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Cover Photo is the Awaba Oval pavilion during a cricket match on 22 February 2014.

OVERVIEW OF CRICKET AT AWABA OVAL

Over the past few years I thought that someone should write a history of cricket at Awaba Oval so that it is recorded for the Awaba Oval Community Operating Committee, the residents of the village of Awaba and the cricketers of Toronto Workers District Cricket (previously Southern Lakes District Cricket Club). I think it is important to record how the oval came into being, who was involved in constructing it and the cricket played on the oval were very important in the history of the village of Awaba.

As the years go by important people, who know the history, are no longer with us and getting correct information gets harder and harder. A lot of the accurate information is already lost but I hope the following story provides some information about cricket and Awaba Oval.

The oval would have been used by hundreds if not thousands of cricketers and footballers over the years and was a great acquisition for the people of Awaba.

This story is a mixture of comments about Southern Lakes District Cricket (now Toronto Workers District Cricket), the Awaba Oval, the history of Awaba, the old Awaba Cricket Ground, old score books, old newspaper stories and some unusual stories. If any of the facts in this story are incorrect, I apologise.

I have tried to research the history of the oval and in doing so I spoke to a number of senior members of the community. I would like to thank Keith Buckton, Robert and Lorraine Mavin, Darryl and Phyllis Field, Cec and Kathy Gavenlock, Kevin and Shirley Page, Ken Field, Bill Field, Jack Garaty and John O'Brien. Their comments follow in various locations in the following pages.

There was an old cricket ground which was located along the mad mile (Wilton Road) and I have included a chapter of this ground.

Lake Macquarie City Council also allowed me to go through their old files on Awaba Oval and the Awaba Parks Committee and I gained some interesting information from the files.

The history of the village of Awaba is fascinating and unusual and plays a big part in the background of cricket and the oval. I relied on the information in the book "Pit Props and Sleepers – The Story of Awaba" written in 1988 by the former Headmaster of the Awaba Public School Mr Doug Saxon for a lot of this information. Mr Saxon gave me permission to reproduce certain pages from his book in this story.

A brief history is that William and Edith Field were married at Mount Vincent in 1865 and had 15 children (2 died as infants) a family that included ten sons. William and his sons supplied timber to the railway and also to the Mining industry. The family later moved to Awaba. Note the information about the family in the Chapter Pit Props and Sleepers.

Because the family was so large and as most stayed and lived in Awaba the names of Field and Awaba have become synonymous with the area. Most of the males and some of the females played cricket and football. The men were mostly big strong fellows who hit the ball very hard, but they were never coached at cricket.

Sport, particularly cricket and football, was always important to the people of Awaba for two reasons;

- 1 Sporting teams played under the name of “Awaba” and were very successful. This promoted a feeling of pride and identity with the teams.
- 2 In the early days, when times were tough, people didn’t have much entertainment and weren’t able to travel far from Awaba, so sport was one of the main focuses of community life.

In the beginning the village of Awaba started because of the construction of the Sydney to Newcastle railway in 1881. A Crown Reserve was proclaimed for “Public Recreation and Camping” to serve as a construction camp or “depot” near the Awaba Station. The railway station was opened in 1887.

Railway workers and timber workers camped on the depot and built humpies. Some were in the location of the present Awaba Oval and no doubt the land was cleared. Once the “depot” closed the cleared land was used as a football ground even though it sloped considerably from south to north. The Awaba Public School opened in 1891.

One of the characteristics of the Field family was that most family members were known by a nickname rather than their given name. This sometimes led to difficulties when even a family member couldn’t remember a relative’s given name. The names given to the original Field children were;

James – Johnnie Pedder, George – Hummer, Albert – Rod, Florida – Florrie, Oliver – Nutty, Caroline – Kate, Henry – Tiger, Albert – Kingie, Newton – Bobbie, Frederick – Aspro, Oscar – Ocky, Alma – Biddie and Alick – Uncle.

Bill Field told me that in his first job he used to undertake deliveries to residents in Awaba and he often had to ask his relatives what their first name was to make sure he was delivering to the right person.

The supply chain of cricketers for SLDCC named Field dried up in the 1960s and we have not had a Field since about 1973. There may well have been relatives of the Fields played since then, but with a different surname.

It may seem to be a trick question but “who was the last Field to play cricket at Awaba Oval”. The answer may well be Wally Field who played his senior cricket for University District Cricket Club and he is in Bill Field’s photo of the 1950 Awaba Under 14 football team. I have no accurate information about when Wally last played at Awaba Oval but he certainly played there with University 1st Grade team.

My guess is that Ken Field was the last Field to play at Awaba Oval and he finished his career with SLDCC in 1972-73. Ken played one significant 1st grade innings of 83 against University at Awaba Oval. It was important at the time because University had the very capable representative opening bowler Colin Whitehead and anyone who got runs against a bowler of his quality had to play pretty well. I remember Ken playing several trademark “Field” shots in that innings. The shots were hard hit flat bat shots over the infield, rather like the way I remember his brother Doug used to play.

THE OLD AWABA CRICKET GROUND

The original Awaba Oval or Awaba Cricket Ground was located along the section of Wilton Road known as the “mad mile”. Note the plan of the Awaba village which is included in the Addendum section of this book. This cricket ground was literally “dug out of the bush” and was apparently built about 1900 by volunteers using bullock teams. The ground had a concrete wicket.

The first cricket match there was between Awaba and Brunkerville but I was not able to find a date.

The oval was on land to the east of Wilton Road opposite the eastern end of Teralba Street. It is likely that the land was Public Reserve vested in Trustees. I have not tried to research the description and ownership of the old ground. In 2003 the land around the old ground was subdivided or consolidated and it is now part of Lot 7052 DP 1057169, 2 Toronto Street, Awaba. A copy of this DP is included as item 8 in the Addendum at the rear of this story. The present owners of Lot 7052 DP 1057169 are Land and Property Management Authority a State Government Department.

I walked into the bush where the old ground used to be with Kevin and Shirley Page but we could not find any evidence of the ground or the concrete wicket. The bush at that location has reclaimed the ground. Some of the trees standing there now have diameters of up to 0.5m and are very large. It is obvious that these trees are at least 50 years old.

The old ground was not very wide. There is a creek to the east (this is the upper reaches of Stoney Creek) and the railway fence to the west was the boundary. There used to be an old road to Toronto which passed to the east of the creek and it was last used about 1920s or 1930s. When the current mad mile was constructed the Council closed the ground and a move was made to the present Awaba Oval location.

It appears that the Council built the present road, now called Wilton Road including the section known as the Mad Mile, in 1929. Apparently the RAAF played a part in the building of the road in that they may have contributed to funding to allow RAAF personnel to get to the Rathmines Air Base.

The boundary for the old cricket ground was the railway fence and the new road was built within a road reserve next to the railway line thus reducing the size of the cricket ground. Apparently Ted Puddy used to hit sixers onto the railway line.

Note the following newspaper articles;

CRICKET. A match played at the Awaba Oval between Awaba and Navvies resulted in an easy win for the local team. For the winners H. Matthews 31, A. Field 23. and W. Strudwick 22 batted best, while for the losers J. Ireland 21, 11. Lenton 15 and Field 14 batted best. 1903 (This is the oldest record I found of a match at Awaba)

AWABA - On behalf of the residents of Awaba, Mr. G. Booth, M.P., has interviewed the Divisional Engineer of the Main Roads Board in connection with the action of the Main Roads Board in continuing trespassing on the recreation reserve recently gazetted for a cricket ground at Awaba. Mr. Booth stated that notwithstanding the fact they had been repeatedly warned, the Main Roads Board were still allowing huge trucks to drive over the ground, which was cutting up the ground and spoiling it for recreation purposes. Mr. Booth asked that this practice should be discontinued otherwise the trustees would be compelled to take legal action. The officer stated that he had given definite instructions that the practice had to cease, and he would despatch an urgent wire informing the engineer on the job that these instructions must be carried out immediately. 1929

Mr. Newton Field, Honorary Secretary, Awaba Cricket Club advised that at a full meeting of the club he was instructed to write to the Council pointing out that the ganger employed on the road to link up the Toronto-Cessnock and Awaba-Wangi roads intended commencing ploughing and forming operations on that portion of the road which included the top portion of the cricket ground, and which, if carried out, would prevent cricket being played on the ground. The writer reminded the council of an agreement entered into with the club concerning the ground, also that no visible effort had been made to provide a new ground for the club. Cr. Mobbs was informed by the Shire Clerk that the land had been resumed. It was decided to inform the writer of the council's action in the matter. 1929

AWABA - Mr. G. Booth, M.P. has been informed by Mr. Ball the Minister for Lands regarding his personal representations for an additional recreation ground at Awaba, that the drainage reserve 10445 Village at Awaba used by the local cricket club that approval has been given. 1929

LAKE MACQUARIE SHIRE spent towards the purchase of a piece of waste land for Speers' Point Park, and the "doing in" of the boys in Awaba for their cricket ground for their new road to Toronto. 1930



The players in this photo are;

Back Row L to R

Sid Field, Bill Puddy, Daddy Ike Puddy, Nutty Field, Bobby Field, Fred Puddy and Bob Murrell

Front Row L to R

Jonney Pedder Field, Occy (Jean on his knee), Henry Amos, Kingy, Rod, Aspro and Uncle Potts.

Child under the tree, Cass Bonner.

Bill Field provided this photo of an old Awaba cricket team apparently from 1915. It was reported that this is the Field Cricket Team comprising eight of the original William Field's ten sons, four brothers-in-law and a grandson.

The location is not known but it is unlikely to have been the Old Awaba Cricket Ground.

Kingy was Bill's grandfather. Bill's father was Victor (Shannon) Field.

THE PRESENT GROUND - AWABA OVAL

The new Awaba Cricket Oval was developed in several stages between the late 1890s and 1958.

It appears that originally there was a football field at the present oval location and it was there in the early days. It is likely that the original "depot" for the railway construction from 1881 would have cleared and flattened the ground and once the humpies and camp sites were removed the flattened area was the football ground.

I was able to establish that The Joint Coal Board and LMCC both contributed to the construction of the turf wicket, improvements to the ground and the tennis courts in 1957.

The present Awaba Oval is located on land known as 2A Olney Street, Awaba and this is Lot 1 DP 1139314. I could not get a copy of this DP. The owner of the land is Lake Macquarie City Council and it is Public Reserve. It appears that part of the land was granted to the citizens of Awaba and later extra land was granted in 1941 following the closure of the old ground.

Newspaper article;

Awaba Cricket Club advised that the cost of a concrete wicket would be £30. If the price is accepted the Engineer will supervise the construction of the wicket. 1930. (This is likely to be the concrete wicket on the main oval). The concrete wicket at Awaba Oval (main ground) was covered with dirt to allow football to be played.

It appears that the concrete wicket on the lower area (now pony club grounds) was constructed shortly after 1930. The date that the concrete wicket was constructed was written in the concrete. The wicket was covered with coir matting (a type of coconut fibre matting) when it was played on to help protect the cricket ball. The coir matting was stored in Max Claydon's shed. Max can recall bullock teams pulling stumps out and setting fires to burn the stumps and timber. Keith Buckton said the bullock team was owned by Shannon (Victor Francis) Field and there were 8 bullocks in a team.

In the early years and development of the ground Ted Goodsir was involved with getting septic at Awaba Oval.

Item in Newspaper.

The Committee of Awaba Sports Ground plans to lay down tennis courts on land near the football ground. The ground was granted by Lake Macquarie Shire Council to

Awaba Cricket Club to replace ground required for road construction, the Secretary said. 1941

The fence around the new oval was built with logs donated by Max Claydon's brother Bert and Max used a truck to transport them to a small mill in Awaba. A person named Williams cut the logs into posts. The original timber fence was timber posts and an arris top rail and 100 x 50 bottom rail.

At the new oval the locals built an open fronted shed to act as the pavilion or dressing rooms. The first one was blown over in a wind storm. The locals then rebuilt the shed on two more occasions, in different locations, but both of these sheds were also blown over in heavy wind.

The current building was constructed by the locals using funds from Lake Macquarie Shire Council in 1945.

Items from Newspaper.

Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate) Wednesday 14 November 1928
AWABA On behalf of the citizens of Awaba, Mr. G. Booth, MP has made application for the area of land now used as a cricket ground.

AWABA SPORTS CLUB- A Sports Club has been organised at Awaba to conduct tennis, cricket and football. A dressing shed will be erected and the ground improved at an early date. Mr. H. Goodslr is President, R. Sharp Secretary and Mr. L. Williams Treasurer. A working bee has been formed to improve the playing area. 1944

Awaba Keen to Play Cricket - A special meeting of the committee of Newcastle City and Suburban Cricket Association will be held tonight to discuss an application from Awaba Cricket Club for permission to be accepted in the association this season. This was in reply to a decision last Wednesday night that Awaba not be accepted unless they found a more accessible ground. The Secretary (Mr. N. T. McCaffery) was advised yesterday that since Fassifern and Blackalls grounds were unplayable, Awaba was prepared to provide transport free to visiting clubs from Fassifern, Blackalls and Toronto railway stations to Awaba ground. 1944

A request from Awaba Cricket Club, that visiting teams be transported to Awaba from Toronto instead of from Fassifern was granted. 1944

AWABA SPORTS OVAL 'IMPROVEMENTS' - A deputation from the Awaba General Fund Committee will place before the Lake Shire Council proposals for the erection of a club shed at the sports ground, the formation of the oval and filling on the ground. The question of resuming four blocks adjacent to the ground will be discussed. Mr. R. Sharp said the question of having electric light and watermains extended to Awaba was brought under notice by members, who said these extensions should have high priority. 1945

Extend Water Mains to Awaba - Extension of water mains to Awaba from Toronto depended upon the outcome of the proposal to establish a colliery at Awaba, but prospects seemed favourable, the President of Lake Macquarie Shire (Cr. Gain) said. The shire council re-graded Awaba sports oval. Timber for conveniences, a tank for residents on the ground were provided, trees were planted and tree-guards built, voluntarily by Awaba Sports Club, of which Mr. H Goodsir is chairman and Mr. R. Sharp secretary. 1946

AWABA SPORTS CLUB. Four teams have been entered by Awaba Sports Club in three grades of the City and Suburban cricket competition. It was reported that repairs were made to the sports ground, a shed was being built by members with material supplied by the shire council. 1945

AWABA SPORTS GROUND IMPROVEMENTS - Clearing of Awaba Sports Ground has improved the playing area. The club intends to enter four teams in the district grade cricket competitions. A new cricket pitch is being put down and is expected to be ready for play this season. The President (Mr.H.Goodsir) said the new playing area may be re-graded within a few weeks. 1946 (It is likely that the wicket mentioned here was a concrete wicket on the lower or pony club area).

After works to reshape (cut and fill) Awaba Oval, where Alf Goodsir used a dozer and grader, in about 1958 there was an official opening of the Awaba Oval on 24 April 1959. A raffle was run and the winner was (young) Ken Field, who won a tennis racket donated by Reg A Baker Sports Shop.

The Awaba Coal Mine, Electricity, and also a watermain were extended from Toronto to Awaba in about 1947.

Eventually the two concrete wickets were removed. The one on Awaba Oval first, at the time the new turf wicket was installed in 1957. Later the one on the pony club grounds was removed in about 1964. The concrete wicket was still there, on the present oval, in 1949.



Photo of Awaba Football Under 14 Team in 1950 provided by Bill Field. While this is a football photo several of the players were also Awaba and Southern Lakes District Cricket Club cricketers. The players are;

Back Row L to R

Kevin (Sluggo) Mavin, Barry Lean, Keith Buckton and Doug Field.

Centre Row L to R

Wally Field, Bob Winter, Bill Field and Chris Blackshaw,

Front Row L to R

Harold (Red Harry) Goodsir and Les Sharpe. (Absent Goal Keeper Bobby Field).

Of the nine footballers Doug Field, Wally Field (later was a fine 1st grade cricketer with University District Cricket Club), Bill Field, Harold Goodsir and Les Sharpe all played cricket.

Keith Buckton thought that Council may have constructed the turf wicket because the people of Awaba would not have had the money.

The new cricket ground was there before the tennis courts. There was a proposal to build a lawn bowling green above the car park area, by Hugh Goodsir, but it failed due to lack of funds.

There used to be some old houses in Olney Street and the council resumed the land from Max Claydon's parents for the new Awaba Oval. Robert Mavin said he could remember an old shack in Olney Street at the rear of the present pavilion and he said a man called there, in a yellow car, about once each year. Cec Gavenlock said the building was a type of long gun barrel army hut mounted on piers. A storm demolished it about 1955. The house may have been occupied by relatives of Max Claydon.

Dud Field was the first curator of the turf wicket, then Bob Gavenlock. Bob Gavenlock was an opening bat who played for Awaba. Bob did the cricket wickets for about 10 years. For most of that time he used two hand rollers, one filled with water making it very heavy. Later in his life Cec used to help him pull the roller up and down the wicket. Bob also looked after the tennis courts. Newton (Bobbie) Field also looked after the tennis courts by watering them and brooming the surface. John O'Brien was the third curator of the turf wicket.

Tom Lundy, a former SLDCC player told me that he remembered a train that used to stop directly behind the wicket at the northern end of the ground every Saturday afternoon at the same time. The train was a coal train on the spur line to the Awaba Coal Mine and he thought the driver just stopped the train there so he could watch the cricket for 10 minutes.

Items from Newspaper.

Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate **Friday 30 May 1941**

The Committee of **Awaba** Sports Ground plans to lay down tennis courts on land near the football ground. The ground was granted by Lake Macquarie Shire Council to **Awaba Cricket** Club to replace ground required for road construction, the Secretary said.

SPORTS CLUB AWABA -A complaint that Lake Macquarie Shire Council had not fulfilled its promise to Awaba Recreation and Sports Club was made to the President (Cr. Gain) of the council by Mr. H. Goodsir. He said that most of the men and boys at Awaba had grubbed and cleared the oval, made tree guards and planted trees, prepared cricket pitches and erected a pavilion and seating. This work was done voluntarily. Last March the council promised £100 towards clearing and regrading the area, the work to be completed by the end of April. Mr. Goodsir said that the turf wicket

could not be used because the Council had not kept its promise. To overcome this difficulty, another concrete wicket was being prepared. The club had spent £30 on grubbing the area. Cr. Gain said that he would ask the Shire Engineer (Mr. Webb) when the grader and bulldozer would be available to work on the ground. 1946 (from this article it appears that there was a turf wicket on Awaba Oval in 1946 but it could not be used and a new concrete wicket was then installed at the lower ground)

AWABA SPORTS CLUB. Four teams have been entered by Awaba Sports Club in three grades of the City and Suburban cricket competition. It was reported that repairs were made to the sports ground, a shed was being built by members with material supplied by the shire council. A dance will be held on October 5 and a sports gala, with horses. 1945

AWABA SPORTS GROUND IMPROVEMENTS - Clearing of Awaba Sports Ground has improved the playing area. The club intends to enter four teams in the district grade cricket competitions. A new cricket pitch is being put down and is expected to be ready for play this season. A dance will be held in the School of Arts, Toronto, on September 27, in aid of the funds. The President (Mr. H. Goodsir) said the new playing area may be re-graded within a few weeks. 1946

Awaba Sports Ground has advised Awaba Cricket Club, which has teams in lower grades in the district competition that a tank would be provided at the sports ground in a few days. He said the water shortage at Awaba was a serious problem. Water was required for the oval. 1947

Query to Coal Board on Awaba Amenities. The Awaba Amenities Committee asked the Joint Coal Board Welfare Officer (Mr. E. Wallwork) yesterday when work would begin on laying the turf wicket at No. 1 Sports Ground, levelling No. 2 Sports Ground, construction of two tennis courts, and children's play centre, and the erection of a fence around the oval. Mr. Wallwork said the board was waiting for plans and specifications from Lake Macquarie Shire. The Chairman (Mr. L. McWilliams) said application for this work had been submitted to the council in 1948. Cr. Gain was asked to submit the following motion to the council: "That the above requests be put before council, that the Shire Engineer be asked to submit plans and specifications to the Joint Coal Board, and the shire council be asked to call tenders for the work." Members said local contractors were available to do the work. 1950



SOUTHERN LAKES FIRST GRADE SIDE Early 1980's

BACK ROW – Colin Caban, Wayne Hackett, Stephen Woodbridge, Tony Fullerton, Aaron Lewis

FRONT ROW – David Nicholls, Graeme Lewis, Terry Walters (Wicketkeeper), Robert Holland (Captain), Garry Pinches, Bob McLeod

Photo taken at Awaba Oval in 1980s. Note the original timber and Aris Rail white fence which was probably built about 1958.

Southern Lakes District Cricket Club played at Awaba Oval from 1959-60. The official name of the club today is Cricket Southern Lakes however the club has played under the names Toronto Workers Kookaburras and then Toronto Workers District Cricket since 2006-07 for sponsorship reasons.



SOUTHERN LAKES PREMERSHIP WINNING SIDE – SEASON 1973/74

BACK ROW — Fenton Coull, David Hill, Les Edwards (Captain), Mark Whitelaw, John Gardner, Noel Thomson

FRONT ROW – Robert Holland, Garry Pinches, Ken Solway (Wicketkeeper), Keith McCord (Scorer)

Two photos from the archives of Southern Lakes District Cricket Club.

The Curators, Works and Equipment at the new cricket ground.

The next section relates to the curators of the turf wicket at Awaba Oval, items of work that have been carried out and equipment.

Letter from Keith Buckton dated 24 November 1948 asking Joint Coal Board to fund the laying of a turf wicket, the leveling of sports grounds 1 and 2, construction of two tennis courts, the provision of water, showers and amenities, construction of children's playground and a fence around the oval.

Letter to LMCC from John Harris Secretary Awaba Sports Club dated 1956 asking for a meeting with Council to discuss improving the football field and also the provision of turf wickets.

Letter from LMCC dated 1957 about improvements at Awaba Oval indicating the estimate of cost for 4960 pounds (about \$9920) for improvements to the football ground, a turf wicket and two tennis courts.

From this point the LMCC agreed to fund part of the work, the Joint Coal Board put in \$4960 and the balance was to be voluntary labour from the citizens of Awaba.

There was a grant of 2480 pounds (about \$4960) in 1958 for improvements to the Awaba Sports Oval.

There was another grant in 1963 from the Joint Coal Board of 262 pounds (about \$524) for the provision of children's playground equipment including a set of swings and a stainless steel slide.

Hunter Water laid a 25mm waterservice along Onley Street in 1958 to supply water to Awaba Oval and the tennis courts.

It appears that DC (Dud) Field was the first curator and he undertook the work from the time the turf wicket was installed in 1957 until 1963-64 cricket season.

SLDCC first used the ground in 1959-60 season and the reports are that the wicket was not very good that season. It is reported that it did improve for the next season.

For the first four years that SLDCC played at Awaba Oval the ground was shared with the Awaba Royals Cricket club. This meant that SLDCC would have use of the ground for two Saturdays (two day district matches) and Awaba Royals would use it for two Saturdays (two one day C&S games).

Bob Gavenlock took over the curation in 1963-64 and undertook the work for about eight seasons. For most of that time he used two hand rollers, one filled with water making it very heavy. Later in his life Cec Gavenlock used to help him pull the roller up and down the wicket.

John O'Brien took over for a couple of seasons and then Robert Holland and Mark Whitelaw shared the work for a season.

There was an incident in about 1972 when SLDCC has an electric roller. The motor was powered by electricity and we had to run a very long electrical cord out from the clubhouse from a 3 phase power point. We had trouble getting a curator and I talked my father Bill Holland into doing the job. He had no experience but I suppose he said yes just to help me. On the first day that he worked he got a small electrical shock from the roller. He walked off the job and never returned !

There was still a water filled hand roller at the ground that was used and half of the handle had broken off. This old hand roller was still at the ground in 1987.

A concrete footpath incorporating steps was constructed in 1973 from the front of the pavilion to the gate to the oval. This work was carried out by "RED" scheme which was supervised by LMCC for unemployed people.

The next curator was John Gardner in 1974-75. During this season a new toilet block was constructed, a shed was constructed for the roller and the timber fence was painted.

Wayne Hackett tried his hand at curating from 1976 to 1978 and Greg Singleton also carried out the job in 1979-80. Greg told me that at the time he did the wickets the square had reduced in size to be only two wickets wide. The weeds had grown into the sides of the square thus reducing its width.

Greg advised me of an incident when he was curator. He used the electric roller with the very long cord. The roller was a little unpredictable as it tended to change direction without any warning. Greg had parked his car very close to the wicket with the door open wide so he could hear music on the car radio. He left the roller for a moment and looked away while it was moving close to the car door and it suddenly changed direction hitting the car door and ripping it off its hinges.

I don't know who prepared wickets from 1980 to 1983 but Peter Woodbridge then did the wickets till 1987.

SLDCC played 1st and 2nd grade at Ron Hill Oval Toronto for season 1982-83 and 3rd and 4th grades were played at Awaba Oval.

In 1982 new sight screens were provided and a motorized roller was purchased. The wicket was still described as poor. By 1983 the timber fence was starting to fall down and rails fell off. A new Honda motor was put on the recently purchased roller.

The wicket was still described (no fault of the hard working Peter Woodbridge) as a graveyard or a goat track. More rails had fallen from the fence and it was considered to be dangerous.

For season 1986-87 the curators were Peter Woodbridge, Jamie Dunk and Matthew Wagstaff. At the end of that season the committee decided to reconstruct the wicket square.



Photo taken May 1987 of the reconstruction of the wickets at Awaba Oval. Note the nice sight screen at the northern end (it was constructed by Peter Litchfield for SLDCC at a cost of \$1000). Some other comments; The wicket soil looks a little lumpy and undertaking the work in May is very late and close to winter. It appears that there were 3 wickets.



A photo taken of Awaba Oval in March 1987. Note the condition of the timber boundary fence with some top and bottom rails missing. Also note the old handroller in front of the first roller shed which was constructed in about 1974.

In 1987-88 the reconstructed wicket square was curated by Phil Brock and he soon had the wickets hard and fast. The outfield was uneven and the fence had completely fallen down.

Phil Brock prepared wickets for two more seasons. The fence had completely fallen and there was a chance that the Toronto Baseball Club would relocate to Awaba Oval. The southern end of Awaba Oval was top dressed by Council because it was very bumpy and dangerous.

The old fence had been removed by Council and the boundaries marked by witches hats.

Alan Easter took over as curator in 1991-92 and prepared good wickets for 6 seasons. In the meantime Awaba Parks Committee and Council had installed a new pipe rail fence, without mesh.

A grant was received from "Runs for Australia" and Council installed mesh in the pipe rail fence to stop balls going through the fence.

In 1997 the old roller kept breaking down and a replacement roller was purchased for \$400. It had problems and at the end of the season a new Honda Motor was installed by Martin Wouters. In Alan Easter's last season 1997-98 Australian Rules Football was played on Awaba Oval in the winter.

Darren Richardson took over as curator in 1998-99.

Neil Porter took over as curator in 1999-2000.

Alex King took over for two seasons to 2001-02. It was reported that the wickets were good and the outfield fast. . Work for Dole crew painted sight screens, installed a concrete floor for a second gear shed. LMCC did repairs to gutters, timber verandah and they will construct the second gear shed. The roller needed repairs.

2002-03 LMCC constructed the second gear shed.

Alan Windon prepared the wickets for two season until he tragically passed away in 2005. SLJCC under 17 team used Awaba oval as their home ground. This was the first time we had put a junior team on Awaba Oval. We attempted to widen the wicket square 1m each side to get 4 wickets but the outer edges need filling up to the correct level.

A new Ovals Board was set up with Alan Nichols and Andrew Eastcott members. Hot showers were installed in 2004-05.

Alistair Winton became the next curator for two seasons and in the second season shared the job with Scott Marjoribanks. Scott prepared the wickets until the end of 2009-10 season.

The wickets were getting very hard to bat on because the wicket soil seemed to have lost it's hardness. There were a lot of suggestions being made about how to fix the problem like add extra water, undertake more rolling, undertake more wet rolling but each week the wickets were very, very slow and hard to bat on.

We solved the problem at the end of the 2010-2011 cricket season by top dressing the wicket square with Oberon wicket soil. This allowed the preparation of hard fast wickets again in 2011-12.

We had a Work for the Dole crew at Awaba Oval for six months and during that time they constructed new fixed sight screens and other maintenance works around the oval. The building was painted inside and

out and drainage was improved. In general terms the ground has been vastly improved for the coming season. We used a grant from the Toronto Trade Fair of \$5000 to do the work. The long vegetation on the west side of the oval remains a problem and many balls are lost.



Photos showing Awaba Oval pavilion and wicket on 2 March 2009.

Paul Clarke took over the curation in 2010-11. Our Under 15 team played there for junior cricket in 2011-12 and our Under 16 team played there in 2013-14 season.



Photo of curator Paul Clarke taken 11 February 2014. Note the sight screen constructed by a Work for the Dole crew in 2008.



Awaba Oval on 22 February 2014. Two wickets prepared, the one on the left for Under 16 Premier League team and the one on the right for 3rd grade. Both wickets were outstanding in that they were hard and fast and true.



The covers are still on early on 22 February 2014.



The two Under 16 Premier League teams Toronto Workers District Cricket and Waratah Mayfield Cricket at Awaba Oval on 22 February 2014.



The Under 16 Premier League match in progress on 22 February 2014 with TWCC in the field.

In year 2007 we saw a lot of improvements and work undertaken at Awaba. Year 2008 was also a good year in that work continued to provide improvements to the complex. The whole of the Awaba Oval area is now very neat and tidy.

Firstly the original Work for the Dole (WFD) crew continued on undertaking work for the Toronto Pony Club. This work included the maintenance and improvements to the pony club shed and the building of a lot of fences and corrals. This allows the pony club to keep horses in their own enclosures during pony club days. Also gates were installed to control horses and vehicles to make the area safe.

The WFD completed this project in July 2008 and removed their container shed from the site.

As part of the pony club works a new power cable was installed from the Awaba Oval clubhouse to the pony club building by Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC).

LMCC completed the refurbishment of the kitchen and canteen area about May 2008. These areas are now very neat and functional. As part of the work an electric barbecue was installed by Council under the roof structure constructed last year by the work for the dole.

The committee now needs to consider stocking the kitchen area with appliances and kitchen utensils to make the pavilion very user friendly.

LMCC has a proposal to replace the children's playground equipment. It is understood that funding is available for the work to proceed prior to Christmas. Council has however applied for some grant funds to allow the installation of a better standard of equipment.

I can recall Harold (Red Harry) Goodsir and Tony Fullerton's father watching 1st grade at Awaba Oval in about 1973 season. Red Harry was the son of Hugh Goodsir and he was a well known and notorious character in Awaba. He played some cricket and he was also a 1st grade football player for Toronto Awaba. In his youth Red Harry had broken his left arm and I believe he did not undertake the correct rehabilitation of the arm. This left him with an arm, which he carried right through his life, as though it was still in a sling. It was of great benefit to him playing football because it allowed him to vigorously elbow opposition players in the ribs while he was running at top pace.

Red Harry would arrive with a couple of bottles of beer and sit on the bank at the southern end and support SLDCC. If a decision went against SLDCC he could get quite upset and start calling out loudly. Another thing with Red Harry was that he occasionally came into the kitchen while the ladies prepared afternoon team for the players. He was very quickly given his marching orders out of the afternoon tea room by the ladies. I think he was a bit scared of females.

Tony Fullerton's father also used to sit on the bank at the southern end with a couple of long necks of beer in brown paper bags. He was a good spectator and didn't call out like Red Harry.

AWABA OVAL COMMUNITY OPERATING COMMITTEE (AOCOC)

Or

AWABA PARKS COMMITTEE (APC)

The Awaba Oval Community Operating Committee (previously the Awaba Parks Committee) has a rich history in the development and building the Awaba Oval that we see today. The APC has at times been controversial like the issue with the cutting of the hose in 1962 (see Lumsden cartoon in chapter Pit Props and Sleepers) and allowing the pony club to run horse events on the cricket ground.

Over the past few years the AOCOC has continued to operate mainly through the efforts of Kathy and Cec Gavenlock and representatives of the cricket club and pony club. It is disappointing that the tennis courts get very little use these days.

The APC gave the Awaba Pony Club permission to run horse events on the outfield of Awaba Oval in 1975. The letter advised that they can only hold the events 3 or 4 times a year, out of cricket season. The pony club had to roll the outfield after the events, they could not use the oval if it was wet and only riding class events are to be held.

In the 1980s the pony club was still undertaking Riding and Hacking events on Awaba Oval. There could be up to 20 horses involved in these events. This action, of allowing horses to use the outfield of the oval caused a great deal of concern for the cricket club.

Awaba Oval is a great place to play cricket for quite a few reasons. Firstly the wickets have usually been very good for batting and the outfield is usually very fast. The combination of these two things makes for good cricket with plenty of runs being scored.

The ground is a large open park area away from houses and people so the cricket or loud appealing should not disturb anyone. The pavilion is elevated making watching a game very good from the verandah. There has always been a children's playground for small children to play on and about 2009 the playground was upgraded to a modern facility by the council.

Possibly the only detriment to the ground is that the thick bush on the western side is quite close to the boundary fence and cricket balls are often lost when balls are hit over the boundary fence.

INTERVIEWS

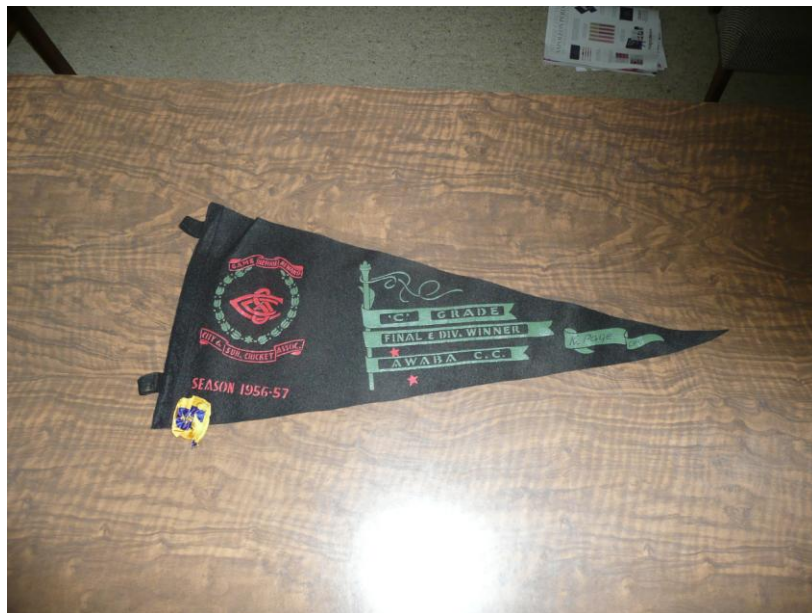
Kevin and Shirley Page

I spoke to Shirley and Kevin (called PeeWee) and they talked about the old Awaba cricket ground and also memories and memorabilia that they have concerning cricket at Awaba. I took photos of various items and they are reproduced here.

Shirley loaned me her book "Pit Props and Sleepers (The Story of Awaba)" by Doug Saxon and I have reproduced some of the pages in this story.



Blazer belonging to Kevin Page indicating he was the Captain of the Awaba "C" Grade team, who were undefeated Minor and Major Premiers in 1956-57 season.



The winners flag for season 1956-57



A two piece cricket Ball kept by Kevin from 1956 which looks identical to a modern day two piece C&S ball.



Various Flags - 1958 59 - Kevin Page – Captain Awaba Royals Cricket Club 1958-59 B Grade East West Division





This plate was won by Shirley Page's father in 1916 for his bowling and wicketkeeping. His name was Cecil Wellard (called Jim). He was born 1900 and he played cricket at Awaba. The inscription on the rear of the plate is hard to read but it does indicate the year "1916".



Shirley and Kevin Page standing at the side of the "Mad Mile" and pointing at the bush where the old oval was located.



This is the location of the old cricket ground at Awaba. It is fair to say the “bush has reclaimed the ground”.



A recent photo of part of Wilton Road, called the “Mad Mile” at the approximate location of the old Awaba Cricket Ground.

Information about other teams that Kevin played in.

Kevin played in Country week in 1951 and they played Central Coast which had future Test Cricketer Alan Davidson in its team. Alan took it easy on Kevin's team and only bowled slow medium pace.

1959-60 Awaba Royals B Grade No 1 division

1960-61 Awaba Royals B Grade no 3 division

1961-62 Awaba Royals

Shirley said that she played cricket on the main oval in about 1947 in a ladies team.

Kevin said that the footballers usually had a keg of beer after football matches. If it wasn't all drunk the men would return to the ground on Monday afternoons, after working in the Awaba pit, to finish the beer.

Bill Field

Bill Field was a fine 1st grade football player for Awaba and he played cricket with Awaba Royals and a couple of seasons with SLDCC. His father was Victor Francis (Shannon) and his grandfather was Kingy.

Bill said that all of the Fields and Puddys were good cricketers but none of them had been coached. He said they were all hard hitting batsmen who did not have a perfect technique.

He has stronger memories of Awaba Oval from a football point of view but not necessarily from a cricket point of view. I showed him some of my notes about this story and he made the comment "you have discovered a lot of things that I didn't know".

Bill recalled that Awaba, at one time, played football in a Sunday competition and they had two teams. The older players were called the "Veterans" and the younger team the "Dribblers". He also recalled that as a kid he had played cricket and football on the "green".

In the 1940s or 1950s there were still tents next to the railway line just beyond the Green. The tents had canvas roofs and timber sides. They were occupied by railway workers.

Bill said the Fields that were good cricketers from his era were Doug, Ray (Ginger), Don, Milton (Tom), Neville (Blondie) and Dud. Bill had a private joke with Blondie and Tom that right handed batsmen were better than left handed batsmen. Tom was right handed and Blondie was left handed and they were brothers. Their sister was Elvie and she married Ken Pinches the father of Garry Pinches. Garry was one of the finest players ever to play for SLDCC and he played 196 1st grade games taking 287 1st grade wickets.

Bill played Under 14 cricket with Awaba on the pony club area with a concrete wicket. He could recall running around the ground to put the boundary flags out.

Bill thought there were two sets of mats that were put on the concrete wickets at Awaba Oval. One set was Kippax matting and the other was coir matting. He thought they alternated the mats on the two wickets.

Keith Buckton

I spoke to Keith a couple of times and he gave me a great deal of information. His father was Dan (called Squitter) Buckton who was a very good player in the early days at Awaba.

Keith said that his mother was a Methodist and she did not like it when sport was played on Sundays.

His father Dan Buckton was a very good cricketer who played cricket for Awaba teams until he was about aged 40 and then he became an umpire. Hugh Goodsir also became a cricket umpire in the C&S competitions.

Keith said his father was a very fast runner and also Keith was also a very fast runner.

Keith said that Hugh Goodsir was a great worker for the Awaba Oval in that he organized chitter from the Awaba Pit and he was always looking for materials or filling, provided they were free. Hugh often contacted the President of Lake Macquarie Shire Council, the Local Member of Parliament and the Mining Minister Mr Simpson seeking funds to undertake works at Awaba Oval. A lot of the Earthworks were undertaken by Hugh's brother, who had an earthmoving business in Cessnock, called Goodsir and Cooper.

Ken Field

Ken said he thought he could remember the old Awaba Oval but he was a very young child. In later years he walked in the bush and tried to find the concrete wicket but he could not find it. He said that the ground was very small with the road and railway line to the west and there was a creek, often with water in it, to the east.

Ken used to spend his Saturday afternoons, when he was about 12 years of age watching SLDCC and in particular his brother Doug. Doug was a very good batsman who scored a couple of centuries for SLDCC in 1st grade.

Ken was happy to sit on the bank watching the game, with a can of soft drink and a packet of chips. He used to wear his white cricket gear in case someone was injured and a fielder was needed.

Ken used to bowl to Doug on the road at the front of their home. Ken (Red) Field lived across the road and used to watch and call out to Ken to get Doug out. Red also used to call out that left handed batsmen were no good (both Doug and Ken were left handed batsmen) and also that Neil Harvey (Ken's idol), the great Test Cricketer was no good because he was a left-handed batsman. This was an interesting comment by Red as he was a right hand medium pace bowler and a left-handed batsman.

Ken and Doug's father Len (Pommie) was a very good batsman in his day.

Darryl and Phyllis Field

I spoke to Daryl and Phyllis on a couple of occasions. Darryl spoke about his father Ken (Red) Field (born 1911) who was a fine cricketer and played on with Awaba for many years. He opened the bowling and got a lot of wickets and he occasionally opened the batting. Red's bowling was a little round-arm but in an eight ball over he bowled eight different deliveries.

Daryl has 5 old scorebooks dating between 1927 and 1962. I copied a couple of the pages and they are reproduced in the Addendum Chapter from pages ** to 82. Red Field is in teams in 1935 and still in teams in 1962. He was about 51 years old in 1962. In that season he had some very good performances and in one game he had figures of 7 for 21.

Most of the scoring in the old scorebooks is written in pencil and sometimes a lot of information is missing. It is very interesting to see the names of the players with the following surnames featuring in the scorebooks and I have been told that most of the players were related. Often there were many players in a team with the following surnames;

Field (sometimes 6 or 7), Murrell (often 2 or 3), Wellard, Puddy, Goodsir, Buckton, Mavin, Watkins, Sharpe, Winterbine, Claydon, Page, Wyborn, Heaton, Gavenlock, and Williams.

Occasionally another surnames are noted like Mitchell, Partland, Stanton, Chamberlain, Oakes, McRae, Drennan, Smith, Baker, Forrester, Robinson, Hitchcock, Anthony, Thompson and Marton, and well, they were probably related as well.

In Southern Lakes first season in 1959-60 there were 7 Fields in 1st and 2nd grades. Doug, Ray, Neville, Milton, Dud, Don and John. In year two Bill, Tony and Shannon were added.

Max Claydon

I spoke to Max Claydon at his home. He is aged 88, born 1926 and he played a lot of cricket at Awaba until about age 36.

Max can recall attending a cricket match on the old cricket ground when he was about 8 years old. He remembers a man on a horse at the match and he stayed on the horse all day. He thought that the man might have been worried about getting off the horse and not being able to get back on again.

The old ground had a concrete wicket.

He thought the new ground was started to be built about 1935. He can recall bullock teams pulling stumps out and setting fires to burn the stumps and timber. Keith Buckton said the bullock team was owned by Shannon Field and there were 8 bullocks in a team.

Originally at Awaba there was a family of 10 brothers, named Field. Newton Field was one of them. They were all engaged in timber cutting for the mines. There was another family named Puddy and they married into the field family. The Fields and the Puddys were good cricketers.

At the new Awaba Oval there was a concrete wicket and it had the date it was constructed written in the concrete. This is thought to be in the mid 1930s. The wicket was covered with coir matting (a type of coconut fibre used for matting) and the matting was pegged down and pulled tight by the players. The wicket and matting played very well but it did help the spinners. If the mat was left rather loose the spinners got a great deal of help from the wicket.

The Awaba cricket teams played in the Newcastle C&S competitions. They used to travel to matches by train. When the new ground was built they moved to use it.

Max was an off spinner and he also batted. One season he took 42 wickets in C grade. He could spin the ball and he learnt to change his pace. In one game he bowled 13 consecutive 8 ball overs and took 6 for 53 but they lost the game. He was very tired that night.

On another occasion he was hit for 7 x 4s in an over and the eighth ball he bowled a long way outside leg stump so that the batsman could not reach it.

Kevin Page said he recalled an incident with Max. Max ran a quick single and jumped to avoid a fast throw that hit the stumps. On appeal the umpire gave Max out because he was in the air when the ball hit the stumps.

The fence around the new oval was built with logs donated by Max's brother Bert and Max used a truck to transport them to a small sawmill in Awaba. A person named Williams cut the logs into posts. The original timber fence was timber posts and an arris top rail and 100 x 50 bottom rail.

Max said Kevin Page was keen on cricket.

At the new oval the locals built an open fronted shed to act as the pavilion or dressing rooms. The first one was blown over in a wind storm. The locals then rebuilt the shed on two more occasions, in different locations, but both of these sheds were also blown over in heavy wind.

The current building was constructed by the locals using funds from Lake Macquarie Shire Council.

The good players early on were Ted Puddy and Lance Puddy. In one game against Toronto at Awaba Max's brother Bert, who bowled outswingers, took 4 wickets in the first over and the grudge match was basically over by the end of the first over.

Max said that cricket was a big deal in Awaba because people did not have transport and there only social activity was to go and watch the local cricket team. People did not get away from home very much.

Awaba had 4 cricket teams in C&S at one time. Keith Buckton was Secretary of the Awaba Sports Club which catered for both cricket and soccer. He took over as Secretary about 1948 when Hugh Goodsir got upset about something and relinquished the position. Keith was aged about 20 and he did the job for several years.

The new cricket ground was there before the tennis courts. There was a proposal to build a lawn bowling green above the car park area, by Hugh Goodsir, but it failed due to lack of funds.

Max said there was not any sledging in cricket in his day but he can recall one comment. In a match at Martinsville, Awaba was in danger of being beaten outright. Max batted at 6 and blocked for a long time to save the match. The opposition wicketkeeper said to him "If you keep blocking like that you will make the State Team".

In 1930 the old road to Toronto was in use. It turned off near Olney Street and went past the present location of Lampson Cranes in Toronto Street, Toronto. Max could recall seeing a funeral procession along that road in about 1930 with a horse pulling a gig containing the coffin.

It is thought that the RAAF built the present road called Wilton Road along the Mad Mile to transport personnel to the Rathmines RAAF base late in the 1930s. Keith thought that the Council probably built the road but the RAAF may have contributed to it.

The boundary for the old cricket ground was the railway fence and the new road was built along the railway line reducing the size of the cricket ground. Max said that this was his understanding of what happened. He has memory of people saying that Ted Puddy used to hit 6s onto the railway line.

Nettie Kyrwood

Nettie Kyrwood (nee Field), born 1923, was the daughter of Newton Field. She can remember playing vigaro (a sport rather like hockey where the timber bats were shaped like a squash racket) on the old cricket ground. She knows that cricket was played there but she cannot recall watching any cricket there. Newton (Bobbie) Field was one of the original ten Field brothers who lived in Awaba. He was a wicketkeeper who played to age 48. Dud Field was Nettie's brother also a wicketkeeper and a very good one.

Cec and Kathy Gavenlock

Cec said that the old Drainage Reserve surrounding the old cricket ground was leased by Jack Baker and he ran cattle on it. He let the lease expire about 1950.

Hugh Goodsir and others put a lot of fill (chitter from Awaba Pit) at the new oval and above the parking area for a bowling green. There were two concrete wickets, one on the pony club land and one on the new oval.

There used to be some old houses in Olney street and the council resumed the land from Max Claydon's parents for the new Awaba Oval.

Dud Field was the first curator of the turf wicket, then Bob Gavenlock. Bob did the cricket wickets for about 10 years. For most of that time he used a hand roller which was filled with water making it very heavy. Later in his life Cec used to help him pull the roller up and down the wicket. Bob also looked after the tennis courts. Newton (Bobbie) Field also looked after the tennis courts at one time by watering them and brooming the surface.

John O'Brien

John was the first Treasurer of Southern Lakes District Cricket Club (the income in season 1, 1959-60 was 253 pounds (\$506). Jack Garaty was elected the first 1st Grade Captain for one game and then John took over. John, of course, was a tower of strength to the SLDCC over the first ten years being the leading batsman, captain, holding every position on the Executive and virtually running the club.

John told me that in year 1 there were about 6 or 7 of the Field family in 1st grade. Dud Field was the curator but the wickets were not up to 1st grade standard. He indicated that Dud had worked very hard on the wickets. John said in season 1 SLDCC had a very good batting lineup but we didn't get enough runs. The bowlers all did well and the wicket was a contributing factor. By the second season Dud worked very hard to improve the wicket and it developed a reputation for being slow and low but very consistent.

Note from R Holland. John was a fine 1st grade batsman and he often opened the batting. He used to take the opposition bowlers on and he would “talk” (called sledging these days) to them. John played the hook shot very well. Because the Awaba wicket was quite slow the opposition bowlers could not gain a lot of pace from the wicket. If they bowled short John often hooked them away to the boundary. He would then walk down the wicket to tell them that they were too slow and that when he played back he had to count to 3 before he hooked. That no doubt stirred them up enough to try another bumper !

Mind you, John still wears the scars on his face of being hit while playing the hook shot (no helmets back then) on quicker wickets in Newcastle.

Note from R Holland. John reminded me of another story.

Who Marked the Creases John O’Brien was the third curator of the turf wicket at Awaba Oval and he combined this work with being the 1st Grade Captain, Secretary, Selector, raffle seller and curator at another ground. No doubt he was very busy but he also didn’t mind a bit of gamesmanship to help his team.

One Saturday about 1966 (when I was about 20) SLDCC was to resume batting from the previous week but rain had dampened the wicket (no covers back then) and John had spent several hours from dawn to noon trying to dry the wicket. It looked dry but it had a lot of underlying moisture and would be difficult to bat on.

To ensure the game did not start on time John had left the ground and gone home without marking the creases about an hour before the start of play. He intended returning 5 minutes before the start of play and then taking some time to mark the creases thus delaying the start of play.

I arrived at the ground 45 minutes before the start of play and saw that the creases were not marked. So to be helpful, I opened the shed, got out the stencil and white paint and marked the creases and had everything ready to go for the start of play.

It was not a happy John who returned to the ground to find the creases marked. I cannot remember the result of the match but I don’t think it was good. Story by Robert Holland.

Robert and Lorraine Mavin

Robert's father Geordie played cricket and he is in the photo in the book Pit Props and Sleepers which is dated 1930. Robert felt that this date may be incorrect because Max Claydon is in the photo and he was born in 1926. Robert thought that the photo would have been taken in the 1940s.

Robert said he could remember an old shack in Olney Street at the rear of the present pavilion and he said a man called there, in a yellow car, about once each year. Cec Gavenlock said the building was a type of long gun barrel army hut mounted on piers. A storm demolished it about 1955.

Robert said that LMCC cleaned out the large creek that runs to the north of Awaba Oval and then under the road bridge near the station, in about 1960 with a very large machine, probably a drag line.

Robert said that in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s there were 7 grey haired old ladies who looked after the affairs of the village of Awaba. The ladies were Edna Mavin (deceased 2004), Irene Wellard, Sadie Williams, Betty Field, Veda McGuinness, Dulcie Gavenlock and Nellie Southcombe. These ladies kept the Awaba Progress Association active and they also played a part with the Awaba Parks Committee.

Robert said the whole town was related.

Jack Garaty

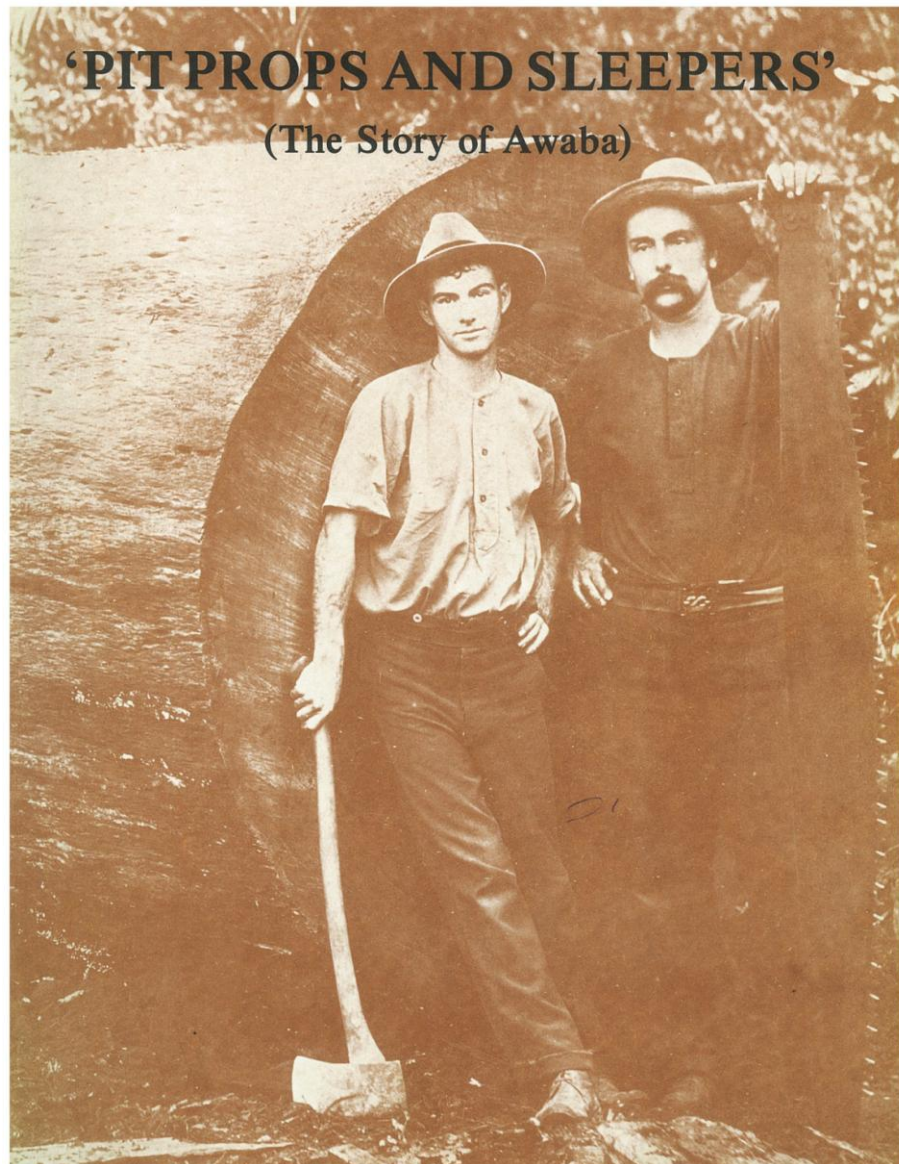
Jack played his earlier cricket in Newcastle and at Wallsend and he transferred to Southern Lakes District Cricket Club in its first season. He was a fine all-rounder who bowled medium pace and batted in the middle order. A very tall man he bowled with great accuracy and intelligence to take 243 first grade wickets in 11 seasons for SLDCC.

Jack was appointed the first 1st grade captain in the first season of SLDCC but passed the job over to John O'Brien.

Jack also indicated that the wicket was far too slow in the first season because the wicket always seemed to be too dry. He indicated that the ground did not have any sight screens in the early seasons but the players later built sight screens. The outfield often had long grass because it did not get mowed often enough and this helped the bowlers.

PIT PROPS AND SLEEPERS

I have reproduced certain pages from the book called "Pit Props and Sleepers. The Story of Awaba" written by Doug Saxon Principal of Awaba Public School in 1987. Mr Saxon gave me permission to reproduce the pages in this story.



The cover page of the book.

PART ONE THE AGE OF SQUATTERS 1881-1894 EARLY DEVELOPMENT

The decision by the N.S.W. Government to build the Sydney/Newcastle railway provided the only reason for development and settlement in the Awaba area. On the 23rd March, 1881 a reserve of crown land was proclaimed¹ to serve as a construction camp for the proposed railway and as a site for the Awaba Railway Station which was opened on 15th August, 1887. Awaba is the aboriginal word for Lake Macquarie or 'A Plain Surface',² which is rather ironical considering most of the land around Awaba is not flat.

As construction of the Sydney/Newcastle railway got underway railway workers camped at 'the depot' as the area was known and timber workers from Wuyong set up slab humpies on the site of the present Awaba Sports Ground. Timber was hauled to 'the depot' by bullock teams whose drivers came from areas such as Mulbring, Mount Vincent and Quorrobolong.

Some of these drivers also began to camp at Awaba and slab humpies with bark roofs were set up near the railway line. A small general store and bakery operated together with a butcher's shop, all of which were quite rough and primitive.³ Postal facilities were established on the 1st October, 1889 with William Scully as Allowance (non-official) Postmaster on £10 per annum. No separate post office building was erected however.⁴

Eventually more permanent homes of slab construction with bark roofs and rough sawn walls were set up, although there are no official records of these, except for the position of some 'huts' shown on the first map of the Awaba Village drawn up by the Department of Lands in 1893 and on the original survey plans (examples of these are shown on the opposite page).

There is little record of life in these first years of Awaba's history, but some insight can be obtained from a feature article which appeared in the Newcastle Morning Herald in 1956,^{4a} reports in the 'Herald' about Awaba in the context of the Newcastle/Sydney railway and from Education Department correspondence relating to the establishment and early operation of the Awaba Public School.

The N.M.H. article 'Awaba, Cradle of A Clan' (12/5/1956) described the scrub at Awaba as being quite thick so that the railway line was hidden even from huts that were built near the line. Cooking was done in backyard ovens made of clay, floors were of earth and cracks between slab walls were filled with strips of hessian or comsack. Some people tried to make the interior of the huts more pleasant by lining the walls with paper. One case was recorded of a mother and daughter lining a hut with paper on a hot summer's day only to have a southerly change arrive, rush through spaces in the slab walls and destroy the handywork.

In its account of the formal opening of the railway the

Herald said:⁵

'Stoppages are made at each of the stations or platforms along the line and fresh passengers taken up. It was not apparent to the tourists where the people came from. There are few signs of habitation between Cockle Creek and Blue Gum Flat and one naturally wonders why so many platforms have been erected. It seems, however, that a goodly population, though very much scattered, is settled on the land and the timber trade finds profitable employment for the people'.

There was also an expectation that Awaba was destined for bigger things. In August 1887, the 'Herald' said of Awaba:⁶

'This will be, more than anything else, a depot for timber from the Mount St. Vincent district and must become a place of great commercial importance in the timber trade'.

The construction of a substantial brick school building in 1891 must have provided an interesting contrast to the rough slab huts in the yet unproclaimed village. As part of his request for a school to be established, William Strudwick said of the area in 1890:⁷

'It is a rising neighbourhood and men that are camped to work here (would) bring their families (sic) if there was a school for their children'.

Mr. R. McCormack, the District Inspector of Schools in recommending the establishment of a school (1890) said:⁸

'Awaba is the name of a village and railway station about 20 miles south of Newcastle. The population of the locality is about 80 but this is certain to increase. A large export of timber is carried on and this gives employment to many men, some of whom are married. Several fettlers with families live near. The prospects of the place warrants the establishment of a small public school'.

Teacher Emily Peak, applying for a transfer in 1894, said:⁹

'Sir,

I have the honour to apply for my position as Teacher of the above school to be changed for that of assistant in another. My reason for making the application is that the living accommodation here is of the very roughest type.

I have now been here close upon two years and find that living on 'bush' fare and in a bark hut which is very damp in wet weather and excessively hot and close during the summer months has seriously interfered with my health. Hoping my request will be entertained,

I have the honour to be, Sir
Your obedient servant,
Emily Peak.
17th April, 1894'.

It seems that the establishment of a railway station and school and the presence of many 'squatters' led to the decision to subdivide the land for residential use. Consequently the railway reserve proclaimed in 1881 was revoked and Awaba declared a Village on the 20th January, 1894.

WITH BAT AND BALL

Sport, particularly cricket and soccer, was always important in the lives of Awaba people. There were two main reasons for this:

- (i) Sporting teams, up until about thirty years ago, played under the name of 'Awaba' and were very successful. This promoted an intense feeling of pride and identity. In recent years this identity has been eroded. The Soccer Club in 1957 became Toronto-Awaba and the main ground was moved from Awaba to Toronto. A similar thing occurred with the cricket.
- (ii) In the early days, when times were tough and people didn't have much entertainment and didn't travel far from Awaba, sport was one of the main focuses of community life and provided a link with other small villages such as Brunkerville.

Len Field remembers learning to play cricket at Awaba:

"Well I learnt to play cricket at the Awaba School on an old dirt pitch. When we went home from school we had a bit of a dirt patch and we used to play and play until dark. I played in Awaba's top team with my uncles when I had school pants. I went right through and they picked me to play first grade with Wallsend and the first game I played I got 129 not out — and I was a hero. I played first grade cricket for years and I represented Newcastle at Country Week in Sydney and then I played John Bull Shield. I was never taught to hold a cricket bat — only from my uncles and playing out here with kids."

This verse, which was written in 1903, shows how important cricket was to people in Awaba and surrounding areas in years gone by. The poem was written by bullocky Tom Avery and tells the story of a cricket match played between Gravelly Creek Mill, south of Freeman's Waterhole and the Brush Mill which was opposite the Brunkerville Methodist Church. 'Sammy' was Sammy Field of Awaba. (N.M.H. 1/2/1972)

In a newspaper interview in 1972, Mr. Hugh Goodsir, the Foundation President of Awaba Soccer Club, said:²¹

"Often we would leave on Friday night and come back on Sunday night. There would be plenty of entertainment to go with the football.

"We had to supply everything except the guernsey. We would leave Awaba with our belongings tied up in an old-fashioned spotted handkerchief. Several times we walked to Dudley for a game. If we went to Catherine Hill Bay, it could take up to a week to get back.

"Awaba had been a centre for sport for many years; there was a time when it could boast of several cricket and football teams at the one time. Players from many parts of the Westlakes district came there for their sport."

CRICKET 1903

Molster and Yenbow to the front,
Fifty apiece will make them grunt,
As pale as death the Yenbow bent,
Sammy bowled and out he went.
Molster stayed a little while,
Thought he'd hit the ball a mile,
Matthew stumped him as he ran,
That's the time the fun began.
Archer came but not for long
For the bowling was too strong,
Brady thought he'd do a bit
But his wicket took a fit.
Rory came, and Swealy too,
Eggs, they say, for me and you.
Jim and Sammy bowled them nice,
Then they called for poor old Price.
Price, who batted very neat,
In the field was off his beat,
Tried to stop a ball that sped
But showed his baldy head instead.

Uncle Joss would not play,
Sooner barrack, so they say.
Robby sat down for a doze,
Smoked his pipe and scratched his nose.
For our side will win, said he,
For Abe will make a century.
No more cricket, says Abe, for me,
I am blowed if I the ball could see.
And to the bat he laid the blame,
Two duck eggs, Oh what a shame.
Monnox and Reynolds both took bat,
Terrible doing they got on the flat.
Runs they got but very few.
Only twenty-one mustered among the crew.
Each one the other laid the blame,
Gravelly Creek they won the game.



Cricket Team — Awaba Style — 1930?
Back Row: Ron Puddy, Geordie Mavin, Dan Buckton, T. Mitchell, V. Field, J. Field, D. Field, A. Field.
Front Row: Umpire, L. Puddy, Clive Murrell, M. Claydon, R. Field. (Mrs. E. Etheridge)



Back Row: H. Puddy, R. Field, E. Williams, L. Puddy, D. Field.
Front Row: M. Field, T. Partland, E. Wellard, Doug Field, — Field. (Mrs. R. Field)

SPORTS GROUND

Cricket and soccer were the main sports in the town so it was not surprising that a cricket pitch and oval were in use from earliest times. The first cricket oval was created from virgin bush about 1900 by volunteers using bullock teams. It was described as 'an old field literally dug out of the bush'. The first cricket match played there was between Awaba and Brunkerville and was the start of a great rivalry as many Awaba residents originally came from Brunkerville.

In 1920 the Lake Macquarie Council constructed a road to Wangi, part of which ran parallel with the railway line between the station and the overhead crossing. This section was, and is, known as the 'mad mile'. This road cut through part of the cricket oval so the land where the present oval stands was cleared and a new wicket laid. This oval also saw the beginnings of the Awaba Soccer Club.

In 1959, just as Awaba was beginning to lose its identity as a separate sporting area, a new improved ground and facilities were opened by the Chairman of the Joint Coal Board. Thousands of cubic yards of filling were provided by the Awaba Mine and residents cut and hauled donated logs and sawed them to size on a donated saw bench. When the fence was completed it was painted by the women of the township. After the oval was completed, tennis courts were built and a large clubhouse constructed by volunteer labour.²²

The incident that best shows the feelings of Awaba people for their oval and sport occurred in October, 1962. At that time Awaba's name figured prominently in the local press under headings such as: 'Tale of a Wet Wicket'²³ and '“Sticky Wicket” Halted Play in Awaba Game'.²⁴ There was also a feature cartoon by the Newcastle Morning Herald cartoonist, 'Lumsdon'.²⁵

Because the Awaba Oval had been made entirely by local effort, the Awaba Parks Committee decided that local teams would have priority in the oval's use. In October 1962 the Newcastle City and Suburban Cricket Association decided to relocate the scheduled 'Awaba Royals' v's Swansea from Awaba to Swansea and replace the match with an 'A' Grade fixture between Blackalls and Hamilton Central. The Awaba team was displaced

without reference to the Awaba Parks Committee argued that they had full control of the oval. On the before the match the 'Newcastle Sun' carried a which the Secretary of the Cricket Association said

“... the Oval Board's refusal to sanction arrangement appeared to have a vindictive flavour not in keeping with the spirit of cricket”

These press comments upset the Awaba Committee who decided that the match would be ahead and that the wicket would not be prepared. Blackalls supporter but Awaba resident, Mr Goodsir, rolled the wicket then went away to get the equipment to mark the wicket. After Mr. Goodsir got back to the oval he saw that the wicket was being watered by a sprinkler. The Newcastle Morning Herald Mr. Goodsir as saying:²⁷

“I went back to the oval and saw a hose sprinkling the wicket,” he said. “I asked Mr. Gavenlock to stop it and he refused. I said cut your hose in two if you don't. He didn't do it, so I cut the hose. Some members of Blackalls team came along and they said the wicket was in good condition. Field came and patched the hose and put it on the wicket again.”

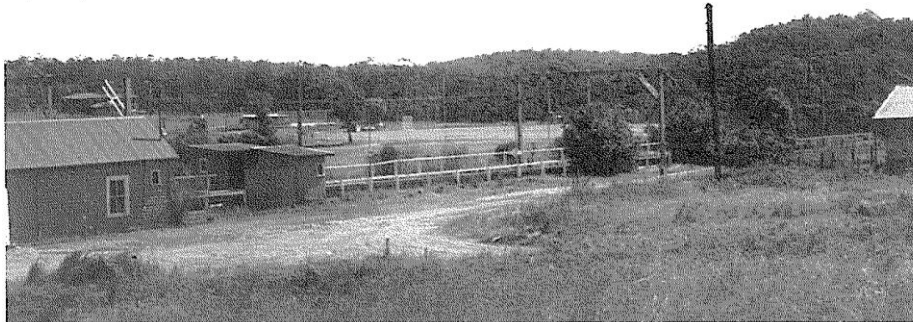
“I asked him to shift the hose and he didn't. I told him I would cut it again, but he didn't do it, so I cut it again and threw it off the wicket.”

“The wicket was in a fit condition for play but it was sabotaged,” he said.

“By the way,” he added, “the lot of them on the Park Committee are relatives of mine and I'm fighting the lot of them.”

The Secretary of Blackalls Club (Mr. Peacock) said no member of the club interfered in the controversy. On Saturday morning he went to the oval and found Mr. Goodsir, wet from head to foot, sitting on the wicket with Mr. Gavenlock.

The match was not played!



Awaba Sports Oval viewed from Gosford Street — railway and buildings in middle of picture (1:1). (D. Saxon. Photoer)



DURING A CONTROVERSY OVER THE USE OF AWABA CRICKET OVAL, THE HOSE WAS CUT TWICE AND TWO MEN WERE SOAKED

Copy of original Lumsdon cartoon which appeared in the Newcastle Morning Herald 24/10/1962 following the hose cutting incident at Awaba. (Mrs. Audrey Burgess)



Women and Sport

There is little record of women's sport at Awaba, but on this occasion in 1954, the ladies donned soccer gear. Young Wallsend. The occasion was a benefit match for the family of Mr. Ray Dunk who was accidentally killed at the corner of Olney and Adelaide Streets as he was crossing the road.

Back Row: Norma Watkins, Lily Field, Irene Wellard, Maureen Dunk, Ruth Field, Sylvie Field.

Middle Row: —, Ruby Field, Edna Mavin, Loretta Kajewski, Fay Wellard.

Front Row: Cheryl Field.

(Mr. N.

CONCLUSION

Awaba is now almost one hundred years old. It was created and maintained by the development of rail transport. As it stands at the beginning of its second century, Awaba may again be altered by political decisions related to transport. The opening of the section of the Newcastle/Sydney expressway quite near Awaba in 1988 or 1989 and the proposed development of a sewerage scheme may see the influx of a new group of 'settlers' which may change the face of Awaba and set the scene for the third stage of Awaba's development.

FIELD FAMILY

Children and Grandchildren of

WILLIAM FIELD w. **EDITH MURRELL**
 (b. 25th May, 1843 — d. 2nd January, 1923) (b. 1846 — d. 21st September, 1925)
 Married 29th August, 1865

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. James Field w. Eliza Monnox
 (Johnnie Peder) (Lyde)
 b. 18th December, 1865
 d. 20th March, 1933</p> | <p>Mabel w. Charles Lister
 Bessie w. Harry Hazel
 Albert w. Maude Everly
 Hilda w. Roy Claydon
 Emma w. Hugh Goodsir
 Edith w. Stanley Mullard
 Ruby w. William Heaton
 Leslie w. Isa Smith
 Kenneth w. Greta Rayfield
 Lawrence w. Patricia Pinches</p> |
| <p>2. George Charles Field w. Mary Duggan
 (Hummer) (Polly)
 b. 7th May, 1867
 d. 20th November, 1934</p> | <p>Stella w. Cecil Sullivan
 Hilda w. Albert Murrell
 Vera w. Frederick Puddy
 Ernest w. Annie Ayrton
 Edith w. Daniel Buckton
 Russell
 Leonard w. Mary Winter
 Harold w. Elsie Beacher
 Eric w. Ina Naismith</p> |
| <p>3. Olive Anne Field
 b. 7th May, 1869
 d. 31st July, 1873</p> | |
| <p>4. Albert Ernest Field w. Margaret Hepplewhite
 (Rod) (Maggie)
 b. 20th August, 1871
 d. 6th February, 1950</p> | <p>Horace w. Doris Barton
 Ernest w. Addie Winterton</p> |
| <p>5. Florida Ellen Field w. George Buckton
 (Florrie) (Jig)
 b. 14th June, 1872
 d. 16th November, 1959</p> | <p>Agnes w. Arthur Puddy
 Daniel w. Edith Field
 Bertha w. Claude Osland
 Ethel w. Tom Murrell
 Ella w. Gordon Nelson</p> |
| <p>6. Oliver William Field w. Mabel Claydon
 (Nuttie)
 b. 8th July, 1874
 d. 13th February, 1956</p> | <p>Edgar w. Clarice Cooper
 Henry w. Murial Simmond
 Richard
 Viney w. Roy Wellings
 Mabel w. George Richardson
 Maisie w. John Denny
 Ina w. Keith Heaton
 Emily w. Jack Smith
 Noeleen w. Wally Shorecross</p> |
| <p>7. Caroline Field w. Jesse Wellard
 (Kate) (Splinter)
 b. 22nd February, 1876
 d. 24th April, 1959</p> | <p>Arthur w. Elsie Coles
 Russell
 Cecil w. Hannah Goodsir
 Herbert w. Dorothy Coles</p> |
| <p>8. Arthur Field
 b. 7th January, 1878
 d. 4th August, 1878</p> | |

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>9. Henry Amos Field w. Ethel Puddy
 (Tiger or Alec) (Et)
 b. 28th June, 1879
 d. 22nd January, 1951</p> | <p>Arthur w. Maisie Cooper
 Bert w. Jessie Miller
 Thelma w. Raymond Sharpe
 Gladys w. Cecil Watkins
 Rita w. Keith Forrester
 Elva w. Kenneth Pinches
 Neville w. Dorothy Elliott
 Milton w. Jean McGill</p> |
| <p>10. Alfred Victor Field w. Mary Buxton
 (Kingie)
 b. 14th October, 1881
 d. 18th February, 1952</p> | <p>Dorothy w. John Williams
 Victor w. Gwen Elkington
 Edna w. George Mavin
 Alwyn w. Beryl Martin
 Raymond w. Lillian Martin</p> |
| <p>11. Newton Field w. Jessie Hector
 (Bobbie) (Jess)
 b. 3rd November, 1883
 d. 20th April, 1978</p> | <p>Aileen w. Colin Chapman
 Winnie (Rose) w. Alfred Winterbine
 Walter w. Hazel Hopkins
 Veda w. Ernie McGuinness
 Essie w. Thomas Etheridge
 Dudley w. Betty Ross
 Nettie w. William Kyrwood</p> |
| <p>12. Frederick Field w. Phoebe Moston
 (Aspro)
 b. 14th November, 1885
 d. 29th December, 1959</p> | <p>Beryl w. Cecil McGuinness
 Stanley w. Del Wilton
 Myra w. Gordon Rayfield
 Arthur w. Ruby Prosser
 Norman w. Doris Hards
 Ronald w. Laurel Bullock</p> |
| <p>13. Oscar Daniel Carrington Field w. Olive McIntyre
 (Ocky)
 b. 15th August, 1887
 d. 22nd May, 1951</p> | <p>Evelyn w. Joshua Winter
 Hazel w. Ernest Ellis
 Mavis w. Oswald Turner
 Annice w. Harold Burgess
 Margaret w. John McBain
 Linley w. Thomas McWilliam
 Clarice w. Jack Horn
 Noni w. Ernest Bugden
 Maurice
 Terrence w. Margaret Coffee</p> |
| <p>14. Alma Blanch Field w. Willie Puddy
 (Biddie)
 b. 6th August, 1889
 d. 19th October, 1971</p> | <p>Ivy w. Jack Bonar
 Harry w. Elsie Sharpe
 Dulcie w. William Smith
 Ronald w. Dorothy Wilton
 Edith w. Alfred Kajeski
 Marjorie w. George McLean</p> |
| <p>15. Alick Field w. Ilma Kielmansegg
 (Uncle)
 b. 14th July, 1892
 d. 25th February, 1972</p> | <p>Warren w. Shirley McGuinness
 Deidre w. Keith Bailey</p> |

Source: Compiled from a family tree of the Field Family by Brian Winterbine, (1977).

OTHER COMMENTS

When Southern Lakes District Cricket Club applied to enter teams in the NDCA they made an application to do so. One of the members of the Newcastle District Cricket Association was Lambton New Lambton's Jim O'Hearn and he indicated in a meeting that he did not think SLDCC was ready to go into district cricket. When explaining why he said the Awaba Oval was not up to the required standard. When asked when he had inspected the oval he indicated that he hadn't but rather he had a good look at it when he went past on a train !!

Apparently over 50 years ago there was a clear view of Awaba Oval from the train. Today, if you travel by train, there is only a fleeting view of the oval because a lot of very large trees have grown up between the oval and the train line.

MY CRICKET AT AWABA OVAL

I became interested in the history of Awaba Oval firstly because I commenced my senior cricket career there and then on 15 September 2005 I became the President of the Awaba Oval Community Operating Committee (previously the Awaba Parks Committee). Gail Linich was Secretary in 2005 and then the following year I took over as Secretary and Gail became President.

I commenced my senior cricket career in the 1960-61 with Southern Lakes District Cricket Club (SLDCC) and I turned 14 on 19 October 1960 so I was still aged 13 for the first few Saturdays of the season.

I played 4th grade in my first game at Corroba Oval, Stockton scoring a duck and bowling two uneventful overs of medium pace although I think a catch was dropped off my bowling. My two other memories are that I travelled to the game with Mr Chappell and his son Neil, who played in the game and while batting I learned a very painful lesson about the need to wear a protector. I did not even know what a protector was and I did not wear one when I batted and received a painful blow to the groin.

A check of records indicates my name only appears in the "catches" section of the 4th grade averages for season 1960-61 where I took 3 catches (they must have been all in that first game) but there is no mention of me having batted or bowled. However someone must have been impressed, or more likely the club was short of players, because I was selected in 3rd grade next game under the captaincy of Kevin Gray. I had been bowling leg spinners at practice and apparently looked reasonable so I was rushed in 3rd grade as a spinner for my second game.

The match was played on a concrete wicket on the now pony club grounds below Awaba Oval. I am aware that the concrete wicket was covered with matting (coir matting which was a type of coconut fibre matting) to help protect the cricket ball and make it last.

I remember we played Belmont and they had a very loud and noisy captain named Gordon Fraser. He was an older player and he appealed very loudly, laughed very loudly and made a lot of loud comments. I found out in later years that he was a Vice President of the Newcastle District Cricket Association and that his son later became a State Member of Parliament for Coffs Harbour.

I don't know whether we won the game but I got a few wickets including a couple of stumpings by wicketkeeper Ron Williams. The averages for the season however do not indicate how many stumpings Ron got for the season but Ron assured me it was quite a few. Ron said I tossed my leg spinners up so high they nearly bought rain and the opposition batsmen charged down the wicket to score some easy runs, but they also missed a few and he did the rest.

From the averages for that season the members of the 3rd grade team were Kevin Gray (Captain), Reg Hinchey, Norm Williams, Garry Pinches, Ron Williams (wicketkeeper), John Field, Tony Field, Kevin Core, Rodney Mudford, Bruce Morley, Harry Coulter, Bill Wright, while Brian Winterbine, Robert Burgess, Bob Hume and Ray Horn each played a couple of games.

I later played a lot of 1st grade at Awaba Oval and a lot of Under 21s cricket. I also played some 3rd grade cricket there when I was at the end of my cricket career, when I was over 50 years old. In the past few years I have been a member of the Lords Taveners (Golden Oldies) Cricket Team and we have played a few matches each season at Awaba Oval.

Story written by Robert Holland

9 February 2014

TROVE WEBSITE ARTICLES

Stories from the Website www.trove.nla.gov.au

I was advised about the above website which allows a person to search newspapers from about 1876 to 1954. I searched using keywords "Awaba", "Oval" and "cricket" and found about 2000 entries. I did not attempt to go through all of the 2000 entries. I did use some of the articles in earlier chapters and further entries follow;

1 [CRICKET](#). *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate (NSW : 1876 - 1954) Wednesday 5 February 1913*

Awaba (138) defeated Central Mission (83). The chief scores were O. W. Field 75. A. E. Field 32 for **Awaba**, and Buxton 18 not out, Hodgins 1, for the Mission. The bowling for the winners was done by O. W. Field, A. Puddy, and O. Field and for the losers Wilson was the most successful.

2 CRICKET. Awaba (260) defeated East Newcastle (198). The chief scorers for Awaba were W.V. Puddy 64, O. W. Field 42 not out, A. V. Field 39, N. Field 37, A. Field 14, H. Field 10 not out, and for Easts, Soeton 34, Ashton 37, and Brooks 12 did best. The bowling for the winners was done by O. V. Field 6, and O. D. Field 3, and for the losers, Brooks was most successful. 1913

2 CRICKET. Awaba, five wickets for 276 runs (H. Field 103 retired, A. Murrell 34, N. Field 21, F. Puddy 67 not out, O. W. Field 25 not out) defeated Fullerton. Cove 103 (G. West 44. R. West 16, W. Polio 13, scored best); while for Awaba. O. D. Field 5 for 18, H. Field 3 for 25 bowled best, and Payne, 4 wickets, Green 3, Houston 3, bowled for Fullerton Cove. 1913

3 Mick Simmons Cup, third-grade. Maryville v Awaba, at Awaba. 1921

4 A CRICKET DISPUTE. Sir,-I wish to draw the attention of other cricket clubs in the Newcastle district to the action of Cardiff third grade cricket club in appealing against Awaba third grade taking part in the semi-final on account of Awaba having received four forfeits. Awaba never asked for these forfeits. Two of

these were received by the majority of teams. Perhaps Cardiff can remember. The forfeits received from Adamstown and Toronto in season 1924, which caused them to win the premiership. Awaba, as runner up, did not appeal. As far as my knowledge of cricket rules go, I believe it is only proper that a team should be notified if an appeal is lodged against it, so as to give it at least a chance to defend itself, but evidently the N.D.C.A. seem to think that because Awaba is 21 miles from Newcastle it is out in the bush, and should not want to defend itself. We were not even notified that an appeal had been lodged until word was received that it had been upheld, and that it would be necessary for the cricket team to meet Cardiff to decide as to the semi-final. Our record is: Won 4 outright, won on first innings 10, drawn 3, lost 2, forfeits 4, and this was done by a little bush team. 1925

5 The third grade premiership was completed on Saturday last, and Hexham ran out the premiers for the season. In the Mick Simmons' Cup competition, Lambton and Carrington will contest one of the semi-finals at New Lambton Oval. Cardiff have made a claim in accordance with rule 11 for a deciding match against Awaba, and this has been granted by the committee. This game will take place on Lambton matting wicket. The winner of this match will meet Hexham in the semi final. Umpire Allen is requested to take the Hamilton-Stockton match at Learmouth Park, as umpire Whittaker is unable to officiate. 1925

6 SATURDAY'S CRICKET DISTRICT ASSOCIATION - The fourth series of matches of the Newcastle District Cricket, Association competition were commenced on Saturday in warm weather. At Wallsend the two Awaba colts, Les Field and R. Field, put together 180 runs for the seventh wicket, and were both not out at the drawing of stumps. Junior cricketers would do well to follow the example set by these two, and ploy in as high grade of cricket as they can possibly attain. 1926

7 CRICKET ASSOCIATION MEETING. At the weekly meeting of Newcastle District Cricket Association, held on Monday night, Mr. H. J. Ireland, presided over a fair attendance. The Under 20 final between Awaba and Merewether is to commence at Dangar Park, on Saturday next at 2 pm. It will be continued on Easter Saturday at 1 p.m. and at 1 p.m. on Easter Monday, if necessary. 1926

8 Fourth Grade. Awaba v Mayfield St. Andrew's at Awaba. 1927

8 [AWABA](#) *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate (NSW : 1876 - 1954)* **Tuesday 22 August 1933**

AWABA Mr. Field presided over a very good attendance of members and supporters of the **Awaba Cricket** Club on Sunday morning. It was resolved to enter two teams in the district competitions. The Secretary reported that the ground was in fairly good condition, but would need some work.

9 Newcastle Ambulance. Struck on the right temple by a ball, while playing cricket at Awaba on Saturday Frederick Welshman, 20, of Hobart Road, New Lambton, suffered from concussion. Lake Macquarie Ambulance applied first-aid, and then took Welshman to Wallsend Hospital for further treatment. 1933

10 Awaba Keen to Play Cricket - A special meeting of the committee of Newcastle City and Suburban Cricket Association will be held tonight to discuss an application from Awaba Cricket Club for permission to be accepted in the association this season. This was in reply to a decision last Wednesday night that Awaba not be accepted unless they found a more accessible ground. The Secretary (Mr. N. T. McCaffery) was advised yesterday that since Fassifern and Blackalls grounds were unplayable, Awaba was prepared to provide transport free to visiting clubs from Fassifern, Blackalls and Toronto railway stations to Awaba ground. 1944

11 A request from Awaba Cricket Club, that visiting teams be transported to Awaba from Toronto instead of from Fassifern was granted. 1944

12 There was a touch of irony in the A Reserve grade match between Awaba and Broadmeadow, at Awaba's ground. Broadmeadow was three players short, and Awaba provided substitutes. Brilliant catches by two substitutes dismissed L. Field and Winterbine two of Awaba's best batsmen. Awaba won by 42 run. 1944

13 Off One Over Was C.& S. Record - By knocking 32 runs from a single over G. Allan broke a City and Suburban record that had stood since 1923. Batting for Awaba D grade against Wire Rope Works. Since the match was played on Blackalls ground, where boundaries are marked only by flags, Allan's

eight fours represented the "possible." Under the rules of the association, six-hits cannot be awarded on an unfenced ground. 1945

14 The most progressive cricket centre in the Newcastle district is the Fassifern - Blackalls - Awaba area where record teams have entered the competitions. Four are from Awaba, two from Blackalls, and two from Fassifern. Harry Burgess, Secretary of Blackalls, and B Sharp, secretary of Awaba, have had their clubmates hard at work through the winter At Blackalls. A turf wicket has been laid ready for time opening on October 12. Awaba has built its second ground and an attractive pavilion. A turf wicket is mooted. Lack of water should be no handicap because of a local creek. A creek that can feed a sawmill can nourish a turf wicket. 1946

15 Awaba and Carrington will forfeit points because they fielded unregistered players in the first round of the competition on October 11. Awaba fielded D. Field in an A reserve (North) grade match before his registration form had been correctly completed. 1947

16 C. & S. PLAYERS ORDERED OFF. Three players in City and Suburban competitions were sent from the field on Saturday because they were not correctly attired. The players later returned to the field correctly dressed. In the B grade match Awaba v. Commonwealth Steel Co. two Awaba players were not allowed to play because they were wearing coloured clothing. The team played two men short. The association Secretary (Mr. N. T. McCaffrey) said that it was a serious reflection off the attitude of some players to the game. In Sydney junior competitions long cream or white trousers were the rule for all grades. Our clubs must also take responsibility for disciplining their own players in the matter of dress and not throw the onus on to umpires and opponents. 1947

17 Blackalla and Awaba, two new teams in A grade provided the best match of the day. Blackalls winning by eight runs in a high scoring game. Blackalls scored 189 and Awaba 181. A. Winterbine, Awaba batsman, headed the batting list for the day with 85 while H. Field scored 18. 1947

18 BLACKALLS and Awaba will make their debut in City and Suburban A grade cricket in the opening series of matches in the major competitions tomorrow. 1947

19 When advised by umpire Mr. H. Bargwanna that some of its players would not be able to take the field because they were not properly dressed, Awaba's team in the City and Suburban Association's A reserve grade competition forfeited its match against Hamilton Central. Some Awaba players remonstrated with the umpire. One claimed the umpire was not correctly attired because he was not wearing a black tie.

The incident was probably the aftermath of the previous Saturday's B grade match between Awaba and Commonwealth Steel Co., when Mr. Bargwanna took a similar stand and two Awaba players were not able to take the field. The association rule provides that players in A reserve and lower grades must be attired in either long or short white or cream trousers, with white shirt and boots or shoes.

At the start of the season teams were given an additional fortnight to become properly attired. The competition has been in progress for nine weeks. The matter will probably be the subject of an association inquiry. One development likely from forfeits and teams fielding less than 11 players is that the grading committee may be instructed to reduce the number of teams by eliminating those which have failed to fully honour their obligations. Clubs which have more than one team and find it impossible to retain two or more teams each week may be reduced by one team. 1947

20 Five C&S Teams May Lose Points. The failure of teams in five matches in Saturday's City and Suburban Cricket Association round to furnish match results by 10 p.m. on the same day may cause loss of points for the series. Teams concerned were Awaba v. Dora Creek, Cardiff v. Boolaroo Speers Point, Broadmeadow Loco v. Adamstown Central (in the A grade). The executive committee will consider the position to-morrow night. 1948

21 New Cricket District to be Formed. Newcastle District Cricket Association decided last night to increase its districts from nine to 10. The alternative was that they be reduced by one. Allocation of the new district will be the responsibility of the boundaries committee, which consists of the association vice-presidents. Suggestions for the consideration of the committee were that a district be formed on the western side of Lake Macquarie to include areas such as Fassifern, Blackalls, Toronto, Rathmines, & Awaba.

That the present boundaries be discarded, and that the district be split into 10 parts. Mr. D. Sullivan (Wickham), moving that the districts be increased to 10, said it was necessary to eliminate the bye which upset the competition. Any reduction of the number of district sides would be a retrograde step. Mr. W. Cross (Lambton-New Lambton), who moved that there be eight districts, suggested that the association create a fourth grade competition.

He said one of the most difficult factors in the formation of a new district would be the provision of another ground. The grounds used this season were not satisfactory, and there could not be reason to suggest that another ground even if it could be secured, would be any better. He thought that the association should develop its players by concentrating its strength in fewer districts and the formation of another grade, so that more young players would receive their chance in district cricket, instead of turning to the City and Suburban Association competitions.

"Decrease Quality" Mr. A. Gammidge (Merewether): If we increase the number of teams we will also decrease the quality of our cricket, which is not now of a high, standard. The idea of creating another grade is sound, and should be given further thought. "If we reduce the number of districts we will be squeezing players out of district cricket instead of bringing them in," said Mr. G. Fraser (Waratah-Mayfield). We want something stronger than we have now, but cannot attain that by kicking players out of our competitions. We must foster the young players and the only way to do that is to open new districts. The Secretary (Mr. A. C. Dodds) said that in 1930, when Newcastle had a population of approximately 135,000, it had eight district clubs. It would not promote progress if, at a time when the district had an approximately 200,000 in population, the association did not want to expand.

I think there is every prospect of opening a new district on the western side of Lake Macquarie,' said Mr. Dodds. That area is in Wallsend Club's boundary, but I do not think the club's interests will be harmed if we take this area from it. Mr. E. Wark said the association had given too much away when it allowed the City and Suburban Association to take control of 60 or 70 junior teams. He believed the association should set about recreating the junior section. The number of districts does not matter, but the quality of our cricket does, said Mr. R. Beattie (Belmont). We will not get quality until such time as we get first class wickets and grounds. The wickets we use are too slow and our players cannot expect to gain prominence until we are given wickets as fast as are prepared in other districts. 1949

22 References to Awaba Cricketers in "To-day's Topics" on 1 October 1950 are misleading. The players have to admit, with disgust, that they went to

Sandgate without stumps and had to forfeit the game, but the pitch was not in fit order to play on. The outfield needed mowing. Had the players had the necessary gear to play, the conditions would not have stopped them.

All the Awaba players were mad with themselves to I think they travelled a round trip of 60 miles for no game. At Awaba, the B grade team had four sets of stumps on the ground ready to play at 1.30 p.m. The Wire Rope Work's team did not arrive till 2 p.m. While the local players were waiting for play to begin they broke a set of bails, those were borrowed from the visiting team. References of having to roam the village for stumps are all hogwash.

At the ground at Awaba several spare sets of stumps are kept on hand in case visiting teams come short. On Saturday six sets of stumps were available at the ground. It is a pity other clubs did not do the same. Last season, the AR grade team played a semi-final on Adamstown Oval in paspalum two feet high. According to reports the ground had been mowed only two days previously. This would be a better topic for the day when Adamstown Oval can grow paspalum two feet high in two days (it may be a record). These are my views not those of Awaba Cricket Club. 1950

23 H Goodsir, a former Secretary of Awaba Sports Club, took to the literary field yesterday and sat down to bowl in a few lines about the Topic on Awaba Cricket Club, which appeared on Monday. He said, in effect, that the Topic was full of silly points and slips, that it was "a very unsportsmanlike attempt to belittle one of the oldest clubs playing cricket in this district." For instance, he said that that day Awaba could not field seven men in correct attire the match was at District Park and the ground was partly underwater.

The Awaba players "would not ruin their clothes, as they considered bathing suits were more appropriate than cricket attire." Mr. Goodsir set out to explain that the club had done "as much or more" to promote sport and sportsmen in the past eight years than any club in the district. With voluntary labor and local financial help it had carved two cricket grounds out of the bush. 1950

24 A Field of Fields. - If ever you visit Awaba, a little hamlet between Newcastle and Sydney, and wish to talk to one of the residents, address him as Mr. Field. You won't be far wrong, because if he is not a Field he will be a relation. A cricket team from Awaba once visited Cardiff to do battle with the local team. The team, led by the Old Man, consisted of nine Fields, two brothers-in-

law, and two cousins to make up emergencies. They said it was no trouble at all to put a full quota of Fields in the field. Their batting performances were confusing to the scorer, especially as some of the initials were the same. A vigoro team at Stockton had nine Fosters (girls), all of one family, and two more Fosters who were cousins. 1950

25 MR. C. C. ASHTON died at the age 64 at Toronto. He was born at Brunkerville and came to Toronto 57 years ago. He was employed at the old Coal Point Colliery, Kilabon Bay. He also worked at the Catherine Hill Bay and Fassifern Collieries. In his youth he was a prominent cricketer, and in the City and Suburban Cricket Association he was the first to do the "hat-trick." Also he took 10 wickets in an innings. He played with Toronto and Awaba. 1950

26 High Totals in C&S. In the past two City and Suburban competition matches at Awaba, 929 runs have been scored in 470 minutes in B grade fixtures, 468 runs on the first Saturday and 451 on the second. The home side has made 409. Stewarts and Lloyds scored 155, a week earlier St. Andrew's made 323. 1950

27 Hireride marked its entry into the A grade competition by defeating Awaba outright at Sports Ground No. 2. The country team fielded only nine players because some members were in a Soccer final. It was without last season's leading batsman, Partland. The Hireride opening attack of Nunn and Moore were impressive. They soon dismissed Awaba with the support of keen fielding. 1952

28 Records in C& S Batting by Police Boys' Club and Awaba provided the heaviest scoring in an afternoon's play for City and Suburban cricket when 531 runs were scored in 235 minutes on Saturday. Police Boys' Club scored 308 and Awaba 223, both losing seven wickets. Police Boys' Club had partnerships of 47 (first wicket), 64 (third), 71 (sixth), and 52 (seventh), Awaba made 40 (first), 45 (second), 59 (sixth), and 41 unfinished (eighth). In the match 19 sixers, one five and 63 fours were hit. Neil Gilbert scored 71 of his 85 from seven sixes, a five and six fours. The Police Boys' Club attack -strongest in the competition -had its most severe punishment. Although Awaba scored 190 and 223 against the two competition leaders in successive weeks; it may miss the semi-final round. 1952

29 Both A grade teams in the semi-finals won. Awaba defeated St. Peters A.R. in the other match. New Lambton will meet Awaba in the final on Saturday. Awaba played better cricket than in the competition proper. The A grade team, which finished at the bottom of the competition, had only five representatives in the Cup team, four players being from reserve grade and two from C grade. Awaba made 166. St. Peters achieved early ascendancy when three were out for 31, but E. Partland took charge and scored an attractive 62, including a six and seven fours. Juniors, E. Williams (22) and C. Chapman, put on 34 in a bright last wicket stand. They ran a number of, smart singles comfortably. St. Peter's missed several chances and many runs were given away by lax ground work. L. and H. Puddy broke the back of the St. Peter's batting when they dismissed Levido and J. Mathieson in the first three overs. Most impressive of Awaba's bowlers was young E. Williams, who took four for 15. Bowling off-breaks he had the bottom half of the St. Peter's team in difficulties. He has been successful in grade and in Cup matches this season. 1953

30 WILLIAMS COLT OF PROMISE. City and Suburban cricket has an outstanding bowling prospect in Ernie Williams of Awaba. He took six wickets for 39 against Broadmeadow United on Saturday. He is a fast medium swing bowler and has taken 10 wickets in his first two matches in the A grade competition. He took four for 41 in the first match. Williams made a great impression in Cup-tie matches last season when he accounted for some of the association's best batsmen. Awaba and Police Boys' Club are the only unbeaten clubs in the A grade after two series.1953

31 AWABA FIGHTS FOR LEAD - Awaba's struggle for A grade supremacy in City and Suburban Cricket has earned its selection for the match of the day at Newcastle Sports Ground No. 2 to-morrow.. Awaba, which meets Broadmeadow to-morrow, has won six of its last nine matches and drew one. 1953

32 Brothers Aid Awaba In Cup Tie Win - A bright innings of 44 by Ray Field, Awaba colt, when three wickets had fallen for 41 was the turning point in the City and Suburban Association Cup Tie yesterday, when Awaba defeated Argenton A Reserve by 11 runs. Field, who made 115 not out on Saturday in competition cricket, retrieved a bad position with N. Field when the two put on 70 runs for the fourth wicket. Ray Field, one of six Fields who played in the team, was one of

the lower grade players enlisted to reinforce the A grade team, only five of whom were available for cup tie matches. 1953

33 "Telegraph" Shield batsman W. Kennerson scored 76 not out and batted through the innings for South Swansea Blues in the B grade final against Awaba. This was a keenly fought match with only 15 runs between the teams. Awaba arrived late at the ground and the umpires applied the Association's rule penalising the defaulting team. This may have cost Awaba the match. 1954

34 Awaba was on top early against New Lambton, having one out for four and three for 29. The middle batsmen made a stand, Harvey and Hawkins each making 13, but the others failed. Williams (Awaba) took five for 20. He varied his deliveries and showed thought in attack. Puddy got three for 34. D. Field opened brightly and the Awaba first wicket put on 39 in reply to New Lambton's 75. Sivyer and Vipen. New Lambton opening bowlers swung the ball skillfully but it was not till Harvey came into the attack that success came. He took a wicket with his second ball, then followed with four in 11 balls. Awaba appeared to lose their grip when, after the second wicket had fallen at 53 the sixth went at 59. Puddy rallied the tailenders and Awaba passed New Lambton's score with two wickets in hand, then went on to 115. Harvey finished with five for 17 off seven overs. 1954

35 Awaba Key To C& S. Semi-finals. Awaba, which plays Broad meadow United at Sports Ground No. 2 to-morrow, holds the key to the City and Suburban Cricket Association semi-finals. Awaba is the unpredictable team of the competition. Doug Field has scored two centuries, L. Puddy and R. Gill have done well either as batsmen or bowlers. (date not known but about 1955)

36 Tighes Hill Gains Final Four - Tighes Hill's outright win over Awaba in City and Suburban A grade cricket on Saturday. Tighes Hill dismissed Awaba for 70, then Robson (36) and Edser (45) put on a bright 65 for the opening partnership. The score was carried to 148 for eight when Tighes Hill closed. Awaba was again out for 58, Scobie taking six wickets for 30, all bowled. (date not known).

UNUSUAL CRICKET STORIES AT AWABA OVAL

The Greatest Match Ever One of the best games ever played at Awaba Oval was a one-day fixture, played on Australia Day in 1960-61 season, between Southern Lakes District Cricket Club and University. University batted first and scored 337 runs. SLDCC chased that total down and scored 4 for 349 to win with 10 minutes to spare. Doug Field scored 115 and Ray (Ginger) Field 109 and they had a partnership of 143. The captain of University on that day was Joe Thomson who later became a cricket umpire and President of the Umpires Association. Joe is still umpiring in the Newcastle Competition and remembered that game as one of the best he played in.

A Bizarre Boundary Catch Bob McLeod played thirty three 1st grade games for SLDCC between 1976 and 1980 as an opening batsman. He had tight defense but didn't attack the bowling to any great extent although he did have a good square cut. His fielding was reasonable without being great and he only took 5 catches in first grade. One of the five catches he will remember forever.

The match was against Charlestown at Awaba Oval on a very hot day and Charlestown scored a lot of runs.

Michael Hill, a former Sheffield Shield batsman, was particularly severe on all of our bowlers in scoring a century and hit several mighty blows that landed on the tennis courts. He was particularly severe on left arm spinner Stephen Woodbridge.

The most unusual thing happening that day was that there was an eclipse of the sun going on and everyone had been warned not to look at the sun or risk permanent eye damage.

Late in the day Bob was fielding on the boundary at square leg, on the eastern side of Awaba Oval, (rather near the big tree that is still there today) and to see the wicket he had to look due west towards the now, very low in the sky, eclipse of the sun. There was no way he could watch the play so he was just standing there with his hat pulled down over his eyes, looking at his feet. Any shots that went his way the fielders would call out "Bob, go left 30 meters" and Bob would run in that direction before trying to find the ball.

Michael Hill pulled a short ball high into the air towards Bob. We called out "Catch Bob, go right, up high"

Bob followed the instructions perfectly and at the last moment looked up and took the catch. Bob and his team mates will never forget that catch.

Robert Morris Robert was aged 18 when he travelled from Freemans Waterholes to play for SLDCC in 1962-63 cricket season. He was a tall athletic left arm opening bowler and capable lower order batsman. He was an outstanding talent who could swing the ball, bowl fast, hit the ball further than anyone else and his throwing arm was unbelievable. It is reported that he threw a cricket ball from one boundary of Awaba Oval right across the oval and over the fence on the other side.

He went straight into 1st grade with SLDCC and took 21 wickets and scored 132 runs in his first season. Half a season later he left us to play 1st grade in Sydney then returned to play for Hamilton Wickham a few years later then back to Cessnock cricket. By then he was an accomplished opening bowler and was picked to play for Northern NSW against the West Indies in 1968-69. He cleaned up the cream of the West Indies taking 5 for 48 at Newcastle No1 Sports Ground and Northern NSW led the West Indies on the first innings.

But back to Robert playing 1st grade at Awaba Oval. While he was very talented he was also very unpredictable and there were occasions when he bowled a few left arm orthodox deliveries in his first over with the new ball because he thought the wicket might take spin.

His most annoying habit was to arrive at the cricket with a double barrel shot gun. If he got a bit bored when we were batting he would walk off into the bush to shoot trees and bottles. It was very off-putting to be batting and about to receive a delivery when Robert fired another blast from his shot gun.

Pheobe Field attended a lot of the football matches, played at Awaba Oval in the early days, and she always carried an umbrella. Her husband was Aspro. She was well known as a terror spectator who gave the opposition plenty of lip. At one match in about 1950 she was standing very close to the side boundary and something had upset her. When one of the opposition players ran at full pace along the side boundary she put out her umbrella and hooked the players leg, bringing him to the ground. The story did not say whether or not she got a "red" card. Phoebe had two sons Arthur (called Moffat) and Ron (called Capper).

Leg Byes off the last ball In a 4th grade match at Awaba Oval in 1982-83 University was 9 wickets down when the last ball of the innings was bowled to a tail ender. The score was 9 for 245.

The batsmen had a mid wicket conference and decided they would run on the last ball, no matter what. The last ball hit the batsman's pads dribbled away about one metre and the batsmen ran. The wicketkeeper moved around the stumps quickly and threw the ball at the bowler's stumps, but missed. No-one was backing up and the ball ran down to mid-off and stopped in long grass close to the fence.

The batsmen kept running. The ball was thrown back to another fielder who threw an awful throw to the wicketkeeper and threw the ball over his head and it ran down to fine leg stopping just inside the boundary fence. The batsmen kept running.

When the ball eventually came back to the wicketkeeper the batsmen had run 7. Their final score was 9 for 252. University comfortably won the match.

Married at Awaba Oval. Life Member of SLDCC Grahame Jenkinson and his wife Sue had an informal marriage ceremony under the large tree on the eastern side of the ground in 1970.

Grahame played 4th grade cricket on his wedding day at Awaba Oval. The match was a one day fixture and Sue and immediate family arrived at the ground just at the break in innings. Grahame walked over to the tree for an informal wedding ceremony in the ten minutes break in innings and then he returned to the game. Sue was wearing her white wedding dress and family members were dressed for the wedding.

Grahame and Sue were married later that day, after the cricket match finished, in the Toronto Catholic Church (since demolished).

Wet Wicket 1961-62 In 1961-62 SLDCC played the powerful Lambton New Lambton at Awaba Oval in a two day fixture. The day was hot, the wicket flat and LNL scored 9 for 412 batting all of the first day. Keith MacDonald (the father of Neil, Current Cricket Development Officer for the NDCA) scored 159, Ken Hill (father of Sheffield Shield batsman Michael Hill), in his final season, scored about 80 in a first wicket partnership of 177 and there were plenty of late innings 6s and 4s hit.

I remember my bowling quite clearly because it was possibly the worst figures of my entire career. I bowled 6 overs (8 ball overs) for 60 then had a spell returning later to bowl one more over, to finally record 7 overs, none for 90. I remember dropping a caught and bowled from Keith McDonald at deepish mid off and the location was about 20 m beyond the stumps. His big hit went a mile in the air and I ran 20 m looking back over my shoulder and dropped the catch. There were no other fielders in the infield, most were on the boundary. LNL had a fine young batsman named John McLaughlin who sat padded up for 3 hours, while the openers put on 177, waiting for a wicket to fall and when he went to the crease he nicked the first ball from Jack Garaty and scored a duck.

The match was to resume the following Saturday on a dry day without any rain, but the ground was wet and the game was washed out. Memories are a little vague now but it is thought that water from the nearby Awaba Coal Mine flooded the ground. The wicket had been flooded and the outfield was a wash. Apparently the nearby creek was full of water as well and this provides an idea of how much water flooded across the oval. SLDCC was very happy to get a draw after LNL had 412 runs on the board from the previous week.

Robert Hertogs told me that he used to go to Awaba, from the age of 10, to play soccer on an area known as “the green”. This area was on the high side of the railway line just to the west of the railway station and the station master’s house. The area was sloping but the local kids all played soccer and cricket there. When he was a little older Robert played soccer for Awaba on the current Awaba Oval before it was reshaped in 1958. In those days the soccer field used to slope considerably. It was reconstructed in 1958.

Mark Nicholas Mark is a current cricket commentator with Channel 9 and a former English County Cricketer from Hampshire, England. He played for SLDCC in 1978-79 as a 20 year old. All of the arrangements to get him to Australia in those days were made by “snail” mail and an occasional trunk call, and of course we did not have the benefits of email.

Mark eventually played about 20 seasons of First Class Cricket and he captained England Second X1. In 1978 he played first class cricket in England and was used to quite big crowds, perhaps up to 5,000 spectators each day at a County match.

I recall that I travelled to Sydney to pick him up from the Airport and we drove back to Coal Point. I made a quick diversion into Awaba Oval to show him the ground that he would be playing on. It must have been quite a culture shock as we drove up to Awaba Oval because his comment was “you must be kidding“ R Holland.

ADDENDUM

Please note the following items;

- 1 Awaba Oval Community Operating Committee 2008 Annual Report.
- 2 Report from Pony Club 2008.
- 3 Cricket score sheet from 1926.
- 4 Cricket score sheet from 1927.
- 5 Cricket score sheet from 1935.
- 6 Cricket score sheet from 1938.
- 7 Cricket Score Sheet from 1958.
- 8 Cricket Score Sheet from 1962.
- 9 Plan of Lot 7052 DP 1057169, 2 Toronto Street, Awaba.
- 10 Plan of the Village of Awaba showing the locations of the old ground and the present Awaba Oval.
- 11 Plan of the Village of Awaba.

**2008 ANNUAL REPORT AWABA OVAL COMMUNITY OPERATING
COMMITTEE**

28 August 2008

COMBINED REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

In year 2007 we saw a lot of improvements and work undertaken at Awaba. Year 2008 was also a good year in that work continued to provide improvements to the complex. The whole of the Awaba Oval area is now very neat and tidy. Firstly the original Work for the Dole (WFD) crew continued on undertaking work for the Toronto Pony Club. This work included the maintenance and improvements to the pony club shed and the building of a lot of fences and corrals. This allows the pony club to keep horses in their own enclosures during pony club days. Also gates were installed to control horses and vehicles to make the area safe.

The WFD completed this project in July 2008 and removed their container shed from the site. As part of the pony club works a new power cable was installed from the Awaba Oval clubhouse to the pony club building by Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC).

LMCC completed the refurbishment of the kitchen and canteen area about May 2008. These areas are now very neat and functional. As part of the work an electric barbecue was installed by Council under the roof structure constructed last year by the work for the dole.

The committee now needs to consider stocking the kitchen area with appliances and kitchen utensils to make the pavilion very user friendly. LMCC has a proposal to replace the children's playground equipment. It is understood that funding is available for the work to proceed prior to Christmas. Council has however applied for some grant funds to allow the installation of a better standard of equipment. Thank you for your interest in Awaba Oval.

Gail Linich

Robert Holland

President

Secretary

AWABA OVALS BOARD

Report from Toronto Pony Club

Feb 21 2008

The club is now back in operation after the stoppage caused by the outbreak of Equine Influenza.

Our first Rally day for 2008 was held on 3 February with 20 riders in attendance. Rally days will continue on the first Sunday of each month.

Work for the Dole have been busy erecting our new yards, painting the building, installing seats and tidying up the place.

With the number of riders in the club, we have already decided to build another 10 yards.

We have requested that they remain on the site for another 2-3 months to continue their works.

Members of the club held a working bee and erected the outside fence of the parking area. WFTD have assisted by running the wire in the fence. There are plans to fit gates and additional fences on the eastern side of the parking area and the riding area.

LMCC have commenced work on reconnecting the electricity to the building. They are connecting this through the existing power to the cricket club/tennis courts with a separate meter to the pony club building to monitor usage.

Plans are continuing to construct a second storage building, of similar design to the existing. In the meantime we have been asked to vacate our old grounds and we intend to bring two storage containers from there to the Awaba site. These will be temporary until the new building is completed.

Stuart Munro

3 Scoresheet Awaba Cricket Club v Hamilton 2 October 1926 at Old Awaba Cricket Ground.
Awaba C C first innings.

Awaba v. Hamilton at Awaba Date 2-10-26
Innings of Awaba

BATSMEN	RUNS.	HOW OUT	BOWLER'S NAME	TOTAL																		
1 J. Field	0	c. & B	Sessions	0																		
2 H. Field	44	Run	Out	23																		
3 A. Munnell	21	B.	Sessions	7																		
4 H. Goodson	114	Not	Out	100																		
5 D. Baxton	114	B.	Walters	29																		
6 G. Wallard	46	B.	Walters	11																		
7 J. Field	1	B.	Walters	1																		
8 A. Puddy	1	c.	Sessions	1																		
9 G. D. Field	14	Not	Out	6																		
10 H. Wallard	41	B.	Ashton	9																		
11																						
SUNDRIES				10																		
Dres 11.64																						
Leg. Bats Wides No Balls																						
1 for 17	2 for 25	3 for 34	4 for 136	5 for 150	6 for 152	7 for 153	8 for	9 for	10 for	11 for	TOTAL											
BOWLING ANALYSES.																						
BOWLERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	OVERS	MAID	RUNS	WICK	WIDES	NO	AVER
1 Sessions	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	0	100	1	0	100	100
2 Ashton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	0	100	1	0	100	100
3 Munnell	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	0	100	1	0	100	100
4 Walters	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	0	100	1	0	100	100
5																15	0	100	1	0	100	100
6																15	0	100	1	0	100	100
7																15	0	100	1	0	100	100
8																15	0	100	1	0	100	100
9																15	0	100	1	0	100	100
10																15	0	100	1	0	100	100
11																15	0	100	1	0	100	100

4 Scoresheet Awaba v Wickham 8 October 1927 at Awaba Oval.

Awaba v. Wickham
Innings of

at Awaba Date 8th 10th 1927

BATSMEN	WICKETS	RUNS.	HOW OUT	BOWLER'S NAME	TOTAL						
1. Chapman	1		bowled	at Puddy	1						
2. Fern	11		bowled	O.D. Hill	0						
3. Stullings			bowled	at Puddy	0						
4. McArthur	1111		run out	O.D. Hill	4						
5. Stullings			L.D. Hill	O.D. Hill	0						
6. Brown			bowled	O.D. Hill	0						
7. Stullings	12 111 1114		bowled	O.D. Hill	14						
8. Lollan	114				6						
9. Ryan	1		bowled	O.D. Hill	1						
10. P. Selvin			bowled	O.D. Hill	0						
11. Girdale			bowled	O.D. Hill	0						
SUNDRIES					4						
OVS 4 LEG. BYES WIDES NO BALLS											
1 for	2 for	3 for	4 for	5 for	6 for	7 for	8 for	9 for	10 for	11 for	TOTAL
											33

BOWLING ANALYSES.																						
BOWLERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	OVERS	MAIDENS	RUNS	WICKETS	WIDE	NO BALL	AVERAGE
1. O.D. Hill																16	7					
2. at Puddy																13	2					
3.																						
4.																						
5.																						
6.																						
7.																						
8.																						

1 5 9 13 17 21 25 29 33 37 41 45 49 53 57 61 65 69 73 77 81 85 89 93 97 101 105 109 113 117 121 125 129 133 137 141 145 149 153 157 161 165 169 173 177 181 185 189 193 197 201 205 209
 2 6 10 14 18 22 26 30 34 38 42 46 50 54 58 62 66 70 74 78 82 86 90 94 98 102 106 110 114 118 122 126 130 134 138 142 146 150 154 158 162 166 170 174 178 182 186 190 194 198 202 206 210
 3 7 11 15 19 23 27 31 35 39 43 47 51 55 59 63 67 71 75 79 83 87 91 95 99 103 107 111 115 119 123 127 131 135 139 143 147 151 155 159 163 167 171 175 179 183 187 191 195 199 203 207 211
 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 44 48 52 56 60 64 68 72 76 80 84 88 92 96 100 104 108 112 116 120 124 128 132 136 140 144 148 152 156 160 164 168 172 176 180 184 188 192 196 200 204 208 212

5 Scoresheet Awaba Cricket Club v Carrington 9 November 1935 at Awaba Oval. Awaba C C first innings.

PLAYED AT AWABA V. CARRINGTON AT AWABA OVAL
750 INNING. DATE 9.11.1935

BATSMAN.	SCORE.	HOW OUT.	BOWLER.	TOTAL.
1 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>16</u>
2 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>21</u>
3 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>31</u>
4 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>41</u>
5 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>51</u>
6 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>61</u>
7 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>71</u>
8 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>81</u>
9 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>91</u>
10 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>101</u>
11 <u>A. Paddy</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>J. Danson</u>	<u>111</u>

NO. BALLS	EYES		LEGIONNS		WICKETS	
	10	5	10	5	10	5
100	10	5				
200	20	10				
300	30	15				
400	40	20				
500	50	25				
600	60	30				
700	70	35				
800	80	40				
900	90	45				
1000	100	50				

Fill of Wickets	1 for 20	2 for 35	3 for 50	4 for 70	5 for 100	6 for 150	7 for 200	8 for 300	9 for 400	TOTAL
Charging Batter	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>

BOWLER.	RESULT OF MATCH															LENGTHS OF INNING					HOURS	MINS.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Overs	Middle Overs	Rest	Wicket	Wide Balls			No. B.L.	Not Out
1 <u>J. Danson</u>																								
2 <u>J. Danson</u>																								
3 <u>J. Danson</u>																								
4 <u>J. Danson</u>																								
5 <u>J. Danson</u>																								
6 <u>J. Danson</u>																								
7 <u>J. Danson</u>																								
8 <u>J. Danson</u>																								

6 Scoresheet Awaba Cricket Club v United Druids 5 February 1938 at Awaba Oval.
 Awaba C C first innings.

PLAYED AT Awaba INNING. DATE 6-2-38

BATSMAN.	SCORE.	HOW OUT.	BOWLER.	TOTAL.
1 C. Field	12	Bowled	Ed. King	2
2 B. Field	112	L.B.W.	J. England	15
3 R. Hardy	12	Legs by England	F. Ball	9
4 Mr. Peckley	0	Bowled	E. Ball	0
5 W. Dunning	101	Bowled	E. Roberts	101
6 V. Field	11	How out	out.	8
7 R. Piddley	11	not out		4
8 J. Field	11	run out		4
9				
10				
11				

Mitchell

BY-S	LEG-BYSS	WIDES	NO BALLS
1	1		
			19

Full of Wickets	1 for	2 for	3 for	4 for	5 for	6 for	7 for	8 for	9 for	TOTAL
Outgoing Batsmen	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	136

TEMPERATURE - WINDS

BOWLER.	RESULT OF MATCH											Overs	Maiden	Runs	Wickets	Wides	No Balls	Extras	Average		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11									12	
1 Ed. King	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2 J. England	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3 F. Ball	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4 E. Ball	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5 E. Roberts	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

8 Scoresheet Awaba Cricket Club v Centennials 3 December 1962 at Awaba Oval.

Awaba C C first innings.

AWABA ROYALS v. CENTENNIALS Ground AWABA OVAL Date 3-12-62 Grade B Division 1

1st Innings of CENTENNIALS 184

BATSMEN	TO BE SIGNED INDIVIDUALLY	RUNS	HOW OUT	BY WHOM	BOWLERS NAME	TOTAL	FALL WKTS.
1	<i>Clayton</i>	1		C	N. Thompson	27	1 For 1
2	<i>Clayton</i>	1		L.B.W.	N. Thompson	0	2 For 1
3	<i>Clayton</i>	1		L.B.W.	N. Thompson	14	3 For 10
4	<i>Clayton</i>	1		C	K. Page	11	4 For 11
5	<i>Clayton</i>	1		L.B.W.	N. Thompson	1	5 For 13
6	<i>Clayton</i>	1		C	K. Page	0	6 For 13
7	<i>Clayton</i>	1		C	M. Wyborn	6	6 For 13
8	<i>Clayton</i>	1		B	K. Field	0	7 For 13
9	<i>Clayton</i>	1		B	K. Field	14	8 For 13
10	<i>Clayton</i>	1		B	NOT OUT	3	9 For 13
11	<i>Clayton</i>	1		B	K. Field	4	10 For 13
SUNDRIES. BYES.		LEG BYES.	NO BALLS.		WIDES.	TOTAL.	
						71	71

BOWLERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	OVERS	MAID ENS	RUNS	WICKETS	NO BALL	AVER AGE
1. N. Thompson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	0	51	2	1	25.5
2. K. Field	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6.2	1	19	8	1	2.3
3.																					
4.																					
5.																					
6.																					
7.																					
8.																					

1st Innings of AWABA ROYALS

BATSMEN	TO BE SIGNED INDIVIDUALLY	RUNS	HOW OUT	BY WHOM	BOWLERS NAME	TOTAL	FALL WKTS.
1	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1		C	M. Brennan	15	1 For 15
2	<i>D. Field</i>	1		NOT OUT		40	2 For 40
3	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1		NOT OUT		79	3 For 79
4	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1					4 For
5	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1					5 For
6	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1					6 For
7	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1					7 For
8	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1					8 For
9	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1					9 For
10	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1					10 For
11	<i>M. Wyborn</i>	1					11 For
SUNDRIES. BYES.		LEG BYES.	NO BALLS.		WIDES.	TOTAL.	
						135	135

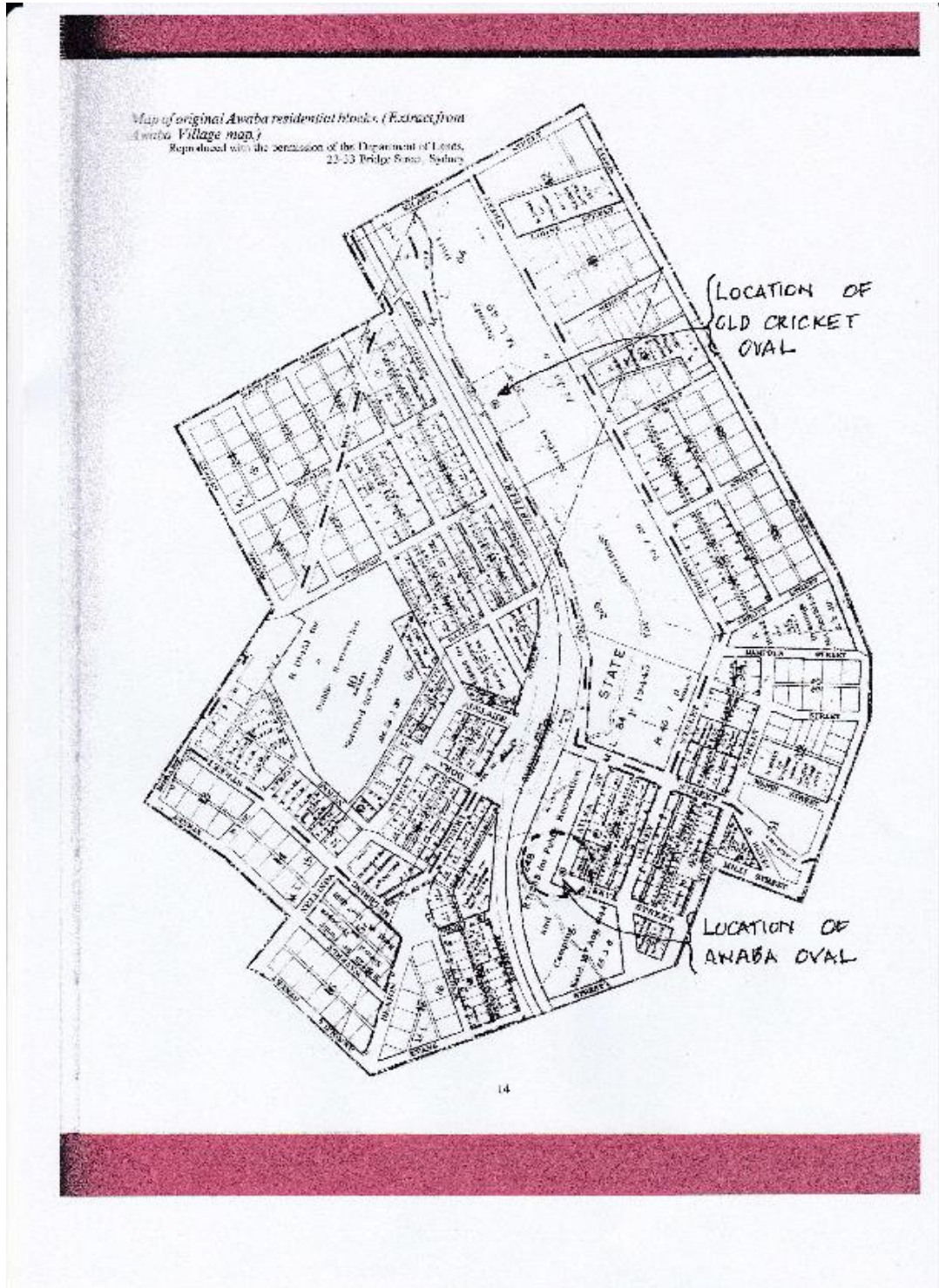
BOWLERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	OVERS	MAID ENS	RUNS	WICKETS	NO BALL	AVER AGE
1. D. Brennan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	59	-	1	7.375
2. R. Coombes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	39	1	1	4.875
3. D. Greentree	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	38	-	1	9.5
4.																					
5.																					
6.																					
7.																					
8.																					

Match won by AWABA ROYALS 1st Innings Outright Points gained 4 Captains M. Field

We certify to the correctness of this result: Umpires Mac Rice. Captains M. Field

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10 Plan of the Village of Awaba showing the locations of the old ground and the present Awaba Oval.



11 Plan of the Village of Awaba.

Map of original Awaba residential blocks. (Extract from Awaba Village map.)
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