

PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEASON 2020-2021

Season Highlights

This season our club and indeed the entire sporting community on the Central Coast were confronted by a number of challenges which had not been encountered in previous years. Covid, flooding and injuries to key players made it difficult for the Griffins to emulate the successes of 2019-2020. Notwithstanding these challenges the club enjoyed a very successful season both on and off the field. Five senior teams and the U21 side made the finals with our 8th Grade team taking out the championship.

Our junior teams also performed strongly with nine teams playing in the semi-final series and the U16 boys' team being crowned champions at the end of the season. This year, our Saturday morning Blasters Program was again a huge success and proved very popular with the families of our littlest Griffins. With over 100 registrations we had approximately 80 children playing Masters Blasters and 30 children playing in the Junior Blasters program.

This season also saw the introduction of the Toby Martin Scholarship which is awarded to a Junior member of our club who demonstrates courage, strength and a passion for the game of cricket.

It is also pleasing to report that our club remains in a very sound financial position which allowed us to substantially reduce our registration fees this season. With this in mind, I would particularly like to thank our Treasurer Danny Rowe and the Assistant Treasurer Susie McCarey for their professionalism and strategic oversight of our finances.

First Grade

Despite not making the play-offs this summer, a number of our players distinguished themselves by achieving personal milestones or being named in representative teams. Always a high achiever, Dylan Robertson was awarded the Alan Davidson Medal for 2020-2021 which is the highest individual award a player can achieve throughout the season. He also won the Frank Baxter Trophy for the Male Representative Cricketer of the Year and was named in the Central Coast Cricket Association's Team of the Year. Jack Heuston also had an outstanding season and was rewarded by being named the Male Zone Academy Award Winner.

First Grade Individual Award Winners

Batting: Dylan Robertson 315 Runs @ 21

Bowling: Dylan Robertson 29 Wickets @11.90

Fielding: Michael Drake 9 Catches, 3 stumpings

Player: Dylan Robertson 840 Points

Second Grade

It was only mother nature that could stop the best two-day team in the comp from taking out back-to-back championships. Following a strong showing throughout the season the reigning champions were defeated by the weather in the Preliminary Final. Although this was a disappointing end to the season there were a number of outstanding individual performances during the summer.

Once again Michael Pate was outstanding with the ball in hand. Although now in the veteran class Michael achieved the rare feat of taking ten wickets in a match against Wyong. Another veteran of the club to display his talent was Shaun Robertson who scored 103no in the semi-final against Terrigal. Does a season ever go by without Robbo making a ton?

It is also pleasing to note the development and skill of Bailey Lidgard. One of our most exciting prospects for a long time, at just 15 years of age Bailey not only cemented a spot in second grade but was awarded "The Bradman Cup Cricketer of the year trophy" as the most outstanding player in the Bradman series. Well done Bailey.

Second Grade Individual Award Winners

Batting: Shaun Robertson 210 Runs @ 30

Bowling: Luke Sullivan 19 Wickets @ 12.11

Fielding: Cameron Paterson 12 Catches, 1 Stumping, 1 Run Out

Player: Luke Sullivan 331 Points

Third Grade

Another of our sides to have their Grand Final determined by the weather, this team was a blend of youth and experience. Under the guidance of our club coach Ash Roche and the experienced Ben Campbell, the younger members of this squad were provided with the ideal environment to improve their skills and transition into the top grades. Juniors to benefit from time in this grade were Liam Roche, Safin Robertson and Jayden Birks. Although disappointing for them to not win the Grand-Final it won't be too long before these young Griffins break into the top two grades on a permanent basis.

Third Grade Individual Award Winners

Batting: Liam Roche 302 Runs @ 27.45

Bowling: Ashley Roche 17 Wickets 10.88

Fielding: Jarred Spurr 9 Catches,

Player: Ashley Roche 581 Points

Fourth Grade

After a number of lean years Aaron Wilson finally got the team he was after to challenge for the premiership and guided his side to a top four finish. The big improvers on last season, our fourth-grade team fought hard for their spot in the semi and although falling just seven runs short at the end can be proud of their efforts throughout the year.

Another of our teams to feature father and son combinations the squad produced some exciting cricket and showcased the talent of our younger Griffins. Nicholas Rowe and Jacob Degeling were outstanding with the bat while veterans Andrew McCrae and Peter Degeling were the pick of the bowlers.

Fourth Grade Individual Award Winners

Batting: Nicholas Rowe 271 Runs @ 24.64

Bowling: Andrew McCrae 20 Wickets @ 11.90

Fielding: Jude Hunter 11 Catches, 1 Run Out

Player: Andrew McCrae 549 Points

Fifth Grade

Although finishing down the table, this young side still managed to play some entertaining cricket during the season and produced several outstanding individual performances. The highlight of the season was no doubt the effort by Jarrod Ursem in a round four match against Terrigal when he scored a career high of 110no. Well done Jarrod. A fitting reward following years of hard work. Others who performed well include Craig Harvey and Harry McDiarmid.

Fifth Grade Individual Award Winners

Batting: Jarrod Ursem 286 Runs @ 23.83

Bowling: Harry McDiarmid 17 Wickets @17.65

Fielding: Jon Horsnell 9 catches 4 Stumpings 1 Run Out

Player: Harry McDiarmid 451 Points

Seventh Grade

After not losing a single match during the season, it was only the weather and bad luck in the semi-final that could prevent this young team from becoming premiers. Our seventh-grade side was outstanding during the season and it soon became apparent to other clubs that this was the team to beat if you wanted to win the premiership.

Unfortunately, a hiccup in the semi proved costly and the team ultimately missed out following a washout of the Grand Final. This team is a premiership team in waiting. Although difficult to single out any particular member of the squad several players distinguished themselves during the summer. Flynn Cernoy, Jonathon Boylan, Jack Thomson, Ryan Craig, Millar Elwin and Sam Cross all scored a half century with the bat, and Sam Cross and Millar Elwin were excellent with the ball.

Seventh Grade Individual Award Winners

Batting: Flynn Cernoy 349 Runs @ 26.85

Bowling: Elwin Millar 22 Wickets @ 4.55

Fielding: Jonathon L Boylan 14 Catches, 1 Stumping, 1 Runout

Player: Flynn Cernoy 589 Points

Eighth Grade

A big congratulations to our only senior grade premiers. This side of predominantly young Griffins played strongly all season to become Premiers in their division. Following on from a strong showing last year when they were runners up there was nothing that could stop this squad of talented cricketers being awarded the championship.

This season was also a watershed year for our junior development programme and provided the club with an opportunity to promote many of our juniors into senior grade cricket. Young players who made the most of their time in this grade include Lukas Horsnell, Lewis Gifford-Cock, Evan Campbell and Jonah Tewarti who was also awarded the CCA 8th Grade District Batting award. With young players coming through the grades like those in this team, the future of our club is assured.

Comprised of mostly young Griffins a key factor in the success of this team was the stability and guidance provided to the team by senior members of the squad. Club stalwarts Craig Horsnell and Travis Cock played an outstanding role in organising and leading the team both on and off the field. Other senior members who played well and exemplified the spirit of cricket were Adrian Schultz, Michael Barling and Chris Sellars.

Congratulations to this team on their outstanding year of cricket.

Eighth Grade Individual Award Winners

Batting: Chris Sellars 371 Runs @ 41.22

Bowling: Travis Cock 19 Wickets @ 11.79

Fielding: Lewis Gifford-Cock 7 Catches, 3 Run Outs

Player: Jonah. W. Tewaiti 534 Points

Women's Team

Whilst not reaching the play-offs this season our women's playing group performed well and showed determination and spirit in every match they played. Although not as successful as in previous seasons, the women's team were well prepared and never short of effort come game day. According to Veronica Brown, the Women's Co-ordinator for the coast, "this year provided a platform for development and a promise of greater things to come next summer". It was also encouraging to see some of our younger Griffins do well this season and talented players such as Sophie McCrae were outstanding throughout the year.

Women's Team Individual Award Winners

Batting: Sarah Perkins 170 Runs @ 34

Bowling: Sophie McCrae 7 Wickets @ 29

Fielding: Sophie McCrae 2 Catches, 3 Run Outs

Player: Sophie McCrae 250 Points

Under 21's Glenn Rowlands Shield

Although going down to a very determined Southern Spirit team in the semi-final our U21 squad played some entertaining cricket throughout the year. Attempting a rare feat of three premierships in a row our side fell just six runs short on the day. Nevertheless, these lads represented the club well and distinguished themselves as a team of champions. Unchallenged as the best player in the series, Tom Hibbert was outstanding throughout the year and was a worthy recipient of the Central Coast Cricket Association's U21's Champion of the Year award. Well done Tom.

U 21's Glenn Rowlands Shield Individual Award Winners

Batting: Tom Hibbert 155 Runs

Bowling: Tom Hibbert 12 Wickets @ 6.83

Fielding: Michael Drake 5 Catches, 6 Stumpings & 2 RO

Player: Tom Hibbert 345 Points

Junior Cricket

Congratulations and well done to all our juniors who represented the Griffins this season. This summer, our junior development program continued our long history of producing young cricketers who have not only developed their skill levels but also a love of the game. A central tenet of the program is to foster enjoyment and provide a safe environment for our children which is supported by our club and their families.

The 2020-21 season was very memorable and rewarding for our juniors. With over 300 players registered across 22 junior teams, our junior Griffins made the semis in ten grades taking out a well-deserved premiership in the U16 competition. These achievements by our young Griffins culminated in our club being awarded the CCCA Junior Club Championship for 2020-21.

Again, this season our “Blasters Program” was a huge success and remains very popular amongst the families of our littlest Griffins. With over 100 children registered in the program, we had approximately 75 Master Blasters playing organised matches and 27 Junior Blasters participating in games relevant for skill enhancement. Rod Ursem is the organiser of this program and his work is outstanding and very much appreciated by the club.

As in past seasons, the success of our junior development program is dependent on our volunteers and families participating as coaches, managers, scorers and organisers and I would like to thank this group of people for their efforts throughout the season. Amongst this group, it would be remiss if I did not make special mention of the people who laid the foundation for our success and I would particularly like to thank Paul Cutting, Rod Ursem, Veronica Brown, Ben Campbell, Roy Latham and Stephen Milne for organising our junior program.

Daniel Heuston, Luke Sullivan, Dylan Robertson and others assisted with grading and or coaching throughout the season. The support of our juniors from our first and second grade teams will galvanise our club over the coming seasons – long may it continue.

Ashley Roche and Glen Giddings established the Griffin Academy which was a six-week program to assist in the development of some of our older juniors and the feedback from players and parents was overwhelmingly positive so I’m sure the Academy will be back next season.

This season saw the introduction of the Toby Martin Scholarship. Toby Martin was a Kincumber Junior who passed away in July 2020 after a being diagnosed with leukaemia in October 2018. Toby’s love of cricket was immense, as was his courage, strength and perseverance. Toby undertook every treatment available and continued to play cricket when he was well enough to do so.

Toby had a strong sense of community and social justice. In memory of Toby, his family generously agreed to provide a scholarship to a junior that has a passion for cricket, observes the spirit of the game and demonstrates the qualities of courage, strength and determination.

With support from Kookaburra Sport, Geoff and Christina at the Central Coast Cricket Academy, the Martin Family and our Club, we are proud to have introduced a scholarship that includes; Registration Fees, a Kookaburra Kit and private coaching from Geoff Drury at Central Coast Cricket Academy.

A big thank you must also go to our junior club sponsors; Creighton's Funeral Services, and the McDonalds stores at Kincumber and Erina. The contribution by our Blasters and individual team sponsors is also highly valued and our club would like to thank Coastline Air Conditioning, CitiCoast Shower Screens, Elden Street Medical, Kincumber Indoor Sports, Mave Services, Sully's Property Maintenance, Magri Building, Priceline Pharmacy, Fairlite Plastics, Numeric Accounting & Advisory and Green Design.

I would also like to thank Stephanie Lavery, Ian Moad, Rod Masters our BBQ Chefs and Lyn and Steve Sullivan for their work in the canteen and ground maintenance. Nick Rowe and Oliver Humphreys were also excellent coaches of our Blasters Program.

Junior Award Winners 2020-2021

Player of the Year:	Bailey Lidgard
Encouragement Award:	Rory Campbell
Non-Comp Encouragement Award:	Ari Mutokoyi
Intermediate Player of the Year:	Hugh Wheeler
Intermediate Encouragement Award:	Liam Hore
Female Junior Cricketer of the Year:	Sophie McCrae
Veronica Brown Girls Non-Comp Encouragement Award:	Narthana Sivasampavan
Toby Martin Scholarship:	Archie Pulley

Blasters Award Winners 2020-2021

Girls Encouragement Award:	Ava Knight
Boys Encouragement Award:	Joshua James.

District Awards

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

- 8th Grade Batting Award – Jonah Tewarti 379 Runs @ 34.45

Committee and Supporters

In a season in which Covid has again thrown up many obstacles to the traditional way in which cricket is played, I would like to thank all coaches, captains, organisers and players for their vigilance and commitment to our Covid Safe Plan. Although challenging at times, the requirements of our Covid Plan were introduced to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our players and all those who are involved in the game of cricket.

Over the past season it has again been my privilege to work with a dedicated group of people who volunteer and generously give their time to ensure our club is successful both on and off the field. In particular I would like to highlight the work of vice-president Ben Campbell whose commitment, dedication and tireless work for our club is exceptional. Ben is the perfect conduit between our playing group and the committee and his work and advice is very much appreciated.

During the season our club has also been well served by our secretary Veronica Brown who co-ordinates all our activities and links with the CCCA. Veronica is a strong advocate for women's cricket on the coast and her work at club and district level is outstanding. Another hard-working member of our team is Treasurer Danny Rowe. Danny's integrity and professionalism underpins the financial success of our club and his determination to ensure that all players are financial and correctly registered is much appreciated. I would also like to thank our Assistant Treasurer Susie McCarey whose hard work during the year does not go unnoticed.

One of the success stories of the year has been the development of our Cricket Academy. Ashley Roche who is our club coach has provided the determination and drive necessary to expand our junior program and establish the Academy. Ashley is an asset to our club and with his involvement positive outcomes from our junior development programs are assured.

It is also my pleasure to mention the outstanding work that Steve and Lynn Sullivan contribute to our club on a continuing basis. Although the weather played havoc with the pitch this summer Steve worked tirelessly to ensure that Erina Oval remained a premier venue for cricket on the coast. Both Steve and Lynn also worked hard in the canteen, a job which was made all the more difficult this season by Covid.



KINCUMBER-AVOOCA CRICKET CLUB



To the general members of our committee, Steve Milne, Steve McCabe, Luke Sullivan and Daniel Heuston, thank you for your contribution and support. I would also like to give a big shout out to our Patrons Ian Moad and Rod Masters for their advice, development and guardianship of our club culture.

Sponsors

Our club remains in a sound financial position this season and it is due in part to our numerous sponsors. In particular, Erina Leagues Club continues as our major sponsor who provides not only financial support but also important amenities when needed by our club. I would also like to thank McDonalds, PKF, Mave Services, Grill'd and our many sponsors for their continued support. Without your help it would be difficult to achieve the high standards we set for the club each year.

To the committee, players and supporters I hope you had a most enjoyable and satisfying season of cricket and I look forward to seeing you next summer.

Yours in Cricket
John Buchanan
President KACC