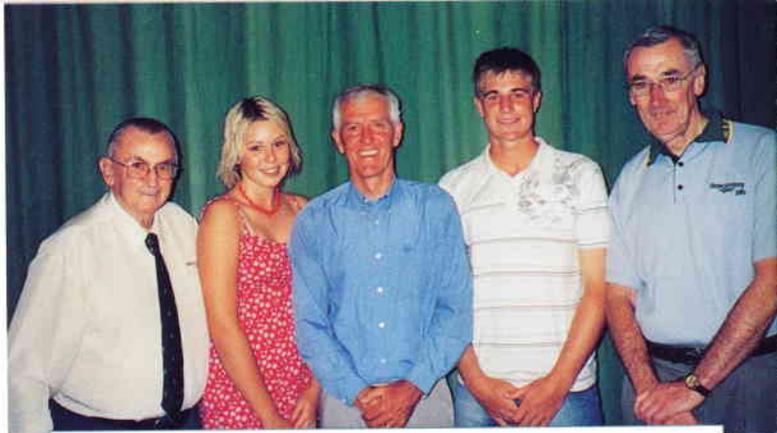




BRANCH NEWS

NEWCASTLE



Morgan Wilczynski and David Miller with Warren Evans, Bob Holland and Ken Clifford

JUNIOR TAVERNERS ARE FROM OUT OF TOWN

The Newcastle Branch's two Junior Taverners this year are Morgan Wilczynski, of Raymond Terrace and David Miller, of Old Bar, near Taree.

Morgan is a bowling all-rounder who plays for the Wallsend Club in the State first grade competition. She toured the United Kingdom in 2005 with the NSW Schoolgirls' team and was judged Hunter Region Female Junior Cricketer of the Year last year.

David, a batting all-rounder, played for NSW in the Australian Under 17 Championships in Brisbane last year.

He plays first grade in the Taree competition and was named the Manning Area's Junior Cricketer of the Year.

The Branch has named its Junior Taverner scholarships in honour of our Founding Father, former National Executive Officer, the late Keith Lewis, and we were lucky enough to have Keith's two sons, David and Steve, on hand to present the awards this year.

One of our earlier Junior Taverners, Gary Geise, this year played a major role in Wallsend's dramatic win over Merewether in the District final. And his father, Greg, was the other star for the side.

Wallsend were dismissed for only 132 but fought back brilliantly to dismiss their opponents for only 119 with Gary Geise taking five wickets for 30 of 14.4 overs.

Greg Geise top scored for Wallsend with 30 in the first innings and then knocked up 49 in the second innings.

The Branch's congratulations go to 13-year-old Sam Metcalfe, of New Lambton, who was picked to represent NSW at intellectually disabled basketball in a Special Olympics Carnival. Sam is one of two Hunter Academy of Sport students who received annual scholarships from the Branch in September last year. This is the second successive year he has received the award. The other recipient was 17 year old cricketer Tim Prescott, of Windella Downs, near Maitland, who represented for the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges last year.



Corey Wright (r) with NSW Imparja Cup team mate Farren Lamb of Gunnedah.

OUR FIRST INDIGENOUS CRICKET SCHOLARSHIP

A young cricketer who played a starring role in NSW's Imparja Cup win at Alice Springs this year, has won the Newcastle Branch's first indigenous cricket scholarship.

Corey Wright, 23, of Maitland, the grandson of local Rugby League legend Merv Wright, was notified of his win after NSW defeated Queensland in the Imparja Cup Final.

Corey, a punishing left hand opening batsman, scored a fine 33 in the final – the second top score for the Blues. He was only dismissed twice in five matches at the Carnival.

This season he played for Raymond Terrace in the Maitland competition but he is expected next year to join Toronto, the team of former Australian test spinner, Bob Holland, in the Newcastle competition.

Corey played a season in the Newcastle competition with Stockton when he was 18 but found travelling to and from games too difficult.

Born in Maitland, Corey is a member of the Dughutti tribe from the Kempsey area on the NSW North Coast. He recently bought a home at Telarah, near Maitland, with his partner Rachael.

Corey has represented the Hunter Valley and Central Northern NSW and toured New Zealand with the NSW Emu side.

Merv Wright, a Maitland Rugby League star, was one of the strongest wingers to play in the Newcastle competition.

Corey followed in his grandfather's footsteps playing League with Maitland until he suffered a serious neck injury and decided to concentrate on cricket.

99 NOT OUT

One of Newcastle's Golden Oldies supporters, Mrs Thelma Spencer of Valentine, Lake Macquarie, is a Golden Oldie herself, turning 100 later this year.

Mrs Spencer's only son, 71 year old Jim, has been playing with the Branch's oldies for nearly 10 years. His scores are yet to reach his mum's age.

Mother and son are pictured watching the Newcastle side take on Stirling Hammon's side at Mandalong earlier this year.



President of the NDCA, Paul Robertson and Branch Chairman Vic Levi present the 2006 Spirit of Cricket Award to Damien Jones, representing Newcastle/Eastern Districts Club

SPIRIT OF CRICKET AWARD

The Newcastle Taverners' Spirit of Cricket Award was won by the Newcastle/Eastern District Club last year.

The annual award has resulted in a closer involvement with the Newcastle District Cricket Association and this will hopefully lead to an expansion of our Branch membership.

The Branch Chairman, Mr Vic Levi, will attend the NDCA's annual presentation later this year to present this year's award.

KEVIN McDONALD OUR FIRST LIFE MEMBER

Kevin McDonald, who served the Newcastle Branch of Lord's Taverners Australia as Secretary-Treasurer for more than 10 years, is our first honorary life member.

Branch President, Professor Saxon White, presented Kevin with the award at our annual Golf Day and Dinner at Newcastle Golf Club in January.

Kevin has been succeeded by John McLaughlin, a former Newcastle representative cricketer and Rugby League player.

John played most of his cricket with the Lambton New Lambton club with players like former test star Jim De Courcy and NSW wicket keeper, Ossie Lambert, and was a member of the champion Newcastle representative Rugby League side who won the State Cup in 1964, beating both the record-breaking St George team and the star studded Parramatta side. He was a goal kicking fullback and winger.

John is a Director of the West Leagues Club in Newcastle, a prominent Rotarian and the Treasurer of the Friends of the University of Newcastle.

The golf day was another great success with the field again reading like a Who's Who of representative sportsmen. The players included four Australian Internationals, former test cricketers Rick McCosker, Robert Holland and Graham Corling and former Australian Rugby player, Professor Saxon White, our Branch President.

The event was another financial success due to the support of our sponsors, Tyrrells', McGuigans', Tamburlaines' and Sobels' wineries, Garry Dowling, of Dowling Real Estate, who offered a \$10,000 hole-in-one prize, the Golf Club and its professional, Jason Laws.



Branch President Saxon White presents Life Membership to former Secretary/Treasurer Kevin McDonald



Among the golf players were (l-r) Sports Centre Trust Chairman Ted Atchison, ABC Presenter Scott Levi, former test cricketers Rick McCosker, Graham Corling and Bob Holland and new Secretary/Treasurer John McLaughlin



The Sydney contingent - Jack Corder, David Lewis, Brad Lewis and Steve Lewis



Golfing Ladies (l-r) Sue Wilson, June Ward, Chris Corling, Peta Moore & Mary Edgerton

A PASSAGE TO INDIA FOR TWO JUNIOR TAVERNERS

Two Newcastle Junior Taverners, Sarah Andrews and Leah Poulton, toured India this year with the successful Australian women cricket team. The Aussies beat New Zealand in the final of the Quadrangular Series that also involved India and England.

The two Newcastle girls, who both play for the Wallsend Club in the NSW first grade competition, have since been selected in the Australian squad to go to Darwin in July to play against New Zealand.

They follow in the footsteps of Newcastle's finest woman cricketer, Belinda Clark, who led Australia to their fourth World Cup win in front of 80,000 spectators at India's Eden Gardens in 1997.

Sarah and Leah toured Sri Lanka in 2004 as members of the Australian Youth team.

Sarah made her test debut last year against India at the Adelaide Oval and played a part in our 5-0 whitewash of New Zealand in the Rose Bowl one-day series last year.

Leah made her debut in the Rose Bowl series and made a great start with a century in her third match.

Sarah has just started her first job as a PE teacher at Turramurra High School and Leah is following in her footsteps, studying PE at Sydney University.



Our Taverners' Golden Oldie team in Sri Lanka and (r) a weary Taverners' stalwart Doug Duncan after a hard, hot day on tour



GOLDEN OLDIES RUN HOT IN SRI LANKA

Since New Zealand in 2000, the Newcastle Lord Taverners have been regular attendees at the World Cricket Festivals known as the Golden Oldies. In April 2006 the Lord's Taverners, led by the evergreen leggie Robert 'Bob' Holland, ventured to Colombo in Sri Lanka for the 12th Golden Oldies World Cricket Festival.

Fears of bird-flu, civil unrest and tropical conditions reduced the tourists to 7 players and 4 accompanying wives but they were fortunate to team up with 3 Sri Lankan ex-pats representing Toronto in Canada and immediately formed a formidable combination.

Newcastle had never been victorious on foreign soil before but immediately found form in the first match against the CBC Golden Oldies at the Moors Sports Club, easily chasing down 160 with overs and batsmen to spare. This was the first time Newcastle had ever passed 150 runs in international competition and celebrated in great style that night back in the Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo.

The second game again saw Newcastle bowl first and although holding the Gentlemen of Nowra Eleven in the first 20 overs to 4-60, the heat and humidity in the next 20 overs proved to be as excessive as the runs and Newcastle was chasing 228 for victory. After a subdued beginning at the Royal College ground, Newcastle hit out in the final overs to go down with one wicket in hand by only a dozen runs.

Fortified by some excellent off-field entertainment, dinners and charity-work Newcastle approached the final match against the Australian Cricket Society Vets with a new tactic: bat first in the pre-lunch heat. Skipper Bob Holland launched the first ball of the last over at the De Soysa International Stadium over the fence to score his first runs of the tournament and proceeded to plunder 18 runs off that over to give Newcastle a competitive score of 203.

The innings of the Aussie Vets was always on target and the required run-rate was under 5 per over with several wickets in hand with only 4 overs to go. Newcastle's secret weapons then struck, with the 'imported' Canadians taking 4 quick wickets in the final overs to put a hold on the scoring. The game still went down to the final two deliveries and the Vets were stopped short at 9-197. Newcastle had won its second international game, albeit against another Aussie team!

There were some tremendous and courageous performances in stifling heat and humidity throughout the matches by the Novocastrians. Graham Halton kept wickets like a man half his age, Roger Black had a batting average of 102, (Prof) John Fryer opened the bowling in each game and returned some tidy figures for his 8 over spells, Doug Duncan showed the benefit of his two new knees with some classy batting, the 'irk' twins of Peter Quirk and Geoff Kirk batted, fielded and bowled with class and the wily skipper Bob Holland even got his wrong'un to send back some batsmen while leading from the front with inspirational efforts in the field.

Of course a team is only as good as its supporters and Caroline Holland, Cathy Black, Jill Halton and Susan Duncan were the most consistent and vocal of the cheer squads and scorers we encountered. Their nursing abilities did not go astray either!

A massive highlight for the team occurred on the final night when Bob Holland was named "Personality of the Festival". This was a most fitting tribute to a man who has always put his team-mates first and encourages all players, regardless of ability. Well done Bob.

During and after the tournament there was plenty of time to explore the inland, its unique culture in song, dance, food and elephants! What a pity domestic troubles again have emerged to plague this otherwise 'island paradise'. Harry Solomons was the key organizer for this Festival and he put his heart and soul into the tournament and the raising of valuable funds for an Eye Hospital. Over \$20,000 was raised at the opening ceremony and given that \$50 can restore a person's sight, there was clearly another side to the Taverner's involvement. Roll on the next tournament in Queenstown New Zealand in 2008!