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Office Bearers

Patron	Norm Wilson
President	Murray Child
Life Members	Keith Kimber, Norm Wilson, Peter Crawford, Brian Johnston, Max Joass, Greg Guy, Murray Child, Bruce Scott, Grant Wilson
Chairman	Greg Guy
Board Members	Paul Tomich, Murray Child, Russell Smith, Roger turner, Mike O'Sullivan
Finance Committee	Greg Guy, Paul Tomich, Tim Anderson, Emma Johns, Warren Marr - GM
Honourable Medical Officer	Dr Rob Barton
Auditor	Plus Chartered Accountants
Accountants	Spire Chartered Accountants
Bankers	ASB
Honourable Legal Advisor	Graeme Mathias
Delegates ND, NZC	Greg Guy, Warren Marr
Northland Statistician	Jono Leftley
Operations Manager	Stephen Cunis
Selectors	Murray Child, Barry Cooper
Senior Coach	Stephen Cunis
Umpires Chairman	Ross Kneebone
Northland Junior Cricket Board	Dave Lobb (Chairman), Tony Edwards (Secretary), Richard Pooley, Roger Kidd, Roger Turner, Dean Potter, Russell Smith, Warren Marr, Mark Oldridge
Cobham Club	Greg Guy (President), Brett Hood (Chairman), Matt Mathais, Paul Tomich, Brett Robinson
Cobham Oval Trust	Graeme Mathais, Murray Child, Tim Anderson, Alan Adcock, Greg Guy
Affiliated Associations	
Rodney	Graeme McRae, John Stephen
Far North	Leslie Wallace, Peter Barnett
Mid Western	James Merry, Mike O'Sullivan
Northern Wairoa	James Nyssen, Roger Kidd

Chairman's Report

The 2013/2014 season has seen the Association take another step towards its goals of financial security and playing success.

Financially we have met our budgeted expectations and a satisfactory cash surplus has been achieved. This has been the result of the contributions of many people, especially the administration team of Warren and Rachel and the good governance of the board and its finance committee. NCA is both a high cost and high income District Association and therefore carries a consistently larger administrative and management load than any other district in New Zealand. This brings significant challenges which we would fail to meet if it were not for our committed staff and volunteers.

The cash surplus built up over the last few years will be transferred to the Northland Cricket Trust in the coming months, together with our larger built assets, for which they will assume ultimate responsibility. NCA will continue to manage and look after these assets as well as the operational assets such as nets, vehicles, furniture, computer systems etc.

The Association has completed a budget for the 2014/2015 season and expect to post another satisfactory profit, but income remains fairly static while costs continue to rise.

Financial success is important but the development and playing of the game is paramount. This year we have continued the improvement in the delivery of the game throughout Northland and as well as in the performance of our representative teams. More volunteers are surfacing to ensure cricket is played at the highest possible standard and that as many people as possible are given the opportunity to play. There is no question that team sports, especially those that take quite a bit of time to play, are attracting fewer participants than in the past. Therefore NCA has had to invest time and resources into both maintaining and growing the game and will continue to do so. There has also been considerable efforts made to improve the performance of our elite players and our systems in this important area are rated as good as any nationally. This is down to the excellent coaching staff under the leadership of Stephen Cunis who has recently earned promotion to part-time national coaching positions; recognition of his skills and coaching success.

All in all NCA is in good shape and there should be great confidence that the Association will continue to perform well on and off the field.

NCA is blessed with many financial supporters and the resources of a very supportive Whangarei District Council.

The Oxford Sports Trust continues to be our biggest funder and is also a supporter of club and school based cricket programmes. The NCA owes a great deal to the Trustees and Management of Oxford.

NCA has also the support of major sponsors Bella Homes, Educare, Spire Group, Hill Construction, Tait Real Estate, Northcom ICT, and many other signage sponsors. We also receive grants from various gaming trusts and other funders.

NCA has an improving working relationship with Sports Northland which provides essential help in the north and also provides funding and important support and professional development. We anticipate that the interaction with Sports Northland will continue to grow, to our mutual benefit.

NCA has an excellent relationship with both the Northern Districts Cricket Association and New Zealand Cricket. This season we hosted Northern Districts for their pre-season training camp and then for two first class games. In the coming season we have two more Plunket Shield games programmed and these are important for the exposure of the game at the highest level.

Cobham Oval facilities received rave reviews from the players and managers of first class teams, and enjoys the fourth highest rating of all cricket facilities in the country.

This year we hosted India in a warm up game for their New Zealand tour. This proved to be a great success. The facilities were well received by the Indian team and management and the game went very well both financially and as a public relations opportunity.

We also hosted the Dutch squad for training and practice games early in the new year. Again this was most successful and results in some unbudgeted income for the Association.

All of this would not be possible without the ongoing support of Whangarei District Council. NCA is extremely fortunate to have a very supportive and positive local authority behind it. WDC is very sport focused and continue to provide cricket facilities of the highest standard. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of WDC.

Finally, thanks to the Board of Northland Cricket, all of whom do a great job. The Board is very harmonious and positive and provide the game with excellent governance and direction.

Greg Guy

General Managers Report

NCA has now come through a period of significant change in its structure and administration; and I am delighted at how that change has been managed. Change is never easy, but thanks to great staff, a very supportive Board, and an open-minded cricket community, the transition has proved almost seamless, and there is a very positive feel for the 2014-15 season which is fast approaching.

This year has seen a significant re-focus on “grassroots” cricket. Everything we do here has the Northland Men’s team as its driver. What I mean by this is; all our programmes and competitions, at all ages, are developed with the goal of having a successful Northland Men’s Team, now and into the future. This has sharpened our focus on to cricketing matters and the issues and challenges that are facing us here in Northland.

I was disappointed with the start of the season with the quality of play in all competitions somewhat underwhelming, and then to have some early season defaults wasn’t ideal. As the season progressed, the situation improved, but it was clear that some changes to club cricket would have to be made for the 2014-15 season if club cricket was to survive, or indeed improve. I am pleased to say that the clubs have been very supportive of these new initiative for the coming season. Watch this space!

The Northland’s Men’s team is a quality side. Well coached and led by Stephen Cunis and Neal Parlane respectively, this side has developed into the Premier Northern Districts team, winning the Fergus Hickey Trophy for the first time in 9 seasons. The goal is to now challenge for the Hawke Cup, win it, and then defend for the season 2014-15. Congratulations to all those involved, especially the players, management and selectors who commit so much time to the success of this team.

We had some great successes with our junior teams this season. The investment in High Performance programmes is now starting to show some positive results with all our teams being very competitive at tournaments. The Junior Secondary Boys team won their ND tournament with a very exciting finish, and both Whangarei Girls High and Kamo Intermediate are competing right at the top level in their respective national tournaments. We wish them luck for the finals next season.

The Operations Team continue to do stellar work in the schools and clubs. The team has grown somewhat over the year with some new roles and responsibilities. Unfortunately, Michael Parlane left us half way through the season which gave us an opportunity to employ Sam Walker as our Cricket Development Officer. Along with Sam’s coaching roles, he has also introduced very successful competitive and social Indoor Cricket competitions and school holiday programmes which we will be looking to grow moving forward. He is also working on a new President’s Grade competition which will kick off in the new season. Rodney District cricket has been struggling somewhat to develop competitions and to get commitment from players. Kevin Forde has been employed part-time as an administrator with the short-term objectives to get a 4 team adult competition up and running, with the long term goal for Rodney to become an Incorporated Society and to manage their own competitions in the long-term. The Far North continues to operate in its own inimitable style. Peter Barnett as co-ordinator and coach at both adult and junior cricket is doing great work along with excellent administrative support from Lesley Wallace. Far North cricket owes a lot to these two people. Karl Treiber has a wealth of

knowledge and his tireless commitment to our rep programmes and junior rep teams is a major reason for our successes during the year. Neal Parlane has had some new challenges to face, especially with his role as the CricHQ administrator and putting our competitions together. There have been lessons learned and the new structure of competitions for 2014/15 season will see more challenges, but exciting ones none the less. Stephen Cunis has had a great year, both personally and professionally. Stephen has been recognised for the quality coaching work that he does by being appointed to positions with both Northern Districts and New Zealand Cricket. Not only is he doing fantastic work with our juniors and men's teams, he is now the Coach of ND 'A', the bowling coach for ND to the champions league 2014, and now also the New Zealand 'A' bowling coach, which recently toured England and with great success; we are very proud of his achievements and look forward to the new skills that he will bring to Northland Cricket.

The administrative function is managed superbly by Rachel Metzler (she truly is the glue that holds us together). She has now taken on more responsibility with the accounting work and her tireless energy around all of her duties is most highly valued indeed.

The major financial focus has been to maintain a prudent approach, to build reserves to protect our substantial assets. I am pleased with the profits posted this year, and the plan is to continue with the same approach, achieving surpluses whilst delivering more "cricket."

Cricket would not exist without the support of our local sponsors; we owe them a huge debt of gratitude and truly appreciate all that they do for us. We have a fantastic relationship with Whangarei District Council, and Aubrey Gifford, Technical Manager of Parks and Reserves, is always willing and able to assist with his expertise and is the critical link between NCA, Recreational Services and the WDC. Also special thanks must go to Ross Hart and Nathan Bunting of Recreational Services, who I am sure, will provide more excellent wickets for all over the summer.

We have so many businesses to thank. Cricket does not happen without their support, and although we have mentioned them all in this booklet, I would like to express my sincere thanks to, and acknowledge our major sponsors: The Oxford Sports Trust, Bellahomes, Spire Chartered Accountants, Educare, Refining NZ, Hill Construction, Team Tait Real Estate, and Reyburn and Bryant.

Finally, I am delighted with the relationships between clubs and NCA. We all need to work together to ensure the health of cricket moving forward, and I believe that there has been significant progress in this regard. To all our supporters, volunteers and members, thank you for all that you do; we all love the game and want to see it prosper in Northland. Good luck for the season ahead.

Warren Marr

Operations Report – 2013-14 Season

Overall:

The 2013/14 season was successful in terms of sustaining junior playing numbers and developing skills at junior levels, running meaningful and worthwhile junior and senior club competitions and Northland's representative teams had various levels of success throughout the season.

Playing numbers in Junior Cricket Competitions in Whangarei were sustained and it was pleasing to see the skill levels of our junior cricketers improve. Overall, there were 23 junior teams playing weekend cricket in Whangarei and this was pleasing to see. There were also local competitions in Kerikeri and the Far North and the work done by volunteers in all of the aforementioned regions was terrific.

Various club cricket competitions were played throughout Northland and they were well structured and worthwhile. Junior and senior players experienced cricket in a variety of formats, suiting a diverse level of skill and ability. Many of the clubs demonstrated a good level of communication and commitment towards their teams and the NCA is extremely appreciative of their effort.

Northland Representative Teams, both at the junior and senior levels, had varying levels of success. Our Junior Secondary School Girls Team won their tournament at Kaipara Flats. The Junior Secondary School Boys Team won their tournament in Hamilton and the Northland Men's 1st XI won the Fergus Hickey Competition. It had been nine years since the men's team had won the Fergus Hickey so the celebrations were long overdue! The Primary Boys Team showed very good improvement throughout the season as did the Senior Secondary Girls Team. The Senior Secondary Boys Team was, however, disappointing at their tournament in Gisborne but there were glimpses of potential shown by the team in all matches.

A highlight of the season was hosting the Indian Test team in February. The Two Day match between a New Zealand XI and the Indians was a great success and the Indian team was extremely complimentary of their time in Whangarei. Warren Marr was instrumental in the planning and preparation of the match and it was because of his efforts, that it was an extremely successful occasion. Rachel Metzler worked tirelessly to make sure many of the Indian team's requirements were met and the NCA Board, as well as the many volunteers who generously donated their time, were also heavily involved in the planning and running of what was a great event.

Senior Representative:

The Northland Men's 1st XI had a very good year and winning the Fergus Hickey was great reward for the hard work and application from the players and management. The 2nd XI team won two from three matches and unfortunately the last match was rained out, putting pay to any chance of winning the Basil McBurney Trophy. Some more of our younger players were introduced to the 2nd XI and were better for the experiences of that level of cricket. There was a tremendous amount of planning and preparation go into the organization of the Northland squad

and various people played a part in the development of both individuals and the squad as a whole, throughout the season. Barry Cooper and Murray Child were again selectors and their commitment to the squad certainly aided in the team's success. Mike O'Sullivan, Darron Goodwin, Sally Leftley and Greg Guy's assistance was also greatly appreciated at many times during the season.

Junior Representative:

Girls:

The Northland Senior Secondary team took part in the ND regional tournament in Rotorua and rain unfortunately played a big part in the tournament. The girls however, played some entertaining cricket when they got their chance and a lot of improvement was shown. Thanks to Karl Treiber, Dave Lobb and Ellie Liddington for their assistance with this team.

The Northland Junior Secondary School side competed in their tournament at Kaipara Flats. It was excellent to see progress made by all of the girls that attended and winning the tournament was a great achievement. These tournaments are a good way to give girls participating in cricket a chance to play in more formal matches. Thanks to Karl Treiber for his efforts with this team.

This season, NZC introduced a Girls Cricket Programme called 'GoGirl Cricket'. It was facilitated by Ellie Liddington and Kara Cunis and Northern Districts directed them both in terms of the programmes they needed to follow. They were also ably supported by Karl Treiber, Dave Lobb, Neal Parlane, Sam Walker and the various schools that they worked with. The NCA is very keen to give girls the opportunity to play regular cricket in Northland and planning is in place to ensure this can happen in the future.

Boys:

The Primary Boys squad, coached by Karl Treiber, developed a lot as the year progressed and they had some very worthwhile performances as individuals and as a team. There were some talented boys in this squad and the Winter Training Academy most certainly aided in their development. It is now important to continue to develop and enhance their skills in future WTA's and in worthwhile representative programmes. Roger Turner and Mark Oldridge were responsible for much of the organization of this squad and their commitment and dedication was fantastic.

The Junior Secondary School team, once again coached by Karl Treiber, played some outstanding cricket and there is a core of talented players coming through. Many players certainly stood up throughout the season and it was pleasing to see various individuals contributing in matches. Roger Kidd and Richard Pooley were the managers of this team and their efforts were greatly appreciated, as was Karl Treiber's pride and passion in the team's performances. The next step for this age group is to hone their skills and work hard on establishing game plans and consistency in performances.

The Senior Secondary Schools team had a relatively poor tournament in Gisborne. The team had some skilful and capable players that unfortunately didn't play to their potential. Having a number of players attend the Gillette Cup in Christchurch for a week, one day before a week long tournament in Gisborne would have no doubt contributed to the team's lack of success. Although wins were scarce, the boys that went to this tournament learnt a lot and will be better for it. Neal Parlane and Dave Lobb were the coaching/management team and worked tirelessly and the NCA thanks them for this.

Personnel:

Warren Marr, the Northland Cricket Association's General Manager, has been extremely supportive in all operational areas. His expertise, enthusiasm and passion towards cricket in Northland is not only invaluable to the NCA but also to Northern Districts and New Zealand Cricket. Warren's drive and vision has most certainly continued the momentum that others have set up before his arrival and I believe that the new ideas that he has introduced will be very beneficial for cricket in Northland, moving forward. Northland Cricket is extremely lucky to have such a person leading the association and there is little doubt that cricket in Northland will continue to positively evolve in the future.

Northland Cricket is a strong and well structured organization and Rachel Metzler, the NCA Office Manager, is someone that has been very influential in this structure. She has been helpful, supportive, efficient and very professional in assisting with operational matters and her proficiency and guidance has been greatly appreciated.

Karl Treiber was again terrific in terms of coaching experience and expertise. He has designed worthwhile coaching and playing programmes for various junior players in Northland and his coaching skill and manner has been well received by all concerned. His knowledge and understanding of junior cricket in Northland is excellent and he is a hugely valuable asset to the NCA.

The NCA's school coaching team; Neal Parlane, Sam Walker, Brad Kneebone, Michael Parlane, Pete Barnett, Henry Cooper, Jack Murphy, Will Edwards and Chamodh Peiris were very good in their commitment and coaching expertise. They set high standards in terms of punctuality, organization and all-inclusive activities and this was recognized by many of whom they coached.

Neal Parlane was excellent in his role within Northland Cricket and like Karl Treiber, deserves mention for his passion and commitment to cricket in Northland. His efforts have certainly been well received by the schools that he and his coaching team have worked at. He has most certainly helped in the development of cricket in Northland.

Kara Cunis and Ellie Liddington, who facilitated the GoGirls Programme designed by New Zealand Cricket, were enthusiastic and assisted in developing cricket in Northland. NZC were very appreciative of their efforts and acknowledged their hard work. Ross Kneebone and Geoff Ogle were instrumental to the successful organization of the umpires and their commitment was greatly appreciated by the NCA.

The club and regional Junior Coordinators; Shelly Nissen, Sam Walker, Dean Potter, Richard Pooley, Carl Gordon, Lisa Litchfield, Paul Cleary, Paul Moore, Pete Barnett, Hayden Searle, Roger Kidd, James Nyssen (and many others) did a fantastic job and their dedication has been fantastic.

Sam Walker's input into Kamo High School and Kamo Intermediate School has been hugely valued and the results achieved by those schools have been excellent. Sam's efforts in his role at the NCA have been well received and very beneficial to the association. He is a very capable administrator and coach and his services have been appreciated. He has also been able to resurrect Indoor Cricket and 12 sides have entered into social and competitive competitions during the off season. A special mention to Russell Smith must also be made for his commitment to WBHS cricket; his dedication is quite simply second to none and the NCA is extremely lucky to have such a passionate and enthusiastic administrator and manager within our organization.

The Code of Conduct commission, in particular Graham Mathias, had a relatively quiet year but the NCA is still grateful for their presence as and when needed. Recognition of those that are members of the Cobham Club and Northland Cricket Trust is important as their dedication and expertise in numerous areas of cricket and its administration are welcomed by all at the NCA. Thank you to all of those members that worked with and for the NCA at various time throughout the season.

Tony Edwards has been influential in the success of Junior Cricket in Northland. The countless hours that 'Tank' has put into A, B and C Grade is outstanding and he is an integral part of our organization. He, along with Wok Jones and Chuck Norris, are true cricket lovers and the work that they do greatly benefits Northland Cricket. I must also acknowledge our caterer, Afare Catering, for their efforts and standards throughout the season.

Without our sponsors, we would not function as we do. Their assistance is hugely appreciated and the relationship we have with them is one of mutual respect and therefore worthwhile to the overall well being of cricket in Northland. As in any organization like ours, the Board is vital to the smooth running of such an organization. The NCA Board is no exception and their services are thoroughly appreciated. I'd also like to make mention of Sport Northland and the Whangarei District Council; they have been a pleasure to work with throughout the season and their support of Northland Cricket is very good.

Most importantly, the NCA acknowledges the services provided by the huge numbers of suppliers, volunteers, parents, officials and club administrators who provided match, administrative or simply parental support to the players in our association. Without you all, cricket would simply not function as effectively as it does.

Facilities and Venues:

The hard work and extra effort shown by Ross Hart, Nathan Bunting and the team at Recreational Services has been great. Ross and Nathan have always been approachable and open to discussion in terms of practice and playing surfaces around Whangarei and this was respected by players and NCA staff alike.

John Stephen and Keith Bond, from the Kaipara Flats Cricket Club, worked hard throughout the season and their accommodating attitude was fantastic for all visiting teams. Mike O'Sullivan worked vigorously on the Maungakamea wicket, as did Russell Smith on the WBHS wicket, and their efforts and dedication was fantastic. Also, a thank you must go out to ground staff in the Northern Wairoa, Bream Bay and Kerikeri clubs.

Conclusion:

The 2013/14 season was a successful one and there is a good foundation to build on for the 2014/15 season. More emphasis is going to be put into the administering of adult club cricket and a new role has been designed by the NCA to assist in this. Cobham Oval is again recognized as an international venue and the Northland Men's team has some well earned silverware in the trophy cabinet. Our junior boys and girls representatives are improving and are now starting to win tournaments. Our volunteer base is strong, our coaching resources are very good and we have strong developmental programmes being facilitated throughout the year. It is therefore hoped that cricket in Northland continues to grow stronger and that the Northland Cricket Association grows with it.

Stephen Cunis

Johnston Crawford Cricket Centre Report

This year saw the return of Indoor cricket. For two evenings a week the centre was home to two grades of indoor cricket. On a Monday night the social grade was held and saw 6 teams compete for the trophy. Wednesday night saw the competitive teams compete for the premier league trophy.

The teams who competed were:

Social Division: Ninjas, Laser Electrical, Sierre Motel, Smash it Up, Carters Blues and NCA Primary Boys.

Premier League: NCA Stars, Lobb Mob, Snatch, Mavericks, City and Kamo High School.

Both leagues were very competitive and saw some excellent cricket played throughout the season. In the social grade there was plenty of good performances, The NCA primary boys entered late as a replacement side and managed to win their 5 league games to book a place in the final against the Ninjas. A special mention should go to Sierra Motel who did collect the wooden spoon award, but always played every game with a smile on their face, and developed their indoor skills as the season progressed.

The final was a close call but after winning 5 games in a row the 6th win on the trot proved one bridge too far for the Primary boys. The Ninjas who were deserved to be crowned champions were too strong on the night and celebrated their victory long into the night.

The competitive premier league saw the NCA Stars play Lobb Mob for the trophy. This was a very evenly matched game on paper and Lobb Mob managed to just sneak over the line. All credit to Lobb mob who lost their last 3 league games but still managed to come up triumphant in the semi-final and final.

Each league saw a MVP trophy up for grabs and was based on performances during the season, both trophies were won by players not involved in the finals.

The social division saw Tia Saunders from Carters blues collect the award for some sterling bowling performances. Whilst in the Premier league Rodney Langdon of Snatch fought of some strong competition to collect the award. Rod put in numerous good performances behind the stumps for his side.

Thanks to all who played and we look forward to seeing you again next winter.

The indoor centre also hosted its first Multi-Sport holiday programme which saw a total of 36 children take part in various sports. Some great feedback was received from the programme and we will be holding various courses across all school holidays moving forward.

Sam Walker

Chairman's Report – Cobham Cricket Club

The 2013/2014 season was a reasonably quiet one for the Cobham Cricket Club. The precursor to the season was a very successful luncheon held at Cobham Oval, featuring Brian McKechnie and Doug Golightly. The event is proving to be very popular. In addition to raising money for the club, it is also important for raising the profile of both the Cobham Cricket Club and Northland Cricket within the community.

This season there were no scholarships granted due to a lack of applicants. Cobham Cricket Club in association with the Northland Cricket Trust had intended to send Ian Page to England. However, Ian ultimately had visa issues which ruled him out of travelling. That said, Ian's application set the bar particularly high in terms of what the Cobham Cricket Club and Northland Cricket Trust now expect from potential applicants seeking contributions to their cricket education.

On the playing front, the Cobham Cricket Club played two T20 matches this year. The first of those matches was a T20 vs Kamo High School at Cobham Oval. The match was a successful affair, with the Cobham XI winning comfortably in the end. The second match was a long overdue fixture against the Northland secondary schools. This match was a 40 over affair held at the Oval. The Cobham XI batted first. Having posted a very competitive total in excess of 200 on a reasonably slow wicket, the secondary school side showed a great deal of application and patience in winning the match on the last ball of the last over. Some of the performances in this match, particularly in respect to the batting were particularly pleasing from the secondary schools point of view. We believe that this fixture is an important date on the Cobham calendar, and every effort should be made to ensure that this match is played on an annual basis.

Brett Hood

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Hood', with a large, stylized initial 'B' and 'H'.

Umpires Report

Northland Junior Cricket Report

The fine summer was reflected in a substantial amount of good junior cricket played through the 2013-14 season. In today's lifestyles and leisure activities, the retention of junior participation is very difficult for all sports. Saturday morning junior cricket numbers have continued to improve slightly on the previous season.

The comprehensive school visits and coaching programme undertaken by the NCA Educare Coaching Team, coupled with some new initiatives to encourage participation and enjoyment, are the best that they can be and deserve to succeed. This programme is ongoing and hopefully this healthy momentum can be maintained. Greater numbers will take time to filter through the age groups and grades, and hopefully standards will lift along with more competition. The challenge is to retain all of these boys in cricket for longer.

This should also gradually improve the performances of our junior representative teams. The Senior Secondary boys finished their tournament with a convincing outright win over a strong Composite side (who incidentally were in position to win the tournament if the rules had allowed it) and finished in the middle of the table. The charismatic coaching style of Neal Parlane was well suited to this group of boys. Congratulations to Kurtley Watson who performed well for the New Zealand under 19 team before injury curtailed his Junior World Cup. Nick Stobart and David Armitt joined Kurtley in the ND Under 19's and performed creditably. A highlight was that our Junior Secondary boys captured the title at their tournament at Manurewa, with a dramatic last wicket victory over Hamilton in the final. Primary Boys had some notable wins, and finished well on the credit side of the ledger. It is worth noting that both Junior Secondary and Primary boys improved dramatically from their earlier pre-tournament matches, and great credit must go to Karl Treiber for this improvement. Development teams were fielded in as many games as possible.

Thanks to Roger Kidd, Richard Pooley, Roger Turner, Mark Oldridge and Russell Smith for their management and organisation of these teams, and to several other parents who assisted.

Mention should also be made of Whangarei Boys High School reaching the Gillette Cup finals with marvellous wins over Hamilton BHS, St Pauls Collegiate and Tauranga BHS. For the finals at Lincoln College, the loss of Kurtley Watson to injury in the week before the tournament spoiled our winning chances, but the team were competitive in all matches.

Our Senior Secondary Girls participated in the ND tournament at Rotorua, which was severely affected by steady rain on all 3 days, and were competitive in all games. We also hosted a successful tournament for girls (up to year 10) at Kaipara Flats with teams from Northland, Waikato Valley, Hamilton and Counties. Our girls were convincing winners, with outstanding performances from Jade Litchfield, Tia Saunders and the Golightly twins Brooke and Paige.

These 2 tournaments laid the foundations for the Whangarei Girls High School XI to go on and win the ND section of the NZCT Cup and will now go to the finals in Palmerston North in December. Another noteworthy achievement was the selection of Olivia Lobb in the Northern Spirit for one round at the Basin Reserve and for ND U21 and ND U18.

The quantity and quality of coaching available to juniors in Northland Cricket in one-on-one, small groups and larger squads, is probably the best of any association in the country, and is undoubtedly envied by other districts.

Once again, Neal Parlane did a very good job of organising draws and venues and keeping most clubs happy. One major challenge I see is in keeping Kensington Park full of cricket most Saturdays, whilst also getting club cricket onto club grounds, which is excellent for club spirit and enjoyment. Kensington Park is a very visible advertisement of how well the sport is doing.

Grant and trust money for running representative teams is always keenly sought, but we have been well looked after and have been able to keep cost recovery from parents at a very reasonable level.

My Thanks to Tony (Tank) Edwards (secretary), Richard Pooley, Roger Kidd, Roger Turner, Russell Smith, Dean Potter, Mark Oldridge, Warren Marr, Stephen Cunis, Neal Parlane and Karl Treiber for their participation at our meetings throughout the year.

Honours achieved :

NZ U19 - Kurtley Watson

ND U19 - Kurtley Watson, Nick Stobart, David Armit

ND U 16 – Aaron Ranara, Chamodh Peiris, Caleb Boswell-Smith

ND U18 Invitation - Sam Clotworthy, Matthew Lobb

ND PB training squad – Sam Webb, Kian Bird, Luke Trigg, Nathan Parkes

ND Spirit, U21 girls, U18 Girls – Olivia Lobb

ND Junior Secondary Girls – Tia Saunders, Brooke Golightly, Paige Golightly

Club Cricket Season Review

The 2013/14 season saw changes made to the competition formats from previous years. These changes were discussed and agreed upon by the Cricket Working Group. This group is made up of club representatives. The changes were; less T20 in Premier grade (5 games plus a final), in Reserve Grade we added a new competition (declaration cricket) and we also shortened the one day matches from 50 to 40 overs.

Given the Northland representative season limits the available consecutive Saturdays where Northland players are on hand, there were three Saturday's of Two Day cricket played where the Northland players were unavailable. This really tested the depth of strong clubs that had numerous Northland representatives and it made the competition very interesting.

Maungakaramea proved to be the dominant team in the premier competition, winning two of the three competitions whilst holding onto the Dargaville Shield for the entire season. Running them close was Kaipara Flats Cricket who played in all 3 Premier Grade finals, winning the T/20 against Onerahi Central.

Two of the three Premier Grade finals were played at Cobham Oval. Both of these matches were between top qualifiers Maungakaramea and Kaipara Flats Cricket Club. The first of those finals was a rain interrupted 2 day final. Kaipara, as second qualifier, went into the game needing an outright victory to win the competition. Rain on both mornings of the match meant 30 overs were lost each morning. This made it nigh on impossible to reach a positive result for Kaipara Flats as they went down on the 1st innings to a consistent and strong Maungakaramea side.

The Lion Red Cup final was also contested between top qualifiers Maungakaramea and Kaipara Flats. Maungakaramea, again came out on top in a low scoring but very tight final.

The T/20 final was played by an unbeaten Kaipara Flats team and Onerahi Central. Kaipara came out on top to take the 1st final of the season on Kensington Park number 5.

The leading wicket taker in premier cricket this season was Jason Morgan from Maungakaramea with 46.

Zac Kawaja from City CC was the leading run scorer with 752

2013/14 Premier Club Team of the Season

1. Bradley Kneebone (OCCC)
2. Henry Cooper (OCCC)
3. Ben Hyde (Kamo)
4. Neal Parlane (MGK)

5. Ian Page (City)
6. Curtis Cherrington (Kamo)
7. Joe Robbins (KFCC)
8. Rory Christopherson(KFCC)
9. Michael O'Flaherty KFCC)
10. Cody Andrews (MGK)
11. Jason Morgan (MGK)
12. Matt Taylor (KFCC)

In Reserve Grade, Kamo High School proved the dominant team winning the Tait Real Estate One Day Competition, competing in the Spire T/20 final and also winning the new declaration cricket league. Maungakaramaea Reserves were the other dominant team, beating Kamo High in the Spire T/20 final, competing in the Tait Real Estate Comp final and coming a close runner up in the time cricket league

The Reserve Grade Batsman of the year was Sam Walker from Kamo High School. Craig Davie-Martin was the winner of the Bowler of the Year award. Sam Walker deservedly won the Reserve Grade Player of the Year.

Third Grade saw the WBHS Gold team play the most consistent cricket throughout the season and were crowned champions. It is great to see a good core of younger players coming through the WBHS system and they thoroughly earned their 2013/14 competition win.

Junior Club Cricket was thriving throughout the season and each competition was won by different teams. It was pleasing to see OCCC back involved in junior cricket and have two C Grade teams this season, as was it fantastic to see a B Grade team entered from Wellsford. Kamo and City both had strong junior numbers and they most certainly assist in the development of junior cricket in Northland. The Northern Advocate was excellent in terms of promoting junior cricket and the A, B and C Grade results were printed each week. Below are the winning teams in respective grades:

C Grade – Pre Christmas: **Kamo Blue**

Post Christmas **Kamo Magpies**

B Grade – Pre Christmas: **Maungakaramaea**

Post Christmas **OCCC Lions**

A Grade – Pre Christmas: **City**

Post Christmas **Kamo**

All in all, the season was successful and there are a lot of positives moving forward. Thank you to the many volunteers in the clubs for their tireless work; it is greatly appreciated by the NCA.

Neal Parlane

Competition Manager

Northland Senior Secondary Girls 2013-14

Team Olivia Lobb, Jade Litchfield, Hayley Green, Maria Wright, Eva Pearson, Brooke Golightly, Paige Golightly, Tia Saunders, Caitlin Phillips, Charley Green, Aidan McManus

Manager Ellie Liddington Coach David Lobb

Unfortunately, the Northern Districts Senior Secondary Girls tournament in Rotorua was decimated by rain. It was a tribute to all 6 teams that all of the 3 completed matches were played in various rain intensities. After close losses to Counties and Bay of Plenty, we were soundly beaten by Waikato Valley on the last day. A notable feature was our improvement in bowling, after bowling 43 wides in the 1st match to only bowling 12 wides in the final match, despite the very slippery wet ball. In all 3 matches our team of yr 10 and 11 girls were beaten by more experienced yr 13 girls.

More importantly, for many of our girls this was their first experience of tournament cricket, and laid the foundation for WGHS to go on and win the ND section of the National Secondary tournament in the autumn.

Top run-scorers were Olivia Lobb (52 runs) and Hayley Green (25runs), top wicket takers were twins Brooke and Paige Golightly with 4 wickets each.

Higher Honours

Olivia Lobb - Northern Spirit, ND Under 21, ND Under 18

Tia Saunders, Brooke Golightly, Paige Golightly - ND Under 15

David Lobb

ND Junior Secondary Girls Tournament

Kaipara Flats November 2013

The tournament was contested by teams from Bay of Plenty, Hamilton, Waikato Valley, Counties Manukau and Northland.

The format was a round robin of 15 over cricket played over two days.

Most of the Northland girls had no cricket experience and were chosen from the Northland Junior Secondary Schools tournament that was played on Monday 11th November.

This proved to be no handicap as they went through the tournament unbeaten and in fact dominated against teams with plenty of regular Saturday cricketers. Led by Jade Litchfield with 161 runs in four games and with significant contributions from Tia Saunders, Paige and Brooke Golightly with both bat and ball, the Northland girls were pretty much in command in all of their games. Ruby Beckham, who had never put on wicket-keeping gloves in her life before Monday, conceded just 12 byes over the four games.

The improvement amongst the girls over the two days was nothing short of remarkable and they can be very proud of their efforts.

Thanks to Gary Saunders for being my right hand man for the tournament and the other parents that came and supported the girls. All the games were played in exactly the right spirit and I commend all the other Associations for contributing to the great atmosphere.

Scores

Nth v Hamilton – Northland 105 Jade 29, Paige 30 both retired, Hamilton 71

Nth v BOP – BOP 102, Nth 104 Jade 62 retired.

Nth v WV – Nth 128, Jade 46, Brooke 22 retired, WV 106

Nth v CM – Nth 120 Jade 24, Paige 23, Tia 27, CM 102 Brooke 2/8 off 3 overs including a broken stump!

Primary Boys Tournament

The boys arrived at the tournament having lost all their previous games against much better opposition but had shown an encouraging pattern of development. They had regrouped particularly well after a hammering in the first game of the season against Counties, to be much more competitive thereafter. Scoring enough runs has been the challenge all the way through. A very average A Grade competition does not prepare them for the demands of rep cricket and achieving a better quality at that level is the challenge. This must start with good basics at B Grade level and having enough skilled players across all the teams to make Saturday morning cricket less of a farce and more of a challenge. I feel a standardised template for specific skill coaching, especially batting, should be implemented and supported across the clubs. Quality work at this level is the only way to ensure a better standard all the way through.

We had a good win against a weak Poverty Bay side but it was great to get one on the board. Hamilton came next and we struggled to 145 with poor judgement of singles and running between the wickets in general causing us to get bogged down. When the boys faced better quality, more consistent bowling, they couldn't find ways to score. Running between the wickets is another skill area that needs to be practiced more and developed. Hamilton was untroubled achieving the target three down.

The last game against a strong Bay of Plenty Coastlands side was encouraging in that we really started to look like a representative team. We kept BOP to 189/7 and bowled and fielded pretty well. We struggled a bit with our batting to maintain a tempo and lost wickets at critical times which ultimately saw us under too much scoreboard pressure at the end to press for a win, finishing 150/7.

There were a couple of unpleasant incidents created by the BOP players and their team was severely reprimanded by Pat Malcon on behalf of ND. I tended to blame their coaching and management structure for creating an environment where this sort of behaviour was obviously condoned if not encouraged. Pretty ugly really but my attitude was to allow ND to sort it and not to get into a slanging match in front of our boys at the time.

On the positive side I felt we improved all the way along which was the goal for the season. Most of our top order got starts without ever nailing a big score, but time in the middle at this level will prove hugely beneficial for them. We failed to put bad balls away and tentative running between the wickets only added to the pressure.

Our bowling was generally pretty good. We didn't make the best use of the new ball in that we bowled OK but didn't threaten the stumps enough or make the batters play enough. Our two leg spinners Billy Alexander Crawford and Richard Stobart were very good and proved a handful. The compulsory sweepers had helped to develop their ideas around field placings to support their bowling. Fielding is still a work on with a lack of anticipation and urgency from many. Even remembering where they were last ball tended to be a problem for some. Just a basic lack of awareness of what is going on, who is facing, what is my job.

Looking forward, I am arranging a couple of games in this half of the season to blood our new players coming through and will sort some one on ones and team practices to continue to build on what we have started. We need to manage the transition of selectors, with good candidates

in Todd Skudder and Dean Potter on the horizon. A finale game with a mix of last years and this year's players at the end of March would be good as it went down well last year.

The selection/management team of Roger Turner, Mark Oldridge and I worked fine. We had a few contentious issues with selections at times but worked through them well. Mark Oldridge was superb in his organisation and communications with players, parents etc. The parent team at tournament were also fantastic with Lynley Turner in particular leading from the front, taking charge at the motel and sorting meals etc. In fact the parental support throughout the year was tremendous.

The accommodation was fine. Not quite as good a layout as Angelsea in that the boys were spread out a bit more, but overall very good. The management had the right attitude and were very helpful. I would have no issues going back there.

The only glitch in the tournament organisation was that the fields were not mown, but sometimes longer grass can cover a few nasties in the outfield. When it would become a problem is that if you had a bit of rain then the outfield would dry very slowly, but it was a council glitch not ND.

So overall I am pleased with the progress made and we had a great team spirit amongst the kids and parents. As stated at the beginning, it is a challenge starting fresh again, but there are a couple of exciting youngsters coming into the ranks and the key is to raise the general standard around them.

Karl Treiber.

Junior Secondary School Tournament

It was a highly successful tournament in terms of results in that the team won the tournament beating Hamilton in the final and the team went through unbeaten. Rain unfortunately wrecked two days in the middle.

We played two T20s on day one (Counties Invitation and Poverty Bay) and won both reasonably easily. The Counties Invitation side was of interest in that they are the 'new' team to make an even number at the tournament replacing the other Waikato Valley team. It was solely made up of Counties players from what I understand and was reasonably competitive. They were as good as some of the WV teams of the past, so the idea is fine. It would be good to know how the composite team in the SSS tournament went as a unit to see if there is merit in maybe adding in any non-Counties players to the mix next year. This would give some of our fringe dwellers a chance and perhaps make the team more competitive. We would have recommended Connor Dyke and Cullen Lowe as our two that just missed the cut for the As. It would mean more accommodation etc for us to sort, but that would not be significant and the upside is more players getting tournament exposure.

The next game was a 50 over fixture against Bay of Plenty Coastlands. We were pretty solid in most departments without being brilliant. The key performance was that of Aaron Ranara (off spinner from Kerikeri), who bowled his 10 overs for 20 odd and strangled their middle order.

By virtue of these wins and the rained out semi-finals we went straight to the final against Hamilton who had defeated the favourites Counties A in their 50 over clash. I thought Pat Malcon's comment that we "snuck" into the final a bit harsh as we won every game we played, so I am not sure where the sneaking came in. Obviously we were not a fancied team. Even better to stick it to them then.

We lost the toss and were inserted on a rain affected wicket with damp patches all over it in the 40 over final. Strangely the damp patches seemed to do nothing out of the ordinary. The Hamilton bowlers were an interesting mixture in that they bowled very steadily then threw in a wide for no apparent reason. I think they bowled something like 22 wides which in a low scoring game was gold for us. Defending 126 we chose to use Aaron first up to create some pressure and it paid off with a wicket in his first over. We kept battling away but Hamilton was still comfortably placed at 2/62 with 20 overs to go. We rolled the only dice we had left by bowling our two wrist spinners in tandem after drinks and a quick rush of wickets put us back in the game. A good 8th wicket partnership kept Hamilton close and a string on missed opportunities made us wonder if it was going to be our day. Ultimately at 9 down, schoolboy panic worked in our favour and a suicidal single proved to be just that with a direct hit from mid-off securing a win by 3 runs.

A great result for a very young and unfancied team.

Overall, there were good little contributions from all, without really significant ones with the possible exception of Aaron who bowled consistently well. Aarons' other invaluable contribution

was his vigorous attitude and volume to match. The team otherwise would have been rather quiet and this is a challenge going forward.

Ultimately, to be a really good side, we need the batsmen in our top 5 to make significant scores. We have a tendency to be quite negative in our batting approach. When we observed the best from other teams, they were much more assertive and confident both attacking and defending. We always looked fearful and tentative.

Bowling wise, we have solid medium pacers and decent spinners, but lack an out and out quick. There is potential with Sean West and Caleb Boswell-Smith to add a bit more pace as they mature.

We have a few average fielders amongst some really good ones, so there is room for improvement here.

My selectors/managers in Richard Pooley and Roger Kidd were great and we had a good rapport. There were no issues at all in this department and I am extremely thankful to both for making my job so much easier and ensuring we had a great feel within the team as a whole. Potentially our boys were a bit of a handful but we found a nice balance between control and allowing them to be themselves.

Administration wise we had two issues. We did not receive adequate tournament information immediately prior to the event, which Counties and ND have since acknowledged.

The accommodation proved to be a problem in that the owners seem to find having guests an inconvenience. I was particularly appalled when they treated a burglary in one of their rooms as somehow the fault of the guests. There were plenty of other problems which have already been reported but the bottom line is we won't be back. The Pullman Lodge is the place to be but they may already be booked for touch and we also need confirmation as to the tournament venue for next year before we can action anything.

I am in the process of sorting games against North Harbour and Western Districts for this half of the season for our 'new' sides, although 9 of this team are back.

Development wise, I will target a few of these players for some 1 on 1 work in Feb/March, but I am conscious of WBHS practice demands. All have received my individual player review so they can target their practice to specific areas. (Attached FYI)

I should also acknowledge Trevor Osbaldiston and Aaron Foster who did a fine job running our development team over the season.'

Karl Treiber

Senior Secondary School Tournament

With the demands of exams on senior students' time in the fourth term, we were never able to field a full-strength team for the warm-up games. This allowed for the selectors to have a look at some other players who may not have been given a chance. Added to this that the Whangarei Boys High School players were going to be "battle hardened" by their Gillette Cup week prior to Gisborne, we went down to Gisborne confident we could match last seasons 3rd place if not better it.

The tournament started with 2 T20's on the Monday. We drew Waikato Valley in the morning match. A very good bowling and fielding performance restricted Waikato Valley to a score of 99. Unfortunately a combination of poor shot options and good bowling saw us fall 8 runs short.

In the afternoon match we played BOP Lakelands. Bowling first, Northland once again put in a quality performance bowling Lakelands out for 103. Northland never looked like they were under any pressure and cruised home to win by 7 wickets. This left us a virtual quarter final to play on the Tuesday versus a strong Hamilton side.

The 50 over match versus Hamilton was a very tense affair. Northland bowled first and as they had done the previous day bowled very well. The fielding wasn't as polished and a couple of crucial catches were shelled. Even so, we managed to keep them to 167 for 8 off their 50. What happened next was nothing short of embarrassing. It also sucked the batting confidence out of us for the rest of the tournament. When a heavy thunderstorm stopped play 12 overs in Northland were 26 for 6!! This no result meant we were placed in the lower half of the draw.

Poverty Bay were our opposition in the semi-final. The winner went into the 5th and 6th playoff and the loser had to fight it out for the wooden spoon. Once again our bowling set the game up for us restricting PB to 143. With our batting confidence well and truly shot Northland were bowled out for 81. This placed us in the wooden spoon match against the invitation team. The invitation team actually qualified for the top half of the draw but due to a ridiculous rule were ineligible to go into the semi-finals.

The playoff match was a 2 day match. Northland dominated from the outset and never looked like losing. The match was wrapped up by tea on day 2. This meant we finished in 7th place.

A frustrating and disappointing week but hopefully one that will drive some of these young men into realising that hard work and planning needs to be put in place if they want to succeed in cricket.

The team consisted of:

Sam Clotworthy (C), Max Davis (vc), Dave Armitt, Noel Roberts, Shaun Beamish, Ben Turner, Findlay Buchanan, Matt Lobb, Max Trimble, Shannon Kloppers, Nick Stobbart and Fletcher Coutts.

Batsman of the tournament was Findlay Buchanan averaging 30.

Bowler of the tournament was Dave Armitt with 17 wickets.

Fielder of the tournament was Max Davis.

Player of the tournament was Nick Stobbart with some very good all-round performances.

Congratulations to Nick Stobbart and Dave Armit who both gained selection for the Northern Districts Under 19 team.

Neal Parlane

Northland Men's B Team 2013-14

The Northland B team kicked off their campaign against Counties-Manukau in mid-November. The fixture was played in Counties-Manukau and the surface was a good one for batting. The home side batted first and scored a very competitive score of 234. The pick of the Northland bowlers was Joe Robbins who had the figures of 4 for 37 off 10 overs. He was ably supported by Jack Murphy (2 for 36) and Jason Morgan (1 for 35) and Counties-Manukau was eventually bowled out in the 50th over.

Northland started their chase well and added 62 for the first wicket. Bert Horner (22) and Ben Hyde got through the new ball and after Horner was dismissed, Hyde was joined by Sam Clotworthy, who was on debut. The pair added 121 for the second wicket and Clotworthy was eventually dismissed for a well compiled 29. Hyde kept the charge going for Northland and when he fell for a masterful 121, Mike O'Flaherty and Joe Robbins saw the side home in the 47th over.

The next match was against Hamilton at Galloway Park on a typically low and slow wicket at that venue. Northland batted first and struggled to get going. Horner was dismissed in the second over for no score and that immediately put Northland on the back foot. Joe O'Sullivan was then joined by Henry Cooper and the two added 46 for the second wicket but after a nice recovery, the side never really got any momentum and were dismissed for 135 in 39 overs. Joe Robbins was the top scorer with 41. Northland's coach, Michael Parlane, was disappointed with the way in which the side didn't bat their overs and show more fight.

In the field, it was a different story and the Northland team showed a lot more aptitude. Hamilton was consistently under pressure by some accurate bowling from Kieran Nelson (1 for 11 off 5), Kyran Dill (1 for 14 off 7), Henry Cooper (2 for 22 off 10) and Jason Morgan (2 for 21 off 7) and the match was always evenly balanced. Although the game was a close one, Hamilton won eight down in the 47th over.

Bay of Plenty was the next side that the Northland team was to play. The match was played at the Kaipara Flats Cricket Club and as usual, the hospitality shown by John Stephen, Ros Guy and the KFCC was excellent. BOP was inserted by Northland skipper, Ian Page, and the home side bowled well. BOP was restricted to 183 off their 50 overs. Kyran Dill (3 for 26), Joe Robbins (1 for 32) and Jason Morgan (1 for 35) were the pick of the bowlers.

With the wicket seaming, 183 was going to be a tricky target if BOP bowled well. This was the case and the Northland batsmen played some loose shots to assist the opposition's tight lines and lengths. At 96 for 7, Nick Stobart joined Ian Page and the two went about resurrecting the innings. The pair added 68 for the 8th wicket and when Stobart was dismissed for a gritty 24, Jason Morgan and Ian Page finished the match off. Page was outstanding and was 94 not out when the winning runs were hit. If not for his application and shot selection, the match could have been a lot different.

Unfortunately the last game of the season against Waikato-Valley was rained out so the team eventually finished second in the Basil McBurney Competition.

Northland Men 2013/14

The Northland Men started off the season with a warm up game against Counties-Manukau. The fixture was a good way for the team to prepare for the season and although Counties-Manukau won the match, a lot was gained out of it. The first official game of the season was against Auckland in early November. The Auckland team boasted 6 contracted or First Class players. The match was played at Colin Maiden Oval and Auckland won the toss and batted first. They were in trouble early on with Cody Andrews and Matt Taylor bowling well. Andrews was particularly difficult for the Auckland top order and he dismissed the openers in quick succession.

From there, Kurtley Watson (1 for 30 off 8), Mike O'Flaherty (2 for 22 off 10), Henry Cooper (2 for 34 off 10) and Andrews (2 for 25 off 10) continued to put pressure on the Auckland line up and they were restricted to 183 in their 50 overs. Northland then batted smartly up front with Joseph Yovich and Brad Kneebone adding 48 for the first wicket.

After Yovich's dismissal, Kneebone was joined by Henry Cooper and the pair set about chasing down the Auckland score. Kneebone was eventually dismissed for 48 and Cooper for 39. When the winning runs were hit, Neal Parlane and Ian Page were 35 and 5 not out respectively. It was a polished performance on a good wicket against a handy Auckland team so the Northland side was happy with once again winning the Bob Cunis Cup.

The Northland team then headed to Taupo in mid-November for the three day tournament. Poverty Bay was the first opponent on what was a low, slow wicket. Poverty Bay, bolstered by some good loan players played the better cricket and won the match. Matt Taylor was fantastic with the ball and only 12 runs were scored off his 10 overs. Henry Cooper was also in fine form with the ball, picking up his first five wicket bag for the province and Kurtley Watson was very good as well. Only Ben Hyde and Mike O'Flaherty managed to get going with the bat and Northland were 40 short in their chase of 190.

After some serious discussion about the team's performance, the Northland team then had Bay of Plenty on day two. Northland batted first and scored 225 for 9 on another low, slow wicket. Joseph Yovich, who scored a patient 48, James Marshall 37 and Ian Page 35 were the main contributors to what was a very competitive target. BOP had a strong side and pushed the Northland team all the way but Northland came out on top and won by eight runs. Cody Andrews (2 for 36), Ben Hyde (2 for 23), James Marshall (2 for 35) were the pick of the bowlers and Henry Cooper was as economical as ever.

The final game at the tournament was against Waikato Valley. The wicket was, to be frank, a poor surface and the scores reflected this. Waikato Valley was dismissed for 81. Kurtley Watson was the pick of the Northland bowlers with 4 for 24 off 10 overs. In reply Northland was, at one stage, 30 for 6 but the score was chased down, with Ian Page 35 not out and Rory Christopherson 30 not out. The Northland side also secured the bonus point which was amusing considering the way the chase started.

Late November saw the Bay of Plenty side travel north for a scheduled two day match. The weekend was brilliant weather-wise and Northland was most certainly the better team over the two days. BOP won the toss and asked Northland to bat first and the home side scored 360. Brad Kneebone was outstanding with the bat and scored a gritty, yet fluent 124. He was ably backed up by Ben Hyde who scored 91 at a run-a-ball. Hyde was also involved in a 9th wicket record partnership for Northland with Kurtley Watson as the two added 69.

In reply, BOP showed little resistance in their first innings and were dismissed for 123. Watson was in brilliant form with the ball and picked up four cheap wickets. He was well supported by Kevin Forde (2 for 16) and Cody Andrews (2 for 20). Northland's skipper, Neal Parlane enforced the follow on and BOP showed more application and the match ended in a first innings win to Northland.

The final game scheduled for 2013 was a two day game against Hamilton in Hamilton. Needing a win to secure the Hawk Cup challenge, the Northland team was extremely frustrated and disappointed by the lack of pitch preparation by the host association. The reason for the cancellation of the match was because of rain damaging the wicket on Tuesday and Wednesday before the Saturday match and the wicket was therefore regarded unplayable. Some in the cricketing fraternity may cry 'conspiracy' but when it really comes down to it, it was a total lack of communication and organization within the host association which was both disappointing and irritating for the Northland and Hamilton players.

The first game back in the New Year was again against Hamilton, this time played at Cobham Oval. The Hamilton side won the toss and batted first on a slow wicket. They scored a solid 220 for 9 off their 50 overs. Cody Andrews (2 for 32 off 10) was the pick of the bowlers. He was supported by Kyran Dill (2 for 42) and also by economical spells from Jason Morgan, Matt Taylor and Mike O'Flaherty. In reply Northland started slowly but surely. Brad Kneebone and Rory Christopherson added 44 for the first wicket and then both Henry Cooper (74 not out) and Neal Parlane (64) batted superbly to get the side within striking distance.

Needing 12 runs off the final two overs, and only three wickets down, Northland were in the box seat. Only three runs however, were scored off the penultimate over bowled by ND's Anurag Verma and the Northland team needed nine off the last. Henry Cooper got a single off the first ball. Ben Hyde subsequently 'worked' a four through third man and then slapped the next ball into the sightscreen for six, winning the game with 3 balls to spare.

The next match of the season was played against Counties-Manukau at Weymouth. The Northland skipper, Neal Parlane, won the toss and had little hesitation in batting on what was a fantastic wicket. Northland started well with James Marshall and Brad Kneebone putting on over a hundred for the first wicket. Marshall (82) was in great touch and scored freely, before being bowled by the CM off-spinner. Kneebone (87) also played some attractive shots, particularly on the offside and was dismissed trying to force the pace in the latter overs. Although the Northland team was in a great position to launch in the final overs, the side struggled to form worthwhile partnerships and finished with 270. While the score was very competitive, realistically the side should have scored over 300.

In reply the Northland bowlers, led by Kyran Dill (3 for 33) and Kurtley Watson (1 for 30) had CM in all sorts of trouble and wickets fell at regular intervals. Dill and Watson were ably supported by Jason Morgan, Matt Taylor and Joe Robbins, who all kept the pressure on the CM batsmen. The Northland side eventually dismissed the CM side for 202, securing the bonus point in the process.

The next opponent was Waikato-Valley away in Cambridge. During the One Day match played earlier in the season, Waikato-Valley instigated some niggles between the two sides and the Northland team was most certainly up for this particular Two Day fixture. After losing the toss and being put in on a fresh wicket, Northland amassed 361 for 6 declared in two and a half sessions. Neal Parlane was in outstanding form, scoring 163 not out. Parlane's knock was one of application and skill as he systematically wore down the Waikato-Valley bowlers and fielders. He was well supported by Ian Page and the pair combined to form a solid century partnership for the fourth wicket.

The Northland side then bowled well and dismissed Waikato-Valley for 142. Cody Andrews, Kyran Dill, Jason Morgan, Joseph Yovich and Matt Taylor all bowled well on a wicket that had become relatively dead as the match progressed and Mike O'Flaherty was again tidy with his miserly off spinners. Northland enforced the follow on and chipped regular wickets out but couldn't quite take all ten, eventually having Waikato-Valley nine down when time ran out. It was a huge effort by the team to get so close to achieving an outright victory.

The final match was against Counties-Manukau at Cobham Oval. The equation was simple, win first innings and win the Fergus Hickey. Counties-Manukau won the toss and asked the Northland team to bat first. The innings started badly with Brad Wilson being dismissed second ball but from there, it was all Northland. Brad Kneebone capped a stellar season by scoring an unbeaten 146. He added 82 with Henry Cooper (50), 165 with Neal Parlane (98) and 95 with Ian Page (41 not out) and the Northland team declared at 351 for 3.

Counties-Manukau started steadily but the dismissal of Ash Vodnala started a capitulation of sorts. Kyran Dill (3 for 44) was again accurate and demanding with the ball and Joseph Yovich (2 for 21) was at his dangerous best. They were well supported by Matt Taylor (1 for 21) and Ben Hyde (1 for 8) and Counties-Manukau was dismissed for 127. After being made to follow on, the Counties-Manukau side showed more resilience and were 51 for 2 in their second innings when the game was called off.

Overall, a major hiccup early in the season against Poverty Bay was, when the team looks back, the catalyst for the success that eventuated. All that a coach can ask for in cricketers is for continuous improvement and setting/achieving high standards on and off the park. Those in the Northland team this season did that and thoroughly deserved their successes.

Stephen Cunis

Northland Mens One Day Batting							
Name	Inns	Runs	No.	HS	Average	Catches	Stumpings
Henry Cooper	6	148	1	78*	29.6	4	
Brad Kneebone	6	184		87	30.7		
Neal Parlane	6	145	1	64	29	4	
Ben Hyde	5	82	1	48	20.5	6	
Rory Christopherson	5	65	1	23*	16.5	5	4
Michael O'Flaherty	2	50	1	45*	50	2	
Matt Taylor	1	1	1	1*		1	
Kurtley Watson	2	4		4	2	1	
Cody Andrews	2	6	1	6	6	1	
Ian Page	6	104	2	35*	26	2	
Joseph Yovich	4	73		48	18.3	1	
James Marshall	4	121		82	30.25	1	
Joe Robbins	1	8		8	8	1	
Kyran Dill	1	5		5	5	2	
Northland Mens One Day Bowling							
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average	RPO	
Henry Cooper	44	4	175	8	21.9	4	
Ben Hyde	8	1	32	3	11	4	
Jason Morgan	13	2	42	3	14	3.2	
Michael O'Flaherty	38.5	3	142	5	28.4	3.7	
Matt Taylor	41	7	150	2	75	3.7	
Kevin Forde	2	0	13	1	13	6.5	
Kurtley Watson	39	3		8	19.9	4.1	
Cody Andrews	45	6		8	18.75	3.3	
Ian Page							
Joe Robbins	10.4	0		3	19	5.5	
Joseph Yovich	4.3	0		2	12.5	5.8	
James Marshall	7	0		2	17.5	5	
Kyran Dill	16	1		5	17.4	5.4	
Northland Mens Two Day Matches - Batting							
Name	Inns	Runs	No	HS	Average	Catches	Stumpings
Henry Cooper	3	84		50	28		
Brad Kneebone	3	294	1	146*	147	10	
Neal Parlane	3	298	1	163	149		
Ben Hyde	2	95		91	47.5	3	
Michael Parlane	1	0		0	0		
Joe O'Sullivan	1	6		6	6		
Jack Murphy	1	0		0	0	1	
Rory Christopherson	1	32		32	32	6	
Michael O'Flaherty	1	4	1	4*			
Matt Taylor	1	4	1	4*		1	
Kurtley Watson	1	26		26	26		
Cody Andrews	1	26		26	26		
Ian Page	3	87	1	46	43.5	2	
Brad Wilson	1	0		0	0	1	
Joseph Yovich	1	18		18	18		
Northland Mens Two Day Matches - Bowling							
Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average	RPO	
Henry Cooper	20.1	5	66	5	13.2	3.3	
Brad Kneebone	2	0	7	0	0	3.5	
Ben Hyde	6.4	3	8	1	8	1.25	
Jack Murphy	7	2	18	0		2.6	
Michael O'Flaherty	24	7	77	2	38.5	3.2	
Matt Taylor	50	13	114	6	19	2.3	
Kevin Forde	8.4	2	29	2	14.5	3.5	
Kurtley Watson	14	5	25	4	6.3	1.8	
Cody Andrews	42	9	107	5	21.4	2.5	
Joseph Yovich	21	4	50	3	16.7	2.4	
Kyran Dill	54	18	131	8	16.4	2.4	
Jason Morgan	19.2	6	29	3	9.7	1.5	

Bellahomes Junior Saturday Cricket Awards	Trophy
C Grade Pre Christmas Champions	Crowe S
C Grade Post Christmas Champions	C Grade
B Grade Pre Christmas Champions	Crowe S
B Grade Post Christmas Champions	B Grade
A Grade Pre Christmas Champions	A Grade Xmas
A Grade Post Christmas Champions	A Grade
Bellahomes Primary Boys Awards	Trophy
Batsman	
Bowler	
Fielder	
Player of the Year	
Bellahomes Junior Secondary Awards	Trophy
Batsman	
Bowler	
Fielder	
Player of the Year	
Bellahomes Senior Secondary Awards	Trophy
Batsman	
Bowler	
Fielder	
Player of the Year	
Bellahomes Junior Secondary Girls Awards	Trophy
Batsman	
Bowler	
Fielder	
Player of the Year	
Bellahomes Secondary School Girls Award	Trophy
Batsman	
Bowler	
Fielder	
Player of the Year	
Bellahomes Northland Secondary Schools Awards	Trophy
Junior Secondary Schools Girls T20 Winners	John Bru
Secondary School Girls T20 Winners	Leaf Cup
Junior Secondary Schools Boys T20 Winners	Armstron
Secondary School Boys T20 Winners	Bruce Sc
Secondary Schools 1st XI of the Year	Robertso
Third Grade Champions	Russell S
Bellahomes Northland Reserve Grade Awards	Trophy
Reserve Grade T20 Champions	Spire Tro

Reserve Grade One Day Champions	Tait Real
Reserve Grade 50/40 Declaration Trophy	NCA Tro
Reserve Grade Batsman of the Year	
Reserve Grade Bowler of the Year	
Reserve Grade Player of the Year	
Bellahomes Northland Premier Grade Awards	Trophy
Premier Grade T20 Champions	MCH Tro
Premier Grade One Day Champions	Lion Red
Premier Grade Two Day Champions	Oxford S Shield
Premier Grade Batsman of the Year	
Premier Grade Bowler of the Year	
Premier Grade Wicketkeeper of the Year	Lance M
Professional Player of the Year	Norm Wil
Premier Grade Player of the Year	Bob Cuni
Bellahomes Northland Mens 1st and 2nd XI Awards.	Trophy
Northland 2nd XI Batsman of the Year	
Northland 2nd XI Bowler of the Year	
Northland 2nd XI Player of the Year	
Northland 1st XI Batsman of the Year	
Northland 1st XI Bowler of the Year	
Captain's Trophy	
Biggest Contribution to Northland Cricket	Norm Wil
Most Meritorious Performance	Bob Henr
Northland 1st XI Player of the Year	Brian Dur

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thanks our financial supporters...

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