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THE UNDERGROWL

THE STRICTLY UNOFFICIAL NIGHTCLIFF CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER
2nd edition of 2017 – Thursday, 11 May 2017



“MAKING A NAME FOR ITSELF!”

SOME EARLY TESTIMONIALS

“Seriously worth a shot!”

Michael Sandford

(British tourist, wannabe assassin & *almost* 2017 Man of the Year)

“Making Nightcliff great again!”

D.Trump

“Better than sex!”

No-one ever

“Er, um, what did America say about this?”

M.Turnbull

“Even better than the real thing!”

Bono

“NCC CRICKET UPDATE”

Well, as this is ostensibly a cricket Club publication, we suppose we ought to include some actual Nightcliff cricket information.

The Saturday sides seem to be stringing together some wins, with one of the most newsworthy early features being the sublime batsmanship of Skipper **Udara Weerasinghe** in the Premier Grade, with 247 runs at 41.17 in 2017, doing his best **Brian Lara** imitation, with Bingo scores being recorded by the other 10 batsmen at times. Those **Gibsons** carded a 'century' last weekend (adding together **S.Gibson**'s 38 in A's, **R.Gibson**'s 62 in B's), with the interactive poll soon up on the NCC website asking the universe at large, "*Who is the best batsman in the Gibson family?*"

And our own **Coen 'Coco' McKinnon** stepped up like an Aerobics instructor on Red Bull into A's and took his first (and last) A-Grade wicket on May Day. The unlucky Tracy Village batsman was certainly calling 'May Day', as he dejectedly trudged off Nightcliff Oval with that sinking feeling that he was probably going to become an NCC Quiz question for the next 25 years. For those playing at home, his name is **Corey Sinclair**. Not sure if *he* has left his home since.



Angus Gibson born 10 May 2017, another (Sam) Gibson contribution to NCC this week! **#fatherson**

But enough peripheral Club offerings, let's talk about '**Sunday A Grade**' (D-Grade).

After a Round 1 Bye under a Draw devised in some other parallel universe which has since dissipated and a R2 forfeit against a seriously undermanned University side taken into protective custody by Cricket Australia after they heard **Brad Hatton** and **Chris Parker** were named, the rustier than *Titanic* cutlery D's finally got onto the park at home against Palmerston in Round 3.

The Skipper lost the toss, but used an ancient Jedi Mind trick learnt on an interstate sabbatical to convince PCC to want to bowl first, the Tigers gleefully batted. After losing a heavily cobwebbed **B.Foley** early to a quite useful delivery, **C.Parker (69)** safely back inside the sanctuary of Sunday cricket and returning gloveman **Murray Hooper (45)** combined for a superb 115-run partnership, which was precisely the tonic the still-crouching Tigers needed.

That Parkos was the next dismissed stumped trying to hit a 14-year old spinner into the exospheric realms of this planet did not take any shine whatsoever off his magnificent display or this match-defining partnership. It was still not nearly as funny as **B.Hatton's** dismissal in similar fashion, after he had declared to the on-field Umpire that he had this kid in his sights and he was going to send the ball all the way up to Progress Drive!

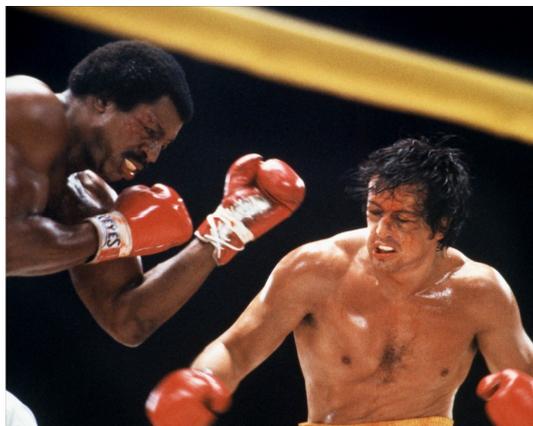
Cammo Collins marshaled the middle order (and his own balance at times) to open his season with 21 and **Stuart Kenny** (15no) and NCC journeyman **Luke Bayetto** (10no) batted out the innings to ensure the Tigers ended with a respectable and defensible 6/192.

The PCC innings was a grueling last-man standing slugfest that went down to the wire. After restricting Palmy to about 2-80 at the turn (drinks) with the Skipper bagging three maidens (hope Heidi isn't reading this), D-Grade's glistening new spinning division of **Brion Foley** and **Johnny Fryar** (2/35) bowled well in tandem under pressure to keep the Palm pilots in check, bagging a few scalps in the process.

But the Palms kept 'fronding' along, lurking a little way behind the required run rate, in the lengthening shadows of Nightcliff Oval. After a few more wickets toppled (assisted by a classic Sun-facing **Cammo Collins** catch!), it fell to young D-Grade pup **Quaid Carter** to execute the final over of the innings with 11 to win, which he did superbly, ending with the exclamation point of bowling **Dave 'Sheep Stations' Davies** off the final ball.

The PINT Dravidians game was an epic of considerably shorter duration, which was euthanised early on as a viable contest after **Brad Hatton** gutted the PINT side like **OJ Simpson** on Date night, taking a devastating 7-19. Swingman **Aaron Griffin** bowled well in support to snare 2-19 to keep other Tigers bowlers fresh for future challenges. Champion bat and Life Member **Jason Hatton** (14) ably led the minor clean up job in Aisle 1 to ensure the Tigers had several hours to debrief about what they had just witnessed in the field.

D-Grade recent Results: R3 - NCC 6/192 (C.Parker 69, M.Hooper 45, C.Collins 21, S.Kenny 15no) def Palmy 8/188 (B.Foley 2/34, J.Fryar 2-35) R4 - NCC 3/47 (J.Hatton 14, C.Collins 11no) def PINT Dravidians 45 (B.Hatton 7-19, A.Griffin 2-19).



The D's NCC vs Palmerston clash was an absolute last man standing affair!

“A NEW DANGER - SATURDAY CRICKET!”

As part of a new *UnderGrowl* health and well being focus, we will be promoting various healthy lifestyle options, as well as 'lifting the lid' on some of the more hazardous aspects of Territory life - crocodiles, drink-driving, licking cane toads, neoliberalism...and Saturday cricket!

Putting to one side the unsubstantiated suggestion that 37.5% of all statistics are completely fabricated to suit any given agenda, it is rumored that a whopping 80% of all in-play cricketing injuries occur on a Saturday. That is 9 cricketers out of a team of 11. However if this is a Saturday side, then all 11 players (some of whom are children) are at serious risk.

Only recently, Sunday's own **Chris Parker** kissed his children and bride on a warm April Saturday morning (wiping away their many tears) and strode off stoically to play cricket, answering a desperate call to arms from B-Grade Skipper **Huw Spring**. After setting Kahlin Oval alight with his masterful strokeplay to reignite the Tigers' innings (before then watching the tail disappear like fried chicken at a family dinner), 'Parkos' then took the field.

After a few overs at first slip, Parkos (*pictured below, left*) copped a brutish fast ball to the face, which had rebounded off the diving wicket-keeper's gloves - **Jason Bremner** is still being counseled and medicated (prescribed cold beer, to be taken orally) over this heinous accident.

An undisclosed expert Physicist engaged by the *UnderGrowl* [*name suppressed for his/her own protection*] recently said, "*Cricket balls clearly appear to travel considerably faster on a Saturday, possibly because there is much less atmospheric pressure about on that particular day of the week, with all the levity around from it being the very first day of almost every single weekend.*"

The *UnderGrowl* is yet to locate a contrary opinion to this. Not that we've really looked for one. However, when we were recently speaking on the phone with World anti-doping authority (**WADA**) on a totally unrelated matter (you can relax now, **Chris Parker**), we told them all of the above and they said this was *absolutely* sufficient to fully accept the truth of the opinion without question.

As a related aside in this cautionary tale, NCC B's Skipper **Huw Spring** is apparently recovering well from a significant injury he suffered on the same day, when he tore part of his bicep off the muscle.



Recent Saturday cricket victims' injuries...when will this reckless carnage end?

“THEY SAID IT” - QUOTABLE QUOTES

<p><i>"Looks like we brought an Uzi along to a knife fight!"</i></p>	<p>An undisclosed D-Grade slip fieldsman thoroughly enjoying his brother’s fast bowling artistry as Brad Hatton was emphatically decimating PINT Dravidians with his Category-5 cyclonic spell of 7-19. Turned back time like Cher. Created time like Dr Who with a 3.00pm game finish!</p>  <p>Brad Hatton – the lads got around him after his superlative 7-19... then they got around the Donga for a little bit!</p>
<p><i>"All I want to do is to be able to drink a VB at the cricket!"</i></p>	<p>This clear cry for help was made by an undisclosed A’s cricketer recently at his footloose and beverage-free Premier Grade game.</p>  <p>Talk amongst yourselves. In the meantime, here’s a funny little pic from circa 2012 of Bryan Miles and his D-Grade doppelganger (behind) from T.Village!</p>
<p><i>“Heppell, to Hooker and then on to Hurley...the Bombers are attacking alphabetically here!”</i></p>	<p>From the dulcet tones of former AFL/sports commentator Dennis Cometti. Gee, we do miss his witty, kooky ways. His good friend Bruce MacAvaney probably misses him to bits too, particularly when he hears human drone Bryan Taylor slavishly ladle bulk mayo onto his already hyperbolic commentary style.</p>

THE NCC COMMITTEE FINANCIAL TIP OF THE WEEK

Avoid depositing large sums of your money with a banking institution that conducts its primary point of business on wheels.

COCO'S CORNER



The *UnderGrowl* has thoroughly enjoyed the body of work that quintessential Clubman **Coen 'Coco' McKinnon** is cobbling together in 2017, from his work as a Donga kitchen hand, to a surprise inclusion (including to himself!) in the A-Grade, where he also took his first A-Grade wicket.

We also 'dips our lid' to Coco's 'Master' and Donga General Manager **Jason Bremner**, who has also put in quite a deal of time for the Club, including in the Donga and at *In2Cricket*, as well as with the little things, like just ensuring 'Coco' washes his hands after going to the toilet and remembers to put pants on before his shoes.

As an aside, whilst it is known that Lords of the **Sith** operate strictly in pairs, we have thoroughly investigated these two seemingly well-intentioned blokes and dismissed this as a possibility.

The *UnderGrowl* will look to feature Coco's activities this year in this segment, as well as any ideas he has for the improvement of the Club, the community in general or even the Planet at large. *"I do what I can for people, coz that's how I roll. One day I see myself managing the Donga myself, once 'Brem' gives the game away. I mean, I do make a pretty mean hotdog!"* Coco recently said.

A real indicator of the sheer thoughtfulness of the bloke is that after he dismissed TV number 3 batsman **Corey Sinclair** in A-Grade earlier this month, he offered to arrange counseling for Sinclair and his immediate family, to assist them to begin to process what had occurred out on Nightcliff Oval.



Left – 'Coco' happily reflecting on his first Premier Grade wicket with a well-earned drink.
Right – No untoward or shady contacts were found in either Coco's or Brem's phone records.

2017 AFL SEASON UPDATE

Sure the **Swans** created AFL/VFL history by going down 0-6 after appearing in a Grand Final the year before, but the *UnderGrowl* has not yet dropped off them as our 2017 Premiership tip.

Well actually we dropped them over a fortnight ago, we just wanted to see your reaction after reading that first paragraph!

Scores are not always an accurate method of assessing how well a team is playing, but the Swans were reasonably putrid at times against the Blues and are clearly laboring. Signs of returning system and confidence were evident against BrisVegas, but that is a bit like testing your sheer strength by tearing apart wet paper toweling.

Even **Peter Dutton** is travelling better than the Swans. No, we don't really mean that either. **#shitbloke**

Here's a quick summary of where we see each AFL side presently situated (in our original order):

Sydney - Off like last week's milk the naysayers are bleating, but these masterful brutes are still good enough to make the 2017 finals. They need everything to go right from here and we might even know almost everything we need to know about their finals prospects after their pivotal match against St Kilda next week. Should be *'taking care of business'* like **Bachman Overdrive** this week against the fleetingly resurgent Kangaroos. Still considerably better than **Collingwood**.



Left - Swans fans hope this visually depicts the outcome of the Swans v Kangas game this weekend.

Right - **'Bachman Turner Overdrive'** - sure they look a tiny bit like your local drug dealers, but their late 70s song *'Taking Care of Business'* was quite catchy.

GWS - Humming along magnificently like a Barbershop quartet, the *UnderGrowl's* new 2017 Premiership tip probably does not need to be moved interstate, it just needs to mosey a fraction west. Harder to beat than a frozen egg. More than ready.

Western Bulldogs – Have still managed to excel at times off a limited preparation, showing glimpses of the tenacious hunger that propelled them all the way to a Premiership. Just need even luck with injuries to challenge for the top-4. **Marcus Bontempelli** continues to evolve into one of the best players in the competition.

Geelong - Showing promising signs of an improved midfield depth this year, but some of the key indicators (pressure acts, tackling) still shy of the top echelon. ‘Danger’ is surely playing injured, Selwood has been on fire early, should be thereabouts challenging for a T4 spot with their class.

West Coast - Lions at home at the minute, but (minced) lambs playing away, especially at the MCG. Needn't be overly worried, the GF is only guaranteed to be played at the MCG until about 2034.

Adelaide – Yet to see how they handle real defensive full-ground pressure and query whether their all-out attacking style will stack up in finals footy, but we will certainly find out in 2017 and they are travelling as well as anyone. Massive Flag show if they can stay top-2 in the home and awayers.

St Kilda – Really starting to believe (as are we!) after a monstrous win against GWS, intriguing test against Sydney in a fortnight. Finals bound for the first time in a while, with real midfield depth and a dangerous, multi-pronged attack. Much more talented than **Collingwood**.

Melbourne – still have the talent (and depth) to play finals in 2017, just need to hone that consistency of applied effort and killer instinct...and pray the medical staff can get **Max Gawn** up and going again in a few months! Probably marginally better than Collingwood.

Essendon - Predictably unpredictable, more run than a home brand stocking, but playing like a group of talented blokes who haven't played together for over a year. Funny that.

Hawthorn - Starting to resemble the *Challenger* space shuttle disaster rather than the silky Concorde of previous years. Human Horcrux **Tyrone Vickery** has seriously brought the stench of losing big with him from Richmond. Will continue to bob up like a corpse in Darwin Harbour every couple of weeks, but the Carnival is over.

Richmond - as much as it galls us to say this **cough* *cough**, the Tigers are actually starting to resemble a Top-8 side with a positive and strong new game style and a solid, reliable ‘spine’. Still, if a few of them happen to miss their regular psychologist's appointments, they could so easily regress to ninth. Can they win the flag? Hell no. But don't spoil the fun by telling them or their fans that!



Richmond fans – we do so love their (fragile) optimism!

Collingwood - If they were on the Australian Share Market they would be the 'All Ordinaries'. Still has a quality midfield that looks good on paper, but like paper, are highly flammable and easily torn apart when pressure is applied. **Taylor Adams** is getting in more kicks than a Mitchell Street bouncer, but **Bucks** is already moving his stuff back into his parents' house for the next little while.



Collingwood fans...might have to hold on for quite a deal longer to see some real success!

Port Adelaide – Whoever thought it would be a sterling idea to promote a ‘home’ game in China in 2017 by playing a side named ‘**Gold Coast**’ dressed in bright red, should be taken out back and slapped around a little bit. Otherwise ticking over reasonably well, their top-8 credentials will be more rigorously tested after their bye. **Ollie Wines** emerging as a future long-term leader of their Club.

Gold Coast – Got lucky like **Daft Punk** by being invited to join Port in China for an AFL game for real points. Could have 1,500,000,000 new members within the next fortnight, especially if they win! Still might not be enough for 2017 finals, but they’re outshining our gloomy expectations.

Fremantle – Still only the second best side in Perth, and by some distance. Were able to outlast Essendon last week, which just now is like staying awake longer than a three-year old. However their 37-point win was stylish and showed they will be a formidable opponent at home at least. Unless playing **West Coast**. Might want to dress the joint up to look like the MCG for the next Derby.

North Melbourne – Even **Lance Armstrong** raised an eyebrow after their 10-goal first quarter against previously undefeated Adelaide. Still leaving too much for too few and this season is still shaping up for them as an experimental year to oversee the development of some good young players.

Carlton - Giddy fans probably now don’t give a flying fire truck what happens for the rest of the 2017 season, after an amazing win over **Essendon** in a sodden **Kevin Costner** ‘*Waterworld*’ MCG game and the ultimate party-crashing effort to wallop **Collingwood** in their 125-year anniversary match. Still quite shitty. Probably *not* better than Collingwood, all things being equal, but there looks to be a little more stock in their gravy than in **Brisbane**’s.

Brisbane – Many rivers (of tears) to cross in 2017 and the ensuing few years, their greatest challenge remains retaining their young talented draft picks of the last few seasons, who may also attempt to exit through the Stargate of Elsewhere Opportunity. A likely **Wooden Spoon** will not help this cause.

CULL OR BE CULLED!

The saltwater crocodile, *crocodylus porosus*, has one natural (or unnatural) predator. Man. Us.

But ‘we’ are not really presently doing our job and these natural born killers are being permitted to not only roam free, but to populate and propagate. And left unchecked, propagating at will they are.

The current policy is arguably akin to a society electing not to prosecute serial killers and allowing them to instead live and roam freely amongst us, perhaps erecting signs like, “Be ‘Serial-safe’ people, some amongst your number may possess an unstoppable natural urge to wantonly kill you!”

Last month, a big fat blood-lusting salty was found furtively lurking in the family swimming hole at Edith Falls. Beautiful, safe, serene, peaceful Edith Falls. What is next we ask (huddled in fear), the local swimming pool? Have you checked your downstairs bathroom lately?

Now, unlike maverick Queensland politician **Bob Katter** (who some say is as mad as **Medusa**’s hairdresser), we are not for a moment suggesting we go totally ‘*Predator*’ on this man-munching reptilian species. Salties can perhaps thank their lucky (crescent moon) and stars they are not Muslims!

However, a regulated culling program might promote a safer life for those inhabiting northern Australia. Just to ‘peg back’ the numbers a little. *Managed* culling, engaging intelligent people who at least bathe semi-regularly in the waters of reason and understand the natural balances involved.

Keep putting up those lovely warning signs please, they are most helpful. If irretrievably silly people choose to swim in known/signed crocodile-inhabited areas, then getting gratuitously munched is arguably on them, or the pieces of them that survive the grinding ordeal.

But what is the use of curing Cancer or vastly improving the onset of Alzheimer’s, if the very next day the same person is absolutely and stunningly minced, whilst swimming in their favourite popular swimming hole or taking a relaxing walk down the local beach.

Let’s do the math, people. Or at the very least, let’s start doing (considering) the natural science.



Left – Serial killer **Ted Bundy**. If he was a salty, he would possibly not even be in the top-10 list of killers.

Right – **Ronald McDonald**. Er, yep, *he* probably would be!

JOKES

Did you hear about the new corduroy pillows on the market?
They're making head lines everywhere!

What do you call a woman sitting straight upright on the ground,
with her legs stretched out in front of her? **'Elle'**

UNDERGROWL WORD OF THE MONTH – MEAN WHAT YOU SAY!

*“Gee my knees were really **mercurial** out there today!*

This offering was given by **Cammo ‘the Ammo’ Collins** after a gruelling D-Grade fielding effort against Palmerston, which saw him (and his dodgy knees) cover more ground than the Early settlers.

Say that again, Cammo? Now when we have previously thought of the word **‘mercurial’** and particularly how it is used in sporting parlance, we think of commentators describing highly talented players that can do ‘wizardly’ things on the field that other kids simply cannot. We think of talented players like **Cyril Rioli** or **Eddie Betts**, or in years past, we have heard **Gary Ablett Snr** or **Peter Daicos** described as ‘mercurial’, with regards to their on-field magical deeds.

So has the word been misused or misapplied in the past, especially by sporting commentators? Let’s go to the ‘Third Umpire’ (dictionary) on this one to see what the word means...

Mercurial: *“Of or pertaining to mercury.”* (Nope, that’s not it).
“Volatile, capricious, temperamental, excitable, fickle, changeable, unpredictable, inconsistent, unstable, vacillating, ever-changing, flighty, wayward.” For eg/ *“A mercurial temperament.”*

Well, that deescalated quickly! But at least we now know how to use this word in a proper context, which is what this publication (and indeed the education institution) is all about. Good talk!



Innocent misuse of the English language – passing happenstance or a real sign of the times?

ALTERNATE CRICINFO

In a world where Governments feel they can blindfold you and forcibly feed you ‘alternate facts’, the *UnderGrowl* has happened across a whole ‘alternate website’ – we’ve encountered an ‘alternate’ **CricInfo** website, which has faithfully kept the statistics of back yard cricket games played in Darwin since 1980! As **Hansie Cronje** might have said in his day, “*What are the odds of that?*”

And it is no surprise to anyone working at this publication (or anyone else), that when we looked up the most runs scored in a domestic dwelling house yard in Darwin between the years 1980 and 1995 inclusive, that one address peerlessly came out on top. The backyard of Nightcliff cricketing legends **Jason, Mark & Brad Hatton**, who all spent their formative years living, playing hard and brawling away on the cricketing turf at **35 Waters Street, Rapid Creek**. Love (of cricket) *is* a battlefield!

Pity the many neighbouring kids who popped their innocent heads over the fence and asked to play, only to then spend the next seven hours chasing tennis balls like a Labrador on Red Bull, or being asked to protect a boundary fence like Donald Trump on a bad toupee day, with as many violations.

But for the many awestruck - and seriously sun struck - neighbours and friends who partook in any of these epic, character-building cricketing battles, which makes *Game of Thrones* look like a friendly game of hopscotch at a Christian pre-school, here are the numbers for your viewing displeasure.

(Statistics kept between 1980 & 1995 inclusive):

Runs:	4,378,322 (or about 5,262 per week)
Wickets:	121,823
Highest Individual score	J.Hatton 327* (figure vehemently disputed by all other family members, one of whom denies the innings ever occurred).
Disputes:	22,578
Disputes that escalated into dead-set brawls:	4,915
Calls for immediate Parental intervention:	2,413

(“*Muumm, Jason nicked the cover off it again but won’t walk!*”)

Actual instances of parental intervention: 4 (one accidental, father Steve was sleepwalking!)

Brother who would have benefitted most from a formal ‘review’ system: Brad Hatton



35 Waters Street, Rapid Creek. Saw more ‘runs’ than a home brand stocking in its day!

GEOGRAPHY – ITALIAN STYLE!

It is often said that the southern region of Italy on a map closely resembles a stylish stiletto-heeled boot.



So what footwear apparel do we say the Arab states of the Persian Gulf region kind of looks like...



THE END. SIX LEGITIMATE DELIVERIES (OVER!).