



W.R. (Bill) Wilkins OAM - 1978/1979



Cricket has always been Bill's first sporting love. Bill has been a member and Office Bearer of the Bedford/East Ringwood Cricket Club for 70 years where he is a Life Member. Bill was President of the club for a total of 35 years, and the club has honoured him by naming their Best Club Person Award the "Bill Wilkins Shield".

Bill played his early cricket at Bedford Cricket Club which later merged with East Ringwood Cricket Club. Bill continued playing for many years and with an involvement now stretching to around an imposing 75 years, Bill has received a Fifty Year Service Award from Cricket Australia.

Bill's service to the RDCA includes 11 years as President of the Association, 13 years as a Vice President, and 12 years as the first President of the Junior competition. He has a junior grade trophy (Under 16-1) and the second highest senior premier grade competition and Best and Fairest Player Medal named after him (the Bill Wilkins Cup and the Bill Wilkins Medal).

He was made a Life Member of the Association in 1978/79, over 40 years ago – incredible. Bill has offered significant service to this Association and other voluntary organisations for most of his life - a magnificent and ongoing achievement.

As further testament to Bill's involvement in the Community and Sport, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2013.

Bill was inducted into the inaugural RDCA Hall of Fame in March 2021 and was immediately elevated to Legend status.



Hall of Fame

Legend status

Field of View Photography

The following words about Bill were included in the RDCA Centenary and Hall of Fame program for the dinner held on 26th March 2021

"A playing career covering some 65 years showed Bill's love for the game of cricket and the East Ringwood C.C. where he has held numerous committee positions including many as club President and he is a Life Member of the club. Bill also volunteered to assist the Association Executive where he served as President of the junior section for 12 years, as an Association Vice President (13 years) and President of the Association for 11 years. Bill received the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the community and to sport and has a Premier Association grade competition and player award named in his honour as well as a junior grade."

The Association was deeply saddened to learn of Bill's passing in September 2024.

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