

Introduction

This history of Taranaki Cricket had its beginning in 1965 when Alan Smith captured 16 wickets in a match against King Country. Seeking to find out whether this was a Taranaki record, which it was, old records and the files of The Daily News were searched. Thus began the compilation of playing records beginning in 1925, and which forms the major part of this publication.

With the approach of the association's centenary in 1994, there came the realisation that hardly anything was known of those early years of Taranaki Cricket, and also why in the early 1900's the association, having been first formed in 1894, split into two; North and South Taranaki. The existent records tended to regard 1925 as the beginning of the TCA, as if those earlier years were to be forgotten. Searching through the files of The Hawera Star brought to light the matches and events of the 1890's and 1900's, and it was with a real sense of excitement that the events leading to the dissolution of 1903 were stumbled upon.

In all this researching, there quickly came the realisation that here was a story that ought to be recorded, for Taranaki Cricket has a proud and challenging past, which ought to inspire those who look to the future.

The great debt the cricket historian owes to the newspapers of Taranaki must be acknowledged, without access to their files there would have been very little story to tell. The involvement of newspaper men, such as D.F.C. Saxton and J.H. Fullarton, in the game they loved has ensured that the past has been well recorded.

Because many of the players of the last 40 years are personally known to myself I decided that the use of first names was more appropriate, for in many ways this is a personal as well as a historical view of Taranaki Cricket. I trust that I have told this story well and accurately.

I must express my deepest appreciation to Mrs. Janice West who interpreted my minute scrawl, ordered it into these typed pages and put up with my continual revisions. With her husband and two sons featuring in these pages, I trust it has also been for her an interest rather than a mere task.

Russell Leggat helped me greatly with the research into the events of the 1890's and 1900's. The current TCA executive and especially their Chairman, Neil Sulzberger, have been very supportive as this work due to a conclusion, with their and my wish, that the quality of this publication reflects well on Taranaki Cricket.

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