

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



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PENING UP

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Outright.

We hope everyone enjoyed the exciting summer of cricket over the previous six months as much as we did at the NZCPA. We were all very fortunate to witness three excellent domestic competitions and continued strong performances from the BLACKCAPS team in all three formats of the game, culminating in that magnificent end to the season that was the Cricket World Cup here in New Zealand.

Congratulations must go the Cricket World Cup organisers and New Zealand Cricket for putting on a wonderful event that captured the imagination of the public. The event was superbly managed, with the performance of the BLACKCAPS ensuring this tournament will now occupy an important piece of our cricketing history for a long time to come. Whilst the result in the final in Melbourne was disappointing, the team should feel pleased that they have advanced further in this event than any New Zealand team previously.

We now look forward to a busy period of reviews and planning for next season

and the continued growth of services we provide to NZCPA members, particularly in off field personal development and career transition.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Outright and importantly look forward to following the performances of our members during the winter, and in particular the BLACKCAPS and White Ferns tours.

Best Wishes Heath Mills



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Daniel Vettori and Grant Elliott. Courtesy of Photosport.

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Planning a path for success – Grant Elliott





Grant Elliott thinks players are missing the point if they see investing in the **CPA's professional development services** is all about life after cricket. "It's not only important for life after cricket — it's important for life during cricket. Having that work-play balance has really helped my cricket."

While his fellow 2015 Cricket World Cup BLACKCAPS were off making headlines in the IPL and County cricket, "the hairy javelin" slipped on his sharp suit jacket and headed back to work in Wellington as Retail New Zealand's business development manager. It's a job he began in the lead-in to the 2014/15 season and, to be candid, he'd been expecting to park himself back under his desk there by February. Except, then the 36-year-old allrounder went and got himself selected for the World Cup — his folk hero stocks destined to go through the roof after he slammed that match-winning six which sent the BLACKCAPS into the final.

It's not only important for life after cricket - it's important for life during cricket. Having that work-play balance has really helped my cricket.

Shortly he'll be off to join them again in England as a member of the white ball squad — and there are no hard feelings from his flexible boss. "Retail New Zealand have been amazing, saying 'We've got you covered until you come back, go away, play cricket, it's fine'. I'm very fortunate that I've found an employer who really backs me: they are out there. I hope, in turn, they can leverage off me playing for New

Grant was in his late 20s when he looked around at his mates outside cricket and decided he needed something more than bats and balls in his life - like a family, and a secure home in which to raise his future kids. A few years later, wife Marlies was pregnant with their first child and he'd just been cut from the BLACKCAPS for the 2011 World Cup squad.

"I never wanted to be "that cricketer" who, when the day came that my time was up, and I've got two children, thought, 'Oh no, well what am I going to do? In New Zealand, cricket is a bachelor's game. There's a lucky, maybe, five per cent and I wouldn't be in that five per cent for whom cricket is something they can finish and then just chill out for a few years as they decide what they want to do next. But most of us need to do something in winter and develop our other skills."



Grant had a Bachelor of Commerce up his sleeve from his South African days, but had spent most of his twenties player-coaching in the Netherlands before "getting serious" about utilising the CPA. "I knew coaching wasn't going to be 'it' for me, but didn't have a massive plan about it all - I iust saw what I could fit in, and what I

Availing himself of courses and mentoring, he and a group of his fellow Wellington players set up a cricket equipment company in 2009. "The CPA helped by introducing us to the right kind of people who helped us through that process and gave us great insight into how it could be run." Then he got on board as New Zealand sales manager for RAW, a Dutch energy-efficient lighting business building on connections made through cricket. "It appealed to me as a good service, providing LED lighting to help companies save money in their utilities bill, as well as helping them market themselves as a green company. It had a feel-good factor to it, and I enjoyed operating in that space."

It's not just about having something to do after cricket - you want to be successful in

your life after cricket, too.

The defending champs took the initiative early with Guy Coleman and Ian Billcliff setting the platform for Auckland to

Districts team to retain their title at

Queenstown. Both sides went through the

qualification stage unbeaten on Saturday

and despite the arrival of the front end of

a winter storm on Saturday night, a full

20 over match was completed - albeit in

freezing conditions - on Sunday.

the recent Masters Tournament in

post a commanding score of 219 for 4. Coleman (35), Billcliff (53*), Martin Pringle (38*) and Darrin Crook (35*) all reached the compulsory retirement score of 35 as they all took advantage of the placid Queenstown Event Centre pitch.

ND's reply stumbled when Auckland skipper Kerry Walmsley secured wickets in each of his first two overs. However, Richard Johnston and tournament debutant Jaden Hatwell resurrected the innings to apply some pressure to the Auckland bowling effort. Hatwell was

Auckland overcame a resurgent Northern central to the run chase with a forceful 55 runs and was ably supported by Johnston (25), Brett Hood (18) and master's stalwart Barry Cooper (26).

close to victory in both matches but could not complete the task and suffered defeat

Chatfield. The finalists from two years ago,

Ultimately, the role had come from his own contacts. "But also, I had the confidence at that stage to approach people, and to talk about life after cricket. Eventually they approached me and said, 'Listen we have this opening, we think you'd be perfect. I still really doubted myself before taking it, and asked a number of people whom I trusted whether I would be good at it. Two weeks in, I found not only was I enjoying it, but also it was something I could be quite good at."

That last element will resonate with any high-achieving competitor.

"It's not just about having something to do after cricket — you want to be successful in your life after cricket, too. You've got 30 years ahead where you want to be doing something that you are decent at, and you're not going to suddenly slip into something you're passionate about — I think it's a bit of trial and error. So, it's up to us to be proactive about that, using the advice and support on offer via the [PDP programme]. But, it also makes you enjoy your cricket a lot more — without that stress and fear, financial fear, I guess. Especially when you have a young family."

While regarding the ventures as "hobbies" through which to learn business skills, they also proved to be something that took his mind away from cricket at the right times.

I had the confidence at that stage to approach people, and to talk about life after cricket.

"Cricket at its best is all about not thinking,

about playing on instinct. So, if you put too much of yourself into a game that you

can't really control, it actually puts more pressure on you, whereas having that

work-cricket balance takes your mind off

cricket, then makes you really keen to go

concentrated over weekends, he'd got

Retail New Zealand during the week.

the work-life-play balance humming from the season's start — able to suit up for

Switching between a changing room with the boys and "an office with the girls, an

awesome young team with totally different

"there was a lot of hype around the World

Cup and to get back to work 10 days later

and put my feet under a desk — it brings

you nicely back to reality. That's what work

does. I find it feeds the mind. I really enjoy

conversations" was refreshing. Likewise,

a second wind for my career."

With Georgie Pie Super Smash

play, go to the gym. It's definitely given me

Auckland Storm to back to back Title

walking into the office."

Under normal circumstances ND's 169 would have been enough to stave off most sides, but the day - and the title - belonged to Auckland for the second straight year following their impressive batting display.

Day one of the tournament produced some closely fought matches, including a Tie between Otago and Wellington. Mark Greatbatch's Central Districts team went on the penultimate and final ball during their two matches.

Wellington produced their best performances in years thanks to the contribution from new recruits Paul Hitchcock, Mayu Pasupati, and Scott McCardy – to compliment the legendary status of team commander Ewen

Canterbury and CD, will look to add some strength to their squads prior to the 2016 tournament as both look to rediscover that winning formula after going winless in 2015.

Of course, the Masters Weekend is not iust about cricket - the T20 tournament is central to the weekend, however it is the supporting activities and functions that bring generations of cricketers together. This year we were particularly pleased to have a number of non-cricketing attendees such as Ken Rutherford, and CPA Life Members Graham Burnett, Martin Bradley and Robert Anderson.

The CPA is committed to all our members and the Masters Weekend remains the pinnacle event for our past playing members. Queenstown offers a range of events and activities - whether it be food, wine, golf, mountain biking, relaxation, or playing or watching cricket, this is the perfect location to do so with a bunch of mates, or as a break away with the family.













Auckland Storm to back to back Title - Continued



Simon Wilson, Ian Billcliff, and Martyn Sigley

Cricket performances of the weekend:

Batting

Guy Coleman, 35;

(retirement at end of over after scoring 35): Jaden Hatwell, 55 & 39*; Ian Billcliff, 53*; Andrew Hintz, 53*; Ewen Thompson, 47*; David Kelly, 43*; Craig Foster, 41*; Martin Pringle, 38*; Kelvin Scott, 37; Darrin Crook, 37* & 35*;

Bowling

Andrew Nuttall, 3-19 (4): Guy Coleman, 3-43 (4); Grant Thorpe, 2-9 (4) & 2-16 (4); Mark Greatbatch, 2-15 (3); Ewen Thompson, 2-18 (4) & 2-19 (4); Kerry Walmsley, 2-20 (4); Warren Wisneski, 2-21 (2); Guy Coleman, 2-26 (4); Hamish Kember, 2-37 (4); Jaden Hatwell, 2-44 (4);

NZCPA Masters Tournament team 2015

Ian Billcliff	Auckland
Guy Coleman	Auckland
Barry Cooper	Northern Districts
Darrin Crooks	Auckland
Jaden Hatwell	Northern Districts
Paul Hitchcock	Wellington
Brett Hood	Northern Districts
Andrew Nuttall	Canterbury
Mayu Pasupati	Wellington
Ewen Thompson	Central Districts
Kerry Walmsley	Auckland

The weekend would not be as successful, or in fact possible, without the support of the many organisations that help with the event -Grassroots Trust, Infinity Foundation, Air Rescue and Community Services Trust, and the staff at the Mercure Resort Hotel.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of all six Major Association Cricket Associations for supporting their Masters team.





Branching Out: All-round Success By Margot Butcher

Getting up to train in the frosty dark of a Canterbury winter isn't many people's idea of fun. Even when you have the kind of summer that makes it all worthwhile.

Amy Satterthwaite relished that kind of summer in 2014/15. It finished with a stack of accolades: Canterbury and New Zealand Cricket's domestic player of the year and firmly back in the White Ferns. The willowy left-hander ubiquitously known as "Branch" had scored 892 oneday domestic runs — the most in the New Zealand game this season; at the highest average: 148.66. The Magicians skipper was one of only four women nationally to top 200 runs in the brief burl of Twenty20s, and the top run-maker in Canterbury's premier club season, too.

In the White Ferns, Amy took on England's experienced unit and was instrumental in humbling them by nine wickets at Mount Maunganui — taking 3-37 before nailing a match-winning, unbroken second-wicket stand of 153 with Rachel Priest to claim crucial ODI points for the Ferns in the new ICC Women's Championship (IWC).

You look at those achievements and imagine the bruises of the previous season must be well and truly forgotten, now when 28-year-old Amy was axed for the first time in her career, having been on a White Ferns roll since 2007.

Before charging into international cricket, the young allrounder (daughter of North Canterbury rep Michal Satterthwaite) had been interested in becoming a vet. She ticked off a Bachelor of Science degree at Lincoln University, full-time mostly, before representing New Zealand took hold. She majored in animal science, graduated, but when she kicked on to Massey to start her intended veterinary degree, a cricket tour clashed with the first four weeks of the intensive course.

"When I got to Palmy I realised that trying to juggle it with cricket was just not going to work. I made a fairly quick decision that I was going to continue with my cricket, so my aspirations to become a vet were put on hold and I'm not sure if I will ever do it, now."

Serendipitously she then chanced across a vacancy at Selwyn Rakaia Veterinary Services, for whom she continues to work — it will be seven years in July. "I started off as a technician, going out on the farms helping the vets. Then for the last three years I've been an office manager, looking



after admin and overseeing things - less of getting up at 4am to see cows."

At night she chucks on the thermals and heads out for a run, turning to the grind of a treadmill when the weather's really rotten. Gym is at 6.30am; skills sessions, after work. She often leaves in the dark and gets home in the dark in winter. To do it, she says, you have to recognise when you're getting run down. "If you're not getting enough rest, you have to skip a session or two, whether you want to or not. It's a constant balancing act."

A year ago, when the first batch of women's contracts were rolled out, Amy, the CPA player rep for the White Ferns, was one who decided on foregoing a ground-breaking contract in order to stick with an employer who had always been supportive when she sought time off for representative cricket. Fortunate as she was, it's not easy.

"Having to work full-time — if something comes up, it's training that gets cut. inevitably. Cricket has to come second. At the same time, the incidence of tours and the cricket workload is increasing. It's frustrating when you are not able to give either your work or your cricket 100 per cent. You are restricted."

And then she got dropped, before the Ferns' 2013/14 home contest against the Windies. "You never like to think that being dropped is a good thing. But ironically, it made me relax a bit, and that

seemed to work. It cleared my mind. I stopped looking over my shoulder, then went into this season focussing on myself - on what I could control." The condensed women's domestic competition, playing games three days in a row, requires players to back up. "You have to come back the next day and start again, straight away, so I was pleased with my ability to put scores on the board, day after day. And it was nice to get four one-day hundreds because the girls had been giving me a bit of stick that I didn't have the best conversion

Previously she had just two domestic tons from a sackful of fifties. Now she was scoring them back to back. She was ready for top-rated England and beating them 2-1 in the IWC games stood out, she says, "because we had to come back at them after a hard loss. The feeling that was amongst the group that day was something that I won't forget. It wasn't a World Cup game or anything, but the way we fought was a special stepping stone."

rate!"

Her young Magicians side, too, stuck together, runners-up for the one-day trophy. "We came fourth in the T20s, but the two games we lost were super overs." Now, in the summit years of her career, Amy wants more. It's just the old question of how. "I want to put more into my cricket training because before that day you retire, any player wants to know for certain that they've been able to be the best they could be."











Ellis runs away with Domestic MVP award







Andrew Ellis' domestic season saw him rise above all others to command the top spot on this year's overall domestic Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP table. The experienced Cantabrian confirmed his status as a leading domestic player by adding the coveted domestic Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP title to a long list of career achievements.

The seasoned all-rounder was always in the game for the red and blacks (and purple) this season as he delivered over 1000 runs and 50 wickets for his team across all competitions. The 10th most prolific batsman, Ellis scored 1092 runs - as well as being the 5th highest wicket taker, with 53 - which catapulted him to the summit of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP table. Ellis had the distinction of being the only player to feature in the top 10 aggregate runs and wickets lists – proving that his contribution with bat and ball were equally impressive in their own right.

After a season of delivering on his undoubted talent the 33 year old can reflect on being recognised as the domestic Fujitsu Heat Pumps Most Valuable Player for 2014/15.

"It's pretty cool to get this MVP award. The most pleasing thing has been the way we played right up to the end of the season, and to cap that off by winning the Plunket Shield was amazing".

"All the players appreciate the support Fujitsu Heat Pumps have for the players by supporting MVP and to receive this award is a great honour." said Ellis.

Other prominent players on the MVP table included Stephen Murdoch who churned out 1461 runs for the Firebirds to finish as the batting MVP, while Auckland Aces' Michael Bates snared the most wickets and rounded out another good season as the bowling MVP, as well as finishing second to Ellis on the overall MVP table.

DOMESTIC FUJITSU HEAT PUMPS MVP **OVERALL STANDINGS**

1	Andrew Ellis – Canterbury	452.12
2	Michael Bates – Auckland Aces	361.52
3	Todd Astle – Canterbury	349.53
4	Tarun Nethula – Auckland Aces	349.37
5	George Worker – Central Stags	332.63
6	Doug Bracewell – Central Stags	332.62
7	Donovan Grobbelaar – Auckland Aces	332.30
8	Stephen Murdoch – Wellington Firebirds	317.42
9	Colin Munro – Auckland Aces	310.05
10	Mitchell Santner – Northern Knights	302.82

Ellis earns MVP Double

Multi-skilled cricketers are treasured property and Ellis proved this beyond measure with his contributions throughout Canterbury's Plunket Shield winning campaign and meant that Ellis'

MVP points haul without peer in the competition.

Ellis' sublime form during the Plunket Shield was acknowledged as he became the recipient of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps

MVP for Plunket Shield – and replicated the feat of Colin de Grandhomme last year who also completed the Plunket Shield and Overall Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP

double.



The top of the Plunket Shield MVP table is littered with the leading wicket takers and run scorers, but Ellis ultimately led the MVP statistics with a consistent contribution of both runs and wickets. He was sixth highest run scorer with 819 which placed him sixth on the MVP batting table, which was led by world record holder Colin Munro (most sixes in a first class innings). Not quite as dominant with the ball, Ellis secured 26 wickets at 33.35 to finish 10th on the MVP bowling table.

Canterbury players dominate the key MVP spots with Ellis, Todd Astle and Peter Fulton all inside the top five positions.

"Winning the Plunket Shield for the second year in a row was an amazing achievement and having a player from our team win

the MVP award is something we can all celebrate" said Ellis.

Colin Munro and Stephen Murdoch had a fantastic campaign with the bat scoring 899 and 915 runs respectively. Both players scored 3 centuries but Munro (187.42 MVP points) inched ahead of Murdoch (177.68) on the batting MVP table by a slender margin of less than 10 MVP points. Murdoch averaged slightly more than Munro but the MVP formula considers the positive effect of run rate (among other factors), and Munro scored his 899 from only 869 deliveries for a strike rate of 103.45 – his ability to advance the game and increase his sides chance of forcing a winning result was the difference in the MVP table.

Volts spearhead Jacob Duffey snared 36 wickets on his way to the top of the MVP bowling rankings with 168.68 points. Doug Bracewell was second to Duffey and also finished second to Ellis on the overall MVP table.

FUJITSU HEAT PUMPS MVP PLUNKET SHIELD STANDINGS

MVP Points

198.42

195.18

Andrew Ellis – Canterbury	267.78
Doug Bracewell – Central Staas	237.15

3 Todd Astle – Canterbury

4 Colin Munro – *Auckland Aces*

5 Peter Fulton – Canterbury

Williamson earns International MVP honour



Kane Williamson has been one of the pillars in the Blackcaps batting lineup throughout the past year and his methodical approach to scoring runs, repeatedly, has ultimately meant he is recognised as the International Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP this year.

Williamson has emerged as a leading International batsman in all formats and the 24 year old can reflect on being acknowledged as the Blackcaps Most Valuable Player.

Williamson played in 34 matches since the tour to the West Indies and finished with a total of 465.35 MVP points. Williamson's recognition as the Most Valuable Player this year is even more impressive given that he has been unable to bowl through much of this period - instead relying upon

his treasured Gray-Nicolls bat.

Williamson is doing what great players do as he matures. Finding a way to contribute to the team in all formats has taken a large amount of hard work, the results of which are reflected in where the man affectionately known as 'Nos' finished on the respected MVP tables – 1st in the Test's (203.68 points), 2nd in ODI's (234.64), and 3rd in T20I's (27.03).

Trent Boult has had a tremendous year partnering with Tim Southee with the new ball and he finished second on the overall Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP table with 374.07 points. Brendon McCullum was third with 359.81 points, with Ross Taylor (299.39) and Corey Anderson (285.39) rounding out the top 5. ■

INTERNATIONAL FUJITSU HEAT PUMPS MVP **OVERALL STANDINGS**

		MVP Points
1	Kane Williamson	465.35
2	Trent Boult	374.07
3	Brendon McCullum	359.81
4	Ross Taylor	299.39
5	Corey Anderson	285.39
6	Tim Southee	281.75
7	Martin Guptill	243.55
8	Luke Ronchi	235.90
9	Tom Latham	193.65
10	Mark Craig	177.36

TEST MVP

1	Kane Williamson	
2	Mark Craig	
3	Tim Southee	
ODI MVP		

237.98
234.64
233.15

T201 MVP

Corey Anderson	30.88	
Trent Boult	27.65	
Kane Williamson	27.03	









MVP Points







Pulling Stumps by Margot Butcher





Cricket always has the last say. Of six legends to have pulled stumps this past season — all of them present or former New Zealand representatives — only two went out with a win, and one of those got a duck in his last dig.

Graeme Aldridge, Aaron Redmond, Jamie How, Nicola Browne, Kyle Mills, Daniel Vettori. It's hard to contemplate that wealth of knowledge, skill and guidance being missing from the cricketscape next summer. Between them, they have played almost 1000 internationals. Mental arithmetic doesn't compute fast enough to tally up the domestic contribution.

But there comes a time for every player. At 35, Volts skipper Redmond closes the book on 16 years of first-class rigour and camaraderie to move to England with his English wife, Katie, and their two young ones — Jonah born this summer. "Redders" had two cracks at the BLACKCAPS: eight tests, seven ODIs and six T20s in all, and he can smile when he recounts the time he got a standing ovation at Lord's after a James Anderson outswinger ensured he made a duck on

After early years with Canterbury, 2004

was a turning point for the leg-spinning opener as he set up shop with the Otago Volts — the team with whom he would grow over the next decade. A Plunket Shield title always eluded them, so to be still in the mix heading into the last round of 2014/15 was a treat.

Cricket, of course, played another trick but he got another standing ovation as we went out to bat for the last time. He can look back with buckets of satisfaction on being integral to a close-knit team that produced an epic 15-game T20 winning streak and twice represented New Zealand at the Champions League. There was a national one-day title, too, and personally he finishes in the top five of Otago's alltime first-class run makers, 7247 runs at 34.18 to go with almost 3000 Ford Trophy

Crunching through papers towards his accountancy degree as he emigrates, Redmond's post-cricket transition is fullon, yet it was still hard to be sure it was time to hang up the bat. "I pondered on it for about two months this season. But I've had that feeling for a while now. The hardest thing was telling my teammates in the changing room, but it's something I really wanted to do. If I'd kept playing, I would have got my degree when I was 60!"

Consistent seamer Graeme Aldridge may have been born in Christchurch, but he was only ever going to be an ND man. At 37, he retires having represented the side since 1998 with the team's all-time first-class and List A wickets records well in the bag (355 at 28.31 and 179 at 27.36 respectively). He's shaded by only Tim Southee in the maroon T20 records, and gained recognition for his white ball bowling with his selection to the BLACKCAPS for a handful of games in Zimbabwe late in 2011.

A long-serving CPA team rep, in latter years "G" set the tone for his bowling unit on the domestic scene and his reflections on its state of play are worth noting.

When you look back on your 17 years as a player, does your career separate into distinct phases?

"Yeah I can. For my first five or six years, I was in the squad but I didn't play a hell of a lot. We had a strong allround team: Doully, Alex Tait, Grant Bradburn all batted and bowled, so there was a lot of watching. Consistency kicked in when



I consolidated into the ND team — that was the second phase, then the last phase was one of 'no worries' selection wise. I felt I had earned my place in two formats. Probably in Twenty20, I didn't. But for the last four or five years, I'd prepare well, then just go out and enjoy it."

You've also mentored a stream of emerging bowlers, is arriving at the place of consistency something you can teach, or do they all have to go through it?

"I learnt at a reasonably early stage to prepare really well for each game, each season. It still takes a wee while to learn to handle the disappointments, and not let them get in the way of your next game. Everyone goes through it, but it's about how quickly you develop that levelheaded thinking. The good players do it very quickly. I came to a place through experience where I accepted that while I prepared as well as I could, there would always be some luck I couldn't control. Reacting to those situations... you still get disappointed, but I had to learn not to dwell on it. If I had prepared, then it just wasn't my day, and you still believe your day will come."

You began before the advent of the CPA and the contract system that is now the bedrock for a professional career in New Zealand. How significant was that sense of security in your career?

"Being contracted allowed me to keep playing, no question! You can make a decent living out of domestic cricket now, but there is still that problem of what to do for the other six months. Employers, and even universities, seem to me to be more reluctant to take you in for that

short period, now, whereas when I first started, guys were able to find work for that six months. The best of the guys train regularly through winter, even though they're off contract, to get ready for summer.

"I had my relief teaching, and managed to strike up a good relationship with Hamilton Boys'. You're missing out on term one, so you're not expecting to go straight to the top of the relief list — but just being with a bigger school helps, as there are more teachers who need cover when they are sick and so forth. It would still be four or five weeks before the work kicked in, so that was always a time with no income. But I had no complaints throughout my whole career, I chose to do it that way. I wanted to put everything I could into my cricket."

What else would you single out as having been a significant improvement in New Zealand cricket in your time playing?

"Ground warrants of fitness have been an important change and overall the standards of grounds have improved markedly. Moreso for the off-field practice facilities — they have had a major impact on the way the domestic game is played. There is still a bit of work to be done some major associations are still getting to grips with understanding the importance of it, but I think the ball is rolling in the right direction.

"We're lucky in ND to have Seddon, Cobham, and now Bay Oval. In my first few years, we would train indoors until the season started. Since Bay Oval was developed, we can now get on there in August and we are able to improve

our skills faster than in previous years. Previously we would try to get on grass early, but it seldom worked — we would go up to Whangarei, for example, but it was not really set up properly up there.

"I hope preseason grass wickets now become par for the course. I think 'spring weather' is used as a bit of an excuse, sometimes. I may be completely naive here, but my impression has been that in some areas, they just don't try."

How did you make the decision to retire?

"The decision was hanging around but I didn't make it, finally, until before the last Plunket Shield game. People have been asking when I'd finish for the last five years. And a few of the guys wanted to get rid of me years earlier, I reckon! I think the contract system allows you to stay playing longer, but it's still a bit tough to hang in for that long. I've come to an end where there are few, if any, regrets. I'm pretty comfortable that I gave it a good shot, and stayed in the game long enough to make sure I'd given it everything I could. There is no wondering if I should have stuck at it longer. If I could have done better? I think it's making me, at the moment anyway, very comfortable in my decision."

Getting unceremoniously rolled as the SKYCITY Northern Knights did in the last game against Canterbury was a cruel way to go out.

"It was Good Friday too, and we were just happy we had managed to sort our beers on the Thursday or we wouldn't have even been able to drown our sorrows, let alone wrap up our season as a team! There were a lot of nice words spoken and I appreciate everyone who got in contact. At the moment it feels like life carrying on as normal, but the start of next summer, I will realise."

How is life after cricket shaping?

"It feels like a normal winter at the moment. The kids are enjoying it Dad being at home while he's jobsearching. My wife's family is from here in Whakatane. Cat is working at her mum's chartered accountancy business while I study part-time for a graduate diploma in finance and business through Massey, extramurally. There are two high schools in Whakatane through which I can continue relief teaching, but there are not as many opportunities to do that compared to a bigger city like Hamilton. So, I'm continuing to work with Sanj [as part of] the CPA's Professional Development Programme so we'll see what develops." ■















Players give for Charity



Tom Latham prepares for the round.

Golf Day is a chance for the Blackcaps players to unwind at the end of a massive year of cricket - and didn't they deserve to do so after they punched through the glass ceiling to reach the World Cup final all in aid of The Cricketers Hardship Trust.

Pakuranga Golf Club once again played host and with the weather continuing the splendid run, it ensured the day went off without a hitch. A record number of twenty three teams participated in this fun packed day that is renowned for its relaxed environment, which boasts unparalleled

access to some of New Zealand's most popular sports stars.

The golf is always competitive and this year Ross Taylor took the Cricketers Golf Cup for the first time, and 2degrees had a splendid debut to take out the team trophy.

Omnipresent was the underlying cause behind the day - The Cricketers Hardship Trust - and once again it was great for our



cricketers to shrug off their busy schedule and get directly involved with cricket's charity to help raise much needed funds. This year we are pleased to announce another record donation in excess of \$15,000 was made to the Trust – a special thanks to all who helped us to achieve this result.

The Cricketers Hardship Trust

Unfortunately, cricketers of the past did not enjoy the financial rewards available to some of today's cricketers, and many sacrificed an enormous amount in playing for the province and country. It is also a reality that ill health or unfortunate circumstances affect many past players and it is during these times of need that the Trust wants to do what it can to ease some of stress and hardship that these former players and their families experience.

OUTRIGHT

What is the Hardship Trust?

A charitable trust established by the current professional players and NZCPA with a view to assisting past cricketers who have fallen on hard times.

The Trust's primary purpose is:

To provide relief and support to past cricketers and their families in times of



Please visit www.thecricketershardshiptrust.co.nz for more information, or if you know someone who may be in need.









Players vote Williamson as their PLAYERS' Cap recipient



Kane Williamson receives Cap from Geoff Allott

A humble team man, Kane Williamson, took a rare moment to celebrate a superb year of contributions to the Blackcaps after he was named as the recipient of the 4th PLAYERS' Cap.

Only a day after walking away with a handful of honours at the New Zealand Cricket Awards - including Test, ODI International and T20 International Player of the Year awards, as well as the Redpath Cup for Batting - the calm right-hander was appropriately named as the 2015 recipient of the prestigious PLAYERS' Cap during a function in Auckland.

Williamson is the fourth player to be acknowledged as the players' Player of the Year, and he was typically coy about being singled out for attention after NZCPA Life Member Geoff Allott presented him with the PLAYERS' Cap in front of delighted team mates, management and guests.

"You don't really think about what happens after we fill out the forms following each game, but this is kind-of nice to end up here and to receive the PLAYERS' Cap. It's really special." said Williamson

"Mostly I am thankful to the other guys. To be part of a group of players with a collective approach toward achieving success is the most rewarding thing and something we are all really proud of."

In 15 Test innings Williamson harvested 1070 runs (the second New Zealander to score 1000 Test runs in a calendar year) at an average of 89.17, including four centuries and a highest score of 242 not out against Sri Lanka in Wellington. In 20 One Day International's Williamson compiled 987 runs at an average of 58.06, including three centuries.



Previous PLAYERS' Cap recipients

3rd - 2014: **Ross Taylor** 2nd - 2013: Tim Southee

1st - 2012: Brendon McCullum







Past Players confirm value of

Personal Development Programme



One thing is certain as a professional cricketer - your playing career will end at some point - and for the majority of players this process is largely outside of their control.

To help current players understand what they face in the future we turned to our recently retired members to learn from their career transition experiences as part of a collaborative research project. AUT University School of Education, Director of Higher Education, Dr Lynette Reid conducted this research to explore the actions and perceptions of recently retired players, with findings in relation to their experiences used to refine the way the NZCPA Personal Development Programme assists players with their career transition planning.

Thirty two NZCPA members volunteered to participate in the research and of those seventeen were available to be interviewed. A range of players with domestic and international experience were involved, with a spread of between six months to nine years since retirement.

The interview used two 'grand tour' questions that shaped the interviews;



Tell me about your career transitions while playing cricket Tell me what you would want more or less of while experiencing career transitions

It is important while you are playing to work out what sort of things interest you and what you want to do when you finish cricket. It's all about having options.

What did we learn?

It was apparent how much of a direct impact their performance as professional cricketers had on their personal lives. The research showed that on-field performance had a major impact on a player's personal life - such as relationships with family, partners and peers, as well as affecting choices and decision making in relation to their cricket career.

Many players suggested during their playing career that they either ignored or lived with the emotional reactions they were experiencing from cricket. Personal events were often triggered by emotional and physical reactions to *performance* events - such as an injury, de-selection, poor performance or loss of form, peers, or a change in coach and management. Players frequently describe feeling tired, and losing heart and passion for the game as a consequence.

Just do something! It gives you some perspective, it doesn't have to be study by the way, it could be a trade, or just getting involved in work.

Rather than seeking assistance and managing these emotions the participants in the study tended to retrench and 'wait and see' what happens - an approach that left them spending a great deal of time dissatisfied and in an uncomfortable personal space. Players did not understand how to respond to these situations, which led many to feel out of control of their cricket career and subsequently, out of control of their personal lives.

Players who made a more effective transition out of playing believed their decision NOT to make cricket their only priority had a positive influence.

Results from the study support how career and personal development are closely aligned. How a player feels about their place and purpose in cricket is as equally important as their performance in cricket. This supports the adage, increasingly recognised amongst effective high performance environments, about the positive influence aspiring to be a 'better person' has on performance.

Focus on being a better person rather than just a better player.

Study participants were united in their assessment for a need for current players to start thinking about their own transition now, and to appreciate the importance of developing and managing their own career plan.

Respondents had formed a strong view that in order to develop an effective plan it is important to ensure these were informal, with a short term focus, and were regularly reviewed. One player reflected that "once you start researching you learn about types of jobs, industries, and opportunities that you never knew existed. You can then go away and work out key things you want and what you value".

Equally the research showed past players now understand the advantages of being involved with activities outside of cricket and therefore enabling players to understand and express who they are as a person. Participants talk about a cricket environment that did not encourage external interests, to the point where it is often perceived by coaches, team management and others as being a distraction from their cricket career, rather than seeing the positive influence it will

Don't delay the inevitable. When you come out of cricket it will affect you financially, career-wise, emotionally and psychologically. It's going to be a massive toll.

This notion also supports the strong advice by participants for players to be much more involved in activities outside of cricket in order to develop a broader perspective of their purpose and place in the world. This requires coaches, managers and players themselves to view external activities as a positive influence rather the view this detracts from their career as a professional sportsperson.

The process of planning and self-discovery could only be supported by good people to communicate with. A balance between cricket and life is important and family, friends and mentors can help players to achieve this. One participant observed "coaches are about the game, managers about the organisation, who is there for me? in the end it's just me!"

Participants described how individualised cricket can be as a sport is, which can lead to what some described as being institutionalised in cricket and how players then limit themselves to life inside the cricket bubble. "I think you get quite comfortable with people in cricket organising your life. Now I basically have to fend for myself whereas in cricket everything is done for you. To get your head around that is very, very, hard" observed one study participant.

As participants reflected back on their



when they felt unable to communicate with other people due to the negativity associated with such factors.

I think you get quite comfortable with people in cricket organising your life. Now I basically have to fend for myself whereas in cricket everything is done for you. So to get your head around that is very, very, hard.

The cricket environment doesn't encourage independence, independent thought or decision making.

There is no time like the present. The best results for a successful transition from your time playing cricket will be with those who react early - those who do not wait till they are about to retire, or have actually retired already! It is easy for players to conclude that they are too busy while they are playing cricket - which is true some, but not all of the time - there is in fact a heap of time available to get out and gain as much experience as possible.

It is about priorities and choices - and this research proves it is most likely to help cricket performance. "I was getting a few mixed messages from Blackcaps selectors. I was glad that I made some very good contacts throughout my playing career".

Some participants felt that because they were senior players it was assumed they would have everything *sorted* or in some cases other players and coaches may view

their involvement in career planning as a sign of weakness and lack of commitment to cricket.

Coaches are about the

game, managers about the

organisation, who is there for

me? In the end it's just me!

I was concerned that being in my mid 30's, if I go and approach someone now that is a sign of weakness.

The full report from this study can be downloaded from the Personal Development section of our website www.nzcpa.co.nz/pdp

Dr Lynette Reid



Director of Higher Education, and Senior Lecturer School of Education, **AUT University**

Dr Reid has over 20 years' experience n career development as a practitioner, ecturer, and researcher. Dr Reid was the Lead Researcher, and successfully secured research funding from the Faculty of Culture & Society, AUT University, for this project.

Platinum Sponsors















2015 Players' Survey



Canterbury - Plunket Shield Champions.

Obtaining anonymous feedback from the current players is a tremendously valuable method of gathering insight into the professional landscape. Players are important stakeholders within the professional cricket environment, making their collective insight a valuable tool for the CPA to discuss with the games administrators.

The survey has followed a similar structure

since its inception eight seasons ago, and the findings highlight many areas that are trending upwards, and some that require improvement. Like in previous years, the 2015 Players' Survey assessed all facets of the professional environment, including the player's views on the CPA – New Zealand Cricket, Major Associations, domestic competitions, high performance and the Blackcaps.

Planning is already well underway for the 2015/16 season and the survey provides the CPA with a snapshot view from the players, which can be discussed, challenged and implemented - where possible. During the players conference players and CPA staff had an opportunity refine and prioritise the key outtakes before working with New Zealand Cricket and Major Associations as we all seek to provide a professional environment that allows players and teams to flourish.

The end of the season is a flurry of activity with players involved with season reviews, award dinners, and planning their winter. Despite this state of flux we are delighted that we had our highest number of respondents to the player survey this year with 108 responses. A special thanks to all players for their contribution.

The Basin reserve was rated to have the best pitch this season, and Hagley Oval was rated to have the best off-field facilities, while University Oval was rated to have the worst pitch and the worst offfield facilities.

Snapshot Survey Results NZCPA

99% believe NZCPA communicates well on cricketing matters, and provides good assistance to players

Domestic Competitions

81% of players agreed that the scheduling of the GPSS as one continuous competition was an improvement on previous years.

86% of players agreed that the FT over the New Year period was an improvement on previous years.

89% of players agree the Plunket Shield points system promotes positive cricket

Domestic Marketing

50% of players believed their MAs used their player property effectively to promote and market all competitions.

57% of players believed their MA promoted all Georgie Pie Super Smash matches effectively.

High Performance

56% of players are aware of and understand how the NZC High Performance Programme works (up from 38% last year).

62% of players are aware of and understand how their MA's high performance programme works.

52% of players do not believe their MA provides appropriate OUTDOOR practice facilities at all times throughout the season, including pre-season (up from 45% last year)

Blackcaps

100% of Blackcaps representatives believe the team environment is well organised with good planning and ensures the team and individuals are well prepared.

89% of Blackcaps representatives voted Test Cricket as the most valued international cricket format.

Inaugural Past Players' Survey

The NZCPA would like to thank all of its past playing members who took part in our inaugural Past Players' Survey.

A major focus for the NZCPA is to ensure that its services are relevant and well delivered and the past playing members provided this feedback via an online survey. The feedback has provided a useful insight into what our past playing membership values and ways in which we can engage more effectively with this group. From here, the NZCPA will tailor its current and future initiatives to

what its past playing membership is after and we look forward to sharing these developments with you. Over 50% of our registered past player members completed the Survey.

Additional services past players indicated they would like;

- · Social opportunities with past players
- Business-Club preferred rates
- Regular communications on cricket related matters.
- Past player network or directory

RESULTS SNAPSHOT

97% of members were more likely than not, to recommend past player membership to other past players.

78% of those surveyed said it was important that the NZCPA helps them with engaging with their past playing group (44% did not believe we were effective at this).

48% of those surveyed said it was important that the NZCPA helps them with engaging with the current playing group.





2015 Players' Conference



The 2015 Players' Conference is a way for representatives from all the Major Associations and Blackcaps to group together to discuss current proposals/ issues in the professional cricket environment in New Zealand. We also use the Players' Conference as a forum to further develop the NZCPA so as to continue to improve its services to all current and past playing members.

This year's 2015 Players' Conference provided a forum for 14 representatives from all six Major Associations and Blackcaps to group together and discuss and review the 2014/15 season and the wider professional cricket environment in New Zealand.

The Players' Conference enables the NZCPA to consult closely with players on areas within the sport that they have observed and experienced in the respective domestic competitions and teams. While the Players' survey collates the collective views of individuals, the Players' Conference facilitates a much deeper discussion and debate on important issues for the players.

This annual conference is timely as it enables the NZCPA to raise matters during the winter months when NZC and MA's begin to plan toward next season.

The agenda from the conference included:

- 1. The work of the NZCPA
- 2. Reports from each of the domestic teams
 - High Performance
 - Facilities
 - Team Management
 - Marketing and Promotion
- Professional Development Programme
 - Presentation from Instep and feedback on the Resilience module from this season.



Instep's Matt Beatie discussing Resillience.

- 4. NZC presentation review from the 2014/15 domestic season
 - · Stacey Geraghty, NZC Fan **Engagement and Marketing** Manager, will attend the conference to give an overview of the 2014/15 domestic season from a marketing and promotions perspective.
- 5. Grounds and Facilities
 - · The standard of grounds and facilities continues to be a focus for the NZCPA. Improving the standard of the training and playing environment is critical if we want to develop better cricketers and we need to put more focus on improving this where possible.
- 6. Match Referees
 - The role of Match Referees and more importantly to obtain feedback from you on their role and performances throughout this season.
- 7. Results of the Player Survey
 - The Annual Players' Survey is an important tool for the NZCPA to

- gather and analyse information pertaining to the professional cricketing environment and the services we provide to our current playing members.
- Internal discussion on the domestic season
- Superannuation Fund
 - During this segment, we will provide a more thorough update on the BlackCaps Superannuation Fund and any progress towards establishing a domestic equivalent.
- 10. The use of Player Property
 - We will also provide a broad level overview of the ways in which MAs and NZC are permitted to use your player property under the Master Agreement

The views and ideas of the players are invaluable when attempting to improve New Zealand's professional cricketing environment and the CPA will look to table these views and ideas with other stakeholders in the coming weeks.











Updated Strategic Plan



The NZCPA Board, at its most recent Board meeting, adopted a new Strategic Plan for the four year period 2015-18.

The new Strategic Plan sets out a Vision, Purpose, Values and Goals for the NZCPA for the next four years. The Board has also identified a set of Objectives for the first year which will be reviewed and updated each year by the Board, in consultation with Management.

The Board implemented a thorough planning process that led to the adoption of the new Strategic Plan. This included contribution from a wide range of members via a range of methods, including surveys, various team meetings, workshops, and reviewing the draft. The strong involvement of members in this process demonstrates the high value members place on the work of our organisation.

A key consideration is the limited resources available to the NZCPA, which makes it imperative that resources are allocated effectively and continue to meet the needs of our current members in the professional game, both on and off the field. Importantly, we must also provide quality support to our past playing members and the opportunity to connect back to the game through events and activities that are valued and will encourage active involvement and participation.

NZCPA Strategic Plan 2015-18

Players | Better | Together

Our Vision To be the professional cricketers' club for life

Our Purpose Supporting current and past cricketers to achieve during and after their professional

playing careers

• We exist to Serve in the best interests of our members

- We are Trustworthy
- We act with Integrity
- We are Reliable always there in good times and bad
- We are Proactive

Our Goals

Our Values

- 1. To ensure the rights of our members are protected and they operate in safe and secure workplace environments within New Zealand and internationally
- 2. To build a sustainable commercial model which enables us to invest more into member services
- 3. To deliver enhanced networking opportunities for our members
- 4. To deliver initiatives to support members personal and professional development and assist with a smooth transition out of cricket
- 5. To effectively engage and communicate with our stakeholders

The Msider The Endless Summer by Paul Ford

It was only a little bit annoying that Steve Smith got to yank down the curtain on arguably the greatest summer of cricket in New Zealand history on that balmy Victorian night at the MCG in March.

The 199th delivery of Australia's Cricket World Cup final innings was sent thundering from Matt Henry's hand, to the Australian vice-captain's New Balance blade, to the MCG's fence - and the men in canary gold had the Garrard & Co silverware back in their hands again.

If you'd flown over to that great sporting coliseum specifically for the final in a last minute effort to get on board the Black Caps bandwagon you might have been devastated and shell-shocked after the

But if you'd been basking like a cricketing seal in the glory of the men in blacks' magnificent campaign, it wasn't such a big deal. And if you'd booked your finals tickets and flights 10 months earlier you were feeling like the smartest guy in the room for once.

The final itself turned on one key moment for me: Brad Haddin's magnificent snaffle of Ross Taylor, caught off a pitched up legcutter from James Faulkner. This awoke the Australians from their slumber, ended the resurrection of the New Zealand innings and meant we'd tripped on the very first step of what proved to be a truly disastrous powerplay.

Sure, New Zealand wasn't good enough on the day – but we were hell of a good for 6 weeks of the World Cup. Thick-skinned New Zealand cricket fans knew that this was our team's greatest effort in a World Cup in the history of World Cups and, to be brutally honest, that was probably good enough for many of us.

The attitudes of the supporters in and around Melbourne before the final on the Sunday were pretty interesting. As one of the beige boys remarked, it was a bit like an All Blacks vs France rugby game: one set of fans walking around as tense as a small nun at a penguin shoot, expecting to win but worried about what might happen.



Meanwhile, on the other side of the pub. the other fans were in full-blown party mode. Making the final was awesome and after that unforgettable evening at Eden Park just five nights prior, making it to a packed MCG felt like the bonus round for us Kiwi supporters. Of course, this laissezfaire attitude only served to incense the Australians even more, which was perfect.

This New Zealand team has reignited the passion for the game for hordes of New Zealanders around the world. I loved Mathew Bartley's homemade video of himself watching the final over of the semifinal, almost imploding with emotion every

Cricket took over the country like a sandstorm, getting into every nook, cranny and crevice. Even people who hate cricket and like things like theatre and choral music were downing violins and manuscripts to soak up the games.

And the Black Caps were involved in a veritable smorgasbord of memorable encounters: from the Hagley Oval opener to the thrillers against Australia and Bangladesh, the degradation of England, the mindblowing awesomeness of Guptill against the West Indies, and the spinetingling semi at the Concrete Garden of Eden. The latter is the greatest event I have ever attended, bar none.

In and amongst an avalanche of open letters to and from all sorts of people, it was amazing to sit back and just soak it all

On a much more miniscule note, I'm especially proud of being one-seventh of the occasionally just-past-borderline and always risqué Alternative Commentary Collective crew and the small part we played in getting many of our cricketers back to cult hero status.

It was a seemingly endless – and undeniably epic – summer, but it also became the summer of the Hairy Javelin, Steady the Ship, the Winky-Wonky Donkey, the Skinger, Mills & Boon and there were even fleeting glimpses of the Paleo King, the Komodo Dragon (sub fielder) and The Little Lamb (on Twitter mainly).

This off-kilter reverence for the team stems from our collective love for the game, a healthy smattering of romanticism and sentimentality, a solid dose of ridiculousness, and was fuelled by a New Zealand public gagging for something genuinely entertaining to emanate from the cricket commentary box.

Thanks to everyone who navigated the technology to tune in. ■

BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS

































