

Veterans Cricket ACT

2019/20

Annual Report

Veterans Cricket Competition

The season kicked off with teams the following teams - Eastlake Demon, Norths Blue Eagles, Norths Gold Eagles, Queanbeyan Greybagers and Queanbeyan Silver Foxes. This year also saw the return of the Creeky Knees (Weston Creek Molonglo) into the competition on a full time basis. Unfortunately the Silver Foxes had to withdraw at the Christmas break, but Canberra Masters were able to take their place for the 2nd part of the season.

After the Christmas break, the season was severely affected by the Bushfires, excessive summer heat and by COVID-19 which brought our season to a premature end. Gold Eagles retained the Ron Axelby shield, finishing on top with 51.44 points while the Greybagers were runners up with 45.69 points.

Best batting performances – Les Harris (316 @ 105.33 hs 111 no), Peter Gunning (241 @ 40.17 hs 40 no), Steve A Moore (226 @ 113 hs 41 no), Peter Lee (210 @ 70, hs 42 no), Mark Campbell (203 @ 67.67 hs 42 no) and Gary Page (203 @ 50.75, hs 46 no).

Best bowling performances – Vince Dunn (13 @ 11.31 bb 3/12), Wil Allen (12 @ 12, bb 4/23), Steve A Moore (10 @ 3.80, bb 3/3), Ross Calvert (10 @ 9.70, bb 3/7) and Trevor Ryan (10 @ 15, bb 6/9).

This year there were joint winners of the Ron Bates Shield for Player of the Year being Les Harris from the Greybagers and Steve Moore from the Gold Eagles.

Representative Matches

The season kicked off with the now annual Willowfest tournament in Mildura in mid-September. This was the first time that the ACT send a team to this event. The team was competitive but was clearly understrength and the results showed. We comprehensively lost the first two matches but finished the tournament with a strong win. However it was a good warm up for the players for the season to come.

The next tournament was the Over 50s National Championships, which were held in Perth in early November.

The ACT squad was: Peter Solway (c), Wil Allen, Richard Austin, Mick Frost, Joe Gunning, Glen Lang, Peter Lee, Andrew Minns, Gary Molineux, Steve A Moore, Steve H Moore and Paul Nemes.

Despite our team being a bit understrength, the Fireballs started with a win, just getting the job done against Qld Maroons in their first match, then backed that up with a thumping win over Tasmania.

In the 3rd match, against a strong Victorian team, the toss of the coin basically decided the match. Sent in on a wet track, the team struggled and were bowled out for just 108. By the time the Vics came into bat, well the pitch now dry was playing nicely and they had not problems knocking off the runs in just under 23 overs.

The play-off for 3rd spot, we took on NSW Blues and after opting to bat first, struggled to compile 8/122. In reply NSW were just too good, passing the target in the 25th over.

After the tournament an Australia squad was selected for the 2020 World Cup and Peter Solway was named Captain.

Over 50s Cricket World Cup

Cape Town in South Africa hosted the second World Cup in March 2020. As defending champions Australia was warm favourites to go back to back. Unfortunately the tournament was abandoned after only 2 matches (with a 3rd called off at the lunch break) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Australia had comfortably won their first two matches against Zimbabwe and West Indies and were well on the way to a win in their 3rd match against Sri Lanka.

2019 UK Tour

After much organising, VCACT were able to put a squad together for a 4 week tour of England. This was the first time in many years that the ACT Vets group had been able to organise such a UK tour.

It all started back in mid-2018 on a lengthy drive back from Queensland, Bill Rowe recognised that with the growth of the over 60s movement, increasingly ACT players may not get the chance to make Australian sides to play overseas.

He floated the idea of a tour to England for interested ACT players with Ron Axelby. A quick email later seeking expressions of interest and 12 willing souls indicated there was enough interest to begin planning a trip to the old country.

Bill went for advice to Stirling Hammond from NSW who had organised many tours to England having played in England as a young man and having been to England as captain of the Australian over 60s numerous times.

Stirling kindly offered to set up games with his contacts across various counties and suggested the touring template so successfully used in the past. This involved accommodation (four star and with a pool) for up to 30 people so games could be organised around four accommodation venues. This meant the tourists would have manageable drives to games each day rather than packing up every couple of days and moving to new accommodation.

The group of 12 eagerly agreed and planning got underway. Previous experience had shown that 17 players was ideal considering the need to rest and possible injuries that continually threaten the veteran's cohort! That number looked viable as the touring cohort was expanded to include a number of players from the Over 50s competition and the ACT Veterans touring party was formed as the ACT Galaxies. The final group ranged in age from early 50s to early 70s.

By March 2019 the touring party had changed due to injuries, family and work commitments. In the end we had a solid core of 19 players with 4 players sharing 2 spots. Keith Bridgen and Greg Curtis, our Queensland import, had to leave early and then Ron Bates and Joe Gunning arrived later in the tour.

Seventeen games in eleven different counties were scheduled with the first game on 7 July and the last on 29 July. As always, games were evenly shared with 12 games each.

The playing group accompanied by seven wonderful WAGS. This group of WAGS was simply outstanding. They were always available to help and support the entire touring party on match and rest/touring days.

Most of the touring party made their own way to England to meet at Heathrow on 4 July. A large van to carry gear, two people movers that could carry nine people each and two cars were hired for the duration of the trip.

First stop was Swindon in Wiltshire. We stayed for five nights. We trained/rested for two days and then had two games in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. We won the first game and narrowly lost the second.

Generally speaking tour rules had matches of 40 overs for each side with batsmen retiring at 40 runs and bowlers with a maximum of 8 overs. Barring injury, ACT players would play two out of every three matches aiming to give all players as close to 12 matches as possible. A pro-rata formula applied to those who were not there for the whole tour.

In the first game with a 5 run victory against North Wiltshire, Gary Page (40), Boris Teodorowych (42) and Pete Gunning (43) retired not out with Geoff Gilbert not out on 39. Mark Viney took 2/31.

In the second game against the John Lawrence XI at Purton CC, Pete Gunning retired on 42, and Greg Mulvaney took 3/27. Bill Rowe, playing for the opposition took a wicket bowling Miles Boak on 36! And Mark Viney also playing for the opposition bowled Kevin Rosenbaum. Perhaps the result could have been otherwise but in the spirit of cricket it was right to offer some players to the other side!

On 9 July we travelled to Cheltenham in Gloucestershire. We stayed for seven nights. Five games were played in four different counties – Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset. We won two and lost three.

The third game of the tour saw us up against Pershore Over 60s. Pete Gunning, Steve Moore and Geoff Gilbert all retired not out. Kevin Rosenbaum took 3/19. The Galaxies lost in the 38th over.

Warwickshire Over 60s were a county side and proved too strong winning in the 38th over in our fourth match. Boris Teodorowych was not out 50 off 51 balls and Geoff Gilbert was retired not out on 43. Miles Boak 2/28 and Greg Mulvaney 2/32 were the best of the bowlers.

Perhaps the most disappointing match was the game against Dumbleton on 12 July. The weather and grounds were beautiful but the ACT Galaxies were outclassed by a young side. Eight of their players were in their late teens or 20s. They were too strong and too fast and won by 9 wickets. Miles Boak was our best bat with 37 and Geoff Gilbert took our only wicket. A highlight was playing against Abbey Whybrow who retired 40 not out. She was our player of the match and we look forward to seeing her play for England at some stage. The comment was made that it's not often in an over 60s match that you play someone born in a different millennium.

After a rest day the Galaxies bounced back in a game against the Boxmen at Stanway. Martin Kennedy took 4/14 and Mark Dennison took 3/12. Steve Moore was retired 40 not out.

Game 7 saw us lose against the Somerset Over 60s who scored an impressive 4/272. Miles Boak was the best bowler with 2/27 off his 8 overs. Bill Rowe was not out 40 and Peter Gunning was out for 43.

On 16 July we travelled to Stratford-upon-Avon where we stayed for eleven nights at the Crowne Plaza. This was the pick of the accommodation in amenities and also it was in town near all the historic sites. Many chose to have an ale in the oldest pub and soak up everything they could about William Shakespeare. We had eight games scheduled in five counties – Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire and Herefordshire. We won four, lost three and had a washout.

On 17 July we had a win against the Fossils in Birlingham in Worcestershire. Our best on the day were Gary Page and Keith Bridgen each retired not out on 40 and Mark Viney who took an impressive 4/6 off 5 overs and was well supported by some very tight bowling from Keith, Ross Calvert and Greg Curtis all going for less than 3 runs an over.

In our ninth game against Apperley we were beaten by four runs. Miles Boak was out for 44, and Mark Viney and Gary Page both made 37. Pat Murray took 2/26 and Mark Viney had 4/33. We struggled at drinks in the 20th at 4/68 chasing 182 but collectively Mark Viney, Gary Page, Miles Boak, Andy Turner and Martin Kennedy took it to the last over to make it an exciting finish.

Our 10th game against Winchcombe was unfortunately washed out but the group welcomed two days of rest and sightseeing. This was the only match affected by rain and so overall the group felt it couldn't grumble.

What became our 10th game on 21 July against Cambridge XI at Kimbolton saw a convincing win. Greg Mulvaney was not out 40 and Ross Calvert took a great 3/5 off 3 overs. Ron Bates in his first game of the tour scored 28 and Martin Kennedy was 30 not out including a towering maximum over the bowler's head.

The next day we played Droitwich and went down in the 39th over. Kevin Rosenbaum and Gary Page both retired not out on 40 and Mark Viney had 3/32. The game was played in great spirit and Martin Woodward was recognised and presented with a Galaxies Cap for playing in five matches against the tourists.

The next game against Leicestershire Over 60s saw the Galaxies win in a close one. Setting the home side a gettable chase of 152, Greg Mulvaney top scored with 42 not out. Greg also took 3/36 and Joe Gunning in his first match of the tour took 3/19. ACT won by 8 runs in the end.

The Galaxies were brought back to earth in the next game against John Belfield's XI at Stowell Park playing a youthful side including an Australian student from Armidale playing in the local league. It was also the hottest day of the tour being mid 30s and for once there was a big outfield with no shade on the ground.

The opposing captain decided the tourists should field first as the “Australians were used to the heat”. Mark Viney took 3/21 as the opposition scored 9/161. Martin Kennedy top scored with 22 of our 101 runs which was our lowest total of the tour.

Our last game out of Stratford-upon-Avon was against Eastnor. We had a win in the 38th over chasing 185. Miles Boak took 3/22 of his 8 overs. Both Steve Moore and Boris Teodorowych retired not out on 40. When Boris retired Mark Dennison and Andy Turner played ‘intelligently’ as the best bowlers were brought on. Their running between the wickets was a highlight of the tour. After the match we had a three course meal at a marquee at the ground and the captain of Leicestershire regaled the group with colourful anecdotes. Our stay at Stratford-upon-Avon saw us win four games from seven.

On 27 July we drove south to Crawley, West Sussex and played our final two games in East Sussex and Kent. We finished our stay there with one win and one loss.

On 28 July in our 15th match we beat Sussex Over 60s in the 40th over. Tight bowling in particular by Ross Calvert in an outstanding spell with 5/10 from 7 overs restricted Sussex to 144 runs. Mark Viney retired not out on 40 opening the batting. Joe Gunning was 33 not out.

In our final match on 29 July we played Sussex Over 70s. Unfortunately we lost on the last ball of the match despite a confident appeal and the umpire admitting later it could have gone either way. Galaxies had scored 169 in its 40 overs with Joe Gunning not out on 41. Ross Calvert took 2/26. In the last over it was nail-biting for the spectators as it was a tied game with three balls to go. The loss is probably best summed up by saying ‘that’s cricket’.

On the last night we had a team farewell dinner where all members of the group said what their highlights of the tour were. The tour was judged a success with many saying it was the experience of a lifetime for them and that they would value the new friendships they’d formed. The next day the group all made their way back to Hounslow to return the vehicles. Some returned straight away to Australia and others stayed on in Europe.

We ended up with an 8/8 win loss ratio which the Group felt could have been better but for a few crucial plays but overall they were happy. It was pleasing that there were no major illnesses or injuries that saw players end their tours. The warmups and warm downs often brought merriment from the opposition, but it reduced injury and soreness as did the morning pool exercises expertly run by Henrietta Dennison.

Our best bowlers were Mark Viney and Ross Calvert, and our best batsmen were Pete Gunning and Geoff Gilbert. Full lists of the player statistics are also attached. Detailed reports on each game are available elsewhere on the MyCricket website.

A challenge for some of our games was the rescheduling because of bad weather in June of many county Over 60s and Over 70s regular season matches and they took precedent over our matches. The locals often play three matches a week during their season and extra matches had been scheduled. This meant some of the teams we played were short a few players or they substituted younger people including in their 20s and 30s. Nevertheless games were played in good spirit and the after-match conviviality and hospitality were always first rate.

To a person all enjoyed the experience of playing cricket in England: the camaraderie within our team and for the most part with all the opposing teams; the sometimes quirky English grounds and local rules to cope with the tree in the outfield roped off and the sheep wandering in; the eventful drives to and from games particularly when the narrow roads and GPS were less than helpful to the large van, and the ups and downs of cricket itself.

For a number of the group it was their first time to England and it was a pleasant surprise to experience the English countryside and history around every corner. For some the highlights were visiting Oxford, Bath or Blenheim Palace while others soaked up the history of churches or the local pub culture. Quite a few played golf on their days off.

The WAGs contributed hugely to the tour in addition to their support, first aid and good humour they usually prepared the teas at grounds and cleaned up afterwards.

Thanks, in particular to Stirling Hammond for setting up the tour and the tour organisers, Bill Rowe and Gary Page who shared the captain's role on the field with guest appearances from Steve Moore and Peter Gunning.

Over 60's National Championships

The 14th National Championships were played from 11 to 15 November in Adelaide. A total of 32 teams from all States and Territories, and New Zealand contested the 4 Divisions (8 teams in each Division) over the 4 days of competition. The ACT only entered 2 teams this year (Div 1 & Div 3)

Division 1

The Galaxies took on Victoria in the first match. After being sent in, the team put together a reasonable score of 8/164 with Asoka Wijeratne top scoring with 32. After the lunch interval, our bowlers, backed up by a strong fielding effort, kept the Vic batsmen quiet and made scoring runs difficult. As a result we held them to 8/103. Though he didn't get the results he deserved Tommy Purcell bowled magnificently to have 0/9 from his 8 overs.

In the second match, we took on the hosts. The pitch while it looked OK, was a bit too paced. We won the toss and batted and we struggled to make 9/108 with Tommy Purcell top scoring with 32. If not for the efforts of the tail (we were 6/61) the score would have been a lot worse. When the South Aussies batted, it looked like the pitch had not improved much and quickly had them 3/0 after 3 overs. But a skipper's knock put them back in control. We got a couple of late wickets, but it was too little too late and they passed our score in the 40th over.

Needing a win to stay in contention, we took on Queensland. Playing on the same ground we did on the Monday, the pitch was in much better condition but unfortunately Queensland's captain won the toss and elected to bat. The pitch played well and with the outfield being a bit quicker than two days ago, they had no worries and compiled 4/196. At times we only had ourselves to blame with a couple of fielding lapses. After the break we got ready for the chase. We got off to a steady start but a middle order collapse which saw us lose 6/20 just about sealed the result and we limped to 8/122.

In the playoff for 5th place, we took on New Zealand. This is the first time we have played New Zealand since they joined back in 2011. By this time in the tournaments, the quality of the pitches tend to drop a bit, so after winning the toss, the Kiwis were invited to have the

first use of the pitch. We had them on the ropes at 3/10 but they recovered and made a respectful 7/140. Mick Hurley bowled really well and took 2/15 from his 8 overs including 3 maidens. After the lunch break the chase began. Murray decided to mix the batting order up a bit. We lost an early wicket, but good partnerships got us to within touching distance, then an undefeated 70 run partnership between Steve Siggers (35 no) and Murray Harrison (25 no) got us home (5/141) in just over 40 overs.

Host's South Australia won the 1st division title by beating a very strong NSW team in the final.

Division 3

The first match was against New Zealand. The Kiwis won the toss and batted, compiling 7/195. Part time bowlers Geoff Gilbert (2/6) and Gerard Moore (2/7) took 4 wickets for 13 runs from 6 overs between them. Our reply got off to a good start and took the score to 40 before we lost our first pole. Apart from Geoff Gilbert (41 rtno) our middle order collapsed and only Geoff and Wayne Lucerne's (27 no) effort got us to a respectable score in the end, 7/146.

The second match was against NSW Boomers team we won the toss and batted. We got away to a good start putting 61 runs for the opening partnership (Dave Mankey 41 rtno), but again a middle order collapse (5 wickets for 13 runs). It was only Peter Foley with (37 no), enabled us to get a reasonable score finishing with 7/117. Despite some early joy in the Boomers innings, they pretty much cruised to a 7 wicket victory (3/118) from just over 34 overs.

After the rest day, we took on Victoria. Winning the toss and batting first. The Vics, despite losing an early wicket, took control of the match and finished with 7/183. Ross Calvert bowling his wily spinners took 3/36 from 6 overs. A much improved batting performance, Gerard Moore 48 rtno, Richard Arthur (46 rtno) and 32 from Kevin Rosenbaum got us to within touching distance, but a few risky run outs saw us finishing 8/175, 8 runs shy.

The last match saw the team travel to a quaint little country ground just outside Mount Barker to take on Queensland in the battle to avoid the wooden spoon. Winning the toss and batting, we scored 8/152. Geoff continued his good form, making 40 (rtno) with a number of batsmen contributing to the effort. It was a very relaxed lunch break with everyone looking forward to the Tournament dinner and then making their way home over the next couple of days.

After lunch, Queensland took on the task with some gusto. When they managed to put good partnerships together, but a combination of good bowling and good fielding kept the match interesting. It looked like their keeper, batting with the tail would get the job done. However, when he was compulsory retired just a few runs short of the target, things got interesting. Wayne Lucerne was given the opportunity and with the Queenslanders 9 wickets down and needing just 3 runs for victory, Wayne took the vital scalp in the last over to secure victory and the wooden spoon was handed to the Queenslanders.

2019 England Over 60s Tour of Australia.

England was again touring Australia and we were fortunate to be asked to host one of the tour matches. The match took place at Neil Bulger Oval on 17th November.

Selected in the ACT XI - Murray Harrison (c), Tom Purcell, Greg Irvine, Steve Marshall (w), Michael Hurley, Geoff Gilbert, Peter Jacobsen, Vince Bulger, Asoka Wijeratne, Steve Siggers, Lal Wijesiriwardana and Tony Paterson.

England XI – John Foster (c), Chris Evans, Chris Tarrant, Simon Clements, Richard Harris, Chris Dearden, John Punchard, Jim Phillips, Duncan Gardner, Mark Banham, Nigel Ashplant (w) and John Courtney.

Match Officials - Umpires: Peter Wyche, Peter Howes. Scorers: Maggie Boyden, Jimmy Martin. Referee: Clive Ricks

Prior to the match, the committee engaged Joel Bulger to perform a traditional Welcome to Country ceremony. He also entertained with his an excellent performance on the digeridoo. The visiting England team were very appreciative and impressed.

In lieu of the traditional coin toss, Murray offer the England Captain, John Foster, the opportunity to bat first, which he gratefully accepted.

The England XI, compiled 6/192 from their 45 overs, with opener Chris Evans top scoring with 50 (rtno), well supported by Simon Clements (40) and Richard Harris (30). Best bowling performance was by Lal Wijesiriwardana (3/16 from 4 overs).

After the lunch break, ACT began their chase, but got off to a terrible start being 1/6 and then 2/30. However Tommy Purcell (52 rtno) held the innings together but there was not much support from the rest of the batting order and were bowled out for 107 (35 overs). England's best bowling was from John Courtney with 3/19 from 8 overs.

After the match, the result became irrelevant as old friendships were rekindled over a beer or two.

Australia also played 3 ODIs against the England team, with Murray Harrison being selected in the Australian squad.

Match 1 – 22 November at Bradman Oval. Australia 7/152 lost to England 6/153

Match 2 – 28 November at Pasterfield Sports Complex (Newcastle). Australia 4/212 def England 9/190.

Match 3 – 8 December at Peter Burge Oval (Brisbane). England 8/226 def Australia 216.

Inaugural Bradman Invitational Over 60s Twenty/20 Tournament.

In late 2019, VCACT were invited to participate in this tournament, which was to be held in and around Bowral from 17 to 19 February 2020. Unfortunately the NSW bush fires had the last word and the tournament was cancelled. The organisers are hoping the tournament can be played either later this year or early 2021.

2020 Echuca Over 60s Tournament

VCACT was again invited to enter a team into the annual tournament. Having won the tournament the previous year we were keen to defend our title. The interest was pretty high

and competitive, giving the selectors the tough task to put together a squad to represent the ACT.

Our first match was against South Australian Wombats at Victoria Park. Tony Paterson, skipping the team due to Murray's absence, won the toss and batted. We were bowled out for 128 in just over 38 overs, with opening bat Ian Bradburn holding the innings together with 33. When it was the Wombats turn to bat, neither team could take the ascendancy and it was a bit of an arm wrestle. However Things got really tight towards the end of their innings but we were able to bowl them out for 120 from just under 39 overs with Joe Gunning taking the bowling honours with 4/21.

In the second match with took on the other South Australian team, South East Coasters. The Coasters won the toss and surprisingly send us in. We made 9/163 with the two Geoffs dominating the scorecard. Geoff Gilbert (38 no) and Geoff Ledger (34 no). In reply the Coasters struggled and we held them to 8/98. Gerard Moore was the pick of the bowlers with 3/20, well supported by Geoff Ledger, 2/10.

Unfortunately the tournament was abandoned the next day, due to COVID-19 restrictions coming into force.

Other matches.

Due to the summer that nearly wasn't, the Over 60s group were only able to play a couple of scheduled social matches.

The first match of the annual home and away series against the Southern Highlands Over 60s took place at Neil Bulger Oval on 6 October. As usual with these matches, they are an enjoyable event and this was no different. Given the option, the Highlanders decided they would bowl first and the ACT lads compiled 7/210 (40 overs). Lal Wijesiriwardana, Tom Purcell, John Dedman and John Kidd all got 30 (rtno) with Steve Siggers unlucky to join the quartet with 27.

After the lunch break, the Highlanders got off to a steady start, but the ACT bowlers kept the runs down. Despite a couple of players retiring at 30 the run rate kept on climbing and in the end they could only muster 8/175 from their 40 overs. Pick of the bowlers were Tom Purcell with 3/17 and John Kidd 2/21.

The next match saw ACT head over to Batemans Bay to take on Eurobodalla in the annual match for the Axelby-Myers cup on 1 December. The ACT team was captained by Tom Purcell. Winning the toss, Tom gave Eurobodalla the first use of the pitch. Eurobodalla compiled 8/174 from their 40 overs with the wickets being shared around.

When it came time for ACT to bat, the team got off to a good start, Lal was dominating the batting and retired (31). The curse of the middle order collapse struck and we went from 0/34 to 4/63. Vince Bulger (30 rtno), was well supported by Ross Calvert (22), George Preston (playing his first match for 3 years) and Grant Butler (plus 21 Extras) but it was too little too late and we finished with 6/154.

The final social match was played against Bega at a quaint country ground at Kameruka on the 1st March. The Bega team featured a number of ACT players plus quite a few young bucks. Batting first Bega made 8/206 with Dave Gallen 32 no and John Dedman 21 no. Grant

Butler 2/10 and Murray Harrison 2/17 were the pick of our bowlers. Phil Spence was tidy behind the stumps taking 3 catches and a stumping. After a hearty lunch, the ACT lads began the task of chasing the total. Despite a few good innings, we fell 15 runs short finishing with 7/191 with John Kidd 34no, Murray Harrison 30 no, Dave Mankey 21 and Phil Spence 20 were are main contributors with the bat.

Over 70s Cricket

The rep season began with the Over 70s being held in Albury/Wodonga. Whilst the ACT were not able to enter a team, quite a few locals, Ron Axelby, Denis Axelby, Nick Brown, Peter Howes, Mick Kehoe, Pat Murray, Peter Nelson and Ian Wille played for other states

However it wasn't long before we were able to field an Over 70s team, when we were invited to take part of the NSW State Championships, which were held in Port Macquarie in early February. The team consisted of R Axelby (Capt), W Hall (vc) R Rose, D Axelby, S Bowden, G Preston, B Trewin, R Calvert, J Wadsworth, P Howes, P Nelson, T Paterson and P Cullen but played under the banner of Canberra-Monaro.

The team performed very well in finishing 3rd, with our only defeat being to the strong Port Jackson team, who were the eventual Championship winners. The team played very well as a unit with all players contributing to its success. Ross Calvert was the chief wicket taker with John Wadsworth, who was participating for the first time, our most prolific batsman.

Shortly after the carnival, Veterans Cricket Australia put together a touring party to travel across the ditch for a number of matches in New Zealand. Ross Calvert was selected as part of the squad. Congratulations to Ross who performed quite well on tour.

After the tour, VCA announced the squad for the winter tour to the UK and both John and Ross were selected. No doubt their performances at the Championships contributed to them being selected in the team.

Footnote:

Due to the ongoing effects of Covid-19 are still being felt, with both the Over 60s Nationals, which was to be played on the Sunshine Coast in September and the Over 70s which was set down for Launceston in November being postponed until 2021. This also caused the Australian Over 70s tour to the UK to be postponed as well.