



## **UMPIRE PROFILE**

### **Colin Newport**



Colin Newport's cricket story is a terrific one. Colin started his cricketing journey at school in 1963 in Wanganui New Zealand. Remembers the day well as it was the same day President Kennedy was assassinated.

In 1967 Colin joined the NZ Navy and played cricket in 2 inter services tournaments against the other NZ armed services and police. Also played for the Navy Cricket Club in the Auckland competition. Due to the nature of being in the Navy, the local association scheduled every match as a home match, and every week they had a different team due to sea going commitments. One of the benefits of being in the Navy was that he visited exotic locations. One such location was Hawaii, and Colin fondly remembers the matches played there when the ship's team took on the local team, made up of ex-pats.

As a cricketer, Colin was an opening batsman that was hard to get out. His top score was in the 50's. He also did a little bit of bowling and has a hat trick, and one of those wickets was his dad. (Bragging rights)

In 1972 Colin moved to Australia because "I fell in love with an Australian girl" and has been here ever since. Three years ago, Colin, unfortunately, lost his beautiful wife to ill health. Together they have two children and five grandchildren.

Colin retired after a 36 year career in the Victoria Police, and one of his more interesting roles during that time was in an SP Bookie Taskforce; SP Bookies did most of their work on Saturdays and this along with shift work, conflicted with cricket, ending his involvement in cricket for about ten years. Then, between 1991-95, Colin took up cricket again and played in the Diamond Valley Association.

In 1996 Colin took up umpiring in the Metropolitan Cricket League (MCL), original Subbies - North/West Group 3rds & 4ths. In 1997 the MCL joined the Subbies, and Colin moved over to the VSDCA. Now in his 23rd season, with over 300 games, 180 x 1st Eleven games, VSDCA Life Membership, Hatch Final 2001, T20 Twilight Grand Final 2013, Multiple Grand Finals, with 2nd Eleven his highest, and he has also umpired over 100 Hatch/Craig matches! He has been on the committee for the past 4 years and helps run the umpire's website and Team App programme.

#### **Along his cricketing journey, Colin has umpired.**

- Alongside Test Umpires, Chris Brown (NZ), Bill Sheehan (Aust) & Greg Davidson (current Big Bash & Cricket Australia panel member)
- For the Victoria Police Cricket Club at the past 5 Australia/NZ Police Cricket Championships which are held every 2 years and other community games the police participate in
- Mid-Week Cricket (Corporate & Services Teams)
- Mid-Year Cricket (Winter Cricket) for the last six season
- Did a 6 week stint in England in the Worcester League and a Police T20 tournament in 2019, umpired 32 games in 6 weeks, including eight straight days of umpiring.

#### **When asked about memorable cricketing moments in the VSDCA?**

"Yarraville batsman Peter Radford score of 176no is the best innings I have seen to date; he and Leigh Holmes batted the whole day to set a Subbies 4<sup>th</sup> wicket partnership and three seasons ago I umpired 4 tied matches in the one season!"

Outside of cricket, Colin had a passion for playing rugby in his younger days and has had a 10-year involvement as the Secretary of Whittlesea Junior Football Club, where his grandkids play.

**Colin loves the game of cricket, "umpiring is fun; I have enjoyed the camaraderie with every partner I have umpired with, every match you learn something new and have the best position to watch great cricket."**

**Congratulation on your commitment to life in cricket!**