



**Western Suburbs  
District Cricket Club**

**Life  
Member**

## Jack Draney

The Western Suburbs District Cricket Club (WSDCC) mourns the passing of John (Jack) D. R. Draney, a club legend in every sense of the word. Jack's involvement with WSDCC spans more than 60 years, including as a premiership winning player, Queensland representative, groundsman, coach, supporter, and life member.

### ***Player***

As a player Jack achieved what most club cricketers aspire to do – play for Queensland in the Sheffield Shield. He achieved this feat in season 1949-50, playing two matches. His record for the club over from 1948-9 to 1960-61 is an impressive one, which included a First Grade Premiership in 1948-9. His club record is as follows:

Innings	Runs	Avg	Overs	Runs against	Wkts	Avg
131	1876	14.32	631.3	2695	132	20.42

Jack won the award for most wickets in 1957-58, that is now known as the Steven Farmer Trophy.

### ***Groundsman***

Jack was appointed as WSDCC groundsman by the Brisbane City Council in the 1958-59 season in what was his first stint in this role, doing a wonderful job by all accounts. At some point Jack relinquished this position, but recommenced as the WSDCC groundsman in 1995-96 and continued for the next eight seasons until 2003/04. During this time Jack, in his 70s, performed the physically gruelling tasks of preparing wickets in all weather and conditions with no support. In this capacity Jack was an institution within our club. First and second grade players would remember beginning the first session of a Saturday with Jack sitting by the canteen, full of support, and maybe even treating himself to a hard earned XXXX Gold following his efforts preparing the grounds since the early morning.

### ***Coach/manager***

Jack is well remembered by a number of current club members for the wonderful way he coached and managed the Under 18 side from 1997-8 to 1999-2000. Jack's approach to this task was to ensure all players simply enjoyed playing in the team and for the club, and also offering his unqualified support for his troops. It was a successful strategy. In 1997-98 the team lost the Grand Final, and then went one better in 1998-99 winning the Premiership. These results exceeded all expectations and were testament to the support Jack showed to the youngest members of the club, many of whom were new to the Grade Cricket environment.

### ***Honours and testimonials***



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Jack became a life member of WSDCC in 2008, an honour well-deserved. WSDCC President at the time Greg Rowell gave a stirring speech in support of Jack's nomination at the 2008 WSDCC Annual General Meeting. Also at this meeting fellow life member and Queensland legend Jack McLaughlin (58 matches for Queensland) spoke in support of Jack's nomination. Jack (McLaughlin) spoke of playing his first Sheffield Shield match for Queensland with Jack (Draney), and also of the efforts of the Draney family in assisting the club over many years, singling out Jack's wife Joyce. In his humble style Jack accepted the nomination for life membership, saying that he was thankful for the honour and for the privilege of playing for Wests.

Jack was also recognised for his contribution to sport with an Australian Sports Medal in August 2000. The Australian Sports Medal commemorates the efforts of Australians who have made our country a nation of sporting excellence. More information on this award can be found at [http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/awards/medals/sports\\_medal.cfm](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/awards/medals/sports_medal.cfm).

### ***Family***

Amazingly, Jack was not the first member of his family to become a life member of WSDCC. Jack's father George was a life member of the club (inducted in 1952) who also served in the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) during the Second World War (one of 63 WSDCC members who served in that conflict). George served on the committee as Assistant Secretary for twenty five years. Jack's brother Neville also figures prominently in the club statistics in the 1940's and 50's, and there are many others with the Draney surname in the club archives.

Jack's wife Joyce is also fondly remembered at Wests for her tireless efforts for the club, particularly in the canteen.

Our heartfelt thoughts go out to Joyce and the rest of Jack's family at this time. He will be deeply missed.