

Burwood District Cricket Club

Annual Report 2024/25



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Burwood District Cricket Club Incorporated

Registration Number: A0014548A

Website: <https://www.burwooddistrictcricketclub.com/>

Office Bearers

Co-Presidents | Mr. Narayanan Ramakrishnan & Mr. Arjit Banerjee

Treasurer | Mr. Tom Golding

Secretary | Mr. Vivek Onamalai

Junior cricket coordinator | Mr. Abhishek Pratap

Senior cricket coordinator | Mr. Arjit Banerjee

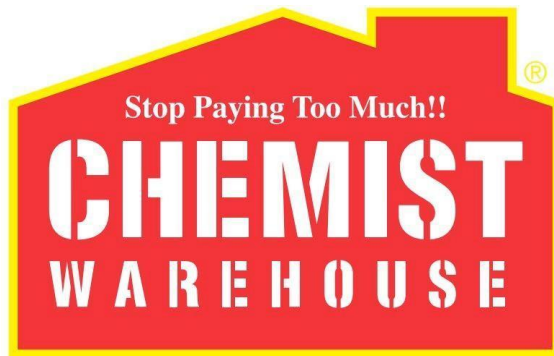
Social media coordinator | Mr. Jitendra Kaler

General committee | Mr. Patrick Sowersby

General committee | Mr. Mark Savyell

General committee | Mr. Kish Rejasakaram

THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS



President's Report - 2024/2025

Season 2024/2025 was another successful season for the club capped off with our 66th premiership at the Burra, with our 2nd XI taking the E grade premiership honours. This is on the back of many great years at the Burra having also won the H grade premiership across the previous season.

However, the season did begin with the sudden passing of our dear friend & club man Ian Scholefield, who passed away in October after a sudden illness. Schoey was a life member at the club, and more recently was the clubs historian, spending countless hours working on the clubs records and statistics. He had spent over 50+ years at the Burra, and made a huge mark on this club during that time. He will be sorely missed, and although he may not physically be with us anymore, we will do all we can to keep his strong legacy alive for many years to come.

Hartwell Pitch Redevelopment

Thanks to the tireless efforts of true clubman Patrick Sowersby during the off-season, we successfully secured a grant of approximately \$4,000 from the Australian Sport Infrastructure Fund. This funding went directly toward the replacement of the Hartwell East pitch, resulting in a brand-new playing surface for our club.

Building on this momentum, the amazing efforts mentioned above also led to further support from the Boroondara Council, who took the initiative themselves to fully refurbish the Hartwell West pitch as well. We sincerely thank Luke Casey from the Council for his support in helping make this happen. As a result of these combined efforts, we now have two brand-new pitches at both Hartwell ovals - an incredible outcome that will benefit the club and our community for years to come. We would like to also thank ASTE (Melbourne Tennis Court Construction Specialists) who were our partner in laying the new pitch, for their amazing professionalism during the process and the quality end product.

On Field Performance

This season, Burwood District Cricket Club fielded 6 sides across all competitions, with 3 Saturday Senior sides, 2 Tuesday T20 sides and Sunday Veterans.

Unfortunately we did have to reassess our junior cricket program and decided this season to focus on the Woolworths Blasts program, targeting entry level kids between the ages of 4-10. Further details on this will be provided in the Junior section.

Senior Cricket

For our senior teams, season 2024/2025 began with a series of opportunities and challenges following changes in the association during the offseason. With Heatherdale and Vermont cricket clubs respectively moving away from BHRDCA, the opportunity arose for our 1st XI to play in the Peter White Shield, after many years away from shield cricket. Although a daunting task on paper, the boys were ready for the challenge.

As for our 2nd XI and 3rd XI, both these teams continued where they left off. Both teams competed strongly again this year, reaching the finals for their respective competition. For our 2nd XI, they took it all the way, claiming the E Grade Premiership.

There were a large number of individual club milestones achieved this season. In particular, congratulations to Patrick Sowersby (7000 runs) and Shivanay Goundan (3000 runs) for BDCC.

There were also players who were recognised by the BHRDCA for their efforts throughout the year, including Krishnan Venkatachalam (E Grade - Bowling), Jake Evans (F Grade - Batting), Sam Dabhi (F Grade - Bowling) and our 2nd XI team for their Premiership success. Congratulations to you all.

Junior Cricket

This season, we pivoted our junior strategy following multiple changes across our Junior cricket membership base. With many kids moving on, we decided to focus our attention on the woolworths blasts program, targeting the youngest crop of our next budding cricketers.

This season, we were fortunate to have Abhishek Pratap lead our Blasts program. Working closely with Sharon Lynas from Cricket Victoria, Abhi was able to set up our system with a 8 week program in October/November and a Pop-Up Plasts program in February. Both of these programs were great successes, and we are grateful for all the kids and their families for taking part.

Committee & Sponsors

A sincere thank you to our dedicated committee members - Tom Golding, Vivek Onamalai, Jay Kaler, Abhishek Pratap, Kish Rajasekaram, Mark Sowersby, and Patrick Sowersby - for your hard work and the positive impact you've had around the club throughout the season. Your efforts behind the scenes have not gone unnoticed. A special mention goes to Bede Allsop for his continued support—your behind-the-scenes contributions have been a tremendous help to both Arjit and me.

We'd also like to acknowledge our captains - Arjit, Parag, Jake, Hari, and Dhanur—who ensured our Senior teams consistently took the field each week. The club simply doesn't function without people like you, and for that, we're truly grateful. We hope more members will be inspired to get involved and contribute in the seasons to come.

To our major sponsors, we extend our deepest thanks for your continued support. Steve at Roaring Success, Shoubhik at Treadcare, and Bert at Chemist Warehouse—your generous contributions have enabled us to better support our members, particularly in providing essential equipment, apparel, and uniforms. This season, we were proud to distribute new hats free of charge to all players across the club.

We also welcomed a new group of social sponsors this year who have contributed in a variety of meaningful ways. A big thank you to Eagle Rise Sports & Trophies, Farside Beers, Domino's Ashburton, and Masuri Cricket for your support—whether through merchandise, trophies, Player of the Week awards, or social event spaces, your involvement has played an important role in building our club culture

Social Events

This season, we were fortunate to enjoy each other's company through a variety of events, both at Hartwell and in external venues. We once again kicked off the year with our Season Launch at Farside Beers in Hawthorn - a great way to bring everyone together and set the tone for the months ahead.

In early February, the club came together to honour the life and legacy of the great Ian Scholefield. Following his passing, we held a memorial service to celebrate his immense contribution to the club. "Schoey" touched the lives of so many across our community, and it was truly moving to see past players, members, and our current playing group come together to farewell such an icon. A heartfelt thank you goes to Ian's family for embracing the event and continuing to be part of the Burra family - a family that Schoey cherished as his own.

Finally, we also want to take this opportunity to those that got behind our Burra Annual raffle. Thanks to all the tickets purchased, we were able to raise ~\$2K for the club, helping us immensely towards raising funds for future investments at the club.

While we didn't host many large-scale social events during the season, it was incredibly rewarding to see so many of the boys spending time together at the clubrooms after games. These informal moments were invaluable in building team morale and strengthening the bonds off the field - connections that undoubtedly carried over into stronger performances on the field.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead towards the next 12 months, it's a very exciting time to be part of the Burra. As we are a few years away from our 100th anniversary, we start to focus our attention towards the centenary celebrations. Embarking on a milestone like this, is a massive moment for the club, and therefore we will be ensuring that this is more just than a 1 year celebration, however a lead up.

- Continuing discussions with the Boroondara council regarding the redevelopment of Hartwell Rooms and the overall Sportsground. We strive to get this off the ground, with a target completion of Mid 2027, in time for our 100th anniversary
- Setting up a new range of merchandise as part of our Centenary Launch across 2026-2028
- Attracting a mix of new sponsors and social sponsors to help build club awareness and support
- Recruitment of new players for both our Junior and Blasts program

We also want to take this opportunity to thank 2 legends of this club, who have both decided to move back to India after many years at Burwood District. Abhishek Pratap and Parag Jagtap have both been instrumental in the growth of this club over the last 5 years, and we are so grateful for their service during this time. From being on committee, to captaining our premierships teams - both these boys are true Burra stalwarts and will always have a home here at Burwood District.

Finally on behalf of Arjit and I, we would like to thank all of those that have supported us through another season as co-presidents. In particular we would like to thank our respective partners and families for allowing us the time to give back to our cricket club. As many would know, managing a cricket club like Burwood District is a time consuming process, however very much rewarding at the same time.

Thank you

Narayanan Ramakrishnan & Arjit Banerjee
Co Presidents 2024/2025

Junior Cricket Report - 2024/2025

The 2024/25 season marked a year of consolidation and development for our junior cricket program.

Unlike the past four to five years, the club did not field any junior competition teams. With the departure of several players from our junior ranks at the end of the 2023/24 season—primarily due to the need to find age-appropriate cricket elsewhere—and without sufficient numbers to form competitive sides, we made the decision to focus solely on the Woolworths Blast program.

The Woolworths Blast program continued to run on Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 pm before senior cricket training, providing a fun, skills-based introduction to cricket for our youngest participants. The program was delivered in two halves. The first half consisted of eight pre-Christmas sessions, held from October 10 to November 28. These sessions were led by Cricket Victoria staff, supported by club volunteers. We had 10 children attend during this period.

The second half of the program ran from February 6 to 27 after the summer break, with four sessions delivered entirely by club volunteers. Almost all of the children from the first half returned, joined by Viaansh (our youngest Burra of the season at just four years old) and Asher. We are incredibly proud of these twelve enthusiastic junior Burras for beginning their cricket journeys with us. It was fantastic to see the energy and excitement they brought to each session.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the parents, grandparents, and families who spent many hours driving the kids to sessions, attending, and even volunteering with us during drills. You are all part of the Burra family. Your ongoing support is essential, and we look forward to growing our junior ranks together in the seasons ahead.

Thank you to the club members who volunteered their time to run the program—Pat, Dhanur, Parag, Pratik, Jay, Sam, and Ifra. And the biggest thanks to Burwood District's heart and soul: **Bede Allsopp**, who was there at 4:30 pm for every session—taking out the equipment, setting up, working with the kids, and packing everything away. His commitment, energy, and time spent engaging with our youngest Burras played a major role in the program's success.

Running Blast alongside our senior training on Thursdays continues to set us apart from many other clubs in the district and fosters a strong connection between our junior and senior programs.

While we didn't field junior teams this season, the club remains committed to rebuilding its junior playing base in the years ahead. The Woolworths Blast program provides a strong foundation for this, and we hope to see many of these young players progress into junior teams in the future.

Finally, thank you to our club presidents, **Nazza and Arj**, and our 2024/25 committee for their incredible support behind the scenes in planning and managing the program.

Thanks and Regards,

Abhishek Pratap | 24/25 BDCC Junior Cricket Coordinator

Treasurer's Report - 2024/2025

After previous years of turning over strong profits, the 2024/25 season presented a significant financial challenge, culminating in a loss of \$5,977. This result was largely attributed to two key expenditures: a substantial investment of \$3,410 in new pitches at Hartwell Sports Ground, crucial for the continued quality of our playing facilities, and \$3,615 in umpiring fees, an essential cost of competing in the Peter White Shield BHRDCA competition. These expenses coupled with an increase in costs such as equipment (i.e., balls) and council fees significantly impacted our financial performance for the year.

The committee sees some of these additional expenditures as investment costs for the future. This included the new pitches at Hartwell Sports Ground as an investment in the future of the club and largely in part to the hard work of Patrick Sowersby were able to get Cricket Victoria grants and the Boroondara Council on board to substantially lessen the financial cost. On top of this we have looked to keep investing in our merchandise to maintain stock on hand for sale in the coming years.

Our partnership with Masuri will continue into the 2025/26 season, providing our senior and junior teams with the Burwood District CC merchandise range. We have also been looking for additional options, to ensure our players have access to high-quality apparel. This includes a recent purchase of playing caps from new provider Rovia Sports. The committee will be carefully evaluating the profitability of our merchandise sales in light of the past season's financial results to ensure it remains a sustainable revenue stream for the club.

Membership prices were slightly increased with the adjustments made in the 2024/25 season to accommodate increased competition fees, however we did not properly factor in the umpiring fees that we would have to incur throughout the season. We continued to offer early bird options for both senior and junior memberships to encourage early sign-ups. While this offer was taken up by 15 members before the 2024/25 season commenced, the committee will be engaging in thorough discussions with players to review the current playing fees and explore strategies to enhance membership engagement and overall revenue, particularly in light of the significant infrastructure and operational costs incurred.

The invaluable support of our major sponsors – Roaring Success, Treadcare, and Chemist Warehouse – will be even more critical in the 2025/26 season. Their generous contributions in the past years have been vital, and we will be proactively working with them to explore opportunities for continued and potentially increased support to help offset the impact of the essential pitch upgrades and umpiring fees, ensuring our ability to continue investing in our players and club infrastructure. I would like to personally thank them all for their ongoing commitment to the club and the important role they have played in the 2024/25 season.

The social connection fostered in our club rooms post-training and on match days remains a part of our club culture, and we will continue to encourage this in the upcoming season. Our key events for the 2024/25 season were a great success, including the Season Launch at Far Side Beers, providing an excellent opportunity to connect as a club before the season began. We also hosted another always competitive Treadcare Cup, and for the second year in a row our whole-club presentation afternoon at the Burwood District Bowls Club. We thank all those who organised and participated in these important club events.

A significant highlight of the 2024/25 season was the outstanding performance of our Second XI, who clinched the premiership title in a thrilling final against St Davids. Despite unpredictable weather conditions adding an extra layer of drama, we were able to secure victory by 5 wickets. This achievement is a testament to the talent and dedication within our club members and provides us with a fantastic boost for all Burwood District CC teams to build on in 2025/26.

Even as investments in our facilities and increased operational costs created financial challenges in the 2024/25 season, the Second XI's premiership win showcased our overall improvement on the field as a club as we progress towards our centenary in 2028.

For the 2025/26 season, the committee will look at efforts such as sponsorships, grants and additional fund raising drives (similar to this year's raffle) to increase our revenue streams, in order to combat the financial challenges everyone has had to encounter in the past few years. We are committed to supporting our players and maximising playing opportunities for all our members.

In conclusion, I extend my sincere thanks to the committee, players, and wider members of Burwood District CC for their continued support and cooperation throughout the 2024/25 season. I would also like to again acknowledge the exceptional contribution of Narayanan Ramakrishnan in the help he has provided me to make the job of treasurer more manageable.

Tomas Golding

Treasurer - Burwood District Cricket Club

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

1st June 2024 - 31st May 2025				
	YTD Actuals	Prior Year	YTD Actuals vs. Prior Year	Notes
<u>Income</u>				
Bar	\$ 862	\$ 359	\$ 503	
Donations	\$ 325	\$ -	\$ 325	
Community Grants	\$ 3,410	\$ -	\$ 3,410	1
Merchandise	\$ 935	\$ 1,120	\$ (185)	
Presentation Night	\$ -	\$ 1,210	\$ (1,210)	2
Raffles	\$ 1,800	\$ -	\$ 1,800	2
Social Functions	\$ 180	\$ 1,120	\$ (940)	2
Sponsorship	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,850	\$ (350)	
Subscriptions - Junior/Blast	\$ 180	\$ 2,570	\$ (2,448)	3
Subscriptions - Senior	\$ 11,925	\$ 11,395	\$ 530	4
Trophies/Awards	\$ 270	\$ -	\$ 270	
Total Income	\$ 23,330	\$ 21,624	\$ 1,706	

Financial Notes - Income:

1. **Community Grants:** Social Events were not as common for us this season, this coupled with no games during our teams finals campaigns.
2. **Presentation Night, Raffles & Social Functions:** After making the presentation night fee this year, we relied more heavily on running a raffle to make up the shortfall. This was a net loss from last season of \$350.
3. **Subscriptions - Junior/Blast:** Did not run any junior teams this season, with only small income resulting for the Blast program.
4. **Subscriptions - Seniors:** This is a combination of both Senior players and VETS, as we are treating them all the same.

1st June 2024 - 31st May 2025			
YTD Actuals	Prior Year	YTD Actuals vs. Prior Year	Notes

Expenses

Advertising	\$ 1,380	\$ 621	\$ (759)	5
Bank Fees	\$ 28	\$ 11	\$ (17)	
Bar	\$ 881	\$ 452	\$ (429)	
Community Tournaments	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250	
Equipment	\$ 2,959	\$ 2,102	\$ (857)	
Ground / Net Hire	\$ 6,533	\$ 5,601	\$ (932)	
Honour Board	\$ -	\$ 523	\$ 523	
Insurance	\$ -	\$ 64	\$ 64	
Fees / Fines	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 468	
Merchandise	\$ 2,970	\$ 2,734	\$ (236)	
Playing Surfaces	\$ 6,820	\$ -	\$ (6,820)	
Presentation Night	\$ -	\$ 1,582	\$ 1,582	
Registration	\$ 1,586	\$ 1,866	\$ 280	
Social Functions	\$ 380	\$ 1,396	\$ 1,016	
Square Fees	\$ 404	\$ 325	\$ (79)	
Sundry Expenses	\$ 425	\$ 563	\$ 138	
Trophies/Awards	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,266	\$ (59)	
Umpire Fees	\$ 3,615	\$ 580	\$ (3,035)	6
Total Expenses	\$ 29,306	\$ 19,933	\$ (9,370)	

PROFIT / (LOSS)	\$ (5,977)	\$ 1,691	\$ (7,668)
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Financial Notes - Expenses:

- Advertising:** The club made a concerted effort to raise awareness of the Blast program through Facebook advertising.
- Umpire Fees:** As our First XI were in the Peter White Shield, substantial additional umpiring fees were incurred by the club.

FINANCIAL POSITION

	Year to 31/05/2025	Year to 31/05/2024	\$ Difference 31/05/2025 vs 31/05/2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash on hand			
Cash in Tin	\$0	\$95	(\$95)
NAB Bank Account	\$10,648	\$16,624	(\$5,977)
Total Cash on Hand	\$10,648	\$16,719	(\$6,072)
Stock - Bar	\$0	\$100	(\$100)
Stock - Merchandise*	\$3,140	\$2,571	\$569
Subs Owing	\$0	\$0	\$0
Accounts Receivable	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Stock	\$3,141	\$2,671	\$470
Total Current Assets	\$13,788	\$19,390	(\$5,603)
Property & Equipment			
Boroondara Key deposit	\$500	\$500	\$0
Pavilion - Club Rooms	\$50	\$50	\$0
Pavilion - BBQ	\$150	\$150	\$0
Total Property	\$700	\$700	\$0
Equipment			
Match Equipment	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Practice Equipment	\$3,891	\$3,891	\$0
Playing Surfaces	\$13,640	\$7,551	\$6,089
Playing Surfaces - Accum Dep	(\$13,640)	(\$7,551)	(\$6,089)
Total Equipment	\$6,891	\$6,891	\$2,344
Total Property & Equipment	\$8,091	\$7,591	\$500
Total Assets	\$21,879	\$26,982	(\$5,104)
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Assets	\$21,879	\$26,982	(\$5,104)

Equity			
Retained Earnings	\$26,982	\$24,417	\$2,565
Current Year earnings (Profit)	(\$5,977)	\$1,691	(\$7,668)
Common Stock	\$874	\$874	0
Historical Balancing	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Equity	\$21,879	\$26,982	(\$5,104)

Secretary's Report 2024/2024

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2024-25 Secretary's Report for the Burwood District Cricket Club. It has been a year filled with achievements, challenges, and camaraderie, reflecting the spirit of our beloved club and sport.

Membership:

Our club has seen a steady growth in membership over the past year, with many new members joining our ranks. We've strived to create an inclusive environment, welcoming players of all ages and skill levels, fostering a sense of community among our members.

Burwood District's playing numbers have continued to grow steadily each season over the last few years as the club managed to field 6 Senior Teams and a Woolworths Blasts Program. We had 79 Senior player registrations in season 24/25 in parallel to the Woolworths Blasts Program.

For the 24/25 season, the club fielded teams in the Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association (BHRDCA) as follows:

1st XI – Peter White Shield - 2 Days - 80 Overs - 12 Players

2nd XI – E Grade - 2 Days - 64 Overs - 12 Players

3rd XI – F Grade - 1 Day - 70 Overs - 12 Players

Vets XI – B Division - Ken Johnston Trophy - *Eastern Veterans Competition (BHRDCA/RDCA)*

T20 XI Gold – T20 D Grade - Mulgrave Country Club Shield

T20 XI Green - T20 G Grade - Top Notch Tophies Shield

Competitions and Matches

It was a great season for us on-field with four out of six of our senior teams reaching the semi-finals or better in their respective competitions with the highlight being our Second XI bringing home the **66th flag** for the Burra by winning the BHRDCA E Grade Competition in a dominating final win against St. David's Cricket Club.

Our T20 Green made it to the Grand Finals of the G Grade - Top Notch Tophies Shield. But couldn't be successful in the ultimate game despite playing a valiant game chasing 180 runs and fell short by 29 runs.

Our Third XIs made it to the semi-finals of the F Grade competition following a great run of runs in the second half of the season and lost to Deakin Cricket Club in the semi finals by 4 runs.

Our Vets XI made it to the Semi Finals as well but lost the game by 7 wickets to Deakin Vets XI.

Facilities and Infrastructure

We have successfully upgraded the pitch of both the ovals at Hartwell Reserve with the help of Grants, contribution from the Boorondara Council and the Club. Although this expense was unforeseen, this will serve as a good investment for the next few seasons.

Player Recognition

Club players were also recognised for their achievements during the season at the BHRDCA Annual Presentation Night on 5 April 2025 with the following players winning

1. Krishnan Venkatachalam - E Grade Bowling Award
2. Jake Evans - F Grade Batting Award
3. Sam Dhami - F Grade Bowling Award

Financial Report

Our financial position remains manageable despite the increase in expenses, thanks to the diligent efforts of our treasurer and the support of our members. We've managed our finances prudently, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently to support the ongoing growth and sustainability of the club.

Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all members, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters who have contributed to the success of the club over the past year.

I would particularly like to remember and thank the late Ian Scholefield for his contribution to the club throughout his lifetime as a Player, Captain, Coach, President and Club Historian.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, let us continue to uphold the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and integrity that define our club. Together, we will build upon the legacy of excellence that has been established, ensuring that the Burwood District Cricket Club remains a cornerstone of our community for generations to come.

Thank you.

Go Burras!

Sincerely,

Vivek Onamalai

Secretary - Burwood District Cricket Club

First XI Captain's Report

Despite facing stiff competition this season with just 2 wins from our 14 matches, 2024/25 has been a remarkable year of growth and development for the club. I want to recognize the extraordinary commitment shown by all players throughout this challenging campaign.

We fielded an impressive 30 players in our first XI this season, providing invaluable experience to our emerging talent and strengthening our depth for years to come. What truly stood out was how our boys approached each match with unwavering enthusiasm, displaying the right attitude and mindset regardless of the scoreboard.

Our batting strength was led by Shiv Goundan, who earned our Batting Award with an impressive 348 runs at an average of 31.64, supported admirably by Hari Rambhatla's 290 runs (avg. 27).

On the bowling front, Narayan Ramakrishnan claimed our Bowling top spot with 14 wickets (avg. 32.21), closely followed by the ever consistent Bede Allsopp's 11 wickets (avg. 38.36). Narayan also distinguished himself in the field, earning our Fielding Award with 6 catches and a run out.

A big congratulations to Narayan Ramakrishnan who took out the club champion award this year on the back of his 2024/25 campaign

While results proved elusive, the development focus of this season has established firm foundations for future success. We remain immensely proud of everyone's efforts and look forward to building on these achievements next season.

Cheers

Arjit Banerjee
First XIs Captain

Second XI Captains' Report

2024-2025 was a successful cricket season for the second X1, with so much enthusiasm, dedication, and emerging talent around Burra. Honestly, I would have been disappointed if we couldn't win back the flag for the club. We welcomed new names in Kavan, Nachi, Swaraj, Aniket and Shrenik, who all debuted this year in the second X1.

It was pleasing to see 3 Burra names in the top 5 Run scorers in overall grade, with Pat scoring 3 centuries, including one in the Grand Final, scoring overall 365 runs in the season. Dalvi, with an amazing year, scored 289 runs with 4 half-centuries, including one in the Grand Final. Pat was without a doubt the most consistent batter for us throughout the season, averaging 73 with a steady start to the season, to an outstanding performance when the team needed it most. Dalvi, with his best season yet with the bat, averaged 41.29. These two in the top order set the tone for the rest of us in the batting. Jatan, Kavan, Dhanur, and Nisarg were amazing in the middle order. Thus, our Top 6 built strong chemistry and worked hard on improving each game and performing well.

The bowling was phenomenal, with 2 Burra names in the top 5 wicket takers in grade. Krishnan, taking the top spot, finished the season with 15 (most wickets), averaging less than 10 (9.6). Udai was amazing, finishing the season with 13 wickets. These two were the cornerstone for us with the bowling. Udai and Dhanur delivered the early wickets in every round of the season. Tom and Kavan troubled the batters with bowling consistent lines and lengths. Krishnan and Jay gave the breakthroughs when needed. It was pleasing to see the bowlers work this well in the pairs. In the second half of the season, Tom and Nachi joined us, boosting the bowling attack. Tom was consistent with in-line and length bowling, whereas Nachi, playing just 4 games, picked 10 wickets. Jay and Suyash, the spin duo, were great with the spin bowling, bowled accordingly to trouble the batters, with Jatan guiding them when needed, from behind the wickets. It was enjoyable to see the team work in harmony.

Jatan was once again superb on the field, tying up for the top spot with 9 catches and 1 stumping in the grade, and grabbed the best fielding award for second X1, he was spectacular behind the wickets, saving at least 20-25 runs every round, with his extreme athleticism, showing leadership behind the stumps, and providing support for the bowlers. It was great to see a few glimpses of some outstanding catches and run-outs from Nisarg and Kavan, too; both were close competitors to Jatan for the fielding award. Congratulations to all the award winners.

The Date 22 March 2025, I am sure at least the second X1 won't forget this date, although we were playing an away Grand Final game, it felt like we were playing at Hartwell, it was so pleasing to the eyes watching the green tops and hearing the cheers for us, cheering for every shots Pat and Dalvi hit for the boundaries, cheering some precious moments, it was a true pleasure watching the burra crowd across the field.

Last but not least, Thanks to Arj and Nazza, our co-presidents, for providing the essential support for us throughout the season. Thanks to the Committee members for working so hard behind the scenes, making the precious moments more precious. It was so great to watch the club come together to remember the life of our Club Legend, Schoey. It was great to hear some remarkable stories of the great man, both on the field and off the field, the greatest clubman at the Burwood District Cricket Club.

All in all, a great year for the Burra Second X1. I hope we keep accomplishing excellence not only as a team but also as a club for the many upcoming seasons.

Thanks.

Parag Japtap
3rd XI Captain

Third XI Captain's Report

The 3s commenced the season with a strong start with wins against Eley Park, Doncaster and Monash on the field. We also had 4 games abandoned due to bad weather from September through November. Standout performances during this part of the Season were Patrick Sowersby 50* against Eley park, Jatan Mavani 46* against Eley Park, Nisarg Patel 42* against Monash, Anupam Banerjee 3/6 against Monash, Yatin Saluja 3/20 against Eley Park.

The next part of the season was underwhelming for the team when we went from being top of the ladder to not far from the bottom of the ladder. Between December and January suffered 4 losses and managed a single win against Eley Park. We still had some standout performances by Sukhraj Bhullar who scored two half centuries against Deakin and Doncaster and Abhishek Pratap who got 3/31 against Eley Park

Going into the business end of the season we had 5 games remaining to be played and had to at least win 3 to have a chance of qualifying for the Semi Finals. At this time, we missed some of our regular players due to family commitments, travel and unavoidably, injuries. "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." — Confucius. The going got tough, then we got going. Despite the crisis, we managed to win 4 out of the remaining 5 games and comfortably qualified for the semi finals.

The Semi Final was against Deakin against whom we had lost twice during the league stage of the season. We still backed ourselves to win considering the momentum was on our side. The team lost the toss and had to field first in the away semi final. The team bowled extremely well, restricting the batting side to 129 runs. The chase unfortunately did not go as planned as the team lost early wickets. In spite of this, Hadley Vaughan still managed to score 45 runs in the chase showcasing his experience and maturity as a player. The last wicket partnership needed 20 runs to win the game. Sam Dhabhi and Abhishek Pratap who carried the team with the ball throughout the season tried to do it again but with the bat in hand but fell short by 4 runs bringing the roller coaster of a season to an end.

Stand out performances

Aaryan Singh - Aaryan played a huge part in our push for a Semi Final berth. Whilst we lost a few batsmen due to family commitments, travel and Injuries, Aaryan stepped up with the bat and played some huge innings turning the games around to favour the burras. With the ball he was always the bowler any captain would turn to and he always delivered.

Aaryan finished the season with 279 Runs (Avg: 46.5), 14 wickets (Avg: 20), 10 Catches and a Run out

Jake Evans - Captain consistent as usual, had a fantastic season both with the bat and with his leadership skills. Although unfortunate with injury, he still managed to score regularly and finished up as the top run scorer scoring 341 runs (Avg 56.8) and winning the association batting award for the grade all whilst leading the team to the Semi Finals.

Sam Dhabhi - Sam is a new player at the club but anyone who faced his bowling would not agree so. By far the most consistent opening bowler in the grade, Sam always managed to break the opposition opening partnership within his first two or three overs. A hard working bowler who earned his deserving qualification for the association award in the final game of the league stage Sam finished the season with 22 Wickets (Avg: 10.6) also winning the association bowling award for the grade

Hadley Vaughan - Hadley joined the team at the tail end of the season to balance out the injury crisis. Although his tenure with the team was short, he still managed to get 14 Wickets (Avg: 7.7) and score 142 runs (Avg: 23.6)

Cheers

Vivek Onamalai

3rd XI Vice Captain

Veterans XI Captain's Report

One very difficult and challenging season for the old boys. 1 huge win a draw and 2 loses a washout and a forfeit and somehow we finished 4th and had a semi to forget against a very strong and match hared Deakin side.

Round 1 at Hartwell against Box Hill Super Kings. We have used other names for these guys but on this occasion they were humbled with us setting them the target of 245 of our 36 overs. Some regular vets in Smitty, Greg Paro and Morts getting us off to a great start. We then had relatively new boys in Hads and Udai showing some real class in the middle order. With our bowling being led with the evergreen Bede 2/19 of 6 we never gave them a chance to chase it down. Hads had a wonderful spell of 4/18 of 6 overs. Other bowlers that may not bowl too often for the Burra. G Paro 0/6 of 3 and A Smith 0/6/of 3

Round 2 forfeit

Round 3 we welcomed 3 new players to our vets squad in Johnny D, Wayne Peters and the return to the Burra for Iain Moore. We restricted Waverley Cougars to a total of 6/146.

Our batting struggled to get going but the very clever batting of Udai (37) almost got us over the line but losing 3 wickets for 0 left us with a very exciting draw. For many this was the first draw in their time at the Burra.

Round 4 washout the day after the Saturday games were called off with the heat rule. We have to love Melbourne summer.

Round 5 again our batting didn't really get going and we were restricted to 4/129 from our 36 against Deakin at Deakin. Having Cliff hold the innings together with a patient 41 retired and Greg Paro firing at the end to also retire at 41. Deakin were in no mood to hang around and fired to the total 22 overs 2 down.

Round 6 was a return match against Bow Hill Super Kings and yes they showed their true colours. We accommodated them with a later start time for what we were told was a funeral but on the day not one player indicated that was the reason. They set a very good total of 246. We welcomed back to the Burra one Simon Croxford better known for his batting at Hartwell was thrown the ball and from all reports the first 3 overs went well 0/11 the next not so much but as I want him to return next year I will not share the next 3 overs. Some solid batting from S Wood and S Goundan showed that Shiv can bowl a few overs and still make runs.

Semi to forget. We arrived at Deakin knowing that our best was good enough to give a great team a real tight game. Well after winning the toss and batting being 3/9 was not ideal. Morts and Udai showed real grit to get us back on track until we then lost 4/8 in the middle order. We scraped to 97 and hoped that we could get early wickets and pull off a remarkable win. We had them 1/ 4 and then 3/27 we gave ourselves a sniff but that was all she wrote and they passed us in the 20th over.

The highlights from a challenging season is by far the fact that we are still managing to get new players to the Vets squad. Croxford and Moore returning to the Burra and Johnny D and Wayne Petes contributing and looking forward to next season.

It is always a pleasure to be the captain of this side but the load is always easier when blokes help and step up. Ash is always willing to help and stepping in to captain in rounds 5 and 6 was really appreciated. I know we will be stronger and better next season and will enjoy showing Deakin we are a force to be reckoned with in B grade. Always a proud Burra

Cheers

Darren Veitch
BDCC Veterans XI Captain

T20 Gold Captain's Report

This season, the club expanded its T20 program by forming a new T20 Gold team under the leadership of Hari Rambhatla. The aim was to bring in experienced and high-quality players from other clubs to participate in the Burwood District competition. Thanks to Hari's efforts, players were recruited from prominent Northern Suburbs clubs such as Ivanhoe, Northcote, and Hallam.

The team showed promise, performing well in the first three games. However, a rules misinterpretation by the club, led to fielding too many players from external clubs/premier clubs, resulting in a penalty that cost the team its only win. Despite this, the presence of these players wearing the Green and Gold was encouraging, with hopes they may join permanently in the future.

The club expressed gratitude to Hari for his work in building these connections and looks forward to developing them in the future.

Hari Rambhatla
BDCC T20 Captain

T20 Green Captain's Report

A season where a new and relatively young team makes it all the way to the Granny is one to be celebrated and remembered. While it was unfortunate that we did not win the flag, it was a valuable learning experience for the team, especially since many of the players went on to win the flag just weeks later in the 2nd XI Saturday competition. This campaign taught us how to show up for the big finals, stay in the contest longer, and wait for the opposition to break under pressure.

Round 1

It wasn't the ideal start to the season, with the team being 6/57 after 10 overs. As a new side, five of the top six batters were playing their first match against the pink ball. Still, we clawed our way back and posted a fighting total against Box Hill. A couple of early wickets in the power-play gave us hope during our bowling innings. Standout bowling from Dishant Solanki and Kavan Patel, conceding just 45 runs between them in 7 overs, giving us a real chance to defend a low score. Although we lost the match, having Box Hill at 2/58 after 10 overs was testament to the teams' grit and determination.

Round 2

Time to bounce back for the Burras. With Jake Evans injured, a new opening pair of Abhishek Dalvi and Suyash Sakhare gave us a solid start with a quick 50+ run stand. That platform allowed the Patel brothers, Nisarg and Kavan to go big, each scoring an explosive 46* off 25 and 24 balls, respectively. Defending 198, our bowlers stuck to their roles brilliantly. Anupam Banerjee, Jitendra Kaler, Sam Dabhi, Yash Jariwala, and Pinak Patel all bowled tight lines and lengths, and our fielders backed them up by holding every catch, helping us to win the match by 90 runs.

Round 3

Another game, another explosive opening stand. This time it was the club legend Patrick Sowersby and the nicest bloke at Burra, Parag Jagtap, both ended up scoring 34 for a 70-run partnership. Anyway, not many grounds in South-East Melbourne are big enough for Nisarg Patel, and Heatherdale Reserve certainly isn't one of them. Nisarg once again showed off this batting prowess and allowed us to put a massive score of 184 against Heatherdale. Yet again, Sam Dabhi and Kavan Patel bowled economical spells, but the star performer on a small ground was Pinak Patel, who took three wickets in the middle to allow us to win by 49 runs.

Round 4

Parag Jagtap led the side for this round, and Sam Dabhi continued his consistent bowling, picking up three important wickets. With some brilliant ground fielding and economical bowling effort we restricted Laburnum for

154. New match, same old strategy, we had a new opening pair, where both Patrick Sowersby and Jake Evans put on a 134-run opening stand, smashing 20 boundaries between them. This batting masterclass allowed us to chase the target within 15 overs for a dominant 7-wicket win.

Round 5

Arguably the best game of the season. For the first time, we managed to have the same openers, but both Patrick and Jake got out 'hit wicket' within the powerplay! Jay Kaler, at number three, steadied the ship, and Yash Jariwala's strong finish helped us post 134 against Deakin, an important total with a home semi-final at stake. Once again, our fielding and bowling efforts were top-notch. Udai Mahendru, the golden arm and forever young, took four crucial wickets, and the game went down to the wire, where we lost the match by 1 wicket in the final over.

Semi-Final

Another thriller against Deakin, but this time it was the Burras who celebrated. So far, we'd gone through the season without dropping a catch. Though this game saw a few missed chances, we still bowled well, thanks to Udai Mahendru's opening spell and Pinak Patel's death bowling, we restricted Deakin for just 130. Even though Parag Jagtap gave us a solid start, and both Kavan and Nisarg were solid in the middle, we were 5 for 72. But then the two big boys, Pratik Wagh and Yash Jariwala hit a few balls on the road and into nearby houses to help us secure the grand final spot.

Grand Final

Having lost the toss, we started off the granny well by having Box Hill 3-45. Due to some missed chances and not having replicated what we had done in the bowling front during the season, we gave away 179 runs. Though it was a slightly higher score to chase, our deep batting line-up had all the credentials to chase this one down. Jatan Mavani and Nisarg Patel batted at a strike-rate of over 200 to keep us in the chase, but we kept on losing wickets regularly. Yash Jariwala put in a strong effort to reproduce his last match performance but in the end, we fell short of the target.

Overall, a fantastic campaign with plenty of lessons and highlights. The boys really enjoyed the T20 competition and are even more hungry to get back next year, crossing the final hurdle to win a T20 flag for the Burras. Congratulations to Nisarg, Udai, and Kavan on winning the awards for the season.

Dhanur Bhardwaj
Captain T20 Green (Second XI)

Senior Cricket Award Winners and Season Milestones

Batting Awards

First XI – Shivanay Goundan
Second XI – Patrick Sowersby
Third XI – Jake Evans
Veterans XI – Udai Mahendru
T20 XI Gold – Aryaman Bhardwaj
T20 XI Green - Nisarg Patel

Bowling Awards

First XI – No award due to qualification rule
Second XI - No award due to qualification rule
Third XI – Sam Dhabhi
Veteran XI – Hadley Vaughan
T20 XI Gold – Hari Rambhatla
T20 XI Green - Udai Mahendru

Fielding Awards

First XI - Bert Ahcheen
Second XI – Jatan Mavani
Third XI – Aaryan Singh
T20 XI – Aryaman Bhardwaj
T20 XI Green - Kavan Patel
Veteran XI – Clifton Mead

Club Awards

Colin McDonald Club Champion - Narayanan Ramakrishnan
Don McLaine Best On-Field Performance – Patrick Sowersby
Ian Scholefield Best Off-Field Performance – Abhishek Pratap
Most improved player of the season – Udai Mahendru

Milestones

3000 Runs - Shivnay Goundan
7000 Runs - Patrick Sowersby

Association Awards

Krishnan Venkatachalam - 15 Wickets (Avg 9.6) - E Grade - Bowling
Jake Evans – 341 runs (Avg 56.8) - F Grade - Batting
Sam Dhabhi - 22 Wickets (Avg: 10.6) - F Grade - Bowling

Appointment of Office Bearers 2023/2024

Co Presidents

Nominations

1. Arjit Banerjee and Narayanan Ramakrishnan

Seconded by

1. Vivek Onamalai

Result: Won Unopposed

Secretary

Nominations

1. Vivek Onamalai

Seconded by

1. Arjit Banerjee

Result: Won Unopposed

Treasurer

Nominations

1. Tom Golding

Seconded by

1. Narayanan Ramakrishnan

Result: Won Unopposed

Social Media Coordinator

Nominations

1. Pratik Wagh

Seconded by

1. Bede Allsopp

Result: Won Unopposed

Vivek Onamalai declares the following committee positions vacant

1. Junior's Cricket Coordinator