

SAWTELL CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026 Presidents Report



Cricket is a game that welcomes, challenges and celebrates. Our club welcomes all people who love cricket. I acknowledge that we have played most of our games this year on Gumbaynggirr Country. I pay my respects to any elders and First Nations People within our club. Our club is strengthened when it includes people of many cultures, the LGTQI+ community, women, young girls and boys, old people and young men. We celebrated during the year with the Indigenous Rounds and Anti-domestic Violence Rounds supported by players.

We have had a year where the trophy shelf might be limited but the joy of cricket was expansive. Our club is rich in talented players as well as players who just enjoy cricket with family and/or mates.

I'd like to thank coaches, captains, volunteers, committee members, sponsors and life members. Without you cricket wouldn't happen. Coaches and captains you do the leg work every week and are the energy behind our matches. Please know that you are very much appreciated.

The committee have given time and energy all year. With work on the new website, (Barrie, Kelly from Lemon Street) Facebook (Kelly Sawaya), newsletter (thanks captains for the weekly reports), Richo1 upgrade (Chris, Kelvin), upgrade of storage containers, canteen and change rooms (Rod, Kelly, Jodie), sponsors A-frames and flags (Rod), monthly meetings and Friday raffles (Tim K and everyone who helped).

We had 17 sponsors this year. Local businesses helping to build community.

Major Sponsor- Sawtell Hotel. \$ plus venue for raffles and this evening.

Gold Sponsor – Advanced Pumping and irrigation.

Silver Sponsor- The Edge Real Estate, Barnson, Old Skool Pizza, Harbour Wealth, Shoreline Freighters

Bronze Sponsors- Coffs Harbour Chiropratic Centre, Wear It, Boambee Service station, Split Café, Cutlers Tyre Power, Toormina Chicken Butchery, Bonville Landscape supplies, Pete West Excavations.

Mid Coast Carpentry, Lemon Street digital services.

We had teams in every grade with two 4ths, U12s and U10s teams. Seven teams in finals and four teams in grand finals, finishing second in all four. That's an enviable number of players and finalists. Our First Grade team has had an incredible year. Equal 3 rd in NSW Community Cup. Winning some tight games against quality teams across NSW and getting to the finals in Sydney. Coffs Harbour DCA T20 winners. Minor Premiers and making the grand final. The captain and players showing teams,

at all levels, how respectful, tough cricket is played.

There has also been a number of senior and junior players selected in representative cricket.

Second Grade is full of juniors and grew from way down the ladder to fall two runs short of a grand final win. The same never give up respectful cricket filtering down through the captain.

Thirds were close in so many games. Juniors abound here with an old head guiding the way. Many times players were taken up to play in the grades above helping the club at the teams expense.

Fourths Blue and Gold are full of families playing together. We had two teams in the final and had some exciting, emotional and enjoyable games against each other.

Quality players building the mental and playing skills of juniors.

Our juniors are strong. U16s were Minor Premiers and just missed out in the grand final. 14s made the finals after toughing out a few close games. We had two U12 teams with Sixers making the finals and Sloggers not far behind. U10s had two teams who had almost as much fun as their parents.

The Sawtell Cricket Club is successful both on and off the field thanks to everyone respecting the game and each other. The game guidance from leaders Tyh and Rod and other captains and coaches is a great driver of our success. The life members provide the cultural knowledge behind our club. The committee do the hard work behind the scenes.

Presentation Night was a great celebration enjoyed by all with lots of laughter and banter. A special thankyou to Kelly, Nerida and Rod for your organization and to Paul and Hayley for the slide show.

We didn't win any grand finals but we had other successes. Words about how great a club we are, are easy to say but my words are backed up by us winning the Coffs Harbour District Champion Club Trophy. Sawtell has won 60% of all Champion Club Trophies since inception. Everyone had a part to play in this award, and that's how it should be.

The 2026-27 season has some changes in governance at an association level which should help clubs. The season will have its challenges as families feel cost of living challenges. We will help where we can. I'd encourage everyone in the club to commit to help in some small or big way to help, whether it is with games set up, supporting coaches, coaching, communicating for a team, photos, raffles, canteen, events, working bees or on the committee.

Our club is growing as more people want to enjoy the culture that we have. A culture that we nurture through inclusiveness, development of talent and leadership and having at good laugh.

Michael Cheers

Club president 2025-26 season