



Chairman's Report 2014-2015

DIVERSIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP IS THE LIFELOOD FOR OUR FUTURE

Over the last 5 years, we have laid a solid foundation for growth of the Lords Taverners in this state.

Initiatives such as the introduction of our social investment strategy and our strategic plan centred on “partnership, membership, sponsorship and community”; has provided a structured framework and focus for the committee to work towards in the years ahead.

Our vision is to grow to a 1000 strong membership based organisation that is recognised as the leading cricket charity in Victoria supporting young and disadvantaged.

Forging a strong, strategic relationship with Cricket Victoria has done much in this regard. This includes representation on the Taverners Executive, through our new President, Cricket Victoria CEO, Tony Dodemaide, and the addition of Annie Hateley, Cricket Victoria's Partnership & Government Relations Manager, to our Committee. Combined with our focus on supporting their Harmony in Cricket community program, the future for our collaborative work with Cricket Victoria is focused, structured and in good hands.

However, to achieve this strategic vision, we must diversify our membership base through segmentation. This includes supporting the introduction of regional chapters in major regional cities such as Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo; together with the introduction of a “Young Taverners Club” that will be auspiced by our State Branch but operate independently within our guidelines and principles.

Delivery will be a challenge ... but it is a challenge that I know the Committee can deliver to ensure long term sustainability and relevance of the Lords Taveners into the future.

PARTNERSHIPS

As mentioned, we continue to receive strong support from Cricket Victoria. We acknowledge and thank outgoing Cricket Victoria Chairman, Geoff Tamblyn OAM, for his tremendous contribution to cricket in this State. We also thank CEO, Tony Dodemaide and Annie Hateley, for their continued encouragement and support for our work.

(i) Cricket Australia & National Conference

At a National Level, the Lord's Taverners National Conference was conducted in Port Stephens during February 2015. Hosted by Newcastle's, John McLaughlin. Delegates from Lords Taverners Branches from around the country met for 2 days to discuss key issues and share best practices.

A key focus for the Conference was preparing for the renewal of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cricket Australia and subsequent discussions with Cricket Australia's, Andrew Ingleton.

This MOU expired on 30 June 2015 and delegates were keen to ensure appropriate recognition was made in the MOU for the work undertaken by the Lords Taverners including:

- reinforcement of the four pillars framework (all abilities, deaf, blind & indigenous),
- financial assistance of all branches for guest speakers at functions;
- professional liability indemnity insurance;
- provision of autographed cricket bats to support fund raising efforts;
- co-branding including use of the Cricket Australia and Lords Taverners logos;
- access to respective websites and marketing to My Cricket Family members;

Following extensive negotiations between the respective parties, the key elements of the MOU have now been agreed and subsequently executed with all of the above being incorporated into the Agreement. A Certificate of Currency covering public liability and indemnity for all state bodies has now been issued and all Branches reported that they now have local websites established. This is a significant achievement over the past 12 months especially as there is now greater consistency between sites.

The challenge for all bodies is to ensure that websites are up to date and relevant. It was agreed that the National office would re-engage Paul George (the Web Mechanic) for a further 12 months but with defined tasks. It is expected that he will assist Victoria to further update our website site.

(ii) Ausrapid (to be know as Sport Inclusion Australia (wef 9 October 2015)

We continue our partnering arrangement with Ausrapid in the delivery of a number of major events detailed in this report, including the 2015 Inas International World Cup conducted in Melbourne during March.

You will note the new name change to "**Sport Inclusion Australia**." The new recognisable and simple name presents a progressive organisation in meeting their future challenges. Sport Inclusion Australia continues to advocate for the social inclusion of people with an intellectual disability using sport and mainstream pathways as the medium. The change comes at a time where the organisation is bidding to host the 2019 Global Games in Brisbane and at the same time aligns well with the work of the Lords Taverners at both State and National levels.

SPONSORSHIP

During the 2014/15 year, we provided in excess of \$27,000 of financial support for a number of major events and activities aligned to our belief that individual and personal development is enhanced by promoting social interaction and companionship through active participation in sport.

(i) The Lords Taverners Australian Open Tennis Tournament, Dec '14 – Jan '15

This annual event, now in its 18th year, is sponsored by The Lord's Taverners and attracts local, interstate and international competitors allowing them to showcase their exceptional talents in front of significant crowds during the world's best Grand Slam tournament, the Australian Open Tennis Tournament at Melbourne Park.

The partnership between Tennis Australia, AUSRAPID and The Lord's Taverners is very strong and continues to create opportunities and provide an avenue for sensational tennis.



Importantly, it is a time where goodwill amongst competitors, organisers and spectators alike is promoted and friendships renewed.

NSW's Kelly Wren has continued her reign over the Australian Tennis Championships for players with an intellectual disability winning her 18th consecutive title at Melbourne Park.

While Wren celebrated her victory, young Queenslander Archie Graham (pictured left), is well on his way to establishing his own reign collecting his 3rd consecutive title.

We are proud to have sponsored this event since its inception and special thanks go to Committee members Ian Crawford and Peta Phillips for their continued work with this event.

(ii) 2015 Inas International Cricket Series - 2015 World Cup, March '15

Cricket Australia, in conjunction with Cricket Victoria, Lord's Taverners Australia and AUSRAPID, were successful with its bid for the 2015 Inas International Cricket Series held in Melbourne. The event provided players the opportunity to play this event alongside the 2015 World Cup which was seen as a vital opportunity in the growth of cricket for people with an intellectual disability. Staged in the last 10 days of March alongside the 2015 World Cup in Melbourne, this was the first time that an International event of the magnitude of the 2015 World Cup incorporated an International All Abilities event alongside it.

The Opening Ceremony took in the Long Room at the MCG with all athletes and officials involved in both the International Cricket Series and the All Abilities National Championships will be invited to attend the opening ceremony. It was fantastic to have Australia's best blind, deaf and cricketers with an intellectual disability, all in the same room at the same time along with the best cricketers with an intellectual disability from England.



2015 Inas International Cricket World Cup Australian team - proudly sponsored by the Lords Taveners

(iii) Cricket Victoria's All Abilities Carnival at Casey Fields – Feb '15

In its' 9th Year, the Victorian All Abilities Cricket Carnival for 2014 was again held at Casey Fields. In partnership with the City of Casey, The Lord's Taverners Victoria, Casey-South Melbourne Cricket Club and Cranbourne Cricket Club, the tournament gives people with an intellectual and/or physical disability the opportunity to play cricket.

Over 220 cricketers played in the 2 format series including the Super League and "ten over tonk". Congratulations go to this year's winners, the Skye Cricket Club, and also to Committee member Ian Crawford for his representation on the day.

(iv) The Lords Taverners Shield, Australia Indoor Cricket Tournament– July '14

At last the winning streak of the Queenslanders has been broken by a determined Victorian team in the final. In a sensational final held at Werribee Indoor Cricket Centre in July 2014, The Victorian's just had too much "fire power" for the Queenslanders to capture their first shield in 8 years thus bringing to an end the fantastic streak of 8 in a row held by the Queenslanders.

It was a privilege to attend the Final Game and also the Awards Ceremony that evening to meet the players and join in the celebrations.



Special thanks must go to all behind the scenes that make this a special event happen including Robyn Smith (CEO - Ausrapid), Cricket Australia's John Watkin (Senior Manager, Game Development), Paul Milo (Indoor Cricket Manager), Briana Binch (Game Development Programs Officer) and Cricket Australia's High Performance and Game Development Committee - Ross Gregory, Donna Dalby, Rod Chilcott, Mick Miller, Sarah Harris, Anton Croxford, Cameron Walter & Paul Gilchrist

Congratulations to Victorian coach, Rick Tresize, and the players on a fantastic tournament.

(v) Boxing Day Test Breakfast – Dec '14



We thank Scott Bullock and Buildscape Victoria for their generous sponsorship of the 2014 Boxing Day Test breakfast, which was also extended to the 2015 Legends Dinner conducted at Royal South Yarra in August.

(vi) National Raffle

In excess of \$21,000 in funding was raised through the organisation and conduct of member events with over 50% of this revenue coming from our National Raffle.

We congratulate the winner of this year's raffle, Jeff Gallagher of ACT, who won the Ultimate Sports Prize ... a trip to the Lords Test 16 – 20 July 2015 including 2 Business class tickets to London flying Etihad Airways, 6 nights accommodation and 2 tickets to all days of the Test match.

Jeff is a cricket tragic and whilst wheelchair bound and cannot talk ... he was excited beyond belief and had the trip of a lifetime. The challenges that Jeff faces makes this a story which typifies what the Lord's Taverners is all about – helping young, disadvantaged people.



L-R: Hamish Arthur (Lord's Taverners ACT Committee), Terry Gallagher (winner's father), David Nicholls (Lord's Taverners ACT Chairman), Alan Waite (Manager Government & ACT, Etihad Airways), Jeff Gallagher (winner), Ric Smith (Lord's Taverners ACT President), Mark Vergano (Cricket ACT CEO)



At a National level, the raffle raised in excess of \$140,000 and special thanks must go to National Treasurer, John Jeffries, for his tireless work in making the raffle the huge success it is today. The 2015-16 raffle is now in full swing with 1st prize being a 15 day European Cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest (courtesy APT) with return Business Class Airfares (courtesy APT).

I encourage all members, clubs and associations to get right behind the raffle as we target to raise \$200,000 by the time the raffle is drawn in February 2016.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership numbers are in decline with less than 200 active Lords Taverners members.

There is much more we can do in this area including delivery of our strategy targeting younger members through the proposed introduction of the Young Taverners. The Young Taverners will target membership from 18-30 year olds with special member events introduced aligned to this age group. In addition, leveraging the relationship with Cricket Victoria in aligning potential associates or sub-branches to regional activities around the state to support their work and provide relevance to local members in these regions. Without this strategy and alignment, membership numbers will remain static or continue to decline.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Committee members, Matthew Clayton, Peta Phillips and Anita Matthews in driving our membership initiatives including the introduction of a new member pack for marketing purposes and on-line membership renewals.

EVENTS

During the year we conducted a number of memorable events for members and their guests.

Legends Dinner, August 2014

The Victorian Legends Dinner conducted in August 2014 at Royal South Yarra Tennis Club was another great night, which saw the late Bill Woodfull, Sharon Treadrea and Paul Sheahan AM, inducted as Legends of Victorian Cricket.

This is a night on our event calendar not to be missed and the 2014 Legends Dinner was no exception. As Paul Sheahan stated during his interview with MC, Smokie Dawson, it is a truly humbling experience being recognised for doing something we all love doing.



I found the night very much in this vane. It was intimate, moving and an absolute honour to host Jill & John Armour on my table in sharing stories about growing up in the Woodfull family and gaining further insights into a truly remarkable man. A man who refused to retaliate under any circumstances ... a man who held true to his values and a man who played cricket the spirit of our great game ... the same way he approached his life.

A truly emotional and humbling experience.

Sharon Tredrea is our 1st female inductee as a Legend of Victorian Cricket and what a wonderful contribution she has made to women's cricket in Australia.

Paul Shehan AM requires no introduction to us but by the same vane his contribution to cricket in this state cannot be understated. It was great to hear both Sharon and Paul speak passionately about the game and share stories with us for those who were present.

Special thanks must go to our MC, Graeme “Smokey” Dawson for another series of superlative interviews together with Committee organisers Ian Crawford and Kevan Carroll on another sensational night.

We also acknowledge and congratulate the following 2014 Lord's Taverners Award Winners:

Sam Harper	2014 Junior Male Taverner of the Year
Sophie Molineux	2014 Junior Female Taverner of the Year
Nicola Hancock	2014 Betty Butcher Emerging Player of the Year

One Shade of Gray and the Potter Gold – Kingston Hotel night, March 2015



Our dinner nights at the Kingston Hotel continue to be a highlight for members and guests on our calendar. This year, we were joined by Malcolm Gray, former ICC President and Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 1992 World Cup and Jack Potter, Ashes tourist 1964, inaugural head coach of the Cricket Academy and former Victorian captain.

For over 4 years, the Kingston Hotel evenings have become a popular event and special thanks go to MC & Committee member, Kevan Carroll for the organisation and conduct of these special events.

Boxing Day Test Breakfast, 26 December 2014

The annual Boxing Day Test Breakfast was again well supported by members. The Lords Taverners annual Boxing Day Test match has long been a tradition at the MCG and in 2014, the tradition continued for the 32nd occasion.

Our guest speaker, who is remembered as much for the controversy that surrounded him as for his efforts on the field, was former New South Wales and Australian cricket all-rounder Gregory Richard John “Mo” Matthews and he did not disappoint. His interview with MC, Tim Lane, was an absolute highlight.

Top-order bat Elyse Villani, whose clean hitting and impeccable timing have seen her grow into one of the most damaging batters in international women’s cricket, supported Mo, together with the high energy, fast paced, stand-up comedian, Peter Rowsthorn from Kath & Kim fame ... superb in his timing and delivery !!

Plans are in place for the 2015 BDT with our guest speaker this year, Dean Jones.

Special thanks go to Committee member Kevin Johnson for his tireless work in organising this event.

VALE LOUISE THOMPSON

We were saddened by the news earlier this year of the passing of Louise Thompson following her diagnosis with cancer.

All of us at the Taverners extend our deepest sympathies to our life member, Jim Thompson OAM, and his family on the sad passing of Louise.

A wonderful woman cherished by everyone who knew her.

THANK YOU

In this my last Report and AGM for the Lords Taverners after 5 years as Chair, I would like to acknowledge and express my personal thanks to all the Committee for their tireless work “behind the scenes”.

Special thanks to our retiring President, Paul Sheahan AM, who has now accepted the National role as President, for his wonderful mentoring and guidance. I would also like to thank our new State President, Tony Dodemaide for his great support in his inaugural year.

In addition, the work of Committee members, Mike Bullock, for managing our sponsorship enquiries, Kevan Carroll, Ian Crawford and Kevin Johnson in organising our amazing events, Peta Phillips & Anita Matthews in driving our membership, and Matthew Clayton for his work on the website and marketing our events.

Annie Hateley, joined the Committee from Cricket Victoria and with her enormous energy, drive and passion, she has hit the “ground running” and made an immediate impact to the calibre of our work.

Treasurer, Tim Winter, who was ably supported by Richard Ashton; thank you both for continuing to keep our finances in order.

And finally, our tireless Secretary, Carolyn Johnson. You never cease to amaze me Carolyn. You just get on with the job, never a fuss just a superlative contribution in managing our administrative responsibilities for the Branch and the support you have given me.

WHAT'S AHEAD

There will be a change in leadership and representation on our Committee.

I believe change is a good and with change comes a freshness of ideas and new opportunities.

Subject to appointment and endorsement by the Committee at our AGM, I am confident that the Lords Taverners Vic Branch under the leadership of new Chair, Gareth Andrews, and President, Tony Dodemaide, is in very good hands. I also wish all current and new Committee members well in their future endeavours.

Finally, I want to say thank you to all members for the privilege bestowed upon me as your Chair over the last 5 years. Your support and friendship has meant a lot to me personally.

I look forward to meeting up with you all in the near future at one of the many events conducted as we seek to make a difference in the lives of those disadvantaged.

John Kilgour Chairman