



THE 140 YEAR ANNIVERSARY MWDCC





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FOREWORD BY HONORARY

In 1978, our Green Shield Coach Tom Spencer gave me a copy of the Manly Warringah District Cricket Club (MWDCC) Centenary book which he compiled, outlining the 100 year history of the club. I was just 14 at the time, but recall reading the President John Stephenson's introduction at the front of the book. It was the moment I became engrossed in the club's history!

So to be now writing this Foreword as President, exactly 40 years later, is a little surreal, but also a wonderful privilege.

This 140 year book is largely a pictorial representation of the club's history as we decided to save all the statistics and further detail for our 150 year celebrations. A picture is worth a thousand words and never has that been more evident than in this publication, as there's some truly epic images that aptly capture key moments in our club's history.

To the present era, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible people amongst our current Board, coaching staff, volunteers and our playing group - way too many to individually mention, but plenty of passionate people who continue to devote countless hours to our great club. It's no coincidence that we have enjoyed unprecedented success in recent years!

ANDREW FRASER PRESIDENT

Our people, club values, ethics and underlying principles continue to be integral components of our success. From our Junior Pathway Program, to our Women's Program, to our community initiatives, we are always striving to help develop good young people and nurture great leaders along the journey.

This is what I believe sets us apart from everyone else and the reason why we are considered by many as the benchmark club in Sydney Premier cricket.

The history of this club continues to evolve as we celebrate our 140th year. We truly boast quite a remarkable reputation now, as one of Sydney's foundation clubs - one we should all feel very proud of.

So happy 140th birthday MWDCC and a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this great club - I look forward to the big 150th in 2028!

Andrew Fraser
MWDCC CLUB PRESIDENT



EST.
1878

First ever photo of Manly Cricket Club in 1880. Alderman Hilder, dressed in black in the middle, was our first president.



Between 1878 and 1893, non-competitive cricket of various degrees were played at Manly Oval featuring many prominent cricketers. Legendary Sam Woods was one such player who played a number of games for the club and was our first ever Test representative.





Manly Cricket Club in 1883-84.

BACK ROW: H. Woods, T. Mitchell, F. Passau.

SECOND ROW: C. Smith, G. Hole, F. Tibbits, W. Hunter-Smith, H. Freeman, S. Lester.

FRONT ROW: J. Henderson, O. Rawson, T. Smith



The legendary W.G. Grace brought the Lord Sheffield 1891-92 Touring Team to Manly Oval to play Manly. Despite the lopsided score line, the club's performance was considered outstanding and weighed heavily in the club's admittance to the grade cricket ranks a few years later.

Our first competitive entry was actually in 1893-94 into electoral cricket, with entry to the grade competition in 1895-96, although initially into 2nd grade only. Here is a photo of Manly Oval from around that time.



Jim Randall. Debuted in 1900 and played for 35 years, taking 851 wickets with his leg spinners. Still our highest ever wicket taker.

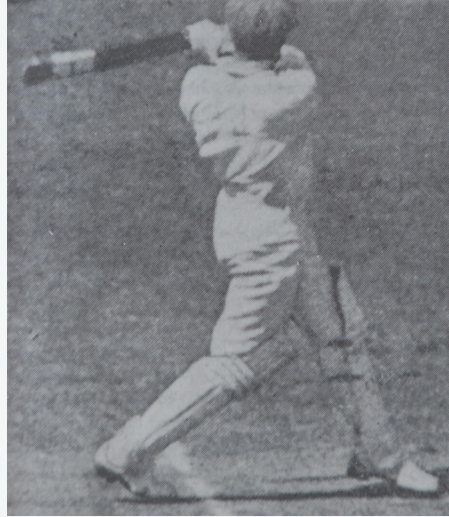


In 1905, after some good seasons in 2nd grade, the club was promoted to the 1st grade competition but was combined with Mosman. It became known as Middle Harbour Cricket Club, even though the club boundaries were still within the Manly municipality and the Mosman area was considered neutral territory.... This was a hotly contested subject for many years. Here is the Middle Harbour Cricket Club 2nd grade side from 1910/11.

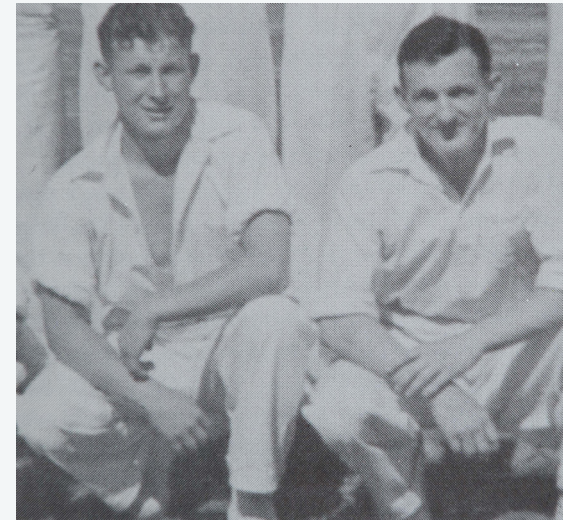
1920



Test star Jack Gregory joined the club in 1923, hitting an even hundred and taking 9/24 in his first game for the club. Unfortunately injury held Jack back for a lot of his career.



Les Gwynne joined the club from Glebe in 1923 in what was a landmark securement for the club. Not only would he have a stellar career with Manly for the next 20+ years, he would go on to be one of the most influential coaches in our history.





The 1930-31 1st XI

BACK ROW:

H. Esdaile, J. Watson, A. Payne, G. Austin, S. Wallace.

FRONT ROW: B. Adrian, F. Cummins, L. Gwynne, J. Betts, C. Harris

The 1930s were not particularly successful for the Waratah's but they started the careers of Eddie Robinson (left) and Bruce Adrian who between them amassed over 16,000 runs and took almost 1,000 wickets for the club.

In 1933 Jim Randall, Les Gwynne and George Lowe started the Saturday morning Manly Oval coaching clinics. It's no surprise that our biggest stars of the 1940s and 50s came through this program.





Green Shield won the competition 3 times between 1941-42 and 1944-45. The above is our 1942-43 undefeated premiers.



Bruce Cook was an attacking batsmen with 7,526 runs and leader of the club's young stars throughout the 40s and 50s.



Two young stars of the 40s who would go on to have great careers with Manly, NSW and Australia. Jim Burke (left) and Alan Walker. Walker also played test rugby for the Wallabies.



Our 1947-48 1st grade side finished 4th, our second best effort in 1st grade. This combined with Green Shield success, young stars coming through and the new coaching program set us up for future success.

1950



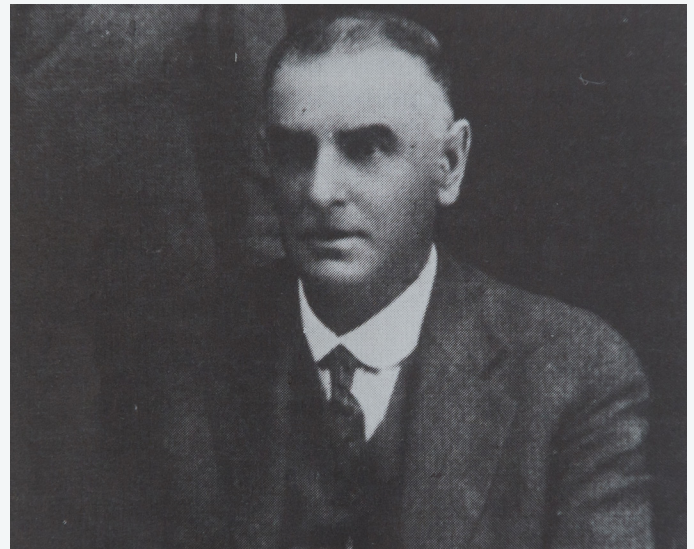
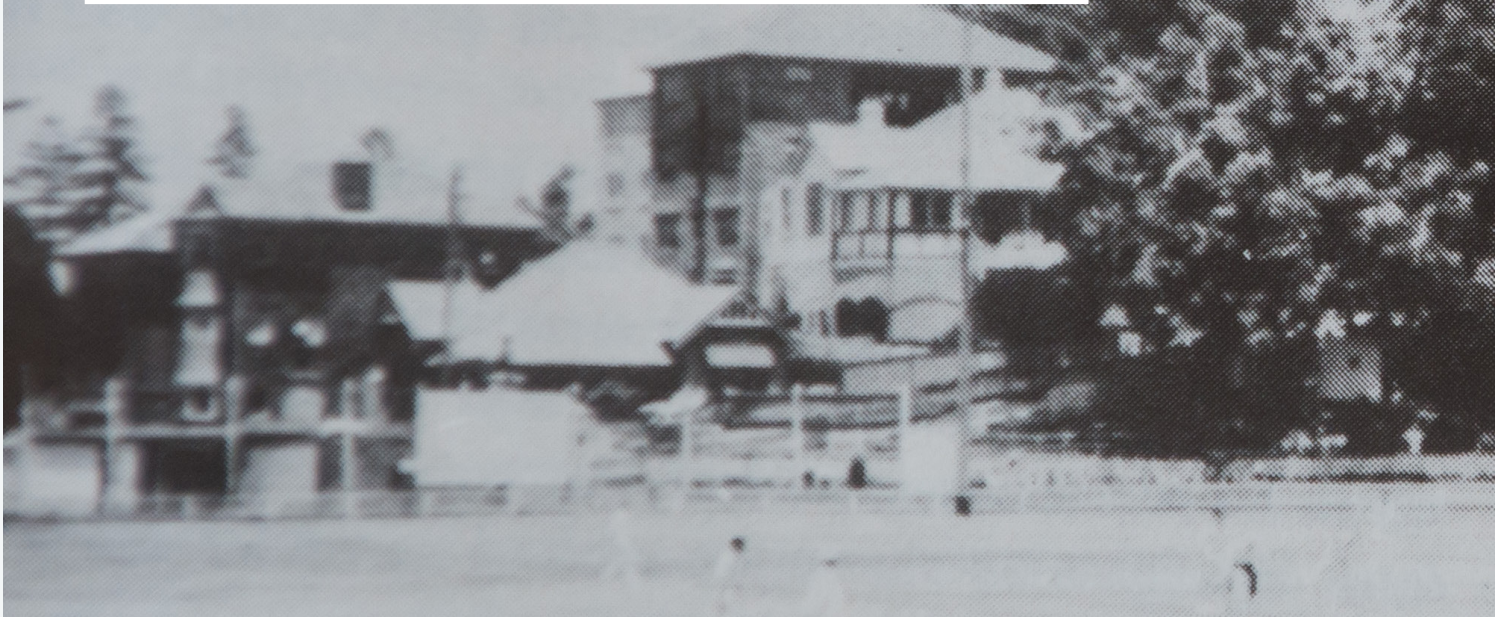
After 44 years of 1st grade cricket, we finally tasted premiership success on the 5th April 1950, finishing on top of the ladder on 81 points. The result of the premiership was in doubt up until the last day. **Insets** (L to R) J. Burke, D. Dives, D. Frazer, K. Miller.

BACK ROW: J. Kennedy, G. Lowe (coach), B. Taylor.

MIDDLE ROW: B. Adrian, E. Robinson, G. Morrow, E. Smith.

FRONT ROW: V. Brown, T. Brooks, B. Cook (captain), J. Gwynne, C. Graham

The 1950s was the club's most successful decade in its history at the time, with Manly Oval again the centrepiece. Isn't she beautiful.

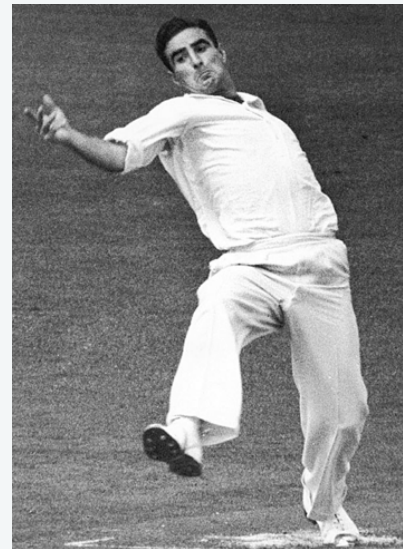


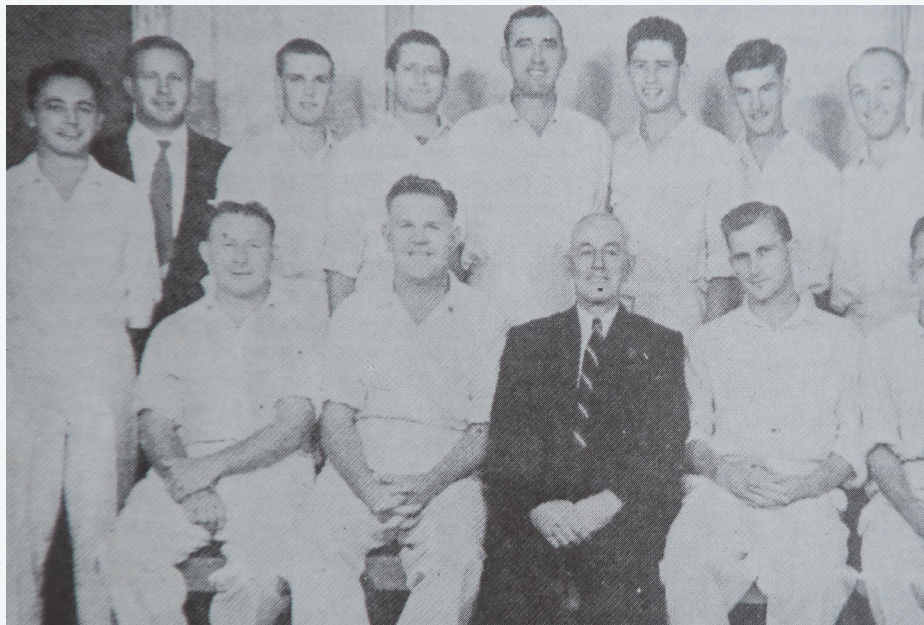


Right: Alan Walker. The first locally born and taught player to represent Australia.

Prev Pg Left: Keith Miller. His addition to the 1st grade side, at a time when Australian players still played quite regularly for their club sides, in 1947-48 was a huge boost for the club.

Prev Pg Right: Aubrey Oxlade sadly passed away on 14th September 1955 while still the President of the club. He had served 34 years as our President, still a record, and is remembered as one of our greatest ever administrators. He was even Chairman of the Australian Cricket Board in 1927.





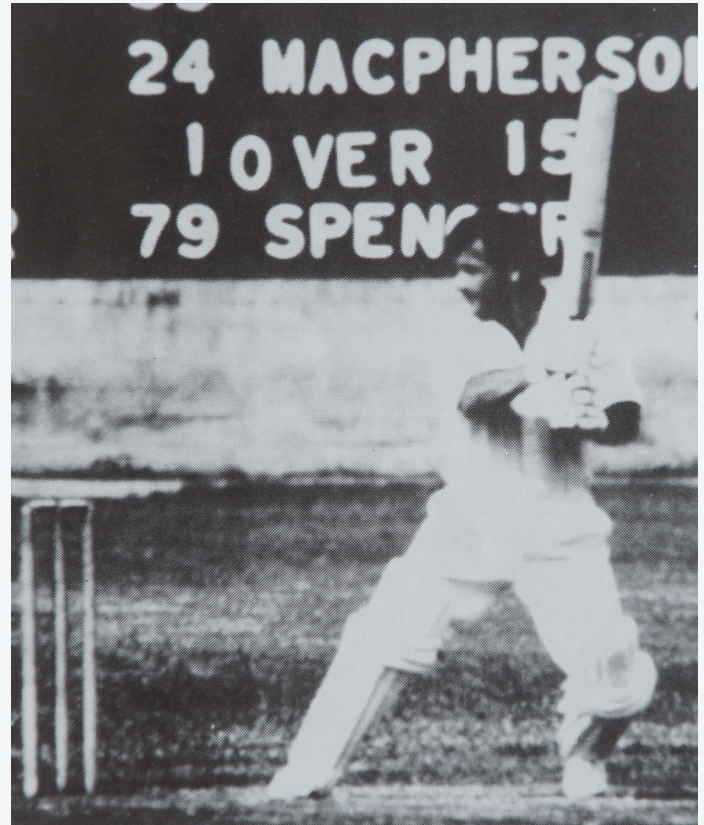
Another 1st Grade Premiership in the 1957-58 season, again captained by Bruce Cook. Manly defeated Western Suburbs in the match at the SCG.

The 1950s also saw a marked improvement in the performance of our lower grades, culminating in the above 1958-59 3rd Grade Premiership victory. We also won the Green Shield competition 3 times and finished runners up on another occasion, while also winning Poidevin Gray in 1955-56.





Much of the 60s was dominated by the man known as the “Bomber”. Terry Lee loved to go on the attack and had a great career at Manly and NSW with both his batting and capable off-spin. Lee still holds the record for the most number of centuries for the club with 15.



A brilliant square cutter and fieldsman, Barry Rothwell continued to dominate club attacks in the 60s, going on to Captain NSW with distinction. Rothwell hit 5,180 runs until his departure in 1968.

1960

Peter Philpott made his test debut against the West Indies in 1965. He bewildered batsmen and bowlers alike with his all-round skill for club, state and country. One of



our greatest ever players.

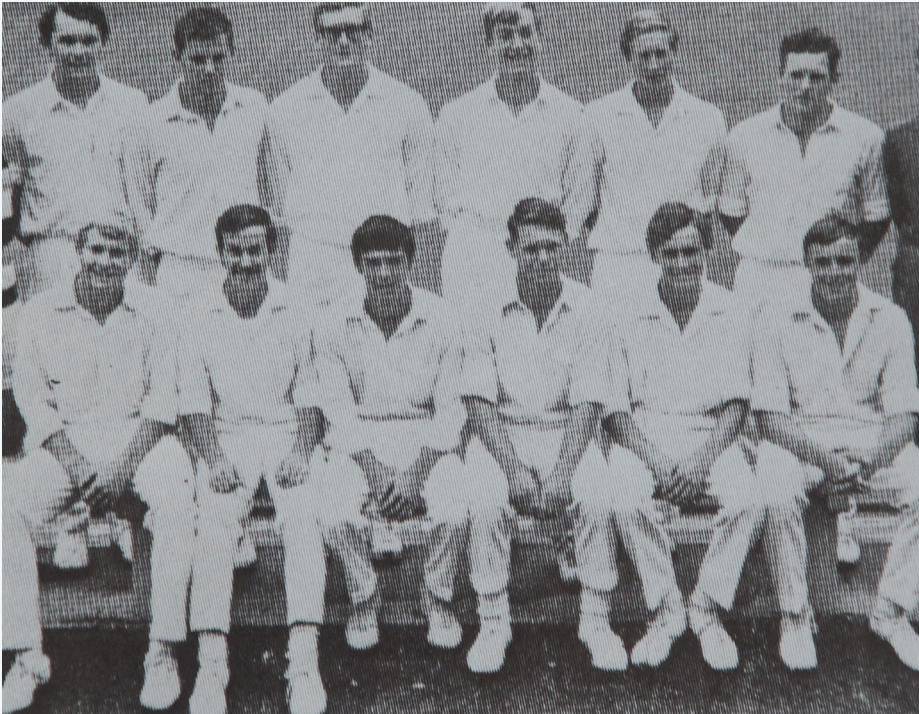


Tom Brooks was one of our best ever fast bowlers, taking 438 wickets for the club and representing NSW on 16 occasions. Tom went on to represent our

club with distinction as a Test Umpire, officiating in 23 Test matches between 1970 and 1978.



Despite some strong sides, especially in 1st grade, premiership success mostly eluded the club in the 1960s. Our 3rd Grade premiership of 1969/70 was our only grade premiership of the decade.



Poidevin Gray winners in 1968-69.

BACK ROW: P. Stephenson, K. Nichol, R. Honeyman, P. Spraggs, G. Beard, K. Turner.

FRONT ROW: R. Andrew, N. Coltman, P. Harvey (c), F. Turner, A. Frazer, I. Felton



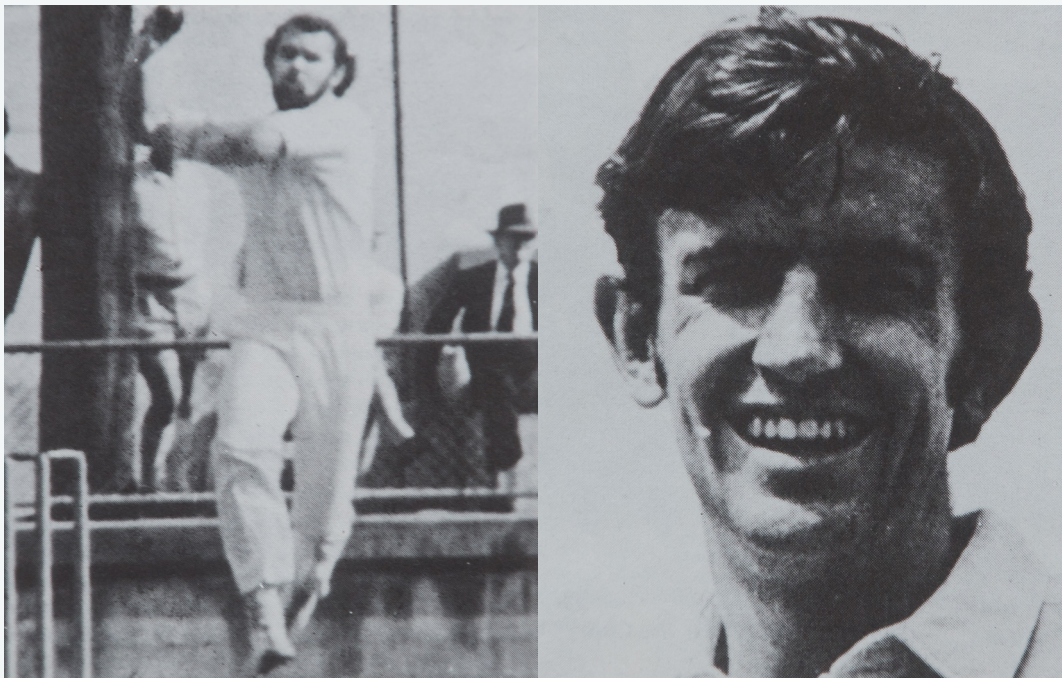
Brian Kinsey, one of the most enthusiastic, accurate and big-hearted cricketers our club has ever produced. Brian took over 650 wickets for the club and was a stalwart during the 1970s.

John Hodgson provided the club with over 40 years of service both on and off the field. Our 5th Club President from 1966 to 1976.



1970



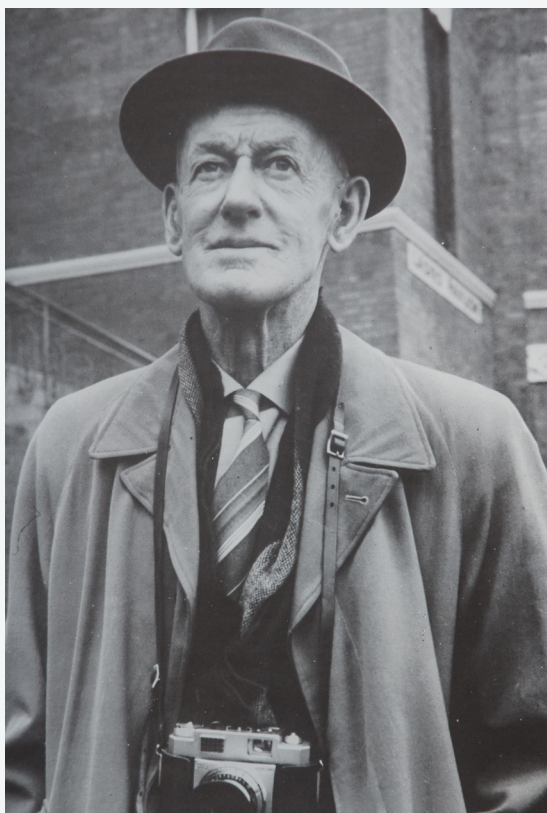


Top Left: 1972-73 4th Grade Premiers, led by the popular, long term lower grade skipper Dick Woodfield. Up until 2017/18, this was the only 4th grade premiership in our history.

Top Right: Two of the leaders of our first grade attack in the 70s, Paul Stephenson and Jeff McPherson.

Left: Ian Howell on his way to a crucial 47 in the 1973-74 Grand Final. The team, captained by the enigmatic Mike Pawley, won our first 1st grade premiership in 16 years.

George Lowe passed away on 31st May 1976. He played 1st grade at 19 before being badly injured in WW1, but this didn't stop him playing and coaching the game he loved. In 1969 he was awarded an M.B.E by the Queen "for services to sport, particularly cricket". Lowe was a kind, gentle and giving man whose contribution will stand the test of time.



3rd grade 1974/75 premiers, a team including no less than five Life Members.

BACK ROW: A. Anderson (Hon Sec), S. Byers, J. Barratt, B. Kinsey, T. Spencer, J. Logan.

FRONT ROW: G. Flowers, G. Hill, M. Byers, G. Howlett, S. Mesite, G. Simpson



Phil “Skid” Marks. An institution in the 1980s at Manly. Over 5,000 runs for the club. Joined the Waratahs in 1979.

1980

A few lean years in the early 80s was finally broken with a PGs Premiership in 1985, our first of any kind since 1977-78. The side was skippered by Peter Wilkins and included many up and coming stars such as Tim Blank, Glenn Evans, Bruce Minnett, Neil Tuckerman and Richard Fry.





In 1988 to celebrate our Bicentenary, a PM's Aboriginal XI Centenary Match at Manly Oval was held. It featured the first all-Aboriginal touring team since 1868 against a team of former Australian greats, headed by the Prime Minister. Our own Bert Pearce played in the Aboriginal XI. The match was marred by various Bicentenary protests.



In 1987/88 our 3rd Grade side went through the season undefeated, the only team to ever do this. It was our first Grade Premiership since 1973/74.



Don "Dollars" Sellin. He is getting on but he is still there at training and game day watching the boys. Has been involved with the club for over 50 years, first scoring for us in 1962. A true club legend.



1990



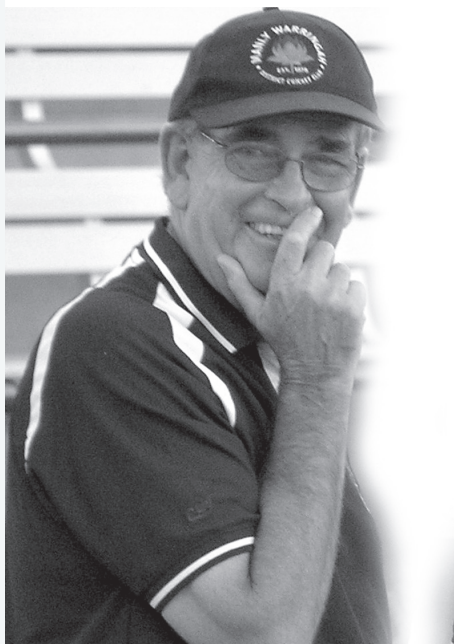
1991 MWDCC UK Tour. Went through 4 countries in 38 days, were undefeated up until the last match against the French National team, and provided memories in abundance.

1989/90; 2nd Grade Premiers, meaning 3 x premierships in 3 years to mark the end of a golden era - it was to be another 15 year drought before we won our next grade title.



1988/89; 1st Grade Premiers & Club Champions. What an amazing year. Photo includes Alan Waters (masseur), Mark Williams, Neil Tuckerman, Rowly Alexander, Gavin Fletcher, Richard Fry, Steve Colby, Scott Grace, Greg Bush, Phil Marks, Steve Whitfield and Kerry Mackay.

Bob Brenner, one of our greatest ever administrators. Club Secretary from 1991 to 2005. Life member of MWCCC and CNSW.



Craig Glasscock in 1992. The man affectionately known as “Sac” is one of the best local junior keeper/batsman ever. Part of the infamous Glasscock clan with 4 brothers playing for the club.



After sustained Green Shield success in the 40s and 50s, we had to wait almost 40 years until our next Premiership courtesy of the 1991/92 Simon Couch led side. The team contained future legends such

as Clemow, Cranney and Couch himself, as well as a young Mark Higgs. Despite multiple Grand Final births, we are still waiting for our next Premiership.



- Scored his maiden century
- Broke the previous record MWDCC 3rd Grade score of 210 which had stood for 61 years.
- Posted the highest score ever in the Club's 114 year history, surpassing the previous record of 252 not out scored by FN Ridge in 1897-98.
- Broke the record for the highest ever score in a lower grade match surpassing the previous best of 278 not out which had stood since 1904-05.
- It was the third highest score in the 99 year history of Sydney grade cricket.
- The highest ever not out score in Sydney grade cricket history.
- He hit 35 fours, a five and a six.
- Was involved in a record 4th wicket partnership with Angus Johnston.
- Was involved in a record 5th wicket partnership with Peter Procopis.
- The team total score of 4-439 was a record for a Manly 3rd Grade side.

On the 14th November 1992, Brian Clemow, at the tender age of 16, broke every record imaginable, many of which still stand today, in hitting the highest ever score for the club. Clem was an exceptional talent, coming through the U17 and U19 Pathway and was destined for big things. Unfortunately a car crash in which he needed to learn to walk again brought his career to a halt. Clem still managed to get back onto the field and fight his way back to first grade.



Manly players Gavin Robertson & Michael Bevan made their test debuts against Pakistan in 1994, becoming the first Australian Test representatives since Graham Beard.



2000

In eight seasons throughout the late 90s and early 2000s, Matthew Phelps was a colossus. His run scoring feats were legendary in 1st grade, plundering attack after attack. At 42.45 he has the 2nd best average in our history of players who have scored over 5,000 runs, only behind former Australian test star Jim Burke.



The Sri Lankan tour of 2000 was our first in 9 years. Some of the best nocturnal touring ever seen, plus some cricket in between. Four games in 12 days brought 2 wins and 2 losses.



Shawn Bradstreet is one of our hardest working and mentally tough cricketers of all time. Known for his uncompromising approach to the game, he is a premiership winning captain and coach and bleeds for our club.

DAY-NIGHTER 2005

We ran the first ever day-night match against North Sydney on the 8th January 2005. Unfortunately we were well beaten on the day but it was a first in SCA history.







After years of premiership heartbreak for one of our strongest 1st grade eras, we finally cracked the Premiership drought in 2005/06 by defeating Campbelltown in the Limited Overs Final.

3rd grade premiership in 2004-05, our first grade premiership since 89/90. Captained by John Warn and including some of our club greats such as Parkinson, Lindsay, Fitzsimmons and Youell.





One thing that was undoubtedly holding the club and local cricket community back for many years was the lack of a third ground. In 2007, this was finally resolved with the creation of Mike Pawley Oval. Fittingly, the ground was named after the godfather of Manly Cricket and skipper of the 1973/74 1st Grade Premiership winning team, Mike Pawley.







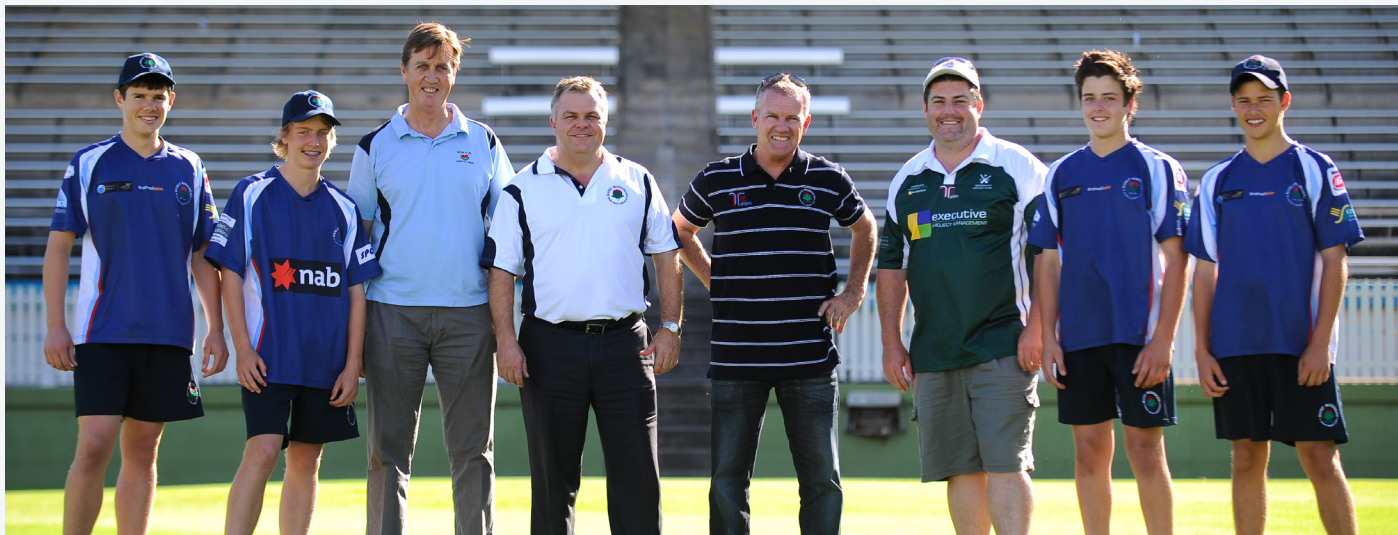
Statistically speaking, Adam Crosthwaite is up there with Matthew Phelps and Jim Burke as our best ever batsman. Came up from Victoria and showed our batsmen how to score tough runs. A run machine.

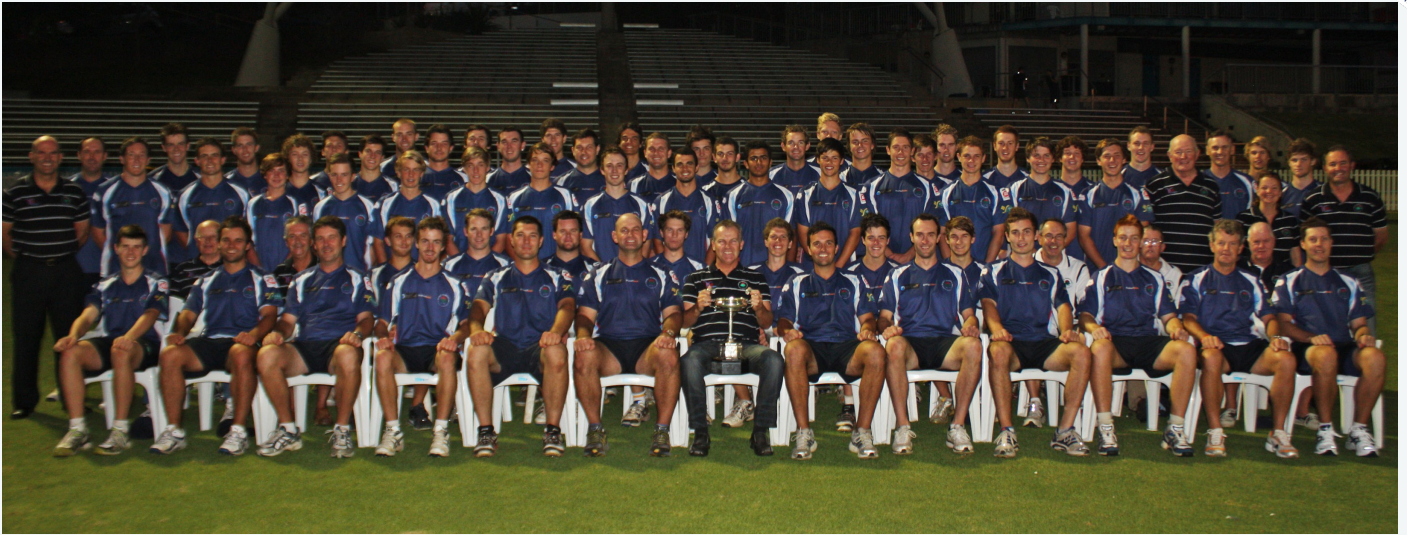


2010

T-20 Premiers in 2009/10 after some Steve O'Keefe and Mitchell Cleary heroics. One of the greatest evenings in our history.

In 2010 we started our revered Junior Pathway Program. Headed by people such as David Gainsford, Greg Boyer, Doug McGrath and Mike Pawley, it involved all levels of cricket on the Northern Beaches pulling together in the one direction.





In the 2010/11 season the club won its first ever 5th grade premiership, along with winning the 3rd Grade Premiership and Club Championship.





Arriving in 2009, Steve O'Keefe immediately made a big impression on the whole club. Passionate, humble, quirky and honest, he has progressed from a fringe NSW player to a test spin bowler in his 10 years as a Waratah.



Craig Little is not only one of our great all-rounders but also one of our great leaders. Never missed a finals series as captain and one of only five players to score 5,000 runs and take 300 wickets for the club.



As the club developed and grew, it was clear that the link to our juniors and community at large was key to our long term success. The Manly for Manly Community program was born in 2013/14 to engage the peninsula and ensure our players gave back to the local community through charity events, visits to our juniors and helping not-for-profit organisations.



The transformation to a digital world has made a large impact on how the club is run. Website, social media and video content means a pro-active online strategy is needed to keep the club front of mind to our community. We have forged a great footprint with our Media team and are considered first class for an amateur organisation.



Local junior Jackson Bird made his debut for Australia at the Boxing Day Test match in 2012. He was our first local junior to play test cricket since Graeme Beard in 1980. Despite his move to Tasmania, the Bird family are still very much involved in Manly Cricket.



In February 2013 our beloved Treasurer Fiona Lyon lost her battle with cancer. She was the heart and soul of Manly Oval for many years and is still sadly missed. Pictured here with brother, club stalwart Simon Lyon. The annual MWDC Past versus Present match was renamed to the “Fiona Lyon Cup” in her honour.





Tim Cruickshank. Local junior, highest ever run scorer for the club, NSW representative, premiership winning 1st Grade captain. Need we say more.



What a year in 2014/15. 1st & 3rd Grade Premiers, 2nd and 5th Grade Grand Finalists, 4th Grade Minor Premiers and a Club Championship to boot.





One of our most important pieces of work concluded in 2015 with the opening of the brand new net facility at Grahams Reserve. This was many years in the making. Premier Mike Baird was on hand to open the facility.



Warren Evans is an institution at Manly. Debuting in 1986, there has not been a year since then where he hasn't played at least 1 match. As at publishing he has taken 771 wickets, our 2nd highest ever, and scored over 5,000 runs.





Andrew Fraser has been involved at our club for 40 years since his debut in 1978. His contribution during that time, including a playing career spanning 30 years and a Presidency currently sitting at 15 years, is almost unparalleled. In our 140th year it is fitting that we celebrate one of our finest, one of our greatest, and one of our best.





A Club Championship, two Premierships and another two Grand Finals. 2017/18 was a year that dreams are made of and one of our best ever.



The highlight was skippers Adam Gummer and Geoff Isaacs leading us to our second ever premierships in both 4th and 5th grade.





OUR CLUBS

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS



Peter Philpott OAM

Tom Spencer

Barry Rothwell

Greg Hill

Jim Stewart

Gary Flowers

Sam Mesite

Don Sellin

Mike Pawley OAM

Gavin Fletcher

Andrew Fraser

Mal Elliot

Ron Holmes

David Patterson

Bob Brenner

Richard Fry

Frank Turner

Keith Fitzpatrick

Shawn Bradstreet

Terry Lee OAM

John Warn

Graeme Beard

Geoff Rogers

David Gainsford

Joel Mason

LIFE MEMBERS

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS (DECEASED)

Bruce Adrian
Alex Anderson
Jim Burke
Les Gwynne
C Cochrane
Bruce Cook
H Dunlop
C Hayes
C Hayman
W Hoy
C Laurence
W S Mitchell
Robert Aubrey Oxlade CBE
George Lowe MBE
Cliff Searle
L A Soman
R Pitt
John Hodgson
M Hayman
Alan Turner
John Stephenson
Eddie Robinson
Tom Brooks OAM





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MANLY WARRINGAH DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

The Club has won twenty (20) grade premierships

FIRST GRADE (5)

1949-50, 1957-58, 1973-74, 1988-89, 2014-15

SECOND GRADE (2)

1904-05, 1989-90

THIRD GRADE (9)

1902-03, 1920-21, 1958-59, 1969-70, 1974-75, 1987-88, 2004-05, 2010-11, 2014-15

FOURTHS (2)

1974-75, 2017-18

FIFTH GRADE (2)

2010-11, 2017-18

We have also won twenty six (26) other premierships

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS (8)

1976-77, 1988-89, 1999-00, 2002-03, 2005-06, 2011-12, 2014-15, 2017-18

FIRST GRADE LIMITED OVERS (3)

1976-77, 2000-01, 2005-06

FIRST GRADE TWENTY/20 (1)

2009-10

POIDEVIN GRAY U21 (6)

1949-50, 1955-56, 1959-60, 1968-69, 1977-78, 1985-86

GREEN SHIELD U16 (6)

1941-42, 1942-43, 1944-45, 1952-53, 1953-54, 1991-92

MASTERS O40 (2)

2002-03, 2003-04

WOMENS SECOND GRADE (1)

1983-84