



TWO BLUE TRIBUNE

The official organ of the Newtown and Chilwell Cricket Club Inc.

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Gilesy and Hart take out major honors

Mark Giles and Scott Mullen took out the major club awards at last week's Presentation evening at the George & Dragon.

Mark Giles took out a second consecutive Jim Perry Trophy as the club's most valuable playing member while President Scott Mullen was awarded the Syd Johnston Clubman's trophy.

In other presentation night highlights Mark Turnley won the Vic Profitt Trophy for contribution to the juniors, Tim Sanderson the Ted Hood Trophy for clubmanship and playing ability in the juniors while the inaugural Vin Hassett Medal and Greg Wells Medal were presented to First XI average winners John Rees (batting) and Simon Rau (bowling) respectively. Read on for all the season's awards.

Blues honor two greats

Club greats Vin Hassett and Greg Wells were last night recognised for their outstanding contributions with two new awards struck in their honor.

The legendary Vin Hassett and the great Greg Wells were honored at last week's presentation night at the George & Dragon with the inaugural presentation of the Vin Hassett Medal to the winner of the First XI batting average and the Greg Wells Medal for the bowling average winner.

The two club champions have made magnificent playing and non playing contributions over 45 seasons.

Vincent Xavier Hassett

8640 runs @ 34.29 in 219 matches over 23 seasons
(11 as captain)

89 wickets and 17 centuries

Winner of First XI batting average 9 times

3 First XI premierships

N&CCC team of the century Captain.

Gregory Phillip Wells

574 First XI wickets @ 14.82 (GCA record) in 253 matches over 22 seasons Total of 727 club wickets and 8025 runs @ 23.4

9 First XI premierships - 13 club

Winner First XI bowling average 9 times.

N&CCC team of the century. GCA team of the century.

The inaugural Vin Hassett Medal went to John Rees with 516 runs @ 39.69 while Simon Rau won the Greg Wells Medal with 28 wickets @ 18.71

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The wrap up of season 2005/06



Geelong Cricket Association

Under 15 Emond premiers 2005/06

Under 15 Trezise premiers 2005/06

Under 13 Royce premiers 2005/06

Under 13 Dawber premiers 2005/06

District Seconds premiers 2005/06



The memory of the barren season of 2004/05 has been wiped away with only could be described as “ The Fairy Tale of Premierships” by the Second XI. With all sides being competitive in season 2005/06 the ground work has been laid for some hard work and success over the coming seasons. The First XI showed what it is capable of by beating the top three sides and all sides showed they were worthy finals contenders. A huge influx of new players (38 made their club debut in 506) has breathed new life, with a group of talented youngsters keen to push up the ranks over in the coming years. The challenge is there for the Club to hold onto the 113 players that took the field this year, snare some quality recruits and nurture our youngsters to set up a new Club dynasty.

Go for IT Two Blues!



Two Blue Scoreboard grand final



SECONDS defeated East Belmont at Lara Reserve

**RESULT – won the premiership
by 3 wickets**

Umpires – G. Fazen & R. Ravi

East Belmont 166

Won the toss and batted.

J. McDonald	c R. Mitchell b S. Mullen	14
S. Patten	c R. Mitchell b J. Parker	5
M. Spencer	c J. Bottomley b J. Parker	12
J. Teal	c C. Hadfield b J. Parker	1
D. Fiolet	stpd C. Hadfield b I. Hastie	24
J. Diery	bowled L. Sharry	19
G. Caulfield	not out	48
C. Totton	lbw S. Mullen	4
R. McDonald	lbw I. Hastie	20
L. Fraser	lbw S. Mullen	6
P. Griffiths	run out (L. Sharry)	0
	Extras	13
82.4 overs	TOTAL	all out 166
FOW: 20, 20, 25, 38, 78, 83, 90, 122, 160, 166.		
Bowling: Scott Mullen 23/8/3/30		
Jody Parker		20/9/3/37
Luke Sharry		18.4/5/1/58
Ian Hastie		18/10/2/17
Darren Fleet		2/0/0/13
Yves Roussety		1/1/0/0

Newtown & Chilwell 7/168

Russell Mitchell	run out	34
Tim Clark	bowled M. Spencer	4
Yves Roussety	c J. Diery b J. Teal	33
Darren Fleet	c & b P. Griffiths	20
Ian Hastie	c Totton b M. Spencer	14
Rhys Bennett	lbw M. Spencer	26
Jimmy Bottomley	not out	19
Luke Sharry	bowled G. Caulfield	3
Jody Parker	not out	9
Scott Mullen	dnb	
Chris Hadfield	dnb	
	Extras	6
56.4 overs	TOTAL	7 for 168
FOW: 5, 56, 84, 135, 140, 143.		
Bowling: M. Spencer 13/2/3/51, R. McDonald 4/0/0/21, G. Caulfield 15/3/1/40, L. Fraser 8.4/1/0/17, J. Teal 9/2/1/17, P. Griffiths 8/3/1/17.		

SECONDS BLACK ANT

Bill Lawry would put the microphone to his lip and say: All you young cricketers out there watching should take notice of this and learn from it.

A few weeks ago, a bloke stood on our sacred ground at Queens Park and screamed out: "Season's over ****s!"

On Sunday the same bloke stood, a crestfallen figure if ever there was one, among his dishevelled mates, well non-mates if you listen to the way Dog tells it. And to their everlasting credit, not one Newtown player, and not one Newtown supporter, did what they were perfectly entitled to do and scream back: "Season's over ****!" As ever, the scoreboard remains the most eloquent thing in sport, along with the sight of the red, yellow and black ribbon holding that chunk of metal around your neck.

The numbers brought back, literally too, from Lara sounded like Bryan Brown doing Shakespeare – we few, we happy few, we band of brothers, so get that up yer!

Premierships are for life, especially one earned this way – an outright just to get into the semi-finals, then a first up game against the ****, oops, minor premiers.

Over the course of the semi-finals, six long days of nerves, guts, sweat, groin rash, Nurofen-killed pain, avoiding Boof's throws at training, every bloke muscled in to do something for his team-mates. No wonder the captain had more than sweat running down his cheeks after Jimmy Bottomley had serenely stroked the winning runs and people began behaving like Dervishes all over Lara.

To really savour over the celebratory beers there was: Rhysie's half-century in the first semi; Budget's Michelle (Pfeiffer, 5-for, get it?) in the second; Scottie in every match;

Battler's stratospheric six and Yves' brave knock in the final; James Bottomley's stunning catch and Hadder's leg-side stumping; Jodie thinking he's the new Keith Miller, Dog's 42 and his mind-games against Joey's; Ian Hastie being Ian all the time and the skipper – always insisting, always believing, in the words of the great Spofforth "this thing can be done".

A match report might seem surplus to requirements, but it should be noted that asked to bowl first in demanding conditions, Scott and Jodie performed magnificently. Barely had text messages bearing tales of wickets reached the receiver before another had to be sent. It could – should – have been 5-39 and game over. But instead the target was 167 as the minor premier did what you would expect a minor premier to do, guts it out. Of course one bloke in the middle order could – should – have done better, but no way was that going to be allowed to happen. Again, only silence as he trudged back to his no-mates for no-score, the scoreboard doing all the shouting. Innings over ****!

The run-chase was never that easy. Battler threatened mayhem but then got run out. Yves pushed solidly through the sledges like a bull-dozer through a pile of horse manure. Fleetie ran and dived and got the target under 100 before Rhys took eight, a precious, tension relieving two fours, off the last over before break. Eck, conceding nothing, put his front foot so far down the wicket it almost reached Werribee. Then the precious partnership, Bottomley and Parker, Jodie's cute cover drives for two, then the greyhound dashes for one, then Jimmy's nerveless stroke of glory.

Then, as they had ached to do all day, grown men dashed to the centre to form a human Stonehenge and sing an ancient refrain. Which, in the end, when you think about, was a longer, more passionate, more exhilarating version of "season's over ****s, celebrating time has just begun – for us!





Honour roll 2005/06 Win/Loss ratio

	Played	won	lost	drawn	Ladder position
First XI	15	6#	7	2	9th of 16
Second XI	18	11#	6	1	PREMIERS
Third XI	17	11	5	1	3rd of 16
Fourth XI	17	13#	3	1	3rd of 16
Fifth XI	13	8	5	-	5th of 12
Sixth XI	18	11	6	1	3rd of 8
TOTAL	98	60	32	6	88 club championship points = 5th place

61.22% won 32.65% lost

won one game outright

Centuries (13)

Chris Hocking	124 in the 4ths versus Geelong West in round 1
Stuart Day	101 in the 4ths versus Torquay in round 2
Adam Lavars	105 in the 3rds versus St Josephs in round 7
Adam Lavars	123 in the 3rds versus Highton in round 8
Colin Cunliffe	100 in the 4ths versus Grovedale in round 9
Aaron Croft	100 not out in the 1sts versus Geelong City in round 11
Andrew Henderson	103 not out in the 3rds versus Geelong City in round 11
Darren Fleet	100 not out in the 2nds versus East Belmont in rd 14
Tim Clark	101 not out in the 2nds versus Newcomb rd 15
Adam Lavars	100 in the 3rds versus Newcomb in round 15
Rhys Bennett	152 not out in the 3rds versus Newcomb in round 15
Steve Lewis	122 in the 4ths versus St Peters in qual final
Andrew Henderson	144 not out in the 3rds versus Nth G'ong in qual final

5 or more wickets in an inning (14)

Blake Anderson	5 for 28 in the 3rds versus Geelong West in round 1
Matt Suvoltos	7 for 46 in the 2nds versus North G'long in round 5
Warwick Hadfield	5 for 49 in the 5ths versus Geelong City in round 3
Jody Parker	6 for 23 in the 1sts versus Bell Post Hill in round 6
Barry Tsitas	5 for 87 in the 1sts versus St Josephs in round 7
Darren Fleet	5 for 25 in the 2nds versus St Josephs in round 7
Andrew Henderson	5 for 12 in the 4ths versus East Belmont in round 14
Barry Tsitas	6 for 81 in the 1sts versus East Belmont in round 14
Jackson Davis	5 for 38 in the 5ths versus South Barwon in round 11
Scott Mullen	7 for 39 in the 2nds versus East Belmont in round 14
Scott Mullen	6 for 15 in the 2nds versus Newcomb in round 15
Simon Rau	5 for 53 in the 1sts versus Newcomb in round 15
Scott Mullen	5 for 35 in the 2nds versus East Belmont in qual final
Luke Sharry	5 for 18 in the 2nds versus St Josephs in semi final

Partnerships

159 runs for the 3rd wicket by Chris Hocking (124) & Stuart Day (56) versus Geelong West 3rds on 1/10/05.
 110 runs for the 3rd wicket by Stuart Day (101) & Andrew Henderson (20) versus Torquay 4ths on 8/10/05.
 109 runs for the 1st wicket by Russell Mitchell (60) & Ian Hastie (62no) versus Thomson 2nds on 15/10/05.
 100 runs for the 8th wicket by Luke Sharry (60) & Frank Tuskes versus South Barwon 3rds on 22/10/05 – a **Third XI record partnership**.
 105 runs for the 3rd wicket by Adam Lavars (105) & Jamie Pescott (47) versus St Josephs 3rds on 26/11/05.
 115 runs for the 2nd wicket by Chris Hocking (77) & Jimmy Duff (39) versus St Josephs 4ths on 26/11/05.
 110 runs for the 7th wicket by Jimmy Bottomley (96) & Matt Jackson (33) versus Grovedale 2nds on 18/12/05.
 113 runs for the 2nd wicket by Colin Cunliffe (100) & Andrew Green (85) versus Grovedale 4ths on 18/12/05.
 103 runs for the 5th wicket by Simon Pearce (54) & Rod Kiddle (61) versus Leopold 1sts on 5/02/06.
 141 runs for the 1st wicket by Andrew Green (80) & Andrew Henderson (51) versus Leopold 4ths on 4/02/06.
 102 runs for the 2nd wicket by Chris Hocking (94) & Phil Morgan (32) versus Leopold 5ths on 4/02/06.
 103 runs for the 4th wicket by Dev Royce (66) & Neville Crane (44) versus Leopold 5ths 2nds on 4/02/06.
 104 runs for the 1st wicket by Russell Mitchell (58) & Tim Clark (46) versus Newcomb & District on 4/03/06.
 152 runs for the 3rd wicket by Adam Lavars (100) & Rhys Bennett (152 not out) versus Newcomb & District 3rds on 4/03/06.
 120 runs for the 2nd wicket by Andrew Henderson (144 not out) & Jamie Pescott (46) versus North Geelong on 11/03/06 in qualifying final.

Milestones

Hayden Clarke played his 150th match for the club in round 1.
Adam O'Connor scored his 3000th club run in round.
Ian Hastie took his 200th club wicket in round 3.
Michael Cox took his 150th club wicket in round 3.
Mark Turnley made his 1000th run in round 1.
Stuart Day made his 3000th run in round 6.
Scott Mullen took his 50th wicket in round 7.
Jimmy Bottomley played his 50th match in round 9.
James Hadfield took his 50th wicket in round 11.
Matt Jackson played his 50th match in round 12.
Adam Lavars made his 2000th run in round 13.
Adam Patching played his 50th match in round 13.
Barry Tsitas took his 100th wicket in round 15.

Chris Hocking made his 1000th run and 50th catch in round 4
Ryan Hickey made his 1000th run in round 3
Mark Giles took his 50th wicket in round 5.
Paul Marinelli played his 50th match in round 7.
Nick Richardson played his 50th match in round 8.
Stuart Day played his 150th match in round 7.
Andrew Green scored his 2000th run in round 7.
Brendan Twaddle took his 50th club wicket in round 9.
Simon Rau took his 150th wicket in round 12.
Darren Fleet played his 100th game in round 12.
Tyronne Casbault took his 50th wicket in round 13.
Tim Clark passed the 3000 run mark in round 14.
Les Sanderson took his 50th club wicket in round 16.

Outstanding Performances

Adam Lavars made successive centuries in the Thirds with 105 in the 3rds versus St Josephs in round 7 and 123 in the 3rds versus Highton in round 8. He followed up with a third century (100) in round 15 against Newcomb & District and finished the season with 710 runs at 50.71.

The **Third XI** set a new team record score of 7 for 408 against Newcomb & District on 11/03/06. Rhys Bennett 152 not out, Adam Lavars 100.

The **Junior section** of the club claimed four premierships during season 2005/06 by winning the two top levels of under 15 and under 13 competitions.

Grant Whiteside took four stumpings in the one innings against St Peters Fourths in the qualifying final.

Catching records were equalled by **Russell Mitchell** (16 in the 2nds), **Adam O'Connor** (12 in the 3rds) and **Ty Casbault** (11 in the 4ths) and **Chris Hadfield** set a new wicketkeeping record of 28 in the 2nds.

Average Winners 2005/06

Vin Hassett Medal	First XI	batting	John Rees	516 runs @ 39.69
Greg Wells Medal		bowling	Simon Rau	28 wickets @ 18.71
	Second XI	batting	Ian Hastie	416 runs @ 37.82
		bowling	Scott Mullen	33 wickets @ 9.27
	Third XI	batting	Adam Lavars	710 runs @ 50.71
		bowling	Adam Lavars	18 wickets @ 17.39
	Fourth XI	batting	Andrew Green	309 runs @ 38.63
		bowling	Tyronne Casboul	37 wickets @ 10.51
	Fifth XI	batting	Neville Crane	211 runs @ 19.18
		bowling	Warwick Hadfield	20 wickets @ 16.1
	Sixth XI	batting	Jason Connelly	290 runs @ 72.5
		bowling	Mark Turnley	19 wickets @ 12.37

Note average qualifications; Batting – 8 matches, 6 innings 200 runs. Bowling; 8 matches, 15 wickets, 60 overs.

Captain's Awards

First XI This year's Captain's award for the Firsts goes to a guy who was willing to put in more to improve his cricket by doing the extra sessions on off nights and at training. In scoring over 500 runs as an opening bat, and therefore winning the Club's First XI batting average, he became one of the quality players of the competition averaging 39.69. Congratulations **John Rees**.

Second XI Second's award goes to a bloke who had to work really hard to turn his season around. He wasn't playing good cricket and after speaking to him he gave me a guarantee that his workload and commitment would double. My decision was made on a very wet Tuesday night when we had moved inside to have a drink, I looked outside the front door of the club rooms to see his father hitting him catches in the pouring rain. From that moment his season had turned, he started moving well, some of the catches that he took were amazing and his season peaked with a legside stumping off Ian Hastie in a victorious grand final.....

This year's Captain's award for the Seconds goes to **Chris Hadfield**.

Third XI This is always a very difficult award to give and this season was no exception. Throughout season 2005/2006 I have, as captain, had great support from all players and can comfortably say that every single player that represented the Third XI stood proud for the club and also themselves.

As such it made this difficult decision all the more arduous. However it still must be awarded and one individual has performed outstandingly this year and it is on that criteria have awarded my captain's award to **Adam Lavars**.

Adam's season is truly outstanding, 710 runs at an average of 50.71, 3 centuries with a high score of 123. Although not thrown the ball often early in the season when time came for Adam to bowl again he performed excellently 18 wickets at 17.39. His fielding was also outstanding collecting 9 catches (and a stumping) and stopping immeasurable runs with athletic dives and aggression to the ball. His support to not only myself, his team mates and the team's objectives were also unquestionable.

I congratulate Adam on receiving my captain's award and hope that in season 2006/2007 he makes a commitment to the club, but also to himself to realize the full potential of his abilities in the turf grades.

Fourth XI **Brett Bentley**. Thanks to Brett for all of his help throughout the year. For doing extra things like, setting up tables and chairs, putting up umbrellas, and making phone calls when extra players were needed. Brett has made my job easier and I thank him for that.

Fifth XI **James Purcell**, in his first year with the club, improved enormously behind the stumps, topping the club for stumpings. He never complained about his low place in the batting order, where his job was to save us, which he did many times. Off the field, he was quick to help out, doing the little and big things that make a captain's life easier.

Sixth XI **Andrew Bishop** was a welcomed Club, and cricket, debutant at the mildly mature age of 42. From a decorated football background Bish joined his son Campbell in their first season at Newtown. A natural sportsman, his initial plan was to play a few games with his son, however, his interest and form improved dramatically as the season and good times continued. A valuable opening bowler who is encouraging and enthusiastic in the field, he is a great example for the many juniors in the sixths. Bish was a vital assistant to his captain on game day doing more than his fair share of umpiring without complaining, he was also a great supporter of under 15/Sixths training where he was a willing participant in all drills. A great addition to the club as a genuine club person and worthy recipient of the Sixth Eleven Captain's award.

Club awards 2005/06

Major award winners

JIM PERRY TROPHY for the Most Valuable Playing Member
- Mark Giles

SYD JOHNSTON MEMORIAL CLUBMAN'S TROPHY
- Scott Mullen

VIC PROFITT MEMORIAL TROPHY for Contribution to the Juniors
- Mark Turnley

TED HOOD MEMORIAL TROPHY
for Clubmanship and Playing Ability in the Juniors
- Tim Sanderson

J."Fred" CRELLIN DOUBLE WICKET CHAMPIONSHIP
- Simon Pearce & Paul Marinelli

JAMES FAIRNIE PERPETUAL TROPHY
as presented to the best performed team in the Club
- Under 13 Dawber (as coached by Graeme Chisholm)



GCA batting averages were won by **Adam Lavars** with 672 runs @ 56 in the Thirds
Jason Connelly with 257 runs @ 85.67 in the Sixths
Rod Kiddle was awarded the Glenn Ward Medal for best player of the VCCL Country Week carnival.

SOCIAL AWARDS

The Platypus – Ty Casbault

G.J.Donovan “Duck Award” – Adam Wiseman

Piston Can't Stand Up Award – Adam Wiseman

Boris Jarvis Rat Shit Cup – Darren Fleet

Bruce Scriven Iron Gloves Award – Brett Bentley

“Flaker” Wrestling Belt – Mick Kelson & Hayden Clarke

“The Golden Ed” Karaoke Award – James Lewis

The “Roo” Award – Adam Patching

Worst Bat to Make a Score – Luke Sharry

Worst Bowler to Take a Wicket – Tim Clark

Stephen Lunn “Flotsam, Jetsam” Award – Simon Rau

2005/06 Top 10 sponsored by



Batting 2005/06

Adam LAVARS	710 @ 50.71
Rhys BENNETT	621 @ 34.5
Russell MITCHELL	600 @ 31.58
John REES	516 @ 39.69
Darren FLEET	505 @ 31.56
Chris HOCKING	490 @ 44.55
Ian HASTIE	424 @ 35.33
Andrew GREEN	408 @ 37.09
Andrew HENDERSON	406 @ 29
Josh GRABOWSKI	405 @ 33.75
Steven LEWIS	403 @ 31
Rodney KIDDLE	396 @ 33
Colin CUNLIFFE	394 @ 28.14
Michael KELSON	366 @ 33.27
Stuart DAY	364 @ 26
Jamie PESCOTT	358 @ 23.87
Aaron CROFT	351 @ 35.1
Tim CLARK	324 @ 32.4
Adam O'CONNOR	313 @ 18.41
Simon PEARCE	301 @ 33.44

Bowling 2005/06

Scott MULLEN	45 @ 10.67
Tyronne CASBOULT	38 @ 11.18
Barry TSITAS	37 @ 22.81
Simon RAU	30 @ 18.43
Jody PARKER	28 @ 15.5
Andrew HENDERSON	27 @ 13.67
Darren FLEET	24 @ 17.25
Jason CLARK	24 @ 18.21
Luke SHARRY	23 @ 19.04
Matt SUVOLTOS	23 @ 16.87
Mark TURNLEY	21 @ 12.29
Ian HASTIE	21 @ 18.09
James RATCLIFFE	20 @ 10.3
Warwick HADFIELD	20 @ 16.1
Matthew JACKSON	20 @ 19.3
Brett BENTLEY	18 @ 16.94
Adam LAVARS	18 @ 17.39
Mark GILES	18 @ 17.39
Adam WISEMAN	17 @ 22.24
Sam CONNELLY	16 @ 16.38
Andrew BISHOP	16 @ 22.88
Blake ANDERSON	16 @ 29

Catches 2005/06

Chris HADFIELD	28
Russell MITCHELL	16
Adam O'CONNOR	12
Mark TURNLEY	12
Tyronne CASBOULT	12
Steven LEWIS	11
Matt SUVOLTOS	11
James PURCELL	11
Yves ROUSSEY	10
Josh GRABOWSKI	10
Ian HASTIE	9
Adam LAVARS	9
Michael KELSON	9
Jamie PESCOTT	9

Stumpings 2005/06

Grant WHITESIDE	10
James PURCELL	9
Michael KELSON	7
Steven LEWIS	5
Chris HADFIELD	2
Adam LAVARS	1

Player of the Season

Adam LAVARS	1204
Darren FLEET	865
Barry TSITAS	852
Andrew HENDERSON	806
Tyronne CASBOULT	780
Ian HASTIE	767
Scott MULLEN	764
Chris HOCKING	729
Russell MITCHELL	708
Matt SUVOLTOS	700
Mark TURNLEY	671
John REES	656
Rhys BENNETT	625
Simon RAU	612
Jody PARKER	598
Rodney KIDDLE	586
Jamie PESCOTT	557
Michael KELSON	556
Luke SHARRY	551
Simon PEARCE	546

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**CURRENT AGL
GRASSROOTS POWERPLAY**



Josh Barnes' Victorian Bushrangers Magazine

For most 11-year old children, sport is an essential and enjoyable part of daily life. For Geelong youngster Josh Barnes it's more than that – sport is his life.



So much so that the Under 13 Newtown and Chilwell cricketer has gone to the trouble of producing his very own Victorian Bushrangers Magazine, an achievement that has won him the latest AGL Grassroots Powerplay.

Josh has put together four magazines this season that centre on all things Bushrangers, including match reviews, player profiles and "Factorama's". Josh also uses his magazine to comment on current cricket issues, including the selection of the Bushrangers.

This is the first year Josh has put together his 8-page Bushrangers magazine, something he enjoys doing as he follows the Bushrangers fortunes throughout the season.

His final magazine of the season focuses on the upcoming Pura Cup final against Queensland starting at the 'Gabba on Friday. Highlights include:

Keep Nannes!

Western Australia's coach Wayne Clark says that Dirk Nannes could be vital at the 'Gabba. The left armed quick is 'a real ace' according to Clark, but this raises a problem.

With Mick Lewis not included in the test squad in South Africa, Denton bowling well and Harwood showing all-round ability what happens now?

Could Victoria say to Jewell or Hussey you're not in the Pura Cup final team although you've played all season? Only time will tell. 12 players for 11 spots is a selection drama!

Factorama!

Queensland has lost the last three Pura Cup finals. They lost in 2004/05 when Stuart MacGill scored the winning runs for New South Wales, the 2003/04 final to Victoria and 2002/03 final to New South Wales again!

As well as being an avid Bushrangers fan, Josh also has some personal cricket milestones that his father David says are quite impressive.

"His major cricket highlight was playing on the MCG as part of the Milo Have A Go program on the same night Michael Bevan scored a ton against New Zealand a couple of years ago," Mr Barnes said.

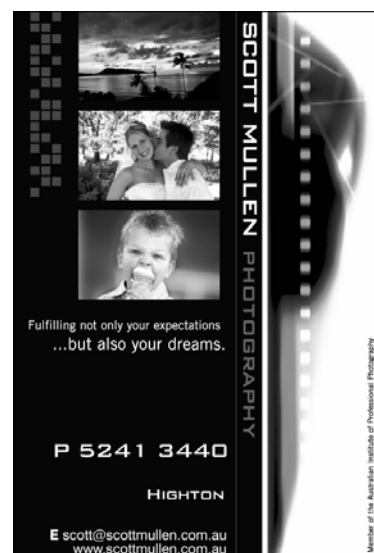
Josh's passion for cricket does not end there. The Newtown and Chilwell under 13 player also volunteers for the club's disability team in the Barwon Region Disability League.

"Josh is a vital component of the team, acting as a 'ghost fielder' by providing the legs and hands for our wheelchair and other participants," Mr Barnes said.

Looking forward to the Pura Cup final in Brisbane, what is Josh's prediction for his beloved Bushrangers?

"I think the Bushrangers will have a big win and Captain Cameron White will be man of the match," said Josh.

For winning this round's AGL Grassroots Powerplay, Josh wins \$100 from AGL and signed Bushrangers cricket bat.





LOOKING AHEAD: Geelong's Blake Anderson has celebrated his 16th birthday, 14 years after he almost lost his leg and his life. Photo: ALISON WYND

Teenager celebrates the miracle of life

DANIEL BREEN

BLAKE Anderson is a walking miracle.

His parents did not expect him to live to see his third birthday when the then-toddler contracted neuroblastoma, a form of cancer that spread through the whole body.

Having diagnosed Blake with a different form of cancer, doctors planned to amputate Blake's leg to prevent cancer cells from spread-

ing to the rest of his tiny body.

These days it is hard to stop the 16-year-old, who said his rough start to life had failed to restrict any of his every-day activities. But it was only a stroke of luck that allowed the youngster to keep his leg and receive the experimental treatment that kept him alive.

Blake's father, Peter Anderson, said a Royal Children's Hospital orthopaedic surgeon, who was visiting the Ge-

elong Hospital, intervened when doctors made their diagnosis and organised for Blake to attend the RCH for further testing and treatment.

"Just by luck that day there was a consulting orthopaedic surgeon from the Royal Children's Hospital down. He had a look at Blake and said he wasn't convinced with the diagnosis and he was the one that took him out, so he had a week of more tests and they came up with a different diag-

nosis," Mr Anderson said.

"It was cancer but a different type of cancer and instead of being just in his leg, where it was presenting, it was right through his body."

Mr Anderson said doctors took healthy marrow from Blake's spine before chemotherapy and injected it back into his body to promote recovery.

"Even when he was diagnosed at the Children's, they only gave

him a 5 per cent chance of survival, so he was very lucky that his body reacted well to the new type of treatment they used."

Blake, now 16, said he owed his life to the Royal Children's Hospital. He still returns to the hospital to visit young children with the disease he fought off and to have his yearly check-ups.

The St Joseph's College Year 11 student encouraged everyone to give generously during next week's Good Friday Appeal.

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