

Bellbrook Cricket Team . . .

Dear Editor,

You may be interested in the following article for publication in your magazine.

When reading through old correspondence, I came across a letter from you to Mr. Moroney when he was Teacher Supervisor on this Station soliciting material for the magazine.

My wife and I were appointed to this Station on 7th September. We have lived in the district for about seven years, while I taught at a nearby school at Millbank, so we had the advantage of knowing quite a number of the people living on this Station.

My wife, Mrs. B. M. Harray, and myself came to Australia just over seven years ago and we have always been intensely interested in Aboriginal Welfare. My wife was responsible for promoting the Aboriginal Section in the Willawarrin Baby show organised by the Willawarrin C.W.A. of which she is Secretary and Past President. She is also a Vice-President of the Mid-North Coast Group C.W.A. and a sometime Secretary.

We are both Welsh, but we lived in Guernsey for four years before migrating to Australia.

After only a short while on the Station I realised that something would have to be done for the men who spent their week-ends lounging about the Station in sheer boredom. Since I am President of the Upper Macleay Cricket Association and President of the Mid-North Coast Cricket Council it occurred to me that a cricket team on the Station would do something to occupy the young men's thoughts and activities at the weekend and give them something to look forward to during the week. I am glad to say that the Cricket Team is a success and provides an interest, not only for the young men, but for everyone on the Station.

R. Harray,
Teacher Supervisor.

The people on the Station at Bellbrook are proud of the fact that they have a Cricket Team competing in the local Cricket Competition. Under the leadership of the new Supervisor, Mr. Ron Harray, a meeting was held to discuss whether the Station could raise a team. The stumbling block was, of course, the cost of the initial equipment. The money could have been taken from the Progress Association Funds but it was decided to levy all intending players and interested older men so that the team would not be a drain on Association Funds and so that the team would be run on exactly the same lines as other teams in the Upper Macleay Cricket Association.

The new team was welcomed by the other teams in the Competition. Special mention should be made here of the neighbouring team, Nulla Nulla Creek. Nulla Nulla offered the use of their ground, since there is no space available on the Station, and also sold some equipment very cheaply to the new team. Bellbrook, another nearby club, placed no obstacle in the way of the transfer of Denzil Quinlin who has played with that club for many seasons. This, despite an Association rule which would have allowed the Bellbrook Club to demand that Denzil stand down for four Saturdays before playing for his new club.

The officers of the club are President, Mr. D. Quinlin, Vice-Presidents, Messrs. John and Joe Quinlin, Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Ron Harray, Selection Committee, Messrs. Eric Scott, Richie Quinlin and Ron Kelly. Denzil Quinlin was elected Captain and he chose Ron Kelly as his Vice-Captain.

It is believed that this is the first all Aboriginal team to play in Competition in New South Wales and the Station is justly proud of this record. The new team

was unfortunate to meet the last season's Grand Finalists, Millbank and Nulla Nulla in their first two matches and paid the penalty of lack of practice and lack of confidence. Against both teams our boys suffered outright defeat but they were by no means disgraced and learned many valuable lessons.

In their third and last match to date they met Bellbrook in a Local Derby. Bellbrook batted first and were dismissed for exactly one hundred runs thanks to keen fielding and accurate bowling. Our batsmen batted stubbornly and gradually wore the keenness off the Bellbrook attack so that runs came freely late in the innings. The batting stars were Denzil Quinlin, who got his third fifty of the season, Joe Quinlin, Jr. and Ronnie Vale. The Bellbrook total was passed for the loss of only three wickets. The players as a whole are benefiting from their matches and are using every spare moment for practice. The next match against Willawarrin is being looked forward to with quiet confidence.

Players worthy of mention in the team are Denzil Quinlin for his all-round ability as a player and Captain, Ron Kelly for his wicketkeeping, Carl Quinlin for his extremely active work in the field and safe pair of hands, and Ronnie Vale for his dour batting and accurate bowling. William Scott shows great promise as a medium pace seam bowler and Roderick Cohen will certainly be amongst the top run-getters. One of the sprightliest in the field is George Cohen who is well past the fifty mark.

The team's keen supporters are confident that before the end of the season the team will be a force to be reckoned with in Upper Macleay Cricket circles.