



# COACHES' ASSOCIATION

## BRUCE G. WOOD LIFE MEMBER

16 May 2017



One of the highlights of the Coaches' Association's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on 16-May-17 was the induction of **Bruce Wood** as our third Life Member, following Tom Richmond OAM (2014) and Rod Hokin (2015).

### Criteria

**Life Membership is the most significant award that can be bestowed by our association. In accordance with the HKHDCCA Constitution (2b), the following criteria must be met:**

The members of the association may approve, in exceptional circumstances, that an individual be admitted for **Life Membership**, subject to meeting at least two of the following criteria:

- Performed creditably as an active cricket coach for HKHDCCA (Coaches' Association) and/or in HK&HDCA club or representative competitions for a period of at least 10 years;
- Served with distinction as an office bearer on the HKHDCCA Executive Committee for at least 5 years; and
- Made an outstanding, long-term contribution to cricket coaching within the Association and/or the local cricket community.

### Nomination

**Rod Hokin**, Head Coach (& Life Member) of the Coaches' Association, was the nominator for this award and made the following observations regarding Bruce Wood's suitability for Life Membership:

Bruce has been coaching cricket in this district for two decades, having coached 25 club, representative, touring or school teams since 1997. He established and became the inaugural President of the Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA) in 2010 and has been the driving force behind our growth and success over the past 7 years. He has displayed amazing vision, innovation, determination and marketing skills to continually expand our coaching programs and to ensure that each one is enjoyable and beneficial for the participants.

Bruce has been instrumental in actively recruiting, developing and mentoring many young cricket coaches in the district and heads up what is now the leading *not-for-profit* junior cricket coaching association in NSW, if not Australia. His work has directly benefited not just thousands of individual players, but also given coaching and business management opportunities to many young coaches, several of whom now make a living through professional one-on-one cricket coaching in their own time (outside of the charter of the Coaches' Association).



As the Co-ordinator of all of the programs run by the Coaches' Association, Bruce's commitment and attention to detail have been second to none. He is highly organised and committed to ensuring all programs, events and activities run as smoothly and professionally as possible, including our bi-annual U/15 overseas cricket tours. Much of the highly positive feedback received by the Coaches' Association has centred on Bruce's communication and organisational skills, which have enhanced the reputation of our organisation.

Bruce has made an outstanding, long-term contribution to cricket coaching within the Association and the local cricket community over the past 20 years. From coaching school, club, representative and touring teams, to his involvement as an experienced coach and mentor in the programs run by the Coaches' Association, his ability to enhance player development in a fun and engaging way has been exceptional.

In my opinion, Bruce easily satisfies the three criteria, as listed above, and is therefore a most worthy recipient of Life Membership of the Coaches' Association. Josh Miller (HKHDCCA Secretary), seconded the nomination.

Rod Hokin noted in his submission that Bruce Wood has held a wide range of **relevant positions**, including:

- President of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills District Cricket **Coaches' Association** Inc. (HKHDCCA) since its inception in 2010.
- Co-ordinator, Coach and Mentor for the Coaches' Association, working at school holiday Coaching Clinics; Specialist Programs; Off-Season Development Programs; Beginners Clinics; Super 8 Blast Programs; Girls Cricket Super 8s Competitions; and Blowfly Cricket (children with special needs) since 2010.
- Manager / Umpire of the Coaches' Association / Northern District CC forthcoming U/15 tour to West Indies and USA in June / July 2017.
- Manager / Umpire on the Coaches' Association / Northern District CC U/15 tour to Sri Lanka in mid-2015.
- Head Coach on two overseas tours – U/15 representative team in India 2006 (HK&HDCA's first overseas cricket tour) and New Zealand 2007 (Sydney U/16 representative team).
- Member of HK&HDCA Executive Committee for 10 years (2007-08 to 2016-17 – ongoing role).
- Co-ordinator of HK&HDCA Ross Turner Cup and Glenn Hourigan Cup annual rep. matches since 2010-11.
- Coach of HK&HDCA Representative Shield teams for 8 years (Foster 2000-01; Creak 2001-02; Cawsey 2002-03; Gee 2003-04; Moore 2004-05; Weblin 2005-06; Watson 2006-07; and Weblin 2008-09).
- Coach of Normanhurst-Warrawee CC junior teams for 9 years (1997-98 to 2005-06).
- HK&HDCA Representative Selector for 14 years (2001 to 2015).
- Northern District CC – AW Green Shield U/16 selector for 5 years (2010-11 to 2014-15).
- HK&HDCA Representative Convenor of a junior age group for 6 years (2001-02 to 2006-07). Conducted off-season training for rep. squads at James Park, Hornsby, and arranged the selection trials.
- Assistant Representative Secretary for 7 years (2001 to 2008), supporting Mark Rushton & Clint Johnson.
- Member of the HK&HDCA Infrastructure Sub-committee responsible for developing options to increase or improve training / coaching facilities in the district (2015 onwards).

Rod's nomination also noted that Bruce Wood has recorded many **significant coaching / cricket community achievements** over the years, including:

- Representative (Level 2) accredited coach (since 2001) who coached at club and/or representative level from 1997-98 to 2008-09; refer to: [bit.ly/BGW\\_Coaching](http://bit.ly/BGW_Coaching) Undertook the Level 1 accreditation in 1998.
- Set up the Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA) in 2010, including establishing a partnership with NDCC; forming an Executive Committee; developing a program of activities; recruiting coaches and arranging their accreditation; designing and ordering uniforms for the coaches and children who attend our clinics; purchasing cricket equipment; drafting submissions for Government Grants and corporate sponsorship; compiling Annual Reports; and setting up a website and social media platforms promoting the programs.
- Organised successful Junior Cricket Coaching Clinics, in partnership with NDCC, during the school holidays. Co-ordinator and Coach at the U/10 – U/11 off-season development programs; U/12 – U/15 specialist coaching programs; Super 8 Blast Programs; Girls Cricket Super 8s Competition; and Blowfly Cricket.
- Inducted as the 50<sup>th</sup> **Life Member** of **HK&HDCA** in 2013 in recognition of his outstanding, high level service to the Association in a variety of key roles, including HK&HDCA Executive Committee, Club President; Umpiring; Coaching; Rep. Cricket; Administration; Webmaster; etc.
- Manager / Umpire on the Coaches' Association / Northern District CC U/15 tour to Sri Lanka in 2015.

- Head Coach on two overseas tours – U/15 representative team in India 2006 (HK&HDCA's first overseas cricket tour) and New Zealand 2007 (Sydney U/16 representative team).
- Successfully revamped the RTC and GHC program in 2010-11 by introducing preliminary GHC T20 fixtures; playing both (main) matches at adjacent ovals; appointing young coaches to each team; and compiling a souvenir program for each fixture. Switched the fixtures from March to September to avoid wash-outs.
- In addition to Bruce's tireless organisational work in support of the Coaches' Association's activities, he is a regular and very capable coach, who passed the 150 HKHDCCA coaching days' milestone in 2016-17.
- The Coaches' Association's Executive Committee determined in 2011-12 that the new HKHDCCA *Coach of Year* award (perpetual trophy) should be named the Bruce Wood Cup in recognition of his outstanding and ongoing contribution to cricket coaching in the district.
- Presented with the HK&HDCA Integrity Cup in 2011 for his work setting up the Coaches' Association.
- Awarded **Life Membership** of **Barker CC** in 2010 after 9 years of productive work on the committee (5 years as President or Vice-President). His close association with Barker's cricket program and the school's Sports Master have enabled HK&HDCA to play Weblin and Watson Shield matches on Barker's superb main oval for the past decade, alleviating the shortage of turf ovals in the Association.
- Coached the HK&HDCA U/15 Weblin Shield undefeated premiership side in 2005-06; as well as 3 junior premiership teams at Normanhurst-Warrawee CC.
- Awarded **Life Membership** of **Normanhurst-Warrawee CC** in 2007 (6<sup>th</sup> Life Member since 1926-27).
- Presented with a perpetual trophy in 2007 – *Representative Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service to HK&HDCA Representative Cricket*.
- Presented with a Meritorious Service Award by Judy Hopwood MP and Tom Richmond OAM in 2006, for outstanding efforts associated with the Ross Turner Cup and cricket within the Association.
- Presented with a *Commonwealth Sports Achievement Award* by the Hon Alan Cadman, MP, Federal Member for Mitchell, in 2005-06.
- Presented with a Hornsby Shire Council Mayoral Award by Nick Berman in 2006 for services to cricket.
- Donated a perpetual trophy 'HKHDCUA *Spirit of Cricket* Award for representative cricket' in 2008-09 (as Umpires' Secretary) to promote excellent sportsmanship within our local rep. competitions.
- On top of his coaching and committee roles, Bruce has umpired over 250 club and representative matches in HK&HDCA and NSWDCa competitions since 2001-02; plus approximately 100 school 1<sup>st</sup> XI matches since 2009-10. He has been appointed by the NSWDCa to umpire 17 representative Finals since 2007-08 (2 Watson Shield; 4 Weblin; 1 Moore; 1 Gee; 1 Creak; 5 Peden; 1 Mollie Dive; and 2 U/14 State Challenge Finals – one at the SCG and the other at Bradman Oval, Bowral). He also umpires Sydney Premier (Grade) Cricket and AW Green Shield matches.
- Coached Timm van der Gugten for 5 years (U/11 to U/15) at club and rep. levels before he made his First Grade debut for the University of NSW as a 15 year old. Timm had a Rookie Contract with Cricket NSW for 2 years and made his NSW Blues debut in Sheffield Shield and one-day cricket in 2011-12, before switching to Tasmania in 2012-13, playing alongside Ricky Ponting. Timm has played international cricket since 2012, representing Holland. He played First Class cricket for Glamorgan County in 2016 and took 82 wickets in his debut season, winning his County's prestigious Player of the Year award, as reported in Wisden 2017.
- Coached 11 players who have progressed to play First Grade cricket in Sydney – Timm van der Gugten, Liam Robertson, Shaun Eaton, Scott Copperfield, Tom Williamson, Lachlan Ford, Anjan Oberai, Daniel Nicotra, Baxter Holt, Joel Foster & Jamie Matson.
- Coached three HK&HDCA junior representative teams on end-of-season tours to participate in NSW regional cricket carnivals at Lismore, Ballina and Newcastle (2003, 2004 & 2005).
- Established a representative cricket team at Normanhurst West Public School in 1998 and coached the team until 2001. Donated a perpetual trophy for NWPS Cricketer of the Year to promote cricket at the school. The team successfully competed in the NSWPSA Knockout Competition (Brian Taber Shield) and other local competitions.

### Supporting comments made at the AGM

After Rod Hokin nominated Bruce Wood as a Life Member of the Coaches' Association at the AGM on 16 May 2017, several people present strongly endorsed the proposal, including three of HKHDCCA's Patrons and some other prominent officials. Below is an extract of the comments made in relation to this nomination.

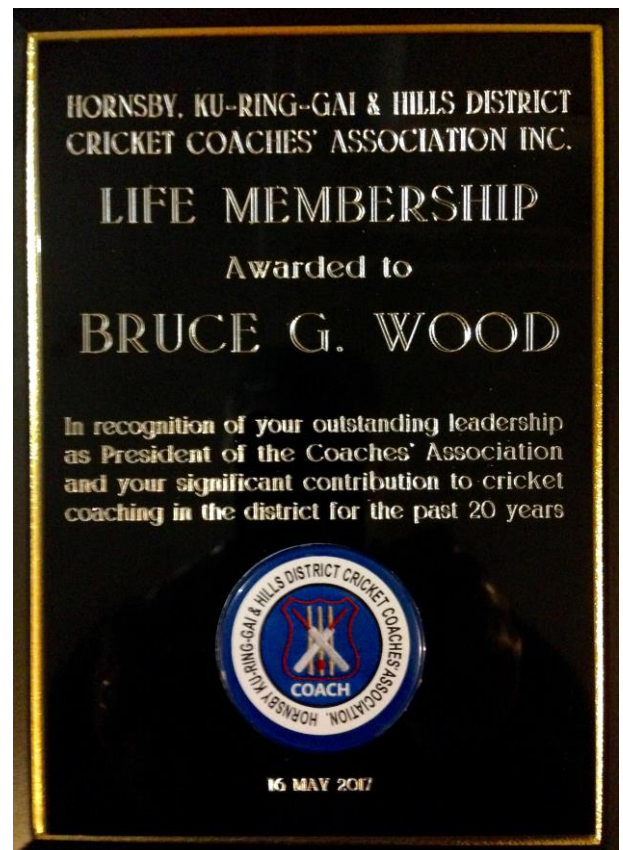


**The Hon Matt Kean MP, Minister for Innovation & Better Regulation** (Patron – Coaches' Association)

For those that don't know much about me, I played all my junior cricket in HK&HDCA. I truly believe that my success in public life has in large part been due to the friendships and leadership skills I developed while playing cricket in the area. I've been involved since 1993 and have met some remarkable people, people that form the backbone of our local community. People such as Ross and Denise Anderson who have volunteered so much time for WPHC; Drifter (Mike Langford) who has volunteered for over 20 years at Northern District CC; Mark Rushton who has been involved for so long and is now helping children with disabilities to enjoy the sport we love. We have remarkable people in this community who give up so much time, so other people can not only enjoy playing cricket, but can enjoy a higher quality of life.

I first met Bruce Wood when he umpired a finals match of the senior team in which I was playing at Warrina St. Berowra around 2002, and we have been friends ever since, constantly crossing paths in our various roles. Bruce has contributed to cricket in every way possible, as a player, coach, umpire and administrator. He has done this by sacrificing so much of his own time, free of charge, including taking leave from work and time away from his family. He is a terrific role model and has enhanced the lives of so many boys, girls, and young men & women.

The community has benefited greatly from the significant personal contribution by Bruce, who is a thoroughly decent, hard-working person who always finds the positives in other people. I believe that Bruce has been such a good cricket coach and mentor due to this amazing commitment to and belief in others. He has developed and inspired a countless number of young coaches and junior players during the past 20 years. We are recognising your incredible contribution to us and celebrating the best thing about our community – hard work and volunteering. Congratulations Bruce – it is an honour to be present at your induction as a Life Member of the Coaches' Association tonight.



**Bruce Wood with HKHDCCA Patrons, Ross Turner, Mark Rushton & Matt Kean MP**

### **Mark Rushton – Founder, Blowfly Cricket (Life Member HK&HDCA)**

I first met Bruce in 1997 and have enjoyed working with him over many shared interests in cricket during the past 20 years. In trying to establish a new Coaches' Association, I met with many people such as Ross Turner, Tom Richmond OAM, Bob Somerville, Bob & Judy Gussey, as well as Alf James OAM. When Bruce stood down from running the Umpires' Association after the 2009-10 season, we met within a couple of months and developed the initial ideas that have now become this incredible organisation. Bruce was the perfect man for the job, with a great passion for coaching and developing others, and he has done it so well. How Bruce and his committee have managed to expand the Coaches' Association to such a large size in such a short time span is a credit to his leadership skills and hard work.

Bruce has also taken a lead role in the Coaches' Association's massive impact on 'Blowies' (Blowfly Cricket), they have absolutely loved the free clinics put on by the Coaches' Association over the past few seasons. I also thank Bruce for being involved with the Commonwealth Bank sponsored visit by the Australian Test Captain, Steve Smith, to James Park in November last year. It was very inspiring to see all the Blowfly players up early to meet and play cricket with their idol. Their sheer delight to see a superstar of the game in the flesh shows the impact cricket and its role models can have on a community. Bruce is one of these role models and I congratulate him on this amazing achievement, which is so well deserved.

### **Ross Turner – Patron of HK&HDCA and Coaches' Association; Life Member – Northern District CC**

Tom Richmond OAM started the process of formalising coaching in the district many years ago – his OAM was for his contribution to education, via teaching and cricket coaching. It is important to note his role as a forerunner to everything that has happened this past decade. The splendid vision of Tom Richmond OAM of building the capability of coaches in the region, which in turn raises playing opportunities and standards, was embraced by Bruce Wood more than a decade ago. A masterful organiser, excellent communicator with a passion for cricket, Bruce has a remarkable ability to engage an audience and bring life to a vision. He inspires others to take the next steps in their lives and he is now bringing the same passion to so many young people's lives every year.

Bruce has led the Coaches' Association with aplomb during his tenure as President. Though his work remains unfinished, it is important that we recognise his contribution thus far and tonight we say congratulations on a significant contribution to the health and well-being of cricket in the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Hills area and beyond. Bruce's leadership through the Association has and will provide enormous legacy for cricket and cricketers at all levels of the game. It is also great to see the Coaches' Association's overseas tours bringing players along the pathway. We congratulate Bruce on his outstanding achievements – take a bow Bruce, this life membership is so well deserved.

### **Mike Langford – President, Northern District CC (Life Member NDCC)**

Mike Langford (Drifter) advised that he first met Bruce Wood in the early 1970s when they played A Grade cricket in the same Gordon DCC team. They later played against each other for about a decade and can recall many fierce battles! Drifter highlighted the exceptional work that Bruce has done in cricket over such a long period of time. To lead an expanding organisation such as the Coaches' Association is no easy task, and to do so as a volunteer is a credit to Bruce's passion for coaching and the game in general.

Drifter stated that Northern District CC is extremely lucky to be associated with the Coaches' Association, which has played a vital role in the success the club is currently enjoying. Of particular importance is the role the Coaches' Association has played in ND's recent AW Green Shield success, starting with the two coaches, Rod Hokin and Josh Miller, right through to the many players who have attended the school holiday clinics and off-season programs organised by Bruce.

Drifter also highlighted the role the Coaches' Association plays in engaging the rapidly expanding number of young boys and girls in our community, and exposing them to cricket in a fantastic, positive environment, therefore hopefully encouraging many of them to take up the sport more regularly. In closing, Mike advised that he was delighted to witness Bruce's induction as a Life Member of the Coaches' Association.

### **Denise Anderson (Annetts) – Cricket NSW – Hall of Fame; former Australian Test player (Patron – Coaches' Association – 2017/18)**

Denise said she would just like to say that she's so impressed with the work that Bruce has done over such a long period of time. He will be long remembered for all of his contributions to cricket. Bruce has been such a fantastic role model for the young men in the room and beyond. Denise stated that she is very proud that her sons have been lucky enough to regularly interact with Bruce in coaching and mentor roles, as well as his umpiring of their matches over the years.

## **Will Fiedler – Vice-President and Level 2 coach with the Coaches' Association**

Will spoke on behalf of all the coaches and thanked Bruce for the opportunities he has provided over the years for keen players to take up cricket coaching, starting with coaching a Glenn Hourigan Cup side, through to the Ross Turner Cup (if selected as a coach), and paid coaching with the Coaches' Association at its school holiday clinics, off-season programs, Super 8 Blast programs, Girls cricket programs, Blowfly Cricket, etc. All these experiences have been wonderful learning opportunities, doing something we love.

## **Endorsements received by email**

### **Alf. James OAM – Life Member HK&HDCA and NSWDCa (Past President of HK&HDCA 1980 – 2002)**

I heartily congratulate Bruce Wood on being made a Life Member of the Coaches' Association. It is very much deserved and, in fact, long overdue.

I first heard of Bruce 17 years ago when it was reported at an Association meeting that two players had had an unbroken partnership of 320 runs, a record for the 5<sup>th</sup> wicket in all grades in the 75 year history of the HK&HDCA. Bruce was one of them, having scored 138 not out. His rating was quickly adjusted.

He then started to attend HK&HDCA meetings as the delegate (President) from Normanhurst Cricket Club and soon after asked me, as HK&HDCA President, whether the Association would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of him attending a Level 2 accredited coaching course (weekend seminar) at the former Narrabeen Fitness Centre. I recommended it to the Executive in view of his coaching of HK&HDCA representative sides, however some members were reluctant to support the proposal, as coaching had never loomed large in the Association, despite individual efforts by Colin Cooper, Tom Richmond and Ross Turner.

It has turned out to be the best \$200 ever spent by the Association.

Bruce's efforts have been prodigious and highly effective. As a regular umpire, I can vouch that the standard of our representative boys' teams has risen considerably and this has been reflected in the results, particularly in the NSWDCa competitions. The boys are also much more "street-smart". It is a sobering experience to be corrected about the Laws of the game by someone 60 years younger.

To achieve this, Bruce has arranged for dozens of people to gain coaching qualifications at different levels. I'm particularly impressed how he has done this with the top Under 15 and Under 16 players who have then been given the responsibility of training prestigious teams, such as those competing for the Ross Turner and Glenn Hourigan Cups. It took some imagination to put this into action so successfully.

He formed the Coaches' Association in 2010 and made sure that all the positions were filled by people of quality and initiative. In particular, he staged a coup by getting Rod Hokin to perform the role of Head Coach.

Bruce has done many other things in cricket, but one stands out – the overseas tours which he has organized, commencing with the famous tour to India in 2006. The amount of work he has put into these has been staggering and meticulous. None of the tourists will ever forget them and the experience has certainly assisted many to reach the heights of Grade cricket.

Bruce has done all this at the expense of his own umpiring and playing ambitions. Just a few years ago, he made a guest appearance for the Association's Over-50s Classics team and opened the batting against a strong Mosman side, scoring a fine 55 not out at Rawson Park (a First Grade oval) – the highest individual score recorded by the Association's Over-50s Classics team at that time.

I hope that Bruce can continue in his role for quite a few more years before revealing his succession plan.

### **Russel Arnold – former Sri Lankan Test cricketer; Level 3 accredited coach; TV cricket commentator**

Congratulations Bruce... If anyone deserves this honour, it's you. Your dedication and work ethic cannot be matched. The enthusiasm you approach each day with is something to be admired. If I want any advice, who do I call? ... Bruce Wood..... that should tell you the story of who Bruce is and what he brings to the table. All the best and do continue to be the inspiration you are to the young and the old. Congratulations!

**Tom Richmond OAM – Life Member of HK&HDCA, Coaches' Association & Northern District CC;**  
Patron – Coaches' Association

Recently, I opened a copy of my freshly delivered 2017 Wisden's Almanac, and there, among the county cricket reports, was a picture of Timm van der Gugten, a Glamorgan player, formerly from Hornsby.

I could not help but ponder on the extent to which the influence of Bruce Wood has reached out in the cricket world. Timm was a member of Bruce's club and inter-district representative teams some years ago and was one of the many young people in whom Bruce has fostered a love for the game of cricket.

Bruce's contribution has been enormous and it is fitting that the Coaches' Association should honour him. One of Bruce's major achievements has been to formalise coaching through the Coaches' Association, an innovation that has his name attached to it with the prestigious Coach of Year award.

On a personal level, I have been most appreciative of the manner in which Bruce has picked up the Ross Turner and Glenn Hourigan Cup matches and developed them along improved lines.

His organisation of overseas tours has been another innovation worthy of the highest praise. These tours have given players experiences that have been of great value in their development, both as cricketers and as people.

Bruce has earned great respect as a cricket coach and administrator. He has been a highly significant figure in the development of the sport of cricket in our district. I congratulate him on the award of life membership and hope that he continues to find ways to innovate and contribute, as he has done now for many years.

**Judy Shaw – mother of 4 young cricketers who have distinguished themselves in HK&HDCA cricket and beyond**

On behalf of the Shaw family, we would sincerely like to congratulate Bruce Wood on his induction as a Life Member of the Coaches' Association. When we heard the news, our boys were all very happy and we spent time recapping on the many cricket experiences we have had, thanks to Bruce.

During our first cricket camp, one of our boys won an award and from that moment, our life as we knew it of relaxing summers around our home was gone forever. We have continued to recycle the sky blue t-shirts and white caps from the school holiday cricket clinics, getting our discounts, thinking that this may be the last clinic. But no, they keep wanting to do more and I think little Mitch is now wearing one that Jamie started off in all those years ago. This shows credit to Bruce and his chosen coaches for all the returning cricketers.

Our boys have been fortunate to have been part of the Ross Turner and Glenn Hourigan Cups in playing, Captaining and Coaching, and as parents, we enjoy spending those days with all the other cricket families (even if they do sometimes fall on Father's Day 😊). The amount of work Bruce puts into the success of these days and the souvenir programs is amazing and appreciated by everyone. It is a great way for all the boys in the Association to meet other age groups and play together, rather than just knowing names and stats from the website or occasionally playing against each other in Club cricket.

The biggest and most exciting journeys Bruce has given many young cricketers are the opportunity of overseas touring. To discover the beautiful Sri Lanka first-hand in 2015, with its culture, heritage and love of cricket, is something that we and all the players are truly grateful for. I can honestly say that I don't think we would have visited there if it was not for Bruce and the Coaches' Association. I will take a wild guess and say that West Indies will not let this next touring party and players down with what to expect after the last successful one.

Bruce, there are many people with good attention for detail, but I have to say you are up there with the best. There will be a day in the future where we unpack our cupboard of the many cricket reports, Ross Turner and Glenn Hourigan booklets, tour itineraries, clinic participation certificates etc and scan through the memories. We thank you for not only creating memories but for your detailed recording and sharing of them for us to keep forever.

We are proud of you and your long-time promoting of Junior cricket and it is great to see your passion recognised. Your commitment to the ongoing growth of the Coaches' Association over an extended period of time is outstanding and with the great team of coaches you are developing, it is obvious that the positive reputation will only continue.

Once again Bruce, our sincere congratulations on your induction as a Life Member and all the best for the continued success of the Coaches' Association in the future.

**Judy, Murray, Jamie, Lachlan, Mitchell & Byron Shaw**



### Bruce Wood made the following acceptance speech:

It is humbling to hear such complimentary words from so many people I respect. I really appreciate this great honour, which will go straight to the Pool Room. Cricket is a terrific game that really builds people's character, as we all experience good and bad days, on and off the field. I've made many great friends in my 40+ years involvement as a player, coach, umpire and administrator.

I'd like to tell you how the Coaches' Association started, as it wasn't my idea! In 2010, I stood down from running the Umpires' Association and Barker Cricket Club after many years, as I was a bit tired of my various cricket roles and wanted to spend more time at home. My good friend, Mark Rushton, asked to meet with me for coffee, as he had an exciting concept that he wanted to run past me. He told me that HK&HDCA needed to establish a Coaches' Association and he couldn't think of anyone better to get it up and running than me. I asked Mark how he saw it operating and how much of my time would it involve, and he said "only about half an hour a week", which has proved to be a slight under-estimate! I agreed to take on the challenge and began building a team around me to get things moving.

We initially planned our committee structure along the lines of the Umpires' Association, as there were no precedents in NSW for *not-for-profit* cricket coaching bodies. We quickly added the Head Coach role to the Executive Committee. I was determined to make it work well, as the role I have always enjoyed the most in cricket is coaching, due to the positive influence you can have on so many young people. I also like the strategic (game plan) aspects of coaching – planning how best to maximise each player's involvement in the matches as we aim for a win.

I'm very proud of the programs, expansion and reputation of the Coaches' Association and what we have achieved together in 7 short years. HKHDCCA undertakes a wide range of coaching activities which benefit the local cricket community, including our free clinics for Blowfly Cricket, a wonderful organisation that provides children with special needs with the opportunity to play regular modified cricket. We also organise free coaching sessions for beginners and subsidised programs for the other age groups / skill levels.

To our Patrons, I am so thankful to have three of you here tonight and all four involved. You all have such a long history in cricket and it is fantastic to have your active support for the Coaches' Association's endeavours. Having a strong and committed Executive Committee has also been vital for the Coaches' Association, as evidenced by the young office-bearers and other committee members in this room tonight. They have all worked very hard as volunteers to share in our expansion and success. As well as developing cricketers and coaches, we are also providing opportunities for young Uni. students to develop their communication, organisational and business management experience, which is good for their skills development and CV, as they become leaders in our community.

I have fond memories of all the overseas cricket tours I have organised and still remember every day of the U/15 tour to India in 2006, HK&HDCA's first overseas tour, as well as the subsequent tours to New Zealand and Sri Lanka. These tours have such an amazing impact on the people involved and their development. I can't wait for our next tour to the West Indies and USA in June / July this year.

I recently attended a senior managers' leadership course at work and the impressive facilitator mentioned that *"successful organisations start with a vision of greatness, and their leaders excite people to join them in the journey"*. It occurred to me that this statement is very much applicable to the Coaches' Association. Unlike paid employees, volunteers don't have to come back if they are unsupported and don't have something positive to work towards. It is a tribute to this organisation that we have so many long-standing volunteers.

In summary, I am very honoured to receive this recognition. I am fortunate to now have four Life Memberships in cricket and I can honestly say that this one means the most to me, as it has been very satisfying to do innovative work on pioneer projects where there is no blueprint to follow. As a team, we have developed the Coaches' Association from scratch and enjoyed the continual expansion of our coaching programs, which has given HKHDCCA an excellent reputation in the local cricket community.

Thanks so much to Rod for the nomination and to everyone for endorsing it.

Report compiled by:

**Josh Miller**

Secretary

**Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA)**

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## Plaque

**HORNSBY, KU-RING-GAI & HILLS DISTRICT  
CRICKET COACHES' ASSOCIATION INC.**

### **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Awarded to

**BRUCE G. WOOD**

In recognition of your outstanding leadership  
as President of the Coaches' Association  
and your significant contribution to cricket  
coaching in the district for the past 20 years



**16 MAY 2017**