

newcastle news

OUR JUNIOR TAVERNERS ARE RIGHT ON THE PACE

Newcastle Branch's two Junior Taverners for 2005, Corey Murnain and Brodie Neems, are both pace bowlers with big futures.

Corey, aged 17, is already opening the bowling in first grade district cricket for Southern Lakes, the club of former test spinner Robert "Dutchy" Holland.

"Dutchy" is full of praise for the youngster who comes from the Lake Macquarie suburb of Woodrising.

Last season Corey represented Newcastle in the team that made the final of the Bradman Shield (NSW Country Championships) and was selected in the NSW Emerging Blues Squad.

This season he was selected in both the Under 17 and Under 19 Newcastle District representative teams.

A member of the Hunter Academy of Sport Cricket Squad, Corey is one of the region's best fast bowling prospects since Graham Corling and these days is under the watchful eyes of Academy coach, former great Australian all-rounder, Gary "Gus" Gilmour.

Brodie Neems, aged 13, of Hamlyn Terrace, on the NSW Central Coast, is a very talented left arm opening bowler.

Brodie has also been selected in the Emerging Blues Squad and is a member of the undefeated NSW Under 15 side.

She is also a member of the Hunter Academy of Sport Cricket Squad and she represented NSW Primary Schools in 2002 and 2003.

Both Corey and Brodie were presented with their scholarships at the Branch's annual dinner at Newcastle Golf Club in January this year.

Two other young members of the Hunter Academy of Sport have received scholarships from the Newcastle Taverners.

They are Samuel Larkings, 16, of Valentine, who received the Disabled Sports Person Prize, and Scott Sharma, 16, of Elernmore Vale, a member of the Academy Cricket Squad.

Samuel is a goal keeper in Soccer for the Disabled and Scott is a pace bowler who has already played district cricket first grade for the Wallsend club.



Newcastle Taverners committee man and District cricket President Ken Clifford (l) with Junior Taverners, Brodie Neems and Corey Murnain, former Test spinner Bob Holland and Newcastle Taverners' President, Professor Saxon White.

NEWCASTLE HOSTS THE BLUES

Newcastle Taverners played host to the NSW side at a reception held before the ING Cup match on October 23 last year.

A good crowd turned up at the Newcastle Sports Ground Pavilion for the reception despite the stormy conditions.



NSW Blues skipper Brad Haddin and members of his team get together with former Test players and Blues champions Rick McCosker and Bob Holland at the Taverners' reception.

NBN TV's Sports Editor and Promotions Manager, Mike Rabbitt, provided the highlight of the evening when he interviewed Blues' skipper, Brad Haddon, and other members of the team.

The format was similar to past receptions hosted by the Newcastle Branch for Mark Taylor's NSW team (twice) and Steve Waugh's side.

The Blues narrowly went down to Tasmania in the Sunday match.

GOLDEN OLDIES PREPARE FOR SRI LANKA

After their latest successful tour, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, members of the Newcastle Branch's Golden Oldies cricket team are preparing for a trip to Sri Lanka next year.

That's the venue for the next World Golden Oldies' tournament run every two years by Air New Zealand.

The ambassador for next year's event is Harry Solomons, the Sydney businessman who has mentored a host of talented Australian cricketers including the Waugh twins and Michael Clarke.

Harry, a Sri Lankan, believes the tournament will play an important role in helping to heal the tsunami battered economy.

The 20 members of the Newcastle team (13 players and seven wives) had a tremendous time in Mooloolaba where the cricket was almost as enjoyable as the entertainment.

Allan Border was the tournament ambassador and he turned up to watch his old buddy Robert "Dutchy" Holland lead the Novocastrians in a battle against a team of West Indians.

The Newcastle team has now played in three of these tournaments -- at Rotorua, Vancouver and The Sunshine Coast.

The team went down to a stronger and younger team from the NSW Branch led by Chairman Richard Lucas in a match at Mandalong on October 31 but had a win against a Central Coast side on September 26.

In a return match against Sydney in April this year, the NSW Branch side again ran out the winners in a closer game.

We are already planning for games against the Sydney boys next season at the beautiful Mandalong ground owned by cricket tragic and lawyer, Sterling Hammond.

Members of the touring Newcastle Taverners' team and their supporters with Golden Oldies Ambassador and former Test Captain Allan Border at the Queensland Sunshine Coast Golden Oldies Cricket Festival.



FAIRWAY OF FUNDRAISING

The field was slightly smaller than usual but the annual golf day at the beautiful Newcastle Course was again highly successful.

Winners of the Ambrose event on January 16 were long time supporters John and Di Robson, their son, Greg and Roy Duffy.

Greg, a huge hitter of the ball, also won the longest drive competition for men.

A \$10,000 hole in one prize sponsored by Garry Dowling Real Estate was not won.

Other sponsors for the event were Tyrrells, Sobels and Tamburlaine wines and Club Professional, Jason Laws.

The President's Prize for Most Significant Person went this year to Mrs Meg Levi.

Former National Chief Executive of the Taverners, Keith Lewis, brought a team up from Sydney. They included former NSW Chairman, Jock Cordner, Gordon Boyd, Keith's wife Baith and his son, David.

Two former Australian cricketers, Graham Corling and Robert Holland were among the golfers. Graham partnered his wife Chris and well known Newcastle musician Alan Ward and his wife June.

Once again much of the work was done by Secretary-Treasurer, Kevin McDonald, and starter, Robert Ogram. Thanks boys!

Workers and players at our Golf Day (from top)

- Robert Ogram, Meg Levi, Taverners' Secretary/Treasurer Kevin McDonald and Julie White
- Former Australian pace bowler Graham Corling, his wife Chris, well known musician Allan Ward and his wife June were among the players.
 - Saxon White presents the President's Award to Meg Levi.
- Sydney team Gordon Boyd, Jock Cordner, former National Executive Officer Keith Lewis and Keith's son David took out a prize.



MEET KENNY

Our first Japanese Taverner

By Scott Levi

How many cricket lovers can lay claim to being the father of the sport in their nation?

Kenichiro Matsumura, better known to his many friends in Golden Oldies Cricket around the world as "Kenny", is the founding father of cricket in Japan.

"Kenny" developed a great love for the grand old game eight years ago while a student in England but was one of the few Japanese who had ever heard of the sport.

When he returned to University in Japan he roped in ten fellow students to form a team to play against a team of expats.

From there he formed the Japanese Cricket Association which now boasts 500 members and a junior development program.

"Kenny" now runs a successful real estate business in Tokyo but what many of his loyal employees don't know is that he spends many hours on a second telephone on his desk which is the official number for the JCA.

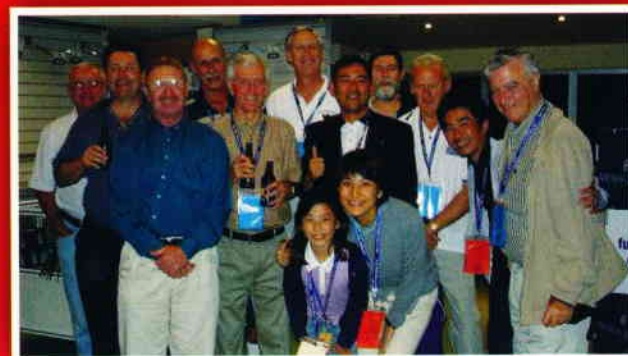
"Kenny" has not missed a World Golden Oldies Cricket Tournament over the past six years, bobbing up for a game at Rotorua, Vancouver and, last year, at Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

It was there that he joined Lord's Taverners Australia after meeting and having a beer or three with members of the Newcastle Branch.

The Newcastle boys will team up with Kenny again in Sri Lanka next year.



Newcastle Chairman Vic Levi, his wife Meg and son Scott celebrate with "Kenny", his wife and his interpreter at the World Golden Oldies Cricket Carnival at Mooloolaba.



"Kenny" and family with members of the Taverners' Golden Oldies team.