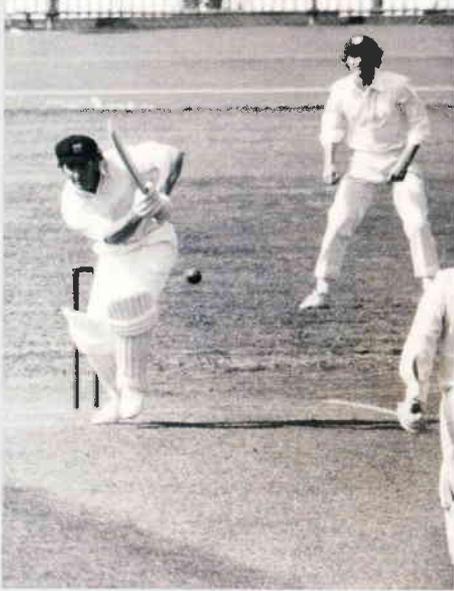




Dual representative takes over in Newcastle



FEW sportsmen have represented their region in both cricket and rugby league.

The new chairman of the Newcastle Taverners' Branch, John McLaughlin, has not only achieved that feat but has also been a star in both codes.

He played cricket for the Lambton Club (now Wests) for 28 consecutive years as an opening batsman and represented Newcastle and Northern NSW on numerous occasions.

John's representative honours included a highly successful tour of Victoria with the Newcastle side.

He played rugby league with the



powerful Western Suburbs Club for five years as a goal kicking winger or centre and was a member of the all conquering Newcastle team that won the NSW State Cup in 1964.

Many experts say this side was the best ever Newcastle team.

Twenty teams competed for the State Cup in 1964 – the 10 Sydney first grade sides, St George, Parramatta, Manly, Eastern Suburbs, South Sydney, North Sydney, Canterbury Bankstown, Newtown, Balmain and Western Suburbs.

There were three teams from the Sydney Second Division, Cronulla, Penrith and Ryde-Eastwood plus the seven divisions from the Country Rugby League, Newcastle, North Coast, Southern Division, Western Division, Riverina, Monaro and Northern Division.

Newcastle began their campaign with a 29-14 win over South Sydney who included greats Michael Cleary, Jimmy Lisle, John Sattler, Bob McCarthy and Ron Coote.

Before their next State Cup game, Newcastle took on the French touring side and won 16-14.

North Sydney came to Newcastle for the next State clash and the home side won 6-0.

Newcastle's opponents in the semi-final were the mighty St George Dragons who included stars Graeme Langlands, Reg Gasnier, Brian Clay, Johnny King, Johnny Raper, Dick Huddart and Elton Rasmussen.

Newcastle won 5-3 in a match regarded as one of the greatest "David and Goliath" victories in the history of Newcastle Rugby League.

A crowd of 20,000 turned up to watch the final against Parramatta who included internationals Ron Lynch, Bob Bugden, Ron Willey and brothers Ken and Dick Thornett. Newcastle won 14-7 in yet another upset.

John McLaughlin missed the St George semi but played well in the victory over Parramatta.

Eight of the players used by Newcastle, Brian Carlson, Kel O'Shea, Ken Maddison, Allan Thomson, Allan Buman, Jim Morgan, Bill Hamilton and Terry Pannowicz played for Australia.

Captain Coach of the Newcastle team was Dave Brown who played for St George in 1960 and 1961.

Newcastle is still waiting to be presented with the State Cup.



Mrs Baith Lewis presents the Keith Lewis Memorial Junior Taverners' Award to Jarrod Ninness.



Golf Day workers (l to r) Irona Webb, Julie White, Judi McLaughlin, Meg Levi and Murray Webb.



Former cricket stars at the Golf Day (l to r) John McLaughlin, Ted Atchison, Robert Wilkinson, Greg Geise, Tim Caban and Test opener, Rick McCosker.

Poetry stole the Show

AN unexpected recital by well known Bush Poet, Murray Hartin, was a highlight of Newcastle Taverners' annual dinner which followed their golf day in February.

Murray, renowned for his poetry about the Australian outback, particularly "Turbulence" which features a cowboy's roughest ride at 30,000 feet on his first flight on an aircraft, had the diners in stitches when he gave the impromptu recital of one of his latest poems.

More than 100 played golf at the beautiful Newcastle links at Fern Bay prior to the dinner.

Among the players were former Australian test stars Rick McCosker (a branch committee member) Graham Corling and Bob Holland and other former Newcastle cricketers, John McLaughlin (the branch chairman), Ted Atchison, Robert Wilkinson, Greg Geise and Tim Caban (who played Sheffield Shield for Queensland.)

The field also included a large contingent



Patrick Oldfield and Steve Knight.



Michael and Lyn Martin.

from Sydney led by David and Stephen Lewis, the sons of the founding father of the Newcastle branch, the late Mr Keith Lewis, who was the Taverners' National Chief Executive Officer.

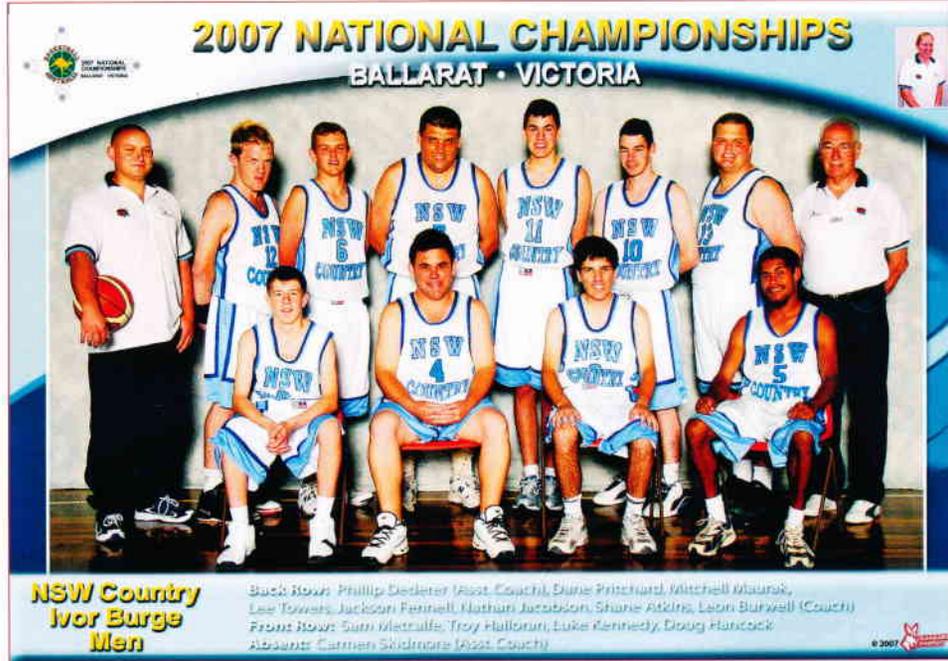
Keith's widow Baith presented the Junior Taverner awards named after her late husband.

The day was a resounding success thanks to major sponsors, Tyrrells and Sobels wineries, Mr Garry Dowling of Dowling Real Estate and Club professional Jason Laws.

Our thanks also go to starter Robert Ogram and helpers Judi and John McLaughlin, Julie White, Meg Levi, Ken and Lorraine Clifford and Murray and Iona Webb.



Members of the Newcastle Taverners' Golden Oldie cricket team at the Golf Day (from l to r) Arun Mukherjee, Roger Black, Doug Duncan, Tony Amodio and Paul Clarke.



The NSW Country Disabled Basketball team with Luke Kennedy in the front row, second from right.

Luke leaps disability barrier

SUCCESS at sport is helping Luke Kennedy of Newcastle win a major battle in his life – severe autism.

Luke, 19, has excelled in a number of sports and has represented NSW in basketball and soccer for the disabled. He is a member of the Hunter Academy of Sport's disabled squad and later this year will represent the Hunter region at the national Special Olympics in Adelaide.

Diagnosed with autism at the age of three, Luke has used his love of sport to triumph over the disability and play an active role in the community. Throughout, he has been supported and encouraged by his parents, Eric and Beth, stepmother Donna, and mentor Leon Burwell.

Luke has a fulltime job in Newcastle, but still finds time for training and the Academy squad activities. He played soccer and basketball for this school (All Saints at Maitland) and also excelled at Ten Pin bowling.

His father, an engineering lecturer at

the University of Newcastle, said sport had enabled Luke to engage with a wide cross section of the community. "Luke just loves being part of the team," he said.

Luke, who epitomises the spirit which Taverners seek to support, last year won the Newcastle Lord's Taverners award given each year to a member of the Academy squad.

Emma Collard, 14, a member of the Academy's cricket squad, also won a scholarship. A medium pace bowler and top order batter, Emma represented Newcastle in the under 15 NSW country championships.

The Newcastle Junior Taverners last year were Maisy Gibson, of Singleton, a 14-year-old off-spinner and middle order batter; and Jarrod Ninness, 17, of Lambton. Jarrod, a very promising fast bowler has already played first grade for the Toronto Workers Club, and represented Newcastle in under 17 and under 19 matches.

By Vic Levi



Jill Brown (left), David and Lorraine Nicholls, Sue Jeffreys, Rosie Lill, Colleen Maidment, Lyn Martin and John Jeffreys.



Enjoying the annual dinner are Murray Hartin, David Lewis, Janet Southwood and Stephen Lewis.