

PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEASON 2019-2020

Season Highlights

The 2019-20 summer of cricket has been one of the most challenging seasons that our club has faced since its involvement in cricket on the coast. Notwithstanding the difficulties that all clubs have faced as a result of the Corona virus, I am pleased to report that this season we exceeded all expectations and achieved success in first and second grade by taking out both premierships. This is an outstanding effort and one that is rarely achieved by any club in the competition. Additionally, we took out the T20 and the under 21 championships at the senior level.

Again this season, our juniors programme continued to develop the talent of our young Griffins, with seven teams making the finals, including the under 13 Reds and under 12b's who became premiers. Our Blasters Programme which is based on fun and family was another success story this summer. Our "whole of family approach" ensures that parents and guardians can participate in the development of children playing in this form of the game.

With the season now concluded it is pleasing to report that our club remains in a sound financial position and I would like to single out the excellent work of our Treasurer for his oversight and management of our finances. Thank you, Danny Rowe.

First Grade

Not favoured to take out the premiership at the start of the two day competition, the Kincumber-Avooca Griffins produced a near perfect backend of the season to be crowned the 2019-20 champions on the Central Coast. Stacked full of talented young players with a blend of experienced campaigners, the Griffins were always going to be difficult to beat come the semis. Much of the credit for the success of the team this year must go to first time captain, Daniel Heuston, whose youth and enthusiasm engendered harmony and a winning spirit in the team.

Although disappointed at not playing a Grand Final the lads played some exciting cricket to defeat Lisarow Ourimbah in the major semi. After winning the toss and sending Lisarow into bat on a slow outfield, the Griffins bowled the Magpies out for a meagre total of 115. Once again Dylan Robertson was the main destroyer and returned sensational figures of 6 wickets for 16 runs off 22.3 overs. Well done Dylan.

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In chasing down the 1st innings total set by Lisarow, Steve McCabe was all class with the bat and showed his experience and talent by smashing a quick fire 52. Steve's innings kept the crowd entertained and included three sixes and four fours. After a slight wobble in the middle of the innings Dan Heuston and Chris Clements steadied the ship for a well deserved win. Victory in the major semi was enough for the team to be declared premiers following the outbreak of the covid – 19 virus which saw all major cricketing events cancelled for the year.

Proving that they were true champions the Griffins were also successful in the short form of the game by taking out the T20 championship in the final against Lisarow. Well done lads on a very successful season of cricket.



First Grade Premiers 2019-2020.

Front Row: Dylan Booth, Rob Lavery, Dan Heuston (C), Harry Woodhead, Steve McCabe, Dylan Robertson. Back Row: Bryce Birks, Chris Clement, Chris Swaine, Jack Heuston, John McRae.



Our 2019-2020 T20 Champions

Front Row: Luke Sullivan, Harry Woodhead, Daniel Heuston (C), Jack Heuston, Nathan Aulsebrook, Back Row: Steve Selman, Dylan Robertson, John McRae, Steve McCabe, Chris Swaine, Rob Lavery, Dylan Booth, Bryce Birks.



First Grade Captain: Dan Heuston with Second Grade Captain: Luke Sullivan

Second Grade

Kincumber-Avooca was without doubt the strongest and best performed team in the in the second grade competition this season. From the opening round, the Griffins with a blend of youth and experience was always going to figure prominently at the end of the season. In his second year as Captain, Luke Sullivan again showed his experience and skill as a leader and was the type of captain that brought out the best in his players. Never flustered, Luke's decision making underpinned the team's achievements and saw them take out both the minor premiership and premiership this summer.

After being gifted a spot in the Grand Final following a washout in the semi-final against Lisarow-Ourimbah, and the subsequent cancellation of the season owing to the Corona virus, the Griffins were awarded the premiership for 2019-20.

Although being declared worthy winners, the team also voiced their disappointment at not being able to play a Grand Final. Nevertheless, they played some outstanding cricket this summer. In a Round 6 match against Southern Spirit, Ryan Jewiss scored a memorable 135no and in Round 15 against Northern Power Dylan Booth took 5 wickets for 22 runs off 13 overs. Others who performed strongly throughout the year include Tom Hibbert, Shaun Robertson and Mickey Williams with the bat and Luke Sullivan, Michael Pate and Mat Wynne with the ball.



Second Grade Premiers. Front Row: Nathan Aulsebrook, Michael Pate, Luke Sullivan (C), Ryan Jewiss, Shaun Robertson, Back Row: Scott Jarvis, Daniel Rowe, Michael Drake, Bryce Bush, Mikey Williams, Tom Hibbert, Ben Campbell.

Third Grade

Well led throughout the season by Ben Everingham, 2019-2020 was a season of mixed results for this talented team of Griffins. Although good performances throughout the year saw the team qualify for the semi-finals, they were unable to emulate last year's performances and were eliminated by Lisarow in the semi. After losing the toss and being sent into bat, the Griffins total of 103 was always going to be difficult to defend. Best on ground for the Griffins was Ben Campbell who scored a solid 57 and Ashley Roberts who took 2 wickets for 13 from 2 overs.

Despite the disappointment of the semi, there was some outstanding cricket played by this team during the year. Ashley Roche was outstanding with the bat and scored a season's total of 454 runs at 32.43 and Brandan Guthmann took 18 wickets at an average of 14.67. Ashley Roberts also bowled well and took 15 wickets at 11.07.

This team exemplified the spirit of cricket and is a credit to our club. Congratulations on your performances throughout the year.

Fourth Grade

Although finishing well down the ladder, our fourth grade side played some exciting cricket in a tightly compacted field that could have seen any number of teams make the final four. The season that was, saw our fours finish on the wrong side of the ledger in several close finishes despite playing some very good cricket.

Although not reaching the play-offs this season there was still some solid performances by several talented players in this grade. Ravi Sharma topped the batting list with 415 runs at a respectable average of 41.50 and Kyle MacGregor took 21 wickets at 14.76. Others who played well during the year include Jacob Degeling and Cameron Allday.

Once again a big thank you goes out to Aaron Wilson for leading and organising this squad of dedicated cricketers. With a modicum of luck I feel certain that this team will see a much better outcome next season.

Fifth Grade

Whilst just missing out on the semi-finals, Fifth Grade played strongly and acquitted themselves well throughout the year. Despite playing in some controversial matches, this father and son team always played within the spirit of cricket and is a credit to our club. Much of the credit for their performances throughout the season can be attributed to Brett Rowe who led the team with distinction. Brett is a good clubman with a strong focus on junior development. His contribution to the Junior Blasters programme also provided direction and guidance to our littlest Griffins.

Again this season, Andrew McCrae was a stand-out performer for this team. His contribution with both bat and ball was outstanding and his behaviour on the field sets a fine example to the younger members of the squad. Andrew scored 415 runs at an average of 41.5 and took 25 wickets at 9.72. Following in his father's footsteps, Aidan McCrae also had a fine season with the bat and scored 204 runs at 15.69. Others who played well this summer include Rorie Delacey, Nick Rowe and Harvey Keegan. Congratulations on a season well played.

Seventh Grade

Well prepared all year, a big thank you must go out to Craig Horsnell and Travis Cock for their efforts in managing and organising this team. It was also pleasing to see the team come back to Erina Leagues club each week for the presentation of player of the round awards. Although seventh grade played strongly throughout the summer they fell short in the semi-final and lost to a white hot Terrigal side. Despite falling short in the semi there was some very good cricket played by the team during the season.

Both Noah and Darcy Watterson were outstanding with the bat and ball this year. Noah scoring 268 runs at an average of 20.62 and taking 18 wickets at 13.00. Darcy scored 164 runs at a respectable average for this grade of 11.91 and took 26 wickets at 12.58. Whilst the Watterson boys played a large role in the success of the team this year, it was also pleasing to note the performances of club stalwarts Craig Horsnell who scored 265 runs at a very good average of 37.86 and Ross Drury who scored 254 runs at 23.09.

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Congratulations to this father and son team on a very successful season. Your sportsmanship and behaviour both on and off the field was exemplary and is a credit to our club.

Eighth Grade

The Eighth Grade team was a real surprise packet this summer and made it all the way to the Grand Final. Just falling short on a rain affected weekend, the team played strongly all year and finished second on the ladder. Bowling Wyong out for 87 in the GF our team could only manage a total of 64 and fell short by 23 runs. Despite the disappointment of the loss, our team can be proud of their achievements this year as they played some exciting cricket.

Once again Dennis Hastie captained the side and provided encouragement to the team. Returning for another season, Ryan Craig was amongst the best performers with the bat, scoring 350 runs at an average of 58.33. Michael Ashton scored 393 runs at an average of 35.73 whilst Thomas Vaughan scored 257 runs for a very healthy average of 64.25.

Bowling was also a feature of the team's success and good performances were produced by Riley Da Silva who took 27 wickets at 7.52. Joshua Hastie also had success with the ball and took 25 wickets at 8.28 whilst Harry Steenbergen also contributed strongly and took 19 wickets for 6.89 runs. Well done to our Eighth Grade team on a fine season of cricket.

Women's Team

Women's cricket continues to grow and thrive on the coast and Kincumber-Avooca has been there right from the start. This year the Griffins were well represented by a team of talented players and although not making the semi-finals, played some exciting cricket. Once again Veronica Brown played a major role in not only organising the team but also held the position of Female Co-ordinator on the coast and was a Female Development Officer with Cricket NSW.

Veronica's contribution to the growth of cricket on the coast can never be understated. During the year she was one of three women nominated by Cricket NSW to attend a National Forum and Coaching Workshop held at the MCG in Victoria. Talking to Veronica she said that the Griffins are in a rebuilding phase and that she is very happy with the new talent we have attracted to the club this season. With people like Veronica on-board, the future of women's cricket at the Griffins is in good hands.

A big thank you must also go to Laura Mercer who was the captain of the side this year. Laura's skill and leadership on the field was outstanding and her contribution to the teams improvement could be seen in players as the season progressed. Laura also bowled well throughout the year taking 14 wickets at 16.14.

Another player who distinguished herself for the Griffins was Miranda Moloney. Miranda's efforts behind the stumps this summer was exceptional, culminating in her taking out the district fielding award. Miranda took 9 dismissals including 5 stumpings. Miranda also batted well this summer and scored 336 runs at an average of 56. Well done Miranda.

Under 21's

Undefeated throughout the season our lads took out the Glen Rowlands Shield for the second season in a row by beating a strong Southern Spirit team in the final. Once again, Dan Heuston's leadership was outstanding and provided a steady influence to the team during this hard fought match. After losing the toss and being sent in to bat on a rain affected pitch, the Griffins lost two quick wickets but a solid partnership by Daniel and Brice Birks changed the course of the innings and provided a respectable total for the team to defend.

Needing 87 runs from just 18 overs to secure victory, the Spirit could only muster 69 following good bowling spells by Dylan Booth who took 3 wickets for 18 off 4 overs and Bryce Birks who took 2 wickets for 10 off 4 overs. Jack Heuston and Michael Drake also contributed strongly to the win. Following his all round performance, Bryce Birks was awarded the Aaron O'Brien Medal as player of the match.

Congratulations to this champion team of fine young Griffins.



Our under 21 champions for 2019-2020

Front Row: Tyson Robertson, Bryce Birks, Brandan Guthmann, Daniel Heuston (C), Ryan Jewiss, Jack Heuston, Back Row: Jackson Morris, Bryce Bush, Michael Drake, Bailey Lidgard, Tom Hibbert, Dylan Robertson, Matt Hancock.

Junior Cricket

This summer of cricket was another success story for our junior Griffins and added to our rich history of developing young cricketers into future champions. Our philosophy has always been to involve families and engender an atmosphere of fun and love for the game. Very few clubs can boast that their junior systems provides the foundation for success such as that achieved by the Griffins.

This summer our junior Griffins gained outstanding success by taking out the U13A and U12B's championships. Much of what our junior teams accomplished this year can be directly linked to the time and commitment spent by dedicated parents who volunteered as coaches, managers, umpires and scorers. Their efforts provide the basis for developing players and building harmony in our club. Thank you one and all.

In a season where our juniors produced some outstanding performances, I would particularly like to highlight the achievements of Noah Watterson who won the Junior Player of the Year Award, Isaac Ryan for taking out the Encouragement Award, Sophie McCrae the Junior Female Player of the Year, Jonah Tewaiti Intermediate Player of the Year and Morgan Campbell the Intermediate Encouragement Award. A special mention must also be made of Jacob Ghantous who took out the non-comp Encouragement Award. Well done to these young Griffins.

This year our Blasters programme at Erina Oval was again a huge success. With over 120 registrations, we had 12 teams comprised of 87 children playing in the Master Blasters competition and 40 playing in the Junior Blasters format. Congratulations to Riley Coombes for taking out the Boys Encouragement Award and Olivia Mitchell for taking out the Girls Encouragement Award. This season it was particularly satisfying and enjoyable to see the ability of our children improve each week and by season's end their co-ordination and skill had improved considerably.

The success of our Juniors Programme would not have been achieved this year without the involvement of a small team of dedicated Griffins. I would particularly like to thank Stephen Milne, Paul Cutting, Rod Ursem, Veronica Brown and Brett Rowe for their commitment to our juniors. I would also like to thank Liza James for assisting with the trophies and all those involved in the gradings at the beginning of the season. Once again our Trivia night was a huge success and I would like to thank all those who made the occasion a very enjoyable and profitable evening.

District Awards

Congratulations to the following Griffins who achieved success at the District Level this summer:

- 1st Grade Bowling Award - Dylan Robertson 43 Wickets @ 8.70
- 3rd Grade Batting Award – Ashley Roche 445 Runs @ 34.23
- 5th Grade Bowling Award – Andrew McCrae 25 Wickets @ 9.72
- 8th Grade Batting Award – Michael Ashton 387 Runs @ 38.70
- 8th Grade Bowling Award – Riley Da Silva 26 Wickets @ 7.58
- Ladies T20 Dismissals Award – Miranda Molony 9

Committee and Supporters

With a very challenging yet rewarding season now concluded, I would like to thank a very special group of dedicated people whose efforts have underpinned our achievements this summer. I would particularly like to thank Ben Campbell for his work in developing our Child Protection Register which was highly commended at the District Level and used as a model by other clubs. Ben also took on the responsibility for ordering new clothing and equipment this year and was unanimously voted the Clubman of the Year. Congratulations Ben, your efforts are very much appreciated.

Whilst commenting on outstanding contributions, I would like to thank Daniel Rowe for his wonderful work as Treasurer. Danny's integrity and professionalism in this difficult position is remarkable and we are very privileged to have him in this role. I would also like to thank Susie McCarey for her work as Assistant Treasurer. Another important member of our committee, Veronica Brown, took on the secretary's job this season and skillfully combined her club activities with the role of Female Co-ordinator at the District Level. Veronica also worked hard and was a big contributor to our junior's programme. Thank you, Veronica, you are a worthy winner of the President's Award this season.

On a personal note, I would like to thank our Patrons Ian Moad and Rod Masters for their advice and guidance throughout this unusual season of cricket. Their work with our Blasters Programme was also very much appreciated by our littlest Griffins.

Once again, I would like to acknowledge and thank both Steve and Lyn Sullivan for their contribution and work around the club this year. Steve is not only our hard-working curator during the summer but also assists Lyn with the Canteen. Our club is extremely fortunate to have both of you looking after our facilities at Erina Oval.

A special mention must also go to Ashley Roche for his work as club coach, Steve Selman for his support and work on the committee and Steve McCabe for his support and advice to the players both on and off the field. Their commitment to this club is outstanding.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who are responsible for sending off match details and other reporting requirements to the CCCA each week. Your timely response culminated in our club being named "Club of the Year" and your efforts are very much appreciated.

KINCUMBER-AVOCA CRICKET CLUB



Dan and Luke expressing their appreciation of “Sully” our Curator at Erina Oval

Sponsors

This year Kincumber-Avooca Cricket Club achieved outstanding success on the cricket field, and it is important that we recognize not only the performances of our players but also the contribution and special relationship we have with our sponsors. In particular Erina Leagues Club continues as our major sponsor and provides both financial and material support for our club. I would also like to thank McDonalds, Cheeky Charlies, Grill'd, PKF, Mave Services and all our sponsors whose support underpins our success on the field. I sincerely hope our relationship continues well into the future.

To the committee, players and supporters I hope you have had a very satisfying and rewarding season. Stay healthy and I look forward to seeing all of you next summer for another enjoyable season of cricket.

Yours in Cricket

John Buchanan
President KACC