Taverners Victoria

Chairman's Report 2026

This report covers the financial year ended 30 June, 2026 which commenced with our inaugural Taverners Golf Night in August, 2025 held at 5 Iron Golf in Mentone. It was very successfully run in conjunction with an Auction to play golf with Merv Hughes and Tony Dodemaide at 13th Beach Golf Links.

Our next function in October was our annual Legends Night, coinciding with the Australia vs. India T20, at the MCG in front of 82,438. We were fortunate to secure the Lindsay Hassett Room and viewed the contest which Australia won convincingly, India out for 125 and Australia winning in the 14th over. Jasprit Bumrah took a hattrick but Josh Hazelwood and Mitch Marsh starred on the night.

Our new Legend in attendance was Christina Matthews who gave us great insight to her record-breaking playing career as Australia's wicket-keeper prior to her celebrated roles in Cricket Administration. Tributes were also given to the late Eddie Illingworth and the late Ian Huntington who were represented by members of Fitzroy Cricket Club and the MCC.

The Committee conducted a successful Spring Membership Drive with the growth of membership revenue forming a platform for our sound financial position, so efficiently managed by our Treasury team.

More than 220 early risers attended our magical Boxing Day Breakfast held in the Dillbabiik Room (formerly Yarra Park Room). Our Guest of Honour was former English Captain and President of the Lord's Taverners UK (2006-2008), Mike Gatting. He was brilliant with his spoken delivery, almost matching the one he received from Shane Warne at Old Trafford on 4 June, 1993.

Our winter dinner held at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club featured Will Pucovski, who spoke about his shortened First-Class/Test career, his football accident and his new role as Head Coach of the Melbourne Cricket Club. Brad Hodge was masterful as our guest interviewer and BBL commentator, fearless in asking the hard questions and Will was very willing to respond with great clarity.

Another highlight of the evening was an inspirational interview with MAACA Division 1, Premiership Captain Denis Wilkinson, whose passion for cricket ended in rapturous applause.

I thank my dedicated committee for another successful year of quality events and fundraising efforts and we all look forward to the 2026 Boxing Day Breakfast featuring Jason Gillespie, and to the National Cricket Inclusion Championships in Ballarat from 10-15 January, 2027.

Mention must also be made about our activities celebrating the special 150th Anniversary Day-Night Test vs. England at the MCG from 11 March, 2027 and working in association with the Eastern Cricket Association, Australian Cricket Society, Cricket Victoria Foundation and extending our Major Partnership with the Melbourne All Abilities Cricket Association into season 2027/28.

Yours in Cricket

Stuart Stockdale
Chairman

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