



17th
ANNUAL
REPORT
SEASON
2010/2011



LOBURN, NORTH CANTERBURY, NEW ZEALAND

FOUNDED
1st MAY, 1994

Our Motto

“Floreat Salices”
 (“May the Willows Flourish”)



Our Objectives

- To encourage players in secondary school first elevens to play with and against experienced players, many of whom are present or past first-class cricketers.
- To offer quality cricket to cricket lovers in a country atmosphere, where families may come to watch and picnic.



Why was The Willows formed?

To act as a catalyst, whereby cricketers, and cricket supporters, past and present, who appreciate the traditions and ethos of the game, are able to contribute and impart their experience and talents to the development of youth involved in secondary schools cricket.



LOBURN, NORTH CANTERBURY, NEW ZEALAND

PATRON in PERPETUITY

W.A.Hadlee, CBE, OBE (1915–2006)

THE WILLOW CRICKETER

His Excellency, The Rt Hon. Sir Anand Satyanand,
GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand

PRESIDENT

The Hon. Sir John Hansen, KNZM

Immediate Past President

W.J.Mitchell (1994-2003)

Life Members

R.J.Cowles
V.B.Cusack
P.C.Devlin
W.J.Mitchell
D.O.Neely, MNZM, MBE

Founders

C.K.Baker
R.C.Bromley
H.D.E.Brooke, QSM
C.L.Bull
R.J.Cowles
B.L.Dormer
M.E.Dormer
P.E.Dormer
R.J.R.Fairbairn
W.R.T.Fairbairn
B.G.Hadlee
P.D.Harris

Committee

Founders plus:
D.C.Burrell
P.E.McEwan
J.G.Stringleman

Hon. Secretary

A.R.McRae
(P.O.Box 22 633,
Christchurch)

Hon. Treasurer

A.J.Sheard

Team Selection

C.K.Baker
P.D.Harris
P.E.McEwan
W.J.Mitchell

Match Secretaries

M.E.Dormer
P.D.Rutledge

Membership Secretaries

Mrs I.McRae
Mrs J.Whittington

Hon. Photographers

C.K.Baker
K.Evans
R.D.Hayward

Hon. Statisticians

P.D.Harris
W.J.Mitchell

Annual Report

R.J.Cowles
M.J.Ellis

Webmaster

J.D.Hammond
(Beck & Caul Ltd)

Hon. Chaplain

Vicar Provincial Rev Fr
B.G.Cummings, SM

Square Supervisor

V.B.Cusack

Groundsman

P.C.Devlin

Hon. Gardener

Mrs E.M.Edgar

MEMBERSHIP

The members roll at 31 March 2011 stood as follows:

Playing	253
Associate	241
Overseas	96
Honorary	55

Total Membership 645

Playing Members

(Year of entry precedes name)

03	Abbott, R.E.	98	Cunliffe, J.J.	94	Germon, L.K.
06	Agnew, W.T.	94	Cusack, D. R.	09	Gibson, T.R.
97	Allott, G.I.	03	d'Auvergne, N.R.	03	Goldstein, M.P.
03	Ambler, K.R.	98	d'Auvergne, P.G.	10	Gordon, B.G.
08	Andrews, E.J.	94	Davidson, A.F, <i>ONZM</i>	96	Grocott, D.J.
05	Astle, N.J.	98	Davidson, J.A.F.	09	Grocott, T.
10	Banks, R.J.	94	Davis, S.J.	08	Hammond, D.P.W.
07	Barringer, T.G.	05	Deans, S.J.M.	09	Hampton-Matehe, T.
07	Barry, J.V.	08	Devine, P.B.	94	Hansen, The Hon. Sir John, <i>KNZM</i>
05	Barry, V.E.	94	Devlin, P.C.	99	Hantz, J.L.
05	Bartholomeusz, C.G.	95	Doody, B.J.K.	00	Harding, S.C.
07	Bartholomeusz, L.D.	00	Doody, H.A.	94	Harris, B.Z.
09	Barton, H.	00	Doody, T.J.	94	Harris, C.Z.
05	Bayliss, R.T.	05	Dowds, D.P.	94	Harris, P.D.
08	Bellamy, B.D.	09	Duggan, J.D.	10	Harrison, T.
06	Belliss, C.J.	06	Duncan, P.M.	00	Hastilow, A.J.
94	Bennett, J.	97	Dunne, R.M.	01	Hawes, F.C.
95	Bisman, C.W.	08	Earl, G.H.	02	Hayward, R.E.
98	Bond, D.W.	01	Eddington, W.L.	08	Henry, M.J.
02	Bond, S.E.	01	Ellis, A.M.	00	Hiini, B.C.
08	Boock, J.W.E.	99	Ellis, A.M.	06	Hills, G.
97	Bremner, M.C.	97	Ellis, M.J.	09	Hinton, C.R.
94	Bull, C.L.	07	Fahey, B.J.	06	Horrell, A.H.
94	Bull, J.C.	06	Farrant, M.D.	95	Hudson, M.G.
94	Burrell, D.C.	04	Fielding, M.D.	06	Humphris, L.A.
94	Burrell, W.M.	06	Fisher, H.M.L.	02	Hutchison, P.J.
00	Burrows, D.L.	99	Fisher, T.D.L.	94	Inglis, G.D.
94	Burson, R.D.	94	Flanagan, S.P.	09	Ireland, A.P.
01	Cameron, B.S.	10	Fletcher, A.T.	97	James, C.D.
00	Cameron, B.W.J.	02	Forde, L.J.	05	Johns, A.M.
08	Cartwright, I.	08	Franklin, B.M.	08	Johnston, L.H.
03	Chambers, A.S.T.	04	Fullerton-Smith, A.D.	01	Johnston, M.T.
06	Clark, C.R.	00	Fulton, D.H.	06	Johnston, N.M.
06	Coffey, S.T.	95	Fulton, P.G.	06	Johnston, T.G.
99	Coll, J.P.	08	Gajanayaka, C.	01	Johnstone, A.F.
10	Collins M.	09	Gale, A.J.	06	Kain, M.O.
03	Colvin, G.G.	98	Galloway, G.N.	97	Landon-Lane, M.E.
06	Cowlishaw, A.J.	94	Gardner, J.	04	Langrope, S.L.
09	Croft, M.	06	Garry, J.R.		

07	Latham, M.T.	94	Nuttall, A.J.	94	Sparks, L.C.
94	Latham, R.T.	09	Nuttall, E.J.	94	Stevens, S. D.
07	Latham, T.	05	Nuttall, H.A.	05	Stevenson, J.W.
09	Lawson, S.J.	10	Nuttall, J.S.	09	Stewart, G.J.
01	Leggat, J.E.	09	O'Connell, C.P.	05	Stone, B.W.
09	Lester, S.	06	O'Gorman, J.P.D.	01	Stone, C.J.
01	Loe, H.F.	08	Orton, B.R.	01	Stretch, G.B.
04	Lonsdale, W.M.	94	Owens, M.B.	09	Sutton, T.G.
01	Lucas, B.J.	98	Parr, M.J.	09	Tapper, J.H.
94	MacDonald, M.B.	06	Patel, M.	10	Taylor, R.J.
10	Maguire, W.J.	94	Pavey, H.T.	09	Teale, H.W.
03	Marsh, J.D.	94	Pawson, J.D.	07	Teale, M.D.
10	Marsh, N.E.	02	Peacock, M.D.	99	Thompson, K.G.
94	Masefield, R.V.	95	Pitcher, A.C.	99	Thorn, L.D.A.
99	Masefield, T.J.	05	Pitcher, S.M.	00	Thornton, T.F.
02	Maw, D.J.	09	Pithey, R.J.	99	Townrow, W.B.
98	Maw, P.A.C.	09	Poole, J.	04	Turner, T.J.H.
95	McCarthy, P.B.	10	Pope, C.D.	09	van Woerkom, T.F.
10	McClure, K.J.	97	Priest, M.W.	09	Varma, R.
09	McConchie, C.M.	06	Pullar, C.G.	07	Vaughan, Dr J.T.C.
05	McCone, R.J.	00	Reardon, P.H.	03	Walker, R.L.
10	McCormick, S.A.	09	Reed, G.I.	10	Walsh, T.P.G.
10	McCracken, J.A.	08	Reese, A.	06	Walsh, W.P.J.
08	McEwan, M.B.	10	Reid, A.	10	Ward, B.R.
94	McEwan, P.E.	02	Reid, R.B.	95	Ward, J.
09	McEwan, R.P.	03	Rennell, C.P.	09	Ward, S.A.
06	McFarlane, B.S.	09	Richards, J.M.	09	Watson, J.M.
95	McFedries, A.G.	95	Roberts, S.J.	94	Weeds, M.G.
98	McFedries, S.E.M.	04	Robertson, C.D.	06	Wellington, B.
06	McGoldrick, C.P.	00	Robertson, I.A.	08	Wheeler, B.M.
09	McGoldrick, T.B.	06	Rowe, A.J.	10	Wightman, D.J.
98	McGuire, R.D.	09	Rowe, M.P.	10	Williams, W.S.A.
08	McKeefry, D.J.P.	95	Rugg, P.J.	10	Wilson, R.T.
10	McLean, C.F.	08	Rutherford, T.R.	08	Winchester, J.S.
10	McMeekan, C.P.	95	Rutledge, P.D.	09	Winter, M.J.C.
95	McRae, A.R.	10	Ryan, J.A.C.	10	Wiseman, P.J.
95	Miller, G.A.	06	Ryan, P.D.	01	Wolt, J.R.K.
09	Muir, T.M.	99	Satterthwaite, M.F.	04	Wood, P.
05	Murray, F.D.J.	02	Sawers, A.J.	06	Wraight, S.J.
00	Nathu, A.	09	Scanlon, T.M.	99	Wright, H.G.
03	Newell, M.L.M.	10	Senior, G.H.	08	Wright, H.H.A.
03	Newton, B.I.P.	08	Sethi, P.	08	Wright, H.J.
10	Neynens, C.	05	Sheard, A.J.	05	Wright, N.H.
08	Nicholls, H.	09	Singleton, M.J.	00	Yock, B.A.
06	Nicholson, A.J.	08	Smith, B.	06	Younghusband, P.F.
06	Noster, S.	09	Soper, B.E.		

Associate Members

06	Abbott, R.T.	94	Austin, G.K.	94	Blair, K.R.
94	Aberhart, D.C.	94	Baker, C.K.	00	Boock, S.L.
94	Adams, B.C.	09	Ballantyne, R.M.	94	Boyle, J.G.
06	Alabaster, G.D.	06	Bannan, G.J.	94	Bromley, R.C.
94	Aldridge, B.L.	03	Barnett, D.W.	03	Brook, B.P.
94	Anderson, C.J.	94	Bateman, S.N.	94	Brooke, H.D.E., QSM
95	Anderson, C.W.	03	Beer, G.D.	95	Brooks, G.N.
05	Astle A.M.	07	Biddick, D.W.	95	Brownlee, E.T., QSM
04	Astle, T.D.	02	Billcliff, J.S.	95	Bruce, D.B.

04	Buckenham, M.H.	98	Frahm, R.J.F., <i>QSM</i>	03	McClea, L.R.
08	Buist, G.T.	97	Fuller, M.J.	05	McClea, M.J.
06	Bull, A.J.	98	Fulton, G.H.	05	McClea, T.M.
96	Bunt, L.R.H.	06	Gargiulo, F.J.	94	McCourtie, Mrs R.
94	Burrell, A.E.	02	Garland, S.P.	94	McDonnell, K.M., <i>JP</i>
03	Burrett, W.G.	09	Georgieff, R.	95	McFedries, B.G.
99	Calder, B.	06	Goodall, F.R., <i>ONZM, ED</i>	06	McGoldrick, Mrs L.
00	Cameron, D.J.	06	Goodman, J.H.	95	McHarg, R.L.
94	Cameron, F.J., <i>MBE</i>	10	Gould, G.C.	94	McKechnie, B.J.
95	Campbell, A.I.	01	Gourdie, A.J.	99	McKendry, D.J.
94	Campbell, Dr A.J.M.	94	Graves, A.C.	98	McKinlay, S.
04	Carter, R.	06	Gray, E.	01	MacLeod, A.L.L.
98	Cederman, R.W.	04	Grigor, I.M.	02	McRae, J.A.
06	Chatfield, E.J., <i>MBE</i>	96	Grocott, J.W.	01	Malloch, B.E.
00	Chisholm, The Hon. Justice L.	09	Gubbins, D.R.W.	01	Martin, S.D.
02	Clark, H.G.	00	Guillen, S.C.	03	Miller, G.M.
94	Clark, L.A.	94	Guthrey, P.C.	94	Mills, D.L.T.
94	Clark, N.G.	94	Hadlee, B.G.	05	Moore, G.R.
01	Coates, N.F.	94	Hadlee, D.R.	08	Moore, L.R.
98	Compton, M.R., <i>QSM</i>	94	Hadlee, M.J.	06	Morgan, R.
98	Cook, P.S.	95	Hamilton, B.G.	97	Murray, A.J.
94	Coop, T.A.	95	Harrison, R.J.	09	Murray, D.N.
06	Cooper, The Hon. Justice M.L.S.	94	Hastilow, J.W.	99	Nevin, J.H.
94	Cooper, R.T.	94	Hastings, B.F.	11	Newman, P.A.
04	Cosgrove, C.J.	95	Hastings, M.B.	98	Nielsen, T.S.
94	Cottrell, H.C.	04	Hayward, R.D.	98	Nixon, B.M.
95	Crocker, L.M.	05	Healy, N.	03	Noster, F.R.
94	Cunliffe, S.M.	99	Heslop, J.H.	10	O'Brien, P.
97	Currie, D.S.	94	Hight, C.M.	03	O'Donnell, P.M.
95	Dalley, R.G., <i>QSM</i>	03	Hilgendorf, D.C.	95	Page, R.J.
94	Davidson, N.R.W., <i>QC</i>	94	Holderness,	94	Parker, N.M.
00	Dick, A.E.		His Honour Judge D.J.R.	94	Paton, G.C.J.
04	Dickey, G.E.	02	Hooper, W.P.	94	Pawson, S.J.
01	Dickson, I.B.	95	Hudson, H.J.	99	Payton, D.H.
94	Doig, J.R.	95	Hughes-Johnson, A.C., <i>QC</i>	06	Penlington,
94	Dolan, P.J.	94	Ikram, Professor H.		The Hon. Justice P.
94	Dormer, P.E.	94	Innes, R.T.J.	04	Pettet, C.M.
94	Dowling, Br W.H.	95	Irvine, B.S.	94	Phillips, M.K.
94	Dowling, G.T., <i>OBE</i>	99	Irving, J.D.	96	Polson, A.H.
98	Durning, J.W.	94	James, P.M.	09	Pulley, D.F.
05	Eaton, J.H.M.	10	Johnstone, N.A.	95	Quested, D.M.
94	Ebert, R.J.	06	Jordan, P.H.	99	Raphael, S.H.E.
05	Evans, G.R.	94	Joyce, Professor P.R.	01	Ratray, P.J.
10	Evans, K.W.	98	Judson, R.E.	04	Reid, D.W.
01	Eveleigh, R.S.	99	Kerr, L.H.	96	Reid, J.F.
04	Evennett, D.C.	94	Keys, K.F.	98	Robinson, L.M.C.
94	Fairbairn, R.J.R.	10	King, R.H.	00	Rodgers, P.J.
03	Farrant, D.G.	08	Kos, J.S., <i>QC</i>	03	Rowberry, J.M.
06	Feary, T.W.	94	Lancaster, M.J.	09	Rowe, C.A.
04	Felton, G.E., <i>QSM</i>	94	Lancaster, T.E.	94	Runacres, A.M.
98	Fenton, W.R.	05	Langrope, B.J.	01	Rust, K.N.
97	Fenwick, C.R.	03	Larkins, W.N.	94	Savill, C.M.
10	Finn, J.N.	01	Lawson, R.A.	06	Sawers, S.J.
94	Fisher, M.A.	04	Lawson, W.G.	97	Scott, A.D.L.
98	Flanagan, C.W.	95	Lennon G.P., <i>ONZM</i>	95	Scott, D.W.G.
08	Fletcher, A.G.	99	Lischner, J.A.	05	Seabourn, C.R.
04	Fogarty, The Hon. Justice J.G.	94	Loe, J.G.	01	Shackleton, D.A.
06	Fowler, H.M.	94	MacDonald, Mrs D.	94	Shadbolt, C.H.
94	Fox, D.O.	94	McCallum, Dr A.B.	95	Sharp, D.C.

00 Shipley, A.J.B.
 00 Shrimpton, M.
 07 Sinclair, B.W.
 95 Skipper, H.L.
 95 Smith, G.B.
 94 Smith, M.J.
 94 Smith, P.R.
 02 Snedden, M.C.
 99 Sowden, R.J.S.
 06 Spear, B.G.
 94 Stead, D.W.
 94 Stead, G.R.
 01 Stone, M.B.

95 Strack, D.J.
 10 Stringleman, J.G.
 99 Taylor, B.J.
 94 Thiele, C.H.
 94 Ussher, C.P.
 94 Ussher, Dr J.E.
 07 Veale, J.H.
 01 Wadeson, C.
 94 Wait, E.P.
 00 Wake, R.W.
 94 Wallace, P.E.
 10 Walsh, Mrs K.M.
 10 Walsh, P.M.J.

01 Ward, K.A.
 95 Watson, M.
 95 Wells, G.R.
 94 Whittington, Mrs J.A.
 97 Wiffen, A.G.C.
 94 Williams, P.R.
 97 Williams, R.
 01 Wilson-Pyne, R.N.
 95 Winnicott, A.G.
 97 Wright, J.G.
 95 Wright, Dr M.J.W.
 99 Wylie, D.I.
 94 Yardley, K.J.

Overseas Members

AUSTRALIA

02 Aitken, R.
 05 Barrat, R.
 06 Bouilly, P.C.
 01 Chandler, J.
 99 Chisholm, D.H.
 95 Davidson, A.K., *AM, MBE*
 99 Deans, R.M.
 94 Douglass, W.B., *ASM*
 94 Eastment, B.A.
 05 Eddington, Sir Rod
 94 Eldershaw, J.M.
 02 Fairbairn, N.J.G
 06 Havercroft, G.
 00 Hensman, J.
 06 Hodgson, T.L.P.
 02 Holt, D.W.
 06 Horsell, R.E.
 94 Innes, J.T.
 97 Jones, B.S.
 03 Mackrell, G.L.
 02 Marshall, A.J.
 02 McQueen, D.
 01 Neaves, T.C.
 01 Richards, S.
 96 Rixon, S.J.
 01 Rose, G.L.
 94 Ryan, M.L.
 03 Salmon, K.
 98 Silver, M.J.
 06 Smit, M.N.
 95 Smith, R.
 08 Spalding, S.
 06 Walls, K.A.
 94 Wiles, E.G.
 02 Zavos, S.B.

FIJI

09 Glenn, O., *OMNZ*

GERMANY

08 Werner, Dr H-J

HONG KONG

06 Eanes, M.
 06 Jones, Dr D.A.
 09 Keir, J.
 00 Miles, R.
 98 Stearns, N.
 01 Walsh, M.

INDIA

01 Apte, A.

SINGAPORE

08 Horner, M.

SOUTH AFRICA

04 Fox, P.J.
 01 Fotheringham, B.

SRI LANKA

09 Fernando, M.
 09 Fernando, D.
 10 Hussain, S.

THAILAND

07 de Vries, M.
 08 Kader, M.A.
 07 Leicester, J.
 07 Malbari, F.A.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

08 Archer, M.
 94 Bisman, J.C.
 94 Fairbairn, W.R.T.
 10 Khan, M.

UNITED STATES

06 Wardwell, E.A.

UNITED KINGDOM

95 Bazalgette, C.
 06 Betteridge, J
 06 Betteridge, L.
 03 Blaikie, Dr D.J.O.
 09 Brearley, M., *OBE*
 98 Brierley, R.H.
 03 Buckton, S.J.
 08 Conyngham, J.
 98 Cumbes, J.
 98 Dodds, V.
 94 Dormer, B.L.
 08 Fearnley, C.D.
 09 Gattling, M.W.
 06 Goulding, M.
 03 Hart, R.
 94 Hatley, B.
 94 Hutton, B.L.
 94 Hutton, R.A.
 94 Hutton, O.R.
 03 Hyde, A.R.
 06 Lander, C.
 98 Lorimer, A.A.
 03 McGrath, D.E.T.
 98 Marsden, W.
 00 Martin, S.G.D.
 06 Mollitt, R.
 94 Munn, R.G.
 07 Naidoo, Urvasi
 94 Openshaw, C.F.
 06 Reid, H.
 94 Roebuck, P.M.
 06 Sawrey-Cookson, N.
 06 Sims, G.
 06 Smail, D.J.R.
 06 Vallance, J.A.F.
 05 Wheeler, N.
 09 Wright, P.

Honorary Members

94 Barber, R.T.	08 Fernando, M.J.	06 Murray, The Venerable
07 Becroft, His Honour Judge A.J.	03 Fry, C.A.	Archdeacon Canon W.R.C.
03 Blackett, Sir Hugh	95 Galloway, Miss A.S.G.	94 Neely, D.O., <i>MNZM, MBE</i>
99 Brierley, Sir Ronald	94 Galloway, I.W., <i>QSO, MBE</i>	02 O'Neill, J.A., <i>AO</i>
95 Burdon, Hon. Philip	99 Graham, Sir John, <i>KNZM, CBE</i>	99 Reid, J.R., <i>OBE</i>
98 The Lord Butler of Brockwell, <i>KG, GCB, CVO</i>	94 Hadlee, Sir Richard, <i>MBE</i>	03 Rice, Sir Tim
09 Catley, D.H.	96 Hawke, The Venerable Archdeacon M.J.	03 Roberts, Major A.C., Salvation Army
09 Coleman, B., <i>OBE</i>	98 Henderson, Mrs E.M.	96 Rosser, Dr M.J.
99 Coney, J.V.	04 Hunt, Rt Hon. Jonathan, <i>ONZ</i>	06 Satyanand, The Hon. Sir
04 Conway, R.W.	04 Johnson, Professor B.F.S.	Anand, <i>GNZM, QSO</i>
06 Coward, M.J.	03 Knight, R.D.V., <i>OBE</i>	08 Scott, N.
94 Cowles, R.J.	10 Laidlaw, C.R.	03 Seay, A.
94 Cummings, Rev Fr B.G., <i>SM</i>	03 Larsen, G.R.	03 Stoop, Dr G.C.
94 Cusack, V.B.	95 Macfarlane, R.M.	05 Tyson, F.H.
95 Doig, C.K., <i>CNZM, OBE</i>	98 McLisky, T.H.	07 Watt, M.
94 Dormer, Mrs D.W.	06 Mauger, W.J.	08 Weerasekera, S.
94 Edgar, Mrs E.M.	94 Mitchell, W.J.	10 Woutersz, J.
01 Elley, J.C.	04 Moses, R.J., <i>ONZM</i>	04 Wright, A.G.L.
04 Farr-Jones, N.C., <i>AM</i>	01 Murray, B.A.G., <i>QSO</i>	95 Wright, Sir Allan, <i>KBE</i>



▲ View of the Pavilion during the match against St Thomas of Canterbury College in February.

“Willowers All,”

The 2010/11 season again proved highly successful.

Notwithstanding an unusually wet cricket season, a number of highly entertaining and closely-fought fixtures were battled out on the Field of Dreams. The second assistant groundsman was present every week to see the ground was turned out in its usual immaculate state. This season we were privileged to obtain the services of Jim Stringleman as the weekly match manager. His love of the game was soon evident to all at The Willows and we are delighted to have him on board.

There were two particular highlights to the season of equal importance, which I will deal with them chronologically. First, we were privileged when our honorary member, Sir Tim Rice, managed to travel to Adelaide via Christchurch. Sir Tim was travelling to Adelaide to present the prestigious Bradman Oration. He addressed a dinner of Club members at the beautiful Octagon Restaurant (whose fate at the moment remains uncertain due to the February earthquake). It was an outstanding success, enjoyed by all those present who were delighted by Sir Tim's easy wit and ready charm. It was also a pleasure to see Sir Tim so thrilled by the medley of his songs sung by the pupils of Burnside High School and by Rachel Doig and her daughter Zara.

The second notable occasion was the dinner with the Governor-General and the Governor-General's game. Sir Anand Satyanand has been an outstanding supporter of youth during his tenure as Governor-General. In particular, I pay tribute to his support of both The Willows and the Wanderers Club in Wellington. It was a delight to host Sir Anand and Lady Susan at a dinner the night before the game at Medbury School. This was originally planned to take place at St Andrew's, but due to earthquake damage

had to be shifted to Medbury. I am particularly grateful to the principals of both St Andrew's and Medbury for agreeing to the use of their facilities. As to the game, once more the Governor-General triumphed comfortably and we await the day when our sole selector manages to entice some younger former Black Caps into the fold. Notwithstanding that, it was a delight to welcome a number of old friends who have appeared in all of these fixtures back to The Willows, and we trust to see them again in the future.

Once more we are indebted to our sponsors ASB Bank, Anthony Runacres and Associates, Mobil Oil and Bradley Nuttall. We extend our thanks to Peter Devlin, for his untiring work as groundsman, and to Tony Campbell who attends week-in, week-out as scorer. The same gratitude must be extended to our umpires who serve outstandingly at The Willows, as their contribution throughout New Zealand can too readily be overlooked.

I wish to acknowledge four members who received awards in the New Year's and Queen's Birthday Honours lists. Andrew Davidson for his ONZM, Don Neely for his MNZM, Sir John Graham for his KNZM and Christopher Doig for his CNZM. All of these were richly deserved accolades.

Once more, Sir Hugh and Lady Blckett graciously hosted two Willowers at Matfen. This longstanding relationship is extremely important to the Club and has been of enormous benefit to those young cricketers fortunate enough to be recipients of that scholarship.

We continue to value the support of Justin Vaughan and all at New Zealand Cricket, and all of the stalwarts at Canterbury Cricket. Notwithstanding the disruption of the earthquake and the fact he was leaving the country the next day, we were delighted that Justin attended the Governor-General's dinner and spoke to members.

Finally, I must make special mention of our caterers, Liz and Lionel Ford. Our caterers do a wonderful job, and in any normal year would warrant special mention. But in this year it goes much further, as Liz was one of those fortunate enough to survive the collapse of the CTV building. I am told as she rode the building down from the top floor her main thought was who would do the catering for The Willows. Liz, there are more important things than catering for The Willows, but we are so grateful to you and Lionel for your continued participation at our beautiful ground.

Each year it is proper that I recognise the outstanding support we receive from schools that play at The Willows, their Coaches and importantly their Principals. Given the aims and principles of the Club, this relationship is vital to our continued success, and we look forward to

that on-going relationship with all of those schools.

To all the membership, both playing and non-playing, my thanks for your continued support which makes The Willows the vibrant, successful club it is. It is that support which makes The Willows the envy of many cricket clubs in New Zealand and worldwide.

Finally we have two A M Ellis's as members. One was the top performer for the Canterbury Wizards this year and he was rightly honoured. The other we confidently predict will be a member of the All Blacks' world cup squad.

May the Willows Flourish.

The Honourable Sir John Hansen, KNZM
President

Fathers & Sons



▲ Hugh Wright watching his son Will on strike.



▲ Greg and Matthew Stretch.

COLLEGE XIs



▲ Gore High School 1st XI.



▲ Christchurch Boys' High School 1st XI.



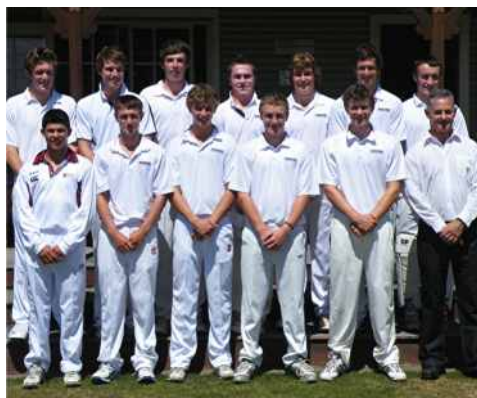
▲ Marlborough Boys' College 1st XI.



▲ Wellington College 1st XI.



▲ Mid-Canterbury Youth XI.



▲ Combined Secondary Schools XI.

COLLEGE XIs



▲ The Christ's College 1st XI, winners of the '49ers Cup for 2010/11.



▲ The North West Schools XI.



▲ The King's High School (Dunedin) 1st XI.



▲ The Otago Boys' High School 1st XI.



▲ The King's College (Auckland) 1st XI.

COLLEGE XIs



▲ The St Thomas of Canterbury College 1st XI.



▲ The St Bede's College 1st XI.



▲ The Timaru Boys' High School 1st XI.



▲ The Southland Boys' High School 1st XI.



▲ Danny Dowds bowled Blackman in the match against Marlborough Boys' College.

V GORE HIGH SCHOOL 1ST XI

3rd October 2010

Report by Greig Pullar

The first fixture of the season has seen some unpleasant weather in recent years, but thankfully for Gore High School (GHS) after an arduous 8 hour journey the weather was stunning.

Hamish Cooke, the GHS captain was greeted by Mike with a cup of tea and a handshake, unknowingly that's all it took for The Willows to secure the toss. On an excellent early season pitch The Willows elected to bat first.

At 33/4 Gore's opening bowlers Cooke and Hasselmore had us in trouble before J Nuttall and J Barry settled in for a much needed partnership of 99, scoring 64 and 47 respectively. C Bartholomeusz scored a positive 53* to bring The Willows to a solid 229/7.



▲ Gore aggression through midwicket.



▲ Well stumped Paul Rutledge



▲ Andrew Nuttall talks to the boys after the game.

In reply, GHS was 64/3 and the game was evenly poised. Cooke was the stand out with the bat scoring a well compiled 46. However, the experience of A Nuttall slowed the scoring rate and took three important wickets securing figures of 3/20. The asking rate increased steadily, the pressure proving a little too much and the visitors fell short of the required total.

This annual fixture was well attended by both friends and family and it is a real pleasure to have on The Willows fixture list. I look forward to playing alongside some of the Gore High School team in the future.

The Willows won by 97 runs

The Willows 229/7

J. Nuttall 64, C. Bartholomeusz 53*, J. Barry 47, T. Hasselmore 3/35

Gore High School 132/9

H. Cooke 46, A. Nuttall 3/20, J. Nuttall 2/7, C. Bartholomeusz 2/7

Umpires

G. Evans and H. Fowler

✓ CHRISTCHURCH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL 1ST XI

10th October 2010

Report by Andrew Nuttall

It was a cold day at The Willows, but the welcome was warm for the Christchurch Boys' High team and visiting Willowers. Despite the very wet late winter weather, the ground was in immaculate condition – the pitch was firm and flat, and the outfield at its very best. Our congratulations to all concerned.

The Willows 'won the toss' yet again, and elected to bat first, yet again! The top order struggled against the opening bowling of William Williams and Lachie Davidson and it was good to note the confidence that Boys' High captain, James Richards, had in using one of his two, fine, left arm spinners. After 13 overs The Willows were 33/2, and only Robert Dunne and Harry Wright were able to put some pressure on the Boys' High bowlers. The Willows were finally dismissed in the 49th over for 140 runs.

CBHS, in reply, started positively, even though Richard McGuire captured the wicket of James Richards in the 4th over. The attack was taken up by Ben Sidey, who scored 31 runs at a run a ball, which, in the context of the game, was very good. The Willows faced the real prospect of losing to Boys' High for only the second time in the history of the Club and it was unfortunate for Boys' High the rain "settled in" shortly after tea and the match was left with Boys' High very well placed at 73/3 from only 17 overs.

Match drawn

The Willows 140

R. Dunne 38, H. Wright 23*, W. Williams 28/3, L. Davidson 26/2

Christchurch Boys' High School 71/3

B. Sidey 31

Umpires

P. Koppes and R. Kandula



▲ Robert Dunne the Cricket Master playing through the covers.



▲ Matthew Teale with the new ball.



▲ Theo van Woerkom – a promising spinner.

✓ MARLBOROUGH BOYS' COLLEGE 1ST XI

17th October 2010

Report by Phil d'Auvergne

On a beautiful sunny spring day The Willows team won the toss and decided to bat on a belter of a wicket. The Willows team took full advantage of the conditions and with batsmen from four through to seven all getting into the forties, a big score was posted. Mark Landon-Lane started the rout with many fine shots all around the wicket as he capitalised on some ill-directed bowling. Partnerships followed with the next established batsman continuing with the scoring rate never falling below fives. Greg Stretch also enjoyed a solid knock as did Nick d'Auvergne with a series of pull shots on and over the boundary at the end of the innings.



▲ Too late batsman! Well stumped Ryan Banks.



▲ Andrew McCracken looks good on the drive.

The College team fielded well but most of the bowlers had below performances. The exceptions were Ben Blackman who maintained a good line and length and showed the others what was required taking 2 for 32. While Sam Boyce on his first XI debut deserved his 3 for 44.

The total of 280 for 6 was always going to be a hard ask for the students as The Willows team lacked any real "fire power". The captain relied on the medium and spin bowlers to contain the batsmen.

A good opening stand by Matt Wills was followed by a very good and potential match winning stand by Blake Parata and Matt McCormick of 94 runs and saw College at 180 for 2 after 38 overs.

College were in total control, however, the pressure of the run rate got to them and both were dismissed in close succession trying to hit over the boundary. With runs to play with, The Willows captain was able to give everyone a bowl while still keeping a watch on the mounting score. The middle and tail order tried hard to keep up the run rate but good bowling and catching saw them fall short for a very creditable 209. The match ended with Jacob Wolt taking a leaping one handed catch at slip much to every one's surprise including himself.

The Willows match manager was pleased to add the Arthur Cresswell trophy to the cabinet for 2010 pointing out to the assembled players and spectators that it has been on loan to Marlborough Boys' College for the last 4 years!

The Willows won by 71 runs

The Willows 280/6

F. Hawes 44, M. Landon-Lane 49,
G. Stretch 47, N. d'Auvergne 44*, S. Boyce 3/44,
B. Blackman 2/32

Marlborough Boys' College 209

M. Wills 37, B. Parata 76, M. McCormick 22,
A. Nicholson 2/17, A. McCracken 2/23,
G. Stretch 2/42, N. d'Auvergne 2/33

Umpires

P. Koppes and R. Kandula

WELLINGTON COLLEGE I ST XI

24th October 2010

Report by Justin Murray

At 10.30am the energetic Wellingtonians were already engaged in an intense fielding exercise as the Willows XI started to arrive. It was a north-west morning, approaching 20 degrees as the coin toss was won. A "green top" pitch and moderate humidity were reason enough for The Willows to bowl first. The Wellington top order grafted commendably on what was a slow early season pitch. However with runs hard to come by, the wickets fell steadily. Willows' opening bowler Alex Rowe impressed with line and length. First change bowler Daniel Wightman delivered 10 overs on the trot, deploying his left



▲ Daniel Wightman all the way from Nelson to operate his spinners from the duck pond end.



▲ Umpires Graeme Evans and Howard Fowler.



▲ Three Wellington College Old Boys: Brian Hastings (former NZ rep), John Grocott and Michael Phillips inspecting an old magazine.

arm orthodox to great effect. Paul McEwan bowled with rhythm and efficiency, however Matt Rowe was probably the most effective of the bowlers picking up 3 wickets with his flighty off breaks. It was a tight bowling and fielding display and Wellington were dismissed for 175.

The Willows batting line up was strong. Opener Ben Ward compiled a compact and stylish 60. Most of the top order made decent contributions, but again Matt Rowe distinguished himself with an aggressive 44 not out. Despite some impressive pace, the Wellington bowlers struggled to defend such a modest target. The winning runs were struck with several overs to spare; The Willows having lost only 5 wickets and with the seasoned lower middle order not required. For the Wellington team, the day was also enhanced by the presence of local old boys such as ex-New Zealand internationals Brian Hastings and Trevor Barber, Captains of the XI in 1957 and 1941 respectively.

The Willows won by 5 wickets

Wellington College 175

A. Fletcher 38, M. Rowe 3/39

The Willows 176/5

B. Ward 60, M. Rowe 44*, T. Donaldson 3/29

Umpires

G. Evans and H. Fowler

v OTAGO BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL 1ST XI

31st October 2010

Report by Aaron Johnstone

I turned up on time for a change to discover I was in fact captaining The Willows for the day with the added pressure of being part of The Willows team that was rolled for 54 in the same fixture last year! I was firmly instructed by Mike to break tradition and bowl first after the embarrassment of the previous year and he would have been happy with the start! We soon had the Otago Boys' 4-19 after some great bowling from Edward Nuttall and Willie Williams. Michael Collins batted extremely well while wickets were falling around him before finding some help from Scott Hunter to post a team total of 87. Michael Peacock and Dion

McCall were very tight through the middle overs while also taking a couple of wickets each.

The Willows lost wickets but never looked in too much trouble with James O'Gorman being the backbone of the innings with a well compiled 30. The pick of the bowlers was J. Hunter who snared two wickets.

Once again thanks must go to the Otago Boys' High team who travel a long way to take part in this fixture each year.

The Willows won by 6 wickets

Otago Boys' High School 87

M. Collins 30, S. Hunter 24, E. Nuttall 3/15, D. McCall 3/18, W. Williams 2/8

The Willows 215

J. O'Gorman 30, J. Hunter 2/11

Umpires

R. Wyeth and B. Hamilton



▲ James O'Gorman means business with the ball.



▲ Edward Nuttall – 8.4 overs, 3 for 15.

✓ PENINSULA CRAZ XI

7th November 2010

Report by Steve Lester

After a couple of days of heavy rain the all important toss was won by the Peninsula captain who decided to bowl first. This decision was well supported by the bowlers who made good use of the conditions.

Despite a dogged opening stand, especially by Graeme Inglis, The Willows lost wickets regularly and went to lunch at 5 for 80. Then a nugget innings providing backbone to The Willows was provided by Andrew Nuttall, getting the score to 144 for 8. Excellent bowling from all the Peninsula side with ex-All Black James Ryan leading the figures with 3 for 26 off his 10 overs.

With a small total to defend, the opening bowlers Todd Sutton and Brendon Wellington did an excellent job with each taking 2 wickets in an over. Sutton managed to get 2 played-on in quick succession to put doubt into the Peninsula batsmen's minds and then Wellington repeated the double tap in his 5th over. Continued excellent tight bowling from Andrew Nuttall (1 for 26) and from Chris Kennedy (2 for 18) had the opposition having to work hard towards the total. However 144 was never going to be enough and an almost chanceless innings from D Bulman saw Peninsula home with 6 overs to spare.

A pleasure to play in the sunshine on a wicket that played well and took turn.

The Willows lost by 2 wickets

The Willows 144/8

A. Nuttall 36*

Peninsula Craz 146/8

D. Bulman 75*

Umpires

G. Evans and T. McLisky



▲ **Danny Bulman batted beautifully for 75 to win the game for the Craz.**



▲ **Andrew Nuttall (36 not out) enjoys a bat.**



▲ **Todd Sutton at delivery.**

✓ MID-CANTERBURY YOUTH XI

14th November 2010

Report by Lindsay Forde

It was with some trepidation that the skipper arrived at the ground, having narrowly avoided an accident with a duck crossing the road, with her multiple ducklings. Not a good omen when associated with playing cricket.

Losing the toss and being asked to bat soon realised the skipper's worst fears – those ducks inhabited the scorecard. Four of the top 6 batsmen failed to trouble the scorer, with The Willows side precariously placed at 11 for 6, against some accurate bowling from Kurt Polson and Sean Strange. Luckily Brad Doody stood tall amongst all this carnage and was able to establish a couple of partnerships, before being 9th out at 82, with his score at 50. The Willows were finally dismissed on the stroke of lunch for 95, in 30 overs. Thomas Meyrick performed well with the ball for Mid Canterbury, with all the bowlers backed up well by excellent team fielding.

Unfortunately, the drizzle at lunch turned into steady rain, so the match was officially abandoned at 2.00pm. We will never know how the Mid Canterbury XI would have coped with the spin duo of Mark Priest and Andrew Nuttall who would have opened the bowling for The Willows.

Match abandoned. The Willows retain the trophy!

Match drawn

The Willows 95

B. Doody 50, K. Polson 5/18

Umpires

L. Kerr and D. Pulley

✓ LONDON NEW ZEALAND CC XI

21 November 2010

Report by Trevor Thornton

Of the eleven previous matches The Willows held the advantage by one.

After the opening partnership of 141 between Kennedy (62) and Huyser (85) the signs were ominous. The next nine LNZ wickets fell for 112 runs to leave The Willows chasing 253. McGuire, Humphrey and Wright each took two wickets.

As many international teams include South African talent these days, so did LNZ. The Huyser brothers who as well as scoring almost half the LNZ runs, took three of the first five wickets to fall. Will Wright playing at The Willows for the first time with his father Hugh, top scored with 52.

A comfortable win by LNZ now balances the ledger at six a piece and the Trevor Campbell Trophy disappears for one year.

The Willows lost by 76 runs

LNZCC 253

T. Huyser 85, C. Kennedy 62

The Willows 177

W. Wright 52, C. Huyser 3/45, S. Lester 4/30

Umpires

H. Fowler and J. Rose



▲ An exuberant Mid-Canterbury cordon!



▲ The London New Zealand CC XI.

V COMBINED SCHOOLS XI

28th November 2010

Report by Barry Townrow

It was a tribute to the management of the Combined Secondary Schools side that had toured Sri Lanka earlier in the season that 12 of the 13 players were able to reassemble from various parts of New Zealand for this game. Conditions were ideal for the match with the ground again beautifully presented.

Batting first, the Combined Schools' total of 260 for 7 was based around 66 retired from A. Fletcher and a very aggressive knock of 77 from M. Collins. While The Willows bowlers stuck to their task, no one was able to penetrate their sound technique. Best of the bowlers were medium pacer Willie Lonsdale and young spinner Braden Lawry.

Chasing this total The Willows were on target with a 145 run second wicket partnership between Hamish Teale and Fraser Hawes. These two kept the run rate turning over nicely, but

when Teale was out for 97, The Willows batsmen found runs difficult to come by as the Combined bowlers bowled a very good length to restrict the scoring. As the overs ticked by The Willows found themselves 12 runs shy at the end of the 50th. Teale's 97 was an innings of class, as was the 52 struck by Hawes. On the day, however, it was the younger side who had displayed the better temperament to win the game.

Special thanks to the umpires and to the scorer Tony Campbell. Another fabulous day at The Willows where, "Cricket was the winner."

The Willows lost by 12 runs

Combined Schools XI 267

M. Collins 77, A. Fletcher 66rtd, K. McClure 23

The Willows 248/7

H. Teale 97, F. Hawes 52, H. Nuttall 29, D. Wightman 4/45

Umpires

M. Hill and P. Koppes

NB. For the official records the opening bowlers for The Willows were W. Lonsdale and P. Ryan (not B Townrow!).

v CLARRIE ANDERSON'S XI

1st December 2010

Report by Peter Devine

Not only was I pulled in at the last minute to be the captain (no one else wanted to do it), I also now have to file the match report!

The Willows took on the Clarrie Anderson invitation team in this keenly awaited annual fixture. Like the inclement weather, The Willows team improved during the course of the day culminating in a comprehensive 7 wicket victory.

After winning the toss, the Clarrie Anderson XI was inserted on the basis the drizzly conditions would provide a bit more juice on the normal "batsmen friendly" wicket. However, this assumption failed to materialise as the ball turned into a "bar of soap" which required replacing on two occasions. The opening batsmen Tim McConnell and David Bull quickly capitalised with a 100 run opening stand in rapid time. It was only an inspired spell of bowling by the Rev. Mike Hawke assisted by that Great Architect in the universe, and strongly supported by Lyn Sparks plus an outstanding piece of fielding by Jim Stringleman with a direct hit,

which ultimately limited the Clarrie Anderson XI to 192 off their 40 overs.

Despite the early loss of Greg Hills, Geoff Miller and the Rev. Mike Hawke quickly had The Willows team on the road to victory with a great partnership of 79, until Mike retired leaving Geoff to score an outstanding century, punctuated by fantastic pull shots before he also retired, leaving Peter Devine, captain for the day, to slog a quick 30 to complete the 7 wicket victory with some 5 overs to spare.

It should be noted the commitment of Rev. Mike Hawke to cricket when after success firstly with the ball and then with the bat, he drove to Picton some 4 ½ hours north, caught the 10.00pm ferry to Wellington, arriving at 1.30am Thursday morning, finally to a hotel and then up early to commence a mission programme with North Islanders commencing at 8.30am – what commitment – young cricketers please note.

The Willows won by 7 wickets

Clarrie Anderson's XI 192/7

T. McConnell 79, D. Bull 27, Rev M. Hawke 3/28

The Willows 195/3

G. Miller 100 rtd, Rev. M. Hawke 38 rtd

Umpires

H. Fowler and J. Rose



▲ Ross Bayliss beautifully through midwicket.



▲ Tim McConnell on his way to a well compiled 79.



▲ Hamish Wright full of promise with the ball.



▲ Bill Walsh returns after a well compiled century.

✓ NORTH WEST SCHOOLS XI

5th December 2010

Report by David Grocott

A very warm early summer's day saw a youthful Willows side confront the North West Schools' XI, a team that is a combination of players from Burnside High School and Papanui High School, for the first time. Despite a bouncer flying off Tinius Huyser's helmet for four leg byes in the first over of the match, this was to be a day for the batsman, as by the day's end a total of 580 runs had been scored for the loss of only 12 wickets.

An outstanding partnership of 163 between Bill Walsh and Carl Huyser (who was also the coach of the North West XI) laid the foundation for The Willows score of 304 for 5. Bill scored 100 (before retiring as customary) and Carl 84, both scoring at about a run a ball. Tim Barringer also chimed in with a bright 39.

In reply the North West XI started positively putting on 48 for the first wicket. The runs continued to flow as the young North West batsmen took the game to the Willows bowlers. Young Chris Warner was outstanding, striking a magnificent 83 not out including taking 24 off an over of one hapless Willows bowler who shall remain unnamed. He was well supported by Eddie Commons who scored 56. Unfortunately the challenge of scoring three hundred plus proved too much for the valiant North West team and they fell 28 runs short.

The Willows won by 28 runs

The Willows 304/5

B. Walsh 100 rtd, C. Huyser 84, T. Barringer 39

North West Schools XI 276/7

C. Warner 83*, E. Commons 56, M. Alcock 35

Umpires

E. Brownlee and D. Ireland (Victoria)



▲ Spectators gathered for Christmas festivities during the Hawkswood Wanderers match.

V KING'S HIGH SCHOOL I ST XI

12th December 2010

Report by Paul McEwan

The Willows just happened to decide to bat on a beautiful Sunday morning which meant that the youthful King's High School team had to bear the heat of the late morning. At 11 for 2 they were pretty chirpy in the field but they did not realise The Willows team batted down to number 11. Andrew McCracken who opened the innings batted very well for his 71, punishing any loose bowling. Unfortunately the King's bowling attack conceded too many boundaries. Matt Brown for King's bowled his off spin with good control conceding only 37 runs from his 10 overs. Les Humphris and Harrison Williams batting 9 and 10 added an unbeaten 68 runs for the 9th wicket to get The Willows to 283.

It was great to see such a youthful Willows fielding team with Harrison Williams and

Andrew Hazedine both school boys bowling impressively at the start of the King's innings. Matt Brown battled through to 46 but the King's High boys struggled to work the ball around sufficient enough to threaten the Willows score. Tom Dixon never gave it away. Coming in at No 4 he decided he was going to bat through the innings. He applied himself very well against a varied Willows bowling attack to finish with 98 not out. Tom had to hit the last 2 balls for 4 to reach his century only to finish 2 runs short. Well batted Tom. A most enjoyable game.

It was great to host King's High School and all the parents who travelled from Dunedin.

The Willows won by 78 runs

The Willows 283/8

A. McCracken 71, P. McEwan 47,
L. Humphris 35, H. Williams 35, M. Brown 2/37

King's High School 205/8

T. Dixon 98*, M. Brown 46

Umpires

D. Pulley and M. Dormer

v HAWKSWOOD WANDERERS XI

19th December 2010

Report by Sam Davis

The Willows XI arrived at Loburn for the final match of 2010 against arch rivals Hawkswood Wanderers, keen to avenge the result from 2009 where the elements robbed The Willows of victory! With many of the same faces returning for both teams, it was always going to be a hard fought contest. While the weather again threatened to affect the match, it was not to be and a fantastic arm wrestle commenced!

After winning the toss, The Willows donned the pads and got off to a shaky start with Brad Doody being involved in one of the more bizarre dismissals at The Willows in recent years. Justin Vaughan followed soon after, but Anup Nathu and Andy Ellis steadied the ship and got the team through to 95 for 3.

The middle order continued the solid scoring and eventually The Willows made a very respectable 232-8 thanks to Ben Ward, Pat Ryan and Jonathan Tapper. The youngsters showed

Willows stalwart Andrew Nuttall (playing for Hawkswood) little respect, despite being (as always) the pick of the Hawkswood bowlers.

Hawkswood came out firing with the bat and despite a fine display of new ball bowling by Jack Nuttall, they were 83 without loss after just 12 overs. However, after some very tight line and length bowling from Justin Vaughan and Steve Lester, The Willows dragged it back to 127-4.

The pressure continued from Jacob Wolt and Andy Ellis, along with excellent fielding from The Willows, and at 195-7 the game was wide open. However, Hawkswood began to crumble in the late afternoon sunshine and with the hard work done, Davis mopped up the tail for the first Willows win against Hawkswood in 10 years!

The Willows won by 32 runs

The Willows 232/8

A. Nathu 42, A. Ellis 46, B. Ward 53,
A. Nuttall 3/47

Hawkswood Wanderers 200

P. Dickson 54, A. Fitzpatrick 59, J. Wolt 3/27,
S. Davis 3/32

Umpires

N. Ebert and B. Aldridge



▲ All Black Andrew Ellis on the hook.



▲ Oh dear! Not Andrew Nuttall's day.



▲ Cameron Rennell drives in the air during his 75.



▲ Matthew Hudson entices a nick.

V SUBURBAN XI

9th January 2011

Report by Grant Stewart

The annual fixture with the Suburban XI started with a fine and sunny day at The Willows. It was a game where the older Willowers were expected to struggle with the finer points of the game, like catching and throwing, after the festive break.

The game commenced in somewhat usual circumstances with The Willows taking their turn in the field first. The customary introductions, prior to the game, facilitated by the ever-enthusiastic host, ascertained The Willows had about three regular bowlers to choose from for their fifty overs in the field.

The Suburban XI lost early wickets and were in dire trouble at 24/4 until a very productive partnership in the middle of the innings of 129 for the fifth wicket between Joe Taylor and Chris Gleeson.

It allowed the Suburban XI to post a semi-competitive total of 172. Gleeson made a well

composed 83 and Taylor posted a free flowing 44. The standout performances in a fine effort in the field were William Wright and Tony Gray, bowling largely unchanged.

The Willows innings then started in very similar fashion to the first, losing 4 wickets before there was 50 on the board. The innings was then resurrected with the second fifth wicket partnership of the match to amass a century. A stand of 114 was shared between Cameron Rennell and Fraser Hawes to make short work of the chase.

Rennell was last out with Hawes hitting the winning runs to be left undefeated. Another good win to reclaim the Broken Bail Trophy.

The Willows won by 5 wickets

Suburban XI 172

C. Gleeson 83, J. Taylor 44, W. Wright 5/23, A. Gray 3/44

The Willows 176/5

C. Rennell 75, F. Hawes 53, N. Columbus 3/19

Umpires

J. Elley and B. Hamilton

V CHRIST'S COLLEGE I ST XI

16th January 2011

Report by Joe Bennett

The first game at The Willows took place in 1994 and was against Christ's College. We walloped them. I kept wicket and was repeatedly hit on the shins.

In 2011 we walloped Christ's College again. I didn't keep wicket because of decrepitude but if I had I'd have been repeatedly hit in the stomach. Which only goes to show what a wonderful job the groundsmen have done over the intervening 17 years.

The Christ's College captain won the toss on a hot day and took the morally reprehensible decision to bat. Perhaps his team needed a rest after the hour of warm-ups that I have never understood the purpose of.

The track was what is generally known as a belter. The Willows had a keen young side but no regular bowlers apart from Willie Lonsdale, and even he, after an early wicket, found his teeth blunted by the conditions. The runs piled up,

with three of the College top four getting fifties. The visitors were no doubt delighted to get 280 for 5. But we weren't that unhappy either.

For The Willows, Andrew McCracken got a quick and exquisite 30, Chris McGoldrick ditto, then Paul Duncan came in and whacked it everywhere. After he retired for 101, at better than a run a ball, a few wickets fell in cavalier fashion but a repeat of the 1994 result was assured. I would like to record my thanks to Sam Deans who strolled out at number 10 and walloped his first and only ball to the fence. He thus not only won the game but also saved his captain from the embarrassment of having to bat.

A very happy day all round, followed by an hour of warm-downs, at \$2 a can.

The Willows won by 2 wickets

Christ's College 280/5

J. Harper 89*, T. McGoldrick 59, W. Utlej 57, D. Sharples 37

The Willows 284/8

P. Duncan 101 rtd, C. McGoldrick 39, B. Ward 36, A. McCracken 33

Umpires

E. Brownlee and B. Hamilton



▲ Willie Lonsdale from the roadside end.



▲ Captain Joe Bennett entertains after the match.

V KING'S COLLEGE (AUCKLAND) 1ST XI

23rd January 2011

Report by Phil Harris

Upon winning the toss on a wet day and looking at a greenish hard pitch, I decided to bat first believing our batting line up was strong enough, and high scoring recent games would indicate The Willows could set a demanding target.

After taking an early lunch it was agreed we would play a 45 over game. Our openers looked set to get us off to a brisk start. After losing our first wicket at 20, opener John Garry backing up from a match winning 70 the previous day, was equally impressive scoring an elegant 61 before being stumped, the second of three consecutive such dismissals.

He was ably supported in two solid partnerships with Danny Dowds and Aaron Gale and with the score at 90 for 2, I was more than happy with proceedings. But for The Willows this was as good as it got, as from this position we somehow managed to lose our last eight wickets for a mere 32 more runs, also committing the cardinal sin of not batting out the full number of overs.

Needing just 123 runs to win, King's set about their task in a very positive manner and although we picked up one early wicket, opener Chris Gibbons played a very confident innings using his feet very well to our spinners in scoring an excellent 66. For The Willows, young Michael Vorster from Christchurch Boys' High School bowled very well and was unlucky only to pick up one wicket. Our leg spinner Alex Reese created several chances and bowled well in testing conditions with the new ball.

So to King's College the Gillette Cup winners, a well deserved win. The boys also a great credit to their School both on and off the field. And for the skip, I suppose it will be off to the gallows with only that yellow rubber bath toy to remind me of my first "stumped" duck and my first and only time as a Willows captain.

The Willows lost by 7 wickets

The Willows 122

J. Garry 61, S. Kippel 3/34

King's College 123/3

C. Gibbons 66

Umpires

J. Elley and H. Fowler



▲ John Garry airborne on the drive during his 61.



▲ Mike Hayes from the roadside end.

v ST BEDE'S COLLEGE 1st XI

30th January 2011

Report by Aaron Johnstone

A lovely day greeted us for the annual fixture against St Bede's. With no coin in sight it was decided The Willows would bat first and we got off to a good start to be 90 for 2. Hamish Teale after some early luck batted extremely well to score an unbeaten "ton" off 95 balls. He was well supported with a cameo 80 off just 58 balls from James O'Gorman including one of the biggest sixes The Willows has seen and a pedestrian 26 from Alex Nicholson to guide The Willows through to 279 for 9. Daniel Parker was the pick of the bowlers with 3 for 37 while Angus Simmons also bowled well for his 3 wickets.

After losing an early wicket St Bede's got into a very good position with opener Kieran Foote scoring 44. Although eventually falling 40 runs short, St Bede's showed they are capable of chasing down big totals with Jacob Vanner batting extremely well in an anchor role eventually being dismissed for 61 and William Otte coming in at six and hitting a number of boundaries to finish with 71. St Bede's were eventually dismissed for 237 with Matt Teale being the pick of the bowlers with 4 wickets. It was great to get away with a win that was not looking likely at times to keep Mike off my back for another year!

The Willows won by 42 runs

The Willows 279/9

H. Teale 100 rtd, J. O'Gorman 79*

St Bede's College 237

K. Foote 44, J. Vanner 61, W. Otte 71,

M. Teale 4/34

Umpires

G. Evans and D. Pulley



▲ Richard Cowles, editor of all 17 Willows Annual Reports so far, as he was as Christ's College 1st XI 'keeper in 1994.



▲ The end of the game!



▲ Clayton Cosgrove presenting the trophy.

V ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY COLLEGE I ST XI

2nd February 2011

Report by Julian Marsh

The St Thomas's boys, as is their custom, arrived for lunch smartly dressed and all eager to topple The Willows XI which consisted of several members who should have remained in their offices in the city – this being a Wednesday afternoon!

In a case of déjà vu St Thomas's won the toss and inserted The Willows who proceeded to post a score of nearly six an over. The Willows were given a brisk start by their master Paul McCarthy (45) and Ryan Banks (39), with the 100 raised in the 21st over. The momentum was continued by Jonathan Davidson and Brad Doody who both just missed out on their half centuries. For St Thomas's J Gillies and D Rawson both recorded figures of 2/40 from their 8 overs.

That is where the similarity to last year's game ended as there was no repeat of the boys' capitulation for 40 in just 13 overs. At 65/1 after

15 overs St Thomas's platform had been set for a real charge at the target of 233. Unfortunately for the boys the introduction of spin from both ends saw the demise of the top and middle order with the Rev Mike Hawke starting the collapse, followed by Julian Marsh who ripped through the middle order finishing with 5/23. With a slight wag of the tail, St Thomas's were bowled out for 140 with their top scorer being Ben Laughton with 33.

A good win for The Willows and a much improved performance by St Thomas of Canterbury College 1st XI. With a little more patience and composure by the schoolboy batsmen it would most certainly have been a closer game and I am sure next year they will continue to close the gap by playing in the V and building partnerships.

The Willows won by 92 runs

The Willows 232/7

P. McCarthy 40, J. Davidson 49, B. Doody 45

St Thomas of Canterbury College 140

B. Laughton 33, N. Kwant 24, S. Pilton 24,
J. Marsh 5/23

Umpires

T. McLisky and M. Innis



▲ Master Chris O'Connell from the duck pond end.



▲ Jonathan Davidson on the drive.

v TIMARU BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL 1ST XI

6th February 2011

Report by Bill Walsh

On what must have been one of the hottest days of the year, The Willows won the toss and elected to bat first against Timaru Boys' High School. With a quick outfield and flat pitch the runs flowed from the start. W Walsh anchored the innings, while he and brother Tim put on 97 for the third wicket. Some good accurate bowling by J Dick pulled The Willows back in the middle stages with a strong finish from M Hudson allowing The Willows to set a challenging total of 288 for Timaru Boys' High School to chase.

Accurate opening spells from Hinton and Inglis had Timaru in early trouble with Hinton at one stage on a hat-trick leaving them in tatters at 20 for 4. Timaru rallied with an excellent innings from M Hogan and some strong hitting from D O'Brien, but were eventually bowled out for 202 in the 45th over handing victory to The Willows.

The Willows won by 86 runs

The Willows 288/7

W. Walsh 82, M. Hudson 54, T. Walsh 45,
J. Dick 3/35

Timaru Boys' High School 202

M. Hogan 77, D. O'Brien 60, C. Hinton 3/15

Umpires

E. Brownlee and G. Evans



▲ Matthew Hudson looks all class.

v NELSON COLLEGE 1ST XI

13th February 2011

Report by Richard McGuire

The Willows elected to bat first on a still, overcast morning at Loburn. From the opening over Tynus Huyser (101 from 75 balls) stamped his mark on the game. All were treated to an innings of rare power and precision including a huge six hooked over the pavilion. Simon Wraight was a superb foil for Huyser and they took the total to 145 off 25 overs. The pace continued with Theo van Woerkem and a score of over 300 looked certain. However, fine bowling spells from Jones-Allen (1 for 23) and Ben Gully (2 for 31), supported by fine ground fielding, restricted The Willows to 271.

The Nelson College reply started very briskly. The opening batsmen faced a still very rapid Geoff Allott, managing to keep him out while attacking the other bowlers. Nelson were well ahead of the chase at 127 for 2 off 25 overs. M Macquet was superb in scoring 76 off just 81 balls. Macquet's innings was notable for aggressive shots and his willingness to use his feet to advantage.

The Nelson onslaught was halted by the left arm spin of Theo van Woerkem (1/10) who applied huge pressure with prodigious turn and fine control. This allowed the bowlers from the other end to make the breakthroughs which slowed the run rate. Nelson batted their 50 overs but fell short on 190 for 9.

The Willows won by 81 runs

The Willows 271/4

T. Huyser 101 rtd, S. Wraight 37,
T. van Woerkem 36

Nelson College 190/9

M. Macquet 76, G. Black 39, R. McGuire 6/315

Umpires

A. Scott and E. Sanders

V SOUTHLAND BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL 1ST XI

20th February 2011

Report by Graeme Inglis

Showing remarkable enthusiasm for a game of cricket, the Southland Boys' side arrived at the ground early morning having flown up from Invercargill, and due back at the airport for the return journey at 7pm. They showed commendable resilience after The Willows won the toss and batted as Sam Noster and Michael Peacock were clearly under the impression it was a 3pm return flight. When Sam retired on 101 in the 21st over with the score at 156, John Garry and Michael continued the onslaught. A cameo from Robert Dunne allowed The Willows to declare at 276/4 in the 41st over and ease the pressure on Southland's travel plans. The Southland team stuck at their task well in favourable batting conditions with C Lindsay being the pick of the attack.

The Willows attack made early inroads and at 116/7 in the 29th over Southland continued to be in trouble. However, with K Mitchell initially and then H Burns and J Tohill playing with freedom, the score raced to 193 in the 40th over and a faint frown began to form on the skipper's face. As often happens though one wicket brought two, followed by a third and the innings closed at 200. For The Willows Robert Dunne with three wickets and Michael Peacock and Todd Sutton with two each, were the pick of the bowlers.

The Willows won by 76 runs

The Willows 276/4

S. Noster 101 rtd, M. Peacock 64, J. Garry 55*, R. Dunne 34*

Southland Boys' High School 200

J. Tohill 53, K. Mitchell 50, H. Burns 33

Umpires

H. Fowler and T. McLisky



▲ 'Keeper O'Brien in action.



▲ The Waitaki BHS/St Kevin's XI.



▲ A good shot through midwicket.



▲ Lionel and Liz – our caterers.

v WAITAKI BHS/ ST KEVIN'S XI

13th March 2011

Report by Ben Harris

The Willows selected a youthful and talented side for the annual clash against the combined team from Oamaru.

It was only the inclusion of Trevor Thornton (ex-Old Boy from St Kevin's) and James Leggat that lifted the average age of The Willows side to 27.

Batting first, The Willows innings was highlighted by three very competent innings, firstly by Hamish Robertson and James Tapper. Not wanting to detract from the efforts of Robertson and Tapper, the highlight was a magnificent 80 from the veteran James Leggat. Right from the outset of his innings he timed the ball beautifully and gave the Combined XI a lesson in placement and intent.

In reply the Combined XI never gained any momentum and whilst The Willows bowlers bowled with good control, the Oamaru team would have been disappointed with their lack of ability to rotate the strike. Edward Nuttall looked a bowler with huge promise and young Alex Reese also bowled 10 overs of leg spin with a considerable amount of skill.

In reply to The Willows 240/7 the Combined XI were dismissed for a very disappointing 97. Mention should be made of the 'keeping of Aaron Johnstone who supported the bowlers well with a very polished display behind the stumps.

The Willows won by 143 runs

The Willows 240/7

H. Robertson 43, J. Tapper 65, J. Leggat 80

Waitaki/St Kevin's XI 97

J. Tapper 2/0, B. Harris 2/5, E. Nuttall 2/13, J. Harris 1/18

Umpires

L. Kerr and D. Reid

V SHIRLEY BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL 1ST XI

21st March 2011

Report by Ashley Cowlishaw

In the last game of the year against school teams, The Willows batting first struggled at 115/5 with the innings being resurrected by a very good 121 run partnership between Josh Reeves and Tim Johnston, followed by an excellent 53 by the Lincoln College student Ryan Banks. At 218/5 after 40 overs it looked as though 300 could be well on the cards but to the credit of the Shirley bowlers, they bounced back with three of their bowlers claiming 3 wickets each and they restricted The Willows to 286.

In reply, the Shirley run chase got off to a rather poor start however two partnerships of 50 odd steadied the innings but The Willows total was beyond the Shirley Boys' due to some very economical spin bowling from Michael Peacock, an ex-Shirley student.

The Willows won by 131 runs

The Willows 286

R. Banks 53, T. Johnston 53, J. Reeves 91

Shirley Boys' High School 155

B. Hanham 37, M Peacock 5/33

Umpires

B. Hamilton and J. Rose



▲ The Shirley Boys' High School 1st XI.



▲ David Grocott, "Master in Charge".



▲ Grant Stewart, NZ Police, in action.



▲ Ashley Cowlishaw on the drive.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S YOUTH XI v PAST NZ XI

27th March 2011

Following a very pleasant dinner held at Medbury School on the Saturday evening in the presence of Their Excellences, The Rt. Hon. Sir Anand Satyanand and Lady Susan Satyanand, both teams arrived at the game eager to show off their wares.

At 11.00am Erv McSweeney, the captain of the Composite XI, elected to field and requested Geoff Allott and Michael Owens to use the new ball. An excellent opening partnership of 70 runs between Ben Ward (St Andrew's College) and Mike Collins (Otago Boys' High School) was terminated by the evergreen Ewen Chatfield who fired up with a second wicket having Collins well stumped by the veteran Lee Germon.

Andrew McCracken who performed magnificently as MC the night before, and the captain Robert Dunne, accumulated runs which resulted in the Youth XI finishing at 223/9.

The middle order of the Youth XI was demolished by Andrew Nuttall using his guile and skill with his left arm assortments.

Chasing the Youth XI's total, Brad Doody opened aggressively with four boundaries but through excellent bowling by Hamish Cooke (Gore High School), it was left to Erv McSweeney who batted

so well and Paul Wiseman of Canterbury Cricket, to record what was a disappointing total of 150.

Apart from the first 12 overs of pace, the balance of the Youth XI bowling was undertaken by the spinners Lachie Davidson (Christchurch Boys' High School), Alex Marshall (St Andrew's College) and Ed Close (Christ's College).

The win gave the Youth XI playing on behalf of the Governor-General a 3-1 lead over a Composite Past NZ XI. An excellent day's cricket watched attentively by the Governor-General and a good number of spectators.

Youth XI won by 73 runs

Governor-General's Youth XI 223/9

B. Ward 35, M. Collins 47, R. Dunne 40,
A. McCracken 32, A. Nuttall 3/24,
P. Wiseman 2/25, E. Chatfield 2/47

Past New Zealand XI 150

B. Doody 20, E. McSweeney 48, P. Wiseman 29,
H. Cooke 3/35, E. Close 2/8, L. Davidson 2/10

Umpires

E. Brownlee and H. Fowler

Cancellations

v Arthur Pitcher's XI	23 February*
v St Andrew's College 1st XI	27 February*
v Country Secondary Schools XI	6 March

*Due to Christchurch earthquake



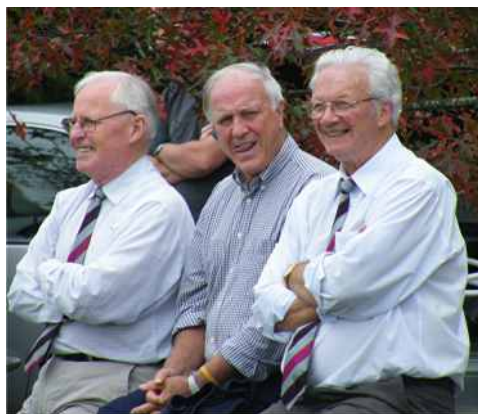
▲ Ben Ward through midwicket.



▲ Players for the fixture between the Governor-Generals Youth XI and the Past NZ XI.



▲ The two captains, Erv McSweeney and Robert Dunne.



▲ The three wise men: Brent Bruce, Alistair Sheard and John Grocott.



▲ Robert Dunne sweeps during his innings of 40.



▲ The final sausage sizzle for the 2010/11 season!



▲ The Governor-General presents his tie to Ed Close (Christ's College).



▲ The evergreen Ewen Chatfield.



▲ Mike Collins, Otago Boys' High School, drives.



▲ Lee Germon well positioned behind the stumps.



▲ The newly arrived son of Willows Secretary Andrew McRae.



▲ Bob Masefield wins the “Miss Canterbury Sheep Contest” with his dorset ewe hogget.



▲ Detectives Richard and Michelle Morgan – far from the cricket ground!



▲ Another test prospect – World Vision sponsored batsman Rashedul of Bangladesh.



▲ Sound defence.



▲ Fraser Hawes in action.



▲ Sir Hugh Blackett and his son Henry who spent three months in NZ after completing education at Eton College.



▲ Patrick Ryan away from his studies.

Sporting hero: Clive Currie

By **Judge Andrew Becroft**

Principal Youth Court Judge for NZ



Boys always want heroes. When I entered the third form at Rongotai College, Wellington in 1971, I was no different. The sixth and seventh formers seemed to us as men. Far removed and usually commanding instant respect. We

quickly identified our own heroes among them. Mine was Clive Currie. He was two years ahead of me. Clive was immediately likeable and very popular. He was multi-talented, always calm under pressure, and someone of great integrity. Clive won the award for the best all-round sixth former. A year later he was Head Prefect, captain of the First XI cricket team and of the First XV.

Cricket was already my obsession. As a gangly fourth former I struggled to flight my ungainly leg spinners into the Wellington northerly. Leg spinning, in those pre-Shane Warne days, was something of an oddity. Before my mid-teen growth spurt I could really turn the ball. I remember endless evenings at the Kilbirnie park nets, supervised by Don Neely and Trevor Rigby. Once, I bowled five of my best leg spinners in a row to Clive. A left hander, he carefully patted them onto the on-side. As he came down the wicket to hit the sixth, my embryonic “wrong-un” bit and turned the other way, leaving Clive stranded yards down the wicket. He gave the slightest nod of acknowledgement. Nobody else saw it. But I felt real pride. Mind you, I wasn’t always so lucky. Bruce Edgar, also a fellow pupil at Rongotai College and a year ahead of me, told

me in a similar situation that if I continued to bowl at him on leg stump he would hit me out of the ground. To my next delivery he did exactly that. Not only did it leave the park, but it also crossed Kilbirnie Crescent and landed on the second storey verandah of an apartment block on the corner of Wellington Road. Even today, when I drive home from Wellington airport, I look at that verandah. And I remember the bemused look of the elderly woman when she opened the door of her apartment and I asked if I could retrieve my cricket ball.

On another occasion, in a First XI trial match, I dropped a straight forward “skier” at mid on. The worst fielders are hidden there – it’s a position Monty Pannesar made his own for England. Most of the team collapsed with laughter. There was nowhere to hide. Clive was bowling. He simply nodded in my direction, said it could have happened to anyone and returned to the start of his run up.

In 1973, Clive was selected for the New Zealand Secondary Schools’ cricket team. The next year, Bruce Edgar and Ian Smith (who had attended Rongotai College in his third and fourth form years) were also selected, followed by my friend Peter Rowe in 1976. The just over 1,000 Rongotai College pupils all came from fiercely working and middle class families. Parents made huge sacrifices for their sons. We were encouraged academically and in sport. I often ponder why so many nationally prominent sportsmen (including the Rufer brothers) were produced from such a small part of Wellington’s Eastern suburbs.

Clive continued to excel at cricket. We always thought he would soon become what is now called a “Black Cap”. And while he did represent Wellington at an early age (21) he only played three first class matches, all in 1977, with an inconspicuous average of 14.75. I admit it—I am a sick man: cricket statistics have always fascinated me. It is worth noting that Clive’s

highest score, 36 not out, was made on debut against Canterbury in January 1977 at Lancaster Park, against an attack comprising no less than Sir Richard Hadlee (as he then wasn't), his brother Dayle, Alan Hounsell, Stephen Boock and Bevan Congdon. Wellington won. And by that time Bruce Edgar was already playing for Wellington.

Clive made his All Black debut in October 1978 against Cardiff, aged 22. All of us who knew him were immensely proud. There was the realisation that All Black status was suddenly not that distant and unattainable. Clive played against London Counties and then made his first international appearance against Ireland.

A week later, just 21 days after his All Black debut, his rugby career ended at Cardiff Arms Park. Eight minutes into that famous Welsh test, Clive, always beautifully balanced and safe under the high ball, fielded an up-and-under in his own twenty five. As he caught the ball, the aggressive Welsh second five Steve Fenwick flew across the TV screen, viciously tackling him head-high, ball and all. It was a tackle that would have put Fenwick on report even if he had been playing Rugby League. And it certainly would not have withstood the modern day citings procedure. A concussed Clive was led shakily from the field, his jaw broken. He was invalidated out of the All Black Tour. I don't think he ever played serious rugby again. Clive was replaced by Brian McKechnie, who kicked a last minute penalty, securing a thrilling 13-12 All Black win. Had it not been for Steve Fenwick's reckless tackle, it might have been Clive Currie who became immortalised in rugby history. Oh, the fickleness of sporting success and the randomness of career-ending injuries!

What happened to Clive Currie? I don't know. I lost track of him. That is not the point of this story. For me, and for scores of my mates, Clive fulfilled our collective dream. He proved that it was possible for "one of us" to become representative cricketers and All Blacks.

Thirty-five years later, as I sit as the Principal Youth Court Judge, some things haven't

changed. Boys still seek out role models like heat-seeking missiles. The only issue is who will that role model be? A gang leader? A repeat burglar who heads "missions" with kids in his orbit? That role model could, on the other hand, be an older pupil at secondary school. Someone who has a sound value system which is modelled to boys who come after them. This is part of how boys become responsible adult males. Something, it seems to me, that most serious young offenders in the Youth Court have never experienced.

Equally, what stands out is the lack of "community connectedness". There is a sign outside Blenheim airport: "A Kid in Sport Stays out of Court". Trite? Simplistic? Not from my vantage point. Very few serious young offenders are involved in organised sport. Or indeed any form of organised community activity or club. Such involvement provides, as it did for me, much needed team discipline, the pursuit of common goals, good role models and mentors, and connectedness with the community.

For me, there have been other heroes since then of course. As a committed Christian myself, I was always hugely encouraged by the faithful Christian witness of test cricketers such as Bruce (Bags) Murray, Victor Pollard, and Brian Yule in the 1970's. And then there was the peerless Michael Jones in the 1980s and 90s. All enjoyed significant national and international success, although they never played on a Sunday. If only the young boys I see in the Youth Court had similar heroes and opportunities for involvement in sport.

More recently, my real hero has been my younger brother David. A former captain of the New Zealand Volleyball team, he was involved in a very serious car accident in his early thirties, leaving him severely paralysed on the right side of his body – the result of a life threatening head injury. He is the most competitive and determined person I have ever known. With that same attitude he has fought over the years to cope with his disability with astonishing courage and grace. I respect him as much as any man in the world.

But it was Clive Currie who was my first sporting hero. As I put the full stop to this article, I decided to search the Web. I found that Clive Currie won the men's doubles championship at the Ngatarangi Tennis Club, at Stanley Point in Auckland with an old South Auckland lawyer friend of mine, Ian Tucker. I suspect Clive could have excelled at many sports. I also noted a recent media release from Westpac Bank, announcing the bank's partnership with All Black captain Richie McCaw. Towards the end of the release, almost as an after thought, a former-All Black now Westpac private banker, one Clive Currie, is quoted as explaining that amongst other things "...we all know that rugby can be tough on the body..." I suppose few All Blacks would know that better than Clive.

In Memoriam

Willowers who passed to the great pavilion in the sky this year:

Father Peter Blake
John Howell
Peter Johnston
Canon Robin Smith



▲ Fr. Peter Blake

Quote

By Gubby Allen

Old Boys' Collegians' Cricket Club

Here is a favourite cricket quote of mine. It comes from one of the best and eminently most readable short histories of cricket I have read, "And God Created Cricket" by Simon Hughes. The following quote is from a section looking at the character and feats of W.G. Grace. Grace had total commitment to cricket. He practised in frost. He was never unavailable for any game – serious or friendly. His mantra was simple:

"There is no such thing as a crisis in cricket", Grace once said, "only the next ball".

I think this is great commentary on life as well.

Letter to the Editor

The following was received from Bob Aitken, AM, Managing Editor of Rotary Down Under Inc in Parramatta, NSW, which I forward to you for acknowledgment:

Dear Gerald,

I do hope you and that lovely lady of yours are enjoying good health and plenty of fun leisure time.

I have just received the 16th Annual Report of that famous "Willows" Cricket Club and it prompts me to write you a short note. What a wonderful Club and testimony to the magnificence of the sport of cricket – surely the greatest game of all.

My reason for writing is to ask you if there is anything more I can do to assist the cause of The Willows Cricket Club? I cannot find an address in the Annual Report to again write and thank that wonderful man who founded the organisation for the courtesy of ongoing overseas membership. Is there a fee I should be paying each year for such membership?

I do treasure the report each year Gerald and I look forward to returning to The Willows Cricket Club with you one day in the not too distant future. Roll on retirement!

Warm best wishes,

Your friend across the ditch
Bob

Meditation

*We cannot abandon life because of its storms.
The strongest trees are not found in the safety
of the forest, rather they are out in the open
spaces - bent and twisted by winds of all
season. God provides deep roots when there
are wide-spreading branches.*

~ Tammy Felton

Willows Children's Christmas Party

19th December – during the Hawkswood Wanderers game



▲ Ponies were in attendance to give children rides around the ground.

Archdeacon Mike Hawke speaks

In the same week that Christchurch suffered New Zealand's worst earthquake in 80 years, Archdeacon Mike Hawke delivered his final sermon at St Christopher's Church at Avonhead after a 23 year period. The service was outstanding, attended by 645 parishioners and guests. The following Mike writes for the pew sheet on the 12th September 2010.

Dear St Christopherites,

Wow wee – what a week – the biggest earthquake in New Zealand for 80 years. The incessant aftershocks that cause the knot in our stomach to retighten. The sound of strange noises and creaking. The uncertainty of homes, businesses more aftershocks.

Amidst this we had the celebration of Zoe Smith's baptism Tuesday night in the sanctuary of the church, by the stained glass window which Zoe's paternal grandparents Reg & Helen Smith donated, with both of them dying in their fifties and a great party to follow.

Then on Wednesday, a wonderful celebration with the Wednesday communion congregation. Mollie Thompson at her best, urging us all onward to look after each other. A fantastic cake.

On Wednesday afternoon an incredible celebration of Mike Muddiman's life. People in their hundreds turned up. Police in uniform and amazing tributes to an American Kiwi who put his life on the line to make this nation a safer place. It was his personal faith in Jesus that helped mould him.

And then Wednesday night, the wonderful group of the In-Betweens and their camaraderie and laughter.

Thursday, Paul Abernethy's Dad's funeral. John Abernathy, a man of prayer, (he fasted every Wednesday for years) who spent his retirement years praying for people. His faith was inspirational and contagious.

Friday, an opportunity to have lunch with Ed Curtis and George Scrimshaw. Ed and P.E. Curtis – amazing Prayer Warriors, committed to Christ and his Church. On Friday night the good old St Christopher's Bash – lots of stories, tears and laughter.

Saturday, the completely unexpected funeral of Pam Rowse. Pam's home group have suffered a number of losses in the past year and this one has added to their grief. As intense as any earthquake and aftershocks.

And we culminate the week with today's 10 o'clock service, where people from near and far have gathered. What a combination of disaster on one end of the scale and joyful celebration on the other. That's the vitality of life and God is in the midst, for which we give thanks and praise.

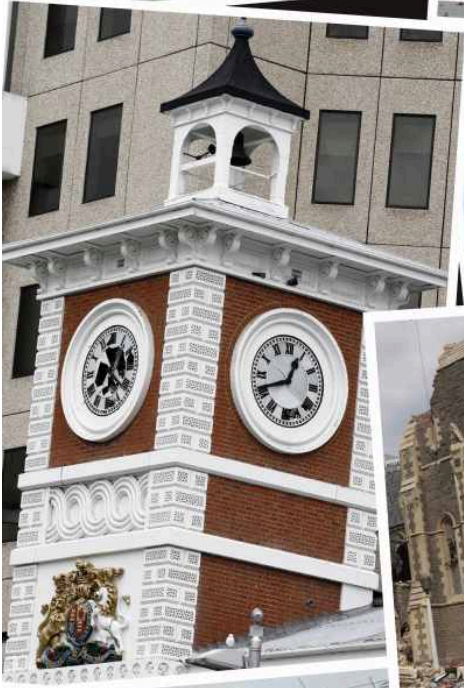
The five St Christopher's Congregations amounting up to 700 people, you have been inspirational – I SHALL MISS YOU. You have taken a wonderful interest in my family and they have absolutely positive memories of life in the Vicarage for over twenty years.

So on the behalf of Patsy, Peter, Elizabeth, Sarah and Phil, thank you and ... may the Lord bless you and keep you and the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance on you and grant you His peace.

Or as many of you would prefer... may the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine brightly on your cheeks and the rain fall gently on your fields and until we meet again may God keep you in the palm of his hands.

Christchurch Earthquake

Tuesday, 22nd February 2011



“Just let the kids play”

This is the first in a series of articles by Headmasters of the schools that play at The Willows.

By Clive Rennie

Rector, Otago Boys' High School
Chairman NZ Secondary Schools' Sports Council
All White 1967 (Soccer Football)

When I look back on my own youth and what was important to us as boys, I found myself making some comparisons with the young men here at School.

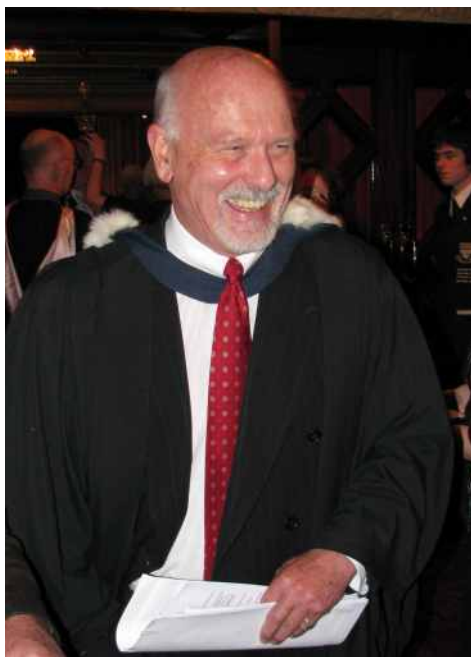
During our primary school days in the summer we played cricket nearly every break. There would be five or six games being played with very little space between them. Some of the staff would come out and play with us. One man in particular was Alex Moir, a spin bowler and batsman, who was a member of the NZ team. We would attempt to get him out, a real challenge.

Five of my teachers at Mornington School were male, and most of them were pro sport. As a result we always had Physical Education with small ball handling and throwing, an activity we did a lot of. From year four through to year eight we were members of school teams that walked down to Kensington Oval for inter-school competitions and we loved it.

When I went home from school I would play cricket against the house. Usually the games were test matches and my team was sure to win. I saw myself as the best bowler and the No 1 batsman, a cricketing hero in my own eyes.

Rosebery Street where I lived is tree lined. The boys in the street played cricket between the trees. We constructed our own rules and the only gear we needed was a bat and a tennis ball.

Despite putting in the time that I did to cricket as a youngster, it was not the sport I was truly



▲ Clive Rennie

passionate about. Football (soccer) was my passion.

What we were not aware of was the critical factor for success in football. Ball skills. Youngsters today know that they must spend hours just juggling a ball to develop a top “touch”. Without that, in the speed of a game, your skills break down.

What I am describing is a signature of my age and stage. I am sure that this does not happen today and cricketing skills are the poorer for it. We literally spent hours throwing, catching, and developing great hand-eye co-ordination. As I watch the boys at Otago Boys' High School in their PE lessons I am aware that few of my top athletes or the average competitor are good throwers of a ball. They very rarely demonstrate that skill so necessary to be a good cricketer, or to be anything that involves hitting or catching

where hand-eye co-ordination is essential. What has changed? Very few men teach in primary education and those that do are unlikely to be top sportsmen. Today top sportsmen play as professionals.

Today there are a huge number of other sports and activities, often with a very formal organisation as opposed to our very informal, quick pick-up games we enjoyed.

All my junior boys have great bags of gear that seem to be essential to their playing cricket. This must be a real disincentive for boys from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Competition for time also comes from electronic games. These virtual worlds are a great magnet for boys as there are very clever international marketers working to hook boys into these worlds.

Specialization happens too soon. What is important when you are young is that you are able to play all sorts of games so that you develop a variety of physical and tactical skills. I recently read a great book by Bob Bigilow, a former NBA player. The book is titled "Just let the kids play" and he advocates the advice I am giving above. Get out, play whatever, enjoy the company and belonging to the group, taking part in sport without the pressure of a formal competition.

What has not changed are the ingredients for making the top in your chosen sport. Top of my list is passion. Without that passion you will not be prepared to put in the discipline and the hard yards. Passion recharges the batteries just when you need that.

Linked to passion is the dream. Believing that it is possible to represent your country and aspire to being the best in the world is half the battle. I call these dreams self-fulfilling prophesies. Without them you will never make it.

Third is focus. Focus on what is necessary to achieve the aim. Being prepared to put in the work. Nothing was ever achieved by waiting for it to happen. When you are developing skills, you must involve the mind as well as the body.

Visualize the correct action, practice the correct action. Only through serious repetition will the skill be converted from one you think about to one that is automatic.

Young sportsmen have great advantages today in that they can watch the best exponents of their sport playing on TV. They can have skills analysed by computer and can visualize just what is needed to make them part of their own repertoire. Sounds easy, doesn't it?

I envy the youth of today and the opportunities that are there for them in sport. What we have in NZ is a system of sports participation that is the envy of the rest of the world. We must all work to protect it, and to try to expand participation as the benefits for all those who play sport are immense.

My thanks to the Willows for being one of the organisations that recognises the value of sport, cricket in particular, which creates such rich opportunities for the young men in our schools.



▲ Otago Boys' High School

Willows Dinner 2011

By Terry McLisky

About 90 Willowers and partners attended a very successful function at The Octagon Live in Worcester Street. It is a restaurant in a beautiful Church building damaged in the recent earthquake – thankfully restored to all its glory. Guest of Honour was Sir Tim Rice, renowned lyricist for several of Andrew Lloyd-Webber's well-known musicals including *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Chess* and many others.

We were entertained with musical items by the Burnside High School Ensemble, Rachel and Zara Doig and then a welcome by the MC Malcolm Ellis and our President Sir John Hansen. After a musical Grace by Archdeacon Mike Hawke we stood in silence in memory of the miners so tragically killed in the recent Pike River disaster.

These formalities were followed by the Loyal Toast, proposed by John Hastilow, and then a scrumptious three-course meal interspersed by a humorous address by Sir Tim who touched on several aspects of his background as a 'failed' musician and avid Cricket follower. He did point out that he and Webber did write a one-hour operetta based on Cricket, especially for the



▲ Interior of The Octagon Live.



▲ Zara and her mother Rachel Doig singing a duet from lyrics written by Sir Tim Rice.



▲ Sir Tim Rice with the Burnside High School Vocal Ensemble and their director Mr Ravil Atlas on the right.

Queen on her 80th birthday and that, apart from the lyrics for the film "Lion King" in collaboration with Elton John, he preferred to write the words after the music had been composed.

A hearty vote of thanks for a very witty and entertaining address was given by Barry Hadlee and then there was time for post-prandial drinks and a chat with Sir Tim and fellow Willowers. All in all it was a thoroughly grand evening from whence Sir Tim headed to Adelaide to watch England teach the Aussies a bit about the game we love!

NB. Subsequent to this dinner, a second earthquake struck Christchurch on 22 February, demolishing many buildings in the city

Grace

Grace as said by Archdeacon Mike Hawke

Lord, thank you for tonight's occasion as we gather together. Thank you for Tim, who, like Joseph's coat of many colours has lit up our lives and provided a myriad of colour with his God-given skills and love of words, lyrics and music. Continue to bless him with such creativity that will help our spirits and souls soar above the challenges, joys plus the perils and dangers of this life, praying especially tonight for those afflicted with damage in the earthquake, especially the elderly whose lives have been shattered.

We pray your blessing on the Pike River Mine families – that in music and word, they will find comfort and hope in their distress.

Thank you for The Willows Cricket Club and Tim's Heartaches Club – for the thrill of bat on ball; success and failure; of snicks through the slips and of great company with old and young learning together. So – keep us Lord, as the apple of your eye, protect us under the shelter of your wings.

Three things we pray Lord: to see thee more clearly; to love thee more dearly; to follow thee more nearly, day by day by day. Lord – bless this magnificent food to our use and fit us for your service, keeping us mindful of the needs of others – this day and forever.

Amen.



▲ The Burnside High School Vocal Ensemble.



▲ A good view of the oaks.



▲ Former international umpire Brian Aldridge – just great to have him at the ground.



▲ A Southland Boys' High player driving.

The Governor-General's Dinner



▲ **Their Excellencies, The Rt Hon. Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand and Lady Susan Satyanand.**

Dinner at Medbury School, 26th March 2011
By David Brooke

An august gathering of Willows cricket lovers, distinguished and not so well-known, active and retired, young and old, assembled at Medbury School to welcome the Governor General and Lady Satyanand on the eve of the annual fixture with the Willows.

The boys of the Governor-General's Youth XI played a prominent part in the proceedings and Andrew McCracken was an able Master of Ceremonies. The Governor-General's love of cricket shone through in his speech and the CEO of New Zealand cricket, Justin Vaughan, spoke proudly of the Black Caps' win the previous night. A superb meal, delightful musical interludes from Medbury boys and much camaraderie were happily shared by all present.

Grace

Given by Hagen Schulte

Captain, St Bede's College 1st XI

Loving God, we gather together a month after the devastating February 22nd earthquake. The effects of this event are far reaching. All of us present will know people who have lost loved ones, houses, memories and livelihoods. We ask you to guide and protect the people of Christchurch, giving us strength to continue to care for and support those around us and to rebuild our city.

We give thanks for those present here tonight, all of whom are so free in their sharing of their God given talents with the wider community. We pray especially for the Governor General and his wife, active supporters of The Willows and the youth of New Zealand. Bless them and protect them in their retirement allowing them to enjoy a well-earned rest.

We ask you to bless the food we are about to receive and those who have used their talents to create it. May we be always mindful of the gifts and talents you have given us and strive to use them for the betterment of others.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
 Amen

Toast to cricket

By Ed Close – Christ's College 1st XI
Vitai Lampada by Sir Henry Newbolt

There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night –
 Ten to make and the match to win –
 A bumping pitch and a blinding light,
 An hour to play and the last man in.
 And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,
 Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,
 But his Captain's hand on his shoulder smote
 "Play up! play up! and play the game!"



Report from Matfen

By **Ciaran McMeeken**

After the flight from hell, mainly due to myself coughing and spluttering for the best part of 30 hours, Matt McEwan and I arrived in Newcastle – or ‘The Toon’ as the Geordies called it. We were picked up by Sir Hugh Blackett and given a warm welcome to the UK by sharing Easter Lunch and champagne with his family.

Sleep.

We were living in a village house with four breakfast Chefs from all around the world including Romania, Nigeria and the Philippines. These lads were really cool people with amazing stories and we were sometimes lucky enough to be cooked dinner!

After a week of settling in and meeting the locals we started work in the Keepers Lodge (Golf club house/restaurant and bar) and the Hotel's driving range. This was great having the two jobs, as every day there was something different and never boring. Working at the driving range was a laugh, the golf buggy became like a second home for us and ‘the crack’ or ‘banter’ at the range was priceless! Work at lodge was also great fun. Pouring pints, keeping ‘Jimmy’ happy (the grumpiest local in Matfen) and not trying to irritate the Chefs was all part of a day's work.

A few weeks in, came our first cricket game. We started with a hiss, bang and a roar as Matt blasted his way to a ton and took 5 wickets. (I recall I fielded pretty well that day...). This set the tone for our season, although we did have a patch partway through the season where it all came unstuck, but we managed to fight back and win the league for the first time since 2003! Matt's bowling was first class the whole way through the season and was often too much to handle with his lightning quick deliveries and unbelievable array of slower balls. My season



▲ **Matfen Hall in snow.**

was pretty good too, with a healthy average of 40 odd opening and 1 wicket to my name. I was pretty happy with my efforts. Just to clarify, I only bowled once and was quickly discarded and given the gloves for the remainder of the season!

Matt and I were lucky enough to do a lot of travel during our time in the UK. We saw a concert at Wembley Arena in London, visited friends in Scotland, toured through Ireland and finally, jumped on a bus and travelled through Europe for 21 days.

During our time in England, we met some truly amazing people and made lifelong friends. I know some of those friends are coming to visit in 2011 and coming to live in NZ for 2012. I cannot describe what fun we had in these six months, it really was the best time of my life and I'm sure Matt will agree. Matt and I became great friends and had plenty of interesting experiences together, particularly on our night time adventures! The life skills we learnt along the way were priceless and I know we have both grown so much in the six months. I cannot thank Sir Hugh Blackett and The Willows CC enough for this opportunity. Thanks also to all the cricket lads, Big Simon, Pilky and co. I would also like to thank all the staff, friends and people of Matfen village that helped us out along the way.

Obituary of Common Sense

Today, we mourn the passing of an old friend by the name of Common Sense.

Common Sense lived a long life, but died from heart failure at the brink of the Millennium. No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories and offices, helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness.

For decades, petty rules, silly laws and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense. He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in from rain, the early bird gets the worm and life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable parenting strategies (the adults are in charge, not the kids), and it's okay to come in second.

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends including feminism, body piercing, whole language and new math.

But his health declined when he became infected with the "if-it-only-helps-one-person-it's-worth-it" virus. In recent decades, his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing federal legislation.

He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers and enlightened auditors. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies; when reports were heard of six year old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; when a teen was suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch; when a teacher was fired for reprimanding an unruly student. It declined even further when schools had to get

parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but couldn't inform the parent when a female student is pregnant or wants an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional sports.

As the end neared, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments, regarding questionable regulations for asbestos, low-flow toilets, smart guns, the nurturing of Prohibition Laws and mandatory air bags.

Finally, when told that the homeowners association restricted exterior furniture only to that which enhanced property values, he breathed his last.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son Reason. His three stepbrothers survive him: Rights, Tolerance and Whiner.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

~ Author Unknown



▲ Christopher Bartholomeusz plays forcefully.

Of Cricket and Christchurch

The following two poems were written by Canon Bob Lowe, Vicar of Fendalton Parish Church in 1973. Did Bob have a vision 40 years hence?

Cricket in Hagley

They are playing cricket Lord
 In Hagley Park
As they have done for a hundred years.
No one is watching Lord
And that makes me sad.
It's true that here and there
 an old cricketer sleeps in the sun
 with his memories
And a mother, wife, girlfriend sits
 with her knitting
Waiting for the bails to be lifted
And the trees are there
 as always
But where are the crowds Lord
 with their roar of acclaim?
They are no more ...
 This is not their game.
Cricket surely merits
 A better death than this.
And yet Lord
 Perhaps this is as it should be
In all creation
 the loveliest sights
 the things worthwhile
 are concealed.
They are revealed
 only to the venturer



▲ Christchurch from the air.



▲ Cricket at Hagley Oval.

The man who travels far
 or climbs with patience.
Once Lord you spoke about this:
'A Treasure Hidden in a Field'
Thank you Lord
 for cricket.

Christchurch

There are no hills Lord in Christchurch
 which is a pity
But Christchurch is flanked by hills
 which are her salvation.
The Port Hills are tired comfortable
 rounded old hills ...
and tired comfortable rounded old Aunts
 are taken for drives
 along the summit road.
There are also the Mountains ...
 ragged saw-edged snow-capped
and those who are young accept their untamed
 wildness as a challenge.
Busy little bankers and law clerks in Hereford
Street look at the hills longingly
 through some concrete chasm ...
As the Psalmist of old, Lord
 they look to the hills
 and gain strength.
Without the hills Lord
 Christchurch would be a purgatory
 An incestuous place
 Obsessed with origin
 and bogged
 in trivia.
Thank You Lord for the long view
 the distant horizon
 the big sky
Of a Christchurch looking away from itself
 and finding hope.



▲ Former NZ representative Paul McEwan talking to the Wellington College boys after the game.

“The world ain’t all sunshine and rainbows”

Rocky to Rocky Junior

(After watching Rocky Balboa in a fight)

“..... The world ain’t all sunshine and rainbows. It’s a very mean and nasty place and I don’t care how tough you are it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain’t about how hard ya hit. It’s about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That’s how winning is done! Now if you know what you’re worth then go out and get what you’re worth. But ya gotta be willing to take the hits, and not pointing fingers saying you ain’t where you wanna be because of him, or her, or anybody! Cowards do that and that ain’t you! You’re better than that! I’m always gonna love you no matter what. No matter what happens. You’re my son and you’re my blood. You’re the best thing in my life. But until you start believing in yourself, ya ain’t gonna have a life.”

Words uttered by Sly Stallone

For up and coming fathers

Children Learn What They Live

By Rev Alison Ballantyne

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilt.

But,

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

About Players and Matches

From Bert Sutcliffe's *Book for Boys* published in 1961.

What a debut! A Canterbury bowler, A E Moss, took all ten wickets in an innings for 28 runs against Wellington in the 1889-90 season, his first major match. He was luckier than an Otago bowler named F H Cooke who five seasons earlier had dismissed nine batsmen but missed the tenth – who was run out.

* * *

The great English batsman Denis Compton scored eighteen centuries in one season in 1947. His total of 3816 runs for the year is a record.

* * *

New Zealand's worst day in test cricket came in 1955, when it was dismissed for 26 runs against England at Auckland. But in 1902 Yorkshire routed a strong Australian side for only 23.

* * *

Yorkshire pair P Holmes and H Sutcliffe made 555 for the first wicket against Essex in 1932, the highest ever opening partnership. In his career, Sutcliffe shared in 145 opening partnerships of more than 100, and his famous England partner Sir Jack Hobbs took part in 166. In 1926 Sir Jack helped make 428, 182, 106 and 123 in consecutive innings before a wicket fell.

* * *

Jim Laker, the great English spin bowler who was for several seasons professional coach in Auckland, took nineteen of the twenty wickets to fall for England against Australia at Manchester in 1956. He took the nineteen for 90 runs.

Yorkshire's Hedley Verity took ten for ten in one innings against Notts in 1932.

* * *

A Thirteen year old schoolboy set a world record for the highest recorded score. He was A E J Collins, who scored 628 not out in a Clifton College house match in 1899. He batted for nearly seven hours – spread over five afternoons. Collins also took eleven wickets in the match. He was killed in action in the First World War.

* * *

Highest total by a school team is 961 by Melbourne Grammar School against Geelong College in 1915. One batsman, J C Sharpe, scored 506 not out.

New Zealander Roger Blunt scored 338 not out for Otago against Canterbury in the 1931-32 season, only seven runs short of the most-for-a-day record set by famed Australian C G Macartney against Notts on the 1921 tour of England.

* * *

Australian spin bowler Fleetwood-Smith had probably the worst figures in test history when he took one wicket for 298 runs against England in 1938. In that match Sir Leonard Hutton scored a then record 364 runs, and England declared at 903 for seven to win by an innings and 579 runs.

* * *

Eric Tindill, a New Zealand wicketkeeper and opening bat, gained four international honours. He was an All Black Rugby player in Britain in 1935, later toured with the New Zealand cricket team there in 1937, was a Rugby test referee and later a cricket test umpire. He was an umpire in the final test against the MCC at Christchurch in 1961.

In recent seasons Northern Districts has had three overseas players in its side – Bruce Pairaudeau, vice-captain of the 1956 West Indies team in New Zealand, who later settled here, Narotam (Tom) Puna, born at Surat, Bombay, India, and Walter Walmsley, an Australian who earlier played for Queensland.

* * *

India lost its first four wickets for no runs in the Leeds test against England in 1952.

* * *

Famous Australian wicketkeeper Don Tallon played his first big match at the age of sixteen, keeping wickets for a Queensland Country team against the MCC in 1932 – and stumped the great Herbert Sutcliffe. He was a good enough batsman to score more than one century in test cricket and he once got 100 before lunch against the strong New South Wales side.

* * *

Jack Iverson, an Australian spin bowler who made his debut with 75 wickets for only seven runs each on the 1950 tour of New Zealand, trained his fingers to spin a ball while idly playing with a ping-pong ball while serving in New Guinea. A group of blind men playing their form of the game in a Melbourne park inspired him, at the age of 35, to play cricket seriously for the first time. His greatest performance was his six for 27 against England.

* * *

Wally Hammond scored 621 runs in only three innings on a short tour of New Zealand in 1933. His average here was 310.

* * *

England test captain J W H T Douglas (known because of his initials and a spell of dead-bat play as 'Johnny won't hit today') was an Olympic boxing champion and died a hero's death. When he heard that his father was trapped in their ship's cabin after a collision at sea he went back below decks to die with his father.

Oldest man to appear for the first time in test cricket was J Southerton, who played for England against Australia in 1877. He took three for 61 and topped his team's bowling averages for the series. He was 49 ½ years of age.

* * *

The great Australian all-rounder Alan Davidson took all ten wickets in an innings and made a century against Wairarapa when he toured here as a young player in 1950.

* * *

When the English opening batsman Cyril Washbrook was given out lbw in a test here in 1951, New Zealand captain Walter Hadlee asked the umpire to recall him and allowed him to bat on. Hadlee had heard the ball snick the bat before it hit Washbrook's pad and knew he was not out.

* * *

The first of the 'demon' bowlers, F R Spofforth, took 764 wickets in one year, 1878, at an average cost of only six runs each.

* * *

Dan Reese, called 'the father of New Zealand cricket' because of his great skill and love of the game, took seven for 53 against Queensland and scored 96 and 130 not out in 1913 when a New Zealand team went to Australia on this country's first overseas tour. The year before he had scored a century at home against a strong Australian touring side.

* * *

Jim Parks, the MCC wicketkeeper here in 1961 was following in his father's footsteps. Jim Parks senior toured with Jardine's team in 1933, scoring 950 runs, including four centuries. In 1959 Jim junior scored the fastest century of the English season, in 61 minutes, and he caught or stumped ninety-one batsmen.

* * *

NZ v South Africa

Day 5 of the Fourth Test at Ellis Park

December 24-29, 1953

Any review of New Zealand's contributions to test cricket must inevitably contain frequent references to the sorry fielding of many of her teams. Catches have fallen through New Zealand hands in showers. The 1937 test at Manchester was a classic example, and second place in this lack of talent quest might well be awarded first day of the Christmas match at Johannesburg in 1953. On a lively pitch, South Africa scored 259 for eight wickets, and seven chances were missed. That was when the game was lost.

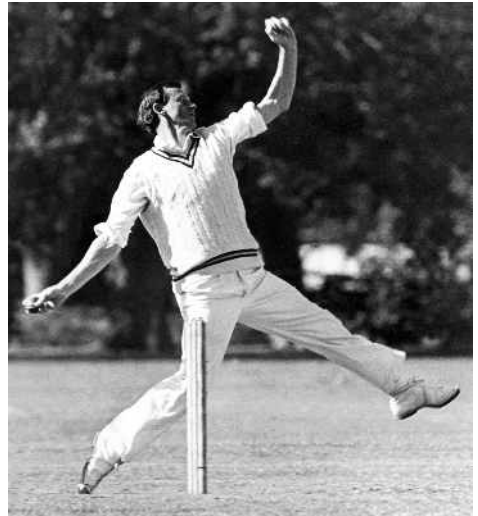
But defeat in this match, at least, counts little, for nothing New Zealand has done in international cricket could be measured against the respect and admiration it won during this game. Cricket's long and lovely story contains nothing quite like this tale of individual and collective courage: no matter how little the New Zealanders achieved before and after this bitter struggle, they stood erect. It was a process of forced growth which brought them so swiftly to maturity, but it gave them a new dignity and pride. At Ellis Park, the New Zealanders proved themselves as cricketers of rare courage, and as sportsmen. Against such assets, occasional technical deficiencies can be written off as trifles.

Dudley Nourse, the former South African captain, and at the time of the New Zealanders' visit a South African selector, has seen much more cricket than most, and he is not one to offer an opinion lightly. He assessed the second day's play as the most thrilling he had ever seen; R H Catterall, perhaps South Africa's best batsman between the wars, said Adcock's fast bowling was the most fiery seen in South Africa for 20 years; "Fergie" thought it one of the most dramatic days he had known in his 200 tests as scorer.

Notwithstanding the violent events which will stay always with those who saw the match, the New Zealand and South African players remained the firmest of friends. For this game both teams stayed at the same hotel, and it was thought to be the first occasion, at least for many years, that such fraternisation had been encouraged. The sight of Roy McLean racing up several flights of stairs at desperate speed, with John Reid, vengeance-bent, in hot pursuit was a reminder of this happy state of affairs. There have been few test series in recent years in which such a healthy atmosphere has existed.

On stage it was rather different. There were two things which made the main contributions in turning this test into an open-air melodrama. The first was the pitch, the second a train wreck in New Zealand which cost nearly 150 lives.

The first news of the train disaster reached the New Zealanders on the second morning of the match. The team's manager, Jack Kerr, grey and drawn, woke some of the older members of the party in the early hours to tell them that Bob Blair's fiancée had been one of the victims. At the



▲ Bob Blair

ground that morning, the New Zealand and South African flags, at half-mast, dropped dejectedly in the brilliant sunshine, a measure of the players' melancholy.

But the New Zealanders had their troubles long before the game began. They arrived at Johannesburg looking like a touring Rugby team. Rabone, who had staged an almost single-handed effort to save the first test at Durban, was black and blue from the pounding he had taken there; MacGibbon had enteritis, Beck a displaced neck muscle, Mooney an injured finger which affected his wicket-keeping almost throughout the tour, Poore a badly bruised hand, Reid a cold, Chapple an injured finger, and Blair had two toes on his right foot so badly skinned and bruised that he could bowl only after heavy applications of ether.

Rabone led this team of walking wounded out into the green basin of Ellis Park on a morning of tropical heat, but even in the first few overs the pace bowlers had the comfort of some little lift to sustain them. Blair bowled particularly well, and McGlew and Murray found the runs coming reluctantly. At 13 Murray was very well held in the slips, by Chapple off Blair, and when Blair had to be rested, Overton swung the ball about very late in the heavy air.

Overton, the Southland farmer who won friends throughout the cricket world with his unflinching good nature, his transparent honesty, and his selflessness, bowled for two hours in trying heat, and van Ryneveld, lean and angular, produced a succession of elegant strokes. It was cricket of genuine quality. Endeane and van Ryneveld added 68 for the fifth wicket, Endeane being out just before tea, after batting for nearly three hours.

The New Zealanders spent a very happy Christmas Day at the Wanderers' Club, but when they left for the ground next morning they did not sing as they usually did, and behind them they left Blair.

It was another morning of intense heat, and there was a crowd of 23,000 to greet the New



▲ Bert Sutcliffe after being struck on the head by a Neil Adcock bouncer.

Zealanders when they filed on to the field. It took half an hour to dismiss the last two South African batsmen, who added 12 to the over-night score, and then Rabone took Chapple in with him to open the innings, Sutcliffe being dropped from number one for the first time on tour. He was of paramount importance to the New Zealanders, and he went in at number four in the hope that by then the bowling might be sufficiently tamed to allow his talents full expression.

Rabone was brilliantly caught by Endeane from a lovely late out-swing by Ironside, and then one of Adcock's bouncers from a length got Chapple out. The ball sat up with frightening abruptness, and although Chapple played what was in the circumstances an admirable defensive stroke, the ball struck a glove, flew on to his chest, and then dropped on to the stumps.

Sutcliffe played two balls, and then another thrown right up to him hurtled straight at his head. Sutcliffe made a desperate wave at it, but it hit him on the side of the head and he dropped in a heap. There was dead silence all round the ground as two ambulance men rushed out with a stretcher, but Sutcliffe staggered to his feet. With Rabone and some of the South Africans to help him, he walked slowly off the ground.

Reid and Miller were others who suffered. Reid batted 25 minutes, and five times was struck with dreadful force by balls from Adcock which flew at him. He fell finally to a second lovely swooping catch by Endeane, and Miller, facing his first ball from Adcock, was hit heavily on the chest. He tried to continue batting, but he was badly shaken, and was coughing blood. Yet it

took all of Cheetham's persuasive powers to get him to retire.

During the interval it was announced that Sutcliffe and Miller had been medically advised not to bat again. Both were back on the ground, in pain and dreadfully pale. Sutcliffe had collapsed for the second time while being X-rayed at the hospital. His left ear had been split, and behind it there was an evil bruise.

They sat with the others behind the vast windows of the players' room and watched young Beck square drive Adcock for four with apparent confidence, and no little presumption. But Murray, a quiet investigator, found flaws in Beck's back foot technique. He forced Beck back repeatedly, until at last one which left the bat late gave Waite one of the catches which helped him set a test record of 23 dismissals in the series.

MacGibbon was expected next, but it was Miller who came out, and none of his wing three-quarter tries for Taranaki brought him an ovation to compare with this one. Almost immediately, he gave Tayfield a sharp chance in the gully off Murray, but in the same over he made two powerful pulls for fours. Mooney, watchful and quick of foot, looked quite safe, and the score slowly went on until Ironside, at 82, swung one across Miller wickedly late and took the leg stump.

This time it was Sutcliffe who walked out into the hard white light, and the Springboks joined in the tremendous applause which greeted him. Sutcliffe took guard, bent his bandaged head to make his mark, and faced Ironside. A ball well up to him was pushed quietly away on the off side. The second was a fraction short of a length, and Sutcliffe played it firmly down the pitch. The third was a couple of yards short and Sutcliffe, back on his stumps with swift grace, hit it cleanly over the fence at square leg.

But Adcock was still menacing, and Mooney was struck a damaging blow on his left hand. By tea,

New Zealand had reached 138 for six wickets, but there was no addition before Mooney was beaten and bowled by Ironside. He had batted 135 minutes with great courage and skill, and his 35 runs were worth more than many test centuries. With Sutcliffe, he had added 56 in 40 minutes of superbly defiant and colourful batting.

Eight runs later, MacGibbon became the third victim of Edean's acrobatic slips fielding, and in came Overton, the last man, one of those cricket rarities whose wickets taken exceed his runs scored. He watched admiringly as Sutcliffe again hit Tayfield over the fence, but Ironside's late swing was too much for him, and he was caught with the score 154.

The players turned away and began to walk off the field, and the crowd was puzzled when suddenly they stopped. Out of the gloomy tunnel beneath the stand, into the clean white sunlight, Blair walked slowly, fumbling with his gloves, and as a

man the spectators in the huge stand stood for him, stood in complete and poignant silence. Grown men, among them the New Zealanders in the pavilion and the South Africans on the field, shed tears at this moving moment, and they were not ashamed. As Blair approached the wicket, still struggling with his gloves, Sutcliffe went to meet him, and with the most natural gesture put an arm about his comrade. All the New Zealanders had taken hard knocks in this match, but Sutcliffe's courage was excelled only by that of Blair.

Facing his first ball, Blair hurriedly passed a hand across his eyes. The silence was an immense thing as Ironside moved in to bowl. But Blair kept him out, and Tayfield came up, rolling his cap tight in the familiar manner, to prepare for an over to Sutcliffe.

This was one occasion when Tayfield's close-set field was flung far and wide, but the South Africans might as well have been sitting in the



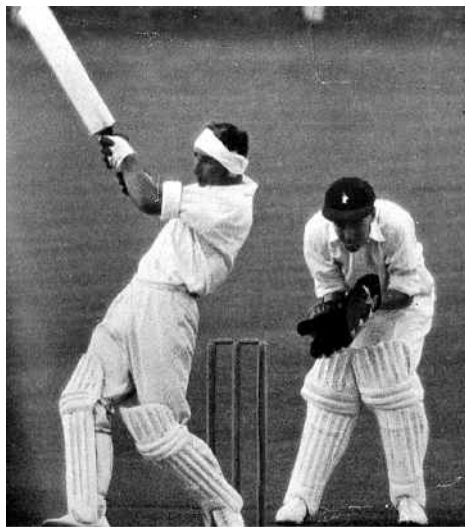
stand. Sutcliffe moved into a ball on his leg stump and sent it soaring over the boundary at mid-wicket, and the crowd regained its voice. Its roar rolled round this natural amphitheatre, and it had not died away when Sutcliffe, two balls later, on-drove Tayfield for another six with as sweet and calm and clean a stroke as batsmen ever made. Two balls later again, he repeated the shot, the ball dropping gracefully into a half-demented crowd by the sight-screen. Then Sutcliffe quietly pushed one away for a single to retain the strike, leaving Blair to face the eighth ball of the over. Up it came, and Blair, putting his foot firmly down the pitch, hit a towering six to mid-wicket, the ball dropping far over the fence among a mass of frenzied spectators. An over from Tayfield costing 25 runs was a counterattack on a Hollywood scale, but the batsmen were not quite done

In Ironside's next over, Sutcliffe hit two graceful fours, but he lost the bowling and Blair was stumped off Tayfield. In 10 minutes they had added 33. Sutcliffe, 80 not out in an hour and a half, had hit seven sixes. Only J H Sinclair of South Africa and W R Hammond had hit more in a test innings.

So Sutcliffe and Blair came back to sustained and tremendous applause which lasted long after they had disappeared, arms about each other, into the depths of the tunnel. This was indeed triumph from tragedy, a great and glorious victory over misfortune and despair, and it was carried a stage further in the last 50 minutes of the day, when bowling by MacGibbon and Reid which was no less than inspired accounted for three South African wickets.

The third morning was another of extreme heat, and it was another day of which the New Zealanders could be proud. Only one very difficult chance was missed, with the happy result that South Africa was dismissed for 148, the lowest score in a test against New Zealand, a record twice beaten since.

Like the others, the last day was hot, and the pitch had made no miraculous over-night recovery. Rabone and Mooney slaved diligently



▲ **A wounded hero: Bert Sutcliffe, his head bandaged, during his great innings against South Africa in 1953.**

for a handful of runs before Adcock had them both. Rabone had batted for three hours, and had far more bruises than runs to show for his fortitude. The ball was doing things off the pitch most alarmingly, and now only the possibility of Reid ending a long succession of test failures with something spectacular remained of New Zealand's hopes. But Reid was not destined to get into the runs until the next Test; he was out in a peculiarly unlucky way. He played forward to Ironside, and a large piece of the inside edge, about an inch in width and two inches in length, broke from his bat. The ball lobbed up in an easy arc to Funston at short fine leg.

The rest of the New Zealanders were unable to arrest the collapse, and during that morning, seven New Zealand wickets fell for 32, giving South Africa the match by 132 runs. After three long days battling to scale the mountain of a first test success, New Zealand had been swept away when in striking distance of the peak. But the result did not really matter. There was not a player in the match, or a spectator at it, who will not carry the events of Boxing Day close to his heart as long as he lives. *Per ardua ad astra.*

FLASHBACK

Photos from New Zealand's early years of international cricket.



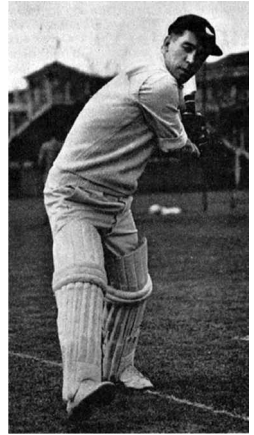
▲ Tom Lowry, NZ's first touring captain.



▲ One of NZ's greatest leaders, Walter Hadlee.



▲ Always aggressive – J. R. Reid.



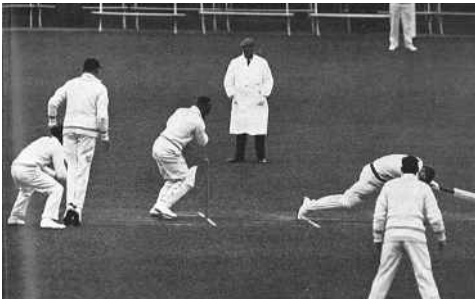
▲ M. P. Donnelly goes out to drive.



▲ Compton edges one through slips, much to wicketkeeper Mooney's horror.



▲ M.P. Donnelly in a typically aggressive mood during his great innings of 206 at Lord's.



▲ K. C. James effects a stumping off W. E. Merritt – not an unfamiliar sight.



▲ Bert Sutcliffe cracks a four off Alec Beder to reach 50 in the fourth test in 1949.

“Pitched battles”

By Aaron Scott

Inside Sport Australia

Are curators doctoring Test pitches to favour homes sides? They'd sure love the time and spare energy spent from fighting the elements.

Sabina Park had long held the reputation as an open buffet for batsmen. Its boundaries were short, its outfield fast, its deck flat. It was here, in 1930, that the Englishman Andy Sandham hit Test cricket's first triple century. And it was here, in 1958, that Garfield Sobers hit 365. It was said the pitch was so flat, so glossy, batsmen could look down and see their own reflection staring back at them. But this reputation was scuttled on January 29, 1998 – the opening day of the first Test of England's Caribbean tour.

On that morning both teams arrived at the Kingston ground to spy a pitch that showed an alarming orange colour. As they wandered out for a closer inspection it became clear something was amiss. It looked like a slick of clay had been poured over a particularly lush section of outfield. The pitch rose and dipped and yawed. Mike Atherton's eyes widened as he watched a measuring string drawn the length of the pitch. At points the turf touched the string. At others it dropped three inches below. At one end the pitch rippled into a line of corrugations. At the other it broke into a crumbling fissure on a good length. Atherton won the toss and elected to bat under the belief that a pitch this bad could only get worse with wear.

The Sabina Park curator, meanwhile, was in a jovial mood. Charlie Joseph, a small, bespectacled Allman Town local, had been employed at the ground for 39 years. He'd started off answering phones and had gradually worked his way into the role of head groundsman. And on this morning, as he put the



▲ Alec Stewart joins the crushed fingers brigade at Sabina Park in 1998.

finishing licks of white paint on his pitch, he was smiling. To his eyes the ground was in immaculate condition. As he strolled off he looked up at the green mountains to the north. It was so beautiful it looked otherworldly.

Ten minutes later Courtney Walsh stood at the top of his run while Atherton marked centre. In the English dressing room the players crowded silently around the lone television. Joseph, meanwhile, decided to go to his home – at the back of the George Headley Stand - and make himself a cup of tea.

Is there a sport as reliant on its playing surface as Test cricket? You might say grass-court tennis. But grand slam matches last hours – they don't see the degeneration that comes with five days of wear. Or you might say golf. But in a major all the competitors are chasing the same goal – one half aren't trying to get the ball in the hole while the other half are trying to keep it out. No, the cricket pitch has a unique impact on Test cricket. It is to the game what plot is to the novel, what the motive is to the crime – it shapes events. It determines the length and the tone of the match. It determines the teams the captains select, the bowlers they use, the fields they set. It

determines where the bowlers put the ball, what methods they use to deceive. And it determines how the batsmen play the ball, the tempo they adopt. In Test cricket the pitch is pivotal.

Consequently, we imagine funny things about curators. We see the tsunami of runs in the modern game and we imagine curators are killing our pitches, rolling the life out of them. We see Test pitches glowing white beneath the sun and we imagine curators are in on a conspiracy, receiving midnight calls from TV execs demanding Tests that last the full five days. We look at pitches and imagine all kinds of dark, shady things. Well, stop imagining – it's bunkum. Curators are simply a different breed of bloke practising their arcane craft on a quiet corner of the sporting stage.

A wide, wide gulf separates cricketers and curators. While cricketers drift easily into the ranks of coaches or media or officialdom, you never see a player turn his hand to curating. For cricketers, the groundsman's shed remains frontier country. You could talk to thousands of professional cricketers without finding one who has any idea how to make a pitch. Of course they have a user's knowledge of how a deck will behave, but few would have even the vaguest understanding of the labour that goes into building a Test strip. By the same token, you could scour the cricketing world without finding a single curator who has played the game at a professional level. Again, they are invariably cricket lovers who understand the rhythms of Test matches, but few would understand the pressures of playing a five-day game of cricket. No, cricketers are cricketers, and curators are "turfies". They work side by side but, for all they share in terms of knowledge and experience, they might as well be different species.

Generally, both are happy to keep it this way; neither are particularly interested in the other's knowledge. Curators know that cricketers are a selfish bunch - that batsmen will tell them to roll the pitch to death, that bowlers will tell them to leave it nice and green. They don't need the input. For their part, the players have little interest in the process of pitch making. They

know – in a vague way – that making a Test pitch is a long, slow, intricate task. And they can't be bothered with the details.

Bob Woolmer once wrote, "A good groundsperson is by definition a botanist, engineer, geologist, agriculturalist, chemist and hydrologist." Woolmer probably could've added a few more scientific disciplines to his list, but his point is well taken – preparing a pitch is a complex pursuit. How scientifically involved does it get? Well, start with the most basic component of any pitch – the soil. The observer might assume that soil is uniform across the cricketing world; that it's the grass and the water and the rolling that characterise a pitch. But, no, it's largely the soil that give pitches their personalities.

Manuals suggest that pitch soil should comprise 50-60 per cent clay, less than ten per cent coarse sand and no more than five per cent substances like calcium carbonate, sodium and organic matter. These are the rough parameters of pitch soil. Theoretically, if the soil contains too much clay, it will crack when dry and its surface will split into a patchwork of plates. If there's too much sand or salt then the soil will be crumbly and the pitch will disintegrate. If there's too much organic matter then the soil won't bind and the pitch will be weak and spongy.

But, of course, these numbers are a guideline, not a recipe. With pitch soil laid to a depth of 300mm across a square that may contain as many as ten pitches, curators need huge amounts of the stuff. And they can't simply stir-up a 1000-tonne batch of soil as you or I might a cake mix. No, soil with adequate composition has to be dug from the Earth - and this is where curators strike problems. Seams of soil get dug out over time, others get covered by creeping suburbia, and so they have to find their soil someplace else. Invariably the replacement soil has a different composition. When it's hammered into a pitch, it invariably plays differently. And this is where the problems sharpen. Cricket audiences like the individualities of our Test pitches. We like the fact that the SCG turns, that the Adelaide Oval's

flat, that the 'Gabba seams. And when these personalities change, we become narky.

During this past decade the WACA lost its personality. A pitch that had always been synonymous with pace and bounce – quicks off the long run, 'keepers taking the ball gloves up - gradually lost its bite. Batsmen started making runs; keepers started pushing closer to the stumps. By 2006 the pitch had become downright toothless. The opening Pura Cup match of that season yielded 1334 runs leavened by a spare 18 wickets. Finger spinners were doing the majority of the work; quicks were standing disconsolate at fine leg. As the '06 Ashes Test approached, the media turned on the curator, Cameron Sutherland. Furious editorials called for him to stop caving in to the modern trend for flat decks, to stop bowing to TV execs demanding Tests that go the distance.

Sutherland, meanwhile, protested his innocence. He wasn't trying to kill the pitch - he'd simply run out of the pitch soil that had been used since the WACA's first Test back in 1970. That soil – an alluvial mix found in a bed of the Harvey River – had a clay content that topped 80 per cent. When

compacted it set like granite. It was this that had given the pitch its mongrel. And this soil had run out. Its replacement was closer to 60 per cent clay. No matter how many times Sutherland drove his heavy roller up and

down this strip it simply wouldn't set like the WACA decks of old. "I've gone down the road of getting soil samples from 20 years ago right through to now," he said, "and this is hard evidence that we are miles from where we were before. It's not anybody's fault." In the end, Sutherland crafted a deck with enough snarl to calm the media. England was rolled for 215 in its first dig, cobbled together 350 in its second and

lost the match after lunch on the fifth day. It was, in all, an outstanding result for the curator. More significantly, in the months since, he discovered another seam of clay-rich soil near Waroona. It should, in time, restore to the WACA deck its ferocious reputation.

Such stories give an insight into the complexity of the curator's task: this curious mingling of technology and nature, all carefully monitored by an ignorant public eye. As Kevin Mitchell Sr - the former curator of the 'Gabba - says of pitch soil: "It can provide the subject for more rumour, false assumptions and downright lies than any other sticky substance I know."

The Sabina Park pitch played worse than feared. Most deliveries kicked wickedly, others died in a puff of dust. Mike Atherton lasted ten deliveries before a ball leapt off a length, collected the shoulder of his bat and lobbed to gully. Mark Butcher went first rock after shouldering arms to a ball that climbed so sharply it clipped the underside of his blade and angled to second slip. The English physio found himself in demand—six times he was called onto the field to treat crushed fingers.



▲ Charlie Joseph had Sabina Park lookin' good ... to him.

In the English dressing room the players pulled tighter around the television. They were silent save for the odd, "Did you see that?" Occasionally an incoming batsman would peel away and begin rifling through kits,

searching desperately for another chest guard or inner-thigh pad. John Crawley, the number-six batsman, sat apart, chain smoking. "Jesus," he murmured to himself, "someone's going to get killed out there."

On the first ball of the 11th over another Walsh delivery spat off a ridge and crashed into the fingers of Graham Thorpe. He dropped his bat

and reeled away from the pitch. Again the English physio was called. This time he was followed onto the ground by Atherton. There was a meeting of umpires and captains. The match referee, Barry Jarman, was summoned. They spoke for a few minutes more. All agreed the match was a farce. Jarman made the final call. After 56 minutes of play the match was abandoned. In the 122-year history of Test cricket it was the first match to be abandoned on account of a dangerous pitch.

Back in his kitchen, Charlie Joseph finished his cup of tea. He checked his watch and decided he'd best head back to the oval to see how things were getting along. As he opened his front door he was surprised at how quiet the stands were. It was only then he began to suspect something wasn't right.

How do you measure the quality of a Test pitch? Oddly, most curators hold different standards. Kevin Mitchell Sr believes that numbers are a good gauge: 1500 runs and 40 wickets are "the pinnacle". Les Burdett, the former Adelaide Oval curator, has always maintained that time is the better gauge: "For me it's about a pitch that will go all the way so that the match finishes in the last session of the final day." Damian Hough, the current Adelaide Oval curator, instead talks about the shifting nature of the wicket: green



▲ Bossier Martin and "Bossier's Pet" deadened The Oval in 1938.

and moist on the opening day, hard on days two and three, progressively crumbling over the final two days. Of course, applying any of these standards, a fine line separates a good pitch from a bad one. Little separates a match ending on the final over of day five and a match ambling into a draw. Likewise, little separates a pitch offering something for the quicks on day one and the batting team getting skittled in a session and a half.

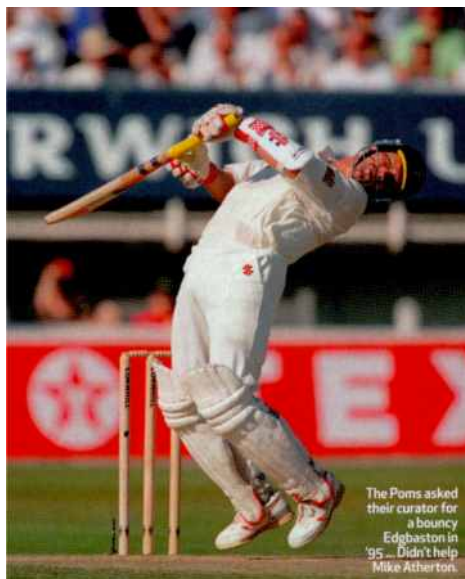
To help them tip-toe this line, the modern groundsman has an incredible arsenal of machinery at his disposal. It wasn't always the case. Back in the earliest days, rollers were stone cylinders drawn by horses wearing woollen boots to stop their hooves denting the pitch. Even when Mitchell Sr started at the 'Gabba back in 1975, he had "bugger all" equipment – a single tractor, one mower and a lone electric roller. Nowadays the selection is staggering. A typical shed at a Test ground will contain a couple of tractors, a walk-behind cylinder mower for the square, a sit-on cylinder mower for the outfield, a light rubber-faced roller, a medium roller, a sit-on water ballast roller, and a sit-on heavy roller. "A lot of money goes into that piece of grass," says SCG curator Tom Parker.

Of all this equipment, it's the heavy roller that is most cherished. As a batsman adores his favourite bat, so curators exalt their heavy roller. The autocratic Oval groundsman, Bossier Martin, posed for a photograph with his heavy roller – named "Bossier's Pet" – in front of the scoreboard after the two had so deadened the 1938 Ashes pitch that England compiled a first innings total of 903. At the SCG, Parker continues to use a roller that was built in 1924 and arrived at the ground a year later. With its brass steering wheel and dark iron barrels, the old roller remains unchanged, save for the addition of a Ford Escort engine. Parker doesn't dare nickname the machine. "It's too classy to name," he says. At the Adelaide Oval, meanwhile, Hough still uses an old beast that arrived at the ground not long after the Second World War. He respectfully calls it "the Old Puffer".

Curators' affection for their heavy rollers comes as little surprise – it's their chief tool of trade in crafting a Test deck. A typical preparation will begin the day after football season has finished. The curator will inspect his Test strip (normally the pitch that sits in the centre of the square) and judge whether it needs to be resurfaced, whether bare areas need to be re-sprigged, whether gouges need to be levelled out. "We'll string that strip out and look at every piece of grass," says Parker. Once this examination's complete, they won't touch the strip until they're ready to begin preparing it for the Test.

This final preparation starts around ten days out from the match. Typically, it begins with a process known as "blacking the wicket" – the strip is drenched, turned to mud, then rolled, both east-west and north-south, with the light hand roller. "The idea with that," says Parker, "is to push all the grass down into the soil profile. It gets rid of any sponginess and eliminates any little bumps." From there, preparation becomes an endless succession of rolling and cutting and watering, the exact permutations of which are decided by the instincts of the curator and the vagaries of the weather. Ask Parker how many times his heavy roller would track up and down the strip in that ten days and he shakes his head. "I haven't been bored enough to count. But it'd be a fair few."

One of the enduring conceits in the theatre of cricket is the villainous groundsman shamefully "doctoring" his pitch to suit the home team. No doubt this practice continues in many parts of the world. And the history of Test cricket is littered with colourful stories of doctored wickets. At Edgbaston in 1995, Ray Illingworth instructed the head groundsman, Steve Rouse, to prepare a bouncy pitch for the West Indian tourists. Who knows what Illingworth was hoping to achieve, but Rouse dutifully obeyed. He spent so much time on his heavy roller trying to compact the soil his staff began calling him "Rawhide" (rollin', rollin', rollin'). In the end the pitch was rolled bare, except at the cracks where grass protruded in dense clumps. England batted first, was rolled for 147, and lost the match by an



▲ The Poms asked their curator for a bouncy Edgbaston in '95 ... Didn't help Mike Atherton.

innings. Courtney Walsh and Ian Bishop dined out, taking 15 wickets between them.

Ask Australian curators about doctoring and you'll detect a terse note in their replies. To a man they wouldn't countenance the idea – although Mitchell admits there was a time when he came close. It was a Sheffield Shield game in the early '80s. He chuckles as he tells the story: "Thommo and Rackemann were bowling and the ball was shooting off. The 'keeper was halfway to the bloody boundary. Anyway, we rolled them and after the game, Allan Border came over and said, 'Kev, that's the best wicket I've ever played on in me life. Can we knock it up again next week?' And I said, 'Look Allan, I'll make the same thing next week, but it's a done deal they'll hit a thousand runs on the thing.' And he said, 'Look, can you just do it for me?' So I did. And of course they hit a thousand runs on the thing."

The story is illustrative of the Australian groundsman's mentality – prepare a good wicket and let the players decide the outcome. Doctoring isn't a consideration. Besides, curators are largely trussed by the elements at their

disposal. Of course they can control how much grass is on the surface, how much water's in the guts, but the ultimate designator of a pitch's personality – the soil – is fixed. No amount of curatorial attention could, for example, turn the SCG deck into a copy of the WACA's. For this reason, the dark shadow of doctoring is more readily conjured in the mind of the fan than the groundsman.

In the days after the Sabina Park Test was abandoned there was outrage in Jamaica. The shame for the proud cricketing nation was absolute. "The pitch should now be dug up," roared the editorial in Jamaica's *Gleaner*, "and those directly responsible for this travesty of a Test pitch should be buried in the same hole."

Charlie Joseph protested his innocence. The pitch had only been re-laid three months earlier, he argued. The work had been done when he'd been on a three-week holiday. The clay soil, dug from a sugar plantation in the centre of the island, was all wrong. The responsibility lay, he said, with the Jamaican board's chief executive. But no one believed him.

And so Joseph's life began to unravel. He couldn't venture outside for fear of being attacked. He locked himself in his house. He refused food. He began to shrivel up, mulling over the dark turn his life had taken. Finally he summoned the courage to take a walk. Out on the streets he saw a policeman standing with his back to him. He saw the gun in the policeman's holster. A wild thought seized his mind. He should grab the gun. Shoot himself. Right there in the street. It was only the thought of his children that stopped him.

The groundsman's greatest nemesis? Any curator will tell you it's rain. You can always put more water into a wicket but you can't take it out. For this reason Tom Parker calls his main cover (a hefty 1100-square-metre sheet) "the best piece of insurance you'll ever find". But even the wariest curator, with an infallible network of covers at his disposal, can still have weeks of toil cruelled by a freak downpour. For Parker, this happened eight years ago.



▲ This wasn't supposed to happen in Sydney before the ODI final in 2002...

On the first weekend of February, 2002, the SCG hosted an ING Cup match. It was a stinging day – pushing 40 degrees – and the pitch was hard and flat. New South Wales batted first and hit 260. Western Australia fell one run short. After the match Parker decided to leave the square uncovered. The forecast was for more hot weather and he had the ODI final between South Africa and New Zealand in five days. The wicket needed to breathe, the grass needed to regenerate. He drove home that evening content with his decision. Around midnight the clouds rolled in. Parker was at home, asleep. Around one o'clock it began to pour. Parker slept on. Between one and sunrise, over 150mm of water was dumped on the uncovered wicket.

When Parker woke he looked out the window. His chest tightened. "Oh my God," he murmured. His dilemma was epic: he had a one-dayer in four days, his wicket was drenched, and the rain showed no sign of easing. He did the only thing he could: he built an enormous marquis over the square and rostered his ten-strong team onto 24-hour shifts. He winces at the memory: "It's something I wouldn't want to do again."

But that week taught Parker—if indeed he needed the lesson—that preparing a cricket pitch is a thankless task. "The media frenzy was unbelievable," he says. "You can guess what they were saying: 'It's a full house, 40,000 people, are we going to have a pitch to play on?'" Of course, no one takes into account that the forecast changed. All they say is, 'It's wet, the curator didn't cover the wicket, the final's in doubt.' There's no margin for error." He shakes his head ruefully. "I've come to accept that people have very short memories. You're only as good as your last pitch – that's just



▲ Well taken down the leg side by Ben Ward – who was the wayward bowler?



▲ Good shot young fellow!



▲ Nick and Phil d’Auvergne both unbeaten.

the way it is.” In the end he slapped out a soggy pitch and the Proteas strolled to a six-wicket victory.

The wrath directed at a curator who’s made a mistake can be astonishingly fierce. In 2005 India travelled to Lahore to face Pakistan at Gaddafi Stadium. The pitch was hard and dull and empty of grass. It looked a good batting strip and so it proved. The match saw 1089 runs and just eight wickets, two of which were run outs. The contest, of course, fizzled into a draw. In the hours after the final ball was bowled, the local press mobbed Agha Zahid, the head curator for the PCB. The following day, Daily Times – an English-language daily whose tagline reads “A new voice for a new Pakistan” – lead with an editorial that called for Zahid to be dragged to the centre of Lahore and flogged.

Curators can only shrug their shoulders and console themselves with the ultimate truth of

groundkeeping: the result of a match is the doing of the players. As Parker says, “A great cricketer isn’t concerned with the wicket. They just get on with the job. That’s how Stephen Waugh used to play his cricket. He wasn’t interested in the conditions; it was the same for both sides. He just wanted to get out there and win it. That’s how you should attack cricket.”

No doubt Charlie Joseph would agree. These days his face is wizened, his hair white at the crown. He still lives in his house out the back of the Headley Stand, still holds the office of head groundsman. But this title is figurative only. By all accounts, he’s now a shambling, confused figure. His memory is shot, his thinking vague. He looks after the practice wickets and does odd-jobs about the ground. But he’s no longer trusted with the centre strip. His “assistant” Richard Lewis prepares the pitch while Joseph shuffles about in the background.



▲ Mike Stronach all determination – with snow on the mountains.



▲ Chris Kennedy on the hook on his way to 62.



▲ Kurt Polson took 5 for 18 against The Willows.



▲ The Peninsula Craze XI.

CUMULATIVE STATISTICS

(Minimum of 200 runs / 10 wickets)

	Inn	NO	Runs	Avg	O	M	Runs	Wkt	Avg
Abbott, R.E.	10	2	155	19.4	113	18	446	14	31.9
Agnew, T.W.	12	4	144	18.0	101	10	412	14	29.4
Allott, G.I.	11	4	95	13.6	118	27	393	27	14.6
Ambler, K.A.	5	1	235	58.8	-	-	-	-	-
Anderson, C.J.	13	1	389	32.4	118	30	319	11	29.0
Bartholomeusz, C.G.	4	3	272	272.0	7	3	19	2	9.5
Bennett, J.	30	12	324	18.0	9	1	53	3	17.7
Bisman, C.W.	8	2	318	53.0	81	12	246	19	12.9
Blakely, J.E.	7	1	201	33.5	57	7	159	6	26.5
Bond, D.W.	38	6	1331	41.6	25	1	207	1	207.0
Boock, S.L.	5	2	19	6.3	84	16	252	14	18.0
Boyle, J.G.	7	1	200	33.3	22	0	86	1	86.0
Bromley, G.R.	11	1	267	26.7	34	2	136	6	22.7
Brooks, G.N.B.	12	2	486	48.6	29	2	111	4	27.8
Bull, C.L.	19	4	206	13.7	22	2	103	2	51.5
Burrell, A.E.	13	1	296	24.7	14	1	46	2	23.0
Burrell, D.C.	29	11	834	46.3	112	10	514	15	34.3
Burrell, W.M.	28	6	650	29.5	128	22	491	24	20.5
Burson, R.D.B.	6	2	148	37.0	65	7	171	15	11.4
Cameron, B.W.J.	6	1	59	11.8	74	10	273	14	19.5
Clark, C.R.	5	0	64	12.8	34	6	120	11	10.9
Coffey, S.T.	14	3	529	48.1	14	2	67	2	33.5
Coll, J.P.	17	4	478	36.8	236	22	583	30	19.4
Colvin, G.G.	9	3	136	22.7	67	9	220	12	18.3
Coop, T.A.	9	1	207	25.9	7	0	42	0	-
Cornelius, C.J.	12	1	258	23.5	70	12	248	13	19.1
Cornelius, W.A.	19	4	183	12.2	183	35	540	37	14.6
Cowlishaw, A.C.	10	0	210	21.0	5	1	15	3	5.0
Cusack, D.R.	38	7	1198	38.6	2	0	20	0	-
Davidson, J.A.F.	14	2	395	32.9	4	0	14	0	-
Davis, S.J.	23	7	296	18.5	179	30	684	32	21.4
Deans, R.M.	4	0	220	55.0	15	1	59	2	29.5
Devlin, P.C.	25	6	621	32.7	32	3	140	7	20.0
Doody, B.J.K.	10	1	339	37.7	18	1	78	8	9.8
Doody, T.J.	9	4	31	6.2	126	5	503	24	21.0
Dormer, B.L.	9	1	201	25.1	2	0	12	0	-
Dowds, D.P.	16	3	440	33.8	34	1	185	7	26.4
Duncan, P.M.	8	2	308	51.3	19	0	103	2	51.5
Eddington, W.L.	8	1	148	21.1	96	13	366	21	17.4
Ellis, A.M. (Ex-Burnside)	13	4	405	45.0	74	8	284	13	21.8
Ellis, A.M. (Ex-SBHS)	13	4	424	47.1	60	20	168	8	21.0
Fielding, M.D.	21	3	618	34.3	106	18	381	22	17.3
Fisher, T.D.L.	6	4	431	215.5	16	2	77	4	19.3
Flanagan, S.P.	16	2	435	31.1	120	15	421	19	22.2
Fullerton-Smith, A.D.	18	2	681	42.6	13	1	54	0	-
Fulton, P.G.	9	0	362	40.2	34	2	163	3	54.3

	Inn	NO	Runs	Avgc	O	M	Runs	Wkt	Avgc
Garry, J.R.	8	1	286	40.9	29	0	163	7	23.3
Germon, L.K.	9	3	318	53.0	5	0	50	1	50.0
Gibson, S.D.	30	1	579	20.0	140	17	545	13	41.9
Grocott, D.J.	13	8	150	30.0	124	33	289	22	13.1
Grocott, J.W.	9	2	48	6.9	5	0	34	1	34.0
Hadlee, D.R.	9	4	256	51.2	70	19	196	12	16.3
Hadlee, M.J.	6	1	224	44.8	34	10	111	5	22.2
Hadlee, R.J.	4	0	212	53.0	27	5	63	4	15.8
Hamel, M.J.	14	1	353	27.2	79	9	380	10	38.0
Hampton-Matehe, T.M.	8	1	261	37.3	6	0	27	1	27.0
Hantz, J.L.	10	0	276	27.6	14	1	72	4	18.0
Harding, S.C.	7	1	105	17.5	52	10	207	11	18.8
Harris, B.Z.	12	2	300	30.0	81	10	272	15	18.1
Harris, P.D.	56	15	1499	36.6	279	35	1142	51	22.4
Hastilow, A.J.	15	3	245	20.4	119	15	477	21	22.7
Hastings, B.F.	10	3	235	33.6	9	2	23	1	23.0
Hastings, M.B.	28	4	242	10.1	254	39	987	47	21.0
Hawes, F.C.	19	8	418	38.0	182	33	585	28	20.9
Hawke, M.J.	24	9	741	49.4	140	20	546	25	21.8
Hight, C.M.	16	7	242	26.9	117	24	350	23	15.2
Hiini, B.C.	11	2	276	30.7	70	15	235	12	19.6
Hudson, M.G.	11	0	222	20.2	94	7	402	18	22.3
Humphris, L.A.	8	1	294	42.0	48	1	255	8	31.9
Hutton, O.R.	6	1	239	47.8	36	9	140	7	20.0
Ikram, H.	5	2	56	18.7	83	5	374	14	26.7
Inglis, G.D.	46	9	1161	31.4	119	12	521	21	24.8
Innes, J.T.	15	2	475	36.5	71	11	246	15	16.4
James, C.D.	19	0	479	25.2	7	0	46	2	23.0
Johns, A.M.	8	1	286	40.9	17	2	61	4	15.3
Johnston, M.T.	11	4	222	31.7	42	5	142	8	17.8
Johnston, N.M.	8	1	209	29.9	5	1	10	1	10.0
Johnston, T.G.	9	0	200	22.2	84	12	390	16	24.4
Johnstone, A.F.	20	4	306	19.1	12	1	51	1	51.0
Landon-Lane, M.E.	17	4	410	31.5	38	3	149	3	49.7
Langrope, S.L.	7	2	222	44.4	-	-	-	-	-
Latham, R.T.	14	3	266	24.2	53	9	175	10	17.5
Latham, T.	9	2	483	69.0	15	3	56	1	56.0
Lonsdale, W.M.	10	2	65	8.1	95	19	313	21	14.9
Marsh, J.D.	8	0	127	15.9	78	11	267	18	14.8
Martin, S.G.D.	4	0	48	12.0	33	1	82	11	7.5
Masefield, R.V.	11	3	105	13.1	88	11	319	18	17.7
Masefield, T.J.	10	3	248	35.4	12	0	25	3	8.3
Maw, P.A.C.	8	0	246	30.8	23	3	94	1	94.0
McCarthy, G.P.	19	2	249	14.6	36	1	191	12	15.9
McCarthy, P.B.	15	2	539	41.5	42	5	160	11	14.5
McCone, R.J.	7	1	46	7.7	43	12	100	11	9.1
McEwan, P.E.	48	5	1280	29.8	236	26	956	54	17.7
McFedries, A.G.	23	2	641	30.5	199	24	786	29	27.1
McGoldrick, C.P.	7	1	214	35.7	14	1	86	1	86.0
McGuire, R.D.	26	11	451	30.1	263	25	1045	48	21.8

	Inn	NO	Runs	Avgc	O	M	Runs	Wkt	Avgc
McIntyre, B.S.M.	9	0	203	22.6	67	10	247	14	17.6
McKenzie, M.N.	11	2	387	43.0	88	10	374	12	31.2
MacLeod, A.L.L.	5	1	69	17.3	38	5	157	11	14.3
McMillan, D.H.A.	12	4	211	26.4	126	30	419	22	19.0
McRae, A.R.	23	5	528	29.3	85	9	343	12	28.6
Miller, G.A.	27	5	566	25.7	1	0	14	1	14.0
Miller, R.M.	10	3	386	55.1	52	8	174	8	21.8
Mitchell, W.J.	25	3	439	20.0	50	8	156	9	17.3
Morgan, R.	9	2	259	37.0	32	9	113	7	16.1
Nathu, A.	18	1	445	26.2	10	0	58	1	58.0
Nielsen, T.N.	17	4	225	17.3	145	24	521	32	16.3
Noster, S.	5	2	326	108.7	27	3	118	1	118.0
Nuttall, A.J.	49	22	623	23.1	617	160	1539	145	10.6
Nuttall, E.J.	4	1	24	8.0	49	10	132	11	12.0
O'Gorman, J.P.D.	10	2	251	31.4	51	6	219	5	43.8
Orton, B.R.	9	5	567	141.8	5	2	15	4	3.8
Parr, M.J.	8	1	162	23.1	60	7	205	10	20.5
Patel, M.	10	1	365	40.6	70	15	267	11	24.3
Pawson, J.D.	21	5	443	27.7	155	28	460	24	19.2
Peacock, M.D.	21	6	400	26.7	223	56	641	43	14.9
Priest, M.W.	8	2	180	30.0	108	21	391	13	30.1
Reid, J.F.	6	2	205	51.3	16	0	65	1	65.0
Rennell, C.P.	9	0	208	23.1	-	-	-	-	-
Robertson, I.A.	11	3	498	62.3	91	17	273	8	34.1
Rutledge, P.D.	38	6	333	10.4	13	0	104	1	104.0
Satterthwaite, M.F.	19	0	364	19.2	5	0	30	0	-
Savill, C.M.	33	8	412	16.5	34	0	216	10	21.6
Sawers, A.J.	8	2	269	44.8	-	-	-	-	-
Scott, D.W.G.	11	5	77	12.8	37	1	216	11	19.6
Sparks, L.C.	19	6	164	12.6	217	46	755	39	19.4
Stevens, S.D.	13	5	75	9.4	154	14	749	23	32.6
Stewart, G.J.	7	2	51	10.2	46	3	144	14	10.3
Stone, C.S.	7	0	222	31.7	14	2	38	4	9.5
Stone, M.B.	10	0	134	13.4	65	7	320	10	32.0
Stretch, G.B.	5	1	246	61.5	32	0	162	5	32.4
Tapper, J.H.	9	2	166	23.7	73	24	214	20	10.7
Teale, H.W.	7	2	303	60.6	42	3	231	6	38.5
Teale, M.D.	7	1	49	8.2	54	6	211	11	19.2
Thiele, C.H.	11	3	63	7.9	118	17	438	16	27.4
Thomson, G.L.	29	4	935	37.4	14	0	81	1	81.0
Thorn, L.D.A.	14	2	237	19.8	18	0	106	3	35.3
Townrow, W.B.	10	4	59	9.8	90	10	329	13	25.3
Walsh, W.P.J.	5	1	207	51.8	24	4	98	2	49.0
Ward, J.	12	3	268	29.8	52	3	265	11	24.1
Weeds, M.G.	11	3	257	32.1	4	0	16	0	-
Wolt, J.R.K.	12	5	43	6.1	216	26	929	35	26.5
Wright, M.J.W.	13	4	455	50.6	17	0	72	5	14.4
Yardley, K.J.	13	8	21	4.2	183	21	742	34	21.8
Yock, B.A.	16	3	688	52.9	14	1	79	1	79.0
Youngusband, P.F.	7	2	58	11.6	58	18	155	18	8.6

RECORDS

Summary of Results

	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	Drawn
1994/95	13	12	1	-	-
1995/96	17	12	4	-	1
1996/97	17	10	6	-	1
1997/98	21	14	6	1	-
1998/99	18	10	7	-	1
1999/00	19	9	10	-	-
2000/01	23	17	6	-	-
2001/02	21	15	4	2	-
2002/03	21	16	5	-	-
2003/04	22	15	7	-	-
2004/05	22	13	8	-	1
2005/06	26	14	12	-	-
2006/07	26	13	13	-	-
2007/08	27	19	7	-	1
2008/09	25	21	4	-	-
2009/10	26	19	6	-	1
2010/11	24	18	4	-	2
Total	368	247	110	3	8

(For home games by Willows teams)

Aggregate Innings Totals

	Inns	Runs	Wkts	Avg/Wkt	Avg Total
1994/95	13	2,702	105	25.7	207
1995/96	15	2,930	100	29.3	195
1996/97	16	3,007	106	28.3	187
1997/98	19	4,306	128	33.6	226
1998/99	17	3,584	134	26.7	210
1999/00	18	3,128	145	21.5	173
2000/01	22	5,149	162	31.8	234
2001/02	21	4,053	152	26.7	193
2002/03	21	4,304	134	32.1	204
2003/04	22	4,757	170	28.0	216
2004/05	22	4,525	162	27.9	206
2005/06	26	5,506	210	26.2	211
2006/07	25	4,410	210	21.0	176
2007/08	28	6,218	207	30.0	222
2008/09	25	5,688	180	31.6	228
2009/10	26	5,654	208	27.1	217
2010/11	24	5,309	176	30.1	221
Total	360	75,230	2,689	27.9	208

Honours – Batting

(All retired)

K.A.Amblar	100	v Shirley Boys' High School	27.02.05
C.J.Anderson	100	v Marlborough Boys' College	20.10.02
C.G.Bartholomeusz	101	v St Bede's College	29.01.06
L.Bartholomeusz	101	v Timaru Boys' High School	03.02.08
C.W.Bisman	100	v Nth Canty Secondary Schools	21.02.99
D.W.Bond	102	v Crusaders XI	17.03.01
D.W.Bond	100	v Nelson College	16.02.03
A.E.Burrell	100	v St Andrew's College	18.02.96
D.C.Burrell	102	v Ohoka Swampkens	28.01.96
D.C.Burrell	100	v Dunedin Cavaliers	02.02.97
D.C.Burrell	100	v Mt Hutt College	14.01.01
W.M.Burrell	100	v Nth Canty Secondary Schools	05.03.00
S.T.Coffey	100	v King's College (Auckland)	24.01.07
S.T.Coffey	100	v Combined Secondary Schools	30.11.08
D.R.Cusack	100	v Burnside High School	30.11.03
P.C.Devlin	102	v Nth Canty Secondary Schools	11.03.01
B.J.Diamanti	100	v Marlborough Boys' College	20.10.02
B.J.K.Doody	100	v Christ's College	14.10.01
D.P.Dowds	101	v Burnside High School	07.12.08
P.M.Duncan	101	v Christ's College	16.01.11
T.D.L.Fisher	102	v Christ's College	08.01.06
A.D.Fullerton-Smith	104	v Medbury Headmaster's XI	20.03.05
A.D.Fullerton-Smith	101	v Combined Secondary Schools	25.11.07
D.R.Hadlee	100	v Clarrie Anderson's XI	30.11.97
M.J.Hadlee	100	v Woodbank Wanderers	26.03.98
T.M.Hampton-Mateho	101	v Waitaki BHS/St Kevin's XI	14.03.10
P.D.Harris	100	v Woodbank Wanderers	26.03.95
P.D.Harris	102	v Millbrook XI	25.01.98
P.D.Harris	104	v Woodbank Wanderers	25.03.01
O.R.Hutton	100	v Southland Boys' High School	06.03.05
T.Hyser	101	v Nelson College	13.02.11
G.D.Inglis	100	v Timaru Boys' High School	25.01.04
L.Johnston	100	v Otago Boys' High School	28.10.07
S.L.Langrope	100	v Timaru Boys' High School	03.02.08
R.T.Latham	100	v St Andrew's College	26.02.95
T.Latham	101	v Burnside High School	02.12.07
P.B.McCarthy	102	v St Bede's College	09.02.97
P.E.McEwan	104	v Flaxton Wanderers	20.11.94
P.E.McEwan	109	v Montana Wine XI	23.01.00
M.N.M.McKenzie	100	v Millbrook XI	25.01.98
G.A.Miller	100	v Clarrie Anderson's XI	01.12.10
R.M.Miller	100	v Dunedin Cavaliers	01.02.98
S.Noster	102	v Canterbury Country Sec Schools	16.03.08
S.Noster	101	v Christchurch Boys' High School	12.09.08
S.Noster	101	v Southland Boys' High School	20.02.11
J.P.D.O'Gorman	101	v Christ's College	18.01.09
B.Orton	102	v Otago Boys' High School	29.10.06
B.Orton	100	v Nelson College	10.02.08
B.Orton	100	v Combined Secondary Schools	30.11.08
M.Patel	103	v Timaru Boys' High School	07.02.10
J.D.Pawson	100	v Peninsula Craz	10.11.02
I.A.Robertson	100	v Wellington College	27.10.02
I.A.Robertson	100	v South Canterbury XI	03.10.04
H.W.Teale	100	v St Bede's College	30.01.11
G.L.Thomson	100	v Medbury Headmaster's XI	16.03.97
G.L.Thomson	100	v Christchurch BHS	05.12.99
G.L.Thomson	100	v Shirley BHS	04.03.01
L.van Beek	101	v London NZ CC	25.03.07
W.P.J.Walsh	100	v North West Schools XI	05.12.10
M.J.W.Wright	100	v Woodbank Wanderers	24.03.02
M.J.W.Wright	102	v Woodbank Wanderers	23.03.03
B.A.Yock	106	v Woodbank Wanderers	26.11.00
B.A.Yock	102	v London NZ CC	23.11.08

Honours – Bowling

(Maximum 10 overs)

S.Borthwick	6-14	v Dunedin Cavaliers XI	24.01.10
M.D.Fielding	6-20	v Wanganui Collegiate	21.10.07
G.I.Allott	6-23	v Christchurch BHS	01.12.02
J.Tapper	6-30	v Waitaki BHS/St Kevin's XI	14.03.10
R.D.McGuire	6-31	v Nelson College	13.02.11
J.P.Coll	6-32	v Peninsula Craze	10.11.02
A.J.Gourdie	6-50	v St Andrew's College	24.02.02
G.Stewart	5-10	v St Thomas College	10.03.10
R.V.Masefield	5-5	v North Canterbury Secondary Schools	07.03.04
A.J.Nuttall	5-8	v St Andrew's College	15.02.98
M.Shaw	5-8	v Shirley Boys' High School	05.03.06
T.D.Astle	5-10	v St Thomas of Canterbury College	09.02.05
J.T.Innes	5-13	v Mobil Oil XI	14.11.99
F.C.Hawes	5-15	v Combined Secondary Schools	23.11.03
W.L.Eddington	5-15	v Timaru Boys' High School	08.02.09
A.C.Maw	5-17	v North Canterbury Secondary Schools	07.03.04
T.J.Doody	5-17	v Canterbury Country Sec Schools	11.03.07
L.C.Sparks	5-19	v Ben Harris XI	19.02.95
J.Tapper	5-21	v King's High School	14.12.08
J.D.Marsh	5-23	v St Thomas of Canterbury College	02.02.11
W.Wright	5-23	v Suburban XI	09.01.11
T.Johnston	5-26	v St Andrew's College	25.02.07
M.D.Peacock	5-25	v Wanganui Collegiate	23.10.05
T.E.Lancaster	5-26	v London NZ CC	26.11.95
W.A.Cornelius	5-27	v London NZ CC	19.12.99
P.F.Younghusband	5-28	v London NZ CC	22.11.09
A.G.McFedries	5-29	v Flaxton Wanderers	26.02.97
M.B.S.McIntyre	5-30	v Otago Boys' High School	02.11.03
B.W.J.Cameron	5-32	v South Canterbury XI	30.09.07
W.A.Cornelius	5-32	v Medbury Headmaster's XI	12.03.00
R.Abbott	5-32	v Nelson College	16.02.03
M.D.Peacock	5-33	v Shirley BHS	21.03.10

Highest Team Scores (50 overs)

For	371/5	v Timaru Boys' High School	03.02.08
	331/5	v Nelson College	10.02.08
	334/8	v Shirley Boys' High School	20.03.11
Against	309/7	by Millbrook XI	25.01.98
	303/8	by Suburban XI	06.01.08
	302/6	by Flaxton Wanderers	26.11.00

Lowest Team Scores

For	54	v Otago Boys' High School	01.11.09
	62	v Sri Lanka Under-21	14.11.09
	69	v Christ's College	27.10.96
Against	46	by St Thomas of Canterbury College	10.03.10
	40	by Combined Secondary Schools XI	25.11.07
	51	by Christ's College	14.10.01

Batsmen – 1,000 runs milestone

Season

2004/05	P.D.Harris
2005/06	D.W.Bond
2005/06	D.R.Cusack
2006/07	P.E.McEwan
2008/09	G.D.Inglis

Bowlers – 100 wickets milestone

Season

2005/06	A.J.Nuttall
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Shadbolt Trophy

(Awarded each year for Best Performance by a Junior Willower.)

1994/95	S.J.Davis	3-19	v Ben Harris XI
1995/96	N.Perkins	68	v Motueka Wekas
1996/97	P.B.McCarthy	102	v St Bede's College
1997/98	R.M.Miller	100	v Dunedin Cavaliers
1998/99	C.W.Bisman	100	v Nth Canty Sec Schools
1999/00	J.P.Coll	4-30	v Hawkswood Wanderers
2000/01	A.Johnstone (wk)	104	v Woodbank Wanderers
2001/02	A.J.Gourdie	6-50	v St Andrew's College
2002/03	R.Abbott	5-32	v Nelson College
2003/04	M.Fielding	86	v Combined Schools XI
2004/05	K.A.Ambler	100	v Shirley Boys' High School
2005/06	C.G.Bartholomeusz	101	v Wanganui Collegiate
2006/07	S.T.Coffey	101	v London NZ CC XI
2007/08	S.Noster	102	v Canterbury Country Sec Schools XI
2008/09	T.Latham	76	v Burnside High School
2009/10	T.A.Rutherford	7-20	v The Willows
2010/11	H.W.Teale	100	v St Bede's College

49ers Cup

(Awarded each year for Most Meritorious Performance by a Secondary School XI.)

1998/99	North Canterbury Secondary Schools XI
1999/00	St Bede's College
2000/01	Marlborough Boys' College
2001/02	Wanganui Collegiate School
2002/03	Shirley Boys' High School
2003/04	Timaru Boys' High School
2004/05	Wellington College
2005/06	Nelson College
2006/07	Christchurch Boys' High School
2007/08	St Thomas of Canterbury College
2008/09	Shirley Boys' High School
2009/10	Otago Boys' High School
2010/11	Christ's College

Visitor Honours 2010/11 Season

5-18	K.Polson
5-59	D.Marsh

RESULTS

W = win L= loss D = draw T = tie

Home Games

	94-5	95-6	96-7	97-8	98-9	99-0	00-1	01-2	02-3	03-4	04-5	05-6	06-7	07-8	08-9	09-10	10-11
Christ's College	W	L	L	W	L	W	-	W	-	W	-	W	W	W	W	-	W
Christchurch BHS	W	W	W	W	D	W	W	W	W	-	-	W	L	-	W	W	D
Hawkswood Wanderers	W	L	L	L	L	L	L	W	L	L	L	L	L	L	-	D	W
Flaxton Wanderers	W	W	W	L	L	-	W	L	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London NZ CC	W	W	-	L	L	L	-	-	-	L	-	L	W	W	W	W	L
Ohoka Swamphens	W	W	W	W	L	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Bede's College	W	W	W	L	W	L	L	W	W	-	L	W	L	W	W	W	W
Ben Harris XI	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Andrew's College	W	W	W	W	W	L	W	W	L	W	W	W	W	L	W	W	-
Clarrie Anderson's XI	W	W	W	W	L	L	-	-	W	L	-	L	L	W	-	W	-
Medbury Headmaster's XI	L	W	W	-	-	L	W	W	L	L	W	L	-	-	-	-	-
Woodbank Wanderers	W	W	-	W	L	L	W	W	W	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canterbury U-17 XI	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peninsula Craze	-	D	L	W	W	W	W	L	W	W	L	L	L	W	L	W	L
Dunedin Cavaliers	-	L	W	W	-	W	W	-	L	W	L	L	-	W	W	W	-
Nth Canty Sec Schools	-	W	D	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	-	W	W	W	-
Motueka Wekas	-	W	-	L	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canterbury Emerging XI	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mobil Oil XI	-	-	L	W	W	W	W	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wellington President's XI	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Te Awamutu College	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wanganui Collegiate	-	-	-	W	-	W	-	L	-	L	-	W	-	W	-	W	-
NZ Police XI (Christchurch)	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Millbrook XI	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suburban XI	-	-	-	W	L	L	W	-	L	L	-	W	W	L	W	L	W
South Canterbury XI	-	-	-	-	W	-	L	W	W	-	W	W	-	W	-	-	-
Marlborough Boys' College	-	-	-	-	W	-	W	-	W	D	L	L	L	D	L	-	W
King's College (Auckland)	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	L
Montana Wine XI	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Combined Schools XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	W	W	W	W	W	L	W	W	L	L
Otago BHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	W	W	L	-	W	W	L	L	W
Waitaki BHS/St Kevin's XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	L	W	W	W	-	-	-	W	W	W
Mt Hutt College	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shirley BHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	-	W	W	W
Timaru BHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	W	L	W	W	L	W	W	W	W
Nelson College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	W	-	W	L	W	W	W	W	W
Wellington College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	W	-	W	-	L	-	-	-	W
Burnside/North-West Schools XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Former NZ Rep XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	L	-	W	-	W	W
St Thomas of Canterbury College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	W	L	L	W	W	W
Southland BHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	W	L	-	W	W	W
Arthur Pitcher's XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	L	W	W	W	L	-
Albion CC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-
Mid-Canterbury Youth XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	W	W	W	D
Kings High School (Dunedin)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	W	W	W	W
Canterbury Country Sec Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-
Auckland Glimmer XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-
Kristin School 1st XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-
Gore High School 1st XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W

Away Games

Flaxton Wanderers	-	L	L	T	L	-	L	-	D	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-
Valley of Peace	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-
Hawkswood Wanderers	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

International Games

XL40 Club (UK)	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary Club (Aust)	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crusaders (Aust)	-	-	-	-	-	-	W/L	W	W	-	-	-	-	L	W	L	-
Gunnedah Youth XI (Aust)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	T	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-
MCC Club XI (UK)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	T	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Craigengow CC (Hong Kong)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bradman Foundation XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-
Honest Trundlers XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	W	-	-	-
I Zingari Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-
Sri Lanka Under-21 XI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	-



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BACK COVER

TOP: Jacob Wolt takes a sharp catch at slip.

BOTTOM: A batsman from the Combined Secondary Schools XI drives down the ground.

