



Queanbeyan District Cricket Club patron Ian McNamee.

Photo: Elesa Lee

A proud history remembered

Ian McNamee
Patron, Queanbeyan
District Cricket Club

OVER the past 30 years, I feel humbled to have served the Queanbeyan Cricket Club. It is a club with which my own family has a long history, going back to Queanbeyan's first premiership side in 1927 in which my uncle, Amos Bellchambers featured.

Queanbeyan is a club steeped in history. It is the club of sporting greats like Tommy O'Connor and Neil Bulger. Today, who knows which of Queanbeyan's current crop of players will one day stand as a Bluebags legend?

During my time as patron of the club, there have of course been highs and lows and I can remember various stages when the club was not travelling very well at all on or off the field.

But whenever the club has been down, it has always bounced back. Much credit must

go to the many administrators who have worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes over the years to keep it going.

In recent years, the work of president Peter Solway, secretary Ron Bats and treasurer Gordon Elliott must be recognised. The club's success on the field has always been based upon a strong administration off it.

The club has also been lucky to receive a lot of support over the years from local councillors, mayors and politicians of all political stripes.

Queanbeyan has always been a club of great strength and character and two particular periods of success stick out in my mind.

The first was in the 1980s when perhaps the greatest Queanbeyan side ever assembled took the field in a period of dominance of the ACT competition thanks to players the calibre of John Bull, Mark Thornton and Michael

Carruthers.

More recently, the club has returned to the top of ACT Cricket on the back of younger names like Jono Dean, Aaron Ayre and Mark Higgs.

Just last November also saw the opening of the new Freebody Oval Pavilion. Since it's been built, I've noticed a lot of wives, girlfriends and children of current players making use of the facility, ensuring the club has become even more family orientated.

After 150 years, I think that it's fair to say Queanbeyan has never been in a stronger position than where it is now.

Such longevity and such success is a testament to those many who have been involved in the club over the years.

Ian McNamee is the current patron and a former president of the Queanbeyan District Cricket Club. He is also a former player and the current president of Cricket ACT.

Packed to the rafters

By Andrew Johnston

■ CRICKET

MICHAEL Frost says even he has been surprised by the level of interest in this weekend's Queanbeyan District Cricket Club 150th anniversary celebrations.

In total, more than 230 people have confirmed their attendance for the club's gala bash on Saturday night, well exceeding initial expectations.

Frost has been one of principle drivers behind the festivities which will also include a BBQ lunch on Saturday and a Twenty20 match set to feature some of the club's all-time greats at Freebody Oval on Sunday.

"When we started planning this we thought we might get 120, or 130 odd people so to get 230 confirmed is a massive number," Frost said. "It's going to do the event justice as well. If we'd only had 100 people or so show up, it would have been a poor response to what is a pretty historic event."

"I always thought if we could get the word out there, people would be interested but it's just snowballed

into being bigger than I ever thought it would be."

Special guests on Saturday night will include former Australian test player Doug Walters who will be representing his brother, former Queanbeyan captain/coach Terry who passed away two years ago.

Also in attendance will be former test umpire Mel Johnson who captain/coached Queanbeyan from 1967-70.

In total, more than 40 first grade premiership players, eight past club presidents and every living life member of the club will be in attendance over the course of the weekend's celebrations.

"I've been around the club for a while now but we've got guys coming from the 50s and 60s who I'd never heard of until we started planning this," Frost said. "But if you look at their statistics, they're absolute legends of the club."

"There are so many wonderful names littered throughout the history of this club who really haven't been recognised until now so I think everyone is really excited about it all."

Congratulations to QDCC on making 150 not out!



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