



# ROUND THE WICKET

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*To purchase any photos contained in this magazine go to [www.localpix.co.nz](http://www.localpix.co.nz)*



*Brent Findlay (Cornwall)*



*Gareth Shaw (Papatoetoe)*



*Ray Vincent (East Coast Bays)*

# Club Round Up

It's getting down to the business end of the Premier club cricket season with the one day and twenty20 finals coming up fast and the two day competitions heading towards a climax.

In the one day competition it will be a repeat of the 2008/09 final when defending champions Parnell take on Howick Pakuranga on Sunday 27th February. Howick were convincing winners over Suburbs New Lynn with Aces player Andrew de Boorder helping his side to 256/5 which proved far too much for Suburbs.

Parnell meanwhile took care of Takapuna in a low scoring affair in the other semi at Shore Rd, with the home side having skipper Doug Winger to thank for their tally of

179/9 and bowlers Alex Newland and Chas Keogh who helped bowl them to victory.

With the last round looming in the Hedley Howarth Major Championship before the teams split into top and bottom four there is still plenty to play for. At the top of the table there's just a handful of points between Takapuna, Cornwall and Suburbs New Lynn, with Howick Pakuranga East Coast Bays and North Shore battling it out for the fourth spot. Only Papatoetoe and Eden Roskill are out of the hunt and there will be some intense cricket in the final round to grab those vital points.

English pro Daryl Mitchell further proved his worth for Cornwall in Round 6 with an unbeaten 212



*Cornwall celebrate a wicket*

against North Shore which helped give them first innings points.

Jimmy Neesham and Howick skipper Jamie Newth both posted back to back fifties in their sides match-up with Neesham's helping Suburbs to first innings whilst Newth's led Howick to the outright victory.

Whilst the result of the game didn't have much bearing on the top of the points table Papatoetoe's match-up with Eden Roskill was notable for a great unbeaten 163 from Gareth Shaw out of a total of 291. Papatoetoe will need more of that to avoid the relegation places in weeks to come.

Meanwhile in the Tom Hellaby Trophy Minor Championship Parnell are virtually guaranteed promotion after running away with several games, but a number of other teams are still fighting it out for the other spot.

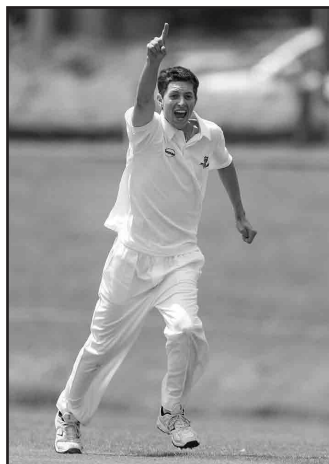
Auckland University are the team in form behind Parnell after completing a comprehensive outright over Ellerslie in the last round on the back of another century from James Boyle and a seven wicket haul from Brad Cates.

Grafton are also in the mix after coming close to taking first innings points off Parnell recently whilst Birkenhead City will be looking to keep moving up the ladder after a first innings win over Waitakere City that included a superb unbeaten double hundred from top order batsman Phil Treanor and a seven wicket haul for all-rounder Darrin Crook.

Whatever happens one thing's for sure - it's going to be an intriguing final few weeks of the Premier club season.



*Hendro Puchert and Victor Davies*



*Kurt McDonald - Papatoetoe*



*Tim Briggs - East Coast Bays*

# Club Profile - Grafton United

A desire to get the Grafton Premier men's team back on track is what's driving co-coaches Grant Thorpe and Guy Coleman this season.

The pair have stepped into the role after some poor results from the once champion club in recent years.

"The last few years have been a bit difficult bringing some young guys through," Thorpe says.

"With me and Guy around and others like Ankur Mistry we're trying to bring these young guys on and show them what premier cricket is all about."

While the side have enjoyed playing the one day and revamped Twenty20 competition this season, the Tom Hellaby two day Minor Championship has been their main focus.

It's no secret Parnell have run away with the lead, but some impressive results from Grafton could see them promoted to the Hedley Howarth Major Championship later this year.

Thorpe says splitting the two day game into two divisions this season has worked wonders in terms of motivation.

"It means there's a lot more to play for at the end of the season. There's three or four teams in the bottom six that could make it through."

Despite having a young family, Thorpe, who's been at the club since 2001, says it's been important to help the side regain some of its confidence.

"I really wanted to give something back to Grafton. When we started it



*The Grafton side gets together for a team talk*

was a really, really strong club with plenty of first class players like Andre Adams and Lou Vincent.

"Since then they've lost a few players, but it's a great club to be around."

Taking on the role of player-coaches is something Thorpe and Coleman have also had to contend with.

"Personally I keep myself pretty fit - I run a lot of marathons. It's a lot different to when I first started. These guys have it quite comfortable."

The loss of veteran Craig Borich late last year due to work commitments was a blow for the team.

But Thorpe, who's also taken on the role of captain for the rest of the season, says there's plenty of youngsters coming through including the likes of Tony Manning and Cam Fletcher.

Thorpe and Coleman have already signed up for next season and are hoping to build on the improvement already shown this year.



*Guy Coleman in delivery stride*

"We want to make sure by the end of two years we're in the top eight. Hopefully by then we can leave it to the guys coming through."



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# Aces Profile Gareth Hopkins

For Auckland captain Gareth Hopkins, his return to the Aces in the second half of the season has been full of nothing but positives.

The 34-year-old lost his place in the Blackcaps test side to former Auckland team mate Reece Young earlier in the season allowing him to turn out on a more regular basis for his province.

‘I’m loving it,’ he says. ‘It’s good to come back into a group of guys that have been winning.’

He says the atmosphere in the title-winning one-day and Twenty20 side is fantastic right now.

‘They keep you honest. If you need to be brought down, they’ll do that and if you need to be brought up they’ll do that too.’

Hopkins says he’s not focusing on a Blackcaps spot at present.



‘I was pretty devastated to be dropped as you can imagine. I was a bit shocked as well, but that’s what I mean about the Auckland team picking you up. They’re great guys to be around.’

‘I’m not really thinking about the Blackcaps right now. That sort of thing - being emotional about it - can affect what you’re doing for the Aces.’

But Hopkins feels he still has something to prove at the highest level.

‘It doesn’t mean I don’t want to come back - I’ve got some unfinished business there. To get back I’ve got to be playing good cricket for Auckland.’

And that’s exactly what Hopkins has done, scoring a century and several 50s in the one-day domestic competition, along with some tidy form behind the stumps and leading the side.

Hopkins says it’s been great to have a mix of experienced and younger players representing Auckland this year.

‘It’s a good mix. We’ve got a strong fitness and conditioning programme. The younger guys can see how we train and what level they need to get to.’

Hopkins has enjoyed the Aces’ success in the shorter forms of the game recently, but says it’ll be

good to get some form going in the Plunket Shield domestic four-day competition.

"Each of them brings different challenges, but the four-day stuff is the hardest and therefore the most rewarding."

While he doesn't get to turn out much for his club Parnell these days due to domestic commitments, Hopkins says it's still a great place to play when he gets the chance.

"I always enjoy going back and

catching up with the Parnell guys. When they won the one-day championship last year I was lucky enough to be selected for the national club champs."

And it's not just Hopkins that enjoys getting back to club cricket now and then.

"I think it's important the representative guys come back to club cricket. Guys like Chris Martin and Tim McIntosh love going back to play for Parnell."



# Player Profile - Craig Cachopa

This month we talk to explosive Takapuna batsman Craig Cachopa, who is third in the Club Cricketer of the Year standings and has been scoring 100s on a regular basis.

***You've been in some great form this season - what do you put that success down to?***

To me it's the fact that I'm watching the ball a bit harder and really enjoying myself. They're a great bunch of guys at Takapuna - I play my best when I enjoy myself.

***You've been able to put together big scores back to back. What's the secret to that?***

I've worked hard on improving my defence this season. If I'm able to hang around a bit longer it means I score more runs.

***The Auckland selectors have already come knocking once this season, with a place in the Auckland Plunket Shield squad. When do you think you'll get another chance at first class level?***

I'm always keen and I'm sure I'll get my chance. I've just got to keep scoring as many runs as I can and hope I get that phone call.

***How did you find your brief time in the Auckland environment?***

They're a great bunch of guys. It's a really great environment off the field and I learnt a lot. What it's all about for me is listening and learning.



***What it like playing with your brother Brad at Takapuna?***

He's there to support me and share the good and bad moments. It's nice to have someone there to share the highs and lows with you.

***What's it like batting together?***

We are quite different at the crease. I'm quite upbeat and he's quite relaxed. He doesn't have much to say, but I really enjoy it because we both know what's going on.

***How did you get involved with Takapuna?***

I got involved through Westlake [Boys High]. At school you work with the Takapuna coach and it just progresses to training with the guys. When I started Lou Vincent and Andre Adams were there. I idolized them.

***And what's kept you at the club?***

It's the mates I've got there really. At the end of the day it's great to be playing with your mates. And I guess winning helps. I'm really happy there. [The coach] Neil Fletcher is also great. I can't emphasize enough how much he's done for the club.

***You've been involved with the Auckland under-23s recently. How did that go?***

We didn't go too well. But personally I think it's takes you another step towards first class cricket.

***And what's your opinion of the new two division two-day competition?***

I think it's long overdue. You want to be playing the best players week in, week out. What everyone wants is to be playing the best as often as possible.



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# Womens Cricket - Titles in their sights

Winning at least one title in the women's premier club competition is a strong possibility for the Central West side this season.

The team have put on strong performances in both the one day and Twenty20 competitions so far, with finals in boths forms of the game still yet to come.

First time coach Richard James says the team has gelled together well this season.

"We're looking pretty good. We've got a good mix of experience with our senior players playing for the



*Natalee Scripps*

Hearts and leading the way for us.

"Our junior girls are also stepping up. It's come together well so far."

He says having the likes of Auckland players Natalee Scripps, Paula Gruber and Kelly Brown in the side has been a bonus during the Twenty20 competition in particular, given they've played plenty of matches domestically in the last few seasons.

While the club is a mix of Waitakere and Grafton United, James says that doesn't affect team unity.

"Being completely new to women's cricket this year, I didn't really know how that worked. When I arrived I was told 'We are one team and it doesn't matter what club you come from.'"

James says with the likes of Gruber and Scripps coming to the end of their careers, it's been important to develop some new talent this season.

"They've been playing with the young girls for a while and hopefully put them on the right track."

The Grafton premier men's player says taking the women's side has been much different from coaching youngsters that are still developing their game.

"It's really good working with adults, knuckling down and passing on stuff that's been passed on to me.

"We can work on specific things. The goal is to win at least one trophy this season."

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# **HEDLEY HOWARTH TROPHY MENS PREMIER TWO DAY MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

## **Round 6 - 05-02-11 & 12-02-11**

### **Takapuna v ILG East Coast Bays - Onewa Domain 1**

Takapuna 148 (E Herd 40, C Cachopa 38, B Schmulian 4-24, R Bezuidenhout 3-52) & 208/7 dec (R Scivier 69\*, J Sole 51, D Ter Braak 42, R Lane 3-14) defeated East Coast Bays 127 (A Cowell 4-22, J Gibbons 3-17, J Cowell 3-36) & 216/7 (R Christopherson 74, M Mimmack 53, B Schmulian 41) on first innings.

### **HRV Papatoetoe v Eden Roskill - Papatoetoe Rec Grd 1**

Papatoetoe 291 (G Shaw 163\*, L Shaw 39, A Abbas 4-62, T Henderson 3-81) defeated Eden Roskill 120 (N Ajula 48\*, B Singh 4-20, G Shaw 3-20) & 112/7 (A Abbas 52\*, S Patel 35, I Sodhi 5-45) on first innings.

### **Fox's Ale-House Suburbs New Lynn v Howick Pakuranga - Ken Maunder Park 1**

Suburbs New Lynn 203 (J Neesham 55, V Davies 52, J Newth 3-28, D Wedlake 3-37, J Drinkall 3-46) & 139/5 dec (J Neesham 58) lost to Howick Pakuranga 166 (J Newth 76\*, W McKenzie 31, A Patel 5-52) 177/3 (J Newth 67, A de Boorder 43\*) outright by seven wickets.

### **North Shore v Cornwall - Devonport Domain 1**

North Shore 183 (O Allen 59, A MacDuff 42, M Quinn 4-49) & 113/7 (D Burney 47\*, M Quinn 4-12) lost to Cornwall 319/6 dec (D Mitchell 212\*, O Allen 3-109) on first innings.

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# **TOM HELLABY TROPHY MEN'S PREMIER TWO-DAY MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

## **Round 6 - 05-02-11 & 12-02-11**

### **Ellerslie v Top Catch Auckland University - Michaels Ave 1**

Auckland University 356/7 dec (J Boyle 103\*, C Dineen 92, B Rowland 87, B Stanfield 33) & 41/1 dec defeated Ellerslie 155 (J Dowd 37, F Rose 5-61, B Cates 4-49) & 89 (B Cates 7-21) outright by 153 runs.

### **Waitakere City v HRV Birkenhead City - Te Atatu Park 1**

Birkenhead City 148 (S Davies 55, D Schischka 5-26, A Jeavons 3-38) & 333/7 dec (P Treanor 204\*, D Crook 56, S Curtis 3-63) defeated Waitakere City 144 (D Hakaraia 34, D Crook 7-55) on first innings.

### **Parnell v New World Victoria Park Grafton United - Shore Road 1**

Parnell 309/8 dec (D Winger 115\*, D Goddard 54, B Griggs 42, G Coleman 3-59) & 115/1 (M Turner 67\*, K Bunting 47\*) defeated Grafton United 275 (C Fletcher 87, G Coleman 45, S Rajasekar 38, B Martin 5-96) on first innings.

## **Points tables after round 6**

### **Hedley Howarth Trophy - Men's**

#### **Premier Two-Day Major Championship**

Takapuna .....	67.68
Suburbs New Lynn .....	66.42
Cornwall .....	65.07
Howick Pakuranga .....	56.91
East Coast Bays .....	54.13
North Shore .....	52.03
Papatoetoe .....	41.62
Eden Roskill .....	31.87

### **Tom Hellaby Trophy - Men's Premier**

#### **Two-Day Minor Championship**

Parnell .....	79.25
Auckland University .....	58.31
Grafton United .....	48.11
Birkenhead City .....	44.38
Ellerslie .....	38.11
Waitakere City .....	36.16

# **JEFF CROWE CUP MEN'S PREMIER GRADE LIMITED OVERS COMPETITION**

## **Semi-Finals - 13-Feb-11**

### **Parnell v Takapuna - Shore Road 1**

Parnell 179/9 (D Winger 80, J Cowell 5-23) defeated Takapuna 142 (A Newland 4-26, C Keogh 3-53) by 37 runs.

### **Howick Pakuranga v Fox's Ale-House Suburbs New Lynn - Lloyd Elsmore Park 1**

Howick Pakuranga 256/5 (A de Boorder 82, J Newth 50, P Cairns 48) defeated Suburbs New Lynn 182 (J Neesham 48, J Bassett-Graham 47, J Drinkall 4-37) by 74 runs.

# STATISTICS

Top five batsmen	Club	Runs	Average
Craig Cachopa	Takapuna	905	90.50
Daryl Mitchell	Cornwall	877	73.10
Doug Winger	Parnell	712	47.5
Jimmy Neesham	Suburbs New Lynn	602	46.30
Andrew de Boorder	Howick Pakuranga	594	74.30

Top five bowlers	Club	Wickets	Average
Azhar Abbas	Eden Roskill	44	19.20
Brad Cates	Auckland University	41	17.10
James Walsh	Parnell	32	14.60
James Nolen	Suburbs New Lynn	32	17.30
Darrin Crook	Birkenhead City	31	16.50

Club Cricketer of the Year Top Ten						
	Club	Points	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average
Daryl Mitchell	Cornwall	1377	877	73.10	18	14.60
Azhar Abbas	Eden Roskill	1329	319	19.90	44	19.20
Craig Cachopa	Takapuna	1255	905	90.50	-	-
Donovan Grobbelaar	Howick Pakuranga	1131	381	42.30	30	14.00
Darrin Crook	Birkenhead City	1103	333	25.60	31	16.50
Brad Cates	Auckland University	1063	123	12.30	41	17.10
Brad Schmulian	East Coast Bays	1048	438	29.20	24	20.80
Jimmy Neesham	Suburbs New Lynn	1032	602	46.30	11	25.20
Aaron Jeavons	Waitakere City	1006	516	30.40	20	25.70
James Boyle	Auckland University	984	444	40.40	17	21.40

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