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THE GROWL

THE OFFICIAL NIGHTCLIFF CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER
4th edition (2009) – Friday, 3 July 2009



“LEGENDARY!”

MORE TESTIMONIALS

“Worth every cent!”

Real Madrid FC

“Gutsy!”

G.Ferguson

“Hot, hot, hot!”

Jennifer Hawkins
(or Cash Converters Management & Staff)

“In a league of it’s own!”

St Kilda FC & Geelong FC

“Fully sick! Hey, what are you looking at man, have a salad” **Leon De Marinis**

THE PREZ SAYS...

Well the five Senior grades seem to be travelling about as well as a submarine in a desert, with B-Grade representing almost the only realistic chance of playing Finals cricket in 2009.

Hopefully **Sean Kenny**'s B-520-ers can recapture some of their early season form and chalk up a few more victories to ensure that happens, as it would just be fabulous to see someone donning the Nightcliff colours in September in what has been a trying season! NCC's **Under 17s** are also a show for finals after scoring a Biblical amount against **Palmerston Marooned** but then falling agonizingly short of completing an Outright victory. Their next few weeks will test them and their finals plight might be known depending on clashes with other sides also fighting for a top-4 spot.

Nightcliff CC is already exploring options to improve itself in 2010 including Senior coaching and playing options. Unfortunately our Papua New Guinean contingent Jacob Mado and Vani Morea will not be coming in 2009 but plans are underway to secure two players from Papua New Guinea in 2010 from the National squad to ensure they are here by early April 2010 for a red-hot crack at next Season.

The Doug Walters "*One for the Road*" Show, featuring Duggie (pictured below on Friday at NCC's *In2Cricket*) was highly entertaining for those who attended. NCC remains committed to bringing entertainment of this caliber to Nightcliff and the strong support of NCC players and members to ensure that these enterprises are successful ventures for the Club.

And finally, congratulations to my good mate and Nightcliff superstar **Brad-man Hatton** for his fine achievements for and representation of the Nightcliff Cricket Club for so many years and I wish you all the very best in your final A-Grade game against Darwin starting this weekend at Nightcliff Oval.

Eye of the Tiger **Bradley** my good man and all my fellow tigers, **eye of the Tiger!**

Alex Krepapas
NCC President



CONGRATULATIONS BRADLEY HATTON

ON YOUR TREMENDOUS A-GRADE CAREER AT NIGHTCLIFF!!



Brad-man Hatton - more scalps than an Apache Indian!

Well the Iron curtain is finally being drawn on **Bradley James Hatton's stellar A-Grade career for Nightcliff** after the two-day clash against Darwin at Nightcliff Oval over the next fortnight. After a wonderful career spanning over twenty years and **over 450 A-Grade wickets**, finally age (and pressing work commitments and a desire to spend more time with family) has wearied him and he has announced his retirement from A-Grade as at the conclusion of this game.

It is with some sadness as well as a bucket-load of pride that we celebrate **Brad-man's** retirement and acknowledge and reflect upon his peerless excellence in A-Grade cricket over such a long time. We at the *Growl* certainly 'love you long time' Brad-man and you will be sorely missed! Brad's career was capped off by winning the **Ralph Wiese Medal** in 2008 after monsterring A-Grade like **Dr Frankenstein** in another ridiculously good year of cricket in black and gold.

Brad Hatton has played a bucket load of A-Grade games and is also quite proud of his bowling average over such a long period (a touch over 17 per wicket) as well as his batting average, as he had scored 3,275 A-Grade runs at an average of 20.60 (as at the start of 2009) with even 50s and a top score of 99!



Next Saturday night after Day 2 of the Darwin game, **Saturday, 12 July 2009**, come and join **Brad-man** and his lovely wife Donna and friends to share the moment and an informal meal & a lemon squash or two at the **Nightcliff Sports Club** from about **7.00pm**.

So given the occasion we thought we'd take a little time out to talk to the great man to recap on his wonderful career at Nightcliff and pick his brain on a few pressing sporting and other issues around the place!

Brad, many congratulations on a magnificent A-Grade career – so are you available for D-Grade in a few Sundays from now?

Nah just kidding of course...so tell us about how it feels to be going out as the leading Darwin wicket-taker of all time - was it a hard decision to make?

So when was your first game?

So your first and last A-Grade games will be against Darwin. Nice symmetry that! Biggest thrill of your career?

Nah, well done mate! So who is the best player you played with...and against?

Who is your biggest “bunny” or someone you thought you “owned” or dismissed often?

So where to from here for Bradley Hatton?

What? Are you being serious man?

Yeah a bit of relief and some sadness at the ending of such a major chapter of my life, but the timing was right – just ask my body! I’ve also got a major tender bid to prepare at work, so I would have been out of commission for the next few months anyway, but as **Gough Whitlam** once had uttered on his behalf, “*It’s time!*” I am sad to be finishing up though, I will miss the competition of it all – I am looking to take 2010 off but if I’m in Darwin, anything’s possible really.

Way back in 1988 – I was 13 years old! I was asked to come and sub-field as someone had not turned up and then found myself selected! Jason (Hatton) was playing then, as was **Corey Duane** and **Michael Duane** (the most beautiful man ever to play for Nightcliff). I got out LBW for 0 against ‘**Chuck**’ **Connors**. C’mon man, I was thirteen! Dunno what my parents were doing, I’d *never* let my 13 year old play A-Grade!!

I’ve had so many really. Being part of the 1996 A-Grade Premiership with my brothers **Jason** and **Mark** was pretty huge. Did you know I bowled the **first ever** ball at TIO Stadium (Marrara) in a representative game for the Chief Minister’s XI?

Besides myself? Again too hard, I’ve played with and against many great players. I did not enjoy bowling to **Kenny Vowles**, he was harder to tie down than **Gulliver**, very explosive batsman.

Nah no-one really, I’ve played a sh*tload of cricket against a sh*tload of players. **Stuart Johnstone** (TV Dinners skipper) is someone who I have dismissed many, many times but that is because we have played against each other so often. Not sure he’d like to be known as my “*bunny*”.

Focusing on my work and my family – and not being so sore! I’ve played Saturday cricket continuously for over 20 years and have not missed a season, so this will be a big change for me!

Maybe there’s a nice scotch whiskey on the rocks in my

Well my man, we are very sorry to see you go, but we hope to see you around the Club in various capacities for many years yet – you are true Nightcliff Gold both on and off the field!

And all the best in your last game, knock ‘em dead!

near future, some more time to spend with my kids and family and watching them play some cricket and helping them out.

Thanks mate, see you at the bar...and maybe in the nets over the next few years, we’ll see how we go!

I think we can win this weekend too, but a lot depends on our application with the bat. We’ve got some very talented batsmen, both local and over from New Zealand, so I’m hoping we can put a good game together and I can ‘sign off’ with a big win.

Congratulations again Brad-man, see you soon in D-Grade!!



Our Brad-man with another cricketing legend Doug Walters and (right) the Museum masterpiece being kept under wraps, possibly until the Nightcliff Sports Club refurbishments are completed!



UPCOMING DRAW & DATES –MAY/JUNE 2009

A GRADE:

Saturday 4 & 11 July 2009	vs. CHARLES DARWIN at LITTLE MUMBAI
Sunday, 12 July 2009	T-20 vs PALMERSTON at LITTLE MUMBAI (GET THERE!!)
Saturday 18 & 25 July 2009	vs. TV DINNERS at THE DEATH STAR (Tambling Tce)
Saturday 1 & 8 August 2009	vs. SOUTHERN COMFORTS at LITTLE MUMBAI

B GRADE:

Saturday 4 & 11 July 2009	vs. CHARLES DARWIN at CULLEN BAY WEST (KAHLIN)
Saturday 18 & 25 July 2009	vs. TV DINNERS at LITTLE MUMBAI
Saturday 1 & 8 August 2009	vs. SOUTHERN COMFORTS at FREDERICK'S PASSAGE

C GRADE:

Saturday 4 & 11 July 2009	vs. CHARLES DARWIN at BENNY MITCH PARK (KORMILDA)
Saturday 18 & 25 July 2009	vs. TV DINNERS at BENNY MITCH PARK (KORMILDA)
Saturday 1 & 8 August 2009	vs. SOUTHERN COMFORTS at THE WINDY PLAINS OF WANGURI

D GRADE:

Sunday, 5 July 2009	vs. WARATAHS WHITE-OUTS at GARDENS
Sunday, 12 July 2009	vs. BRETT WILSON XI at KAHLIN
Sunday, 19 July 2009	vs. PALMERSTON BARRY WHITE at LITTLE MUMBAI
Sunday 26 July 2009	WEEK OFF – NO FRICKEN IDEA WHY.
Sunday, 2 August 2009	vs. PALMERSTON MAROONED at JOHN TATE ARENA (M2)

E GRADE:

Sunday, 5 July 2009	vs. TAH-TAH LIZARDS at LITTLE MUMBAI
Sunday, 12 July 2009	BYE (BYE MISS AMERICA PIE...)
Sunday, 19 July 2009	vs. SOUTHERN & COKE at FREDERICK'S PASSAGE
Sunday 26 July 2009	WEEK OFF – NO FRICKEN IDEA WHY.
Sunday, 2 August 2009	vs. CHARLES DARWIN at LITTLE MUMBAI



UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. **Brad Hatton farewell dinner – Saturday, 12 July 2009** at the **Nightcliff Sports Club**. **Informal dinner and drinks** with a true Nightcliff legend to mark (Brad) his final foray in A-Grade for Nightcliff after 20 years and 10,000,000 wickets for the Club!
2. **NCC Annual Quiz Night – Saturday, 15 August 2009** at 7.30pm at the **Nightcliff Sports Club**. **A COLOSSAL AMOUNT OF PRIZES TO BE WON** so let's get Quizzical Tigers and support this grand old cricket Club!

MONEY CAN'T BUY ME...LIFE!

Well it seems that in the process of doing his best **Santa Claus** impersonation in 2009, **Kevin Rudd** has sought to “stimulate” more than the spending habits of every living Australian – he is now also trying to wake up the dead!

As part of his Stimulus package, Rudd has overseen payments of \$900 each as part of the (Wa Wa Nee) **Stimulation** process to over **16,000 corpses**, in addition to about 27,000 people who no longer even live in Australia! **D’oh!** Ah well, that’s life...unless you are already dead.



Kevin Rudd (left) “Hands up if you feel a little bit silly” **Right** –Recipients of the latest Stimulus payments.

MAN, U SURE HAVE A LOT OF MONEY NOW!

Manchester United, the “Tracy Village of English soccer”, has reportedly sold Portuguese uber-star **Cristiano Ronaldo** to the happy shoppers of world soccer **Real Madrid** for the World Record transfer fee of a lazy **\$A162 million dollars**...an amount Dr Evil would not have even had the balls to have asked for! Get Real, Madrid!

To put that in some context for the average Nightcliff man in the street...that is the equivalent of **40,500,000 schooners of Coopers Pale Ale from the Nightcliff Sports Club!**



Cristiano Ronaldo (left) – reportedly wanted to leave **Moneybags United** after they kept stuffing up his game day shirt size!!

And **right**, Real Madrid FC Treasurer **Owen Cash** counting up the money to make immediate payment of the 10% deposit to secure the deal.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

The *Growl* as always has been keeping well abreast of any and all new growing developments in Australian sport. So we raise the question for our keen-eyed readers – notice anything subtly different in appearance about **Jana Pittman** (Rawlinson) these days?



Jana Pittman then (left) and now (right). Has she had something done with her hair perhaps...?

AFL PLAYER ATTACKED!

In a season where almost nothing has gone right for the **Richmond Football Club** – well, until **Terry Wallace** was finally sacked, that is – the *Growl* can now reveal a previously hidden scandal regarding a **sudden and unprovoked attack on a Richmond player**, mid-game at Docklands. The savage attack, captured below, occurred during the experimental pre-season NAB Cup. And since the Season has started, the **entire Richmond football side** has been also subjected to a series of brutal assaults on a weekly basis by a number of unidentified AFL gangs during the Season proper!

Police say investigations have not established any links between any of these gruesome attacks.



Richmond rookie Tyrone Vickery was due to play for the Tigers much earlier this season...until he was attacked by a **TARANTULA** (pictured **RIGHT** – and on the **LEFT** mid-attack) suddenly dropping from the roofing at **Docklands** during a NAB pre-season game!!

The offending Arachnid was captured (**right**) and the Stadium roof was then completely fumigated during the half-time break.

MATCH REPORTS

A TO E-GRADE

Been getting pumped like **Forrest Gump**. Couldn't get a hit in Kings' Cross with a wheelbarrow full of money! The constant thorn in the Tigers' side are that there are not enough runs being scored, with players seemingly too afraid to spend too much time in the sun in these Globally Warmed times to build an innings and/or partnership with other players wearing the same coloured clothes and hat! It has been a calamitous senior season to date and this time around we will simply give you some recent dot-point highlights and highlights of the season generally, and then an inspirational picture to mull over (metaphorically boys!) before the next game.

1. Thank Gary Ablett Snr (**God**) for **Twenty-20 Cricket!** The **Reigning Premiers Nightcliff** (gee we do like typing *those* words together – we'll even put them in **bold** for you) remains undefeated and is one win away from securing a Semi Final berth in that competition in 2009. Final Minor round game is against Palmerston at Nightcliff on **Sunday, 12 July 2009**. Come out to Nightcliff Oval to support the lads.
2. **Tom Foley** continued his sparkling run of form peeling off 60 runs then an unbeaten 42 against Tah-Tahs in the Premier Grade to add to his brutal innings of 90 against Palmerston B-Grade the game before.
3. The marvelous batting form and positive attitude of Hawkes Bay (NZ) recruit **Marc "the Incredible Calk" Calken**. Marc leads the A-Grade batting by a Chinese Census score and notched up an **unbeaten century** against Tah-Tahs that was as brilliant as it was gutsy to set the game up for...well, avoiding an outright defeat in the end. Top effort that Marc, you are a gem!
4. The vintage form of evergreen Nightcliff spiritual leader **Johnny Tate** in the C-Grade. His last two games have included a 79 not out and an **unbeaten 100** to help stave off the hungry Owls of Outright defeat against Palmerston. He is a *bona fide* star and an ornament to both the game and the Nightcliff Cricket Club itself.
5. The wonderful progress of junior burgers including **Kyle McKenzie** and the continuing improvement of other juniors who have recently entered Senior ranks and will continue to do so with the Club's support. The "*Zac Attack*" **Zac Metcalfe** and **Sam Smith** has also tasted A-Grade and B-Grade cricket action in 2009 and have each told a packed NCC Press gallery that now they each are excited to cement senior NCC places for many years to come!
6. Smashing Tracy Village in B-Grade earlier in the season on the back of a swashbuckling unbeaten century by that man **Sean Kenny** and amidst some very ordinary sportsmanship shown by NT Cricket *Snap-on Tool of the Year* **Darren "Cheetoos" Truemer**.
7. Did we mention the **Twenty-20??**

Come on Tigers - Be the hawk, not the fish!



STILL GOT THE BLUES (“ARE WE THERE YET”)?

From the start of the 2008 AFL Season, the **Carlton Football Club** marketing slogan has been *“They know we’re coming!”* Not sure if this was part of a five-year plan...or maybe longer! Anyway, the Mighty **Essendon Football Club** countered with the mock catch-cry response *“They know we’re waiting!”*



And lay in wait they did, backing up their yip-yap with two healthy thumpings of the Blues Brothers in 2008. The Dons then showed their immense patience by ‘waiting’ into 2009 as well, to kick a cricket score to beat them early in the season and then to recently bring the Blues back crashing to Earth like a home-brand space-shuttle in Round 13 (lucky for some!) to the catchy tune of **69 points!**

So we’re guessing that Carlton FC could well be in the market for a new marketing slogan for 2010. Here are some helpful suggestions from our own Marketing people at the *Growl...*

“The King of Pop might be dead, but the Blues live on!”

“We don’t give a Ratts what you think!”

“You can’t stop the Blues Judd-ernaut!”

Or our own personal favourite...

“Carlton – The (hush) Money or the (witness) Box?”

“THEY SAID IT” - QUOTABLE QUOTES

<i>“Only when the Tigers play you mob in Palmerston!”</i>	Recently retired Tiger Cammo “the Ammo” Collins to the ‘Palmerston Poacher’ D-Grade evergreen superstar Dean Wilson asked him if he was going to play again. Deano is still making overtures for our Cammo (now a Palmerston resident) to come out of retirement to play for his lot. Eye of the Tiger Cammo, Eye of the Tiger!
<i>“So are they coming anytime soon?”</i>	An anonymous Essendon fan after witnessing the impressive Bombers slay the Carlton Blues by a massive 69 points last Friday night, with the Blues still marching under the marketing banner of <i>“They know we’re coming!”</i> Looks like they may have missed their bus in 2009. Again.
<i>“You’d like to think parents would have steered their children away from me a long time ago.”</i>	No not Michael Jackson (may he Rest in Peace!) before he passed on to the Other Side, but the ultimate ice-breaker Benjamin Cousins after giving the ‘Larry Bird’ to the cameras at Subiaco a few hours before Richmond’s “lock-in” clash against AFL paper weights the Fremantle Shockers .
<i>“That’s like winning the Best & Fairest at Richmond isn’t it?”</i>	From an anonymous New Zealand tourist in recent weeks, after hearing commentary about a town called Nelson , with 55,000 people in the very centre of New Zealand , which is referred to as the <i>“Sun capital of New Zealand”</i> with a scorching average temperature of 20C during the Summer!

ODD SOCKS

THE NCC COMMITTEE FINANCIAL TIP OF THE WEEK

Try to avoid doing any unnecessary stretching, star-jumping or Pilates whilst at a Property Auction.



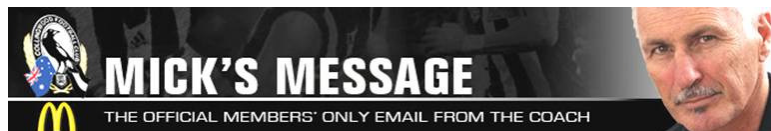
Prophetic... taken two days before Jacko’s death at a rehearsal at home in ‘sunny Cal’ for his opening show that was planned for London.

GOOD OLD COLLYWOBBLES FOREVER!

Each week a friend of mine **Chris** (*surname suppressed to protect his identity – he is a suspected Collingwood supporter and card carrying Member after all!*) receives a personal email from his ‘good mate’ **Michael Malthouse**, current coach of the Smarmy Army that is **Collingwood**. I say “current” but former Malthouse foot-soldier **Nathan Buckley** has been reportedly sniffing around his Coach’s office, trying on his coach’s hat and jacket and generally getting an idea of the support he may have if he decided he wanted to challenge for the position...

Anyway, these “personalized” Coach’s Reports are usually just a banal regurgitation of the football happenings in a game that most people (Pies Members) who receives this message has probably seen live, four to six times on various replays and read about in the *Herald Sun* (*the Age* is apparently not delivered to Prison) each day since the game!

But this week’s message from the ‘*Silver Fox*’ seemed a reasonably honest and forthright one, so we decided to reproduce it in it’s entirety in the *Growl* for you!



Dear Chris,

I am happier than I have been for some time, I’m not sure if that is because all my cunning plans are working out for a change or the alterations to my medication regime made last month. Anyway I am as chipper as Megan Fox’s masseur at the minute!

The Pies are really cooking with gas and by getting Dean Laidley fired (ignore the media reports!) I think I might have staved off that fricken ungrateful mercenary ‘*Bucks*’ for a few years, as he looks a very good chance of getting the coaching gig there. I don’t know how that w@nker Mark Harvey still has a job at Freo either, especially after we beat them by 10,000 points and embarrassed them on national television, but that’s life – it’s probably because he doesn’t have a Seniors card like me and doesn’t need 25 toilet breaks (17-18 of which times I actually make it to the dunny) during four quarters of footy.

Have you noticed the dark brown rinse I have been putting through my hair recently? Nah, neither has anyone else.

Got the Bombers this week, hope it pours as I reckon they’d be sh*t in the rain. Our players should take care of business anyway, morale is really high, the Federal Police haven’t been in to interview Alan Didak for weeks now and having Anthony Rocca as towel boy in the lockers has really given some of our younger players someone to look up to. Literally, ha ha ha!

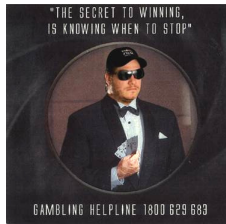
Yours in Collywobbles Glory,

Michael Malthouse

NIGHTCLIFFSPORTSCLUB INC.



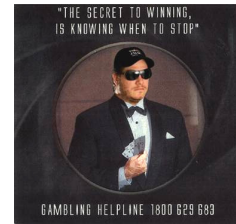
All Financial SERVICES



ON THE REX HUNT

"I Punt therefore I Am"

The *Growl* 2009 record to date: +\$ 30.00



\$50 on Geelong to beat St.Kilda (\$1.56) into Roger Federer to win the 2009 Men's Wimbledon Crown (\$1.70)
(at \$2.65 for a \$132.50 return)

Well the *Growl* got a touch lucky last time out and successfully backed the Blues before their 2009 Warranty ran out – the (Still Got the) **Blues** accounted for the **West Coast** Coolers in Melbourne to win by enough of a margin to accommodate us nicely.

So we might stay with the AFL whilst decent thoroughbred horses are taking a spell and the Ashes is yet to get underway. And this week is **Blockbuster Week** with the clash between the **Geelong Cats** and **Kurt Edwards'** mob the ever-marching **St Kilda Saints**. Both teams have both put in almighty 2009 campaigns to date to each remain unbeaten after thirteen rounds, which is unprecedented in AFL/VFL history!

The **Saints** have been the supreme defensive unit in 2009 and with 13 straight wins and a percentage of 177.5% they have certainly deserved the number one mantle. But we feel these Pussy cats, who were seriously ruffled in the 2008 Decider, have been waiting to gruesomely slash any genuine contender to their 2009 Flag quest. And with reigning Premiers the **Hawks** playing more like Budgies in 2009, they will make do with mauling the Saints.

Likewise at the tennis, the strawberries & cream will certainly rise to the top and we cannot see any other result from the Nadal-less opposition left in the final eight at Wimbledon than victory to the sublimely talented **Roger Federer**. His remaining threats are **Andy Roddick**, who the Fed psychologically owns, particularly on grass, **Andy Murray** a British tennis player (enough said!) and the courageous Aussie hope **Lleyton Hewitt**, who has again lifted himself up like the Honeymooner's proverbial to progress this far. But does he have another Grand Slam title in him? C'moon!! So the *Growl* is surprisingly confident this month with its \$2.65 pop(s) – our motto for this weeks' wager may well be – *"Form is temporary, but class is permanent."*

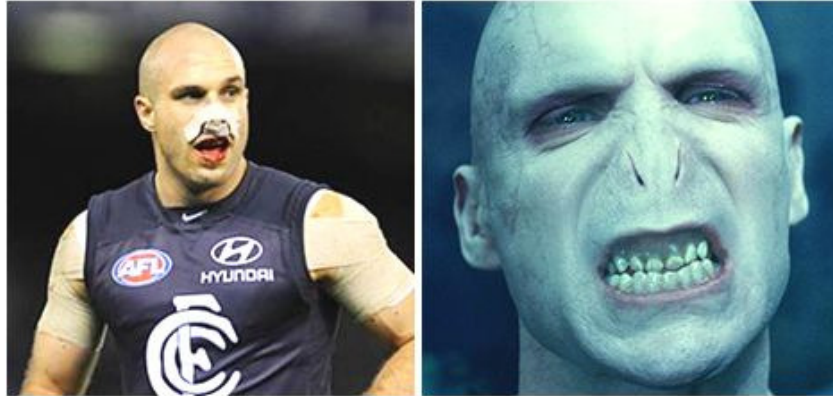
Happy punting and remember to keep backing those **Aussies to win the Ashes Series** with any spare cash you do have not already put to good use!



Kevin Pieterse – still struggling to come to grips with just how sh*tty the *rest* of his National team is.

LOOK-ALIKES

Can you spot the difference?



Blues champ **Chris Judd** against the **Sainters** after receiving a facial and **Harry Potter's** buddy **Lord Voldemort!**



Geordie Ferguson (right in the left pic)... and right, is this him striking out in an off-season hit-out?



Carlton Coach **Brett Ratten** and his little mate!

THE END. SIX LEGITIMATE DELIVERIES (OVER).