



**A History of the
Eildon Park Cricket Club**
(Established 1989)

Compiled by

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Acknowledgments

Many thanks to former President and Life member Max Powell who kept much of the information used in writing this history. Thanks to former President Wayne Benson for input on the early 1990's. Thanks also to the Ferntree Gully District Cricket Association, through Stephen Flemming, Anne Gottliebsen and Peter Fahy for their assistance with competition ladders across seniors, juniors and veterans. And Maddocks Sports who provided a comprehensive list of trophy winners.

Records, scorebooks, committee meeting minutes are difficult to locate and the loss of some of these due to the leaking shipping container during the extension to the backrooms may leave some stories and records left untold. If you can help with any information from the early years we'd love to hear from you.

Notes

The Club Executive, all average winners, final finishing positions and other club awards are all noted in the section on Club Records. There are many gaps in the club records so please assist us by providing any details you may have.

At the end of the report for each season the general committee for that year is acknowledged, apologies to any names missing from these years. Please let us know if there are any omissions.

In the beginning....

As can be the case in community sport an opportunity to create a new club opens up, but it takes people to get active and that was indeed the way the Eildon Park Cricket Club came to be. The idea of a new club was formulated by a group of players who at the time were playing with the Rowville Cricket Club, but had become disillusioned.

Talk of the creation of a new club at the recently completed and centrally located complex at Eildon Parade represented the perfect opportunity to establish a new club in a rapidly growing Rowville area; but who was to know at the time just how much growth would occur in the area and how fortuitous it would be to be located at Eildon Park in the years to come.

There was one thing for certain that creating a new club just down the road from the Rowville Cricket Club would ensure an instant rivalry to be contested many times at many different levels in the years to come.

In mid 1989 John Johnston, Rod Charles, Max Powell, Jim Hines, Mike Prince, Graham Smith, Peter Nash and John Day met at the home of John Johnston to formulate the establishment of the Club.

The initial committee was made up as follows:

President: John Johnston
Vice President: Rod Charles

Secretary: Michael Prince, later replaced by Bruce Le Cerf
Treasurer: Jim Hines, later replaced by Andrew Williams
General Committee: John Day, Heiki Kangur, Max Powell and Ian Thompson

Whilst having a committee was one thing, having sufficient players was another so advertisements were run in local papers and the Rowville/Lysterfield News seeking interested players and in September 1989 training commenced.

In its first year the fledgling club was able to field two senior sides and a junior side, entering them in the Ferntree Gully & District Cricket Association (FTGDCA) with the seniors in the Shield 4 and 6 Grades and Under 14's for juniors.

John Johnston was instrumental in attracting the services of Leigh Wegener a lively opening bowler who had spent time with district club St.Kilda and who was appointed First XI Captain for the season 1989/90. Max Powell was appointed to look after the junior team.

For a club to function there are a number of requirements and a major one is a club constitution. At Eildon Park it was decided that a preamble to the constitution was required.

That preamble was designed to provide direction to the club and hence became known as the club purpose.

In 2006 at a Special General Meeting the purpose was altered to include developing cricketers for higher honours which by 2006 had started to happen.

own baggy green cap. The club chose to use the colours red, black and white to identify the club.

Hopefully in the fullness of time the club will be able to boast a player with his

The Eildon Park Cricket Club Purpose:

Develop our cricketers with the aim for them to reach the highest possible standard, ultimately leading to state and international representative status

Support, represent, encourage, promote, organise and develop the game of cricket, both at junior and senior levels, within the city surrounding areas.

Affiliate with responsible Cricket Associations for the purpose of playing the game on a competitive basis

Pursue and conduct programmes and projects which affect Cricket and its development generally

Cooperate and assist any organisation having objects and purpose which may further the interests of Cricket in any area

Cooperate and participate where ever possible with the appropriate bodies which have control over the playing of Cricket in Victoria

Do such things that are incidental or conducive to attainment of the above objects and exercise the powers of an incorporated association.

Club Song

(to the tune of the Richmond Football Club Song)

Oh we're from Eildon Park

A team of Panthers we're from Eildon Park

*During any summer you will see us making runs,
clocking up the tons, we're taking wickets, clearing
pickets, we're never ever done*

Oh we're from Eildon Park

It's never over 'til the final stumps are drawn

With the willow and ball, we'll stand strong and tall

Oh we're from Panther - Red White and Black

Oh we're from Eildon Park

The Advertisement that ran in the Rowville Lysterfield News to announce the commencement of a new club.

EILDON PARK CRICKET CLUB

The 'PANTHERS'

Affiliated with Ferntree Gully District Association and situated at Eildon Park Reserve, Rowville.

The above is a newly formed club about to embark on its first season of competitive cricket. The club will play its matches on Simpson Turf and will field two senior teams this season and, if numbers prevail, will nominate a third senior team along with one junior team of under-fourteens.

The senior team will be under the guidance of Leith Wagner who has played with District Club St Kilda and the juniors will be looked after by Max Powell who also has a great knowledge of the game and a very good temperament with the kids.

Being a newly formed club we require

- a) Senior players
- b) Junior under-fourteen players
- c) Sponsors
- d) Supporters

Any person interested in playing, sponsoring, or supporting this newly formed family-orientated club, please contact:

John Johnston	President	763 5917
Rod Charles	Vice President	763 1165
Mike Prince	Secretary	754 7601
Jim Hines	Treasurer	704 9046
Max Powell	Junior Coach	763 1353

The Club will be competitive and will foster Junior development in this area. Please help us to help the community by giving your support to Eildon Park C.C.

John Johnston, 763 5917 □

Season 1989/90

Two senior sides

One junior side

On Saturday 7th October 1989 the first, First XI played Tecoma at the Talaskia Reserve, Upper Ferntree Gully in a one day game.

The inaugural First XI side was as follows:

Leigh Wegener (Capt.),
Bill Cornish
Kevin Wale
Andrew Williams
Steven Clewett
Arun Sarve
Bruce LeCerf
John Duncan

Wayne Dozzi

Jason Hill

Ian Thompson (wicket keeper).

In this first game the bowlers kept Tecoma to a creditable 9/103 after the 40 overs and then proceeded to hit up 6/159 in response to go on to win its first game.

Highlights for the First XI during this first season came from the bat of Tim Peebles with a Round 7 score of 119 against Mt Gate and then an historic innings of 167 in a 40 over a side one day game on 28 January 1990 played at Eildon Park, Tim's innings included five 6's and eighteen 4's, with the team total of 326 in response to a Rowville total of 72, surely something of immense joy to the founding members of the club that

had “defected” from Rowville to create *The Panthers*. In Round 8 Leigh Wegener managed a very tidy 7/32 against Belgrave.

In this first season the First XI lost only once, that being the last game. Playing Upper Ferntree Gully (UFTG) at Kings Park, Eildon Park hit up 261 with UFTG 9/262 in reply. This was the preview for a showdown at finals time.

The First XI team finished on top of the ladder and earned the right to a home final against Bayswater. The semi final was a one sided affair with Bayswater dismissed for 140 from 48.2 overs with Wegener the standout bowler for *The Panthers* with 5/23 from 11.2 overs with 6 maidens.

Eildon Park responded by passing the total with 2 wickets down, Tim Peebles hitting up 90 and Kevin Wale carrying his bat for 32 n.o.

The Grand Final was played at Johnson Park against UFTG and was played over three days. UFTG 188 on day 1 off 65.3 overs with Eildon Park hitting up 280 in response off 54.2 with Tim Peebles top scoring with 84. Rules at the time forced the game into a second innings with UFTG making 235 leaving Eildon Park to obtain 143 for outright victory. This was achieved for the loss of 6 wickets with Bill Cornish hitting a quick fire 60 off 34 balls in opening the innings.

The result was a historic premiership for the First XI in its first year as a club.



The first, First XI premiership side

Whilst the First XI blasted out of the blocks, the Second XI had its fair share of success during the season as well, managing to make the Semi-final playing Knoxfield at Footballers Ground. Dismissing Knoxfield for 158, Eildon Park passed the score without the loss of a wicket, with Max Powell and Steve Hayes amassing the score.

Earning the right for a home Grand Final against Johnston Park, the Second XI were not able to emulate that feat of the First XI and subsequently lost to Johnson Park who hit up 323 (Mick Wilson 4/105 and Peter Faull 3/67). In response Eildon Park made 180 with Peter Faull 57 and Andy Young 31.

It was a great start for the fledgling new club, a first premiership in the first year.

1989/90 Grand Final sides

First XI	Second XI
Leigh Wegener (Captain)	Max Powell (Captain)
Bill Cornish (Vice captain)	Steve Hayes (Vice Captain)
Tim Peebles	Sam Materia
Wayne Benson	Peter Faull
Andrew Williams	Mick Wilson
Jason Hill	Andrew Young
John Duncan	John Johnstone

John Day	Steve Humble
Wayne Dozzi	Heiki Kangur
Scott Brooks	Mick Maling
Bruce Le Cerf	Steve Clewett
	Clare Vethecan (12 th man)

Other players to play seniors that year were Rod Charles, Jim Hines, Iain Thompson, Arun Sarve and Barry Cain.

The first season saw the inception of the "Panther Press" newsletter which gave news on scores, social events and club talk. One of the humorous items noted was Peter Faull purchasing a bat for \$6.00 at a sale from the newly completed Stud Park Kmart where he worked and promptly hitting up 96* with that purchase!

The presentation night was held at the Rowville Community Centre in Fulham Road with Tim Peebles not surprisingly taking out the batting and bowling averages as well as the Club Championship.

The Club recorded a modest profit for the financial year ending with a bank balance of \$761.89 with income of \$16,806.95.

Season 1990/91

*Three senior sides
Two junior sides*

Leigh Wegner continued as captain coach and commenced training in early August with indoor sessions at the Dandenong Indoor Centre.

With the First XI promoted after its win the previous season, the Second XI set

about avenging its loss in the Grand Final and did just that, giving the club its second premiership in two years but it wasn't without issue as the club was put in a position of having to apologise to the Bluebirds C.C due to the unruly behaviour of some club members and was left lamenting the lack of support from the remainder of the club at the Grand Final, sullyng an otherwise great event for the club.



In the second year came a second premiership this time to the Second XI. P.Faull captain and Max Powell Vice Captain.

At this early stage of the club's history issues with captaincy had emerged in the newly formed Third XI resulting in President Johnstone needing to raise the issue of disgruntled players at a committee meeting as early as late November, merely a few games into the season, the issue coming to a head in early February when Graeme Duncan was removed as captain of the 3rds, the 3rds still managed some highlights during the season and none bigger than M.Mailing's hat-trick in round 8 against Upwey in his figures of 4/28.

Training numbers was leaving a lot to be desired as the committee grappled with how to get players to train and was running happy hours with a \$1.00 barbeque to get people back to the club, and the finances of the club needed close looking at as the club needed to pay

\$250 to repair the mats which resulted in a decision to use coir mats for training to minimize wear and tear, a decision that was not widely supported and required policing.

The Silver Plate Restaurant in St Lawrence Way was the location for a club social dinner in late October.

Seniors were paying \$90 and juniors \$45. The club had applied for and was successful in receiving a \$1000 grant from the Knox Council to assist in its development.

A notable social member was George Buttigieg after whom the Club's Bestperson Award would named in years to come.

The junior presentation was a Sunday afternoon affair with Beef on a spit and drinks at \$10 a family. It followed the Under 14's losing their semi final to Rowville after being bowled out for 74 runs. Whilst the senior presentation night was held at Peking Duck.

At year's end the club had \$2,655.73 left as a profit on Gross Income of \$19,139

General Committee: Max Powell, Michael Mayling, Bill Cornish, Wayne Benson and Steve Mayer

Season 1991/92

Three senior sides
Two junior sides

In the preseason the committee approached the subject of driving a family atmosphere through the

developing club and developed the club's code of conduct and spent considerable time working with council to establish a location for the development of practice wickets.

Senior subs increased to \$140 and a social membership at \$10 but the rewards for strong performances were not financial, a century saw the player receive a dozen cans of beer whilst a bowler needed to take at least 7 wickets. Whilst the beer was cold that long term problem of afternoon teas was a major issue back in December 1991 with strong complaints of players bringing little, nothing or poor afternoon teas, not much would change in the coming years. Afternoon teas are the bane of all community clubs and Eildon Park was no different, oh for a good cuppa and sandwich on a hot afternoon!

One idea that got off the ground in this season but didn't have the legs to become a permanent feature of the club was the Ladies Social Committee of D. Lacey, S Haskell, A Powell, D Chesare, J Cornish and J Faull.

Senior Presentation night was held at the Admiral Nelson Restaurant in Wantirna. This night saw the initial awarding of the Club Person of the season award donated by local identity and Rowville soccer Club President George Buttigieg in honor of his wife Mary who had recently passed away. The inaugural winner was Angela Powell in recognition of her significant efforts in running of the canteen and support of husband club President Max.

The second XI reached another Grand Final but fell short, with a season

highlight being Steven Hadj's 8/53 from 26 overs.

General Committee: Rod Charles, Craig Hudson, Brett Noonan, John Johnstone and Peter Faull

Season 1992/93

Four Senior sides

Three / (Two?) Junior sides

The establishment of new nets at the club constructed by members saw improved training facilities. A wet spring meant the season did not start until the first Saturday in November (no play in October) and waist high grass on the main oval was a feature, with the council tractor becoming bogged on the ground and having to be towed out.

This year culminated in the 1st XI winning its second premiership for the Club in Topline Shield 3 Grade.

Defeating Bayswater in the Semi final, the 1st XI restricted Bayswater to 108 (Noel Warren 4/36) and passed them with the score at 8/109. Wayne Benson's comments that "Eildon Park was gone for all money" looked correct but an eighth wicket partnership between Graham Lenthall and Wayne Dooley of 20+ saved the day.

The side proceeded to meet St.Johns/Tecoma in the final at Eildon Park. *The Panthers* won the toss and batted opening with Kevin Wale and Ray Marsland. Steve Hall got a 50 + and John Kett 40. Cal Sheen top scored with 70 odd, Wayne Benson was 35n.o. when overs ran out at 8/292. On the second day Eildon Park had St.Johns/Tecoma 5/100 and dismissed them for 137 day 3,

John Kett 4 wickets, Wayne Dooley 2, Noel Warren 3 and John Day 1.

Team: Kevin Wale, Noel Warren, Wayne Dooley, Wayne Benson, Steve Hall, John Kett, Craig Hudson, John Kett, John Day, Ray Marsland, Cal Sheen, Graham Lenthall

A glorious second 1st XI premiership to the Panthers!



A second premiership to the First XI

General Committee: Colin Taggart, Brett Noonan, Craig Hudson, Alan Bull and Peter Faull

Season 1993/94

Five senior sides

Four Junior sides

Fees:

Seniors \$125

Concession \$60

Juniors \$40

Preseason training was underway in late August with the seniors training indoors at the Knox Indoor Cricket centre in Lewis Rd on Thursday's and outdoors on Sunday mornings.

Registration Day and a BBQ on the 29th August had senior players paying \$125 to have the pleasure of playing for *The*

Panthers in season 1993/94 with students paying \$60 and juniors \$40, the club ended the season with a \$508 profit from a \$29,102 turnover.

John Kett had a stellar season hitting up 401 runs @ 44.56 with a high score of 152, and taking 23 wickets @ 14.6, Best 6/13

General Committee: Craig Hudson, Wally Poulter, Cal Sheen and Colin Taggart

Season 1994/95

Five? *Four senior sides*
Five Junior sides

A major milestone for the club was the utilization of the back oval which the council completed and provided for two home sides to be based at Eildon Parade for the first time. Prior to the back ground being made available the club relied on playing games at the ground at Park Ridge in Dandelion Drive., but that wasn't the only highlight as the club introduced the new club jacket in black with a red & white V.

For the First XI, Steve Hall won the batting average with 521 runs @ 52.1 Highest score 115, and the bowling went to Noel Warren 33 wickets @ 14.00.

During the season Dave Harvey scored 105 against Footballers in the First XI, but Dave was not to be around the club for a lengthy time succumbing to cancer. In a mark of respect for a man who had left his mark on the club it was decided to name the Junior Club Champion Award in Dave's honour.

A noted highlight was Mick Lewis hitting up a club record 271 n.o. (35 – 4's and 10 – 6's) against Bluebirds as the 3rds amassed a new club record of 4/440, the 3rds rolled on to a Grand Final against UFTG with Mick making a grand 105 and taking 4/65 in a losing side as the Panthers were all out for 177 needing 255.

Another club record this season was the Under 12's knocking up 7/200 which was backed up by Matthew Urzia taking a hat trick. The U12's rolled on through the season undefeated including taking out the Topline Challenge Cup held at Johnson Park. This was also the first year that Eildon Park juniors represented the FTGDCA with Rhys Adams, Cameron Fredericks, Aaron Powell, Philip Polido and Brandon Allison becoming the club's first junior rep players at U12 level (two Upwey C.C. boys – Ben Kinniburgh and Shane Cosstick also played in the same U12 rep side and would later become Eildon Park players with Shane winning back to back association 1st XI medals for the club and Ben a Panther Medal) with Max Powell the club's first junior representative coach (Under 12 Mitchell Shield) whilst Alan Marshall made the U16 FTGDCA and Zone 9 representative sides.

Proving you never know who is going to go on and do what in life, a 1st gamer knocked up a brisk 168 in the 4thXI suggesting he had a bit of natural sporting ability, years later in 2000 Paul Barnard was to become a premiership player for the Hawthorn Football Club.

On the social side of the club a golf day was held on the last Sunday of every month throughout the season with

presentation night held at the Ferntree Gully Football Club rooms.

General Committee: Andrew Thomas, Mark Alexander, Shaun Chipman and Dean Hoertzel

Season 1995/96

Five? *Four senior sides*

Six Junior sides

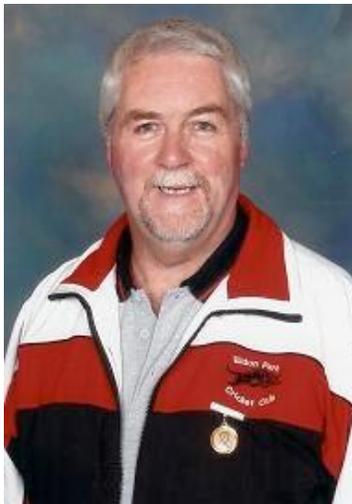
Fees:

Seniors \$150

Concession \$100

Juniors \$50

The Club made the decision to instigate its first Life Membership, with that Life Membership being awarded to Max Powell following his considerable support to the club in a playing, coaching and committee roles including two years as President and particular commitment to the junior section development, Max picked up another highlight during the season when he completed a hat trick against Upwey in the 2nd XI.



Life Member Max Powell

During the early to mid 1990's a frosty relationship developed between the

cricket club and the junior development program VicHit. Why is known by those involved and best not committed to the club history, but thankfully the program did stay operational at Eildon Park even if segregated both structurally and even physically when it came to storage and use of the pavilion.

It would seem that all clubs have a dark period and this was a testing time for the club. Who was to know how big the VicHit program would become during the early 2000's under the name Have-A-Go cricket and the success and significant growth it was to bring the club in the years to come.

During the 1995/96 season the VicHit program was charging \$24 a child and giving children an opportunity to taste cricket before moving on to the club environment.

To ensure that the VicHit program would survive a keen group of parents ran car washes and raffles and sought out sponsors such as Time Zone, Hungry Jacks, McDonalds and the local butchers.

The program continued on successfully and in 2003-04 was finally united with the club under a burgeoning junior program.

During the season the Under 11 team won the Topline Challenge Trophy making 78 and defeating Mt Gate who made 27. Coached by Steve Marks the team was Rhys Adams, Sean Marchetti, Craig Don Paul, Sean Alston, Josh Cherry, Daniel McGuire, Lee Griffiths and James Marks. In an Under 14 association round robin tournament the club made to the quarter finals whilst in

the season proper made it to the semi-final where they lost to Rowville.

Noted junior award winners, U16/1
Steve Pimm batting, U14/1 Aaron
Powell, batting

General Committee: Bjorn Dunderdale,
Michael Trotter and Bernie Marchetti

Season 1996/97

Five senior sides

Six Junior sides

Fees:

Seniors \$150

Concession \$100

Juniors \$50

IN 1996/97 Senior players were paying the handsome amount of \$150 for the pleasure of playing, juniors \$50, with the subs no doubt being subsidized by Micky Trotter's Casino Night one of the social highlights of the season.

Not surprisingly the normal community club issues of cleaning roster, ball collection and team captains dominated early season discussions.

The Club determined to introduce a junior Club champion award to encourage its ever growing number of juniors. That award was appropriately struck in the name of David Harvey, a former senior player and solid batsman who had died of cancer earlier that season. The inaugural winner was Aaron Powell who would over the coming years become an increasingly import part of the senior cricket structure at Eildon Park.

Premiers: Under 14/1

General Committee: Michael Trotter,
Bjorn Dunderdale, Andrew Thomas,
Angela Powell, Wayne Dozzi and Bill
Cornish

Season 1997/98

Five senior sides

Veterans side

Seven Junior sides

In a year that Bill Cornish replaced Stephen Nadj as President and an extension to the clubrooms was complete, the club moved up a grade from Decoite 2 to Decoite to help encourage competitive results and assist in instigating a youth program. The end result being all three 2-day sides making finals. The first XI lost its semi-final to Mt Gate by a single wicket and despite a century (102*) from Frank Robertson the seconds lost to Knox. The young 3rd XI won two close finals games to claim a premiership defeating Knoxfield and then an experienced Upper Gully side in the final game of the season.

This was also the season that the club entered its first Veteran's team for over 40 year olds.

The year's strangest event was the commencing of a 5th XI mid way through the season, resulting in the then 4th XI being promoted in the one day competition and receiving no points whilst the new 5th XI inherited the 4th XI points – go figure! Neither side made finals.

The end of season presentation night was held at the Stamford Hotel.

General Committee: Shane Cherry, Wayne Burns, Mick Trotter, Andy Thomas, Jill Cornish, Matt Cherry, Bjorn Underdale, Brett Cherry and Wayne Benson

Season 1998/99

Five senior sides

Veterans side

Eight Junior sides

The Club celebrated 10 years of existence with a pleasant Sunday afternoon reunion on 7 February 1999 with 80 people in attendance.

Premiers: 3rd XI, Under 16/1, Under 14/1

Runners Up: Veterans

General Committee: Mal Jackson, Shane Cherry, Trevor Jones, Wayne Thornton, Trevor Ives, Mick Trotter, Cheryl Jones, Jill Cornish and Chris Noonan



Four Past Presidents at the 10 Year Reunion 7th Feb 1999- (l to r) Max Powell, Wayne Benson, Bill Cornish and Stephen Nadj.

Season 1999/00

Five senior sides

Veterans side

Ladies Side

Eight Junior sides

After two years as Vice-President, Colin Morris replaced Bill Cornish as

President in the club's tenth year and commenced with registration at McDonalds in early September, senior training went to the Knox Indoor Cricket Centre in the first week of August

In a bold move the club fielded a Ladies team in the VWCA playing largely on Sundays to complement the growing club and inspired the first social activity of the year being the girls shopping tour.

In the February club newsletter club coach Shane White made mention of some rookies in the First XI, Cody Morris, Christian Trotter and Big Azza Powell, all who would go on and play major roles in the coming years on and off the ground.

The Veterans for the second year running made, but lost the Grand Final, not so the Under 12-1 side which was successful in winning the premiership.

Presentation Night was held at the Knox Club

In an excellent year financially the club recorded a profit of \$8027

General Committee: Mal Jackson, Shane Cherry, Fred Femia, Trevor Ives, Rachel White, Wayne Dozzi, Somine Strickland, Wayne Burns and Dave Mackenzie

Season 2000/01

Five senior sides

Veterans side

Ladies Side

Junior sides

Colin Morris in his second year as President headed off to find a coach to

push the club ahead. Col's search led him to appoint Tony Grayson as coach. Tony "Tex" was a well known figure in the FTGDCA and recruited from the Knoxfield Cricket Club. He raised the quality of training and coaching at the club as it continued to seek out promotion to the top division in the competition.

Premiers: Second XI, Under 16/1,
Under 13/2
Runners Up: 3rd XI

General Committee:

Season 2001/02

Five senior sides
Veterans side
Ladies Side
Junior sides
Junior Girls side

Runners Up: Third XI, Under 17/1 &
Under 13/1

A Girls U/17 side was fielded on Friday nights during the season in an effort to foster pathway to the ladies team.

General Committee: Mark Porter, Amanda Morris, Max Powell, Cody Morris, Wayne Dozzi, Syarif Machfud, Leanne Gill, Michael McLaren, Christian Trotter, Shane Cherry and Mal Jackson

Season 2002/03

Five senior sides
Veterans side
Ladies Side
Junior sides

Colin Morris stepped up to the Presidency for the fourth year running and headed out to appoint a new captain/coach for the club and was successful in appointing Andrew Crompton, Andrew was noted as having spent time with District side Ringwood and for his strong captaincy credentials.

In this season the First XI made it through to the semi-final but was not able to proceed any further. The Second XI's suffered a similar fate in what could have been an exciting and rewarding finish to the season.

Only the Under 15-1's could manage to win through to a Premiership.

Both the Ladies team (who had a very strong season making it the fifth Eildon Park side into the finals) and the Third XI made it through to a Grand Final which they both unfortunately lost.

A well attended presentation night was held at the Rowville Football Club Rooms at Seebeck Oval after a mix up with the Knox Tavern, some quick steps enabled a successful night to be held in an alternate location at short notice. During presentation night two further Life Members were added to the ranks in Wayne Burns and Andrew Williams for their administrative services as well as on-ground commitments.

Unfortunately the club suffered a loss of \$6480 and had some serious work to do to turn the financial situation around the following season.

General Committee: Max Powell, Mark Porter, Amanda Morris, Steve Pimm, Cody Morris, Ben Kinniburgh, Paul

Croysdale, Brad Klep, Leanne Gill and Christian Trotter



Life Member Andrew Williams



Life Member Wayne Burns

Season 2003/04

Five senior sides

Veterans side

9 junior sides

Have-A-Go program

Wayne Burns after a year as Vice President took over the reigns from Colin Morris.

Wayne set about challenging the committee to improve the financial position of the club and one of the moves to get this happening was to relocate the social rooms from the rear of the pavilion (where it could be said that you had to wonder if anyone was around some evenings) to the front rooms.

This was a small but very positive move, opening up the use of the canteen as a bar and the use of the front verandah on those warm summer evenings.

The training nets were resurfaced to improve the training environment, a key ingredient as the club looked to push to higher honours.

And higher honours were achieved when former junior club champion Rhys Adams became the first player from the club to make his debut in Premier Grade (formerly District) cricket, with Rhys making his debut for the Hawthorn/Waverley 1st XI in January 2004.

Four of five senior teams made the finals with only the 2nd XI under the leadership of Christian Trotter going all the way.



Former junior club champion and Premier league Cricketer Rhys Adams

The Under 17-1 and 15-1 sides made finals with the 15-1 side making it to the Grand Final, but unfortunately they were not able to pick up that prized premiership.

Ben Robertson had a magnificent season in the 15-1's winning the association batting average with the Bradmanesque average of 100.00.

In the seniors Aaron Powell had a stellar season and not only took home the Club Champion Award but also won the FTGDCA Lomax Medal for the DeCoite Shield Division, whilst Cody Morris was selected to tour Sri Lanka with the FTGDCA team.



Lomax Medal winner Aaron Powell.

At the outset of the year a significant decision was taken to merge the "Have-a-Go" (Milo) program (previously VicHit) with the club. Many years prior the club had misjudged the rationale behind supporting such a program and disenfranchised itself from the VicHit program, a decision that could have overtime proved disastrous for the club, however with the vision of Wayne Burns, Christian Trotter and Warren

Griffin the program was reunited with the club and at possibly the very right time! Whilst the program ran as a community based program it had evolved from VicHit to the Have-A-Go program and with the push by Cricket Victoria had grown significantly, in this first year back under the club the program grew to an astonishing 187 children from the ages of 5 to 10. This merge set the tone for the growth in all junior sides in the years ahead.

The club instituted a formal dinner dance for presentation night at the Baton Rouge on Stud Road, with a band, suits and fancy dresses for the wives and partners, in an attempt to create a stellar evening in the years ahead for the club. In what turned out to be a stunning turnaround the club went from a loss the previous season to making a profit of \$10328.

General Committee: Frank Robertson, Andrew Lockhart, Warren Griffin, Steve Ward, Karen Ward, George Smyth

Season 2004/05

Five Senior sides

Veterans

10 junior sides

Have-A-Go program

Season 2004/05 was yet another successful year both on and off the field for the club having commenced with a registration day that was more fitting for penguins that cricketers as the committee weathered arctic winds and rain in a very poor position (courtesy of centre management) at Stud Park, nonetheless registrations were taken and junior numbers in particular looked healthy.

The financial success of the previous season was again repeated with a very healthy profit and a \$30,000 increase in club turnover, highlighting the hard work done by the committee. The profit being banked away in the hope that a separate project undertaken with the junior football club could in future years see a pavilion extension.

On the field it was an historic year with the Second and Third XI's winning premierships in the one season.



The winning Second XI scoreboard

The Second XI making it back to back after being promoted a grade courtesy of its win in 2003/04.



Chris Noonan, a happy Second XI skipper.



The winning Third XI scoreboard

The First XI had an excellent home and away season (undefeated) but disastrously fell short in the semi-final, a devastating loss considering the stellar season and what was to be a third straight semi-final loss.

In the juniors the 17-1 and 17-2 sides both made it through to the finals but lost their semi-finals.

A fourth Under 11 team signaled the continued growth of the club, with excellent numbers pushing through from the Have-A-Go program.

Early in the season Brad Klep donated and constructed a bar in the front rooms which significantly improved the club's ability to hold social functions. The bar itself was fittingly named Bertie's Bar after club stalwart Bert Jackson, who on the same evening as discovering a bar named after him was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his many years with junior sides and the past few years scoring for the First XI.



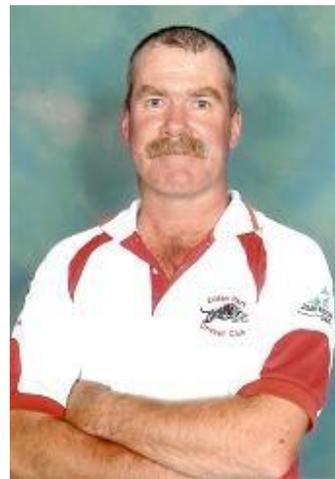
Bert Jackson receiving his Life Membership from President and Life Member Wayne Burns

Later in the season Andrew “Tommy” Thomas also received Life Membership at the club Presentation night for several years service to the club in committee, captaincy and playing roles.

The club hopped aboard the Cricket Victoria IT package and found itself with its own email address and website. The website was later in the season awarded a Cricket Victoria Website of the Month Award to sit along the Have-A-Go program of the Month award which the club also received during the season.

A significant step was made during the year by running a district six-a-side competition with most clubs in the FTGDCA participating in a round robin affair. Mick Hoban set about organizing what turned out to be a far more successful day than everyone believed could be delivered. With excellent organization on a very hot Australia day the eventual winners were Upwey, taking home the “Collex Cup” and a \$1000, provided by Collex Waste Management, club stalwart and Collex employee Graham Lenthall providing significant sponsorship support to the

event. There were many highlights on the day with some big hitting, a speed gun to record the fastest delivery, a longest throw competition and jumping castle for the kids. A Presidential lunch for presidents of the FTGDCA was not brilliantly attended but was successful nonetheless and launched a red wine onslaught by a few members of the club, culminating in one of the better Presidential speeches at the award ceremonies from Wayne Burns!



Life Member Andrew “Tommy” Thomas

Ben Kinniburgh received not only the club’s Panther Medal but also the association batting averages in Division 6, after three centuries during the season this came as no surprise. Camm and Shane Cosstick were recruited to the club and Camm turned in a very solid first season after playing at Richmond and took home the senior club champion award.

For the second year running the club held a Dinner Dance and Presentation Night at the Baton Rouge on Stud Park and the glam and glitter started to develop a tradition for big presentation nights for the club with a band capping off the evening.

General Committee : Mick Sinclair,
Steve Ward, Karen Ward, Mark Porter,
Vic Moen, Andy Parker, Brad Klemp,
Warren Griffin

Season 2005/06

Six Senior sides

Veterans

13 junior sides

Have-A-Go program

Season 2005-06 kicked off with a change in the executive. With growing work commitments, Wayne Burns and Shane Cherry passed their presidential battens to Warren Griffin and Geoff Hicks. Christian Trotter and Chris Noonan stayed in their secretarial and treasury positions which provided stability and an excellent base to launch into the new season.

A marketing plan for sponsors and members was initiated and had instant success with over 120 registrations on a cold damp August day up at the Stud Park Shopping Centre.

The major attraction of the day being the baggy green cap of Lindsay Kline lent to the club for the day.



*2005-06 President Warren Griffin
and Vice President Geoff Hicks*

Merchandise was sold, ball sponsorships came in and social club memberships were on the go. In the end a record registration day which put a huge smile on the face of everyone especially Chris Noonan who had strategically ferretted away the bulk of the clubs savings to an investment account and left very little in the cheque account!

Indoor training for seniors at the Melbourne Cricket Centre attracted reasonable numbers and so too did the second registration day with close to 100 junior players turning up for a meet the coaches and light training run, once again registrations came thick and fast and so to the signs that the club had a problem that other clubs would be jealous of – too many players!

The club added a further two-day senior side and a fourth Under 13 side to its numbers increasing the club to 4 Under 11 sides, 4 Under 13, 2 Under 15, 2 Under 17, 5 2-day senior sides, a 6th senior side in the one day competition and a Veterans XI.

A safety grant and fantastic registration result enabled the club to spend over

\$2000 on new gear for predominantly our Under 11's and 13's but to also put kits together for the additional junior side and senior side.

Senior players responded to the request for early subscription payment and a free newly designed aerolite club playing shirt and everything looked rosy until we learnt that the liquor licence laws had changed and we would have to wait up to six weeks to be able to use the bar! Still we sold plenty of sports drinks and kept our families happy in those early weeks of the season. Wayne Burns decided to fire up the chipper and so fish and chips was on the menu whilst beer was off!

The season was quickly upon us with expectations high. The First, Second and Third X1 joined by the Fifth X1 set about winning and winning well, with the Fourth X1 hanging in there, so too the Sixth's. Only the Vets took what seemed like an eternity to crack it for a win when they rolled Ferntree Gully in early December in a surprise win!

Our junior program continued its record for supplying players to association teams with Bryce Hoban, Sharuk Khan, Michael Wong, Aaron Joseph and Sean Griffin making the Mitchell Shield Under 12 team and Andrew Brown the Josh Browne Plate Under 12 side, Paul Seedsman made the Russell Allen Under 14 side, Jarrod Hicks and David Smyth (vice captain) made what went onto become the Premiership winning Under 16 Keith Mackay Cup team under the steerage of George Smyth and Christian Trotter. Patrick Gill and Steve Kennedy made the Under 16 Jim Bietzel Shield team and Nathan Hicks, Ben Robertson and Brendan James made the Under 18

representative side, a fantastic effort from our junior ranks.

Add to the junior numbers the Have-A-Go program registering 156 juniors this season, a significant uplift on numbers the previous year thanks to the coverage of *The Ashes* during the winter months. The EPCC HAG program was asked by Cricket Victoria and Cricket Australia to contribute to the redevelopment of the program manual. Along with the manual redevelopment the club was asked to be one of a dozen clubs in Victoria to trial a more mature version of Have-A-Go, the Have-A-Game program. Have-A-Game was developed to provide children of 8-10 years with a better introduction to cricket before hitting the Under 11 program, and this was an outstanding success. A reversed club shirt of all red with the club logo on the breast was issued to all children in the Grade 2 and 3-6 group thanks to the sponsorship of Jaxons Menswear and Rinnai.



The Have-A-Go kinder group

During November came news of a club coup, the signing of Shane Warne as the club's number one ticket holder



(shame he wasn't there when his number came out for a prize one evening!), a signed EPCC shirt and photo of Shane now proudly hangs on the wall.



Shane Warne EPCC #1 Member 2005-06

Also on the wall is a fitting tribute to Bert Jackson. Bert Jackson, awarded life membership the previous season passed away during the off season. Bert had given significantly of his time to the cricket club, watching his son and premiership player Mal and then his grandchildren, finishing his time scoring for the First XI for many seasons. Bert was a friend and confident to many a young and not so young player at Eildon Park and the number of people who turned up to pay their respects to Bert at

his funeral was testimony to the impact that Bert had upon so many people. This fantastic piece, being Bert's club cap and jacket, with a photo of him receiving his life membership from Wayne Burns, will forever remind the club of a man who gave so generously of his time to the club and its players.



Bert Jackson Tribute piece

A new trophy cabinet also adorned the wall displaying our senior premiership caps and has added significantly to the atmosphere and the history of the club.



New trophy cabinet

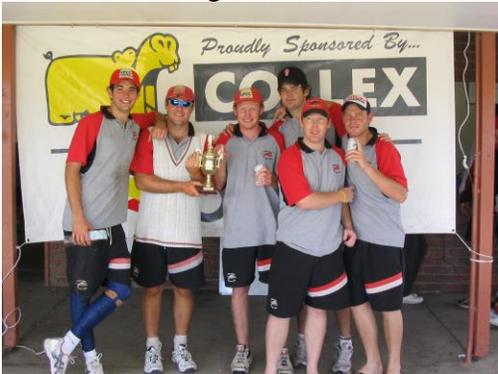
Added to the trophy cabinet during the season was a Cricket Victoria Club of the Week award, acknowledgement of the continued growth and performance of the club both on and off the field.

Family BBQ's on Saturday nights started a process of bringing the club together as one and on the whole were pretty well attended given that every night the club held an event the rains came – so much for summer!

Two trivia nights were held, the very successful \$1500 draw and a well attended Friday night BBQ for the Have-A-Go program.

Christian Trotter's chocolate drive was a fantastic success, the single biggest fund raiser ever in the club's history, contributing significantly to the funds the club is putting away to rebuild the nets and fund hopefully a pavilion extension in the coming years.

On the ground (which ground you may ask – with the increase in teams the club was forced to use Knox Park, Karoo Primary School and Stud Park, along with Eildon Park ovals 1 and 2) the season went very well. From eight competitive junior sides, four made it through to the finals, from six senior sides, three finished on top, the seconds finishing fifth, the fourths finishing fifth and the sixths eighth. The Vets missed out after finishing with three wins.



The winning Collex Cup team (l to r) Ben Morris, Aaron Powell, Micky Sinclair, Cody Morris (rear), Camm Cosstick and Shane Cosstick

Once again Mick Hoban produced an excellent day, with only half of the number of teams than that were originally scheduled and disappointingly only two from the FTGDCA. In the end it was a great day for the club with

Having our juniors play at the highest level possible is what the club is all about and it was pleasing for the club to have former Junior Club Champion and Australian Under 15 representative Scott Wilcox debut for Ringwood at Premier League level. Scott moved up and down through the various teams at Ringwood during the season, but we hope to see his name permanently in the Ringwood 1st XI over the coming years.

Our other Premier League player Rhys Adams came back to the club with some of his team mates to contest the 2006 Collex Cup in late February. The second year of the Collex Cup almost nearly didn't happen with extreme temperatures forcing the postponement on Australia Day and rain nearly wiping out the event when rescheduled for late February.

Eildon Park running out the winners and collecting the \$1000 first prize.

During the season Adam Powell established a new club record with the ball taking 8/35 in the Thirds, an excellent feat in any grade of cricket.

The First, Thirds and Fifths finished the season on top and made their way into the finals, along with the U17-1 and the 13-1 and 13-2A sides.

Of our six finalists, three made it through to the Grand Final, with only the First XI capturing the elusive premiership. It was an outstanding year for the First XI with Cody Morris enjoying a stellar season, seeing him win the First XI batting averages, the club's Panther Medal and the Senior Club

Champion Award, congratulations to Cody on his outstanding season, this is some fine form for Cody to take with him to England where he will for the first time try his hand in English conditions over the coming winter, we wish him well. The Grand Final win included an excellent bowling effort from Aaron Powell with 7/30 earning him the Man of the Match Award in a Grand Final, well done Aaron.



2005/06 Panther Medallist and Club Champion Cody Morris

The Grand Final win capped off an excellent coaching record for Andrew Crompton who in his four years as coach had made it through to 3 semi-finals and then a Premiership. Andrew had quietly mentioned to me well before the Grand Final that it would be his last game as his knees had finally packed it in and medical advice to stick to canoeing, bike riding and anything other than running around meant that he would relinquish his role with Eildon Park regardless of the result. Thankfully a premiership resulted, fitting reward for the work that Andrew has put into Eildon Park, taking a young side and fitting it out with the resilience that should see it be very competitive in Division One over the coming years.



The winning Captain-Coach Andrew Crompton

Aside from the much awaited DeCoite premiership, other highlights for the club have been former junior player Scott Wilcox making his premier league debut with Ringwood, Ryan Hicks winning the association 13-1 batting aggregate with an excellent 329 runs (considering your retire at 40 and have to wait to bat again, it is an excellent feat) and Ben Robertson winning the association 17-1 batting average and Eildon Park junior club champion.



The winning First XI scoreboard

The presentation night was starting to become a big evening for the club and this year headed off to the Mulgrave Country Club who had come onboard as a sponsor for the first time. Once again the band supported a very good evening which had a strong cross section from the club. A highlight of the evening

being the attendance of John Johnstone the first club president, who had made his way down from Shepparton for the evening.

The inaugural Mankad Trophy was presented on the night to Steve Pimm for his impersonation of a very ugly elderly naked stalker on Collex Cup Day. The Mankad trophy is a concept borrowed from the Carnegie Cricket Club

The Rules of The Mankad Trophy

Winning the perpetual trophy for the season's most ordinary performance is dependant upon the following conditions:

The player's performance does not have to be on the playing field, but must be pretty close to it.

The performance must be ORDINARY in every sense – average, lacking in merit, possessing or exhibiting no obvious qualities, and being in every way unexceptional. It must however be genuine and not in any way contrived to deliberately claim *The Mankad*.

The winner must be financial, and sworn to play for the EPCC the following season

The winner must agree to protect the trophy from harm and theft and include it as a specified item on his insurance policy

The winner must display *The Mankad* in a prominent position in his place of abode until Presentation Night twelve months later, at which time he will return *The Mankad* to the new winner.

Winners of *The Mankad* have the right to join the selection committee of the next years winner, and should claim this right solemnly.

All nominations are to be in writing a week before Presentation Night.

It is always of interest to find out what past players of the club are upto and the club was delighted to hear that during the season, Kevin Wale a former player had been made head of General Motors in China.

When your speaking of heads, it conjures up one man, the man known as *The Head*, or perhaps as he was better known during the 2005-06 season *TC* – Colin Morris. Col and Shane Cherry,

both who have made significant contributions to the club through committees, being past Presidents and Vice President respectively were honoured with Life Memberships for their input to the club over many years.



Life Member Shane Cherry



Life Member Colin Morris

General Committee: Mick Sinclair, Marty Hahn, Steve Ward, Karen Ward, Mark Porter, Vic Moen, Andy Parker



EILDON PARK CRICKET CLUB
DEDDITE SHIELD PREMIERS 2005-2006
BACK ROW: Christian Trotter(Sec), Geoff Hicks(Vice Pres), Mick Sinclair, Mark Purter, Ben Morris, Cody Morris, Rohan Adams,
Steven Pimm, Chris James, Chris Noonan(Treas), Warren Griffin(Pres),
Middle Row: Nathan Hicks, Cam Cosstick, Andrew Compton, Shane Cosstick, Aaron Rowell
Front Row: Brad Kiep (Trainer), Cheryl Jones(Sponsor).

Season 2006/07

Six Senior sides

Veterans

15 junior sides

Have-A-Go program

Season 2006-07 had an early start following the retirement of Andrew Crompton as Captain-Coach. With a non-playing coach put in place the season looked likely to get off to a good start but during the off-season Cam Cosstick a premiership player and former club champion chose to try his hand at a high level with Mt Waverley in Sub-district, whilst Todd Burleigh a young, tall fast bowler joined the club from Sth Belgrave.

Josh Dowling, well known to many at Eildon Park as captain coach of Johnson Park was also recruited across to take the role of Captain of the First XI.

The non-playing coach decided to not continue with the club at the end of October which provided opportunity for Josh Dowling as coach and Cody Morris as his assistant to lead the club.

Shane Warne agreed to be the clubs number one member for a second year running.

In a busy off-season the pavilion received a new kitchen and significant enhancements were made to the nets with a new roof erected and the dirt



removed between the batting pitch and the bowling landing areas, with this entire area cemented in which enhanced the training facilities at the club.

Shane Cosstick became the first Eildon Park player to make a ton in Division One, 103* against The Basin the week after the side was defeated outright by Ferntree Gully, Shane followed this up with two more centuries and 604 runs at 75.5, a great season for Shane. Mick Sinclair who had always shown plenty of potential brought it all together in the highest grade with a very healthy 25 wickets for the season at 14.16.

Shane Cosstick at the season's end became the first Eildon Park player to win the FTGDCA's Division One Feaver Medal when he tied with Scott Vozzo from Belgrave and Dulip Samaweera the former Sri Lankan test cricketer at the association presentation night. Unfortunately Shane wasn't at the function, being at his own goodbye function as he headed off for a winters cricket in the UK, by all reports our premiersip 6th XI captain Shane Moss was an admirable stand in!

Throughout the grades the Second eleven proved to be a consistent side and finished the home and away season in second place to be matched by the 6th

who also had a strong season and powered into the finals.

The second eleven's after Christmas form was sensational and continued to peak right through to the Grand Final where it absolutely destroyed Belgrave with strong bowling performances from Steve Pimm (6/49) setting the team up for a conclusive win in a single day. After scoring 400+ the previous week Belgrave were skittled for just 69 with Chris Noonan (83*) with support from James Tate (36) putting the game out of reach with Eildon Park 3/207 when the game was called over!

With the continued growth of the club and the diversity in nationalities the club put significant effort into a Harmony in Cricket Day in early December where club members and the Have-A-Go program turned out in orange as a show of support for harmony in the community.

The Have-A-Go program received special news when it was selected to represent the club and 24 lucky children were chosen to participate in the National Anthem ceremony on Boxing Day. After a 4am start (rehearsal at 7am) the weather turned bad and the delayed start to the Test Match meant the cancellation of the ceremony and heart break for all. The day whilst remembered for the 700th wicket of Eildon Park #1 member Shane Warne was soured by the rain. However in February the same kids got to do it all again and participated in the National Anthem ceremony with the Australian and English players participating in the ODI final.



To cap of the HAG program for the summer, Gary Brown head of the HAG program in Victoria and Johnny Watkins head of Game Development for Cricket Victoria visited the program and were impressed with the size and strength of the coordinators.

During the season the club received a Club Development Award from Cricket Victoria for the selection night meals that were being cooked and the guest speaker program put in place. Guest speakers included Kristian Bardsley StKilda footballer and Scoresby coach, Tom Hafey AFL legend



and Bryan Harper former Melbourne Cricket Club coach, whilst injured Victorian Bushranger Jason Arnberger took U13 training and hosted a BBQ.



The season wasn't all beer and skittles as two suspensions hit the club, the first being Todd Burley who's appearance at the Man of Steel evening ventured into the early hours and missing a representative game, whilst the second one had a little more venom in it and was nothing short of a disgrace when the club was forced to accept a one game ban for the last round when Johnson Park President and Knox Tavern Cup umpire Craig Wilkinson reported Aaron Powell for misconduct for standing too long after being given out LBW.

This was a very ordinary report to say the least and many people spent time contemplating just what was achieved by the report when significantly worse events are let go by the umpiring fraternity every weekend, these are theories all better left unsaid.

One of the stranger highlights was the 5th elevens 10 wickets in a day – what's so strange about that you say! Well one wicket was taken against one side and the other nine against another. You see it took a couple of overs to realize that the boys were playing the wrong side, so too did the two teams on a nearby oval at Upper Ferntree Gully. Games were stopped, transferred and started again – definitely one for the books, and

ultimately our Mankad Award winning event.

There were many highlights to the season including:

- Our first win in Division One over reigning premiers Rowville
- Shane Cosstick's phenomenal season with the bat
- Shane Cosstick's Panther Medal Win after being hotly pursued by young Cam Sharpe from the 6th's
- Shane Cosstick's Feaver Medal win



- The Second XI's fantastic run home after Christmas to dominate the competition and destroy Belgrave in the Grand Final



- The Fourth XI's efforts to reach the Grand Final only to lose to Knox
- The Sixth XI's great premiership victory stolen from the jaws of defeat in the dying moments of their Grand final



- Cam Sharpe and Peter Cutt's association winning bowling and batting averages
- The U13 Wildcats and Cougars who had to play off against each other in a Grand Final



- Mathew Watson's association bowling averages in the 15-2's
- Association representatives: Stephen Kennedy, Ryan Hicks, Sean Griffin, Aaron Bond, Darcy Tasker, Jarryd Rotheram, David Mathers
- 18 out of 21 teams winning on the one weekend
- Jarrod Dietzel's 110 not out in Under 13's

- 7 out of 9 competitive junior teams making it through to the semi finals
- The winning of the Six-A-Side tournament for the second time
- The establishment of the Club Honour Board
- The establishment of the Premiership Photo and Scorecard Walls
- Mick Hoban receiving a Cricket Victoria Volunteer Award for his junior coaching and organization of our Six-A-Side tournament (Mick subsequently received an invitation and was a guest of Cricket Australia at the Allan Border Medal)
- Former player and Junior Club Champion Adam Thornton becoming our 3rd Premier Cricket representative
- The Commencement of our Good Sports Accreditation Program

General Committee : Andy Parker, George Smyth, Wayne Burns, Jack Smith, Colin Morris.

Season 2007/08

Six Senior sides

Veterans

15 junior sides

Have-A-Go program

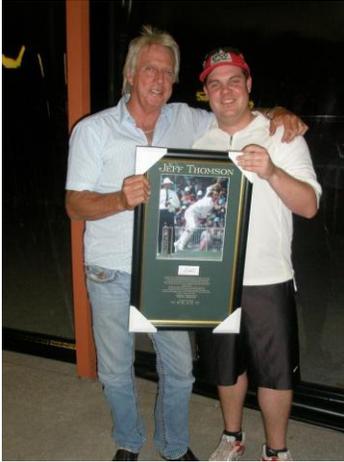
The offseason leading up to 2007/08 was full of vigour as the club established a development squad for early preseason training at the Melbourne Cricket Centre and looked around to see if there were

suitable recruits for the club. Camm Cosstick made a welcome return to the club after a season at Mt Waverley.

Josh Dowling spent time with former StKilda and Melbourne premier league coach Bryan Harper and included senior players in the discussions as the club looked to make its mark in Division One after a disappointing finish to 2006/07.

The season's biggest issue was ground conditions and the lack of water as the drought continued. The council proved less than helpful with the club offering to pay for a water tank to keep the pitch surrounds in reasonable condition but this and other attempts to improve conditions were denied. By the end of the season the club was lucky to host two senior finals after some discussion with the association who initially wanted games moved away such as the poor surface of the ground which had been subject to complaints throughout the later part of the season. A dust bowl in Pakistan was an apt description of the surface of the main oval with the second oval in only slightly better condition.

The season kicked off with former Australian Test Cricketer and Sri Lankan World Cup Coach Dav Whatmore visiting Eildon Park with stories from his days coaching Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, his evening was backed up by the debut of new club cook Chris Zanella who fed the club throughout the season with a range of Thursday night meals that surpassed the meatloaf efforts of Col Morris. During the season former Australian spearhead Jeff Thomson entertained the club under the new bistro blinds that were purchased jointly with the Rowville Junior Football Club.



Jeff Thomson with Shane Moss

One of the highlights of the season was young fourth eleven bowler Brendan Zanella snaring a club record 8 for 30 on the back oval, a fantastic effort, on this day Brendan could do no wrong and moved the ball around beautifully to snare his eight fa!

Records were the order of the year when Cody Morris representing FTGDCA against Yarrawonga knocked up a country week record score of 240 not out and made the back page of *The Age* newspaper, not bad considering two days earlier he shouldered arms against the first ball of the day and was promptly out.

The club played in two Twenty 20 competitions, being knocked out by Rowville in the CUB cup and making the local final at UFTG where we lost to Lysterfield.

The First XI had a season with many interesting games, gambling early in the season with weather the team failed to get over the line against Johnson Park when they were one of the few teams to play on a rare wet day, chasing a small total the boys failed which cost top spot and pushed us out of the top four,

however a good run after the Xmas break saw the boys finish on top of Division One for the first time at the end of the home and away season. The semi-final against Monbulk was a major disappointment with a poor batting display, however not all was lost on the first day with a great bowling performance and a strong fightback interrupted only by umpiring controversy and crowd behaviour, with the game swinging in our direction Josh Dowling was threatened with a report due to the crowd's behaviour on the Tyers Crescent wing, nothing short of bizarre and a complete overreaction to the situation. Whilst the late afternoon fightback lifted spirits very little could be done the next day and Monbulk went on to win the semi and ultimately the grand final after the Rowville faithful conspired and glue was poored over the pitch delaying the start to the second day of that game.

Meanwhile the thirds, fourths and sixths fought through the heat to progress to grand finals along with the 15-1's and two U-13 sides, along with the first XI a second U-15 side and a third U-13 side lost in their respective semi-finals.

The Thirds in a lengthy and extremely hot final on EPCC # 2 were finally victorious, a magnificent 75 from Vic Moen (who had spent the second half of the season commuting from Canberra after relocating the family) was a battign highlight with the bowling... Dinuka Gunaratne's spectacular catch and outfielding kept pressure on St Johns and ultimately won the day. On the front oval the mighty fourths battled there way to 193 against The Basin looked to be in trouble early but were just a little fired up as The Basin boys

bragged of an early win but did the tables turn with Veteran and Life Member Col Morris and Stuart Downs doing a great job with the ball to back up captain Andy Parker's job with the bat to pull of a brilliant win well before tea which certainly led to the spectators on the back oval to cheer home the 3rds.

Earlier in the day the 13-2's were unable to bring home the bacon, nor were the 15-1's but the 13-1's comepleted an undefeated season with the perfect game and a major defeat of Knox Gardens giving the President two premierships of his own on the one day, a great father – son combination.

On the Saturday the 6ths could not make it back to back and lost their final.

CRICKET

Shane's got the Feaver

EILDON Park all-rounder Shane Cosstick won his second Ferntree Gully District Cricket Association Jack Feaver Medal on Friday when he defeated Johnson Park's Bryn Gaunt and Athula Samarasekera of Mt Gate by one vote.

Cosstick tied for the highest honour in the Knox Tavern Cup last season with Dulip Samaraweera and Scott Vozzo.

Feaver Medal voting

■ S Cosstick (Eildon Park)	16
■ B Gaunt (Johnson Park)	15
■ A Samarasekera (Mt Gate)	15
■ D Samaraweera (J Park)	14



- The first XI finish on top of the ladder at the end of the Home and Away rounds
- 3rd and 4th XI Premierships



Other highlights to the season including:

- Shane Cosstick's back to back win in the Feaver Medal



- 13-1 Premiership in an undefeated season



- 6th XI, 15-1's and 13-2's finishing Runners Up
- 9 teams making semi-finals
- 13-1's bowling out FTG for 11, then a week later Lysterfield for 19.
- John Potalej coaching the FTGDCA Under 12 Mitchell Shield to a winning plate final
- George Smyth receiving a Cricket Victoria Volunteers Award for his contribution to the club over many years of service.
- Nathan Potalej scores 103* in Under 13's
- Nathan Potalej's association batting aggregate in the 13-2's
- Sean Griffin's association bowling aggregate in the 13-1's
- Ryan Hicks captaining Bayswater U15 Hatch side.
- Sam Harper representing making the Victorian U13 side (January 2008)

- 197 Registrations for the HAG program
- Mitch Garner's Hat Trick in the 5th XI
- Sam Harper and Timothy Sugumar making Victorian U13 side (Darwin June 2008) – Sam Harper - captain

General Committee : Andy Parker, Shane Moss, Wayne Burns, Jack Smith, Colin Morris, Christian Trotter.

Season 2008/09

Six Senior sides

Veterans

16 junior sides

In2Cricket

During the offseason the major focus was working with council to improve the playing surface at Eildon Park, a sustainable water plan for Knox Council was put forward that had EPCC at #1 for the financial year 2009/10, not what we had hoped for but better than being further down the list, however no ground improvements were promised for season 2008/09.

To launch the season the club presented achievement awards to Tim Sugumar and Sam Harper for their successful Victorian representation and these awards were presented by Cricket Victoria's CEO Tony Dodemaide who made the trip out to Eildon Park to formally launch the 2008/09 campaign.



Word came through that the application to council to co-fund a fourth net had been approved which was badly needed as the club fielded 21 teams, the fourth net was in use by November and by January the bowling run-ups had also been covered in artificial turf removing the granite sand that had destroyed thousands of dollars of cricket balls over the past years.

During November the *In2Cricket* program hosted a *Boys Free Zone* with Emma Inglis and Kristen Beams of the Victorian Spirit taking an all girls session on the back oval, this resulted in 10 of the girls taking part in the on-field-entertainment at the MCG on day two of the Test Match against South Africa in December, the club was granted further on-field-entertainment when the *In2cricket* program was apart of the pre-game fun for the Twenty-20 match against Sth Africa in January.



The fund raising crew took a good look in the mirror and decided to do something for other people rather than the club itself and set about growing hairy upper lips, the month known as Movember raised over \$1200 with George Smyth winning the title, it was

only at Xmas that George finally found out that there was no truth to the yarn that the winner had to keep the moustache for twelve months - which delivered much mirth and Xmas cheer to all involved in the charade.



Adding further cheer to Xmas was first eleven scorer Colleen Lockhart's Mankad Award nomination who when asked to score for the U17-1 v U15-1 T20 challenge – “so how many overs per side is it?”

One of the more bizarre events of the season was the association decision not to supply umpires to the Division One one day game against The Basin. This was a tit-for-tat act after the club lodged a report against the umpires for their handling of the weather effected game against Belgrave a week before. In a game where the umpires were overriding one another, man handling and arguing amongst themselves they saw fit to lodge a poorly worded and in the end an incorrect report against club coach Josh Dowling, who had tried to get the umpires to explain their ruling and to walk away from the gathered crowd. The Basin threatened not to play but calm heads and a good chat amongst the two teams and Presidents led to an excellent

game of cricket and ironically one of the better umpired games of the season.

The irony being that the club in the next round lodged another umpiring complaint this time in Decoitte when the umpire did not halt play at 3.30 in a one day game in accordance with the rules but let Knox Gardens bowl its 45 overs which were not complete until 3.55 with the game finishing at 7.15pm. The club was advised that the captain should have shown the umpire the rule, the very issue that resulted in the club coach receiving a warning the game before – oh for some consistency!

On a brighter note the 2009 year started with 20 junior EPCC representative players which much be a record the club should be very proud of. From Outer Eastern Under 16 and Under 14 Cricket Victoria pathway recognition to Under 15 RM Hatch and Under 16, 14 and 12 VMCU representation the club continued its excellent record of supporting representative cricket

Cody Morris 193

In one of the worst days for an Eildon Park side in the club's history the 4th XI playing against a stacked UFTG side suffered in the afternoon heat as 503 runs were belted around the back oval

On February 7th 2009 the club was visited by Channel 9 and state politicians to compile a story to be aired on Channel 9 news regarding the state of grounds, ironically the hottest day in Victoria's history as the heat scorched to 46C and cricket was called off, however that was the least of the states problems as the day became known as Black Saturday, the Channel 9 story never

made it to air as the extensive coverage of the Bushfires dominated the news for that day and days to come. The result of Black Saturday was the deaths of 173 people. Within days the Eildon Park Cricket Club and the Knox Gardens Cricket Club arranged a charity Twenty 20 Cricket Match which was so well attended that a donation to the Red Cross Appeal was in excess of \$4500.

During the later part of the season the club was advised that President Warren Griffin had been honoured by Cricket Australia for his 10 years of work with the In2Cricket/Have-A-Go program by being awarded the Cricket Australia Coaching Representative of the Year Award for Victoria. Over the ten years Warren had participated in not only delivering the program at Eildon Park, but contributed to the national training manual and to helping regional clubs with their program through his involvement in Cricket Victoria's Club Support Program. Warren was a guest of Cricket Australia at the Allan Border medal for the day where he met Shane Watson and Allan Border amongst other cricketing greats.



Coach Volunteer of the Year recipients with Allan Border

Warren Griffin at the Allan Border Medal with other state based Coach Volunteer of the Year Winners

Our Veterans didn't have one of their better years finishing at the bottom of Division 2, but in the spirit of the Vets

they continued to sledge and fine themselves throughout the season and even managed a sponsor courtesy of Stud Park Shopping Centre.

Semi-Finals

3rds and 5ths losing to Knox Gardens

Grand Final Wash-out 2 overs first day plus further 32 next day



John Potalej's Under 13-1's drawing with KGCC and therefore losing

Darrel North's Under 13-2's losing to Lysterfield

Other highlights to the season including:

- Robbie Hill's 15-1 Association Batting Average
- Nick Szabo U/152a Bowling
- Dishan Malalasekera U132b bowling
- Harry Walshe U/13 1 bowling
- Fraser Doran U/12 Batting
- Matt Sutherland's Hat Trick v Lysterfield in Decoitte
- Cam Marshall's ton in Under 17-2's

General Committee : Andy Parker, Mark Moss, Wayne Burns, Jack Smith, Colin Morris, Bill Cornish and David Smyth.

Season 2009/10

Changing of the guard with a shared Presidency

Buddy System

5th XI controversy
Player bans

5 out of a possible 8 Premierships

For the third year in a row in the 13-1 GF Eildon Park played Knox Gardens, for the second year in a row the game was a tie and after last year where the result was also a tie, this year as a result of that previous years tie both sides were named premiers, after 3 years at 13-1 it was EPCC 1, Knox Gardens 1 and a tie!

First XI disappointing season

Junior Association Averages 8 out of 16

During offseason Under 15-1 captain Sean Griffin played in 8-a-side competition in Kuala Lumpur as part of an Under 15 FTGDCA invitational side

General Committee: Colin Morris, Bill Cornish, Camm Cosstick, Mark Porter, Steven Pimm, Stuart Downs, Col Davey, Tricia Pollard, Jane Tait.

Season 2010/11

Season 2010/11 started with the recruitment of Panther Park's first international recruit with Nathan McNally a kiwi recruited out of the UK and the Marlow C.C, quickly Nathan became Marlo continuing the honoured Aussie tradition of immediately bestowing a nickname.

Camm Cosstick stepped up to captain the first XI with Josh Dowling picking up the coaching and training reins

Emerging Players Squad

pimmy uk

Former South Belgrave player Glenn Maxwell now a Victorian Bushranger visited for Buddy Night

Junior reps

FTGDCA country week (who played?)

Vets rep cricket Billy and Col

Vets first XI played an under aged player and rather than finishing in 1st or 2nd lost all points and were not able to play finals

Vets 2 brought home the first Vets flag with Marty Hahn receiving MoM award

Only 17-2 Cougars and the 5th and 6th XI miss finals, 4 out of 6 seniors and 10 of 11 junior sides to semi-finals

Vets 2 Premiership
first U17-1 premiership
Knox Tavern Premiership



- Jarrod Dietzel's junior ton
-

General Committee: Col Davey, Tricia Pollard, Jane Tait, Sean Walshe, Fred Femia, James Unsworth, Mick Hoban, John Potalej

Season 2011/12

Back on the main oval

Water tanks

Marlo's return

Buddy Night with Alan Wise and Mick Sheedy

Meg Lanning who went on to captain the Southern Stars hosting our girls only session

Boys Free Zone evening for girls at Eildon Park

Rhys Adams EPCC junior club champion returns to Premier cricket at Prahran, also coaching Outer East Eagles U14 male side, which includes Avi Singh - making the state final

Sean 1st XI Premier debut whilst still playing juniors

EPCC with KGCC T20 v PNG



Anyone country week?





Christian President
Shane and Azza to Monbulk
Glen Maxwell
T20
Pink Stumps



3rd XI premiership
13-1 premiership
12's premiership
\$7000 charity Movember, Glen McGrath
Foundation, Zaidees Foundation

New Junior logo

