

CRICKET REPORT

There have been some great displays of skills from so many of our teams in the last fortnight, and the level of improvement from our teams in Years 5-9 have been particularly strong. This has been evident with stronger team fielding, including captains and players building more pressure with smarter field placements and more awareness of where the ball is likely to be hit. With one round for Senior School boys and just 2 for Years 5-6, boys are itching to pad-up for a final tilt at some great team performances. Boys can be inspired in their batting by Old Boy of 2008 Charlie Wakim, who last week made a 160 on his Sheffield Shield Debut at the Adelaide Oval for Tasmania. Charlie has put a decade of hard-work towards taking advantage of his opportunity in Grade Cricket with UNSW and a part of the NSW and Tasmanian Squads. Charlie captained the Waverley and CAS teams in 2008-09, and his former mentor and legendary Waverley coach Mr Boyd remembers fondly his memorable 238 not out against St Aloysius – still a College record.

Next Friday evening – March 15 will also be the Cricket Presentation Evening from 6:30pm, with all Cricketers and families from Years 5-12 warmly invited and encouraged to join in celebrating the achievements and friendships of the Cricket Community. I thank the fabulous Cricket Supporter's Group for their preparations in what will be a fun evening for all – including a BBQ dinner, season highlights and awards. All Year 5 and 7 Cricketers will also be receiving a special Waverley Cricket training shirt, supplied by the Supporter's Group at the Presentation, while there will also be drinks available to purchase at the bar and an amazing Raffle to win one of 10 major prizes.

- 1st Prize is a Corporate box a Sydney Swans SCG match for 8 people with \$200 catering
- 2nd Prize is a night's accommodation for 2 at the Darling Hotel Star City, including a \$250 Restaurant Voucher and valet parking, and there plenty more including Rounds of Golf for 4 people at St Michaels Golf Club, and The Coast Golf Club.

Presentation tickets are \$10pp, and raffle tickets are \$10 each, 3 for \$20 or 10 for \$50. Please Book tickets to the Presentation and Ultimate raffle tickets via the tickets Cricket players receiving, or with payment via the site <https://www.trybooking.com/BBANK>,

Quick Singles – Highlights from Around the Grounds:

- Reid McNamara has made his maiden half-century for the 1st XI, cracking a strong 50 against Cranbrook. Harry Whitaker led with the ball taking 3 wickets in the 5 wicket loss.
- Rory Doyle sparkled with the willow in scoring 56 in the 2nds, while Leo Shanahan captured 3 Cranbrook scalps.
- The 10As had to recover with gallant innings of 20 to Murray Shearer and 17 to Sam Lodge - after Waverley lost 5 wickets in one Cranbrook over!
- The 10Bs recorded another 2 wins in last 2 games, defeating St Aloysius with Keenan Maritz scoring 39; while Cooper O'Donnell led with 20 runs to help the 10Bs in a convincing victory v Sydney Boys High.
- The 9Bs secured a great win against St Aloysius in a rain-affected T20, Will Dodd with 30 runs and Daniel Di Francesco 2 wickets the difference.

- The 8As recorded great team win over Cranbrook by 9 runs, led by a glorious 60 runs to skipper Hirav Gandhi. The late injection of Scott Swinburn fresh out the pool at the NSW Swimming titles gave Waves 2 key wickets to clench the win!
- Matt Frost in the 7As was on a hat-trick, and although missing that opportunity he claimed 3 important wickets. The 7as and 7Bs went down in an improved showing from both sides, including a solid 20 to Aongus Carone.

1st XI Report v Cranbrook – Coaches Mr Bryant and Mr Elliott

As Al Ferrara walked out onto centre stage for the toss, he had a steely look about him that showed that he had had enough of losing the toss each game and today was going to be a different day. The team looked on with pained anticipation hoping for the right outcome. The two captains shook hands, watched the coin in the air, then Al's face had a smile as he signalled to the sheds that we were having a bat! An almighty cheer rang out as we finally got what we wanted. It was an emotional day for the six Year 12 boys who were playing their last game at QP. It was not just the season to remember, but the many seasons before that. For some, starting their Waverley cricket career in Year 5 with oversized pads and a bat that the Dad told him he would "grow into" started the wave of emotion.

With the reminiscing behind us, Dylan Brown and Jack Hickey strode to the crease to open the Waverley batting account. Dylan batted strongly for his 19 and Jack Hickey provided a good base until he got a nasty delivery on the thumb. Reid McNamara was the pick of the batsmen holding the line up together for the best part of the match. His fifty was very well constructed using some big hitting shots and some very well calculated running. Sadly though Waverley could not put another partnership together and we left for lunch leaving Cranbrook just over 122 to chase.

Harry Whitaker, eager to make up for his batting decision, took the ball with confidence and immediately made it talk. He took 3 wickets for the match but was still not enough to stop the slow and consistent flow of runs. They got to the total with 4 down and dozen or so overs in the bank. That takes us to Trinity next week with the final game of the season on the line.