

FIRST BALL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

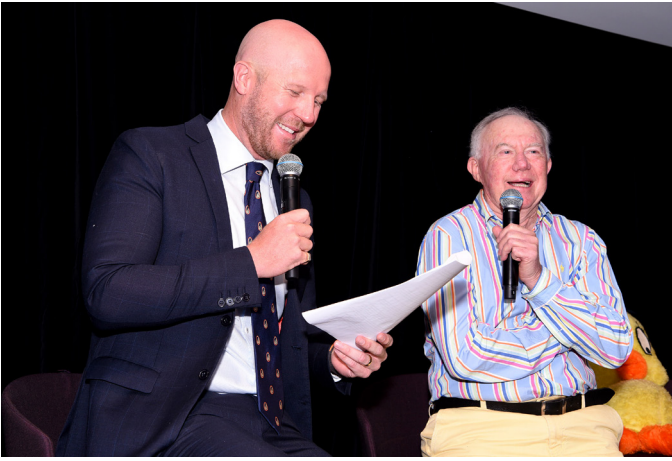


“Music in the Playground”
Children at the Aspect Hunter School, Thornton NSW,
enjoying the new outdoor musical equipment funded by
Members of the Primary Club of Australia.



THE PRIMARY CLUB
OF
AUSTRALIA

Providing sports & recreation opportunities for people with disabilities



Members and guests attending the Sydney Test Breakfast used the occasion to celebrate President Jim Maxwell's 50 Years as a highly respected commentator at the ABC. PCA Ambassador and MC Matt De Groot interviewed Jim about his amazing career.

Greetings to Primarians and Friends around the country!

Well, well, well! Many of you know my opinion about T20 cricket and my regard for the purer forms of the game we all love. However, I am grateful for one key factor about T20s, which is that this form delivers more 'primaries' than each of the other forms. In the twelve months just ending, out of the 28 golden ducks scored by Aussie cricketers, 11 happened in international T20 matches. Yes, I know, in the chase for quick runs, one has to attack the first ball and run whatever. But really?

We should feel blessed that our coffers will increase in the weeks and months ahead through our golden duck fines, which will allow the Primary Club and its hard-working Charities Committee under Derick Borean's expert leadership to assess and approve more applications from our charity partners for funds to support people with a disability.

From intellectual challenges to physical impairment, 4.4 million Australians live with a disability (almost 18% of the population). The Primary Club's charter is to help them lead more fulfilling and rewarding lives through sport and recreation.

At the Pakistan Test Breakfast, Committeemen Geoff Elliott and Andrew Wildblood; Daphne Benaud with Gwynneth and Peter Carlisle.



Over almost 50 years now, the Primary Club has raised close to \$8m to help procure specialised play equipment, sports wheelchairs, equipment for blind cricketers, horse-riding arenas for the disabled, hydrotherapy pools, specialised yachts – and much more. This edition of "First Ball" carries some stories from six of our charity partners about projects we have supported in recent times.

How proud must our founding fathers, Peter Howarth and Jon Erby, be when they look back over those 50 years. We talk often about the 600 charity projects and the 60,000 people we've touched. But it's impossible to count the millions of smiles we've helped create. And that's our motivation!

This "First Ball" provides some insight into the success of our special events, such as the Primary Club Cricket Team's recent season and England tour, our Killara Golf Classic back in August, Sydney Test Breakfast and the North Sydney Oval Festival. We recently staged another fabulous golf event at the championship course at The Lakes and will provide a report in our Annual Report in September.

Looking ahead, I'd like to remind ALL Members how important your personal support is in several aspects – financial, volunteering, and/or attending our events. In the months ahead, we are staging another "Baggy Green Dinner" to include the next round of Sir Roden Cutler Awards for high-achieving athletes with a disability, plus a golf day in Melbourne at the Heritage Country Club, block seats at the Test Matches against India around the country during the summer and our all-important Sydney Test Breakfast on 3rd January. Watch out for details about all these on our website.

*Jim Maxwell AM,
President*





Photo highlights from the Killara Golf Day in August, including Mixed Team Trophy winners (2nd on left) and Perpetual Team Trophy winners at the foot of this page (2nd from right).

2023 Killara Golf Classic

The weather gods looked fondly upon our golfers and the hard-working ground staff at Killara Golf Club on Thursday 24th August. The course was in top condition and promised some great golf.

While the number of players was down compared to 2022, they certainly made up for it with inspired anticipation. So, we hit off with 56 enthusiastic players, with 24 of them playing in foursomes entered by our 'hole' sponsors. Thanks go Allen & Unwin, Bluebet, Dunk Insurance, Ord Minnett, Peak Investment and Shaw & Partners. The presence of these sponsors had a positive impact on the day, enabling us to raise over \$15k for our charities.



Members experienced a busy summer, not only with all the international and local cricket being played, but with a range of the Primary Club's own activities and events.

Many of our charity partners have also recommenced their sports and exercise programs with enthusiasm, which in turn generates more demand for support from the Primary Club.

As we embrace the upcoming 50th Anniversary Year, please make sure you renew your membership, pay your fines, attend events, but also invite your friends and family members to join in the fun-raising.

*Nathan Dale,
Director of Operations*

President Jim Maxwell and another 6 people joined the luncheon that followed – volunteers, partners and injured members - who greeted all the players and listened to their exaggerated stories about on-course performances.

Matt De Groot was MC on the day and did a great job moving around the dining room chatting to special guests including Simon Tafel, Mark Taylor and our visually impaired marathon swimmer James Pittar, the latter once again riding around the course as 'shotgun' for Scott Miers.

Lee Davis from North Sydney Hotel donated the 'Tower of Beer' on the 5th fairway, a keenly contested prize.



Winners on the day in the Ambrose format were as follows:

- Perpetual Team Event – Simon Taufel, Mark Taylor, Gavan Carroll and Gordon Daley (52.75 pts)
- Mixed Team Event – Ann-Marie King, Larry King, Rob Wilkinson and Jon Butcher (63.25)
- Novelty Team Event – Bluebet team: Bill Richmond, Matt Sheen, Joe Killeen and Brett Chisholm (58.25)
- Tower of Beer – Peter Dind
- Nearest the Pin – Graeme Cheshire, Christine Allsopp, Phil Page and Bonnie Boezeman
- Longest Drive – Tyler Boatwright and Bonnie Boezeman

Finally, we want to recognise and thank our volunteers on the day. Trish, Vivian, Pam and Shaan helped with selling raffle tickets and setting up the dining room, while Peter Buscall supervised the Tower and took photos. Well done, all of you!

*Ken Glover, Gavan Carroll and Geoff Verco
Event Coordinators*

Sydney Test Breakfast

‘Yes, we are home again’. For the second time since 2018, the venue for our signature event of the year was the Eastside Dining Room of the Sydney Football Stadium.

In the presence of Patron & Twelfth Man Mark Taylor, President Jim Maxwell and MC Matt De Groot, we were excited to host 320 members and guests at our annual Test Breakfast on 3rd January – a prelude to Australia hosting Pakistan in the Sydney Test. (This was an increase from 280 the prior year with South Africa.)

A feature of this year’s event was the celebration of Jim’s 50 years of ABC sports commentary, with Mark presenting Jim a certificate to recognise this milestone.

From Test Breakfast, from the top: panelists Danyal Rasool and Alex Blackwell; then Rick Glover and Mark Taylor presenting Jim Maxwell a certificate celebrating his 50 years at the ABC; then panel moderator Brett Sprigg, and finally Life Member Daphne Benaud with Ambassador Ed Cowan.



What a show! Highly regarded commentators and former Australian cricketers, Ed Cowan and Alex Blackwell, were joined by ESPN cricinfo’s Pakistani journalist and author Danyal Rasool for a panel interview conducted by ABC Radio commentator Brett Sprigg. They tackled some tough topics such as the future of Test Cricket around the globe.

All in all, this event yielded over \$23,000 to be directed to our various charity projects, with special thanks to our corporate supporters – Vocus, Argenti and Breene & Breene.

The Primary Club had also secured 153 seats for our members in SCG stands for the first 3 days of the Sydney Test, an excellent way to complement the Breakfast event. Thanks to all who participated in this way.

*Rick Glover,
Deputy President*

North Sydney Oval Festival

Following the success in the last five summers, we were granted access to the fabulous North Sydney Oval once again to allow the Primary Club to host two charity cricket days - 'Insurance Ashes VI' on Monday 26th February and 'Marathon Cricket XII' on the Tuesday.

The cricket gods looked down on us for Day 1, but showers delayed our start on Day 2. Thanks again to curator Kieran and the hard-working ground staff who kicked off play as soon as the covers came off soon after 11am!

Insurance Ashes

A big shout out to the insurance industry teams who participated – Austbrokers/SURA, CGU, Steadfast and newcomers Liberty Specialty Markets. These four teams were joined by a team from NSW Fire & Rescue. So, we had a five-way round-robin tournament with rankings determined by net run rate ('NRR') under the Last Man Stands ('LMS') scoring system. Steadfast came out on top with NRR of 1.85, despite a hot contest from runners-up, "the Firies" on 1.833.

A highlight of the day was a demonstration of blind cricket, organised by Mark from Blind Cricket NSW on the Oval concourse. Some of our players wore the special glasses each with a different type of vision impairment. Blind Cricket is a regular recipient of Primary Club's support for equipment such as special balls, stumps and uniforms.

Thanks to Stephanie Brantz and Jim Maxwell for helping out with the trophy and medal presentations.

Marathon Cricket

Following a similar format to Monday's event, we were pleased to host four corporate teams – Vocus, Equinix, the Breene Machine, and Seccom Global who merged with newcomers Argenti to form the "Arseccom" team.

With the rain delay and reduced fixtures, we ran a bit later into the late afternoon, but all were OK in the end. A highlight of the day was the wheelchair basketball game, organised by Jon from Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT on the Oval concourse.



Cricketers were excited about learning to play the game strapped to a wheelchair! Another good example of what the Primary Club is all about.

Reigning champions, the Breene Machine, stormed home once again with their NRR of 1.426, with Equinix the runners-up team on 0.214.

PCA Ambassadors, Alex Blackwell and Simon Taufel, were in attendance and assisted with the trophy and medal presentations. Simon also spent some time out in the middle umpiring and gave his index finger some well-earned exercise!

St John Medical Service provided first aid practitioners on both days, sponsored by SURA and Vocus respectively. This year there were no serious injuries amongst the players, only an occasional pulled hamstrings and some wounded pride. Thanks again to St John and those sponsors.

Each evening, we invited the Last Man Stands ("LMS") organisation to stage some demonstration T20 games, with their players also helping to raise funds for the Club.

Finally, special thanks to our 16 volunteers over the two days! They maintained their spirit and enthusiasm throughout, as did Phil, Kris, Mohsin and the team of LMS umpires and scorers, who kept the program on schedule and provided instant updates on the scores and rankings. Great work, guys!

And the outcome? Over \$33,000 was raised for our charities over the two-day festival, another great result.

*Geoffrey Verco,
Charity Development Manager*



Primarians at work and play- members and guests enjoying the fun at our Killara golf day, and our North Sydney Oval cricket festival.



Of the many stories outlining the impact of your generous donations, I have great pleasure in presenting these six from of our charity partners. These stories demonstrate the diversity of environments and people our grants support - whether it's sailing, football, cricket, fitness, sensory stimulation or relaxation – each has an important role for a person's healthy inclusion, communication and participation in life. What an impact!



*Derick Borean
Committee & Chair, Charities Sub-Committee*

**“LET JOY BE UNCONFINED”
Making Waves Newcastle**

The Making Waves Foundation offers the opportunity to take 60,000 plus participants living with a disability or that are socially disadvantaged sailing for free in our programs over the previous 29 years. In 2023, The Primary Club provided us with equipment funding to improve the safety of our Newcastle yacht ‘Joy,’ This included increasing the height of our stanchions and netting for our Winds of Joy program participants. We have relied on this equipment every week since funding in our programs and with the added security our program participants have an increased opportunity to experience the ‘Joy’ of sailing and build their confidence both on the boat and in society.



Thanks again to Primary Club funding assistance.

*Rachel Ward
Making Waves Foundation*

**“PATHWAYS FOR INCLUSION”
Disability Sports Association**

DSA delivers a program called “Activate Inclusion Sports Day” which benefits from the Primary Club’s support. AISDs are one-day programs designed to promote the pathways for inclusion in sports and active recreation programs. The program is delivered in local community areas and encourages students with disability to participate in community sports and active recreation regularly.



We will likely deliver close to 70 events in 2024 and have already engaged nearly 6,000 students with disability. We also are about to pilot an Adult version of the program as we recognise the importance of people of all ages with disability being able to be active.

Thanks to the Primary Club, we have established a ‘Deliverers Kit’ in each state. This kit has a variety of accessible sports equipment that we can then ensure that any participant at our events may be able to engage in a variety of sports, such as noise-cancelling headphones, audible footballs, and audible cricket balls.

We also provide each participant’s event with a show bag containing promotional information on being active in their community and giveaways.

*Ayden Shaw
General Manager, Disability Sports Australia*

Images here from our charity partners: Making Waves sail-training day at Newcastle (top right); then Sydney FC’s Gala Day at Allianz Stadium, and Disability Sports Australia’s “Active Inclusion Day” at Hurstville.

**“HARNESSING ENERGY FOR BETTER LEARNING”
Borinya Special School, Wangaratta VIC**

Borinya School has made significant strides in addressing the educational and wellbeing needs of its students through the introduction of a Sensory Fitness Circuit. Funded by the Primary Club, this outdoor fitness circuit caters to the 45 students at Borinya, a school for those at high risk of disengaging, many of whom face challenges like ADHD, intellectual disabilities, and anxiety.

The circuit was installed in 2023 with the dual goal of promoting physical activity and providing sensory breaks to enhance mental health, wellbeing, and educational outcomes.

This initiative has had broad ranging impacts. Feedback from the school highlights significant improvements in overall student mental health and engagement in learning. It has become a tool for students needing a sensory ‘time-out’ or a ‘quick energy burst,’ which in turn, has led to more focused and less disruptive classroom environments.

Most importantly, the equipment has fostered social interaction and inclusivity. The versatility of the equipment ensures that all students, regardless of their physical ability, can participate, promoting social inclusion and physical activity.

“It’s been wonderful seeing our students using this equipment, particularly the students who I doubt have used this type of gym equipment before. It’s opened up new possibilities for them. It’s also such a fantastic way to channel the energy that some of our students have, which makes for more settled classrooms.” - Teacher

Overall, the project has not just met its intended goals but exceeded them, bringing profound benefits to the students’ wellbeing and engagement in school activities.

*Kate Ross
State Manager, Schools Plus*



(Bottom left): Outdoor exercise equipment at Borinya School, Wangaratta VIC; (Top right) the multi-sensory room alight with flashing shapes and colours created by the students at Bear Cottage.



**“OPEN WIDE - THERE’S A BEAR IN THERE!”
The Bear Cottage Multi-Sensory Room**

Many thanks to the Primary Club for your generous support which has allowed a refit of the multi-sensory room at Bear Cottage. The equipment in the multi-sensory room was broken or breaking down after 20 years of consistent use. Your donation has meant that new equipment has been installed in the multi-sensory room.

A multi-sensory room is a space that provides patients a sense of control of their environment while stimulating or relaxing their senses. All the items in the room are controlled by a switch where a child can turn items on, off or change colour by pressing a switch/button. It is a dark room with bright lighted items so for children with impaired vision it allows for opportunity to stimulate their sense of vision.

There is a projector wheel which projects different scenes onto the wall where a child can watch as well as turn it on and off, and fibre optic lights which are long strands of light that change colour gradually. They are safe for children to touch and play with. The disco light in the room changes the mood of the room into a fun room. The walls in the room are painted black so the light reflecting off the disco ball appears on the wall with great contrast. Siblings of patients can also enjoy spending time in the room, as it is a space where they can interact with their brother and/or sister using fun equipment that they can both use.

Thank you for being an unstoppable changemaker and ambitious instigator in revolutionising kids health. With your donation, we can continue to go all in, changing the landscape for children’s health-care, for all kids, always.

*Melanie Russo
Relationship Manager – Community Engagement
Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation*

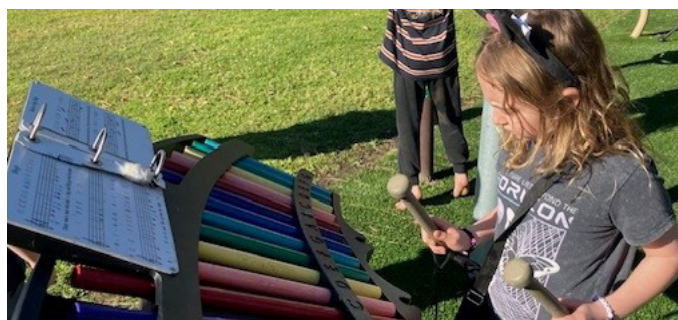
“MUSIC – THE FOOD OF LOVE”
Austism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)

Aspect is delighted to express our appreciation to The Primary Club of Australia for the invaluable contribution of outdoor musical equipment to the Aspect Hunter School for Autistic students. The outdoor musical equipment is installed permanently in the outdoor playground and includes a brightly coloured xylophone, a mushroom drum, a set of pagoda bells and a drum with two attached drumsticks. The introduction of these wonderful musical instrument pieces in the playground has provided a unique avenue for sensory exploration and expression for the children. Through engaging with these instruments, our students have had the chance to experience a multisensory environment that aids in emotional regulation and sensory integration which helps to promote a sense of calmness and security.

Witnessing our students collaborate, take turns, and communicate while creating music together is truly inspiring. This fosters not only social interaction but also a sense of belonging and camaraderie amongst peers.

Aspect aims to continue to recognize and support initiatives that empower the children to thrive and flourish. Thank you for enriching the lives Aspect Hunter School’s Autistic students and helping to foster a future where the strengths and interests of Autistic people can be freely explored.

Shahar Burla
Philanthropy & Relationships
Austism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)



(Bottom left) So much fun the children at Aspect Hunter School are having, learning to create different sounds and music sensations; (Top right) Students reading, sharing and communicating in the new learning pods at Chrysalis WA.



“PLAYGROUND PODS”
Chrysalis Montessori School (WA)

I am happy to inform Primary Club Members that the pods and seating have been installed and have met with great approval from staff and students. As hoped, they’ve created a much-needed alternative space to the classroom and playground for small group work, relaxing and socialising. The pods seem to provide a sense of privacy and security, particularly beneficial for our students with higher support needs.

The success of the new outdoor furniture has prompted the school to order more pods and upgrade other outdoor furniture to complement them.

Mark Panaia
Principal
Chrysalis Montessori School

Played 15 matches, won 9, lost 6

BATTING HIGHLIGHTS

Highest run scorer: Greg Stark 287 runs

Centuries: Ben Haynes 121* vs Old Aloysians,
Kris Baptista 100* vs Marrickville Saggars

Highest partnership: Ben Haynes and Damian Fritum- 176* vs Old Aloysians

BOWLING HIGHLIGHTS

Highest wicket taker: David Ince 14 wickets

Best bowling: Omair Khan

4/5 vs Army Victoria Barracks XI

Most dismissals: Damien Langley
(9 catches and 2 run outs)



After landing back in Australia following a memorable England Ashes tour, it didn't take long for the team to dust themselves off and get right back into the rhythm of the 2023/24 season, which includes well-worn traditions such as:

- A Round 1 wash out/forfeit
- The Thursday night 'one short for Sunday' email from the captain
- The Friday night 'SOS' by the players to their network of friends and family (including internet databases such as Ancestry.com)
- The Saturday "we found our 11th player" email from the captain
- Each Sunday (if, and only if temperatures are predicted to climb above 35°C) we lose the coin toss and are sent into the field
- Each Sunday (just after the toss of the coin) - the question is tabled 'does anyone have any keeping gear?' and/or 'has anyone kept wickets before?'

The playing calendar is rich with traditional marquee matches such as the Jim Maxwell Plate (vs Easts Cricket Club), the Rick Glover Testimonial (vs St George Vets), the Blind Cricket NSW XI fixture, the Rodney B Tubbs Trophy (vs I Zingari), and, new to the calendar in 2024, the Charity Trophy (vs Fire and Rescue NSW).

The Jim Maxwell Plate this season was even more special for PCA President Jim Maxwell, celebrating 50 years of broadcasting as the undisputed voice of summer.



This season also celebrated the 50th year as a member of the playing squad for our Number 1 cap, Primary Club icon and Deputy President, Rick Glover. Our club owes so much to Rick, he is a long-time Member, with this testimonial match played against Rick's 'other team', St George Vets Cricket Club, where Rick played over 45 seasons (holding the City + Suburban wicket taking record with over 700 scalps to his name).

2023/24 added so much more diversity of talent, with players debuting from clubs including Camden, Castle Hill RSL, Chatswood Gypsies, Newcastle and Fire & Rescue NSW. It also marked the return of PCA alumni such as Mark Phipps (Honorary Treasurer) and Luke Minto. There were some unforgettable thrillers vs Marrickville, Cricketers Club of NSW and I Zingari, and some forgettable matches in 40°C+ vs Barker Brown Hornets and Reg Bartley XI.

Some noteworthy highlights on the field include:

- A total of 5 first ball primaries 'achieved' by the playing group throughout the season, a nice boost of donations to the PCA charity!
- A Last Man Stands match launching the season at Moore Park, featuring a special guest appearance from club Secretary Rob Stevenson and partner (now fiancé) Marnie travelling all the way from their home in Kenya
- Flea, Thornton and Nav completing PCA's first ever hat-trick of broken thumbs in a season
- Six father/son debuts launching the next generation playing squad (Wildblood, Buda, Nish/Nav), including 3 father/son debuts in Blind XI match alone (Stark, McIntyre, Prior)

And some important performances off the field include:

- VOCUS continued sponsorship of the Primary Club’s playing squad (thanks to VOCUS Chief Executive and PCA squad member Andy Wildblood)
- Craig McIntyre (“CMac”), who has spent days /weeks in his bunker ensuring we are a fully tech-enabled club with records of every game over the years as well as managing all of PlayHQ
- David Ince getting nominated unopposed as Honorary Chairman of Selectors (NOTE: this is not an official role)

And some of the greatest contributions are from the PCA family, which bring our match day experience to life, including:

- Geoff Verco (Charity Development Manager), his tireless work behind the scenes to ensure the playing squad advances the Primary Club charity
- Shaan Verco and Pam Glover for their match day hospitality
- PCA umpires including Davern Lewis, Tony Booth, Steve Ward and Rick Crocono
- Scorer Ian Wright (PCA icon and Australia’s 113th International Test Scorer)

We get a true sense of the impact and reach of our purpose, with a growing number of players from opposition clubs in 2023/24 asking to join the PCA family as a way of making a meaningful contribution to the community while playing a game they love. And final word goes to our Skipper Nathan '50 Shades Of' Reay

“Thank you to every player who has pulled on the PCA shirt this season. It has been a tricky season with availability at times, but we have kept going and had a superb season overall with some amazing wins, plus debuts for the next generation of PCA stalwarts, and at the core, still doing what we do best and representing the charity in all types of cricket including the highlight of the annual match against the NSW Blind XI to name just a few. Cheers, Skip.”

*Rob Stevenson
Committee & Cricket Secretary*

**PAST PRESIDENT TUBBS
HONOURED AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY**

Primary Club Members join with our friends at I Zingari CC with the news that former President of both organisations, Rodney Tubbs, has been honoured by Sydney University with the award of an Honorary Fellowship “for his ongoing dedication to the University of Sydney’s sport and fitness community”.

Rodney’s connection with the University commenced while playing football in the 1960s, winning a ‘Blue’ in 1967, working with the Sports Union on multiple fund-raising endeavours, and later serving as Chair of the University Sports Foundation.

The Rodney B Tubbs trophy is contested each year between the Primary Club and I Zingari at the latter’s magnificent home ground at Camden.





THE PRIMARY CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC
PO BOX 112
COLLARROY BEACH NSW 2097

Contact us at:
member@primaryclub.com
0403 606 224

Keep up to date with events, news and the charities we support;
see primaryclub.com

Providing sports & recreation opportunities for
people with disabilities

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