

SPRING 2023 | No. 054

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Cricket Players Association

OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



LUKE GEORGESON
INVESTING IN HIS FUTURE



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OPENING THOUGHTS



Tēnā Koutou, and welcome to the spring edition of Outright.

Daylight savings, the shift in weather, and the arrival of spring signal the nationwide ritual of club cricketers heading to their garages, embarking on a search for their cricket gear. This familiar tale involves retrieving the equipment stowed away at the close of the previous season, often accompanied by the self-assured promise, "I'll definitely remember where I put it." After a thorough search, the gear is eventually unearthed, inspected for its condition and suitability (especially when it's for the kids), all in preparation for the upcoming cricket season.

As cricket fans look forward to what we hope will be a long dry summer filled with nostalgia, time spent with friends and family, and the occasional backyard cricket match that morphs into an intensely competitive international showdown. There's also an extensive calendar awaiting our elite male and female players. Fresh off a one-day series against England, the Blackcaps sojourn through Bangladesh before

landing in India for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. Meanwhile, the White Ferns are currently in South Africa, engaged in a three-match one-day series and a five-match T20 series. The Blackcaps return home in December for the Summer of Cricket, featuring matches against Pakistan, Bangladesh, South Africa, and Australia, while the White Ferns will square off against Pakistan and England.

We are also delighted to congratulate our former Chairman, Scott Weenink, on his appointment as the new Chief Executive of NZC. Whilst we're very sad to have lost Scott, we're delighted to see him move into this leading role in our sport. We wish him every success in the years ahead and are confident he will do an outstanding job. This appointment to NZC required him to stand down from his role with the NZCPA, with Ross Verry fulfilling the role as Acting Chair through to the Annual General Meeting at the end of this year.

In this edition of Outright we catch up with former CD Stags Craig Ingham and discover what he's been up to in Nelson,

as well as his connection with the Nelson Giants Basketball team.

What do fly fishing and cricket have in common? What about hockey and dress hire? Agriculture, farms and art? The answer to all three stumpers is unveiled in our catch up with Otago Sparks Molly Loe. Staying in the deep south our cover story is with newly recruited Volts player Luke Georgeson and his move from Wellington via Auckland (with Money Empire) before landing in Dunedin.

ND Spinner Freddy Walker shares his story on how he turned a redundancy around into a flourishing new career path and former Auckland Aces player, Teja Nidamanuru, reveals how a trip to the Netherlands completely changed his life both on and off the park.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Outright and wish you all a safe and happy summer.

Ngā mihi nui

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Players better together



MOLLY LOE

PERFECTING THE ART OF VARIETY

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

WHAT DO FLY FISHING AND CRICKET HAVE IN COMMON? WHAT ABOUT HOCKEY AND DRESS HIRE? AGRICULTURE, FARMS AND ART?

THE ANSWER TO ALL THREE STUMPERS IS MOLLY LOE.

With two side hustles on the go and two team sports to play and train for, spare time is at a premium for the multi-talented Otago Sparks seamer, but you'll be impressed at just how well the 20-year-old utilises that time as she packs all of this in around student life as a Lincoln Uni Bachelor of Agriculture undergrad.

The side hustles? The latest is the purchase of a small frock-hire business, Her Designer Rentals (www.herdesignerrentals.co.nz). "I'd rented dresses for formals myself," explains Loe, "and when this opportunity came up (in March) I was thinking about how I was in an area that had a lot of schools, as well as the university. It was a good opportunity to get into that market."

In this short time since, Loe has picked up some financial skills, honed her customer service and got a booking website up and running — peak organisation and communication required to work the business successfully around Uni hours.

It's not her first foray into side-hustling, because that's on top of an arty passion

project that started when her mum wondered if Loe might like to do an original painting for Molly's fly-fisher brother, for his birthday.

Family getaways on Lake Benmore, in Canterbury's Waitaki Valley, where the trout fishing and water-skiing is good, are something of a tradition for the Loes, while art was a subject Loe had relished at high school — for a time.

"I'd ended up quitting the subject after Year 11 because two art teachers had taken their lives within a year of each other, which was pretty tough for everyone," she says. "But when Mum saw the [fly-fishing] painting I had done, she said, 'You know, you're silly not to be doing something with this...'"

That's how Made By Molly started. She sent her first collection of acrylic paintings of fishing flies (fancy, feathery, colourful lures, with names like Blue Bandit, Peacock and Firework) off to Dunedin to be printed on fine matte art stock, then started selling the prints and cards on a bespoke Instagram page, Facebook and at the Oamaru markets — tag-teaming with her mum to run the stall, as summer weekends often see Molly on a cricket field.

"I think art is one of those things where you've got to be passionate about what you're painting," she says.

"I've found painting a subject that I'm not that interested in can feel pretty

gruelling, but when it's something that resonates — you're away. So now I've started on a collection of paintings based around agriculture and farming, that's been in my family since before I was born and I'm quite passionate about."

Born in Christchurch, Loe's stock agent dad hails from North Canterbury and mum from the picture-perfect countryside of Mount Nessing, Albury, in the farmed foothills behind Timaru. It was a childhood full of pet lambs, calves and quad bikes. Later, the family moved to a lifestyle block in Oamaru, across the border in North Otago.

"I was always wanting to help out on the farm when we were back at Albury. I was always wanting to go out on the quad bikes. When Dad became a stock agent. I'd go with him to cattle yards, and during holidays I'd be working on farms. So I think I've always known I wanted to do something in Ag.

"I wasn't really as interested in anything else as a career, although I did contemplate a sports course. But then I thought, with playing hockey and cricket as well, I'd probably get sick of it, whereas being on a farm is an escape. The Ag degree I'm doing gives me a nice balance with playing my sport."

Doing what she loves "gives me energy", which is handy when you turn the lens on how much she's achieving on hockey and cricket fields. She's serious about both, but missed last year's hockey



“IT WAS PRETTY HECTIC, BUT ALL PART OF GETTING TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE, DOING WHAT YOU LOVE.”

season after a slipped disc in her back. Now she's back playing club hockey for Hornby in Christchurch in the Canterbury Premier League.

As a pace bowler, the back injury was a double worry, but she got back on the park in time to contribute to the Otago Sparks' twin campaigns last summer, returning her best Hallyburton Johnstone Shield season yet, and bringing her Super Smash tally to 16 wickets from three seasons.

When Loe debuted in the one-day format five years ago, she was the second-youngest player in the Sparks' history — one of a cohort of St Hilda's Collegiate first XI girls who won the national Gillette Venus Cup in 2018. That hard-working group now forms the youthful core of the Sparks: Olivia Gain, Eden Carson, Emma Black and Chloe Deerness were all in the team, coached by the legend Neil Rosenberg whose passion inspired them all.

But winning didn't start there. In 2016, at Oamaru's Weston Primary, she'd been part of the first North Otago team to qualify for NZC's (now discontinued) Primary School Shield nationals.

"I started cricket when I was in Year 6 there, and we only just managed to get a team together for Finals so it was pretty cool. That was pretty exciting, and what sparked my passion to want to continue. I just fell in love with the sport as I carried on through rep teams."

What followed was a giddy rise. She leapt from the primary school national title straight into the St Hilda's first XI, to Otago Under 21 and the Sparks all in the space of three years. It's "crazy" to look back, she says, and she was nervous on Sparks debut — brought in for away one-dayers in Palmerston North at the tail of 2018/19.

"I didn't have family and friends supporting me on the sidelines — I hadn't played outside of Otago before, apart from a few Christchurch tournaments. I was still only in Year 10 at school. But the Sparks are like a sisterhood, and that day that I debuted, I just knew all the girls were backing me and knew I could do my role, and I think that gave me a bit of clarity through the nerves."

She got Jess Watkin early, on a tough weekend for the Sparks team.

Loe's carried on racking up a cool list of "firsts". In early 2021, she was picked for NZC's first ever female New Zealand Under 19 team, and in October 2021, as a newly contracted Spark, was the first female player invited to represent the country-based Willows club, playing

alongside Josh Finnie, Max Chu and Richie McCaw.

"That was special and a very surreal experience. I got a couple of wickets,



which was exciting too. We were playing Otago Boys' High, and I knew quite a few of the players — I'm good friends with Jacob Cumming through cricket, so there was a bit of banter!"

Now Loe's gearing up for a new summer — one that, again, will take a bit of juggling as she pursues all her passions. The Ag degree requires students to do 14 weeks' practical work on a farm. Last summer's placement was on a Waimate dairy farm — a two-hour drive from Uni Oval.

"So every Tuesday I'd drive down from there for the main Sparks training, then I'd drive back, and come back down on Friday, travel and play, and be back on the farm on Sunday! It was pretty hectic, but all part of getting to where you want to be, doing what you love."

FREDDY WALKER PLOTTING A NEW PATH

BY MARGOT BUTCHER



“I’M TERRIBLE AT WATCHING,” SAYS FREDDY WALKER. IT’S A RARE MOMENT OF CONCESSION TO THE PERILS OF BEING A GOOD SPINNER IN A SQUAD BURSTING WITH GOOD SPINNERS.

Older brother Joe. Their Blackcaps cousin Mitch Santner. Ish Sodhi before he headed to Canterbury. Tim Pringle leaping up the ranks. Northern Districts has a stellar slow bowling department, and for Walker that can be a tough break.

When Northern Brave defended their Dream11 Super Smash crown last summer, he was the one in the dreaded yellow vest. But without Freddy having smacked an unbeaten 25 off 11 balls two games earlier in a must-win thriller against the Stags, the Brave wouldn’t have made the Elimination playoff, let alone gone on to defend their title.

And that’s the glass-half-full attitude he prefers to nurture. “I did my bit when I had the chance, then Mitch came back from overseas the next day so my focus switched completely to how I could help us win, add value, support the team, despite not playing. When Mitch is around, I often just sit at home and watch!”

Being a contracted ND player softens the blow, but when he was younger, that kind of situation was way harder to take.

“You learn to be positive about it as you get older, though. I listen to a lot of podcasts and watch a lot of videos about players who have been in that situation, and I realised pretty quickly that you have to take on board is that it is nothing personal against you, when you’re sidelined or dropped. It’s not because the coach doesn’t like you. So there’s no point getting down on yourself, and it’s all about looking forward.”

Which is a pivot into how he found himself unexpectedly drawing on the same kind of resilience and action plans off the field this year, as well. The two constants for the 29-year-old Waikato Uni graduate have been marketing and cricket — so when he was made redundant from a fun, full-time marketing job that had ticked all his boxes for a year, it was a jolt.

It was for a Hamilton fishing/boating/great outdoors store “and I’ve always loved

fishing, so it was a dream come true. Our family would go across to Bowentown to go fishing on one of my uncle’s boats — something that we’d done since we were kids, me, Joe, Mitch, all of us — so I’ve always been around boats, and being outdoors was something that really appealed.”

They’d even hired him after coughing and spluttering all through his interview — it was shortly after COVID had ripped through ND’s entire Plunket Shield team in Whangārei.

“I was thrilled to get the job. And only a month earlier, I’d been sitting with my PDM Judy Clement trying to work out what kind of role I wanted to do next, in the marketing space.

“I’d got my ND contract, which is great, but now I still wanted to work in the off season — but just walking back into a marketing career in the winters is really hard. A lot of players know that feeling. It’s hard for employers to gauge what sort of time you’ll give them, come summer. I mean, even for us, it’s hard to quantify that. All that uncertainty.”

Clement helped him break down what he thought his best skills were, what he liked and disliked about previous jobs, and helped clarify what sort of role he really wanted next. “And now here it was — joining two others in the marketing department. But when those people left, the company didn’t replace them. Then the company decided that they would abolish the marketing wing entirely.”

Walker had got into marketing with an early goal of linking it to his interest in sports — not necessarily cricket — in some way. He got a good start with an unpaid internship in his last year before graduating in 2016, then joined his uncles’ company, Cambridge Homes, for a year, ahead of a winter off to play in the UK.

“My cricket was what I did for enjoyment, back then. I was always going to keep playing, but marketing was my number one at the time.”

Nevertheless, his performances with both bat and ball started to catch the eyes of ND selectors. There was a

particular game for Hamilton against arch rival Bay of Plenty in 2017 when he and Anish Desai put on unbeaten 10th-wicket stand of 220*, Walker smacking 150 from just 125 balls. A breakthrough innings. He followed his brother into the ND team for a 2016/17 Ford Trophy debut — and entered the twilight zone of juggling full-time working life with trying to train, improve, impress enough to get in more ND teams and eventually, score a professional contract.



By 2019 he was working in a communications role, “but the crossover between that job and cricket was really hard, so after 18 months, I quit. I said to my partner Ellyse (now fiancée), that I wanted to concentrate on getting an ND contract, but I’d go labouring for six months to keep money rolling in.”

Things did fall into place, and Walker says you should never underestimate the value of happenstance — the chance conversation, the connection that turns out to know a role that has just become vacant. “It’s been the story of my whole working life, so after the redundancy, I was straight on the phone to Judy to talk about it, and just figure out how best to make my next step an even better one.”

Over lunch, Walker realised his thoughts had changed markedly from a year and

a half earlier when they’d gone through the same process, and he landed at becoming a self-employed contractor. “It’s incredible how much clarity you can get from an hour just sitting down to talk it out with someone.”

Clement got him to write down 20 contacts that he could get in touch with, and she did the same. “That was around Mother’s Day, and my fiancée was going out for lunch with her mum and brother. Her brother mentioned his company might be looking for someone in the marketing space... so there it was again. Happenstance, but one that came about because I was actively seeking and articulating what I wanted. They’re an automation engineering company and it’s business-to-business, rather than the public interface with a shop floor and customers, so it’s changing up my skillset, and it’s been a lot of fun — as well as giving me more time to pursue my cricket training.”

Come summer, Walker’s now got the freedom to adapt his hours, and is also taking on some marketing work for his local club, Melville.

“I think it’s important to still have marketing work alongside my cricket because not every day is a good day in cricket. It can be long days, it gets hard, and the question for me has always been, ‘How do you make bad days a little bit better?’

“One answer is having other things in my life to give me perspective, make me grateful. And I’m also very grateful to have my brother Joe to bounce off in the ND team. When I was struggling last season, Joe gave me a phone call because he knows me better than anyone and could spot it, and knew just what to say to get me back on track.

“Meanwhile having the support of Judy and the CPA for the other half of my life has been like gold dust. I feel we’re very lucky, as players. I know that one day when I retire the CPA will just be a phone call away and I’ll always have that sounding board to help me with my next step.”

DARYL MITCHELL & AMELIA KERR RECEIVE TOP HONOURS FOR 2023

DARYL MITCHELL AND AMELIA KERR WERE ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE RECIPIENTS OF THE PLAYERS' CAP AND CPA PLAYERS' AWARD RESPECTIVELY.



White Ferns star Amelia Kerr was honoured by her team-mates as the recipient of the coveted *CPA Players' Award* for 2022/23 in Christchurch.

This is Kerr's second consecutive CPA award and follows last year's honour, which at 21 years of age made her the youngest recipient of the *CPA Players' Award*. Kerr now joins an exclusive club of players who have received the award multiple times, alongside Amy Satterthwaite (twice) and Sophie Devine (three times).

An emotional Kerr said, "The *CPA Players Award* is special as it's voted by your teammates, the people you play for, and we have such an amazing group. To contribute on and off the field that's the most important thing for me when I wear that top."

"I love playing for the White Ferns so to receive this award and the recognition from your peers is a real honour."

White Ferns Captain and triple *CPA Players' Award* recipient Sophie Devine was full of praise for her team-mate and fellow award winner. "It's the consistency that's really stood out for me and I'm sure that's why a lot of the players have voted for Amelia over this

last 12-month period. Sometimes we forget how young she is, she's grown up in this team and to see her take on a new role, take the lead, the responsibility and really run with it, that's something I've been really proud to see."

Over the past twelve months Daryl Mitchell has made a statement on the international stage with a range of stellar performances for the Blackcaps. None more emphatic than during the Test series in England last June where Mitchell piled up a mammoth run-fest, aggregating a record 538 runs with an

average of 107.60 in the three-match series. Mitchell also became the first New Zealand batsman to score centuries in three consecutive Test matches in England – incidentally the tour that kicked off *The Players' Cap* voting period.

Once again, this year's busy schedule saw the end of the New Zealand home summer overlapping with the IPL, which meant the traditional post season presentation of *The Players' Cap* was delayed until the players gathered within the team hotel in Birmingham where

THE CPA PLAYERS' AWARD LEADING VOTE RECIPIENTS PER FORMAT

ODI	Suzie Bates/Jess Kerr (tied)
T20i	Amelia Kerr

THE PLAYERS' CAP LEADING VOTE RECIPIENTS PER FORMAT

Test	Daryl Mitchell
ODI	Matt Henry
T20i	Glenn Phillips



Mitchell was named as the recipient of 12th edition of *The Players' Cap*.

The Blackcaps all-rounder was humbled by the award stating "I am very grateful to receive *The Players' Cap*, to be recognised by your fellow teammates is an honour and something I will really cherish. It's always been a dream to be a part of this Blackcaps environment and to be able to help contribute on the field, as well to the values we have as a team off it is really cool.

"The environment plays a massive part in allowing guys to be themselves while doing what is best for the team. To receive this award is a testament to the players before and the leaders now that have set up our culture as a group."

The players' own aggregate voting format was once again fiercely contested this year with a host of players in line to receive this highly regarded honour. Mitchell's impact across the Test format in particular saw him edge out captain Kane Williamson and Tom Blundell who were tied for 2nd on the overall voting tally.

Blackcaps captain and three times recipient of *The Players' Cap* Kane Williamson had the honour of presenting *The Players' Cap* to his team-mate.

Williamson acknowledged, "To be part of a group of players with a collective approach toward achieving success is something we are all really proud of and this is such a special award to receive as your team-mates have recognised the impact you've made. Daryl has made an outstanding contribution over the past year, he has been one of those guys who just consistently delivers for the team and it's great to see him receive this award."

"IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM TO BE A PART OF THIS BLACKCAPS ENVIRONMENT. TO BE RECOGNISED BY YOUR FELLOW TEAMMATES IS AN HONOUR AND SOMETHING I WILL REALLY CHERISH."
DARYL MITCHELL

THE PLAYERS' CAP RECIPIENTS

2023	Daryl Mitchell
2022	Devon Conway
2021	Kyle Jamieson
2020	Tim Southee
2019	Ross Taylor
2018	Trent Boult
2017	Kane Williamson
2016	Kane Williamson
2015	Kane Williamson
2014	Ross Taylor
2013	Tim Southee
2012	Brendon McCullum

CPA PLAYERS' AWARD RECIPIENTS

2023	Amelia Kerr
2022	Amelia Kerr
2021	Amy Satterthwaite
2020	Sophie Devine
2019	Sophie Devine
2018	Sophie Devine
2017	Amy Satterthwaite
2016	Suzie Bates





A CATCH UP WITH

WARREN “WAZZA” MCSKIMMING

BY AIDEN MCLAUGHLIN

WHEN WARREN MCSKIMMING RETIRED, HIS FORMER Otago CAPTAIN CRAIG CUMMING SAID THAT THE MAN KNOWN AS WAZZA “REPRESENTED EVERYTHING WHICH WAS GOOD IN CRICKET.”

This is a widely held feeling about a man who always put the team first during his career.

McSkimming observes that, “People ask me about culture a lot. It’s a word that gets thrown around. I think the biggest thing about culture is when you look at somebody, whether it’s in a work environment or a team environment and you’ve got to want them to do well,” says McSkimming.

A self-described ‘domestic battler’, McSkimming was born and raised in the Central Otago town of Oturohau. He has overwhelmingly positive memories of growing up on the family farm, a love of the rural lifestyle that he still holds and has encouraged in his two daughters, Ava, 12 and Mila, 10 to embrace the farming life.

McSkimming, now 44, represented Otago with distinction for 13 seasons before retiring in 2012 after 69 first-class matches. A stoic right-arm medium-bowler, he took 240 wickets at 24.37, as well as another 117 scalps

in 96 one-day games and a further 19 wickets in 25 T20 appearances. He also scored 1705 runs at first-class level, including one century.

“It was a phenomenal 12 years of my life. It was an absolute privilege. I had the opportunity for a trial and got picked for Otago when I was 19. Back then it was pretty amateur, we didn’t train a lot, maybe a couple of hours, three days a week,” says McSkimming.

“Then these contracts came in where we were offered \$12 - \$13,000, which was great for a 19 or 20-year-old. Then I got picked for the New Zealand Cricket Academy at Lincoln. My intake was Brendon McCullum, Nathan McCullum, Jamie How. That was great, although I ended up getting a stress fracture with the amount of indoor bowling you had to do. That was the start of my back problems,” he says.

Other injuries, alongside those back problems, came along far too often in McSkimming’s career and one sticks out more than the rest.

“I broke my jaw in a T20 game against Northern Districts in 2006. I was bowling to Joseph Yovich at the death and he hit the ball back and it hit me flush on the jaw and I broke my jaw in eight places. It was rough. The week before that I got called up to go to India for the ICC Champions League. Shane Bond had got injured and I had to fly to

Wellington to get visa stuff sorted. Then I was told to hold off travelling but Sir Richard Hadlee said that I was going to be picked for the upcoming home ODI series against Sri Lanka about three weeks later. I thought, this is my chance, but then the next week I got hit in the face and I was out for pretty much a whole year,” he says.

When retirement started to rear its head, it became clear that the family farm on which he was raised wasn’t big enough to support him and other family members so his Dad suggested he went off and did something else. As a result, he started applying for jobs in the rural sector, landing a role as area sales manager for Tru-Test, a company providing farmers with animal identification products, animal health delivery systems and identification products.

McSkimming officially retired soon afterwards, in December 2012. His wife Jodie had given birth to Mila just six weeks earlier. With Ava about to turn two just a month later, it was a busy time, but he was able to add something else which brought him back to his roots, running guided hunting trips on the weekends.

“Whenever we had overseas players playing cricket for Otago, I used to love taking them up to the farm to show them that rural experience,” McSkimming says.



“I THINK THE BIGGEST THING ABOUT CULTURE IS WHEN YOU LOOK AT SOMEBODY, WHETHER IT’S IN A WORK ENVIRONMENT OR A TEAM ENVIRONMENT AND YOU’VE GOT TO WANT THEM TO DO WELL ” – WARREN MCSKIMMING

“I was obviously very proud of where I was from and what my parents had created. We’d take them on farm tours and do various things like shooting and fishing. I guess because of my passion for showing people a good time, I’d love to be a hunting guide or run some sort of hunting business. When I started my job at Tru-Test I would do it at the weekends or take the odd days leave. Then Covid hit and I cancelled the hunters I had booked in for that season and I was out,” he says.

McSkimming is currently the New Zealand-Australia sales manager for fencing equipment supplier Stockade. He was appointed just as Covid hit, meaning Zoom calls initially became his new reality, rather than getting around to meet people.



“My job’s awesome, I love my job. I get a real mixture of dealing with people, some reps, the key accounts. It’s still rural and it’s really good,” he says.

McSkimming suffered another serious injury a few years ago, this time off the cricket field, but using his inimitable sense of humour, he still manages to raise a smile when he talks about it and see the positive side.

“On my bowling hand, the middle digit, I chopped half of that off a couple of years ago splitting some wood. Just as a bit of a joke, if people ask me now if I ever played for New Zealand, I say I wasn’t lucky enough to, but that I did pretty well with only half a finger on my bowling hand and I hold it up” he says.

“I was very lucky I didn’t take three fingers or half my hand off, because then you’re in real trouble aren’t you.”



LUKE GEORGESON

INVESTING IN HIS FUTURE

Above: Founder and CEO of Money Empire Kayne Wahlstrom and Luke Georgeson.



The off-season presents a conundrum for many of our cricketers, allowing contemplation of potential paths beyond the sport. This scenario unfolded for Luke Georgeson, who holds a finance and economics degree from Victoria University. Reflecting on this at the end of last summer, Georgeson recounted, "Initially I was looking for a job in Wellington and nothing really came, I was sending a lot of cold emails to whoever was willing to read one and Sanj Silva (former NZCPA National PDM) from Money Empire picked one up. We had a zoom call and he said there could be an opportunity up in Auckland."

Eager to seize the chance, Georgeson set about relocating from Wellington to Auckland. That proactive move proved fortuitous as when he met up with Sanj, it resulted in a short-term gig with Money Empire through until the start of the new season. "It probably couldn't have gone any better for a guy that's

only available for four months of the year," described the 24-year-old. "To come up north and to get that sort of experience has been awesome and I'm very, very grateful to Sanj and Kayne and the Money Empire team for taking me on."

Georgeson embraced the role of Client Services, facilitating discussions between clients and advisors at Money Empire. "I'm not a qualified financial advisor so I can't give people financial advice, he explains, but I can certainly help the process out. A lot of the stuff I've been doing has been around mortgages, they (Sanj and Kayne) have been super supportive and really put an emphasis on trying to give me as much exposure as I can to everything in the business."

Silva, now Head of Growth and Strategic Relations at Money Empire, expressed immense satisfaction with their temporary recruit. Impressed by

Georgeson's initial interview and his positive attitude, Silva crafted the Client Services position to suit him. "Luke came across really well. He communicates and articulates his thoughts well, that's the people we want in our company and in the finance industry. Luke is incredibly analytical, he's a 24-year-old with a mature old head on him. With the right people, this is the value we see in working with the NZCPA, and to support their PD Programme."

Georgeson staunchly supports NZCPA's impactful work it does for players. "I'm a massive advocate for the work that the NZCPA do, I genuinely believe it's an incredibly important part of playing cricket in New Zealand, because I'm seeing it directly at the moment. Obviously, there will be a select few guys who don't have to worry as much about life after cricket, but the majority of guys will have successful domestic careers and then will face the reality of finding work in a new career. To have that

support, to make sure that when you are ready to step away from the game, that you know what you're doing, I just think it's incredibly important."

As the upcoming season looms, Georgeson is looking forward to a move south to join the Otago Volts. "I haven't spent much time in Dunedin so I'm pretty excited about getting down there and having a look around. I just want to settle into Otago and immerse myself in the squad. I'd love to become a fixture in the side across all three formats and start contributing toward winning games of cricket and I think as a result titles, and things like that come."

While Georgeson's future remains full of opportunity, he aims to make the most of his cricket with Otago in the short term and continue to learn and develop with a dream of international honours in the future. However, the former NZ U19 representative acknowledges "that might be a little unrealistic at this stage."

As for the corporate life, despite enjoying his time at Money Empire he conceded that an office-based role might not necessarily align with his long-term career aspirations. He will continue to explore various avenues of how he can continue to develop his skills from his economics and finance qualifications as he continues to prepare for success post-cricket.

"I don't know if offices are for me necessarily, but which is sort of ironic given I've signed up for an economics and finance degree. I just want to get out there and learn as much as I can and start narrowing down towards what I want to do."

Whichever path Georgeson ultimately pursues, he can rely on the support from the NZCPA to guide him through the intricate challenges of a professional cricket career and beyond.





SPORT & FAMILY

THE FABRIC OF PAST PLAYER CRAIG INGHAM'S LIFE

BY MARGOT BUTCHER



“**THAT WAS MY FAVOURITE TIME PLAYING CRICKET. IT WAS THE CAMARADERIE. GUYS LIKE BATCHY AND BLAINY COULD LIFT A TEAM, GET THE BEST OUT OF US WITH THEIR SHEER PERSONALITY AND POSITIVITY.**”

CRAIG INGHAM

Above: Business Partners and Giants team-mates, from left, Craig and Tom Ingham and Chris and Nick Trathen

IN THE 1990s, CENTRAL STAGS' OPENING BATSMAN CRAIG INGHAM WAS KNOWN AS "PUP" AND ONE OF THE "NELSON GNOMES". IT'S A CLUE TO A LACK OF ANY EXCEEDING TALLNESS.

His basketballing son, Tom, has somewhat broken that mould. A 1.9m point guard with the Nelson Giants since 2010/11 (bar three seasons as an Otago Nugget when he was in Dunedin for his teaching degree), Tom Ingham towers over his parents and sister, Lucy.

Ingham the elder used to enjoy getting on the basketball court himself in his days at Waimea College. But as a gnome, your future professional options are fairly limited.

"I grew up in Stoke and the hub there is the Jack Robins Stadium. I wasn't very good, but it was fun! Unfortunately

my daughter Lucy got my genes. She was very good at volleyball, basketball and netball and some height would have been handy for her."

Lucy captained Waimea College to the 2014 national volleyball crown; she's now an Associate at a Nelson law firm. Tom was meanwhile a handy cricketer, playing Hawke Cup cricket. Ingham used to coach his age-group teams heading off to CD tournaments, then Tom started to shoot up in height.

"The Giants picked him as a 16-year-old Development player. He came home from school one day and said, 'Oh, I'm in the Giants squad'. I thought he was kidding. But that was awesome, pretty cool to see him run out with some big names in the game."

Ingham and wife Juanita (who meanwhile managed Lucy's team) never missed any of the kids' sporting missions, and they're still cheering

on the sideline. The Nelson Giants are a local phenomenon and "Not Just Concrete" adorns the back of the Nelson-blue singlets. That's Ingham's business, in partnership with longtime mate Chris Trathen — who played rugby for Nelson Bays around the same time Ingham was playing first-class cricket for the Stags. Trathen's son Nick also plays for the Giants. Juanita coordinates the bench. Sport and family, the fabric of Ingham's life.

"We love the sport," he says. "It's pretty tight knit and hard case, but they do it well down here. The Giants' games sell out and there are kids everywhere

because of their very successful Giants in Schools programme. It can still be tough to fund the marquee players outside of the main cities, but in lots of ways it makes it quite special, as well — just like CD. CD were always known as the country boys, but it creates that camaraderie and you pull together and punch above your weight."

Ingham played senior club cricket until he was 48, and had grown up watching the likes of Jock Edwards churn out tons of runs at Trafalgar Park, Nelson's first-class batsman's paradise before the advent of Saxton Oval.

"I used to do the scoreboard at Trafalgar Park — three metres up, hanging off the edge of it while the legends were out there playing. Fond memories. You imagine doing that today!"

Ingham debuted for the Stags in 1990/91, and went on to play 31 first-class and 29 List A games. "We won a few. Winning the Shell Trophy [Plunket Shield] in 1991/92 was pretty cool — even though I had a shit season! And the 1994 Shell Cup, that was a good campaign, even though we got beaten in the final [by 25 runs, against one of Canterbury's strongest all-time line-ups].

"Twosey [Roger Twose] was our captain, we had Batchy [Mark Greatbatch], Blainy [Tony Blain] who were playing for New Zealand at the time. We all got on well, good people, and everyone involved was passionate about CD.

"That was my favourite time playing cricket. It was the camaraderie. Guys like Batchy and Blainy could lift a team, get the best out of us with their sheer personality and positivity."

Meanwhile, Juanita was back in Nelson working two jobs so he could live the dream — domestic contracts a thing of the distant future. "I'm very grateful for having been able to do it," says Ingham. "She worked hard when I was away."

He still sees his old teammates like Andrew Schwass and Mark Douglas.

"Schwassy and I go mountain-biking together a lot. I do a lot of adventure riding and motorbike riding now, for my leisure. I did the Old Ghost Trail on the West Coast with Schwassy and a group that he took as part of his cycling business. Did the Otago Rail Trail as well.

"I see a lot of Craig Auckram too; we went on a trekking expedition together to Everest Base camp four years ago. We'd been talking about doing it for years. It was like being on Mars! You had to look after yourself, walk slowly, take 13 days to get up there as you acclimatise. It was beautiful."

Ingham had started out as a cabinet-maker by trade. Douglas turned out to be a key connection, when the inevitable pressures of playing cricket all summer and trying to provide for his young family began to conflict. Douglas put him onto a job at a busy concrete

kerbing company where Douglas worked before heading to Wellington.

"I needed more money, so that was a good move at that time for us. My current business partner Chris, he worked there too, running the kerb gang, while I was foreman of another side of the business. One day in our early 30s, Chris and I were talking and he says, 'Why don't we have a go at working for ourselves?' It was a bit ballsy at the time, but it's turned out awesome."

Not Just Concrete did paving, retaining walls, general concrete works, but the purchase of a kerb machine saw business really take off. "Now we employ eight staff, plus me and Chris. He's a good bastard — in 23 years, we've never had a cross word.

"We've done some pretty big projects over the years like Lansdowne Park when the Mako first started, the Nelson Airport upgrade, and we do a lot of work for the bigger contracting firms."

As well as providing 1/8th of the Nelson Giants squad, as passionate Nelsonians.

Despite being head-deep in basketball, the buzz for cricket has never left him. Last summer he went to an Alumni function at the Dream11 Super Smash day in Nelson. "I bumped in John Furlong there — I hadn't seen Goose for years! And it was an awesome day, great to see all these people at Saxton Oval watching the old team. Cricket was good to me. We had a lot of fun."

NIDAMANURU NETS OPPORTUNITIES IN NETHERLANDS



AS THE CRICKET SEASON WINDS DOWN AND SUMMER COMES TO A CLOSE, OUR MEMBERS EMBARK ON ALL SORTS OF VARIOUS OFF-SEASON ACTIVITIES. WHETHER FURTHERING STUDIES, GAINING WORK EXPERIENCE OR SHOWCASING THEIR TALENTS OVERSEAS.

Four years ago, former Aces allrounder Teja Nidamanuru chose to pursue his career ambitions on the other side of the world and in doing so found an unexpected path to international cricket in the Netherlands.

Born in India, Teja migrated to New Zealand with his family at the age of 6. He quickly emerged within cricketing circles before an opportunity arose when Tony Sail, his former coach at Mount Albert Grammar, provided him a chance to make his debut for the Aces in 2017. Reflecting on his journey, Teja states, "I was putting in the hard work, facing the challenges, and found myself in and out of the squad. Eventually, I reached a point where I just wanted to maintain consistent play."

It was this desire for consistency that prompted the 25-year-old Teja to venture abroad during the 2019 off-season. Recounting his decision, he shares, "I was contemplating whether to stay in New Zealand when I received a full-time job offer from a startup tech company called Stratex."

Packed with determination and armed with his sports marketing degree from Unitec, he embarked on a new chapter. "Six months turned into four years, and before I knew it, I made my debut for the Netherlands against the West Indies in 2022." Interestingly, he made an unbeaten score of 58 in that match, and his maiden century followed in March against Zimbabwe, where he scored 110 runs off 96 balls. However, his most

memorable achievement in cricket came when he powered the Netherlands to victory in the ICC ODI World Cup qualifier against the West Indies in late June. Displaying his all-round prowess, the 28-year-old batsman scored a blazing 111 runs from 76 balls, allowing the Netherlands to match the West Indies' score of 374 for six, with the Dutch ultimately finishing at 374 for nine – before securing the victory in a breathtaking super-over where fellow kiwi Logan van Beek shone by smashing a record 30 runs in the super over and securing two vital wickets to conclude the match memorably.

Beyond his contributions on the field, Teja serves as a Project Manager for Koninklijke Nederlandse Cricket Bond (KNCB), working to implement new strategies and processes. He is also a dedicated supporter and Vice President of the Dutch Cricketers Association, a commitment he attributes to his involvement with the NZCPA. "Heath Mills and Sanj Silva were incredibly supportive during a challenging time when my parents returned to India, and I remained in New Zealand. I am truly grateful for their assistance; the CPA is an invaluable resource for players."

Reflecting on his decision to pursue opportunities overseas, Teja expresses no regrets. Playing abroad has enriched his personal growth, and the new environment has allowed him to contribute his unique perspective and cultural background to the team, which, in turn, has brought out the best in him. "Traveling and playing cricket is a dream come true, and I am immensely proud to don the Orange of the Netherlands. I view it as a genuine privilege."

However, when all is said and done, he still considers New Zealand his home.

The Dutch-Kiwi duo were not the only cricketers overseas this off-season, with a quick tally revealing that more than 50 of our members have ventured overseas, or are currently engaged in competitions across the globe. From Asia to North America,



and Europe, these competitions include the IPL, Major League Cricket, Caribbean Premier League, Vitality Blast, The 100, and County Cricket, to name a few.

While many members garner attention when they make headlines, such as Stephen Flemming and Devon Conway

involvement in winning the IPL with the Chennai Super Kings, or Trent Boult and MI New York securing the inaugural Major League Cricket title in the USA, there are others whose remarkable achievements go unnoticed, despite their significant contributions both on and off the field.



Many domestic men continue to call the UK home for their cricket season and the opportunities for our domestic women are emerging at a rapid rate as well. The international cricket landscape is evolving rapidly as it adjusted to the Domestic Leagues which now proliferate our cricketing landscape. The quest to secure cricket talent is evolving hand in hand with these domestic leagues and will present a greater number of opportunities for our members at all levels of the game.

We know that New Zealand will anchor our players to the game here, but it is fascinating to see what opportunities our members will be presented with in future. We only hope it remains a positive impact on our members and the game as a whole in New Zealand.

FORGING A NEW ERA



IN CRICKET COACHING DEVELOPMENT WITH GREG DAWSON



In the ever-evolving world of cricket coaching, a seismic shift has propelled the focus beyond the realm of mere technical prowess and tactical acumen, to a more holistic approach that includes the cultivation of essential soft skills. The contemporary coach, now more than ever, is tasked with orchestrating a symphony of positive team dynamics, establishing cultures deeply rooted in core values and fostered by the strength of personal relationships.

The alchemy of clear communication, compassionate comprehension, and a profound sense of purpose now construct the very foundation of these exceptional team environments. This is why the importance of these non-technical attributes for coaches cannot be overstated. Cricket coaches who excel in soft skills are emerging as true game-changers, shaping players' careers and the trajectory of the sport itself.

Having witnessed the evolution of the cricket coaching landscapes over recent years, New Zealand Cricket (NZC), in conjunction with the New Zealand Cricket Players Association (NZCPA), and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Massey University, have entered a three-way partnership to unveil the pioneering 'Coaching & Leadership Development Programme (CLDP)' initiative.

The programme is designed to facilitate the learning and understanding of key skills and knowledge required to be a successful coach or leader in professional cricket. The programme is

designed specifically for elite cricketers, recognises the competencies developed through their experience as high performing athletes, and supplements these attributes with formal knowledge that will support their development as future coaches or leaders.

The CLDP consists of several elements, including an academic component involving Massey University papers that focus on key coaching skillsets such as fostering a team identity, communication, critical thinking, and sport psychology. On completion of these four academic papers, graduates of the CLDP will be awarded a Certificate of Arts from Massey University, which will enable the recipients to cross credit and continue further tertiary education, if desired.

Another critical component of the CLDP is the 'Immersion Project', which involves players being immersed in high-performance environments outside of cricket for an extended period, this could be in the corporate world, or in other sporting organisations.

The objective behind this immersive experience is to extract a treasure trove of insights, strategies, and solutions that thrive in diverse professional landscapes. From discerning the intricacies of cultivating psychological safety within teams, to mastering the art of navigating tough conversations, this project opens a corridor of inquiry into the methodologies employed by organisational leaders across various leadership domains. These observations, moulded through the prism of a cricket coaching perspective,

are juxtaposed against players' personal coaching philosophies, fostering unique insights and reflections.

The final component of the programme is a residential workshop where leading industry architects of high-performance environments present a myriad of experiences, wisdom and strategies that players can incorporate into their own coaching journeys. These sessions aren't mere presentations; they are interactive, responsive, and bespoke to each participant's journey.

The inaugural cohort of the CLDP began their journey in February this year. While the cohort may be modest in size as a pilot initiative, its composition exudes unparalleled experience and distinction. This year's cohort is graced by the presence of several illustrious New Zealand White Ferns. Recently, I had the distinct privilege to engage in a candid conversation with two legends of the game, Amy Satterthwaite and Sophie Devine, as they shared their insights and aspirations around their CLDP experience so far. I began by asking them both what aspects of the programme they thought they would enjoy and benefit from the most. Amy thought that:

"Having the opportunity to complete the course alongside other present or past players in similar stages of their career is incredibly exciting. Being able to bounce ideas off each other and share our learnings and experiences will only enhance the programme and the benefits of it."

For Sophie, the aspect of the course she was really looking forward to, and thought would bring the greatest benefits, was the 'Immersion Project':

"The opportunity to go into another environment and look at it from a different perspective and reflect back on my own experiences will no doubt provide a great chance to challenge and expand my coaching philosophy and knowledge."

Amy's sentiments aligned with Sophie's, expressing excitement for the upcoming 'Immersion Project' opportunity:

"I'm really looking forward to the immersion project. Having the opportunity to see how other sporting teams or businesses go about building their culture

and getting the best out of their teams will be extremely interesting and beneficial. Whilst we may not be from the same sport, we can experience similar issues and situations, so learning how others do things such as getting a new team to gel, having tough conversations, building trust and respect, will be invaluable."

Having accomplished and distinguished cricketers, such as Amy and Sophie, express genuine excitement about the CLDP was reaffirming for all involved, and shows that our elite players recognise the benefits of such coaching development initiatives. Their eagerness not only underscores the course's potential but also attests to the importance these coach development initiatives hold for elite

players transitioning into mentors and coaches of the future. This was echoed again when I asked Sophie if she would recommend the CLDP course to other aspiring coaches. Sophie said:

"I would 100% recommend to other coaches. For players in particular that are looking at transitioning into coaching this course provides a range of different learning opportunities that builds on previous knowledge and is done with fantastic support wrapped round you."

If you would like more information about the CLDP, please contact your PDM, they will be able to provide you with the latest information on this exciting new coaching development opportunity.

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PLAYER INDUCTION FORUM '23

The 11th annual Player Induction Forum was held on the 13th and 14th of September at Eden Park, Auckland, with the eleven newly contracted men and twelve newly contracted women from across the six Major Associations. The group were inducted to a range of areas within the professional cricket environment and educated on the range of services the CPA provide to them now they are part of the professional cricketing landscape in New Zealand.

Securing their first cricket contract is an exciting time for players but we are also aware that it comes with a much greater range of expectations, responsibilities and commitments. The purpose of the induction forum is to ensure that players are aware of the services offered by, and the role of the NZCPA, that will support them through and beyond their playing career.

Professional sport creates an environment which can be hugely rewarding, but equally hugely challenging for players. Providing them with an overview of the reality of this world is a catalyst to developing the skills required to navigate their life inside and outside of their cricketing career.

The induction forum provides a unique opportunity for players to get to know and interact with NZCPA staff in an informal way, and is one that we know provides the platform to enhance the engagement with players from the earliest stages of their cricket career.

Michael Bracewell and Katie Perkins attended day one of the forum to share their experience and insight into life as a professional cricketer. These insights that Bracewell and Perkins were able to provide was an invaluable lesson into the variability that cricket throws at players. Normalising uncertainty, setbacks and the pathway to success is different for every player and the balanced approach that each were able to share about their perspective was very well received by the 2023 inductees.

Through day two there we were grateful to Sanj Silva and Kayne Wahlstrom from valued partner Money Empire, plus service providers, InsureYou, Superlife and Instep who added valuable contributions to our Induction Forum.

New Central Districts Hinds player Emma McLeod was excited to learn about the services available and insights stating "Michael Bracewell and Katie Perkins were inspiring and the biggest takeout for me was your identity outside of cricket. It's so important having a balanced lifestyle and how it affects how you play and deal with pressure, it's so important to have other things going on in your life."

Wellington Firebird Muhammad Abbas said the key standout for him was "Bringing all the newly contracted players together into this environment has been really good, it's been a personal growth thing for me, learning about all the topics from CPA and the guests

they invited. I also thought the idea of the CPA being your club for life regardless of the numbers of games you play was a good initiative from our organisation."

Initiating a supportive relationship with our newly contracted players is an important step in their professional cricketing lives, as it provides them with a foundation of knowledge as they embark on what we hope will be a successful time in, and outside the game. These new players left secure in the knowledge that the NZCPA is a club they are now part of for life.

NEW CONTRACT WOMEN

Auckland	Olivia Anderson Skye Bowden Elizabeth Buchanan Kate Irwin
Canterbury	Jodie Dean Abigail Hotton Ema Irwin
Central District	Anna Apperley Flora Devonshire Kate Gaging Emma McLeod
Northern District	Yaz Kareem Tash Wakelin Eve Wolland
Otago	Chloe Deerness Louisa Kotkamp PJ Watkins
Wellington	Hannah Francis Phoenix Williams

NEW CONTRACT MEN

Auckland	Harjot Johal Yahya Zeb
Canterbury	Rhys Mariu
Central District	Jack Boyle Will Clark Curtis Heaphy
Otago	Thorn Parkes Ollie White
Wellington	Muhammad Abbas Nick Greenwood James Hartshorn George Severin Jesse Tashkoff

TOPICS DISCUSSED OVER THE TWO-DAY FORUM WERE

- » Introduction to the NZCPA
- » Personal Development Programme
- » Master Agreement and Player Contracting
- » Cricket Player Property Trust and Promotions
- » Life as a professional cricketer – Michael Bracewell, Katie Perkins
- » NZC High Performance Programme – Bryan Stronach, Liz Green, Dan Archer
- » The Cricketers Retirement Fund – Superlife
- » Medical, Insurance and ACC - InsureYou
- » Prioritising your Well-being - Instep
- » Importance of good Financial Management – Money Empire



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER CRICKET

A PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The CPA is pleased to launch its Player Transition Programme. Some players may already have heard about it but for those who haven't, here is a bit of background.

The aim of the Transition Programme is to provide personalised, tailored assistance to players who are transitioning out of playing cricket. Transition can be a confusing and intimidating process, and we want to provide players with easy access to effective transition support and resources that suit their particular circumstances.

The Transition Programme is now integrated into the Personal Development Programme (PDP). It is not something separate that only kicks in the day you stop playing cricket. This broadens the scope of the PDP and helps players keep an eye on the bigger picture. The relationship with their PDM is key and the Programme means transition is something that can be planned for as it gets higher on their list of what to talk about and what expert resources are available.

Even though we refer to transition as a programme, it is not programmed. Like all Personal Development delivery, it will be tailored to each player and their specific circumstances (as players go through transition at different times, for different reasons, and in different ways).

So, how does it work?

The Transition Programme is accessed through normal interaction with a PDM. When transition is something that gets high on a players list of priorities, they would have a transition-focused meeting with their PDM and the CPA Transition Manager Ginny Fail to develop an individualised transition plan that suits their situation. This interactive, personalised process will cover potential access to expert resources including (but not limited to):

- » Support and advice around career development and educational paths
- » Connections to business and personal networks and mentors

» Independent guidance and advice on financial and insurance matters arising from your transition

» Independent psychologists and counsellors

» CPA Business Club access

Players are not left high and dry once a plan is developed. Their PDM and the CPA team will stay alongside them to help navigate their transition successfully.

The support and resources are available to players for up to three years after their international or domestic contract ends and they retire from playing professionally. It is also available to players who have come off contract but are not retiring from professional cricket (e.g. they have a contract overseas).

The CPA is here to support all members during and after their professional cricket playing career.



“ I DIDN'T READ ANY OF IT, I THINK THAT'S THE GREATEST RECIPE – YOU DO THE CRYPTIC CROSSWORD RATHER THAN READING THE SPORTING NEWS, THAT CERTAINLY HELPS. ANY MESSAGING SHOULD COME FROM WITHIN. ”
BRENDON MCCULLUM, 2023

**THE INSIDER
DON'T SAY IT.
DON'T READ IT.
BY PAUL FORD**

I refuse to deploy cricket's most frequently deployed cliché but there was something quite extraordinary watching England (and Wales) switch on their hyper-aggressive cricket and fight back to draw The Ashes.

The players' whirlwind on-field action often stood in sharp contrast to the lingering shots of a hyper-relaxed Brendon McCullum meandering through a crossword on a balcony. Two seats along would be the hirsute spin coach Jeetan Patel, plotting and scheming. And in the opposition dressing room the familiar, mellow, library-infused vibes of Australia's assistant coach Daniel Vettori, muttering under his breath to Pat Cummins and Travis Head, frequently punctuated the broadcasting rhythms too.

This was The Ashes - the greatest cricketing show on Earth - and yet there was a triumvirate of New Zealanders right in the thickest thicket of the action, at least from a coaching perspective. It was intriguing to hear McCullum talk about the FOMO that he felt as a player when The Ashes subsumed the sport's airwaves for two months every couple of years.

"I have looked from afar at this series and now to be a part of it and witness how special it is, is something quite incredible," he said. "I don't want it to end actually, I think we should go round again and have another five Tests and keep doing what we're doing."

I wouldn't have minded another one that is for sure - the series landing at 2-2 with that soggy fifth day at Manchester proving to be the fulcrum of the series robbed The Oval test of being an 'all or nothing fixture'. Of course it was still a humdinger of a Test and I suppose it did nail the showbiz mantra of leaving everyone wanting more - begging for more - for only the 7th time in the storied 73 Ashes series of the past.

The three Kiwis were at the heart of what was a fantastic series, packed with amazing scenes, twists and turns, mistakes and escapes. It was patriotic, passionate, compelling, controversial, contagious and addictive. It was a purist's dream and nightmare in equal parts. It was the perfect gateway drug for people opening their minds to the lure of long-form cricket. And it felt like something of an antidote to the seemingly inexorable shift to slogball home run derby cricket too.

It was a clash of styles: aggression and risk-taking and rash up against the tried and true orthodox methods of ruthless Australian red-ball cricket. Ben Stokes' England team refined their approach as the series proceeded, dialling back the recklessness to find something more potent.

"Sometimes we'll get the balance wrong with the style we play but I think you've got to have teams good enough to stand up to you and make you pay when the

time comes." Just as Australia had done in the first 10 days of the series.

I did enjoy it when the hyperbole started to fly out of control about the home team's performances, with various innings from Stokes and Brook and Bairstow and Crawley and Root labelled as fantabulous and flailing the Australian bowling attack 'like never before'. Meanwhile, up on the balcony, or nestled in a dressing room arm chair, the current world record-holder for the fastest Test century in the history of the game quietly chipped away at a horse punting guide.

The man who plundered 145 from 79 balls, a ton up after 54 deliveries, a knock for the ages at Hagley Park against an attack from a place called Australia: Hazelwood, Pattinson, Bird, Marsh and Lyon it was that day. And that really was like never before - and never again since.

It is a crying shame that New Zealand does not have an Ashes series of its own, reminding everyone of Test cricket's glory and grind, a series steeped in history that stops the nation every few years. This is but a wild fantasy of course, with the Black Caps having only played a handful of 5-match series in their 94 years of Test cricket, and exactly zero since the 0-0 result against the West Indies 50 years ago in the Caribbean.

Paul Ford is the co-founder of the Beige Brigade and one-seventh of The Alternative Commentary Collective. Attending a full 5-match Ashes series in England is on his long, cricket-laden bucket list.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>QSCC GOLF DAY 7 March 2024 - Christchurch</p> <p>HOOKE ON CRICKET Term One 2024</p>	<p>T20 BLACK CLASH 20 January 2024 - Bay Oval, Tauranga</p> <p>PLAYERS' GOLF DAY TBC</p>
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