

1997 Presidents Message

In February of this year I wrote the initial draft of this message; however, for a number of reasons, this 1997 Handbook has been delayed. As President, I take the responsibility and apologize for the tardiness in completing this Handbook, which I know, many regard as THE source of cricket information in Victoria and District. If you are willing to help ensure that this process is not delayed in future years, your assistance would be most welcome.

The 1997 season, now well on its way through its schedule, has seen some exciting games to date and I trust that we will continue to see similar close and exciting games for the balance of the season. There have been some surprises and whether or not these have been brought about by rule changes, which this year has seen the elimination of the draw, only time and further analysis will tell. The decision to eliminate the draw did not meet with everyone's approval, but we shall be reviewing the move at the end of the season to see if the idea is worth continuing through 1998. At the time of writing, it is encouraging to see teams like Nanaimo, Alcos and Incogs leading the way in terms of wins and major improvements over recent past years. Is it the absence of the draw? Is it new team memberships? All part of the excitement of cricket this season!!

Although the season is progressing satisfactorily, with exciting games, fine individual performances and teams acknowledging their responsibilities, the administration of the VDCA this year has not been easy, with Niels Nohr, our Secretary, assuming many roles on the Executive, including Fixtures Secretary, Acting Treasurer, and Acting Vice President. He has performed a stellar job but cannot continue to fill all these roles without other members coming forward, so I take this opportunity to ask for more help in running the VDCA, both for the balance of this year and for the 1998 season. I do want to thank Niels for all his efforts, despite the pressures placing him in hospital recently, and Alan Carter, who has allowed his name to stand for Vice President and is helping us out with the bar and other administrative duties. I should also express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of Guy Drake, working with no official capacity to keep the bar running smoothly. We need help from others. Please consider this as you stand in the gully pondering your future.

I trust that the fine results Victoria has achieved to date in representative games will continue. The success of our more "youthful" members in the Inter-City games augurs well for the future of cricket and I congratulate the members of the team which was victorious over Vancouver and who conducted themselves so well under the banner of the VDCA. I trust that the anniversary celebrations for the Alcos and Cowichan clubs will be successful and that they will continue to be valuable members of the VDCA for many, many more years.

To all who support cricket in Victoria, I trust the 1997 season will be one upon which you will reflect as being a "season to remember". Good luck to all the players; good decisions to all the umpires; good viewing to all the spectators; good earnings for all the financial supporters and continued good support from the member clubs.

Yours in cricket, Ian Thomas, President