# CRICKET

JERRY'S FLAT FORESTERS CENTRALS FOREST RANGE LENSWOOD LENSWOOD RANGES

# **CRICKET CLUBS**

Forest Range and Lenswood History Group

#### Forest Range and Lenswood History Group : CRICKET

Cover photo. From Alan Norton photo, collection of Margaret E Fry.

List of anecdote providers: Deane Brock Kevin Coulter Tiffany Coulter Richard Doecke Ian East Lindley Green

Matthew McAulay Gordon Mason Alan Norton John Stafford Richard Stafford John Plummer



#### Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club : The Lions.

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#### Cricket in our district

Our district has a long, strong association with the sport of cricket but the story of the clubs and their progress towards being Lenswood Ranges is somewhat convoluted and confusing. There is a lack of cricket club records from the earliest days. There were also spasmodic newspaper reports of matches, social events and annual meetings. Combine this with some conflicting history reporting and the origins of cricket in this district are not crystal clear.

Who actually changed to be Lenswood Cricket Club? Who was the Forest Range Cricket Club (first incarnation)? How does the Central Cricket Club fit into this story? There were six named cricket teams – how many existed at the same time? Where did they play? Did you know there were five separate cricket grounds?

The first recorded reports of cricket are of the **Jerry's Flat Cricket Club.** In 1878 players included Jas. Fry (captain), Jas. Simmons, W. Eglinton, J. Green, A. Mason, Arthur Mason, H. Green, x Eglinton, W. Mason, Alf Green and F. Mason.<sup>i</sup> They played against teams from nearby townships including Lobethal, Norton Summit, Mt Torrens and Prairie.

The location of the Jerry's Flat Cricket Ground was on what is now known as Cold Store Road. There was a flat known as Jerry's Flat Oval or 'Fry's Oval' which is sited on the flat just before Bob and Barb Caldicott's home<sup>ii</sup>. The Jerry's Flat Cricket Club is also recorded as playing at "Forest Creek"<sup>iii</sup> – was that the same Jerry's Flat ground or a different space, perhaps as far west as the Ford?

#### FORESTERS CRICKET CLUB.

The following are the batting and bowling averages of the Foresters Clab for the past season, during which seven of the 22 matches played were won, nine lost, and six drawn. The runs scored totalled 2063 for the loss of 195 wickets, yielding an average of over 10 runs per wicket, while opponents sacrificed 169 wickets in compiling 1968 runs, or an average per batsman of over 11 runs.

	BATTIN	NG.		_	
Batswan.	Runs	No. of Innings.	Not out.	Highest Score.	Av'ge.
	424	21	6	57	28.4
	407	20	2	73	22.11
Green, R	A SHORE A CONTRACTOR OF A	21	1	94	15.6
	190	15	0	86	12.10
	54	8	1	22	7.5
	163	12	3	13	7
	21	21	3	22*	
	90	15	0	34	6
	94	19	1	20	5.4
	59	17	1	19	3.11
	21	7	0	9	3.1
Stafford, C	23	18	5	6*	1.10
	BOWLI				
Bowlet.	Balls.	Runs	W	kts.	Av'r'ge
Schapel, G		80		15	5.5
Green, A	. 222	73	10		7.3
Berndt, H		251	23		10.21
Norton, S		148	- L - C	13	11.2
Mason, F		163	NR 124	14	11.9
Joyce, W	7. I. I. I. C. T. C. I.	213		16	13.5
Green, F		371	- T - S	27	13.8
Green, J		250	1 1	18	13.16
Green, R	. 288	120	1 .	6	20

1899 'FORESTERS CRICKET CLUB.', The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser (SA : 1880 -1954), 23 June, p. 3., viewed 13 Sep 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.newsarticle148076058

#### The Forest Range and Lenswood History Group



Central Cricket Club, circa 1903. Collection of Lin Green. Back L-R: Albert Green, Ted Rowley, Alex Badenoch, Bill Eglinton, Bruce Townsend, Seth Mason From L-R: Bob Eglinton, Jack Merchant, Bill Gunn, John Green, Fred Gunn.



Foresters Cricket Club, circa 1910. Collection of Kelvyn Vickers. Back L-R: Julian Sharpe, Os Caldicott, Alec Wilson, A Mason, Unknown, Gordon Sharpe, Horace Sharpe, Harold Copeland Front L-R: Gilbert Sharpe, Herman Leuders, William Joyce, O Kumnick, Unknown, H Burnt, N Kumnick.

Jerry's Flat Cricket Club underwent a name change to **Foresters Cricket Club**<sup>iv</sup> and in 1881 we find the first recorded mention of Foresters (aka Forresters : aka Forest), playing on the Jerry's Flat ground.<sup>v</sup> In later years the home ground of the Foresters became the Stafford Cricket Ground.

The **Forest Range Cricket Club** first appears in newspaper reports of 1889. Certainly, the team had a strong year in 1889 playing 15 matches with only one loss scoring an average of over 12 runs per wicket and limiting their competition to 5.5 runs per wicket. Eight players had a batter average in double figures.<sup>vi</sup> In 1898 the Governor of South Australia is recorded as being the patron of the Forest Range Cricket Club.<sup>vii</sup> The Governor of the time is known to have attended at least one cricket match on that land.

For many years a team called Middlesex played the Forest Range Cricket Club (and the Forester's club before that). The quote below details one of these matches:

On Monday, November 12, the Middlesex Cricket Club paid their annual visit to Forest Range to take part in a match. The team left the G.P.O. at 8 o'clock in one of Hill and Co.'s drags, the weather being all that could be desired. After a three hours' journey they reached their destination, and shortly after sat down to luncheon. The match had been looked forward to with considerable interest. the visitors being opposed by a picked team from the Onkaparinga district, selected by Mr. F. Edwards. There was a large attendance of the country folk, some of whom journeyed miles to witness the match. The spinning of the coin favoring [sic] the visiting skipper he elected to bat on a splendid concrete and matting wicket. The Mids having an exceptionally strong batting team some heavy scoring was expected, but much to their disappointment they were put down for the lowest score they have made this season, namely, 125, C. Bailey 39, G. Rowley 22, R. Bailey 21, and C. Martin being the highest scorers. The local players were quite elated with the result, and expected to have no difficulty in passing this score, but with the proverbial uncertainty of cricket their crack bats were disposed of for nothing. The first five wickets fell for 23, and the last for 82, J. Scenner making 26, and F Mason 14. The fielding and bowling on both sides at times was brilliant. The most destructive bowlers for the visitors were—F. Adams three for 7, R. Bailey three for 22, and A. McKechnie two for 20. After tea had been disposed of the skipper of the Mids (Mr. F. Lindow) called for

three hearty cheers for Mr. Fred Edwards, who had successfully planned the arrangements, and to the ladies for their hospitality. The return journey by moonlight was most enjoyable, the city being reached at 10 o'clock.<sup>viii</sup>

#### Middlesex was an Adelaide team!

The team played on what is now known as Central Recreation Ground, at that time a sloping stony patch of ground near the Ford, at that time belonging to August Baum. That land was large enough for cricket and for picnics for up to 200 people<sup>ix</sup> and the space was recorded as used for many years.<sup>x</sup> At various times the team tried to improve their playing field and in 1905 they were granted Council approval to build a guard fence.xi However playing at this site ceased when the Forest Range Oval was officially opened in 1907. A celebratory cricket match was held between Forest Range and East Torrens.xii



Oliver Coll Norton, circa 1930. Collection of Alan Norton.

At this time a new cricket club name appears, **Central Cricket Club** (or Forest Range Central Cricket Club). This appears to be a renaming of the same team. They played their first match on October 7, 1907:

The newly-formed Central Cricket Club played its first game on the local recreation ground on Saturday, their opponents being a team from Uraidla. The visitors did not put in an appearance until 4 o'clock. The Centrals scored 83, A. Green making 32 and C. Rowley 25. At the call of time Uraidla had scored 39 for nine wickets. An appeal was made by the local skipper to finish the game, seeing the visitors had come so late, but was refused by the visiting team. For the Centrals, E. Rowley took five wickets for 12 and F. Green four for 25.<sup>xiii</sup>

A local darby was held in 1910 when Forest Range Centrals played the Foresters on the Forest Range Oval.<sup>xiv</sup> The Centrals team was successful over the years and their 1915 AGM reports a successful year winning 8 of 22 matches with 10 resulting in a draw. Allan Green had a batting average of 82 and E Rowley captured 45 wickets for an average of 7.66.<sup>xv</sup>



Old versus young match – circa 1949. Collection of Alan Norton. Back L-R: Linsey Dawkins, Leo Tregenza, Aub Spenser, Graham Aufderheide, Ian Patterson Mid L-R: Stan Norton, Clarry Norton, Neville Norton, Bert Norton Front L-R: Dean Patterson, Lionel Norton, Alan Norton.



Forest Range Cricket Club – A2 Premiers East Torrens Cricket Association 1972. Forest Range 9/276 defeated Campbelltown 272. Collection of Colin Plummer Back L-R: Jeffrey East, K Mason (Vice Captain), Ian East, D Mason, Deane Brock, Gordon Mason, Kevin Trenorden Front :-R: Neville East, Neil Plummer, L Packer (Captain), Alan Norton, Colin Plummer, S Norton (Scorer). The Forest Range Cricket Club continued until 1974 when the teams in this region merged.

We have found no mention of the Central Cricket Club after 1915 and it is likely that the First World War impacted on player availability. We think that they reverted to the name Forest Range Cricket Club which is later reported in 1934!

**Lenswood Cricket Club** was formed in the early 1920s. There is conflicting information about the background however the most likely process, backed up by newspaper reports of the time, is that the Foresters Club became Lenswood and the Centrals were Forest Range.

They played on the Stafford Cricket Ground on Stafford Road until the Lenswood Memorial Park was built. This location is now an orchard.

Player subs were just ten shillings in 1929 and remained so until the 1946-47 season when they changed to twelve shillings and six pence and then to £1 pound in the 1947-48 season. The 1949-50 records show the first rental charges for use of the oval at Lenswood Memorial Park – a charge of £10 with an increase to £15 by 1954-55.<sup>xvi</sup> The current affiliation to the Lenswood Memorial Park is \$550.



Stafford Cricket Ground. Collection of Kelvyn Vickers.

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Lenswood Cricket Club minutes books : 1929

Minute books from 1929 show a very successful club with the A grade team being the Torrens Valley Association A grade premiers from 1932-36. Torrens Valley Cricket Association introduced their Shield in 1935 and Lenswood was the first team to win the shield.

Statistics for the 1930-31 season show that the Club won all but their last two matches. They scored 2665 runs at an average of 17-66. Les Green topped the average runs with 46-70 and Roy Green had the highest aggregate (526 runs; average 37-56). Bowling honours went to Steve Roston with 25 wickets, with an average of 6.5 runs per wicket and C Mason secured the aggregate with 51 wickets at an average of 9.3 runs.<sup>xvii</sup> The Club maintained a 'tough regime' and after the 1938 AGM the local paper reported that no trophies were awarded.

# No trophies are ever presented at Lenswood; it being considered more encouragement to sportsmanship not to do so.<sup>xviii</sup>

We note the comments above however also note that the 1929 AGM minutes (previous pages) recorded that medals were presented that year, so perhaps 'toughness' was introduced in the subsequent ten years.



Back L-R : L Green, H Probert, C Norton, S Filsell, C Kumnick, S Norton Middle L-R : S Green, R Green (capt), C Probert (Pres), R Norton (V Capt), N Kumnick, N Green Front L-R : C Joyce, S Wilson.

The following newspaper article from 1937 outlines the success of the Club:

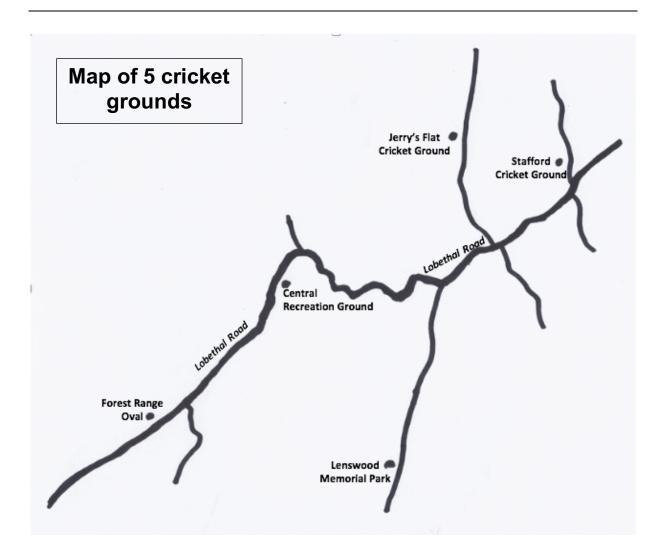
The A Grade Lenswood Cricket Club have been in the Torrens Valley Cricket Association since it was formed and have played off in the finals every year and have won five successive premierships.

Last season they played in the first semi-final with Mount Torrens, and defeated them by 10 runs and then played Gumeracha in the final, winning by 35 runs. They played Birdwood in the challenge match and won by one run, the scores in the match being 188 and 189 respectively. The challenge match finished very excitingly with 8 runs to make and the last man in. <sup>xix</sup>

With the development of the new oval at Swamp Road the opportunity arose for the Lenswood Cricket Club to be part of the development. The Club AGM held on 11 August 1947 provides the first mention of the Memorial Park with R Green being nominated representative to that committee.<sup>xx</sup> A sub-committee was formed to help with the laying of the cricket pitch (R Green, C Norton, C Stafford, C Joyce).<sup>xxi</sup>

The Forest Range and Lenswood cricket clubs merged on 29 July 1974 becoming the **Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club** adopting the green and red colours of the football club and the basketball club (later netball club). The merged Club enjoyed considerable success over the following 25 years winning numerous 'A' grade premierships and producing a number of outstanding players who have gone on to play at higher levels.

The Club currently fields A Grade and B Grade sides in the Torrens Valley Cricket Association while also having Under 14 and Under 12 sides in the neighbouring Eastern Hills Cricket Association. 2017/18 saw the A Grade compete in the Club's first grand final since 2008/09, however unfortunately fell short of victory against Paracombe. Off the field, through the hard work of volunteers the Club has made significant improvements to the Lenswood Oval in the past few years. Projects have included a redevelopment of the clubrooms and construction of two training nets near the tennis courts. These renovations included the popular unveiling of the "Kevin Coulter Bar" at the conclusion of the 2016/17 season.



- Jerry's Flat Cricket Ground (AKA JB Fry Oval) Cold Store Road on flat Bob and Barb Caldicott's home, Lenswood – no longer in existence. Private land.
- Central Recreation Ground south of The Ford on Lobethal Road, Forest Range – also houses two war memorials - was privately owned until 1910 when it was transferred to community ownership.
- 3. Forest Range Oval Lobethal Road, Forest Range features a hall, hard court and change rooms. Purpose built oval in community ownership.
- 4. Stafford Cricket Ground on Stafford Road, Lenswood no longer in existence. Private land.
- 5. Lenswood Memorial Oval Swamp Road, Lenswood features hard courts and a hall. Purpose built oval in community ownership.



Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club 1982-83 Hills Cricket Association A Grade Premiers. Collection of John Plummer. Back L-R: Roger Brock, Graeme Green, Gordon Mason, Ross McLelland, Deane Brock, Gary Peterson. Front L-R: Robert Schultz, Colin Plummer, John Plummer (Capt), Brenton Conlon, Trevor Plummer.



Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club 2008-09 Torrens Valley Association A2 premiers. Collection of Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club. Back L-R: Jamie Vickers, Ben Joyce, Anthony Plummer, Jesse Holford, Vern Green and Mark Joyce. Front L-R: Matt McAulay, Jeremy Snoad, Al Barnes (Cap), Josh Smith and Will Joyce.

#### The Forest Range and Lenswood History Group



Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club A grade team 2017/18. Collection of Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club. Back L-R Alex Barnes, Liam Harding, Vern green, Stuart Harris, Scott MacDonald, Jacob Snoad, Front L-R Liam Coulter, Jeremy Snoad, Joshua Smith (C), Jack Druwitt, Matthew Paul, Matthew Hannaford

#### Anecdotes

Local cricket was a little more 'rough and ready' in earlier days. The following story, true or not, appeared in The Chronical in January 1940.

Lost Ball? 'This is a true cricket yarn, told me by 'Tommy the Sweater.' During a match on Lenswood Oval before it was cleared of all the timber, a batsman hit a ball straight into a small hole in a gum tree, about 25 ft. from the ground. The hole was just big enough for the ball to enter, but it was still in sight of the players. The opposing side had had their innings and the batsman who hit the ball and his partner ran until they had sufficient runs to win the match. Nobody could call 'lost ball' because it was in sight. When the two players had recovered from their exertion, a member of the team climbed a pole and got the ball.<sup>xxii</sup>

"Tommy the Sweater' was SG (Sam) Norton. The Lenswood Oval referenced must have been the Stafford Cricket Ground as the oval on Swamp Road was, at that time, still an apple orchard.

John Stafford : Lenswood Cricket Club B and A teams – approx. 1954 – 1967

In a match against Gumeracha B grade I considered myself very fortunate to have bowled out one of the opening batsman. His replacement happened to be our herd tester who visited our dairy on a monthly basis to record our herd production.

Intimidating bowling, like giving him a bouncer, was not the way to treat a herd tester. I resolved to simply aim at



the stumps. My lateral line was perfect but the same could not be said for my height trajectory. The ball had slipped out of my hand and was heading straight for the hapless herd tester's head. As a man of rather short stature and quick reflexes he managed to duck under the offensive missile only to have his middle stump removed.

The next and profoundly unfortunate third batsman somehow allowed me to nick his off stump. A hat trick! I could hardly believe it.

#### **Richard Doecke**

Coaching is often a thankless task, taking much time and commitment. A Lenswood Ranges Junior team was coached by Les Green. His stringent instruction on how to play the game brought success to the young cricketers. However in one match Richard Doecke, who was captain, colluded with Kym Norton to change the batting order. Les was not impressed. We never changed the order again!



#### John Plummer

John Plummer recalls his cricketing finest moments as being a batsman and making 96 runs in the Grand Final against Wistow Cricket Club in 1979-1980 and as a wicket keeper in the 1976-1977 Grand Final against Uraidla, with leg side stumping off the bowling of Noel Beauchamp.



#### **Lindley Green**

Les Green was an outstanding cricketer for the Lenswood Cricket Club, particularly as a batter. For many years he was president of the Torrens Valley Cricket Association. His son Lin had big shoes to fill. Under his father's tutelage and encouragement, Lin became an accomplished cricketer and played for Lenswood in his teens.

At a match at Lenswood, Lin faced two association representative, fast bowlers



who were sending down numerous bouncers to the young batsman. The balls seem to land in a sweet spot for the left-hander and many balls were dispatched over the west side boundary and he went on to make a century. The report of the match in the Mt Barker Courier was written, much to Lin's chagrin, under the headline "Les Green Does It Again!"

#### **Tiffany Coulter**

Not many female players have played in the teams in this district, however one recalls her debut game. I relief played in the Lenswood B grade during the 2003/04 season. In my debut game I batted 9th in the line-up and made 3 runs facing more than 4 overs before exiting to a fieldsman catching me out. This was my first and last appearance at competition level.



#### **Deane Brock**

My 1<sup>st</sup> game of A grade, aged 11, was against Lobethal at Forest Range oval. Over the years I won several batting averages & aggregates in East Torrens Association and played in several Inter-Association teams. I played as an opening batsman & opening bowler and played in numerous A Grade Premierships as opening & later middle order batsman. I served as Captain &



Secretary of Forest Range & later Secretary of Lenswood Range. I was instrumental in the amalgamation of the 2 clubs.

My best performances where 151 not-out in a grand final & 192 against Athelstone while my best bowling was 6/63 against Kersbrook.

Ted Packer took in hand a group of young boys from the Forest Range area around 1970. He was ably assisted by Dudley Mason & Stan Norton and entered a team into the East Torrens B Grade. Ted had a Vauxhall ute in which he took most of the boys to games while Dud took the rest. This team didn't win a game for the year but it was the starting point for some of the best young cricketers to play in the ever area: Neil Plummer and Gordon Mason were 2 fine examples. The only highlight of that 1<sup>st</sup> year was in a match when after the 1<sup>st</sup> day the boys had won on the 1<sup>st</sup> innings so at the end of the match. They took the whole team to a shop & bought them all an ice cream, they did unfortunately lose the match outright. Lionel Norton was a huge help to me and to many others in encouraging & advising us of techniques and the importance of treasuring your wicket.

#### Alan Norton

Alan Norton played cricket from 1951-1979, first for Forest Range and later for Lenswood Ranges. He recalled an opening partnership between Deane Brock and himself. Deane scored 192 and Alan 190 – in about 190 minutes. They amazed the crowd again, this time at Paracombe, with Deane scoring 219 and Alan 157 (1971-72). What a winning combination.

He recalled Kevin Mason encouraging a young lan East in a final at Uraidla. Ian was last to come in and 30 runs were required. Kevin said "If you stay there and don't get out I will come and piggy-back you off the ground." That was some team building!

EAST TORRENS CRICKET ASSOCIATION SEASON 1970-71 GRADE AII Presented to: A. NORTON BATTING AGGREGATE 612 RUNS



In a match at Forest Range on Saturday the locals hit a mammoth 7/542, the highlight of which was an opening partnership of 371 in 190 minutes.

David Brock (192) and Alan Norton (190) were the players responsible for the hot scoring rate.

I was asked if the partnership was any sort of record. So far I have not been able to check, but I have a feeling that in the days of Victor Trumper large opening partnerships at breakneck pace were the order of the day.

Record or not I'll bet the side facing Forest Range today is just a little concerned about the batting strength of the opposition.

Article by Les Favell, published in The Advertiser 6 March 1971.

#### **Richard Stafford**

I thought under the cloak of what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas I could share this one. It was late afternoon of the second day of a two day against a town which has a Hotel with a pump in it or near it. The scores were very tight and we were in the field. Our understanding was that we were two runs in front and time was running out. Our captain at the time, who must remain nameless, decided



that time was up and pulled stumps and shepherded us off this field.

It would be fair to say that this action was not particularly well received by the Pump Hotel boys who questioned the accuracy of our captain's chronometer and the veracity of said captains birth certificate. After some relatively heated debate, the game was called and we had apparently won. Fair to say that the Pump Hotel boys left without feeling the need to join us for a post-game drink and convivial chat. In fact I seem to recall that at least one of their number felt the need to assist with the relocation of some gravel in the car park.

As we cheerily waved goodbye to our opponents, we began the process of checking the score book and found that there was an error and in fact when stumps were pulled we were actually one run behind. Thus any inadvertent inaccuracies in our captain's timepiece became irrelevant we had lost. As the previously mentioned hotel was on my way home I popped in to share the altered result with our opponents, who it is fair to say were not initially that delighted to see me. Fortunately for me at least, I was able to inform them of the scoring anomaly and congratulate them on their win. So instead of getting my head smacked in, I was offered a beer, or maybe two.

The Mason family of Forest Range were expert cricket players but Mason's were also renowned for their creative turn of phrase. One Mason is remembered calling out to their batting partner "I'll take care of the runs, you just look after the wood heap (ie stumps)".

#### **Matthew McAulay**

"Change the %^#\*^(\$ bowler"

B Grade game - Bill Joyce Oval, Lenswood in approx. 2004.

Mark Joyce, in his lazy leg side slogging form, took a particular liking to one bowler while batting at "Noddy's end". After the 3rd 6 for the over landed on the roof of the house next to the entrance gate, the shirtless home occupant must have tired of throwing back the ball and yelled at full voice over his fence "CHANGE THE %^#\*^(\$ BOWLER". His



suggestions were well received by all on the oval apart from the young bowler in question.

"The Great Mase brings himself on"

Lenswood Vs Woodside – Approx 2002-3. Bill Joyce Oval. Captain Ian Plummer.

We had bowled well but without luck and were struggling to make inroads through a seasoned Woodside top order. Adrian "Age" Barnes was about to start his 4th over from the Tennis court end – when he was given his hat back by Gordon Mason (a late fill in for this game) who had appointed himself to bowl from that end. This came as a great surprise to many as he had denied many requests from Ian "Scruff" Plummer to bowl.

The "Great Mase" marked his run-up and had one single run through to ensure his shoulder would still operate and rotate as it had in decades past. Six balls later Gordon had taken a hat-trick and removed the key Woodside batsman including seniors such as Doug Westcombe. Once his over had been completed he walked up to Adrian Barnes and advised him in a voice loud enough so that everyone on the oval could hear, that he had removed all the batsman they had and it was up to Adrian to "clean up the tail". I think Gordon actually also made 130-odd in the same game while batting. Not bad for a late, and aged, fill in.

#### "Warning for slow over rate"

Story shared with me by Jessie James, who umpired with Lenswood playing in the Grand Final. Lenswood batted first. Then Gordon Mason and Vern Green opened the bowling and were the only 2 bowlers used all day taking 10 wickets between them. Gordon Mason is renowned for

his slow over rates. This day he was particularly slow prompting a warning from the umpire, Jessie James, who advised that he was unhappy with the time being taken by Gordon to bowl each ball/over. Gordon responded with "Jessie – you let me do it my way and I'll have us both out of here by 4:30". Indeed, this happened as Lenswood won the game an hour or so later.

"There's a track for a reason".

Lenswood Vs Paracombe – Houghton Oval approx. 2005.

Lenswood won the toss and decided to field 1st. We made our way out to the middle of the Houghton oval only to notice that we did not have a player with wicket keeping pads/gloves. I was captain and asked Adrian "Age" Barnes, our regular wicket keeper, why he was not wearing his keeping gear. He advised me he was not aware he was keeping for that game despite having kept wicket for us for 3+ years prior. Adrian hastily made for the clubrooms via the winding track to get his gear. The field was set and bowler at top of mark with his new ball– all we needed was a wicket keeper. This must have put some pressure on Adrian as on his way back to the oval he decided to take a shortcut straight down the hill from clubrooms to the middle of oval. This involved negotiation with some reeds which unknown to Adrian where effectively hiding about 40cm of water in a low flowing creek. Adrian spend the next 70 overs wicket keeping in squelching shoes full of water, and wet muddy pads, much to the delight of everyone involved in the game that day.

There are some "local characters" who are "stars" on and off the field.

Matthew McAulay interviewed Gordon Mason for his cricketing memories – Sep 2018



#### Lenswood vs Lobethal - Lenswood Oval – year approx 2000.

Lenswood was leading by 90 runs and only needed 1 wicket to win when Gordon had to leave the field for a "call of nature". Robert "Bob" Schultz was bowling and Gordon, sitting on the toilet, was astounded by the amount of balls landing on the roof and toilet surrounds. When he returned to the oval the was shocked to find that the lead was now only 25 runs and shrinking fast. Gordon exclaimed that the game had gone too far to lose it this late in the day and informed Bob Schultz that his spell was finished. He took the ball. Gordon took just 4 balls to dislodge the remaining batsman, Justin Aufderheide, by removing his middle and leg stump. Match saved and won by Gordon.

#### Lenswood vs Macclesfield - Lenswood oval mid 90s.

Gordon was bowling to Trevor Callerby. He had bowled 2 or 3 bouncers to Trevor who had tried the pull shot unsuccessfully. Gordon "kindly" advised Trevor not to play the pull shot again adding "I am too quick for you". Next over Gordon bowled another shot ball which struck Trevor in the side of the head, resulting in him falling onto his wicket. He was caught behind, stumped, and stood up after about 5 mins to ask the question "Am I out?" – to which Gary Peterson responded "you sure were out - 3 times in fact!" Trevor staggered off the ground, his gait somewhat reminiscent of that of Daffy Duck!

#### Lenswood vs a star-studded Onkas line up.

Jeff Kowalick, former Sturt star cricketer, had played for South Australia before joining a star-studded Onka's line up. Lenswood bowled them out for 180 odd with 6 overs to go at the end of the night. Kowalick and Hudson opened the bowling for Onkas. G Mason opened the batting for Lenswood. Deane Brock was umpire. After 6 overs Gordon was 49 not out and had hit Kowalick to all parts of the ground. Kowalick, not happy, attempted to throw the ball due to stop Gordon advancing down the wicket so far. He was attempting to throw/run Gordon out, but this was called NO BALL by Deane Brock. Needless to say everything "blew up" at this point!

Rivalry within teams from one hills town to another could be intense. Players play against each other from childhood to adulthood (well into adulthood in some cases). They played each other in cricket and football. Ian "Scruff" Plummer would ring Gordon every time we played Paracombe and advise "We are "playing Rick Drury". And Gordon would regularly reply "Yes sure, I'm keen to stick him up". Each time we drove into the ground Rick Drury would be heard at volume saying "Not \$#^\*(^&) Gordon Mason again". Many good battles were had between the two feisty competitors.

#### Lenswood vs Cambrai (Cambrai undefeated all year).

Gordon received a 12pm call from Gary Peterson informing him he can't play and needs Gordon to fill in. Gary advised that the team was in trouble at 9 out and about 50 runs short. Gordon agreed to play and was forced to bat at 9, however the last 2 wickets fell at the other end and Gordon was unable to face a ball. However, then Cambrai, flushed with a sense of impending victory, made a critical error - they put Lenswood back in to bat in an effort for an outright win. Gordon opened the batting, and took the time to inform the undefeated Cambrai team that they "shouldn't have put us back in as they haven't seen him bat and they were about to learn the hard way". Gordon remembers putting the opening quick bowler into the Cyprus Pines many times cheekily telling him after one particular massive six "that was one of your better balls". Gordon was dismissed for a fast 89 and Lenswood won outright.

Lenswood vs Woodside - Woodside.

Gordon apologises for running John Plummer out.

Lenswood 300 vs Woodside 260. After running out JP Gordon batted for the rest of the day reaching 149. Gordon does wants an apology recorded for running out John Plummer in a mix up which was "my fault!"

#### Ian East – Captain of Centrals

Beginning at the age of nine, I would attend cricket matches to watch my father and brothers play but was called to play A grade as a fill in a couple of times at Forest Range. At age eleven, Forest Range fielded a junior under 14s team of which I was a member. During that season I had the pleasure of making my first 100 against Hectorville and that was after making the journey from Forest Range to Hectorville on the back of Ted Packer's ute. Ted put a lot



of time into running our junior team as team manager and transporter and for that, we rewarded him by winning the Grand Final!

One of my highlight years was 1971-72 season while only 13, I would play junior cricket in the morning and A grade in the afternoon. In under 14s, I had a very good year making over 300 runs and took about 30 wickets as a bowler. I won the under 14s association batting aggregate and average and bowling aggregate and average!

We also won the grand final in a very bizarre way.

Playing against Hectorville, play finished in a draw. As the umpires were unsure what to do, the Hectorville umpire awarded us one more delivery as that team had bowled more wides against us than we did to them. So, we faced one delivery – our batter hit the ball and scurried through for the winning run! After this exciting event, I played in the A grade grand final, in which we were also victorious. What a day!

Another unforgettable moment was when I was 16, playing cricket at Forest Range, when I amassed 183 N.O. falling just one run short of the record for Forest Range oval, set by my brother, Neville, 184 not out, also at the age of 16! One special highlight was Ian Chappell coming to Forest Range Hall to present trophies at our annual end of season dinner. I was chuffed to shake his hand upon receiving mine.

I remember playing cricket at Basket Range and while Neville was batting, he hit the ball firmly but unfortunately, our umpire, Syd (Siegar) Norton, could not move away quick enough and it struck him on the head. He fell to the ground and took a few minutes to come 'round. It was late in the game so we called it off!

Another moment to remember was our Lenswood/Forest Range team played at Wistow where we had to remove the sheep before play began. We batted first and after a while rain began to fall. After losing a couple of wickets it was my turn to bat and a short time later, the rain became heavier. We offered to Wistow to go off the field during the wet period but they stubbornly declined. So I started to belt the ball everywhere. Wistow then said they wanted to go off the field but I then declined their offer and kept them in the rain until the end of play! I made 134 not out, our team's total was over 450 and the Wistow boys were soaking wet! They should have taken our first offer!

While playing a primary school match against Oakbank, I had to bowl to Gary Peterson. One of my deliveries was a bit dubious. In fact, it bounced three times before reaching Gary, then skidded as a grubber. Gary was so mesmerised by this, that he missed hitting it and was clean

bowled! I thought he would not be given out but our umpire, Principal Claude Flint, was so intent on us winning, he gave Gary out, to his absolute dismay! Every time Gary and I get together, this story is revisited with great humour. To rub salt into the wound, Lenswood beat Oakbank!

Forest Range and Lenswood combined in the 70s and I continued to participate with another coupe of grand final victories. After leaving Forest Range in 1983, I continued to play cricket at McLaren Vale and later at Mt Compass where I was made B grade captain and we also won the flag that year. I finally retired from cricket at 50 and have enjoyed watching our three sons, David, Paul and Matthew play cricket.

#### Kevin Coulter – Captain of Foresters

I started playing competitive cricket in around 1968 when the Forest Range Cricket Club formed a B grade side for juniors like myself, Kevin Trenorden, the East boys, Masons, Plummers. We were under the leadership/mentoring of Ted Packer and Dudley Mason. We often travelled to matches in the back of Ted's ute.

We often lost 'outright' on the first day of a 2 day match. I scored 2 runs in my first



match at Kersbrook and three weeks later I made 27 at Uraidla (felt like a century). I played 3 or 4 seasons for Forest Range.

I remember a match at Forest Range where Deane Brock and Neville East each made almost 200 runs as the opening batsmen! I batted with Neville for a short while in a partnership of about 40 I made 1 not out! As a 16 year old I faced the Kersbrook/Association opening bowler 'Bischoff'. He tried to intimidate me by pushing off from the main road fence in his run up. I nicked him over slips a few times for boundaries. In about 1969/1970 Greg Chappell came to our cricket windup and presented me with the fielding trophy. A proud moment.

Dad worked for Stan and Bruce Plummer, staunch Lenswood cricketers. Hence there was always pressure for me to switch allegiances and play for Lenswood. I had trouble saying no (still do!!) I said 'yes' to both clubs and got into some difficulty. During an after dark meeting in Deane Brock's car (Alan Norton also present), it was agreed that I would play one more season for Forest Range then move to Lenswood the next season. According to TVCA minute books, the matter apparently went to a meeting of the Torrens Valley Cricket Association disputes committee although I have no memory of that. I just wanted to play cricket at the time! I moved to Lenswood Cricket Club in about 1971

The club was well led by Noel Beauchamp, Bill Joyce, Barry Schultz and Stan and Bruce Plummer. Lenswood had an intense rivalry with Lobethal. I recall being warned not to talk to those B\*\*\*\*\*\* 's by the hierarchy! My first A grade wicket for Lenswood was Rudy Sziller (Lobethal), LBW for not many runs! I scored my first century against Mannum at Lenswood.

In those days cricket was played on New Year's Day if it was a Saturday. I recall a very uncomfortable trip to Springton on one such New Year's where I failed to trouble the scorers. Springton was however, the scene for my best ever A grade bowling return of 7/49 and a memorable batting partnership with John Plummer when we both made 70 or 80 runs.

We won the A grade premiership in 1974 defeating Lobethal and Mt Pleasant in the finals and breaking a long run of Lobethal titles. I vaguely remember batting with David Schultz in what turned out to be a crucial partnership. More memorable was a searing bouncer that I bowled to Warren Roesler, the opposition spearhead who took delight in bowling at my head! (I think my bowl must have hit something on the pitch because I rarely bowled bouncers). Noel Beauchamp was a highly respected and skilled off spin bowler and I spent a lot of time fielding at 'Silly Mid Off' (about 7 metres from the bat) with David Schultz on the other side of the pitch at 'Silly Mid On'. We had to show a lot of faith in the skipper's bowling.

Around that time I faced the fastest spell of bowling I can recall. I was selected in the TVCA association team to play Mt Barker and Eastern Hills Association. I recall being at the Gumeracha oval and the skipper asking who was going to open the batting with Rudy Sziller. I got the nod and went out to face Perry Jones SA Country opening bowler from Strathalbyn. At the time I felt no fear but can still recall balls fizzing and zipping past my bat, ears and body. I managed to top edge a bouncer into the pine trees on the top side of the oval!

In 1976 I moved to Port Lincoln for work and joined the Wayback Cricket Club. Things went well and I was thrilled to be chosen in the South Australian Country side to play the touring Indian Test party at Port Lincoln in November 1977. This was a fantastic experience and one of the great highlights of my playing cricket. We had a mayoral lunch with the Indian players and got to chat with them about life and cricket in India. I spent the summer barracking for the Indians as they took on the Aussie Test side. While in Port Lincoln I was fortunate to play in 2 premierships in 3 seasons.

In 1980 we returned in Lenswood. I played in the B grade premiership of 1980/81 but then took a break from cricket of 8 or 9 years for family reasons. I returned to cricket in 1990 to a highly successful Lenswood Ranges Club. Lenswood Ranges re-joined the TVCA and had immediate and continuing success. We won 4 A Grade premierships in 6 seasons. Also won the Inter Association Courier Cup. At the time, Lenswood Ranges was arguably the strongest and most successful cricket club in the Hills area.

Over the years I always enjoyed fielding and modelled my style on the great fielders of the time eg. Clive Lloyd (the 'super cat'), Gus Logie and Jonty Rhodes. In one match against Kersbrook I had 3 runouts in one innings (including Bret and Roger James). In my exuberance I also broke my hand, diving to field in the same match! Some of my best memories are of taking 'spectacular' catches. (I try to forget the ones I dropped).

I became Lenswood Ranges Club President in 1993 and held that position for 18 years. In 1995 I became President of the Torrens Valley Cricket Association and was assured this would only need to be for 1 year. I finally resigned from the position 20 years later having enjoyed the position and, in the process, making many new friendships.

I have been privileged to play in the same team as my sons, daughter (once) and grandsons and enjoyed many memorable moments with them! As with many sports and community groups, possibly the best and most rewarding part of the journey is the people I have met along the way. The longer I played, the more I felt welcome and at home with whichever club I was visiting or playing against! Having played cricket for almost 50 years, my body is not as resilient as it once was. Injuries are (much) more frequent and take longer to heal.

Not sure if I should buy new trousers and shoes this year, or not?

#### The Forest Range and Lenswood History Group



Kevin Coulter in the Kevin Coulter bar at the Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club. Collection of the Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club.



Cricket clubrooms, Lenswood Memorial Park.. Collection of the Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club.

#### Grudge match

#### 14 October 2018 Central Recreation Ground

Each year in October, the Forest Range and Lenswood History Group, has a Local History Day when it showcases a past activity of the community. Previous events have included the timber industry, the Rural Youth Movement, the Mission Hall, the Lenswood Memorial Park and a display and a book for the Lenswood Centenary.

This year we are featuring the story of cricket in Forest Range and Lenswood.

The venue, the Central Recreation Ground on Lobethal Road (opposite Plummer Road) at Forest Range, has been chosen because of its historical significance. The Central Recreation Ground was the first home of the Forest Range Cricket Club in the late 1800s.

Prior to being used as a cricket ground, the land was turned over in the Forest Range gold rush. The first rush was in 1855 with a second larger rush in 1887. Over 600 men camped in tents for 3 years. They dug shafts in the hillsides and panned for alluvial gold along nearby Stony Creek. The combined Forest Range diggings yielded the largest nugget ever found in South Australia, it weighed 48ozs! The total weight of gold produced was over 6,000ozs.

There is a story that a "horses head nugget" was dug up and then quickly reburied for safe keeping, near "The Ford". The story says that the nugget was never recovered!

The first hotel in the district, The Splitters Inn, looked out over the recreation ground site from the top of the hill on the southern end of the property. It only operated for two years before the licence was transferred to Lobethal and the formation of the German Arms, renamed Alma Hotel and now the Lobethal Hotel. A shop began trading in the gold rush, near the present Memorial Car Park and continued operating for many years. A timber saw mill was located on or adjacent to the Central Recreation Ground land. It was one of several mills in the district with two mills being close to "The Ford" at the peak of the timber industry.

The Central Recreation Ground was a popular Arbor Day site for Forest Primary School students. There are many reports of the ground being the venue for local and visiting community social gatherings.

#### STANDARD SHOE COMPANY'S PICNIC.

The Standard Shoe and Leather Company's fac-tory and tannery employees held their third annual picnic at Forest Range on Saturday, October 18, and the outing was most enjoyable.

A dozen of Messrs. John Hill & Co.'s drags and a large number of private vehicles conveyed about 400 of the picnickers to the Forest Range cricket ground— a charming spot. The Goodwood Brass Band, under the leadership of Mr. T. Morgan, accompanied the party. An excellent programme of sports, was contested, and most of the events provided exciting finishes. Games were engaged in by those not taking an active part in the sports, and many found pleasure in exploring the gullies for ferns and wild flowers. Ample provision was made for the children in the shape of toys and sweets. <sup>xxiii</sup>

During the First World War, 60 men from Forest Range volunteered to serve in the AIF. Fifteen of those soldiers never returned. A monument was erected in their memory on the recreation ground. Several names on the monument were of those who played local cricket. A Second World War monument and a memorial car park at the northern end of the recreation ground are in memory of two servicemen.

It is not clear how often the two cricket teams of Forest Range played against each other. Was there a great deal of rivalry between the team from the east and the team from the west? Did any rivalry ultimately lead to the succession of the east enders becoming Lenswood?

The highlight of our Local History Day will be a cricket match (backyard rules) between the Forest Range Centrals and the Foresters. Hopefully, lots of old scores will be settled! The teams will be made up mostly, of past players from the Forest Range Cricket Club, Lenswood Cricket Club and Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club. The teams will be led by captains lan East, Centrals and Kevin Coulter, Foresters.

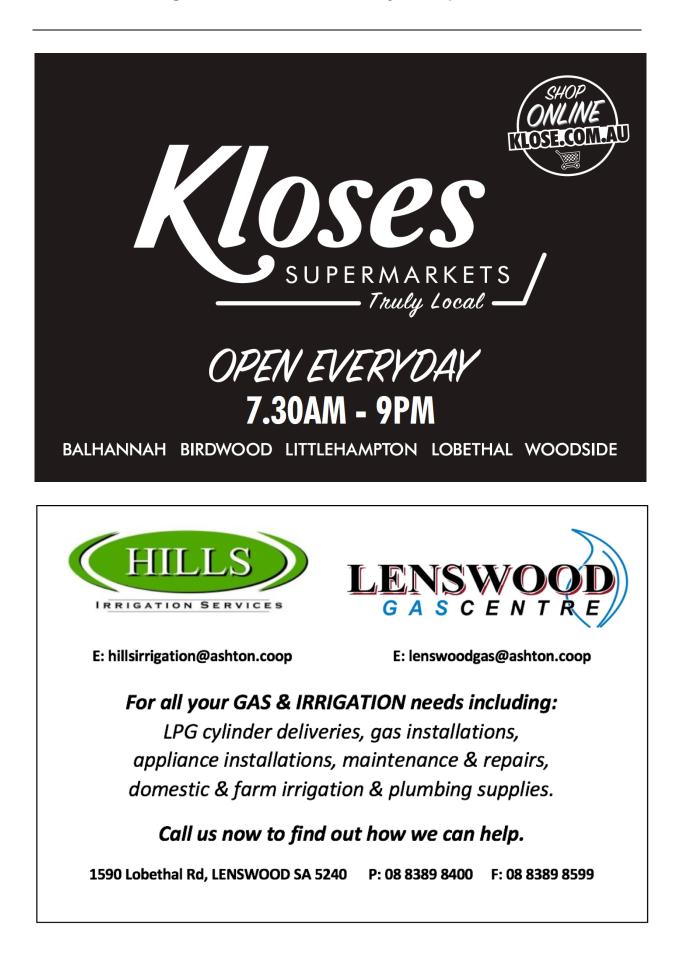
CENTRALS		FORESTERS	
Player	Runs	Player	Runs
Ian East (Captain)		Kevin Coulter (Captain)	



#### Sponsors

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#### Footnotes

- i 1878 'CRICKET.', South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 1900), 4 January, p. 7., viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article40786423
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- iii 1882 'JERRY FLAT v. MIDDLESEX.', South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 1900), 14 November, p. 2. (Supplement to the South Australian Register.), viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article43335562
- *iv* 1908 'CRICKET.', The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 1929), 14 July, p. 5. , viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article60315707
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- vi 1889 'THE FOREST CRICKET CLUB.', The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser (SA : 1880 - 1954), 24 May, p. 3., viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.newsarticle148122428
- vii 1898 'NEEDLES: "Short, Sharp, Shiny."", The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 1922), 9 September, p. 2. (ONE O'CLOCK EDITION), viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.newsarticle208997508
- viii 1894 'THE MIDDLESEX CLUB.', The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 1922), 16 November, p. 4. (SECOND EDITION), viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article209043384
- ix 1870 'COUNTRY LETTERS.', Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 1904), 1 January, p. 6., viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article158940385
- x Jerry's Flat was named after Jerry Downing, a timber cutter who built a hut for his family in the late 1840's. Bishop, 1984, states that "In 1866 the name Jerry's Flat occurs in the Onkaparinga assessment books for the first time and was applied perhaps specifically to section 28 which was the property of John Brock Fry and his brother-in-law Henry Green." (G Bishop, Stringybarks to orchards, 1984). This was roughly the area of the current Cold Stores and Lenswood General Store, however later the name expanded to more of that central region of what is now known as Lenswood.
- xi 1905 'DISTRICT COUNCILS', The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser (SA : 1880 - 1954), 1 September, p. 3., viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article146306614
- xii Minute book : Lenswood Cricket Club
- xiii 1907 'THE COUNTRY.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 1931), 8 October, p. 8., viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5097919
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- xv 1915 'SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT COUNCILS ASSOCIATION.', Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 1954), 28 August, p. 11., viewed 17 Jul 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article89143160
- xvi Lenswood Cricket Club AGM minutes 1929-1954
- xvii Lenswood Cricket Club AGM minutes 14 September 1931
- xviii 1938 'LENSWOOD', The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser (SA : 1880 - 1954), 25 August, p. 3., viewed 07 Apr 2017, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article145871151
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## LOCAL HISTORY DAY

SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2018 11.00AM TO 5.00PM CENTRAL RECREATION GROUND LOBETHAL ROAD, FOREST RANGE

# CRICKET

### **CENTRALS Vs. FORESTERS**

ON THE 1890s HOME GROUND OF THE FOREST RANGE CENTRAL CRICKET CLUB

HISTORY DISPLAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE OR BYO PICNIC

FREE ENTRY BYO LICENCE BYO CHAIR



#### **Grudge Match Photos**

14 October 2018.



Players, officials and co-ordinators : 14 October 2018 at Central Recreation Ground, Forest Range.



Kevin Coulter (Foresters) and Ian East (Centrals) shake hands before the game. Peter Goers from ABC Radio Adelaide in the background.

#### The Forest Range and Lenswood History Group



Peter Stafford (left) and Peter Goers (right) (background Deane Brock, Matt McAulay, Gary Peterson



Victorious, Centrals captain Ian East. Peter Stafford commentating.



#### The Forest Range and Lenswood History Group

