, Diamond Valley were able to take the Shield comfortably for the loss of 3 wickets. Man-of-the-Match was Diamond Valley's Robert Thomas whose 6/30 set up the win. Other noteworthy performances were John Lever (DVCA) 65 no and Michael Cardomone (BHRDCA) 45 no.

In Tier 2, Moreland Moonee Valley and North West finished 1st and 2nd to play off in the Promotion Final. After a delayed start, North West amassed 116 in its innings, reduced to 30 overs. In reply, MMVCA lost wickets too regularly and was dismissed for 66. For the winners Ahley Fackler had an excellent game – 32 no & 3/5, well supported by Paul Tripp (3/6).

Congratulations to all involved in this premier VMCU turf competition, for their input ensured a series of which all can be proud and we look forward to seeing several players progress on to Premier Cricket.

David Beatty
Chairman
Wright Shield Match Committee

UNDER 21 CHALLENGE - VMCU v VCCL

From the Wright Shield was selected an under 21 representative team to play the annual match v VCCL. This year it was hosted by the VCCL at Nagambie, and saw the home side reverse the previous year's result, ensuring that next year's game at a Metropolitan venue is much anticipated. The important by-product of this match is the invaluable opportunity for VMCU and VCCL officials to cement the close relationship between the two bodies.

For the record: VCCL 9/232 def VMCU all out 86; for VCCL, L Sandwith 85, R Dowby 60 no, M Sartori 5/26; for VMCU skipper Brett Hardman (VTCA) made 20.

VMCU team: Brett Hardham ©, Steve Mackay, Matt Burrowes and David Majtliis (VTCA), Jason Berthet and John Lever (DVCA), Andrew Hone and Craig Learmonth (BHRDCA), Rudi Schleiger (CMCA), Nick Jewett (ECA), Wes Nicholas (DDCA) and Matt Sazenis (RDCA).

David Beatty
Manager, VMCU, U21 Team

VMCU SHIELD REPORT

The VMCU has continued its commitment to the Shield Competitions, held over 2 weeks in January. 2006 saw further growth in the number of participating teams. In all, 61 teams, representing 18 associations, played over 200 matches, in the school holidays, culminating in finals series in all five grades.

The interest in the turf competition for Under 16s continues to grow and the recognition by the senior bodies in cricket will further enhance the VMCU Competitions reputation as an integral part of the Pathway for junior development.

Early indications are that further growth in size and importance will follow into 2007.

Blessed with good weather throughout the home and away series and semi finals, we were not so lucky on the scheduled Grand Final day. With a forecast of 43 degrees, the Board made a wise decision to postpone the finals until the following week. We must thank Ivanhoe Grammar, Viewbank Cricket Club and Bulleen Cricket Club for their assistance in coping with the change and hosting such a great day.

Grand Final day was, as usual, most enjoyable and continued the great tradition that the VMCU has established within junior cricket.

Keith Mitchell Shield – U12

In Under 12s, the Keith Mitchell Shield is the elite competition for metropolitan juniors and this season saw matches of a very high standard. The finals series was one of the most exciting for some time. The format for this competition is a 16 team competition with 5 home and away rounds. After 5 rounds the ladder is divided into 2 divisions. Teams finishing 1-8 play off for the Keith Mitchell Shield and teams 9-16 play off for the Keith Mitchell Cup. Quarter finals determine the final four for each group.

In season 2005 the ladder after the home and away matches was:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. City of Moorabbin | 10. Yarra Valley |
| 2. North West | 11. Ringwood District |
| 3. Eastern | 12. Melton |
| 4. Diamond Valley | 13. Williamstown |
| 5. Federal District | 14. Ferntree Gully |
| 6. Heidelberg District | 15. Mornington Peninsula |
| 7. Dandenong District | 16. Jika |
| 8. Box Hill | 17. Gisborne District |
| 9. Southern District & Churches | 18. West Metro Juniors |

In the grand final of Mitchell Shield Moorabbin (3/115) accounted for North West (10/11) fairly comfortably. Since its inception in 1984, Moorabbin and North West have been regulars at the top of the ladder. Moorabbin have had 7 wins plus a tie, whilst North West have 4 wins plus a tie.

Best player of the finals L. Edwards (Moorabbin)

The Lloyd Champion Award for Best player of the series J. Drummond (CMCA), tied with M. Johnson (DVCA).

In the Mitchell Cup finals Southern Districts & Churches (7/124) defeated Ringwood (*/122)..

Best player of the finals K. Nolan (SDCCL).

The Arthur Ince Award for Best player of the series P. Ashton (YVCA) tied with J. Harper (FTGDCA).

JIM BEITZEL SHIELD – UNDER 16

The number of teams increased to 16, this season, with Mornington Peninsula and Moorabbin competing for the first time, in the Under 16s Jim Beitzel Shield. Six home and away rounds were followed by semi finals and finals. This was a very competitive and high standard competition and augers well for the future of the VMCU Shields. The ladder after 6 rounds was:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Eastern | 9. Yarra Valley |
| 2. Dandenong | 10. Moorabbin |
| 3. Ringwood | 11. Federal District |
| 4. Ferntree Gully | 12. Diamond Valley |
| 5. West Metro Junior | 13. Heidelberg |
| 6. Southern Districts & Churches | 14. Box Hill Reporter |
| 7. North West | 15. Melton |
| 8. Williamstown District | 16. Mornington Peninsula |

On Grand Final day, Eastern (6/281) were too strong for West Metro (10/187)

Best player of the finals T. McDermott (ECA)

The Fred Barling Award for Best player of the series D. Hutton (ECA)

KEITH MACKAY CUP – UNDER 16

In second division of Under 16s, the Keith Mackay Cup, played on synthetic, had fewer entries this season, however it proved to be quite successful and enjoyable. The ladder after 6 rounds was:

1. Ringwood
2. North West
3. Ferntree Gully
4. Eastern

The final was played between Ferntree Gully (8/118) who defeated Ringwood (10/116). These two associations, with mostly the same teams, had played off in the U14 Russell Allen Shield, U14, the two previous seasons. All three games in the three seasons have been close and played in great spirit.

Best player of the finals N. Dunn (FTGDCA),

The Keith Mackay Award for Best player of the series, N. Dunn (FTGDCA) tied with M. Mason (ECA)

RUSSELL ALLEN SHIELD – UNDER 14

The Russell Allen Shield for Under 14s increased to 16 teams this season. After 7 home and away rounds the ladder was:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Moorabbin | 9. Ringwood |
| 2. Eastern #1 | 10. Dandenong |
| 3. Box Hill Reporter | 11. Jika |
| 4. Heidelberg | 12. Williamstown |
| 5. North West | 13. West Metro |
| 6. Ferntree Gully | 14. Federal |
| 7. Southern Districts & Churches | 15. Diamond Valley |
| 8. Eastern #2 | 16. Yarra Valley |

In the final, Moorabbin (8/152) defeated Heidelberg (8/148) in a very close game. This was the first time these two associations had played in the U14 competition and it was great to see the newcomers doing so well.

Best player of the final J. Gillard (CMCA)

The Des Nolan Award for Best player of the series J. Bradbury (FTGDCA) tied with B. Chant (NWCA).

JOSH BROWNE PLATE – UNDER 12

The third division of under 12s is the Josh Browne Plate and this season we had 7 entries. After 7 home and away rounds the ladder was:

1. Eastern
2. Ringwood
3. North West
4. Diamond Valley
5. Ferntree Gully
6. Box Hill Reporter
7. Williamstown

In the final, Eastern (10/170) tied with North West (10/170) in another fantastic match.

Best player of the finals M. Keays (ECA).

The Alan Bailey Award for best player of the series, T. Beaton (ECA)

The VMCU Match Committee is most grateful for the efforts of all of the volunteers, coaches, team managers, scorers and mums and dads who, each year, make a huge contribution to the successful running of these competitions.

We would also like to thank, most sincerely, the clubs within the associations that hosted competition matches and made their facilities available for our promising youngsters.

We look forward, with enthusiasm, to the continued success of the VMCU Shield Competitions in 2006 and beyond.

Special thanks to Cricket Victoria for their continued and most generous support of these competitions. Cricket Victoria supplied the associations and the VMCU with 544 cricket balls this season. This contribution makes a huge difference to the budget for all of us.

Josh Browne
VMCU Shield
Match Committee

VICTORIAN METROPOLITAN CRICKET UNION

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

12 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2006

2004-05	INCOME	2005-06
\$1,000.00	Affiliation Fees	\$950.00
	Grants Cricket Victoria	
	Administrator's Salary	13200
	Dividend.....	22050
\$12,000.00	VMCU Shield	8000
\$1,125.00	Entrance Fees VMCU Shield.....	\$625.00
\$647.44	Bank Interest.....	\$346.09
	TOTAL INCOME.....	\$45,171.09

EXPENDITURE

H NEIL WRIGHT UNDER 21 YEARS SHIELD

\$1,812.50	Catering	\$1,700.00	
\$256.00	Ground Hire	\$-	
\$2,540.00	Umpire Fee Reimbursement.....	\$2,520.00	
\$-	Cricket Balls	\$300.00	
\$500.00	Umpires Fees - Finals	\$640.00	
\$110.00	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$-	
\$91.50	Trophies	\$-	\$5,160.00

VMCU SHIELD

\$136.93	Catering	\$403.62	
\$966.00	Trophies	\$909.00	
\$750.00	Ground Hire.....	\$929.00	
\$558.80	Printing	\$-	
\$2,450.00	Umpires Fees - Finals	\$2,520.00	
\$14,360.00	Umpire Fee Reimbursement.....	\$11,720.00	
\$629.69	Administrative Expenses	\$359.45	\$16,841.07

HONORARIA

\$12,000.00	Administrator.....	\$13,200.00	
\$1,500.00	Treasurer	\$1,500.00	
\$3,000.00	Administrative Assistant.....	\$3,000.00	\$17,700.00

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH V VCCL

\$1,242.70	Catering	\$-	
\$82.50	Trophies	\$-	
\$120.00	Ground Hire	\$-	
\$514.40	Uniforms	\$121.25	
\$463.65	Caps	\$459.20	\$580.45

ADMINISTRATION

\$1,070.30	Printing	\$635.80	
	Communications		
\$1,357.89	Telephone & Fax	1028.16	
\$4,949.69	Computer systems	1489.98	\$2,518.14
\$93.10	Postage	\$166.46	
\$-	Catering for Meetings	\$155.00	
\$33.00	Office of Fair Trading - Annual return	\$36.70	
\$3,224.70	Region Expenses	\$2,456.95	\$5,969.05

GOVERNMENT CHARGES

\$97.00	Debits Tax	\$-	\$-
---------	------------------	-----	-----

DEPRECIATION OF FIXED ASSETS

	Filing Cabinet	\$5.13	
	Photocopier	\$25.76	
	Computer & Printer	\$113.92	
	Answering Machine	\$28.48	
	Document Scanner	\$8.64	
	Document Shredder	\$7.52	
	Lap Top Computer	\$92.16	
	Internet Server	\$174.40	\$456.01

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$46,706.58
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME...	\$(1,535.49)

VICTORIAN METROPOLITAN CRICKET UNION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2006

ASSETS	2005-06	2004-05
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
ANZ CURRENT ACCOUNT.....	\$25,476.69	\$24,161.05
COMPRISING		
GENERAL FUNDS.....	\$15,931.59	\$14,615.95
JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT FUND.....	\$9,545.10	\$9,545.10
 <u>DEBTORS</u>		
UNPAID AFFILIATION FEES	\$50.00	
UNPAID ENTRANCE FEES		
VMCU SHIELD	\$875.00	\$925.00
		\$-
 <u>NON CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
VMCU TIES(190@\$12.75).....	\$2,422.50	\$2,422.50
 <u>FIXED ASSETS (at depreciated value)</u>		
FILING CABINET	\$46.17	\$51.00
PHOTOCOPIER	\$103.04	\$129.00
COMPUTER & PRINTER.....	\$455.68	\$570.00
LAP TOP COMPUTER.....	\$368.64	\$461.00
TELEPHONE/ANS.MACHINE/FAX.....	\$113.92	\$142.00
DOCUMENT SCANNER	\$34.56	\$43.00
DOCUMENT SHREDDER.....	\$30.08	\$38.00
INTERNET SERVER.....	\$697.60	\$872.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$30,673.88	\$28,889.55
AFFILIATES EQUITY	\$30,673.88	\$28,889.55

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members and committee of the Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union

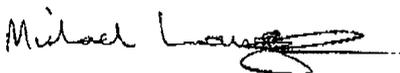
SCOPE

I have audited the Treasurer's report, being the Statement of Income & Expenditure, Balance Sheet and supporting notes to, and forming part of, the financial report of the Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union for the financial year ended 30 June 2006.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the Financial Report has been presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards, and statutory requirements, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Union's financial position and performance, as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, the Financial Report of the Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union presents fairly in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act, the Assets and Liabilities at 30 June 2006, the Receipts and Payments and the Statement of Income & Expenditure of the Union for the year then ended.



Michael Lawson

CPA

1 July 2006.



VICTORIAN METROPOLITAN CRICKET UNION

website: vmcu.cricketvictoria.com.au

GOVERNING BODY FOR METROPOLITAN CRICKET ASSOCIATIONS