



ST. BERNARDS
OLD COLLEGIANS'
CRICKET CLUB INC.

PRESENTS

THE FIRST

25 YEARS

FOREWORD

As season 1992/93 was St. Bernards Old Collegians' Cricket Club's twenty fifth year, the Committee decided that it was an appropriate time to publish a history to commemorate such a milestone.

Much of the information contained in the history was obtained from the Annual Reports, scorebooks and the memories of many people who have been involved with the Club over the first 25 years.

Special mention should go to our founding secretary, Peter Mitchell, who had the foresight to establish a player card system which recorded the performances of every player ever to represent St. Bernards and to the secretaries over the years who compiled the Annual Reports with such a mind for detail.

It is hoped that you, as a reader, gain as much pleasure in reliving your memories and times at St. Bernards as I had while compiling it.

Terry Davis
Club Historian

SEASON 1968 / 69

C.Y.M.S.

" THE BEGINNING "

Although St. Bernards Cricket Club was not officially inaugurated until 3 September 1969, cricketers played under the name in season 1968/69.

The inspiration of Peter Mitchell and the wishes of a few St. Bernards footballers to have a game of cricket together during the summer saw a team entered in the CYMS competition. Although the finer details of the first season are somewhat sketchy, there were some notable performances by individuals during the club's first year.

John Tobin and Brian Dillon not only scored the first centuries for the Club but also established a quite formidable third wicket partnership of 164 against Northcote B. Notable bowling performances were Gary Amott who took 7/34 against Collingwood, Bob Dunne who captured 5/8 against North Essendon and John Eddy who took 5/44 against Flemington.

The Club played a game against the College First XI. The College team were victorious making 4 for 135, with Kevin Phelan making 83 not out and Terry Davis 22; in reply The Old Boys made 9 for 113 with John Tobin (34), John Harvey (20) and Brian Cusack (33 not out), Kevin Phelan bamboozling the batsmen with his off-spin(?) taking 4 wickets for 34.

The names of players who represented St. Bernards in its historical first season were:

Gary Amott	Peter Atkinson	Adrian Byrne	Bill Cahill
Pat Considine	Brian Cusack	Des Cusack	Brian Dillon
Bob Dunne	John Tobin	Peter Mitchell	John Eddy
John Harvey	Ron Hancox	Mick Kelly	Damian Marshall
Denis McArdle	Leo McCarthy	Peter Pearson	Michael Perrett

The first game was against Flemington at Buckley Park and the score card was:

<u>FIRST INNINGS</u>			<u>SECOND INNINGS</u>	
<u>BATSMAN</u>	<u>HOW OUT</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>HOW OUT</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
M. PERRETT	RUN OUT	0	ABSENT	-
J. HARVEY	CAUGHT	8	ABSENT	-
P. PEARSON	CAUGHT	37	ABSENT	-
G. AMOTT	NOT OUT	6	ABSENT	-
A. BYRNE	NOT OUT	14	ABSENT	-
P. MITCHELL			CAUGHT	9
L. MCCARTHY			CAUGHT	17
D. MARSHALL			CAUGHT	6
W. CAHILL			BOWLED	9
M. KELLY			ABSENT	-
J. EDDY			NOT OUT	0
EXTRAS		13		2
TOTAL	3 for	78	TOTAL	43

BOWLING

<u>BOWLER</u>	<u>FIRST INNINGS</u>			<u>SECOND INNINGS</u>		
	<u>OVERS</u>	<u>WICKETS</u>	<u>RUNS</u>	<u>OVERS</u>	<u>WICKETS</u>	<u>RUNS</u>
L. MCCARTHY	4	3	3	11	1	28
M. KELLY	5	3	10	3	0	2
G. AMOTT	3	1	6	-	-	-
P. PEARSON	4	3	3	2	0	0
J. EDDY	-	-	-	13	5	44
D. MARSHALL	-	-	-	9	1	33
W. CAHILL	-	-	-	1	0	0

Having dismissed Flemington for a paltry 28, St. Bernards quickly made 3 for 78 declared and sent them back in to force the outright. However we did not bank on the rear guard action by Flemington who made 139, leaving St. Bernards 90 to win. This task may not have been so formidable except that the football trip was on the second weekend of the game resulting in the unavailability of 5 players, the second innings total of 43 and an outright loss.

SEASON 1969/70

The St. Bernard's Old Collegians Cricket Club was inaugurated at the First Annual General Meeting on 3 September 1969 under the auspices of the St. Bernard's Old Collegians Association.

The Foundation Office Bearers And Members Of The Committee were:

PRESIDENT	:	Bob	Perrett
VICE PRESIDENT	:	Bert	Atkinson
TREASURER	:	Jack	Dillon
SECRETARY	:	Peter	Mitchell
ASST. SECRETARY	:	John	Tobin
GENERAL COMMITTEE	:	Leo	McCarthy
		Adrian	Byrne
		Brian	Cusack
		Damien	Marshall

For this season two teams were entered in the CYMS Competition resulting in 40 different players being used during the year. Performance wise the First XI finished third, losing to West Preston in the Semi-final. In its first year the Second XI team finished in 8th position out of 10 teams, which was a creditable performance considering that they played in the same competition as the Firsts.

The first social function of the year was a BBQ held at the Sunbury Football Ground which was a social success but a financial failure (\$46 loss). The Presentation Night was held at the Moonee Ponds Bowling Club resulting in an enjoyable evening for all.

Financially, the turnover for the year was \$784 with a profit of \$105. It was interesting to note the number of trophy donors and donations to the Club which were acknowledged.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>
Batting Award	J. Harvey	M. Buggy
Bowling Award	B. Cusack	P. Atkinson

SEASON 1970 / 71

On the administration side, Brian Cusack, was elected as a second Vice-President whilst Terry Peevers and Col Reidy were added to the General Committee.

On the field the First XI again finished in the Four but were defeated by the eventual premiers, North Essendon, in the semi-final. The Second XI continued to improve and finished the season with 4 wins and a tie.

The Club was fortunate to gain several new players including Mark Cockburn, David Burgin, John Fox and Andrew Goddard, all of whom added to the depth of player talent at St. Bernards. One of the recruits, David Burgin, shared a club record partnership of 121 for the 3rd wicket with veteran, Mick Perrett, who remained unbeaten on 103, an outstanding performance. St. Bernards continued to be well represented in the CYMS team by Mark Cockburn and John Harvey.

Presentation Night was well attended and the trophies were presented by Essendon Cricket Club premiership players, the late Mick Mitchell, Geoff Tobin and Ian Taylor.

Interestingly, a \$100 donation was received from Joe Epstein and as a token of its appreciation the Club elected him to Life Membership. I suppose that, when you consider that the club turnover for the season was \$839 (a profit of \$498), the Club's gesture was understandable.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>
Batting Award	J. Harvey (313 runs)	D. Burgin
Bowling Award	M. Cockburn (48 wkts)	B. Cusack
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player		P. O'Loughlin (deceased)

SEASON 1971 / 72

Although the Club had been reasonably successful in its first 3 years, it was determined to go one better on the field and play off for the elusive pennant. Everything was going to plan with the First XI finishing 2nd but once again the cut throat semi-final proved to be its obstacle with a loss to eventual premiers, Northcote.

There were 38 players who represented the Club and the ever improving depth was reflected in the performance of the Second XI, which finished 6th. Tony "Doc" Prendergast capped off an outstanding individual season by winning the Competition Bowling Average by taking 32 wickets for 174 runs at an average of 5.4 including 10 wickets in a match. Another individual performance of note was by John Harvey who not only made 335 runs during the year but also took 7 catches in an innings. Andrew Goddard represented the Club in the combined team as well as taking an outstanding 42 wickets for the season.

Socially, with much credit going to Social Secretary, Peter De Luca, the Club was expanding by holding a Presentation/Dinner Dance which was an enormous success. Another successful venture was the BBQ at Margaret Conlon's WHITE HOUSE, a venue which was to contribute to the demise of many St. Bernards people in the years to come, due mainly to such characters as Colin "CJ" Reidy and Peter "Tubby" Atkinson among others.

Financially it was evident that the Club was building a sound base with a profit for the season of \$640 thereby resulting in accumulated funds of \$1242.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>
Batting Award	J. Tobin	D. Burgin
Bowling Award	A. Prendergast	J. Fox
Club Champion	J. Harvey	
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player		M. Pearson

SEASON 1972 / 73

" FIRST CLUB PREMIERSHIP "

This season proved to be the most successful in the Club's short history. Finally, the First XI after finishing on top went through to win the CYMS Premiership and the Second XI missed out on the Four by just 1 point.

The premiership victory was the result of great team spirit and determination by the players under the leadership of Mark Cockburn, who also contributed individually by winning the Competition and the Club bowling averages. Mark was backed up magnificently by his vice-captain, John Harvey, who was runner up in the CYMS batting average and won the Club's batting average together with a great century in the semi-final against arch rivals, North Essendon. John's effort in making 547 runs for the season at an average of 49.7 confirmed his ranking as the best batsman in the competition.

The rapid development of the club was exemplified by the individual achievements of players during the season. These were:

- * Kevin Phelan and Mark Pearson were selected to represent the Cricket Union Of Victoria Under 21 side in Adelaide. Kevin was also captain of this team.

- * Terry Davis and Bernie Egan represented the Club in the CYMS Under 21 team. Terry was captain of this team and played some outstanding innings over the series, averaging over 50.
- * Mark Cockburn won the Competition bowling with another St. Bernards player, John Fox, being runner up. John captured 42 wickets for the season including an outstanding match performance of 12 wkts for 17 runs against West Preston.
- * John Tobin and Peter Mitchell became the first players at St. Bernards to reach the milestone of 50 games.
- * Andrew Goddard and Peter Pearson were outstanding bowlers for the First XI, taking 56 and 53 wickets respectively for the season.
- * David Burgin won the Second XI batting average for the third consecutive season and John Fox won the bowling for the second year in a row.

Sadly, Mr. Jack Harvey, who was a great supporter of the club in its formative years, passed away.

Looking to the future and achieving the ultimate aim of joining a turf competition, the Club was accepted into the Victorian Junior Cricket Association (VJCA) in 1973/74. This was achieved through the hard work and support of many people who had been instrumental in forming the Club. Some of these people were Bob Perrett, Jack Dillon, Bert Atkinson, Bill Pearson, Joe Epstein, Peter Mitchell and Jack Hutchinson amongst many. The co-operation and support of Bro. Chappell and St. Bernards College was also acknowledged.

The transition of the club into a new stage of development was more than evident in the balance sheet with the club turnover for this season being almost 3 times that of 1971/72.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>
Batting Award	J. Harvey	D. Burgin
Bowling Award	M. Cockburn	J. Fox
Club Champion	A. Goddard	
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player		P. Pearson

SEASON 1973 / 74

V. J. C. A.

" FIRST YEAR ON TURF "

This season saw the Club's long awaited entry into a turf competition namely the VJCA. The VJCA Executive's opinion of St. Bernards was obviously very high as we were graded into sections North 'A' and North 'C' and vindicated its decision with both sides finishing in 6th position in our first season.

Although the First XI were in the Four for most of the year, they faltered near the end losing the last 2 games and missing the finals by 1 point. The loss of captain, John Harvey, due to an overseas trip did not help the team's cause. The Second XI, under the leadership of Geoff Underwood, experienced similar problems as the Firsts by losing games near the end and dropping out of the Four. However, it was agreed that all players and the Club had benefitted from the experience and the Club could look forward to greater improvement in future years.

The Club, in its efforts to maintain a connection with the CYMS competition, entered a Third XI on matting but unfortunately the Christmas break saw its withdrawal due to lack of numbers.

One outstanding performance during the year was the establishment of a new Club opening partnership of 140 runs by Terry Davis and Kevin Phelan against Seddon.

The move into the VJCA meant an added responsibility and expense to the Club, namely the installation and preparation of turf wickets at the college ovals. This necessitated the formation of the wicket sub-committee which worked hard throughout the season with a special mention being made of Kevin Phelan for his tireless efforts in this regard.

This season saw the staging of the inaugural St. Bernards Double Wicket Day which was an outstanding success, mainly due to the organisational prowess of Peter Pearson and Geoff Underwood. The first winners were John Cosgriff and Bruce Sheldon (father of Rod and Gary) although the infamous 'streak' by 'Tubby' Atkinson and Len Britt before the final nearly upstaged the winners' performance.

The Club was saddened to hear of the death of Ted Goddard, father of Andrew. Ted had been a great supporter of the Club in its early years and was always a great provider of encouragement to the players.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>
Batting Award	T. Davis	J. Serrano	P. O'Connor
Bowling Award	P. Kennedy	J. Fox	G. Wade
Club Champion	T. Davis		
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player			B. Pattison

SEASON 1974 / 75

V. J. C. A.

" OUR FIRST VJCA PREMIERSHIP "

Our second season in the VJCA saw a change in the administration at the top with standing down of our first president, Bob Perrett, after 5 years. Bob's contribution to the Club during its formative years was outstanding and St. Bernards was grateful that he was able stay on long enough to ensure a smooth transition onto turf. Peter Mitchell

took over the reins and was ably backed by some of the 'OLD', Brian Cusack, Peter Atkinson, Jack Dillon and Col Reidy and the 'NEW', Robert Phelan, Terry Davis, Peter Pearson, Bernie Spain and Paul Kennedy.

With creditable performances in our initial VJCA season, expectations were high especially with the gain of the services of new captain/coach, Paul Collins, formerly of Preston C.C. and North Melbourne C.C. However, the First XI were unable to capitalise on chances during the year and finished 5th. One pleasing note was the performance of Noel Manton who not only captured 7wkts for 32 runs in his first game but also entertained us at social functions with his renditions of Mario Lanza songs and others.

In North 'C' the Second XI, captained by Brian Cusack, needed an outright victory in the last game to sneak into the Four. Upon achieving this they marched on through the Semi-final and then defeated previously unbeaten Werribee in the Final to register the Club's first premiership in the VJCA. The highlight of their year being the bowling performance of Peter Rackham who took 47 wkts including 11 wkts for 65 runs in the Final. John Harvey continued to amass runs for the Club in the Seconds, making 305 runs for the season including 106 not out.

The preparation of wickets was continuing to provide a headache for the Club especially in relation to the amount of time involved; the efforts of Peter Pearson and Bro. Bob Costello (St. Bernards College) were particularly recognised.

Other aspects of the transition to the VJCA which needed attention was the provision of afternoon teas, the need for a First XI scorer and a home ground manager. These tasks were thankfully carried out by the girlfriends/wives, Joe Davis and John Hughes respectively throughout the year.

Socially, thanks mainly to the efforts of Col Reidy, the functions were very successful especially the Presentation Dinner Dance Raffle which netted the Club \$747.00 which represented almost 50% of the turnover for the year. The 2nd. Double Wicket Day proved to be very successful with Peter Hogan and Bernie Pattison winning in a cliff hanging final.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>
Batting Award	T. Davis	J. Harvey	-
Bowling Award	P. Kennedy	P. Rackham	-
Club Champion	P. Rackham		
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player			A. Smith

SEASON 1975 / 76

V. J. C. A.

" SO CLOSE BUT "

This season brought about the re-introduction of a Third XI in the local E.B.K.C.A. matting competition; a move which was seen to capitalise on the Second XI Premiership as well as adding to the player depth within the Club.

Much of the credit for this move was given to Graeme Pratt and Peter Weston, who not only initiated the team but also were responsible for its organisation on and off the field. Although they started slowly, they came home strongly with 4 wins and a tie in the last 5 games to finish on top. They won their semi-final and then defeated St. Christophers in a very close Final by 10 runs. Highlights of their season were Peter Kavanagh's 40 wicket haul for the season and Geoff Underwood winning the batting with an average of 50.8.

After losing 2 out of the last 3 games, the First XI, under the captaincy of Terry Davis, regained momentum and reached the Grand Final against Newport East. After scoring 195 in our first innings, a memorable and devastating spell by Paul Kennedy of 5 wickets for 3 runs had Newport East on the ropes at the end of the first day at 5/18.

Rather than playing the next day, a weeks break gave Newport East the opportunity to regroup and may be St. Bernards to rest on their laurels. The remainder of the match was all Newport East's with some crucial dropped catches by us and dedicated but sometimes adventurous batting by them. The final scores being St. Bernards 195 and 104 versus Newport East 292 and 0/10. The season was highlighted by the batting performances of Kevin Phelan (406 runs including 2 centuries - 114 not out and 109) and Terry Davis (387 runs including 1 century - 101 not out) together with the bowling of Paul Kennedy (38 wickets).

The purchase of a new engine for the roller obviously encouraged more volunteers for wicket preparation and this extra preparation was reflected in the better standard of the wickets throughout the season. The entry of the Third XI necessitated the hire of Niddrie Tech. oval which, due to its proximity, was a welcomed move.

Bernie Pattison obviously preferred the double wicket version of cricket by winning the Final, partnered by Gerard 'Porky' Mahoney. The organisation and timely finish to the day was assisted by the use of both ovals for the first time.

Secretary, Robert Phelan, in his review of the season suggested that paying attention to the smaller details throughout the season, such as regular attendance at practice, punctuality at games and a greater contribution to the preparation work for each Saturday, would result in more enjoyable and successful cricket for all.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>
Batting Award	K. Phelan	P. Moulton	G. Underwood
Bowling Award	P. Kennedy	A. Prendergast	P. Rackham
Club Champion	T. Davis		
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player			D. Norton

SEASON 1976 / 77

V. J. C. A.

" SUCCESS OFF-FIELD BUT NOT ON "

Buoyed by our performances in 1975/76, hopes were high for this season, however a combination of dismal weather, retirement of many experienced players and the introduction of new young players led to a 'downer' in on field performances by the three teams.

The First XI's record was indicative of the Club's in that it had 2 wins, 4 losses and an incredible 5 draws. The only highlight was Paul Kennedy's hat-trick, which was not only a milestone for him but also for the Club, being its first recorded hat-trick.

However, it was off the field which saw a welcomed increase in activity. The election of some new blood on to the committee meant that much of the workload was distributed more evenly thereby resulting in an extremely strong financial position.

With the injection of this talent came new ideas such as the establishment of the 50's CLUB by Gerard Mahoney, which proved a successful venture and one that culminated in an enjoyable afternoon at Vic and Anne Pratt's. In line with the Club's social success, the Double Wicket Day once again attracted wide interest with Tony Isaacs and David Norton beating Frank Bottomley and Mick Marshall in a climactic Final.

Turnover for the Club in this season reached an all-time high of \$8899, an increase of 75% from last year. This having been said, the Club focussed on remedying its on field performance by appointing its first paid playing coach for next season, Michael Connors - ex Footscray District and Spotswood VJCA Senior Division player.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>
Batting Award	K. Phelan	R. Phelan	G. Mahoney
Bowling Award	P. Kennedy	B. Cusack	G. Pratt
Club Champion	T. Davis		
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player			M. Davis

SEASON 1977 / 78

V. J. C. A.

"RELEGATION BUT DOGGEDNESS PREVAILS"

After a poor 1976/77 season the Club experienced a further setback with the relegation of all three sides; in the case of the First XI, the decision was unexpected and difficult to comprehend, given that we had played off 2 years prior and the poor weather during the season. Perhaps the politics of the VJCA contributed to our demise and it was a lesson which would hold the Club in good stead in the future.

The appointment of Mick Connors as playing coach proved to be unsuccessful in that he was unable to devote the amount of time that he would have liked and others demanded. The area which most concerned the Committee was the lack of expert coaching to the Club's many young players.

Mick's performance on the field could not be faulted with the First XI winning 9 games on end to reach the Grand Final against Melton. The 'rub of the green' was against us from the start with Melton batting on a perfect wicket in 40 degrees celsius heat and fast outfield. To the team's credit Melton could only reach 169, but this turned out to be enough with the remaining days being marred by soaking pitches and rain affected outfields. The final scores were St. Bernards 121 and 74 versus Melton 169 and 75. Once again the political influence was evident during the match with the undue pressure exerted on the umpires by Melton's non-playing coach to force St. Bernards to bat on a treacherous wicket.

The Second XI also performed well during the season finishing 4th. In a remarkable semi-final they were on the ropes at 7 for 90 chasing 200 to win but an 8th wicket partnership of 116 between young Jeff James and George Conlan took them to victory and a place in the Final. In the final the weather which was to the detriment of the Firsts proved beneficial to the Seconds who made 9 for 247 on the first day then bundled out Melbourne Central for 62, thanks to a devastating bowling spell of 8/23 by George Conlan. Needless to say George was the player of the finals series.

The Third XI completed a good season by finishing 4th and also unearthed quite a few young players of potential and ability.

The Club's determination to succeed this season was exemplified by the individual achievements of players during the season. These were:

- * Kevin Phelan and David Norton making 383 and 341 runs respectively for the year in the Firsts.
- * Paul Kennedy taking a record 56 wickets for the year and was ably backed up by Peter Pearson (41 wickets)
- * Brian Cusack captured 49 wickets for the Seconds
- * Greg Blanck with 466 runs and Brendan Davis with 34 wickets were chief contributors in the Thirds batting and bowling respectively.

On the social front some concern was expressed at the decreasing revenue in the face of ever increasing expenditure; a situation which the Committee was determined to address as quickly as possible. Contrary to the revenue decline, Double Wicket Day continued to be well patronised with Terry Davis and John Flack beating Frank Bottomley (again!) and Jim Monaghan in the Final.

This year saw the end of a long, active involvement with St. Bernards by Peter 'Min' Mitchell, when he stood down as President. In recognition of his outstanding devotion of time and energy to St. Bernards, Peter was presented with Life Membership. As a parting gesture to the Club, he inaugurated the P.J. Mitchell Best Clubman Award, which truly epitomised his contribution to the Club. Fittingly the first winner of this award was Peter 'Snake' Pearson whose tireless efforts on wicket preparation were justly rewarded. The Club was extremely fortunate that Peter handed over the reins to the very capable hands of Vic Pratt.

The Club's indebtedness to the College for the use of its facilities and acknowledgement that they may be instrumental in the long run in achieving promotion to Senior Division of the VJCA was the first sign of the Club's desire for higher honours.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>
Batting Award	K. Phelan	J. James	G. Blanck
Bowling Award	T. Davis	G. Conlan	B. Davis
Club Champion	G. Blanck		
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player			J. James
P.J. Mitchell Best Clubman			P. Pearson

SEASON 1978 / 79

V. J. C. A.

"UNDER AGE TEAM AND THIRDS PREMIERSHIP"

St. Bernards finally, through the initiative of Beau Redmond, established an under age team in the E.B.K.C.A. Competition. This move was seen as an essential ingredient to the long term future of the Club and the team's instant success confirmed its introduction.

The promotion of the 3 senior teams was not met with success as far as the First and Second XIs was concerned; both teams having poor seasons although never really experiencing bad defeats. There was one sign of confidence for the future with the performance of Julian Kennelly in winning the First XI batting average on debut, including a highest score of 100 not out.

It was left to the Thirds and Under 16s to uphold the Club pride and they did so admirably by each winning the premiership.

The Thirds, under the captaincy of the 'never say die' Bill O'Callaghan, stormed into the Grand Final with 4 consecutive wins and, after amassing 309 runs in the first innings thanks to a superb 115 from Greg Blanck, they required a mere 76 runs to win outright. They nervously lost 8 wickets for 61 and appeared beaten but a captain's knock from Bill together with the experienced campaigner in Brian Cusack got them to the victory.

The Under 16s were captained by Michael Redmond, who from the outset led from the front by winning the batting award scoring 501 runs including a century (101 not out). The boys' determination was no more evident than in the Grand Final, while chasing 163, they slumped to 8 for 144 but were seen to victory by the courageous batting of the tailenders.

The co-operation between the College and the Club was further exemplified with the joint venture in providing synthetic practice wickets, which were beneficial to both bodies. The future of the Old Boys Cricket Club was further enhanced by the inaugural premierships of the College Senior and Junior Cricket XIs.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>	<u>Under 16</u>
Batting Award	J. Kennelly	P. Moulton	V. McGartland	M.Redmond
Bowling Award	P. Vosti	Paul Hogan	G. McAllister	J.Raynor
Club Champion	J. Pearson			
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player			G. McCartney	
P.J. Mitchell Best Clubman			B. Redmond	

SEASON 1979 / 80

V. J. C. A.

" UNDER 16 s PREMIERS AND CHAMPIONS "

The Club was very fortunate to gain the services of John Fitzgerald as Captain/Coach for 1979/80. John not only brought his District experience from Northcote with him but also a distinct willingness and ability to impart his knowledge to all players whether they were young or old.

The litmus test of the Club was seen as the Firsts ability to perform successfully and consistently in North A. Fitz's captaincy together with his sound batting were instrumental in passing this test in 1989/90. Although beaten in the semi-final by Altona North, the team showed by its performances that the little extra required to consistently beat the 'professionals' such as Essendon Grammar, Newport East and Altona North was not far away.

The Second and Third XIs performed up to expectations given the make up of their teams and their respective grades. The Seconds record was 5 wins, 5 losses and 2 draws while the Thirds won 3, lost 5 and drew 2.

The Under 16s carried on from its first season by being undefeated and winning the Premiership. Michael Redmond demonstrated his outstanding ability by making 2 centuries, taking 6/38 in the Grand Final, winning the club batting and bowling awards and the E.B.K.C.A. competition batting. Peter Clarke proved his potential as fast bowler by winning the Competition bowling average.

Due to his retirement from work and a desire to spend time on things other than cricket. Vic Pratt stepped down as President and was replaced by Brian Cusack. No job was too much for Vic and his reliability, a quality of which he was personally proud, could never be questioned. It was obvious towards the end of the season that Vic could not make the complete break as he was still offering his services to assist the Club. We also saw the departure of Peter Moulton from St. Bernards due to a transfer in employment; Peter's involvement in wicket preparation was outstanding and his departure further emphasised the need for the Committee to seriously consider a full-time curator for the wickets.

This season was notable for the individual achievement of Peter Pearson in playing his 100th game for St. Bernards. As the annual report aptly stated, " Snake, as he is universally known, even the opposition are unsure of whom you are referring to when you mention him by his full name; but they all know who Snake is !!) ".

Whilst on the Annual Report, it was quite obvious to the reader that Peter Vosti, in his capacity as Secretary and Second XI captain, provided major input to the narrative particularly with such words as axiomatic, corollary, evinced and propitious forming part of the text of the report. The standard set and the format of this season's report were a credit to Peter.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>	<u>Under 16</u>
Batting Award	J. Bingham	G. Redmond	J. Pearson	M.Redmond
Bowling Award	R. Moulton	P. Pearson	G. McCartney	M.Redmond
Club Champion	J. Pearson			
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player			G. Redmond	
P.J. Mitchell Best Clubman			P. Moulton	

SEASON 1980 / 81

V. J. C. A.

"WICKET DEVELOPMENT AND THE WEATHER RUINS OUR FINALS CHANCES "

Following a promising season in 1979/80, the aim was to fulfill that promise in 1980/81. The recruitment of Joe Curcio from Carlton, the return of Julian Kennelly and Greg Seibre and the maturity of Mick Redmond provided 'Fitz' with a better balanced team.

The performances of both the Firsts and Seconds reaching the semi-finals confirmed the Club's expectations at the commencement of the year. Therefore it was most unfortunate that the weather put pay to both teams' chances of participating in the Grand Final especially when they were in good positions. The Firsts making 218 vs Essendon Grammar and the Seconds being 3/84 chasing 157 against Watsonia.

As far as individual performances during the season were concerned, special mention was made of George Conlan's contribution to the Seconds in that he won both the batting and bowling averages as well as the Team Award, a truly all-round performance. Joe Curcio certainly made his mark upon the VJCA by winning the First XI bowling (26 wkts) in his debut season. The unluckiest player in the Club was Bob Livingston who missed out on qualifying for the Third XI batting average by 1 innings eventhough he made 311 runs at an average of 62.2 including a score of 98. However he was compensated to some extent by winning the E.B.K.C.A. batting award.

The Under 16s maintained the high standard set by its predecessors by reaching the semi final, a great effort considering that a majority were still eligible for the following year. Chris Wade led by example as Captain by making 454 runs, including 103 not out and capturing 27 wickets.

The support of the the Social cricketers was formally acknowledged this year with the inaugural Social Cricketer of the Year Award which was won by John 'Checker' Hughes. The Double Wicket Day provided an upset to the those learned judges with Gary Foulds (Essendon Football Club legend) and Stewart Lingham winning the Final; earlier round form and Stewie's ability (or lack thereof) suggested that they were making up the numbers against the more fancied pairs. However, when it really counted in the Semi and the Final, Stewie's prowess came to the fore and they were victorious.

The Centurions Club consisting of 1 member, 'Snake', received a new member when Brian Cusack played his 100th game. Brian's regard for St. Bernards was exemplified by his involvement with the club as a player, captain, committeeman and President since its inception.

Off-field this year saw further development of the ground facility with an extension of the wicket area on Oval No. 1, a move which was to benefit not only the Club but also the College. The earmarking of Oval No. 1 as the Club's main oval was an important factor in the Club's aim to gain promotion into Senior Division.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>	<u>Under 16</u>
Batting Award	J. Bingham	G. Conlan	P. Monaghan	C.Wade
Bowling Award	J. Curcio	G. Conlan	D. Solomon	C.Wade
Club Champion	K. Phelan			
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player			M. Redmond	
P.J. Mitchell Best Clubman			J. Davis	

SEASON 1981 / 82

V. J. C. A.

"THIRD XI ON TURF BUT NO CLUB FINALS' APPEARANCES "

Season 81/82 saw the Club's entry of the Third XI into a turf competition, Metropolitan Cricket League, Peter Pearson replacing Brian Cusack as President and John Fitzgerald's last season as Captain/Coach.

The playing performance of all teams was described as "middle of the road" in the annual report and particularly disappointing considering the previous season's success. However, it was believed that the season was merely a hiccup in the club's natural development and that, with greater commitment by all, they would be back on course.

The Centurion's Club doubled in size (from 2 to 4) with Kevin Phelan and Terry Davis both playing their 100th games against Kensington District. Both careers tended to run in parallel having not only performed outstandingly on the field as batsmen and captains but also off the ground as committeemen.

Terry capped off another good year by winning the batting average (333 runs including a century -109) just ahead of Kevin (281 runs). Joe Curcio improved on his first season by taking an incredible 48 wickets at an average of 11.4 whilst Under 16 captain, Greg Lane, continued the tradition by making 422 runs.

The Social cricketers were hampered somewhat by the poor conditions on Oval No.2 but continued to give their important support. Following the upset of the previous year, sanity prevailed on Double Wicket Day with the favourites, Robert Smith and Peter Monaghan winning the Final.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>	<u>Under 16</u>
Batting Award	T. Davis	C. Wade	D. Solomon	G.Lane
Bowling Award	J. Curcio	B. Grbac	D. Solomon	M.Wallmeyer
Club Champion	J. Curcio			
J.P. Mitchell Most Promising Player			B. Roche	
P.J. Mitchell Best Clubman			E. Sait	

SEASON 1982 / 83

V. J. C. A.

"FIRST XI IN GRAND FINAL AND THE ADVENT OF SPONSORSHIP "

Following the retirement of John Fitzgerald as Captain/Coach and unsuccessful attempts to find a suitable replacement, the Club decided to look within by appointing Kevin Phelan as Captain together with the assistance of a player coaching panel. The bond created by this arrangement was reflected in the determined, team oriented performances in the First XI during the year; an example of this being the semi-final match against Watsonia when faced with a target of 210 to win and batting on an unprepared wicket, each player, down to number 11, was prepared to occupy the crease with Terry Davis (101 not out) to achieve the gutsy victory.

Despite having to bat on a lively wicket in both innings in the Grand Final, the team's effort in getting to within 4 wickets of victory against Essendon Grammar was outstanding. The great batting performance by Julian Kennelly (607 runs including a century - 117) backed up by Terry Davis (430 runs), Mick Redmond (372 runs) was complemented by even and consistent bowling efforts by Merv Cussen, Rod Moulton, Joe Curcio and Greg Sebire, all of whom took more than 23 wickets.

Although some Second XI performances were encouraging, the consistent unavailability of players and lack of dedication were seen as the principal factors explaining an overall poor season. On the other hand, the Third XI, under the astute captaincy of Ed Sait, finished in 5th. position in their second season on turf and were unlucky to miss out on the semi-finals. Ed was congratulated on his contribution with the ball (35 wickets) and the off-field organisation of the team.

A significant development in the Club's history this season was the attraction of sponsorship namely through ESSENDON TOYOTA and E.J. DOHERTY REAL ESTATE. This not only helped the Club to meet its ever increasing costs but also provided small rewards for the players' on-field performances.

John Serrano was admitted to the Centurians' when he played his 100th. game against Royal Park-Brunswick and also capped off a fine year by winning the E.J.Doherty Award for best player in the Grand Final.

It turned out to be the young players opportunity to gain the title of Double Wicket Day champions with Mick Redmond partnering David Hogan to victory in the Final. The advent of sponsorship plus new means of raising revenue (VFL football practice matches) led to the Club significantly increasing its turnover for this season by 54% on previous years.

	<u>First XI</u>	<u>Second XI</u>	<u>Third XI</u>	<u>Under 16</u>
Batting Award	J. Kennelly	A. Isaacs	B. Dillon	-
Bowling Award	M. Cussen	B. Mahoney	E. Sait	-