

1998 Presidents Message

A sincere welcome to the 1998 cricket season. May the sun shine long this summer.

Cricket has been played in Victoria for almost 150 years. During the last quarter century we have hosted the Australian national side, Kent CCC, the MCC, and numerous other teams from countries including England, India, New Zealand, Australia and our neighbours the USA. Teams from Oregon and California have come to play cricket here for over a hundred years. Why do they come? Well, if you're playing, sitting or walking around in Beacon Hill Park, just look around; the surroundings are pretty; Victoria cricketers are regarded as fine hosts and we can always produce a side that does justice to the competitive and social spirit of the game. Collectively it is, I'm sure, our keenest wish that this continues to be so.

The introduction of the new League format, besides providing what we all hope will be more interesting games throughout the season, will also provide more opportunity for "Festival" games that have become so popular with players and spectators alike. As an annual fixture, the "Windies" match is well into its second decade and the match last year, hosted by the Indian community, was a huge success. These games keep the social traditions of cricket vibrant. We need - and intend - to have more of them.

The inaugural Midweek League Festival, with teams from both Vancouver Island and the Mainland, occurs on 3/4 July and is followed by the 7th VISAS Six-a-Side Festival in early August. We look forward to the return of old friends, to meeting new ones and enjoying much entertainment both on and off the field. I wish much success to both events and encourage our members to give them their support.

To those groups and individuals who work hard to put the game on the field each year and who ensure our resources continue to be kept in shape, a huge vote of thanks.

Finally, without new players and renewed interest we cannot expect to sustain our membership level. I urge all clubs to be enthusiastic in encouraging the introduction of young players to the game and to give support to the Victoria Women's Cricket Club.

This is a new year. Let's grow out there and have fun.

Jan Aten, President