

David Penny

BLUE & GOLD

RINGWOOD CRICKET CLUB THROUGH THE YEARS

1951-1960
Penny

AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

A Club, formed in 1901, and performing under what we would probably consider primitive conditions, progressed so well that it is now a respected member of the Victorian Cricket Association District Cricket scene.

This achievement didn't just happen. It came about because many people, working together set their sights high, on and off the field, and this Club has now reached the ultimate goal.

My story is intended as a tribute to the pioneers of the Club, and those who through the later years maintained the high standards set. Some historical data about Ringwood itself is included, with details of certain games, performances and anecdotes on players and perhaps umpires. Hopefully the reader will get some enjoyment, and may be inspired to support this Club, which is fully deserving of all the help it can obtain.

1901 - 1910

Where shoppers now scurry through the busy Eastland Shopping Complex was once the site of many thrilling cricket struggles. The Ringwood Recreation Reserve. This is how the Box Hill Reporter saw it in 1909:

"The situation of the Reserve at the foot of Pine Mountain (Loughnan's Hill) gives it a natural beauty, and the perfumes of the gums, Wattle and heath, give to it the fragrance of the Australian bush".

Although Ringwood Cricket Club was founded in 1901, very little of their activities is known for this period and, in fact, our story really begins in 1905 when as the 'Imperials', their first title, they began playing against other clubs, both locally and near the city of Melbourne. They attended a meeting of the "Box Hill Reporter" Competition in 1903, but did not enter a team therein. Obviously the Clubs of that time were no different to today, as the sports Editor of the Reporter noted on October 2, 1903,

"Unless match reports are sent in early, they stand Buckley's chance of being published."

For a match in January, 1906, the team was to be selected from:
PRATT: GODFREY: KNOX: SMITH: GRANT: STRAIN: McPHEE:
McCORMICK: OLSEN: BARELLI: NORMAN: BARNETT: LINDSAY:
HOLGETTS: DYER: FITZPATRICK: PEARSON: THOMAS:

Some well known names already in evidence! Halfway through the season, H. Godfrey and C. Lindsay were selected in a representative team to play against Melbourne. Match reports for the season show that Godfrey and Knox were excellent batsmen while Smith in one game had the great figures of 10/56.

For season 1906-7, the only two office bearers we know were O.J. Pratt who was to hold the position of President of the Club for 36 years, and P.W. Fitzpatrick, the Secretary. Fitzpatrick was not worried by the cares of office as one match shows his bowling figures of 5/15.

Over.....

A most important forward step took place in Club history on 20/9/1910, when Ringwood was admitted to "A" Grade in the Reporter competition. Delegates were Mr. R. Wilkins & Mr. Reed. No doubt inspired by their entry, Ringwood Club representatives, Messrs. Hawn & Pratt waited on Lilydale Council in order to get the Reserve fenced. Apparently Council had promised £20 toward the cost, and local residents were to provide the balance. It should be recalled here that the playing area was much smaller in those days, as it wasn't until 1933 that the ground was widened to meet the needs of the football club. The previously 'miniature' pavilion - how could two teams occupy it at the same time? - was extended in 1933 to provide work for unemployed sportsmen - a very sensible move. When the Club moved to Jubilee Park during the fifties, this extended pavilion became its first home having been moved by heavy transport. Interesting to think about this when we now look at the "R.O. Spencer" Pavilion now gracing Jubilee Park.

1901 - 1910

Away from the field, the destruction by fire in 1907 of the "Coach & Horses" Hotel must have caused gloom around the district. This hotel used to be known as the "Log Cabin Inn". It's original owner, Mr. Thomas, sold the property to a Mr. Stirling, who built a store adjacent to the Inn. This store, managed by Abigail Stirling, was Ringwood's first Post Office Agency. In 1872 Thomas Wiggin bought the Inn which he renamed "Coach & Horses", as he had been a horse buyer for Cobb & Co. In 1909, Mr. Nicholas Madden took over the rebuilt Hotel, which was transferred to the present location in 1940. Of course the "Club Hotel" - surely better known as "Daisy's" was operating as a two storey business in what was then called Main Rd., Ringwood. Most of the towns business activity took place in this area. Indeed the Ringwood Imperials played their early games on the present Ringwood East Oval.

Season 1908/9 saw reports of games against clubs like Preston, Collingwood, and Albert Park. Lord and W. Smith proved to be the mainstays in the bowling department, while Knot and Pratt batted consistently. Social life was not forgotten, as a Banquet and Concert followed the match against Albert Park. This was held in the Methodist School Room. Compere was Ringwood Captain, Mr. W. Thomas. In 1909, a bat cost from 7/6, a ball approx. 3/-.

Not a great deal of cricket was reported from season 1909-1910 but prominent players were K. McAlpin, B. Hocking and W. Reid. The basic team read as follows:

McALPIN: THOMAS: KNOX: HOCKING: THOMAS: WICKINS:
CHIVERS: STYLES: REID: HILLHOUSE.

For the monetary-minded, the Balance Sheet for a concert (concerts were the 'in' thing in 1910), disclosed a profit of £2.13.6. Club membership was 22. Honarary Secretary at this time was Mr. A. Wagner.

Over.....

1911 - 1920

Another milestone in Ringwood's progress was achieved with the provision of electric light by Lilydale Shire in April 1915. One 1,999 candlepower lamp was located at Ringwood Station, while Whitehorse Road was lit at four places. By June of that year the grand total of 50 consumers were on the books. Electricity Commission Supply commenced in 1925.

The reader will excuse this next section appearing rather like a scorebook, but it is felt that the best way to document the Club's outstanding successes is in this manner.

PREMIERS	1915/16 SEASON	REPORTER 'A' GRADE
<u>P. GILCHRIST</u>	201 Association Trophy	40.24
	5/31:6/26:7/14 " "	6.29

<u>W. ALLEN</u>	129 N.O.	62
	4/4: 4/14: 5/16	

C. WALDEN 148 N.O.

MATCH RESULTS WON 12 DREW 1 LOST 1

There is now a short space where no press reports were forthcoming for season 1916-17 and 1917-18. This could well be due to the Great War, as it was known. Perhaps we could here dwell a little on Ringwood's services in the transport, communication, and real estate fields.

The first steam train rail link to Ringwood was completed in 1882. Electrification was established as far as Ringwood in 1923, but Ringwood East had to wait until 1925 and Heathmont to 1926. In 1921 a Mail Service was in full swing, being a twice-daily run from Melbourne.

In 1858, the first recorded land sale took place. The location was at the corner of Heatherdale Road and Ringwood Road (Maroondah Highway) £1 purchased one acre!! By comparison, an auction of blocks in Ellison & Haig Street - central Ringwood in November, 1919 - electricity and phone available - asked for no deposit - 6% interest - cash purchasers of two blocks would be presented a free annual rail ticket.

In this chapter, the author has gone in for "name-dropping", and with a certain amount of pride, as, when you read some of their efforts, it is certainly deserving. I was fortunate to make contact with Frank Pollard - 80 years young in 1980 - a wonderful character, who played mainly in the 1920's and whose opinions of star players I set out herewith to perhaps stir up some memories:

<u>BEST BATSMEN</u>	JACK KNOX:	PERCY JAMES
<u>BEST BOWLERS</u>	BILL ALLEN:	JACK GOODALL

Wickets consisted of concrete with matting cover.

The 1910-11 season was not a successful one, perhaps being over-awed by 'A' grade promotion, Ringwood finished second last. The bright spots were the batting of W. Smith 69 N.O. and 53, and P. Gilchrist bowling well with 4/17: 5/40: 5/37. Gilchrist picked up the competition trophy with the average of 5.25.

The action moves forward to the year 1914, when overseas events pushed our game into the background. However, the 'name dropping' continues, and it is noticed that W. Allen now appears with our Club. A lot more will be written about this gentleman. As a bonus, we now print names of two teams as selected during 1914. The second eleven seemed to be more of a social type affair, as one report matched them against Henry Berry & Co.

1sts W. Morshead: C. Walden: W. Allen: J. Knox: G. Allen:
F. Allen: W. Howship; Dr. Langley: W. Smith: Wartison:
H. Sherlock

2nds R. Goodall: H. Thomas: J. Goodall: G. Bray: R. Baker:
M. Howship: B. Howship: W. Caffin: S. Chivers:
W. Ritchie: H. Kraefft: C. Parker

To show that attitudes within sporting clubs don't really change we reprint an article from the Reporter of 15.5.1914.

"The new cricket pavilion to replace the dilapidated structure which has served the local club for so many years is approaching completion. This has mainly been erected by Club members. A working bee was recently arranged, but so far only the more enthusiastic members have attended."

1911 - 1920

Another milestone in Ringwood's progress was achieved with the provision of electric light by Lilydale Shire in April 1915. One 1,999 candlepower lamp was located at Ringwood Station, while Whitehorse Road was lit at four places. By June of that year the grand total of 50 consumers were on the books. Electricity Commission Supply commenced in 1925.

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1911 - 1920

Another important date must have been March 25, 1921, when it was declared that the water supply would be made available to Ringwood Street from Whitehorse Road to Mullum Creek. This, of course, included the Recreation Reserve.

Back to the Cricket action, and season 1918-19 proved very successful, but the Club just missed the Premiership, being defeated by Templestowe in the Final Match. As we proceed through the 'twenties' we can't help but sense that Ringwood Cricket Club was really starting to become a real force and obviously it was during this period that the foundations laid earlier were now set. When we talk about great Ringwood players and officials of more recent times, I believe a special debt of gratitude is owed to the cricketers and administrators of those distant years.

During the 1918/19 season, some of the outstanding efforts on record included that of Bill Allen 4/5: 4/23: 3/17 plus a 40 and a 78 with the bat. Not to be outdone Lou Barelli got 9/79 against Blackburn and Stan Bisset captured 6/27. Batsmen to star also were A. Pearson, F. Chalmers and J. Knox. Because Bill Allen was required by the Melbourne Football Club, he did not feature in the Final, and this would contribute substantially to our easy defeat.

We entered season 1919/20 with the following 'A' Grade team:
J. KNOX: S. BISSETT: R. VAUX: P. GILCHRIST: W. ALLEN:
G. BLACKMAN: F. ALLEN: G. ALLEN: B. ALLEN: B. CHING:
J. GOODALL.

That man Bill Allen bobbed up consistently with bowling figures of 4/26; 5/59; 3/9; 6/9; 5/19; 4/23; 5/48 N.O. No further comment is needed. Sounds as though the batsmen were not really needed, but to prove us wrong, P. Gilchrist collected 47: 86 N.O. and 99 and many wickets, while A. Pearson and J. Knox got scores over 50 each. Not surprisingly, this fine body of men ran out Premiers.

1921 - 1930

1921

As proof of the cricket boom at this time, both Ringwood (Imperials) and Ringwood Diggers held Annual Meetings. The Ringwood District Association competed for the 'A.T. Miles' Shield, named after one of the district's most famous pioneers. The transfer of Ringwood Imperials (soon to change to Ringwood) from the Reporter competition to Ringwood District marked the beginning of what proved to be a tremendous era of contribution to the sport, and the opportunity for so many of us who were fortunate to represent the Club.

We now enter into a period free of Press Reports until 1924 except for the good news that Imperials were Premiers in 1922/23 season. About this time, if you wanted to relax at the Picture Theatre - Town Hall Building - later demolished to make way for Midway Arcade Shops and Offices - it cost 1/- or 6d.

The following teams were competing in R.D.C.A. at this time: Ferntree Gully: Ringwood Diggers: Protestant Churches: Bayswater: Croydon: Montrose: Mooroolbark: Wonga Park: Ringwood Imperials. This single section was to be re formed into 'A' & 'B' sections in 1924. A team from Ringwood Rovers was listed in 'B' Grade for season 1924/25 and while their performances cannot be located the team members are listed for the record:

D. Rattray: R. Morgan: M. Hall: B. Bodsworth: S. Miller:
G. Noble: W. Bruce: E. Pump: T. Kay: G. Newman

It can be seen that our Club had already got into the 'Premiership' habit and 1924/25 was no exception. These people made it all happen. W. Allen: B. Godfrey: F. Pollard: R. Wilkins: H. Pratt:
B. Allen: W. Smith: W.J. Miller: A. Blood: S. McCombe:
T. Skurrie: J. Goodall: H. Howship: C. Walden.

Before giving some individual results, we quote the then President of Box Hill Reporter Association Mr. Broadbent who said on 11th October, 1924 - "The time has now arrived for turf wickets at Surrey Hills and Ringwood".

1921-1930
1921 - 1930

We are uncertain as to when Surrey Hills got theirs, but we had a 30 year wait for ours. At this time the Ringwood Association had as President and Secretary, two well known names in Mr. R.A. Ingwersen and Mr. Roy Wilkins. This must surely have been Bill Allen's greatest year, as these figures show:

<u>Batting</u>	17 innings	Highest Score	158	Average	47.50
<u>Bowling</u>	37 wickets for	404 runs		Average	10.34

In one match against Churches team, apart from Allen's 158, Frank Pollard got 75, Jack Knox 65, Clem Walden 47 and Jack Goodall 52. That innings totalled 449 runs. It is worth noting that we completed that season without one loss. Forty-two players were registered. The club was led by Mr. O.J. Pratt as President. The Balance Sheet that year showed a Credit Balance of 13/1.

GENERAL HISTORICAL DATA ON RINGWOOD

RINGWOOD MAIL OFFICE - 11 Adelaide Street - This was built over an old dam on local blacksmith Tommy Grant's orchard by Andrew Kennedy, son of a pioneer family. Built in 1921 for Ostrom & Simpson - next door was the Pines Private Hospital - birthplace of many Ringwood people. 1st Edition Jan. 9, 1924 for the Shires of Lilydale & Doncaster, at that time Ringwood was a riding of Lillydale Shire. In 1936 Mr. G.E. Sleeman joined the paper, then published by N. Gill & Sons of the Lillydale Express. During the war, Mr. Sleeman took control. Council took over property in 1964 for Community purposes. In 1966 Elliot Group took over the paper and new offices in Maroondah Highway opened that year. In 1970 the Leader Group acquired the paper. Original Mail Office demolished in 1966.

The 1925-26 side, as if to show that they were only human after all, lost their Semi Final to Croydon. However, a young chap named Leo Pratt made 63, and got 4 catches in one match. Leo is now a life member at Ringwood and was of great assistance to the author in providing memories of bygone days.

1921 - 1930

Season 1926/27 against brought the ultimate victory in the Final and we quote from a comment made at the Shield Presentation

"The outstanding performances had been those given by Howship, Allen and Pratt"

Of course, other people contributed greatly, as we can now see:

Batting	F. Pollard	Average	38.0
	F. Bissett	"	34.2
	J. Knox	"	27.1
	S. Bissett	"	22.0
Bowling	F. Pollard	9.7	
	B. Bowen	9.0	
	W. Smith	6.9	

Century-makers were F. Bissett (twice) and J. Knox. Our old friend, Bill Allen took 12 wickets in the final. This victory meant permanent retention of the "A.T. Miles Shield"- a terrific achievement.

While 'A' Grade basked in the limelight, let us look at the 'B' Grade team and note the famous names:

R. WALTON: H. PRATT: P. MILLAR: J. PRATT: G. WILKINS:
R. HAMS: C. SMITH: G. LINDSAY: J. COWLAND: D. LINDSAY:
H. TORTICE

In April, 1927, Council decided on a standard size football and cricket oval. The footballers offered to bring the oval up to Standard. "The Mail" noted that "in due course, it may be possible to lay a turf wicket".

If Ringwood "A" Grade were unable to win the shield this year - they were defeated by Boronia in the Final - they had excellent competitors in Bill Allen (not again!) with great bowling, and Clem Walker and Frank Pollard excelled with the bat. The honours this season went to the 'B' Grade teams who finished as Premiers. This was their team:

H. Brettargh: G. Lindsay: H. Pratt: Roberts: L. Skurrie
Flowers: Wilkins: Clarke: Tortice: W. Smith: J. Pratt

G. Lindsay won the Association Batting Average at 45.8

1921 - 1930

Things were really happening at the Reserve, as in February, 1928, Council gave the Engineer authority to proceed with grading, filling, grassing and fencing. Another milestone in our history was the unveiling of the War Memorial Clock Tower in August, 1928. This of course was at the old location at the corner of Warrandyte Road and Whitehorse Road, not the present site.

The new season of 1928/29 commenced with Bill Allen Capt. of 'A' Grade and J. Goodall Vice Captain, while Walter Smith and Harry Pratt got 105, R. Pratt 141 and 86 N.O. J. Flowers 89 N.O., while Clem Walden's best bowling was 3/40 and 7/9. The net result of the Club's efforts was a Premiership for the 2nd successive year for B. Grade, whilst the 'A' Grade were Runners-Up after being undefeated throughout the year. How often does this happen? Reg Spencer, one of the real characters associated with the Club would be delighted to know that a trophy for the best wicketkeeper was donated this year. Reg was always a stout defender of the rights of the wicketkeeper. He had a right to be, as he was one of a small band of capable glovemen, who helped keep Ringwood on the highest level.

These cricketers did have some social life, as we read about the R.D.C.A. Annual Ball in the Town Hall on May 29, 1929. Dancing and Euche (presumably for non dancers) were to be provided. C.V. Ward, a keen patron of the Club was supervisor of the Card Game. His son Ken carried on this tradition, and remains a staunch supporter. If anyone wanted to purchase a suit to wear to a function, it would cost £5.5.0.

The 'A' team got into the semi-final in season 1929/30 only to lose to Belgrave. The only performance noted was a score of 90 by G. Lindsay. 'B' Grade were narrowly defeated in their Grand Final but had some excellent players during the season in R. Morgan with 3 centuries - that record would take some beating - R. Pratt got 121, while Leo Pratt got 95 N.O. in the Semi-Final. A decision was made to pay 'A' Grade Umpires in the finals - no figure was quoted. If you got thirsty after the match, one dozen of beer cost you 13/9d.

The new decade saw once again O.J. Pratt President yet again while Walter Smith and Kevin Pratt shared the Secretarial duty. Fred Bissett and J. Goodall were in charge of 'A' Grade while Walter Smith and E. Roberts were in charge of 'B' Grade. Batting honours this time were shared by Fred Bissett, G. Lindsay and J. Goodall. W. Smith, O. Miller and B. Purdon were the most successful bowlers. Both teams put up a great effort to reach the semi finals, the 'A' Grade finished Runners-Up while the 'B' team lost their Semi Final.

This situation was reversed in season 1931/32 as the 'A's lost their semi final and 'B' Grade were runners-up. With ten teams competing in each grade, these consistent finals appearances reflected great credit on the Club. In particular, our bowlers were superior to the batsmen as J. Lowe picked up 5/30 and 6/25 in Round 4, while in 'B' Grade, G. Lindsay included a hat trick in his 6/27 and R. Pratt got 8/30. Among the officials, the names of Dr. Colquhoun and Mr. A.T. Miles are noted.

Things were happening around the old town in 1932. The year got away badly with a huge bushfire on January 21. This blaze started near the lake on Loughnan's Hill and threatened to cross Brown's Estate (From the present Bond Street to Mullum Creek). Approximately 600 acres were destroyed and the town was only saved by a wind change. Just like later events in 1939. On a more pleasant note, we had the use of a Mini-Golf Course and Roller Skating Rink at H.J. Bently's land - now Safeway stores. This venture was destined not to last long. Picture goers were treated to a free Wednesday evening bus to Box Hill Talkies - Probably the Regent or Rialto Theatres - known to a lot of us.

A change of topic will do no harm and we read with a great deal of amusement of a rough football match in July 1932 between Kilsyth and Warrandyte. The laxity of the umpires was considered to be responsible, and after the battle one Kilsyth player had numerous teeth marks on his body. Umpire Crowe was asked to keep firmer control in the future. No penalty for the "biting

1931 - 1940

Ringwood could not break the Premiership Drought in 1932/33 when the "A" grade finished Runners-Up to Kilsyth. Their captain was Leo Pratt, while the unsuccessful '8' team were led by Walter Smith. Secretary was Kevin Pratt, a legend around these parts, whose tragic accident early in life prevented him from taking an active part in sport. This courageous man applied his administrative talents to many things, and the Football Club, and to a lesser degree, the Cricket Club will be forever grateful for his efforts. At time of writing, he can still be seen at Jubilee Park.

The local footballers would have been delighted with the Council news in December, 1932, that Mr. F.R. Lucas, City Engineer, had finalised plans for a regulation football arena.

At the General Meeting held on September 21, 1933, a club previously known as Centrals, and about whom we found no press cover, decided to join forces with Ringwood under our name. This allowed 3 teams, "A", "B" & "C" to be put in the field. Respective Captains were J. Goodall, B. Purdon and J. Wilkins.

In what must be classed as a tremendous performance, all teams took part in the semi-finals, but only 'B' grade were able to go on to take out top honours. Of the few names mentioned in reports, S. Connell 88, M. Northrope 110, C. Crane 82, featured with the bat. J. Cleary and R. Bonsack bowled well for 7/6 and 7/16 respectively.

On the social scene the 1st Ringwood Show for many years attracted 2,000 people. It was opened by Mr. R.G. Monzies, then acting Premier of Victoria.

By taking out the 'C' grade pennant in April, 1935, we kept the record clean, and obviously the effort of C. Burns with 7/12 in the final would have helped a bit. The bowlers took precedence in the Press, as B. Rimmer 7/29, was the only other player to get a mention that year.

1931-1940

For season 1935/36, only 'A' & 'B' teams were registered. This was almost certainly due to the expansion around Ringwood and new names of competing clubs were coming up regularly. Ten teams made up each grade. As we were unable to achieve the top honours this year, we slightly change the subject to reproduce the list of Club Office Bearers. This should surely re-kindle plenty of memories:

President: O.J. Pratt - 35th year of office
Vice Presidents: S. Brown, A. Lindsay, R. Dawes, Dr. J. Serby
Secretary: W. Smith
Treasurer: K. Pratt
Committee: L. Anderson: W. Johnson: C. Smith,
L. Pratt: R. Bonsack

The club recorded, no doubt with a certain amount of pride, that in the 15 years of R.D.C.A. competition to date, 7 premierships had been won, and on 7 occasions, we finished 2nd.

Not much can be said about the 1936/37 performances, as Ringwood did not make the finals. Bowlers were prominent and two efforts of note were those of J. Rowe, 7/74 and P.^C Burns, 8/29.

The Club was shocked to hear of the death of O.J. Pratt on 14th February, 1937, aged 66 years. President for 36 years, with only a break of 2 years, his passing had such an impact that the 'A' Grade cancelled their match set down for the following Saturday. It is appropriate that we let the Ringwood Mail sum up some of this man's finer points:

"In any public movement, O.J. Pratt was foremost. A generous nature. Ringwood today owes much to him. The residents of the district mourn the passing of an upright citizen, a good sport, a generous friend."

What more can be said? Of course the name Pratt was being carried on in the sporting field, and would continue to be for some time.

To lighten the scene, the Club learnt in July 1937 that \$300 would be spent by Council on the Reserve. This consisted of levelling and top dressing the oval providing a fence around the perimeter, and growing a hedge along the Ringwood Street

... as in the following

1931-40

Two possible reasons are advanced for this result. Firstly some players transferred to the new club, Catholic Young Men's Society (C.Y.M.S.) prominent being Leo Pratt, who would have been in his prime about then. Leo will probably say that there never was a time when he wasn't!! Reason No. 2 could have been the emergence of other 'local' teams, and it is of interest to list our 'A' Grade opponents for this season: TUNSTALL (part of Nunawading City now) BORONIA: VALLEY: C.Y.M.S.: RINGWOOD EAST: NORTH RINGWOOD: WARRANDYTE: CROYDON: KILSYTH: Our only win was against Warrandyte, when W. Wilkins captured seven wickets for 27 runs.

The only consolation for us in season 1938/39 was the performance of 'C' Grade who were runners up to Croydon. Our stars were A. Wilkins 8/20, H. Tomkins 123 N.O., and R. Bousack 93 N.O.

Season 1939-40 W.J. Wilkins, another great name in district sporting circles was Club Secretary this season. "C" Grade starting to act like present-day Collingwood footballers once again could only finish runners-up. Their better players included L. Jones 6/10, 5/25, C. Conlan (not only a good baker!) 103, S. Cope 84, D. Strahan 9/32. "A" Grade succeeded in winning only 2 games, and were still very much in the doldrums.

While we can't list the "A" Graders, the following players represented us in the 'C' Grade Final: ANDERSON: COPE: BISSETT: O'BRIEN: NOTT: STRAHAN: BROWN: JONES: WYCHERLEY: BONSACK: READ: Only 32 teams took part this season, no doubt the War was starting to affect the manpower situation.

On the nostalgia front, we note that beer from the Croydon Hotel cost 1/- a bottle. Delivery cost one penny more - presumably per dozen. Forty-five electric trains ran to and from Melbourne each day, also a bus service operated now from Ringwood to Warrandyte and Wantirna.

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1941 - 1950

Season 1940/41 was not remembered for any outstanding Club achievements, as neither 'A' or 'B' team figured in the finals. However, D. Strahan (once again) showed them how with one score of 79 and bowling figures of 8/21 and 4/10 with a hat trick. The Mail said of his batting "To veteran Dave Strahan goes the honour of one of the best individual performances. Despite an inability to see his toes, he sighted the ball well, and was unconquered on 79".

Not much detail is available about the 1941/42 season, as no doubt world events took priority, and it seems remarkable that the competition was able to continue at all. Halfway through this season, some teams withdrew, which meant that teams with byes in A & B grades played each other.

Individual efforts of note were that of V. Morphett - who dared to suggest his action was suspect? - with 7/4, D. Strahan - can't keep him out of the action - with 3/0 including a hat-trick, Another well known sporting name, S. Connell decided to make some runs, and came up with scores of 112 Not Out and 120 not out. To show everyone he was a true all-rounder, he one day took 7 wickets for 24.

Only one grade of competition was possible during 1942/43 and we entered one team only. Kilsyth were too strong in the Final match. We were represented by the following players: V. MORPHETT: REGINEY: G. PUMP: S. LONG: K. HUBBARD: N. TIPPENS: F. MONGER: A. VARTY: C. CONLAN: D. LINDSAY: D. CONNORS. George Pump had a great season with scores of 101, 74, and a spell of bowling which yielded 5/30 and a hat-trick.

Office bearers that year included J.T. McArthur as President, D. Lindsay as Secretary and J. Kiker, Treasurer. One could imagine our Association Delegates, D. Strahan and D. Lindsay making sure that our interests were looked after at meetings.

1943-44 At last! That elusive 'A' Grade Premiership came our way. The long wait from the 1926/27 season was now all worthwhile. Under the capable guidance of H. Pratt, surely one of the best wicket keepers in this district, the men who got the honours were: K. HUBBARD, N. TIPPENS: V. MORPHETT: G. PUMP: JOHNSON: R. McARTHUR: THOMPSON: D. LINDSAY: L. JONES: R. BISSETT: J. BRADY

On November, 13, 1943, we lost another of our greats, Bill Allen of whom we have already heard plenty. His last months were full of pain and death was a happy release. To quote the 'Mail' yet again: "The sportsmen of the district remember with pride his achievements and pay tribute to a man who raised the standard of cricket and football to a high level in this area. Sons Ken, a top sportsman at Ringwood East, and Don, who spent a short time with Ringwood Cricket Club, carried on the "Allen" tradition superbly.

Another poor showing by the Club in season 1944/45 was almost repeated the following year except for the fact that 'C' Grade got that unwanted Runners Up position. Jack Lindsay picked up 7/20 one day to show people that he really could bowl. Not only was he proficient with a cricket ball, but Jack and Harry Munro later became Lawn Bowls Doubles Champions at Ringwood.

In 1945/46, R.D.C.A. managed to register 24 teams in 3 grades. In the following year this number increased to 35. This year a move was made to change the starting time of games to 2.45 pm instead of 3 pm. This was defected.

Three players, McAlpin, Bissett and Binns (Ivan) were selected from Ringwood in a combined team. Ivan would have been quite young then, and this was a great achievement. There is some indecision whether he made more impression on the Club with his cricket or his Press Correspondent duties! Another youngster of 15, Graham Holloway managed 6/7 with a double hat-trick in 'B' Grade.

1941 - 1950

This team was defeated by Boronia in the semi-final but it should be recorded that Jack Lindsay got 8/16, Roy White 4/1 (hat trick) and Sid Long 86 Not Out. Some of the names just quoted were to form part of a nucleus of outstanding future teams.

The horror stretch for the 'A' grade boys continued into season 1947/48 and they succeeded only 4 times. On the other hand - you've guessed it 'C' Grade got the Runners Up Spot.

The writer recalls with a certain glow of pleasure his first century - 132 - against a Mooroolbark team which included Mr. C Johnson and sons Charlie & Jim. The two last named later fortunately crossed to Ringwood, where they gave outstanding service on and off the field.

While 1948/49 was not featured by major success, G. Holloway got 101 Not Out and the writer, now up with the 'big boys' in A Grade, managed 80 not out. D. Tasker gave 'C' Grade bowling a boost in Round 8 by capturing 5/8 including a hat-trick.

No doubt one of the most sensational events in the history of the district was the Referendum on the subject of Non-Commercial Sunday Sport on Council property between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. This was held in February, 1949, and the intense lobbying and near hysteria created can be really gauged by reading the 'Mail' reports and 'Letters to the Editor'. The "Yes" result was welcomed by the local sporting world generally. Ringwood often used the extra Sunday time to play Practice Matches which kept us match-hardened, and would have been reflected in the successful finals appearance, which will soon be recounted.

1941.50

Mayor of Ringwood in 1949 was Cr. B.J. (Ben) Hubbard, not only known as the father of Keith, but for his award-winning Chrysanthemums - probably the hardest word I have ever had to spell.

Evidence of the now rapid progress of R.D.C.A. came with the formation of a Junior Saturday Morning competition. Four teams participated in each of 'A' & 'B' divisions, and we made the semi-finals with each of our two sides, only to lose both. Noel Wardley wouldn't forget Round 2 as he collected 9 wickets for 39 runs. He was to perform similar feats later on in his career.

'A' Grade emerged from the gloom of previous years by getting into the Final only to lose to Kilsyth at the end of the 1949/50 season. The aggressive bowling presence of Frank Barker was now being noticed in the district and no wonder when you consider figures of 10/9 and 5/60 - yet another hat-trick included. Jack Maidment's two centuries no doubt enabled us to stay near the top. Looking back now at these 'A' Grade player names and performances, it is easy to understand how Ringwood became such a force in the years to come. This was their make-up: K. HUBBARD:

J. MAIDMENT: J. LINDSAY: G. HOLLOWAY: W. NEILD: I. BINNS:

F. BARKER: J. JOHNSON: S. KELTON: C. BEAUMONT: V. MORPHETT.

Not a bad line up! \ *was the A Bowling average aged 16 yrs*

In 1949/50 'B' Grade team covered themselves with glory by defeating a powerful Ringwood East side (This was their senior team - for some strange reason they were not allocated to 'A' Grade - to take out the Premiership. A tremendous 3 day tussle was witnessed, with the issue in doubt until very late on the 3rd day. I was lucky enough to be a part of the victorious team, and although I have been a member of other winning teams in Finals, this to me was the greatest victory of all, probably because a team of "ordinary" (with due respect to all the other teammates) players managed to defeat a team packed with talent. These were the 'ordinary' ones.

R. BISSETT: W. VINCENT: J. ORR: E. CLARKE:
C. JOHNSTON: W. PAYNE: H. MUNRO: P. ALFORD:
V. ORR: W. WILLIAMSON: J. COVELL.

(94/50

In the Junior Ranks, 'A' Grade were Premiers while the 'B's missed the finals. B. Stephen took 8/8 on one occasion. Before leaving this season, we read that, in March, 1950, 4 clubs, Kilsyth, Lilydale, East Ringwood and Soccer, all arrived at the one oval for a semi-final. East and Soccer got the verdict, while the other two flew off to find other accommodation.

On the domestic scene, a weatherboard home could be purchased for £1,800 and land in Ringwood Central, i.e. Arlington St. cost £6 per foot. A letter from Frank Parker, famous in civic circles, about this time gives us an insight into the early ownership of the Recreation Reserve. In 1907 this land was purchased from Mr. Thomas Grant by Messrs. Parker, Loughnan and Chalmers, who paid a deposit (not revealed) on behalf of the Ringwood people. Later Lillydale Council took over the land and completed the payments under these conditions:

- (a) Land to be used only as a Park
- (b) No intoxicating liquor to be consumed on the premises
- (c) No Gambling

The Ringwood Mail now cost 3d. We also learnt that our landmark, Loughnan's Hill, was originally called Forbes Hill, and later The Pines.

Having documented happenings in the 'Forties', we now approach that period which confirmed the already strong position of this Club in Ringwood and district and set the pattern for promotion to higher things, culminating in entry to District Ranks.

All we can say as the years roll through this era, is to use the well-worn phrases "Fabulous Fifties, The Golden Years," etc. etc.

1951-1960

Only one pennant came our way for season 1950/51, going to 'D' Grade, one of our two Junior teams. We read that the respective Captains in A, B, and C grades were Jack^Maidment, Bill Payne and Ted Clarke. Jack was honored by being selected in the Association team this year. Many keen judges considered Jack to be the best cricketer in the area.

We did not mention B Grade as yet, but it should be noted that W. (Snooky) Connell picked up 120 runs, Bill Williamson, one of the best (and funniest) clubmen in any team, got 101 plus 7/33, while Harry Munro trundled with great guile to collect 7/12. Almost forgot 'C' Grade, but how could you ignore Noel Wardley's figures of 8/20?

Among the Juniors, Geoff Stephen scooped the pool by winning Batting & Bowling Awards in both the Club and Association.

Two senior and one Junior Premiership marked the end of yet another magnificent season. The 'B's made the semi final only to be beaten by Croydon by 40 runs. As the writer moved away from the district in 1951, not to return until 1958, he has a lasting regret that he was unable to participate in some of the many rewarding cricket moments during the period of absence. I hope the next pages can fully do justice to them.

SIM JOHNSON 17 yrs won the Allwindsor AGRAVE TROPHY -
After an easy win in the 'A' Grade Final, Kilsyth, who proved to be formidable opposition over the years, due a great deal to the Baldwin family, legends in this area, we should give some figures on star performers during the season. These include J. Piper, 83, Bill Nield 103, Frank Barker 84 (what a hurricane innings that must have been) while Frank got 7/16: 7/19 hat trick and 7/35. What was his lucky number we wonder?

In other Grades, Noel Wardley 81, Ian Lynton 7/50, Geoff Stephen 8/32, contributed in great style. The two Geoffs, Stephen and Roger set up an opening partnership of 126 runs in Junior ranks. Their team during this year suffered their first defeat in two and a half seasons, but they did not let that prevent them from taking out their third successive title.

1951-60

On the administrative side, it is gratifying to see that the ranks of office bearers included a majority of current players in 1952/53. Harry Munro, Graham Holloway and Wally Vincent all occupied senior positions while the Committee comprised: Jack Lindsay, Graham Holloway, Jack Maidment, Val Morpett and Eric Tibballs. Clive Fairbairn was one of the Vice Presidents. His deep knowledge of the game, plus his support for cricket generally in this district has far-reaching results.

We must commence this season's report (1952/53) by praising the fourth successive flag for the Junior 'A' team. While this was obviously a team effort, great credit goes to Geoff Stephen with personal figures of 101 and 8/19. This lad was destined for higher things with ours and other clubs.

No doubt jealous of this record, 'A' Grade, capably led by Jack Maidment managed their second premiership in a row. Jack notched up 113 runs while Frank Barker got how many wickets for 26? You're right - 7. In other grades, no more pennants, but some great bowling by H. Munro 7/19, and Juniors Bernie Whitney 3/26 hat trick, 7/32 and Mick Connell 7/14. Always thought Mick was a tremendous batsman, but those figures make him an all-rounder.

What do you think of these men as a finals team? They helped us to the 'A' Title: Jack Maidment: Jim Milne: Bill Neild: Jack Lindsay: Eric Tibballs: Graham Holloway: Charlie Johnson: Jim Johnson: Frank Barker: Kevin Hartshorn, Ray Nield.

Of general interest, a Council meeting in October, 1952 unveiled plans for Jubilee Park, part of the old Sanders estate. This must rank as one of the most momentous and well-planned decisions in the sporting field for Ringwood. I can't imagine a better setting and all visiting teams from more closely-settled suburbia are full of praise for the venue.

1953/54 Two famous names got their due recognition for services rendered as Bob Bissett was granted life-membership of RDCA and Bill Holloway received a similar honour at Ringwood.

1951-60

That "jealousy" complex developed by 'A' Grade led them to take out the premiership - 3 in a row now - and we record with sadness that Junior 'A's were defeated in the Final. This fate was shared by 'C' grade. As this was surely one of the best-ever years for individual efforts, we now set them out under various headings:

CENTURY MAKERS G. Stephen 104: M. Connell 113 N.O. and 127 N.O.
H. Whitby 147: V. Morphett 102, P. Vergers 109 N.O. T. Hancy 103:
K. Stephen 106: J. Maidment 161.

Six or more wickets P. Vergers 8/6 and 6/23: J. Moon 7/35
7/22: 9/25. J. Vergers 8/23: B. Whitney 7/24: 7/45:
B. Ramsden 6/8

Record Junior Opening Partnership 251 M. Connell 127 N.O.
P. Vergers 109 N.O.

Second Best Junior 1st Wicket Partnership

191 M. Connell
G. Stephen

V.C.A. RECRUITS Bill Nield - Essendon 1sts
Ray Nield - Melbourne 3rds.

1954/55 That genial gentleman, Charlie Beaumont became President at this time. One of the most pleasant and hard working officials, he left us all too soon to live in Adelaide. Ian Price, a very efficient operator on and off the field, was Secretary, while Wally Vincent took over the Treasury, a position he held for a number of years with distinction. We can recommend him to anyone with end of financial year taxation problems.

I have fond memories of Wally, as he was my original opening batting partner way back in 1946/47. We were destined never to make a large partnership, but we could hold the record as the two most nervous openers in RDCA. The three senior Captains were Jack Maidment, Val. Morphett and Bill Orr. Bill, Jack and Vin Orr all represented Ringwood at Cricket with Vin becoming a very successful wicketkeeper.

1951 - 1960

It may not be well known that he suffered from osteomyelitis when young, and his efforts on the sports field reflected greatly on his character. His stamina may have been assisted by the huge quantity of chocolate he devoured.

The 'A's and 'B's each took out the flag this year - 4 in succession for 'A' Grade and they had not finished their run yet. These are the players who did the job:

A. GRADE Jack Maidment: G. Holloway: J. Milne: J. Johnson: -
 J. Tibballs: J. Lindsay: J. Chalmers:
 J. Moon: F. Barker: R. Nield: R. Jordan

B. GRADE V. Morphett: R. Wray: G. Flynn: J. Covell:
 W. Connell: H. Munro: D. Millar: P. Vergers.
 M. Connell: I. Price: I. Lynton

This was the first 'B' Grade victory since 1949/50. R.D.C.A. now had 46 teams competing in 4 grades.

The Juniors had a mixed season with the Division 1 team losing their semi final, but the other boys lost every match. Best club batsmen were M. Connell 105 N.O. G. Matthews 93 and 103 N.O. Bowling stars were out in force as we read about Jack Moon 7/10 and 7/62, Les Lloyd 4/9 with hat-trick. A. Wray 7/33 and G. Matthews 6/17 on two occasions - not bad when he also got a century.

'A's & 'B's repeated the Premiership dose as before to highlight 1955/56 season. The 'C' grade boys managed Runners-Up, to emphasize what depth of talent, we had then. Jack Maidment took the batting average for the sixth successive time. G.A. (Nigger) Lindsay reached a milestone with 3,000 runs and 800 wickets - amazing to recall that he was best all-rounder in 1927/28. Whilst this is a cricket story "Nigger's" exploits on the football field would take quite a long time to recount. Other main highlights for this period:

Batting W. Williamson 85: L. Wellington 85: T. Hancy 129 & 90
 M. Connell 89 N.O. and 103 N.O. R. Spencer 95:
 J. Milne 84: J. Moon 87: G. Reynolds 101 N.O.

1957-60

Bowling H. Munro 5/11 (hat trick)
W. Williamson 13 wickets in 1 match
J. Andrews 7/27
L. Lloyd 5/0 (hat trick)
J. Moon 8/16
R. Foster 7/28

8th Wicket Partnership 246 T. Hancy & R. Spencer

Last Wicket Partnership 50 ~~7~~ E. Johnson: V. Orr
Chalmers

This effort helped the B Grade to win the final.

1956/57 How is this for a consistent performance?

<u>'A's</u>	Premiers	<u>'B'</u>	Runners Up
<u>'C's</u>	Runners Up	<u>'D'</u>	Runners Up

Jack Lindsay replaced Val Morphett as Captain in 'B' Grade but the other leaders remained as before. Main Office-bearers remained the same, yet another sign of stable and successful management. There were obviously many excellent performances, but we document the highlights as below:

BATTING J. CHALMERS 90 M. CONNELL 106 & 100, J. LINDSAY 104 N.O.
J. MOON 92 & 113. J. CHALMERS 90 & 88, W. McDONALD 106 N.O.
C. JOHNSON 95: J. MILNE 117: I. Price 71

BCWRLERS J. VERGERS 8/37
R. JORDAN 6/33 & 3/16 & 7/4
R. RODDA 4/9 & 7/10 (Hat Trick)
R. RODDA 6/25 & 9/21 (Hat Trick)
J. MOON 8/29

In this match, as well as getting 9/21, Bob Rodda scored 50.

A. GRADE FINAL SCORES RINGWOOD 442 (Milne 117)
(Moon 113)

KILSYTH 169 + 199

1957/58 After such a spell of victories, the Club was looking for fresh fields to conquer, and they were obviously welcomed into the Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association - to be known as E.S.C.A. - for season 1957/58.

We entered 2 turf teams while 2 matting sides remained in R.D.C.A. With Jubilee Park wicket now available, no doubt the players were eager to do well in their new competition. I understand that Council staff had problems with the new wicket in the early days. So much so that some four cricketers decided to lend a hand by

1951 - 1960

is not exactly the driest place on earth, and, as the sun sank slowly in the west, the roller sank faster into the sacred turf. A far cry from today's superb playing conditions on what must be one of the most picturesque ovals in Australia.

Now for the bad news - Ringwood did not win any flags this year - the first miss in ten years. All was not lost however, as Jack Moon collected the association bowling average, and Bob Rodd won R.D.C.A. bowling trophy. John Vergers and Mick Connell were worthy selections in the Under 23 V.T.C.U. team to play in Adelaide.

For some reason, about this time, newspaper coverage of cricket was limited, and for season 1958/59 about all to be reported was the fact that our 'A' grade turf team finished Runners-Up. This was a creditable start for their second year in a new competition which embraced the populous areas of Box Hill, Canterbury, Surrey Hills, Ashburton, and their teams sometimes included ex - V.C.A. seasoned performers, who had an extremely tough cricket outlook, and probably took great exception to this 'new' team from the outer Eastern Suburbs even daring to challenge them let alone secure a place in the final four.

Not only did we challenge the opposition in 1959/60, but recorded our first pennant in E.S.C.A. This team would be the most professional one I have ever been associated with, and perhaps we should list them here and give a bit more background. Captain was Harry Matthysz from Sri Lanka initially, and he had all the speedy reflex movements, together with the keen cricket brain that we associate with people from that country. Add to this his brilliant wicket keeping, and we lacked nothing in leadership. Vice-Captain John Vergers, one of the quietly efficient bowling experts, in my opinion, managed to pick up 77 wickets this season which exceeded Jack Moon's previous tremendous record of 75. How lucky were we to have men of this calibre!!

1951-60

Having mentioned our leaders, I list the balance of the team, and obviously we all did something right at some time during the season:

JACK MAIDMENT: IVAN BINNS: PETER ALFORD: MICK CONNELL:
JACK LINDSAY: GRAHAM HOLLOWAY: BILL (SNOOKIE) CONNELL:
BOB REID: JIM JOHNSON: STEWART DOBSON

-11 1959-60 Bowling average 8.96 ↑ Bowling average 1960 < 1960 1950-47-50

As this wonderful era draws to a close in these pages, we make no apology for reporting with pride the achievement of the 'A' Grade team during this time.

RUNNERS UP ROCA 1944-50

R.D.C.A. PREMIERS 1951 to 1957 INCLUSIVE
E.S.C.A. PREMIERS 1959/60
RUNNERS UP 1957/58: 1958/59

When you add the further honours won by the lower grades and the four Junior Premierships, it makes inspiring reading.

1961-70

1961-70

To show that their performance last year was no fluke, the 'A' Grade took out the E.S.C.A. pennant in season 1960/61. In a high-scoring final, the scores were, Ringwood 314 and 2/64, Deepdene 312 and 3/62 declared. The Ringwood Mail as usual summed it up in expert fashion!! "In the opinion of players, spectators and umpires, this final ranks as the most thrilling in their experience".

Our star final performers were Mick Connell 94, brother Bill 53 and Bob Reid 68 while Ivan Binns 6/122 and Colin Martin 4/30 took the bowling honours.

In 1961/62, all ties with the Ringwood District were severed in the senior ranks, as all these teams were registered with E.S.C.A. While no final wins were recorded, some great individual efforts were accomplished during the season as you will see from the following.

Bernie Whitney 172; Alan McLeish 131, N.O. 102, N.O. 53 N.O. Tom Ward 95; Bill Longmire 93; Harry Matthysz 56; David Millar 104; Mick Connell 53: 58: Ian McLeod 170 + 77, Graham Holloway 82: John Corvell 53:

Let's not forget the best bowlers. They included Ashley Barker 5/17: 7/18 hat-trick: Bob Sinclair 6/18: Geoff Stephen 6/64: 5/8: 5/27: 5/61: Harry Munro 5/17: Ray Patten 6/18: Tom Ward 6/73: John Vergen^{KS} 6/29: 3/27

Season 1962-63 A professional attitude was becoming more evident at the Club with the introduction of Don Mathieson (ex Prahran) as Captain-Coach. Don, a talented District Cricketer brought the skill necessary for a team to remain up near the top, and there is nothing more certain than that his example was carried through the ranks. Although I did not have the pleasure of seeing him very often on the arena, I can say without hesitation that he was just as enthusiastic off the field, being a very competent administrator.

Whilst they did not succeed in getting a flag, the senior team was studded with some fine efforts, the captain getting 80, 65, 47, 44, David Penny 58. Other team's highlights were as follow:

1961 70

Val Morphett 80, Harry Munro 62 and 5/5, Ashley Barker 6/43, 7/23 and 4/25, Tom Ward 8/18 & 58, Laurie Sumpten 144: Russ Arbuckle 86 & 72, David Richards 6/38, Geoff Stephen 50, Ralph Cousins 52 & 63 & 92, Jack Lindsay 70, Ian Pendlebury 80 J. Horner 152 N.O. 84

A 15 year old named Graeme Sinclair was hitting the headlines with 111 runs and a bowling effort of 5/16 which included a hat-trick. On 9 February, 1963, he decided to get another century this time 110 N.O. To think I believed he was only a very good tennis player.

Another Munro, this time Ian, son of Harry, decided to keep the family name in the headlines by capturing 5/7 (hat trick) and 2/7.

A young chap named Ron Tomlinson was under notice at North Ringwood for some great bowling, namely 8/35: 2/7. He later got an award from Ringwood Club as player of the year in R.D.C.A. and crossed to Ringwood, thereby commencing a wonderful term of outstanding service.

Our second Turf 11, under the capable guidance of Jack Lindsay, were undefeated throughout the season and duly won the honours. This was a just reward for a player who gave quiet dedicated service on and off the field for a long time. The Club notes said "Perhaps the answer is the way the Captain has built up a very even fighting force, with every player to a man pulling his weight". This flag was the 17th in 13 seasons, and the 23rd since 1922.

The Annual Meeting of September, 1963 decided that Leo Pratt was to be made a life member. This was the first club report to be issued in book form. Back to Leo, perhaps he hoped we would not say any more about his sterling service to this Club, or about the countless times he kept the Clubrooms in spotless condition, aided and abetted by Phil Burgess of whom more shall be heard. To digress slightly, we don't think that story is true about Phil and Leo wandering around Warrantdyte one day, and being asked by one of the locals did they want to know the whereabouts of the Elderly Citizens' Club!!

196/70

Leo also would not want me to mention how in the very early years, he personally ploughed a furrow to form the boundary around the ground. Many things he did for us which possibly are not known, and it is only fitting that they are recognized here. He also had great sporting ability representing this district on numerous occasions.

While major honours did not come our way during 1963/4, we can record some excellent personal efforts, with that man Mathieson featuring with 68 and 146, plus great assistance from Ivan Binns 8/27 and a century to Wal Carrington. Jack Lindsay 58, Allan McLeish 51 and 41 also featured, together with David Richards 4/26 and 4/50.

Away from the Club, Ron Tomlinson scored 268 not out for North Ringwood in a Semi-Final. We had previously made application for admission to Sub District Ranks and as this was granted to take effect from the start of 1964/65 season, one could sense the eagerness which preceded the start of this season. Before we got under way, however, another Life Member was appointed, one Harry Munro. This man, a real all rounder, who never accepted defeat, was often called upon to bear heavy loads, both batting and bowling, and never once shirked an issue. He also worked long hours in club administration and now is an expert bowler, and with his former teammate Jack Lindsay, has won the Pairs' Championship at Ringwood. Pity the poor unfortunates who faced those two in the final.

To make sure that our surroundings were in keeping with our elevation to Sub-District status, the brand new "R.O. Spencer" Pavilion was opened in August, 1964. It is marvellous how people active in civic affairs have supported the Club over the years and Reg Spencer was no exception. He came to us from North Melbourne as a classy wicketkeeper. Never short for a word, he will leap instantly to the defence of the glovemen in cricket, and really regards them as the backbone of our game.

1961 - 1970

We almost forgot to mention the arrival of Jim Myerscough at the Club. Jim came from Northcote club, and as you follow his record through the years it can be easily understood why it was a lucky day for us when he decided to join. In his later years he concentrated on giving guidance to the younger brigade, and when I once congratulated him on the Fourth Eleven (his) winning the Premiership he almost angrily told me that he had not done anything, but all credit went to "the boys". But you can be sure there was no way they could have got there without him.

No major honours came our way this season, although 'C' grade matting finished 2nd, and Barry Carrington won the competition bowling trophy for this division.

Batting 1964-65

Don Mathieson 46: 74 N.O.: 73 N.O.: 98
Jack Lindsay 71: 54:
Val Morphett 45:
Col Martin 101 N.O.: 110
Ian McLeod 61:
Chas Johnson 45: 44:
Club Champion 500 runs 34 wickets
Graeme Sinclair 78:
Wall Carrington 87: 103:
Harry Munro 73: 44:
Allan McLeish 71: 48:

Bowling

David Richards 4/18: 4/39: 4/8
Barry Farrell 6/47: 5/28
Tom Ward 6/28: 4/25
John Vergers 6/38: 3/40
Jim Myerscough 4/16: 5/28: 8/32: 5/48: 5/34: 5/44
Barry Carrington 6/19: 5/11:
Tony Fox 5/30: 4/10:
Howard Brown 5/19: 4/34:
Bob Lodde 5/30: 5/81
P. Wiltshire 8/29: (hat trick) 6/38
Harry Munro 4/24: 5/24:

Before the start of season 1965/66, a decision was taken to leave E.S.C.A. and re-enter 3 senior and one junior team in R.D.C.A. The Club felt that this move would help to strengthen cricket in this area. There is no doubt now that this step was a very wise move.

1961.70

The "A" grade matting team decided it was time that the short-term premiership drought was broken, and they did just that. Seems like their bowlers were the prime cause for success as Farrell 6/40 and Martin 4/40 proved. In other divisions, P. Buckley starred with 173 not out, Jack Lindsay 90 & 41, Richard Robinson 98, Russ Arbuckle 102, Col. Martin 59, while bowlers Farrell, Robinson, Slater, Shaw and Carrington helped a lot. Gary Walton, one of the best competitors we had, managed 8/46, 6/40 and 5/39.

In August, 1966, we received the good news that Ringwood had been admitted to full Sub-District membership. The Mail reporting on the general meeting said "The Clubs leaders are determined to leave no stone unturned to lift the Club up into the top bracket of the Victorian Cricket from which Victorian and Australian players are selected" Strong and inspiring words, which were later to be carried out to the fullest extent.

The Club's leaders mentioned were, Laurie McLeod, who replaced Harry Munro as President, Frank Bibby as Secretary, while Don Mathieson must have been an obvious choice for re-election as Coach. My main memories of Laurie are as an umpire of the highest quality, firm but fair, and anyone who decided to 'carry on' on the field, soon got the message from L. McLeod esquire. The McLeods rank highly in the Ringwood Cricket story as Laurie and Mrs McLeod together with son Ian later to become Club Secretary, must have put in many hours of hard work for their Club. Heart problems did not stop Laurie from supporting us, and he was back at his vocal best after a short absence.

Back to the field of play, and this talk about our administrative strength was only delaying the news that we got no premierships at all in 1966/67. The senior turf team lost to Sunshine in their semi-final, but to their credit, had held top position throughout the season. The best performers included Don Mathieson 128: 65: 54 N.O.: 55: Gary Walton 96. These two slammed on 193 for a sixth-wicket stand in March 11, 1967. Other good batsmen were Russ Arbuckle, John Khan, Barry Morphett (son of Val) Ian McLeod, Ian McGregor, Wal Carrington and Charlie Johnson, the evergreen, who got 114 on Dec 10, 1966. Roger De Zilva, another century-maker

196/70

picked up 102 Not Out in the opening round, and no doubt could not imagine a better way to start a new season. The bowling fraternity to shine included Jim Myerscough, Barry Carrington, Barry Farrell (9/25 in one innings) Jim Johnson, Peter Matuska and Richard Robinson, while Ron Tomlinson showed he could use a cricket ball as well as a bat, by collecting 4/11 on November 12, 1966.

To David Penny went the honour of scoring our first century at Jubilee Park. It happened on October 13, 1967, and David, a most attractive batsman in full flight got 129. Perhaps this was one of the few highlights in a year where we only managed 6th position in Sub District 'A' & 'B' Grade, and no team took part in finals.

Two of our junior players (and we had many outstanding players in this section, who later proved their early promise) were Paul Kirby who took 9 wickets for 2 runs in October, 1967. Stewart Brown also wanted to get into the picture with 8 wickets for 9 runs in November. Other details:

<u>Bowling</u>	Don Mathieson	5/30			
	Ralph Wigg	4/33:	7/49:	8/87	
	Richard Robinson	5/10:	5/28		
	Jim Myerscough	5/37:	5/41:	4/43:	5/19
	Tony Box	5/20			

One thing is clear from these figures Jim Myerscough was keen on getting 5 wickets each time he bowled and he also liked the odd hat trick, as on March 15, 1968 he managed to get one.

Batting starts this season included Russ Arbuckle, Val Morphett, Ralph Cousins, Robin Close (better known as a top Essendon footballer) Don Mathieson, not forgetting N. Washfold and P. Kaighin who also contributed.

1968-69 We noted round about December, 1968, a very well presented Newsletter about Club News, scores etc. edited by Ralph Wigg. An amusing report on a Golf Day held at Lang Lang showed that Charlie Johnson's score would have been terrific in a cricket scorebook but not on a golf card. Phil Burgess showed once again his club spirit by making his home available for the Xmas Barbeque.

196/ 1970
1961 - 1970

Both senior teams covered themselves (almost) with glory as the 1st Eleven finished runners up to a very strong Ormond team, while the seconds were equal Premiers with Williamstown.

The Club Annual Report covered 33 well-presented pages, and reflected great credit on the people in official positions. To show that they were supported on the field of action, quite a number of players achieved success as can be seen.

Batting: Ralph Cousins 72: Chas Johnson 88 & 63 Not Out:
Don Mathieson 130 N.O. Jim Milne 86: Peter Saxre 62:
John Kirby 57: 101: Ron Tomlinson 69: Bill Shaw 100:
Alan Metcalfe 99: Don Mathieson 111.

Bowling: Peter Matuska 7/60: 7/29: 7/43
Gary Walton 8/31 (20 overs)
N. Washfold 6/80
Andy McCall 6/62
D. Flentze 6/27
Howard Brown 5/19
Jim Myerscough 6/62: 6/18: 7/50
Geoff Laird 8/12: 5/9
Ron Tomlinson 4/10 (9 overs)

Tony Box 5/11 8 overs.

In the final match the 1st Eleven Captain, Don Mathieson took 5/43 while his deputy Jim Myerscough got 3/41. In the semi final Don had a big say in the result by scoring 111.

The second eleven were capably led by Alby Hunter (ex Brunswick) who was to prove his outstanding ability as a key player and later took on the big challenge as Senior Coach. Whether he achieves the ultimate - a V.C.A. Pennant remains to be seen - but if he doesn't, it certainly won't be because of lack of ability, and deep cricket knowledge.

It was not possible to say goodbye to the sixties on a high note, as only our Under 14 boys were able to take out a flag in season 1969/70. Maybe we were still recovering from the impact of the events that occurred, such as, opening of Jubilee Park pavilion, our entry into Sub-District ranks, etc. etc. Another Civic event to take place shortly - February, 1970, to be exact, was the opening of the new \$500,000 Civic Centre at Ringwood East.

1961 - 1970

This was located on the site of the old antimony mine which ceased operations many years ago and was the source of employment for some of our early residents. It also was a very convenient place from which to view cricket and football on the Ringwood East oval, although many of us were warned by our parents of the dangers of old disused shafts in the mine area. Even during construction of the Civic Centre, these were considered to be a possible hazard, and extensive tests had to be carried out to ensure the safety of the foundations.

Don Mathieson, Ian McLeod and Ray Patten all collected the magical century this season and other batsmen to perform well included Wayne Webster, John Kirby, Bill Shaw, Russ Arbuckle and P. Nott.

The bowlers had a pretty good season and Jim Myerscough, Peter Matuska, Richard Robinson and Alby Hunter were outstanding along the way, Richard got a hat trick and the number of times this was achieved has never ceased to amaze me. As a "sunset" bowler - for the ignorant, that is one who can only achieve a wicket when the setting sun is shining directly in the batsman's eyes - I did get my only hat trick in a social match. One victim came from Poland where I don't think cricket rates very highly on their national sports programme, while another was a 13 year old boy, who probably was only making up the team number anyway!

1971 - 1980

What would the seventies reveal in our cricket world? As well as unforeseen changes at International Level - World Series Cricket - coloured clothing, cricket under lights, transplanting wicket into sacred football turf at V.F.L. Park Waverley - later removing it - all these events guaranteed never a dull moment for the Player, Official and Watcher.

However, some great things took place within our own sphere, and finally we saw the entry of Ringwood into District ranks. While the sixties was a period of consolidation for us, season 1974/75 saw the dream come true and the just reward for the efforts of many people even way back to the earliest years. It would do no harm at all for current players, as they enjoy the facilities at Jubilee Park to pause a while and reflect on how these conditions came about, and on the people who battled, often against great odds, to ensure their future comfort and convenience.

Maybe that little reflection could inspire our senior team to achieve a V.C.A. Pennant. Youv'e probably guessed by now that that is our next goal. Unlike many supporters of that well known V.F.L. Club, we don't think it is "Mission Impossible".

On the official side, the Club in February, 1971, asked Ringwood Council to consider a loan of \$3,000 for turf wicket facilities to enable them to qualify for V.C.A. membership. A local newspaper columnist was not really in accord with this request and stated "Nothing succeeds like success, and we think they should wait until they have a Sub-District Premiership under their belt before they front up to Council again".

Full credit to our Junior teams for season 1970/71 as they both got as far as 2nd position - no other team managed to play off in finals. Some of our outstanding Juniors were Cahill, Clarke, Kirby Hayward and Fielding (good cricket name and some of these lads went on to higher things. One I almost forgot was Paul Newton who even then was performing with much promise which was to take him into the first eleven. Amongst the older brigade Alby Hunter, Paul Jones, Ralph Wigg and Jim Myerscough were getting wickets regularly, and our top batsmen included Don Mathieson (yes again) with one century, Russ Arbuckle, Peter Sarre and David Richards

1971. 80
12/11 - 1200

Peter Matuska, Alby Hunter and Jim Myerscough, the experienced ones, continued to bowl very well, while Paul Newton collected a hat-trick on October, 23, this final analysis being 6/10.

For season 1972/73, we were unable to locate much press coverage at all, except to report that the senior Sub-District team finished the season runners-up. However some scores are available and these show centuries to Chris King, recruited from RDCA, 101, K... Hayward 100, and Garry Walton 100, while I.. Rutley collected 108.

Terry Cahill and Ian Rutley were brilliant Junior competitors getting a hat-trick each in many wickets collected during the season. Bruce Cass and Tim Harms a name to remember, also bowled very well in Junior ranks.

1973 - 74 During this season, the big announcement was released that we were accepted on probation initially to the Victorian Cricket Association Pennant Competition, Waverley Cricket Club also were selected. This was to take effect from the start of season 1974/75. No doubt the shock waves of pleasure and a deep sense of satisfaction rippled throughout Jubilee Park for a long time.

Three premierships came our way namely U16, U12 and 'A' Grade RDCA. In the Junior U16 final, Bruce Cass got 4/22 and Terry Cahill 5/39 to pave the way for victory. Under 12 players, Terry Clarke 71 N.O. and Tim Flahaven 34, put on a record partnership to set up their win. The 'B' Graders, Alby Hunter and F. Payne scored 91 and 75 respectively.

Among the not-so-successful teams, Chris King and Graham O'Donnell scored a record 1st wicket partnership of 106 against Elsternwick on Nov. 3 1973. Graham who, incidentally was one of those tireless workers that every club needs to survive got 62 N.O. the following match, and later in the season assisted Chris King in another century opening stand. In this match Ron Tomlinson weighed in with 76, Geoff Stephen 79 and Howard Brown collected an aggregate of 9 wickets for 46 runs-some bowling!! Paul Jones, Peter Matuska and Ron Garlepp are all worthy of mention as well for

1971 - 1980

Three bowlers almost got the maximum. They were Alby Hunter who collected 8/32 on October 3rd, 1970 while Ralph Wigg got 8/36 on 6th November and not to be outdone Paul Jones decided to call it a day on 8/27. This proved that Paul not only performed well on the administrative side, while wife Jo would have to get my award for her tremendous catering efforts, despite caring for a young family.

The re-appointment of Don Mathieson as coach for 1971-2 marked his 10th season with us, and spoke volumes for the impact he had on our game as far as Ringwood, and probably many opponents, were concerned.

Another top player, David Richards, was appointed Assistant Secretary to the Victorian Cricket Association in January, 1972. Apart from this recognition of obvious talent in this area, it proved to be a step along the way up to much higher things, as we shall see. Despite what must have been heavy commitments, David still managed to return to Jubilee Park in later years to support the Club. It should be remembered also that some of this Club history emanated from research done by David, Ian McLeod and no doubt others, whose names escape me for the moment.

The Club was granted a 10 year occupancy of Jubilee Park No. 2 Oval - across the road, for people not familiar with the area. This took effect from season 1971/72 and as well we were to construct a 4-wicket turf area on the main oval to meet V.C.A. requirements, as previously mentioned. The stage was now set for application for entry to V.C.A. and this was made with a view to inclusion for season 1973/74. But let's not jump too far ahead at this point.

We can't claim any pennants this season, 1971-2, but one of our RDCA matting teams finished runners-up with Ward 81 and Hayward 71 doing their utmost. Ron Tomlinson was in full flight with the bat now as scores of 112 not out and 51 would indicate. Geoff Stephen, Paul Newton, Ray Patten and Jim Ford, who couldn't have been much taller than the stumps, also were consistent scorers.

1971/80

And now to the big time, the Club made one of its wisest and most far-reaching decisions ever, when it appointed Bob Lloyd from Melbourne Club as its coach to commence season 1974/75, As most people are aware, Bob started his cricket career in South Australia culminating in Sheffield Shield selection. My impressions of him are those of a deep-thinking quietly spoken type, who is an excellent tactician. He really believed in a high standard of physical fitness, and his pre season training methods would have come as a great shock to many players who were probably only used to "two laps and a few drinks "type of conditioning". His methods certainly paid dividends on the field, and if a lot of early scoreboard success was not apparent, Ringwood would surely have been tuned-up to peak fitness level.

Bob, during his relatively short stay here, went all-out to promote the sport in this district, and organized groups of senior Ringwood players to visit Clubs in small groups to offer coaching assistance etc. Recently, he helped me personally by speaking to a Junior Club with which I was associated, and you could sense that the boys were soaking up every word of advice that he offered. Now a Victorian selector, he can certainly add strength to this section of the game at this level.

Our first district cricket win came on Nov 3, 1974, when we defeated Melbourne. Maybe this was done specially for Bob. The two stars were Ron Tomlinson 4 wickets for 9 runs, while Garry Walton scored 44 runs. While details of this season are quite sketchy, we know our senior teams missed the finals.

The Juniors had a number of great competitors, especially L. Pinniur G. Trotmen, D. Smith, I. Cericic, S. James, G. Edward and D. Stephen. The only century maker listed was R. Simpson on 116.

Season 1975/76 proved to be the greatest ever as far as the Juniors were concerned. Six teams competed and five got through to the Final. The net result - 3 Premierships: 2 Runners Up. We feel they deserve plenty of recognition in these pages and will list as many names as we were able to gather from Press Reports.

1971-80

C. TEASDALE: P. DALE: K. FLETCHER: R. DARVELL: G. ROVER:
S. BANFIELD: W. MAILE: G. SMITH: B. CASS: P. PIMM:
P. BANFIELD: F. HORNE: S. HAGER: T. CLARKE: W. MAILE:
G. O'DONNELL: MC DONALD : K. AMES: C. RUTLEY: G. EWART:
G. LOVELL: S. LOVELL: PENDRY: P. NEWTON

Some magnificent personal efforts were recorded, 5 boys taking 6 wickets or more, while 7 boys collected 50 or more runs each.

To get some idea of the power in these teams, we reprint the team totals for one match in late February. No doubt this was excellent timing prior to the finals, and would have thrown up a great mental hazard to their prospective opponents:

Under 16	4/374	:	4/325
Under 14	6/165	:	6/293
Under 12	152		

Craig Teasdale 200 not out, Paul ^Newton 145, Stephen Banfield 116 were the main scorers but they had plenty of assistance as the scores would prove. Unfortunately not a great number of these juniors remained with us but we can only assume they are continuing their successes wherever they are.

All this raving about the youngsters tended to indicate that the older brigade did not do much. That is not really the case. To prove to Reg Spencer and others that wicket keepers are not forgotten, we noted with a lot of pleasure that Michael York, our dapper little custodian of the stumps, was responsible for 6 catches and stumping on Nov. 15. Michael who has plenty of cricket ahead of him, is a very mild-mannered, friendly chap and can also offer dour resistance with the bat when the occasion demands. In addition, his family must be amongst the keenest supporters this club has ever had.

Batsmen, K. Rankin (century) D. Hanlon, Chris King, Dennis Drew, Greg Hubbard, Greg Schinck Peter Gardiner, Bob Lloyd, all performed well and the following list of top bowlers features an all-star cast.

1971 - 1980

R. McCURDY 4/31: 5/24 BRYAN REID 5/16: ANDY McCALL 4/14:
PETER MATUSKA 4/16: RON TOMLINSON 4/21: PAUL JONES 2/29:
RICHARD ROBINSON 6/54 : GEOFF STEPHEN 4/28

To return briefly to the Junior Grand Finals, the under 12 boys collected 390 of which S. Lovell 171 and W. Maile 77 featured in a record 9th wicket partnership of 152.

A very well-known highly experienced fast bowler came to us for season 1976/77 in the person of Alan Thomson. Did I hear you say "Who is Alan Thomson"? Easier to call him "Froggy" and now everybody knows. He had been a Test and Shield bowler and perhaps not so well known as a very competent football umpire. A man of temperate habits, Froggy was almost in perfect physical trim. He won't mind me saying that he is also a good talker, often in the outfield and usually to himself. Perhaps self-motivation or something! At around the 30 year old mark when he came to Ringwood, we expected him to spearhead the pace attack for a while yet.

He actually left us after only two seasons, most likely to take part in a slightly less fierce competition in Eastern Suburbs Association, and it was felt that Ringwood did not really see the best of him.

Other pace bowlers were performing consistently as we noted Paul Jones, Richard Robinson and Geoff Chancellor in form the last-named in two successive games collected 7/32 and 6/38. Some of the batsmen who supported their bowlers included Ron Tomlinson, Neil Mitchell, Steve Graham, Peter Gardiner, Paul Bullen, Bob Lloyd, Greg Schinck, and Ian McLeod. Our two century makers were Greg Schinck and Peter Gardiner.

The overall premiership results were two victories, while we finished Runners Up twice. Once again we have to pay great tribute to the Club's Juniors and when you read some of these figures you can easily understand the reason:

BATTING PENDREY 118: NEWTON 46 N.O.
O'DONNELL 47 DALE 92 N.O.
MAILE 71 N.O. FAWCETT 54
BEYER 51 N.O. SWEETMAN 63.

1971. 8

BOWLING DARVALL 8/10: 5/29 STEPHEN 5/4
 McKEE 7/41 O'DONNELL 5/6
 LIVINGSTONE 5/17 HAMILTON 4/7
 HUNTER 2/0: 4/0

Before the end of the season, the Club announced that Bob Lloyd was to continue as Coach for the next two seasons. We don't know of anyone who would have been unhappy with that decision.

1977/78 The bowling attack for the senior team was reinforced by the inclusion of Stephen Christie, an aggressive pace bowler from Collingwood. Stephen also liked to hit the ball out of sight when he picked up the bat, and must have succeeded on October 22 with 42 to his credit. Dennis Drew and Peter Gardiner were proving to be solid opening batsmen and Dennis got 76 in the first match. Main batting support came from Bob Lloyd, Tim Harms, Ron Tomlinson, Neil Mitchell and Greg Schinck. Two centuries well worth recording belonged to Paul Newton 102 and Sutton 116.

In the Junior ranks, McDowell, Clarke, Badrock, Lovell, Maile and Dunne were top players. Under 14 boys got the Runners Up spot.

Some meritorious personal honours were bestowed on some of our players during season 1977/78, perhaps the best one being the inclusion of 18 year old Rod McCurdy in the Under 19 side for Sri Lanka, as well as being selected in the State Squad with teammate Tim Harms. Paul Newton gained a place in the Victorian schoolboy team to tour New Zealand while Brett Leach was chosen to captain the Victorian Under 16 team at the Perth Carnival.

Back to the business end of the season and after just 3 seasons behind us in District ranks, we got our chance to compete for the top honours. Before the end of the last round we occupied second place but 8 teams behind us had a change of getting into the final four. A comfortable win over Essendon secured our position, our opponents in the semi final being the hot favourites Carlton who had held top position throughout the season.

Never had be bathed in the heady light of such publicity as "Bob Lloyd and the Eastern Suburbs boys" as one paper said, were receiving at this stage and no doubt, every inch of print was

Some of the headlines read as under:

"FROGGY KEEN TO GO OUT A WINNER"
"RINGWOOD REWARDED"
"RINGWOOD'S IN"

'AGE'
'SUNDAY PRESS'
'RINGWOOD MAIL'

Club President Lindsay Ewart summed it up in the local paper by saying that the success was remarkable and the Club had achieved what many V.C.A. teams had been striving to do for years. The team that was to tackle Carlton read as follows:

Bob Lloyd: Ron Tomlinson: Steve Christie:
Alan Thomson: Tim Harms: Chris Harms:
Michael York: Peter Binns: Peter Gardiner:
Dennis Drew: Neil Clarke

In actual play, the losing of the toss really sealed our fate as Stackpole and his strong batting team decided on a slow occupancy of the crease, and aided by weather interruption, and an antiquated V.C.A. law, left us something like 2½ hours to make over 200 runs. Of course as we didn't and as Carlton finished in first place, they won the semi final.

Quite an anti-climax really, and the initial reaction was that all the really hard work throughout the season was virtually wasted. But the fact that they got into the final series at all would rank as an outstanding achievement.

This setback was by no means the end of Ringwood for the season. That amazing cricketer Jim Myerscough, leading a bunch of young student type cricketers - the 4th Eleven - who were still learning the finer points, kept in touch with the leaders during the season and were drawn against Prahran in the Final. It is now history that they succeeded and to prove that there is truth in the saying "old dog for a hard road" Jim picked up a hat-trick during the proceedings.

While the 4th Eleven Pennant was intended to close up this brief history, we cannot possibly finish without the tremendous news that in 1979/80, the fourths again got into the Final again led by Jim Myerscough and again won. They were set 295 runs to win and finished with 9/296. Plenty of heart attack and blood pressure material there! The star performer was Crump who made 138. While he would be the last to agree there is little doubt that the "Myerscough" guidance and skill played a major

WHAT THEY SAID

Being some selected comments from well-known people associated with the Club over the years

LEC PRATT

Gilbert Chandler - stalwart RDCA player - Took players anywhere to play - Great Player - sportsman - thorough gentleman.

RE O.J. PRATT (President 36 years)

Freely gave advice to all players but no reputation as a cricketer himself. ~~Was~~ Greatest Thrill-1926/27 1st 100. - member of premiership team.

Did not captain Premiership team as brother Harry did - a fine keeper.

Leo missed one Annual Meeting since 1925.

Best 3 Bill Allen: Manson, McAlpin: Jack Maidment:

CLEM WALDEN One of the pioneers who commenced around 1914. Clem wrote a wonderful letter to me on 21st March, 1980 in near perfect handwriting. He said about Bill Allen...

"A wonderful cricketer. One day while playing district cricket with Melbourne he got a hat-trick, but was troubled by stomach pains during the game. His team mates gave him two stiff brandies and afterwards he admitted having difficulty in lining up the stumps at the other end.

I'll never forget my many reasons with a finer lot of pals anyone could have and I'll always remember Jack Knox, Jack Goodall, Frank Pollard, and Leo Pratt who helped with his encouragement, also many others and I say thank you all for your comradeship.

Pals always,

Clem Walden."

BOBB BISSETT This gentleman who came up for his 38th successive year as R.D.C.A. Treasurer in 1980, had this to say in 1975:

"I like to keep in touch with all the friends I have made over the years. If I gave up the Treasurership, I might lose contact and I would hate that"

One leading R.D.C.A. official said about Bob "no one would dream of standing against him. We know when we are on a good thing. He is an outstanding Treasurer, and the corner-stone of our organization. Cricketer, Umpire, Delegate, Treasurer - he excelled in all these duties."

Trinal

Ringwood Parish surveyed and plotted by Mr. N. Brickford in 1857

1st Sale - Public Auction held in Melbourne on 8/3/58

£10 Deposit for 148 acres - Total Cost £148.11.2
Bought by Samuel Isaacs

Before Municipal Councils were established, District Roads Boards raised monies by a tax on land owners:

1/-	per acre	- cultivated land
1d.	" "	pasture land
1/4d.	" "	virgin land

The Boards were formed to maintain roads and bridges built by the pioneers.

11. 3.1864 - Parish of Ringwood was brought into the Berwick Road District.

In 1871 the Parish was severed from Berwick despite residents protests and attached to Shire of Lillydale. The reason was to consolidate control over the maintenance of main Healesville Road now Maroondah Highway. For a short period of 9 years, toll gates had been operating on this road, but were abolished in 1875.

Borough of Ringwood formed in 1924 - 1st Councillors

A.T. Miles, J.B. McAlpin, W. Mackinlay, A.Blood,
R.G. Wilkins, J. McCaskill

March 19, 1960 - City Proclaimed

Mr. Joseph Ringwood farmed 80 acres in the area in the early days but city name is thought to have come from the town in Hampshire England.

Antimony mine commenced operation in April, 1870, after lease was granted to William and James Smith and Pierce Boardman - women were employed and accommodated in rough paling huts erected on the site. After approx. 30 years operations, the mines became uneconomical. Five companies at least had been mining in this area. One major problem was water seepage when the shafts reached the level of Dandenong Creek.

WHAT THEY SAID (in brief)

A well-known 'B' Grade Captain in the late forties:
"We need a bowling change - I'll switch to the other end"

Jack Maidment: "No..... talking in slips!!"

John Connell (loudly) as a new batsman approached
"This,..... will be easy"

Vin Orr (almost always) "I'm hungry".

Bill Connell "I'm thirsty"

An Ex-President who noticed a new recruit behaving in a
strange manner "I'm sure he's Dippy"

Ivan Binns "That must have turned a foot!"

Neil Tuppenis To his batting partner. "There's a single here,
Keith - Yes, No - Sorry!!

FINALE

The heavy clay soil around East Ringwood was used for brickmaking, and four factories made bricks which were used on such buildings as Ringwood Railway Station. The manufacturing process took days to complete using primitive methods, comparing unfavourably with the current production time of a few hours.

Part of Letter to the Editor - Ringwood Mail - January, 1941

"There is no outer suburb to equal this pretty hamlet with its beautiful slopes and valleys, and possessed as it is of all modern conveniences."

Thank you Jamie

It would have been impossible to complete my work without a great deal of assistance from certain people, and deep gratitude is due to those recorded herewith:

Past players of Ringwood Cricket Club
Bob Patterson and staff at Box Hill City Council
Staff of Box Hill City Library
State Library of Victoria - Melbourne
Eastern Metropolitan Library - Ringwood
Arthur Smith - Proof Reader par excellence
Keith Hubbard and his staff for typing services
Mrs. Betty Hubbard for offering her home and
hospitality to the Past Players Association -
and for listening to cricket stories that she
had probably heard many times already, anyway.
My wife for tolerating my many late homecomings
and preparation of meals at odd hours
Bob Bissett for assistance with photographic work,

Peter Alford