



GREATS PAY HOMAGE TO THE DON

By Vic Levi

Six of the Hunter Valley's cricket internationals and 200 other cricket lovers paid homage to Sir Donald Bradman at a dinner at West Leagues Club on September 4 last year.

Celebrating the 100 years since the great man's birth were 1948 "Immortal", Arthur Morris, Doug Walters, Rick McCosker, Gary Gilmour, John Watkins and Bob Holland.

Graham Corling was unable to make the dinner because he was holidaying overseas.

The other guests were a "Who's Who" of Newcastle cricket identities with State and grade players from most local clubs coming together to pay their respects to the greatest cricketer of them all.

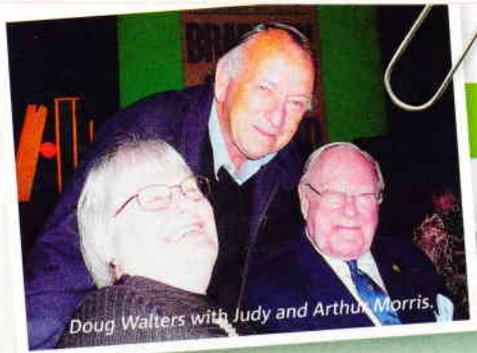
Newcastle sporting broadcasting legend, Mike Rabbitt, was once again a masterful master of ceremonies conducting an enthralling panel discussion with the internationals.

Doug Walters was a star of the show, heaping praise on John Watkins for winning a test match with his batting.

Doug made the point that runs or wickets in a match didn't mean much unless they contributed to a winning result for the team.

Among the other special guests were Graham and Diana Harrison who came up from Melbourne especially to attend the dinner, and Arthur Morris' wife Judy.

It was easily the best function staged by the Newcastle Taverners' Branch.

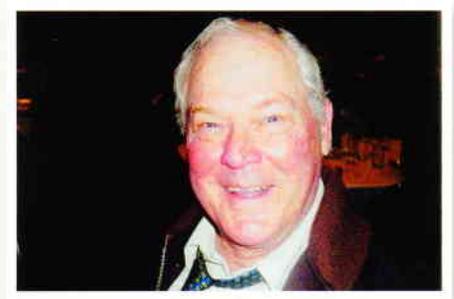


Doug Walters with Judy and Arthur Morris.

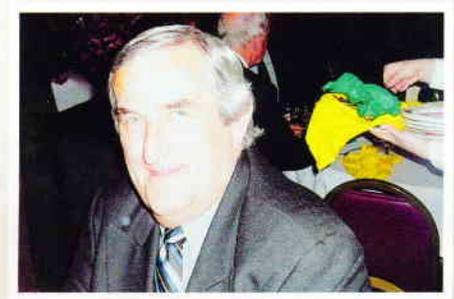
The internationals on stage (l to r) Gary Gilmour, Bob Holland, Doug Walters, Arthur Morris, Rick McCosker and John Watkins.



Victorian visitor Graham Harrison (standing) with Judy Morris, Rick McCosker and Arthur Morris.



John Watkins



Gary Gilmour.



Judy Morris collects a prize from (l to r) Branch Secretary/Treasurer John McLaughlin, MC Mike Rabbitt and Chairman, Vic Levi.

Photos by Murray Webb

A MATCH TO DIE FOR

It was a match to die for when the Newcastle Lord's Taverners "golden oldies" defeated the local Wheatons side on the last ball of the day in a vintage cricket carnival at Armidale in March this year.

The Taverners needed 20 runs off the last two overs to topple the undefeated Wheatons side when Bob Holland, the skipper, clouted a six and then, needing one run off the last ball, hit a four to secure the win.

The win was even more exciting because the Taverners lost their first two matches.

In March last year, the team represented Lord's Taverners at the Golden Oldies Carnival in Queenstown, New Zealand, and next year, led by organizers Cathy and Roger Black, they will go on their sixth world tournament to Harrogate, England.

Top: The Taverners and Wheatons teams after the thriller.

Right: Oldest member of the team, Vic Levi, hits out for the winning side.

Far Right: Bob Holland sends down a leggie.



PRO'S MUM WINS GOLF DAY

The mother and uncle of outstanding Australian golf professional Nikki Garrett led the winning team at the Newcastle Branch's annual golf day at the Newcastle Club in February.

Kay Garrett, from Shelley Beach on the NSW Central Coast, her brother, Gary McLachlan, a member at Belmont, Mick Harley and Scott Foreman had a 59 in the Ambrose event to win the main trophy.

Nikki is currently playing on the European circuit and when last contacted was leading in a major event in Spain.

Due to the hard work of starter Robert Ogram, Branch secretary John McLaughlin, his wife Judy, Meg Levi and Judy White, the day was again a spectacular success.

Our thanks go to our sponsors Sobels and Tyrrells Wines, Garry Dowling, Club Pro Jason Laws and to the Club.

At the dinner which followed the golf, Baith Lewis, the widow of our Founding Father, former National Chief Executive, Keith Lewis, Keith's son David were on hand to present the Keith Lewis Memorial Junior Taverner awards to 12-year-old Maisy Gibson, of Singleton, and 16-year-old Jesse Major, of Jewells.

Maisy is a leg spinner of great promise who has represented for both Singleton and Newcastle and Jesse is a pace bowler and batsman playing for Charlestown who has been a Newcastle junior representative player since the Under 12s.

Our two Taverners' scholarships for members of the Hunter Academy of Sport's Disabled Squad have gone to swimmer Keiran Corry, 16, of Anna Bay, a pupil at St Phillip's Christian School, Port Stephens, who has competed at a national level in Special Olympics, and Corey Bull, of Wickham, a National Soccer for the Intellectually Disabled representative.

The Branch also awarded a scholarship to another young girl cricketer from Singleton, Belinda Winsor, who is a member of the Academy's Cricket Squad and who has represented the Hunter in primary schools cricket.



Golf Day Winners: Kay Garrett, Mick Harley, Scott Foreman and Garry McLachlan.



Players: June and Allan Ward.



Long time supporters John and Sue Wilson.



The Lewis family with 2009 Junior Taverners Maisy Gibson and Jesse Major and Bob Holland.

INDIGENOUS CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

The Newcastle Branch has selected young all-rounder Tyson Jolly, of Karuah, as its 2009 Indigenous Cricketer of the Year.

A hard-hitting batsman and medium pace bowler, Tyson has played for the NSW Indigenous team in the Imparja Cup at Alice Springs for the past two years.

In February this year he scored a brilliant 48 in one of the games and stamped himself as a future star.

He has played with the Charlestown and Raymond Terrace Clubs in Newcastle.

The past two Indigenous Cricketer awards have gone to Maitland batsman, Corey Wright, who played with the Stockton club this year.

New Branch President, Bob Holland, and Branch Chairman, Vic Levi, gave Tyson the good news when they caught up with him at Imparja.



Bob Holland with Tyson Jolly in Alice Springs.



Bob Holland being interviewed by NITV's Jeff Hardy during one of the Imparja games. You might recognize Jeff as the former Rugby League forward who played for St George.



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