

# Newcastle News

THE HIGHLIGHT of the past year for Newcastle Taverners was the gold medal winning performance of its over-40 'masters' cricket team in the 8th Australian Masters Games.

The 15-man squad with an average age of 56 narrowly defeated a star-studded NIB Evergreens side on averages when the final was washed out at the Newcastle Sports Ground on October 11.

The Evergreens included former test players Rick McCosker and Robert Holland and former NSW Shield player and Masters Games Chairman, Michael Hill.

They beat the Taverners team in the first round of the competition but lost their final game against Hamilton-Wickham. The Taverners convincingly won all of their remaining games leaving them narrowly in front of quotients.

The Taverners' total age was 840 years and they were the only The Lord's Taverners team to contest the Games.

Led by Newcastle Chairman Vic Levi, the team included Branch President and former Wallaby, Professor Saxon White, Newcastle International Sports Centre Trust Chairman Ted Atchison, former Newcastle Rugby League representatives Brian Warby and John McLaughlin, former Queensland representative cricketer Tim Caban, Graham Faraday, Alan Northey, Ken Hoff, Ken Beckett, Roger Black, Vic Cook, John McGregor, Bob Davidson and Ray Charlton.

The performance was so outstanding, the team and the The Lord's Taverners received a mention in the NSW State Parliament when the Member for Newcastle Bryce Gaudry, placed on record the success of the Games.

Newcastle Branch's involvement in masters cricket flowed from an idea presented by Saxon White, former Professor of Physiology at the University of Newcastle two years ago.

Saxon's vision is to get older, former cricketers back into the game as part of an on going program to improve the health of older Australians.

Our Branch feels the program could be extended nationally, with a Taverners' Masters Interstate Cricket competition. We believe this could prove to be one of the marketing pegs needed to attract national sponsorship for the Taverners.

The Newcastle Branch's next step in its program will be a match against a NSW Branch Masters team at Mandalay on the Central Coast and then a tour to Vancouver to compete in the World Gold Oldies Cricket Carnival.

There are still some vacancies for the Canada tour and for a luxury P & O cruise to Alaska which some of the players will be taking after the cricket for R and R.

Another highlight for the Newcastle Branch was a highly successful annual golf day held at the beautiful Newcastle Golf Club in January this year. The day attracted 100 people and raised \$ 1300.00.

At the dinner following the golf, scholarships were presented to the Branch's 2002 Junior Taverners, Rebecca Callen and Scott Montgomery.

Rebecca, who plays in the Sydney women's competition with the Wallsend team, was recently selected in the NSW Under 19 Squad,

while Scott, a first grade wicketkeeper-batsman with the Cardiff Boolaroo Club, was chosen in the Under 17 and Under 18 Newcastle representative sides this year.

At the dinner, the President's annual Award for Service was presented to Taverner and Golf Day sponsor, Garry Dowling.



At the Newcastle Branch Golf day (left to right) Nathan Beckett, Branch Secretary/Treasurer, Kevin McDonald, Jamie Brazier, Han Beckett and Steve Pratt. Beckett, Brazier and Pratt are all first grade cricketers and were runners-up in the golf.



The Newcastle Taverners' gold medal winning team in the 8th Australian Masters Games last year (left to right) John McGregor, John McLaughlin, Ted Atchison, Tim Caban, Ray Charlton, Graham Faraday, Alan Northey, Vic Levi (c), Bob Davidson, Vic Cook, Ken Hoff, Ken Beckett and Brian Warby. Missing: Professor Saxon White



Newcastle Branch Chairman, Vic Levi, with Newcastle Junior Taverners, Rebecca Callen and Scott Montgomery



Newcastle President, Professor Saxon White (far right) with golf day Sponsor, Garry Dowling (left) and Sydney visitors, Gordon Boyd and former National Taverners' C.O.E., Keith Lewis, at the golf day.



Newcastle Taverners at the golf day in January (left to right) Branch Chairman Vic Levi, former Australian test spinner Bob Holland, John McLaughlin, Ted Atchison, Brian Warby and Roger Black