

PHARMACY CRICKET

'THANK YOU' DINNER - 1ST JUNE 2005

The Sir Stamford Hotel Circular Quay Sydney was the venue for Pharmacy Cricket's 'Thank You' dinner for the sponsors of the 2004 – 2005 cricket season and special guests.

In addition to the various pharmaceutical companies and pharmacy organizations representatives there was a group of the who's who of past cricket 'Greats'.

The names of Neil Harvey, Sam Loxton, (members of Bradman's 1948 'Invincibles'), Alan Davidson (one of the great Test Cricket all-rounders), Pharmacist & youngest Australian Test Captain Ian Craig and ABC cricket commentator Jim Maxwell, added that extra element to make the evening an outstanding occasion.



The group of Five...and Greg. Ian Craig, Alan Davidson, Greg Hodgson, Neil Harvey Sam Loxton & Jim Maxwell. Ian Craig - Pharmacist & youngest man to Captain an Australian Test Team winning a series vs South Africa 3 nil. Alan Davidson - One of our greatest all-rounders. Played in the Tied Test Aust vs West Indies 1960. Neil Harvey - Our greatest left hand batsmen, Member of Bradman's 1948 Invincibles & played in the Tied Test of 1960. Sam Loxton - All rounder & Member of Bradman's 1948 Invincibles. Jim Maxwell - ABC sports commentator & The voice of ABC Radio Cricket.

The guests enjoyed pre dinner drinks in the lavish hotel lounge area with its many antique furnishings and elegant displays.

President of Pharmacy Cricket, Greg Hodgson, welcomed the guests.

A feature in the dining area was the framed and enlarged photos of the various trophies of Pharmacy Cricket, together with the caps worn by the NSW, Victorian & Queensland Pharmacy Cricket teams.

Following a delightful main course, Mr Hodgson, proposed a toast to the sponsors and special guests. He spoke of the way Pharmacy Cricket had developed in the past season and thanked all who had provided support by way of sponsorships and assistance. Stephen Greenwood, Executive Director of the Pharmacy Guild, responded in a well thought out and delightful manner.

Pharmacy cricket committee member Peter O'Reilly proposed the toast to 'Cricket', speaking of the various ways cricket

added to the character of the players developing the various disciplines required to be a success.

Sam Loxton gave the response. Those present were treated to what can only be described as 'Vintage Loxton'. Despite poor eyesight this extraordinary man recalled stories from his past cricket life, often told against himself, detailing names, cricket scores and match details with absolute clarity and great colour.



Si Banks (President PGA NSW Branch) & Barbara Banks

Mr Loxton concluded his response with the famous words recorded in Bradman's book 'Farewell To Cricket' that originated from Lord Harris, President of the Kent CCC and the MCC.

'Drink deeply of the wisdom on your forefathers' said Lord Harris commenting on the spirit of cricket. 'You do well to love it for it is more free from anything sordid, anything dishonourable, than any game in the world. To play it keenly, generously, honourably, self-sacrificingly, is a moral lesson in itself and the classroom is God's air and sunshine. Foster it my brothers, so that it may attract all who can afford the time to play it. Protect it from anything that would sully it, so that it may grow in favour with all men'.

A fine tribute to a wonderful game. Mr Hodgson called the members of the Pharmacy Cricket committee to stand paying them a tribute for having worked to make the past season such a great success.

Each of the male guests was presented with a 'Pharmacy Cricket Tie'. The ladies, not to be ignored, received a box of chocolates. Committee member Anthony BouAntoun demonstrated the new Pharmacy Cricket Web Site that is now on the web. www.pharmacycricket.com.au.

A great evening, very much enjoyed by all who attended.



Anthony BouAntoun (cricket c'tee) Ian Craig & Justin Burt (cricket c'tee)