

## **OFFICE** BEARERS

## TWELFTH MAN

Richie Benaud OBE

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

KA Archer AM BW Collins QC R Coleman JGW Erby AM RJ Glover

PG Howarth OAM RC Mesley

PI Philpott OAM RB Tubbs

R Wood

## **PRESIDENT**

Jim Maxwell

## **PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS**

 Jonathan Erby AM
 1974 – 1984

 Peter Howarth OAM
 1984 – 1986

 Ken Archer AM
 1986 – 1990

 Rodney Tubbs
 1990 – 1996

 Peter Philpott OAM
 1996 – 2002

 Bruce Collins QC
 2002 – 2009

## HON SECRETARY/ PUBLIC OFFICER

Mark Skipper FAICD JP

### **HON TREASURER**

Gordon Davis JP CPA (until March 2012) Robin Low (since March 2012)

### **HON AUDITOR**

Mr. Carl Millington CA, MIIA, FLGA from Pitcher Partners

### **COMMITTEE**

Carolyn Clark
Geoff Craig
Rick Glover
Robin Low
Benjamin Richards
Linton Ritchie
Joe Scarcella
Lindy Stuart
Jim Winchester

The services used to produce this Annual Report were donated.

## **VICE PRESIDENTS**

RN Bennett
SSH Brown
ID Craig OAM
GS Chappell MBE
IM Chappell
M Coward
WA Davey
AK Davidson AM MBE
DW Fleming

DW Fleming MA Gray AM RN Harvey MBE

JD Higgs RG Lloyd D Lonergan CC McDonald

AR Morris MBE RB Simpson AO HB Taber MA Taylor AO

KD Walters MBE ME Waugh AM RCA Wotton AM

## CHARITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

**Geoffrey Verco** 

## **OFFICE MANAGER**

Anja Smalbil

#### **GOLDEN DUCK DONORS**

The Primary Club of Australia would like to acknowledge our "Golden Duck Donors".

Mr Anthony Bartley Mrs Janette Beavis Sir Ronald Brierley Dr Anthony Clarke Mr Geoff Cottrell Mrs Marilyn Cottrell Mr Gordon Davis Mr Jeff Freeman Mr Richard Glover Mr Edward Griffin Mr Larry King Mr Richard Lee Mr Tom Limbrey Ms Robin Low Mr Peter Maiden Mr Richard Mesley Mrs Wendy Mesley Mr Carl Millington Mr Rex Newell Mr Ernest Pope Mr John Prowse Mr John Russell Mr Mark Skipper Ms Gayle Tollifson Mr Stephen Toomev Mr Cameron Williams

If you would like to learn more about how you can further assist the work of the Primary Club by becoming a Golden Duck Donor, please call Anja on 02 9980 2525.

# THE PRIMARY CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 783 Pennant Hills NSW 1715

## **TELEPHONE:**

02 9980 2525

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02 9489 1312

#### FΜΔΙΙ

member@primaryclub.com

#### **WEBSITE:**

www.primaryclub.com

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Primary Club of Australia will be holding its Annual General Meeting at Nilgiri's Indian Restaurant located at 81-83 Christie Street, St Leonards on Wednesday 24 October, 2012, beginning at 6.00 pm, followed by dinner at 7pm at \$35 per head plus drinks. Please call Anja on 02 9980 2525 to confirm your attendance or advise your apology.

ABN: 88 136 792 377
REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER: CFN 10757

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm drafting this report while watching the rain ruin another cricket match on the Old Cranbrookians Cricket Club tour of the UK. The big wet gives me the opportunity to muse upon the Australian team's recent misfortune - to have been lucky enough in a rainy summer of ODI games to play four out of five matches scheduled, but then to have lost all four. The locals are certainly pumped about their prospects for next year's Ashes and preceding Champions Trophy. England's outstanding bowling arsenal looks decisive. Australia can improve but it's a selection nightmare to find our fittest and best eleven.

(I might add, there were only two Golden Ducks by the Aussies (Forrest and Wade) in the 4-0 drubbing; these will appear on Primary Club Members' statements next May.)

The year 2011/12 was a watershed year in our operations. For the first time, we have welcomed the new category of "Club Member" and I congratulate the Hornsby District Cricket Club in Sydney for signing up. All senior members of that Club can now claim Primary Club membership and participate in all Primary Club activities, including the 'Golden Duck fines'. The concept is being offered selectively to other clubs in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra, who have an active link to the Primary Club.

During the year, we greeted a refreshed Victorian Committee under the leadership of Chairman Ross Burney; and we are in discussion with members in Adelaide and Canberra about the formation of working groups there. In the coming summer, you should see events on offer for your participation in these cities. The Victorian Committee is developing an alliance with the Tunbridge Club (Geelong Grammar) and the Lindsay Hassett Club (Cricket Victoria).

Discussions have commenced with high-profile representatives of the Rugby community about the formation of a sports charity based on the Primary Club model. We hope to reveal details about this alliance in the months ahead.

Sir Donald Bradman first visited the Sydney Cricket Ground to watch a Test Match as a 12-year-old with his father in 1920/21 and became inspired to play the game seriously. "I shall never be satisfied", he told his father, "until I play on this ground". In the final Sheffield Shield match in the 1927/28 season against Victoria, Don, then 19 years old, scored his first century at the SCG. The rest, they say, is history.

With the support and blessing of the SC&SG Trust, its Chairman Rodney Cavalier AO and Cricket NSW, The Primary Club of Australia offers all cricket enthusiasts the opportunity to play the game they love on the hallowed SCG turf. The Primary Club has staged "Marathon Cricket"® on two days each summer since 2009/10, playing games from



The Primary Club of Australia President with former Australian cricket captain (and six time test match and four time one day international golden duck achiever) Steve Waugh at the 2012 Test Match breakfast in Sydney.

7:00am to 10:00pm. The event delivers significant funds for more sporting and recreational equipment for people with a disability.

In 2012, the feature Twenty/20 match was to be the "Battle of the Codes" – Legends of Rugby Union vs their Rugby League counterparts, with players such as Brett Kimmorley and Matt Adamson up against John Eales and David Wilson and co. However, the weather seriously impacted our program. Plans are under way for Marathon Cricket 2013 (our fourth) and we intend to reinstate this feature match.

The Primary Club promotes the involvement of our charity partners in Marathon Cricket. Three charity partners — Special Olympics, Pillars of Strength and Blind Cricket — have staged demonstration matches during the program, while other partners like Aspect (Autism Spectrum), Touched by Olivia Foundation, Pain Management Research Institute and Cure Our Kids Foundation have supported with volunteers and off-field activities, making the event a great family day out.

The recruitment of Geoff Verco as Charity Development Manager (part-time) and the maturing of the Marathon Cricket concept have enabled the Committee to adopt a more professional approach to engaging corporate sponsors. During 2011/12, Telstra, Cisco and Efficient Data Communications celebrated their third Marathon Cricket event; other corporate participants have included CLSA, Colonial First State, Humbleton, Linfox, Lion Nathan, McDonalds, Medtronic, Nestle, Ray White, Reckitt Benckiser and Tru Blu Beverages. Add to this organisations like Cook Care and Ramsay Health Care with their support of the Wyong Race Day. These relationships have matured such that we now 'package' opportunities and formalise

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Thank you for your membership - membership is the life blood of our Club. We have just over 1200 members and 25 Golden Duck Donors.

Our aim is to reach 2,000 members in the near future which will allow the club to grow within NSW and nationwide.

We currently have members in over four States and the ACT. In an attempt to ensure members in all geographic areas maintain their support and also to attract new members, we have increased the number of member events and have highlighted at least one significant disability group in each location.

Since the last Annual Report, we have a new Victorian Committee led by Ross Burney. They have developed a three-year plan which includes a number of exciting initiatives involving partnering with established sporting groups in Victoria and an increased Primary Club membership, a variety of fund-raising ideas and events for members and guests.

Thanks to Primary Club members, Roger Wills and Grant Chapman, plans are afoot to enter a SA Primary Club of Australia team in a PCA Tournament at Chateau Tanunda prior to the Golden Oldies celebrations in Adelaide in November.

From this, we anticipate the formation of a South Australian working group.

Renewed efforts are being made to determine a format for ACT / Monaro / Southern Highlands members to participate in an event in Canberra this coming summer. Three of our Canberra-based members (Wallace Hall, John Robinson and Howard Murray) have met and brought to life some excellent ideas and initiatives for the next 12 months and beyond.

Your Club has also commenced a Club Membership category. This enables cricket and other sporting clubs to join the Primary Club for a pro-rata fee and thereby increases awareness of our endeavours by many new (and younger) people. Hornsby District Cricket Club is our first Club to sign up and we are in dialogue with several others, with whom we have existing strong ties.

Such initiatives will take some years to develop and will

need continuing interest and assistance from existing members. Active state groups are essential if the Primary Club is to develop a strong presence in other areas and identify groups that qualify for funding. Networking is the key to our success. Progress in all these areas will be included on the website and in forthcoming newsletters.

Plans for our largest fund raiser, Marathon Cricket at the SCG, are already well advanced for next summer. Again, watch the website for more details.

So finally, to all existing Primary Club members, we thank you for your support and encourage you to sign up again for another year's membership.

Your Primary Club's Management Committee, made up of volunteer members, is working to produce a better and stronger presence for the Primary Club in the community Australia wide. As always we welcome new initiatives and enthusiasm on the committee so please come to the Annual General Meeting on 24 October and offer any time and involvement you can.

Linton Ritchie Membership Convener



Above: Primary Club of Australia Committee member and membership convenor Linton Ritchie presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Brian Freedman, Past President of Bankstown District Cricket Club.

Charity Development Manager Geoff Verco (far right) meets with Canberra based members (left to right) Wal Hall, Howard Murray, John Robinson during a planning meeting for a future Primary Club of Australia event to be held in Canberra for this summer.



## **CHARITIES** REPORT

The Primary Club has made donations of \$225,776 to fourteen charities in the financial year ending 30 June 2012. Following the well-entrenched processes of review and assessment, the club determined the recipient charities to be as follows:

Playground equipment.	
Access Dinghy Foundation Sir Roden Cutler Award.	\$20,000
Mary Brooksbank SchoolShade covers for playground	\$14,600

Sylvanyale Special School..............\$10,000

Wheelchair Sports NSW......\$16,000 Two rugby wheelchairs

Mater Dei School......\$55,054 Refurbishment of playground

Scope Victoria ......\$11,100 Two Hippocampe Wheelchairs

Special Olympics NSW ......\$708
Bocce sets

**Bayside Special School Victoria..... \$30,000** Outdoor learning and play area.

Bridge Road School .....\$1,613 Meccano sets.

Lucas Gardens School ......\$50,000 Hydrotherapy Pool

Special Olympics NSW ......\$2,011
Team Uniforms

Blind Cricket Australia.....\$9,810
Cricket balls

Blind Golf Victoria.....\$4,000 Golf Buddies

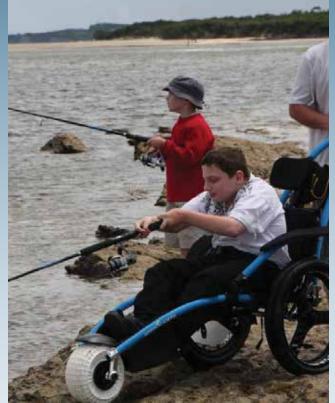
**Disabled Winter Sports ACT......\$880** Sit skis.

We already have commitments for a further \$94,731 to be met and new applications have been received for \$116,000. We welcome your continued support for these very worthwhile causes more than ever before.

Thanks must go to the members of the Charities Committee, who are as follows:

Wende Bowden, Andy Harris, Dick Mesley, Jenny Rhynehart, Margaret Sharpe and Lindy Stuart (Convener)

(Top to bottom) Some of the donations made by The Primary Club of Australia - A Hippocampe Wheelchair doing what it does best, the refurbished playground at the Mater Dei School, Jim Winchester presenting a Special Olympics competitor with his cap and shirt and the Aspect School in the Hunter Region









# SHIRTS OFF! .... TO UGANDA

In 2009/10 the Bankstown District Cricket Club was delighted to accept a donation of 300 cricket books from The Primary Club of Australia which became the catalyst to start the first-ever cricket library in Uganda. With further donations from the Primary Club and others the library now numbers over 1,000 books.

In 2004 BDCC became aware of the great work being done to develop cricket in Uganda under the most difficult circumstances. With a population of about 33 million, where approximately 80 per cent live in poverty and the average per capita income is estimated by the World Bank in 2011 to be US\$500, Uganda has 20,000 youngsters playing cricket, predominately with hand crafted (home-made) gear.

The club decided to conduct a campaign to collect used and unwanted cricket equipment and in 2005 was able to ship a container load to the Uganda Cricket Association to be distributed amongst clubs and schools. They are currently well on the way to filling a 5th container.

Each container contains approximately 300 bats, 400 pairs of pads, 350 pairs of batting gloves, 90 pairs of wicket-keeping gloves, 100 helmets as well as protectors, thigh pads, stumps and balls. Also included have been the Primary Club books and a copious amount of cricket clothing, much of which is brand new but rendered unusable here by clubs and associations because of a change of sponsors.

Apart from word of mouth, publicity for the scheme comes from the handing out of flyers at the Sydney Tests by young club members wearing sandwich boards and from the Primary Club president Jim Maxwell and the late Peter Roebuck who have been most generous with their mentions of the scheme during their Test Match broadcasts.

After the gear is collected, Bankstown club members sort it, do basic repairs like regripping bats and then pack it in kitbags and cartons, each with a separate packing list.

Getting the container to landlocked Uganda is both difficult and expensive. After leaving Sydney, it is trans-shipped in either Singapore or KL to Mombasa in Kenya and then sent by road to Kampala. We remain indebted to BDCC's major sponsor, the Bankstown Sports Club, who has met the \$8,000 cost of shipping each container and without whose support this project could not happen.

Primary Club members are invited to donate any used (or new but surplus) cricket gear. Check out your garage and find out what you and the family are no longer using. If you have any gear to donate - please contact the Primary Club office at 02 9980 2525.

One member has just donated 18 European club soccer shirts (7 of them Liverpool FC). Guess what the largest sport is being played by kids in Uganda!





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT)

our alliance with the corporate community. Geoff advises that in 2012/13, over 60 entities, with whom we have some contact through our own members, will receive an invitation to participate in one event or another.

And the outcomes? Our intention is to significantly improve the gross profit from our operations, whilst continuing to serve our 'grass-roots members' effectively, with a wider selection of events and activities, such as corporate box seats at Tests and ODIs.

And who benefits? Our members and the disabled sports organisations we choose to serve.

I conclude with thanks once again to the hard-working Management Committee, in particular our Honorary Treasurer Gordon Davis, who resigned in March. Gordon, now residing in France for half the year, served with great integrity in this role for six years. We sincerely appreciate the professional and responsible manner in which he managed the financial affairs of the Club, and wish him the best in all his endeavours in the future.

Jim Maxwell President

Primary Club of Australia President Jim Maxwell introduces New South Wales Premier and Primary Club member Barry O'Farrell at the Sydney Test Match breakfast



# VICTORIAN OPERATIONS

Gideon Haigh has joined the Victorian Committee. Gideon is a well-respected author and journalist, writing on a variety of business and sports topics for over twenty years and gives our group an added dimension in our planning for the future. Gideon joins Geoff Craig, Edward Kemp, Roland Burt and myself as Chairman.

Collectively we all thank the outgoing Committee under Bill Carroll (Chairman for last five years) - Marilyn and Geoff Cottrell, Pamela Thomas, Carl Nunan, Kevin O'Byrne and Roland Burt - for their tireless efforts and years of dedicated service to the Primary Club here in Victoria. They have done an outstanding job over a long period of time and handed the baton on for the club to keep growing.

We are all passionate cricket supporters and very keen to see the Primary Club grow its membership base here in Victoria, increase its profile and continue to fund and facilitate various sports for people with disabilities.

In 2011/12, our events included the Golf Day at Peninsula Golf Club, the APS Twenty/20 tournament, the Boxing Day Test Breakfast, and the cricket match at Hepburn Springs.

Planning for the 2012/13 year ahead includes the Lindsay Hassett Club Luncheon "The Price of Loyalty" in August, in alliance with Cricket Victoria; and the cricket tour to South Australia in November. The former event represents the culmination of negotiations with Cricket Victoria and several key charity organisations including Blind Cricket and Sailability Victoria about further alliance activities in this state. We look forward to working with Lord's Taverners Victoria on established events such as the Test Breakfast and Golf Day.

May I take this opportunity to express my thanks to my fellow Victorian Committee members. We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Ross Burney Chairman Victorian Committee



Images clockwise from top:
The APS T20 event;
two images showing the outdoor
learning and play area at the Bayside
Special School Victoria;
three smaller images showing several
Victorian members and guests who
took the opportunity to enjoy the
sun at the Primary Club's Golf Day at
Peninsula Golf Club.











## **MARATHON** CRICKET

Mother Nature continued to frustrate us on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd February. The Committee worked bravely and optimistically towards the 2012 event, well aware that the cricket season in the Sydney area had been plaqued with bad weather, washed-out games and hours and hours of watching the rain.

Despite the weather, SCG Curator Tom Parker and his team had the wicket and ground in perfect condition, ready to play whilever the rain stayed away. But the rain beat us. His lads graciously created two specially prepared wickets in the outer on Day 2 so that we could stage our Special Olympics and Blind matches in the rain. Of the 46 possible team innings (23 matches), 10 innings were completed plus two overs of an 11th innings.

The Primary Club was most fortunate that our event costs were subsidised by a grant from the NSW Government, which enabled the committee to plan with confidence. A big contribution to the result comes from the corporate sector, and we should mention once again Telstra, Cisco and Efficient Data, each of whom has participated

in all three Marathon Cricket events to date. Other corporate teams this year were Tru Blu Beverages (their second appearance, and three times supplier of soft drinks for the event), and first-timers CLSA, Reckitt Benckiser and Medtronic. Thanks also for the wines donated by Wattlebrook and Noyce Brothers.

The Dinner was a great success, particularly because of the inspiring contributions of Richie Benaud, Rodney Cavalier, Ame Barnbrook (our 2011 Sir Roden Cutler Awardee), Jimmy Smith, Matt Adamson, MC Paul Gregg, Auctioneer Ed Riley and the other sports 'Legends' and politicians who supported the event and mingled happily with the guests.

Please sign up again next summer – Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd February 2013 - so that while you live your dream of playing cricket on the SCG, you too are helping folks with a disability live theirs.

**Jim Winchester** Marathon Cricket Chairman

#### WWW.MARATHONCRICKET.COM

Olympics team heads out to the middle of the SCG on day two of Marathon Cricket,

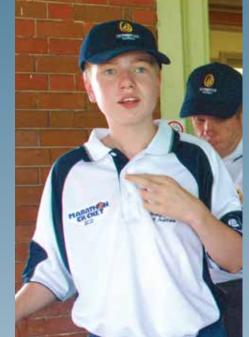
Primary Club of Australia Twelfth Man Richie Benaud with Past Primary Club of Australia President Jon Erby; Rodney Cavalier Chairman of the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust talks at the Marathon Cricket dinner.

Clockwise from top: a player from the Special

the NSW Blind Cricket Team braving the weather,

Follow The Primary Club of Australia

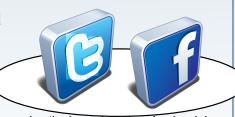
on Facebook and Twitter. www.facebook.com/primaryclubofaustralia www.twitter.com/primaryclubaust











And what might you find there - information about forthcoming Primary Club of Australia events, details about donations by the club, comments from guest bloggers about the latest Australian Golden Duck or just come and find out about what the Club is up to.

Image above and below - enjoying the new equipment at the Bayside Special School Victoria; below right: Members in the pink in the Primary Club's box seats at the SCG. Over 170 members availed themselves of the opportunity contributing over \$8000 to the club's accounts.



# **NEW SERVICE**FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Last summer, we experimented with the concept of booking seats for Primary Club members and friends at the Test Match and ODI fixtures in the "open corporate box" seats on Level 4 of the Churchill Stand at the southern end of the Sydney Cricket Ground. With the co-operation of the SCRSG Trust and Matchpoint, we negotiated a basic rate (\$100) for seats in the stand with an excellent view from behind slips to a left-handed batsman.

130 members availed themselves of the opportunity to view the Test from this vantage point, with catering and rest rooms in close proximity; another 42 for the two ODI matches. Two corporate members took up the full-catered option. A net \$8,000 profit accrued to the club's accounts.

The Committee intends to provide this service in the forthcoming summer – the Test from 3rd to 7th January; the ODI versus Sri Lanka on 20th January and the ODI versus West Indies on 8th February 2013.

We are exploring a similar offering at the Melbourne Boxing Day Test. Keep an eye on the website and in our e-Newsletter "Long Walk Back" for more information as details become available.



# **FORTHCOMING** EVENTS

PYMBLE GOLF DAY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MELBOURNE TEST MATCH BREAKFAST
SYDNEY TEST MATCH BREAKFAST
MARATHON CRICKET
ELANORA GOLF DAY

Monday 15 October Wednesday 24 October Wednesday 26 December Thursday 3 January 2013 1 and 2 February 2013 Monday 25 March 2013

Be sure to keep a look out for updates on The Primary Club of Australia website or via our email newsletter "Long Walk Back".



## FINANCIAL REPORT

The unaudited surplus for the year before donations was \$243,927, an increase of 11% from 2011. We are pleased that this has enabled us to make or commit to donations of \$241,712 in the year, making a real difference in the community. We continue to be able to report that none of the tax deductible donations we receive are spent on administration costs – they all go towards our charitable donations.

Our functions continue to be a major contributor to the success of the Primary Club, in particular our flagship Marathon Cricket event at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Our functions raised over \$113,000 net of fundraising costs. While we draw heavily on volunteers and corporates to assist and support our functions, function and fundraising costs continue to be an area of focus as we seek to maximise the funds available for donations.

The balance sheet continues to show that the Primary Club is financially sound and with sufficient cash to meet the donations committed of over \$94,000. The Committee continues to monitor this position, balancing our aim to support as many initiatives as possible with our fundraising capacity.

Our thanks go to all our supporters: our members, our donors and everyone who participates in our events. It is your personal and financial support that enables the Primary Club to continue to support so many worthwhile initiatives.

A summary of our unaudited financial information is set out below for the information of members and supporters. This summary is prepared under the same accounting policies as disclosed in our 2011 annual financial statements. Our audited financial statements will be available on our website once completed.

## **PRIMARY CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC**

**Summarised Financial Information** 

Income Statement Year ended 30 June 2012 Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2012

	2012	2011		2012	
Income	\$	\$	Current assets	\$	\$
	720 757	721 750		227.027	100 007
Function income		321,358	Cash, including on deposit		199,803
Subscriptions	51,145	28,723	Debtors and prepayments	11,057	14,827
Donations and sponsorship	=	126,132	Inventories	21,989	
Interest, distributions and dividends	8,981	9,299		259,872	225,322
Other	3,874	3,183			
	538,182	488,695	Non-current assets		
			Plant and equipment	607	1,015
Expenses			Listed securities	4,596	5,985
Fundraising	207,577	196,140		5,203	7,000
Administration	84,253	70,513			
Cost of merchandise sold	767	746	Total assets	265,075	232,322
Other	160	1,036			
Total expenses	292,757	268,435	Current liabilities		
Write down of investments	1,498	550	Accounts payable and accruals	7,700	3,901
	294,255	268,985	Income in advance	15,670	5,391
Surplus before donations	243,927	219,710	Donations committed	94,731	81,863
•			Employee entitlements	7,738	4,852
Donations paid/committed	241,712	256,832		125,839	96,007
Operating loss	2,215	(37,122)	Non current liabilities		
•		<u> </u>	Employee entitlements	7,046	6,341
			Total liabilities	132,885	102,348
			Net assets	132,190	129,974

Robin Low Honorary Treasurer

## **CRICKET** REPORT

I must firstly again acknowledge the support of our host schools, Barker College and the King's School, both of which have continued to allow the Primary Club to use their lovely cricket grounds and facilities. In addition, Barker has also very kindly provided afternoon teas for players and guests. Without the wonderful on-going support of Barker and King's, the Primary Club would not be able to stage many of our fixtures.

I must also acknowledge and thank Richard Stobo and the Shore School. Shore has hosted the Primary Club in last three years in what has become an annual Shore Old Boys versus Primary Club match on the A ground. Last season we were looking forward to playing a Shore team that was to include famous old boys Phil Waugh and Phil Emery, while former Australian Test cricketer Matthew Nicholson was going to play for the Primary Club. Sadly, the game was cancelled due to rain.

Twelve Primary Club matches had been scheduled for the 2011-2012 season. In what is becoming a regular occurrence, the first half of the season leading up to Christmas was severely disrupted by rain. In fact only two of the five scheduled matches were able to be played: the annual match against the NSW Blind Cricketers, which was played at Barker College, and our first match against the SCG XI at the Sydney Cricket Ground. We had a little more luck in the second half of the season, managing to play five of the scheduled seven matches: Old Sydneyians at Weigall; Sydney Uni Vets at King's, Barker Invitation XI at Barker College; Bradman Foundation XI at Barker College; and I Zingari at Camden.

This year the Primary Club was privileged to play the SCG XI on the SCG in a one-day (45 overs-a-side) match. Whilst all of the players in the Primary Club team had been lucky enough to play on the SCG before, having taken part in the Marathon Cricket 12 overs-a-side matches, this was the

very first time the Primary Club has been invited to play on the spiritual home of Australian cricket in a full day fixture. The SCG side was led by Australian rugby legend Brett Papworth, while the far less illustrious 'yours truly' led the very excited Primary Club players. With rain looming, the captains decided to play two short innings each. Sure enough, just as it did for Marathon Cricket, the forecast heavy rain did eventuate, and reduced play. However the teams did manage to get in 66 of the 90 scheduled overs of play. It was a memorable day for all players. The match report (courtesy of the SCG XI's Norman Kochannek) is posted on the Primary Club's website, which I invite readers to browse at their leisure. You'll also find other match reports, and much information of interest about the Primary Club's other social and charitable activities.

With a number of matches scheduled for 2012-2013, and another Marathon Cricket event all but assured in early 2013, we can hopefully look forward to a much drier season of cricket, and another successful year for the Primary Club of Australia.

Joe Scarcella Cricket Committee



Primary Club of Australia Committee member and Cricket Committee chairman Joe Scarcella shakes hands with Brett Papworth, the captain of the SCG XI prior to the match at the SCG.



# **EXPERIENCING LIFE ON THE WATER**TALKING WITH AME BARNBROOK

At the Marathon Cricket dinner held in February this year at the SCG, Ame Barnbrook was presented with the 2011 Sir Roden Cutler Award, which is awarded by The Primary Club of Australia bi-annually to acknowledge outstanding sporting achievement by an athlete with a disability. But what makes Ame special - that she sails for Australia, plays a mean trumpet or her attitude to life?

by Benjamin Richards, The Primary Club of Australia Comittee

I spoke to Ame in April after she and her sailing partner Lindsay Mason came second in the SKUD 18 International Title at the Macquarie 2012 Access World Championships in Sydney just missing out on selection for the Australian sailing team at the 2012 London Paralympics. She had a few messages to share for sportsmen, parents and children alike.

Ultimately Ame was not too upset about not making the team for London. She had competed previously at Weymouth, the location of London 2012 sailing, and thought that it was a miserable place to sail - however with the Rio Paralympics just four years away, a queue has already started of family members willing to take her to the golden sands of Rio.

It's very clear from the first minutes you talk to Ame that you are talking to someone who is up to more in life than most of us and still wondering what the future will bring to her.

When talking to her I asked her what she would like to be acknowledged for, her answer was clear. "I want to be acknowledged for being me". Ame went on to explain that she can appreciate that people acknowledge her condition, but just because she has this condition doesn't mean the things she does are necessarily extraordinary. It's just what she does.

And what advice would you give people? Ame said for kids – if you don't succeed, keep trying. If it doesn't work out the first time – don't give up – work out a different way.

Ame was born 24 years ago with Phocoamelia which is a rare genetic deformity, and was born with no arms, only the small foot and three toes on the bottom half of her left leg.

So with her condition, she says she had to work out ways to use a computer or text — "you can usually work out a way to do things .. it might just take a little longer" she says.

And what advice does she offer for older people – "I don't know .. I'll let you know when I get older". Stay tuned.



Ame doesn't remember any advice she was given on how she should grow up or what she needed to do. She was just let run wild, she said. She says, "In fact the best advice I can give parents who have children with disabilities - is don't wrap your children in cotton wool. Let them go out and experience life and experiences that any other child experiences. Maybe there good experiences and bad ones .. but this is what makes life."



Ame Barnbrook (centre) receiving her Sir Roden Cutler award. From left, Primary Club of Australia President Jim Maxwell, Ame's father Barney, Ame's brother Robert and the Primary Club Twelfth Man Richie Benaud.

For Ame home life was a little different than most children growing up. Their house didn't have electricity till she was four and even then it was solar. But importantly – Ame's experience of life was one of normality. "If you want to get down and crawl on the dirt, that's what you do as a kid ... eat dirt, right?" says Ame with a laugh.

Ame was introduced to sailing by her sea-faring parents when only seven years old. Her mother was an Australian champion rower. It was her mentor Chris Mitchell, founder of Access sailing, who realised there was an opportunity to give Ame to get out on to the water. Since then Ame has won several national and international sailing titles.

Ame recently competed in the IFDS Disabled Sailing World Championships in Florida in January but couldn't afford to go onto the next leg of the World Cup. Ame says she funds her trip overseas mostly through public donations and as a result her credit card is completely maxed out. Her 2011 Sir Roden Cutler Award from The Primary Club of Australia gives her \$20,000 to spend on equipment for an organisation — for which she chose the Access Dinghy Foundation and Sailability.

And what plans does Ame have now? She plans to move to Sydney and find a great job that pays her over \$500 dollars a week. [So if you are looking for an extremely fun, committed, unstoppable person for your business, Ame's your girl].

She's also been told that she would make a great public speaker and is looking at what this would take. The Primary Club thinks she is indeed inspiring and if Ame is someone you'd like to have her talk at your event please contact her via The Primary Club of Australia.

Ame is clearly someone who wants to make a difference to other people and we look forward to cheering on Ame when she enters the water, representing Australia at the Rio Paralympics, in September 2016.