

Three generations of O'Loughlin's (Annual Report – 2016/17)

Three generations of O'Loughlin's Randwick Cricket Club icon John O'Loughlin may have been the proudest man in Heaven when his grandson Mitchell made his Sydney Grade Cricket debut with Randwick Petersham. Taking the field in 5th Grade against University of NSW at David Phillips North Oval, Mitchell became the third generation of O'Loughlin's to play for Randwick / Randwick Petersham after grand-father John and father Paul. While there have been many father, son and other family combinations throughout the history of Sydney Grade cricket (now NSW Premier Cricket) there have surprisingly, been very few instances where players from three generations have participated in the competition and even more rare when playing for the same club.

John O'Loughlin was a life member and one of the champions of Randwick District Cricket Club. He played between 1943 and 1972 as a high-order right hand batsman and part-time leg-spin bowler. He was Randwick's fifth highest run-getter in its 101 years, scoring 8,313 runs with five centuries including 6,662 in 2nd Grade and 693 in 1st Grade. He regarded his 52 against the world's fastest bowler Jeff Thomson on a dangerous wet wicket and winning the 1st Grade batting average in 1965-66 when the West Indian fast bowler Wes Hall played with Randwick, as two of his fondest moments in the game. John passed away in 2014.

Inspired by his father, 18 year old Paul O'Loughlin made his debut with Randwick in 1978-79 playing in the club's first 5th Grade team which made the semi-finals. A handy lower grade right-arm off-spinner and capable bat, his 29 wickets in 5s in 1979-80 was the season's best while he took out the 4th Grade bowling average the following season. His five seasons with the club brought him 95 wickets and 243 runs. These days he serves the game as a member of the Randwick Junior Cricket Club.

On Saturday 3 December 2016, Mitchell O'Loughlin, a tall 16 year old bowling medium pace with the O'Loughlin traditional rightarm, took his place in the Randwick Petersham 5th Grade line-up. It was an emotional moment for the O'Loughlin family and for the club. With father Paul proudly watching from the sidelines and grand-father John looking down from high above, the youngster performed like an O'Loughlin would, taking 2-21 in University's first innings to give his team a handy lead. Ironically, also watching were Alan Wright and Trevor Jay, two players who learnt much under the 2nd Grade captaincy of John O'Loughlin as they made their way through the grades as youngsters.

With another bright prospect in the wings in elder brother Liam, Randwick Petersham Cricket looks certain to be associated with the O'Loughlin name for many seasons to come, just as it has since it first appeared with the club 73 years ago.



John



Paul



Mitchell