

Burdekin mob chalk up 20 years



BUMBO'S XI MILESTONE . . . the team from the Burdekin, Bumbo's XI, has been participating in the Goldfield ashes for 20 years straight and wouldn't miss it for quids.

By SIMON CRASE
BUMBO'S XI celebrated a milestone over the 2009 Goldfield Ashes weekend and the lads were in the mood to celebrate.

Captain Craig 'Bumbo' Borrows has ably led the team into action for 20 years and as he spoke about the last two decades involvement, his eyes glazed over – but perhaps that could have been from a hefty night of socialising.

"The weekend here is great and over the 20 years we've had 45 blokes play," Bumbo said.

"The last eight years we've had the same 20 and play B2.

"Bumbo's XI has come second twice and in the top 10 on 12 times; we go alright."

As captain on the field, Bumbo prefers to

let his mouth do the talking instead of his ability with the bat and ball.

"I'm the sort of captain who designates and tells everyone else what to do," he laughed.

'Bumbo' played in his first Ashes tournament 32 years ago in the Home Hill Cricket Club and spoke about the few years the team from the Burdekin didn't submit a side in the Ashes.

"They were one of the original teams, but stopped coming when the pub they stayed in burnt down," he said.

"Then we couldn't get accommodation here in town and ended up playing in Mackay and Cairns cricket competitions, but in the end we said 'Bugger it, we enjoyed the Charters Towers carnival better'," Bumbo said.

"What separates this tournament from

others is the fact while everyone tries to win, if you don't, who cares? All the blokes get on really well and the carnival highlight for me is meeting up with everyone.

"The team has been staying at the Enterprise Hotel for the past 16 years and we'll be here for plenty more."

Dennis Stubbs has been a mainstay of Bumbo's XI and was able to concisely and coherently explain the meaning of the Goldfield Ashes, while sporting the same glazed look in his eye that Bumbo possessed.

"We've enjoyed the camaraderie and fun meeting other teams in Charters Towers," Stubbs said.

"At times Bumbo's XI plays serious and if we come across a team who wants to have fun, we

flow with whatever's happening."

Stubbs said players from Brisbane, Cairns, Mount Isa and Charters Towers players now make up Bumbo's XI.

"It's a fantastic thing and so are the people," he said of the weekend.

Out of all the memories to come out of the Ashes, Stubbs recalls the humorous time it appeared one of the cricketers had been gunned down from the stands.

"The funniest thing I've seen on the field was seeing one of our batsmen, George Koutsonis, running between the wickets and looking as if he'd been shot by a sniper," Stubbs said.

"He just fell over, he wasn't badly hurt. The opposition didn't run him out because they thought he deserved a run."

Macca's long drive

By SIMON CRASE

TRAVELLING from Thebarton in Adelaide to Charters Towers to compete in the Goldfield Ashes is like water off a duck's back for the vice captain, as he feels duty bound to join his close mates on the field of battle.

Mark 'Macca' McNaught moved to SA due to work commitments and the January long weekend can't come quick enough.

"The boys look forward to it every year and put in a lot of work and effort," Macca said.

"I love the boys and can't wait to see them; we have a whale of a time and the cricket is nearly second place."

Dollar Dazzlers players are spread across Queensland and have been venturing to the Ashes for the past four years; the team was spawned in the North 10 years ago, but it wasn't until the boys drifted apart they decided to enter a team in

the much-lauded tournament.

"The stupid thing is we were in Townsville for seven years and never came," vice captain Macca said.

"It wasn't until I left we started coming, so it's a major production getting everyone together, a year's worth of planning."

When asked to give a wrap-up of the Dollar Dazzlers' form, Macca was quick to promote the dazzling efforts of teammates while staying humble about his own form on the field.

"Brett Spackman is a freak; he made a 20-ball 50 in the first game – first two balls were sixes, last two balls were sixes, and Mick Dog is an entertainer," he smiled.

"We had a huge win on Saturday and my form personally: garbage."

To the outsider it may have appeared the team was relegating the vice captain to team support in the

early match, but this was all part of the plan.

"As the tournament gets toward the serious end, they'll bring out the big gun," Macca said, showing the carnival is not all beer and hi-jinx.

With so many good times had on and off the field, Macca said hearing the team in full voice singing one of their team songs would lift the bails clean off a set of stumps.

"We were in the Courthouse Hotel a couple of years ago and the entire team was on the bar singing the team song called 'The Dazzler Mob' at full throttle, it was awesome stuff," Macca said.

The appeal of the Ashes carnival continues to attract men from around the country, who love nothing better than getting together with mates.

"I reckon it's close to being unique in the world being this big and it keeps growing and it's important



DOLLAR DAZZLERS SHINE . . . swarming from across the North, Brisbane, Sydney and as far away as Adelaide, Dollar Dazzlers are here for a good time on and off the field.

we don't let it fall over," he said.

Dollar Dazzlers have embraced the 21st century and have an extensive website

boasting about their on-field feats and gives the public a chance to see a more serious side of the cricketers.

"You can check us out on www.dazzlers.com.au and any sponsorship is greatly appreciated," Macca laughed.

Quick game under lights Meet our mascot



TWENTY/20 ACTION . . . Weipa Crocs played the Grandstanders Two under lights on Friday night at the Goldfields Complex, with the Crocs opening the batting and getting off to a flyer.



CHAD'S CHAMPS . . . Jacobi Hutchings with team mascot Annie and Chad Hutchings, captain of Chad's Champs, swelter on Saturday in the middle of the Sam Hutchings Oval.