

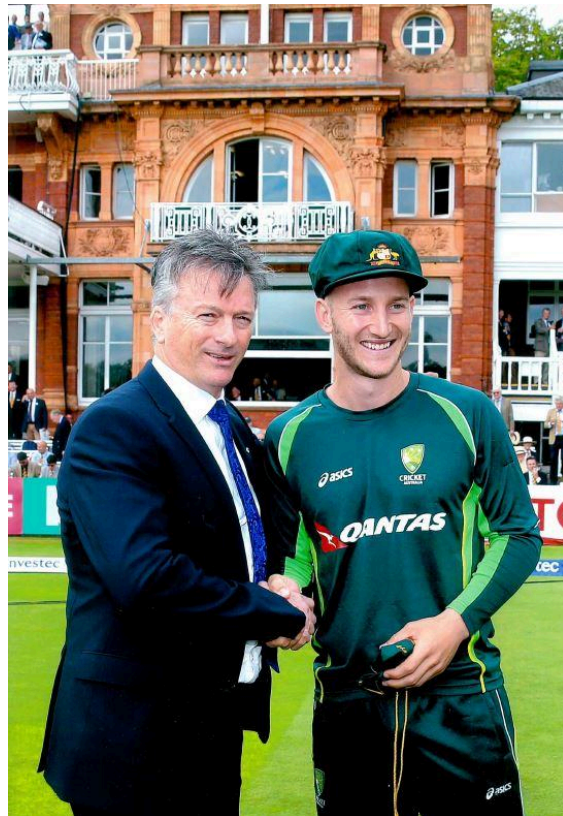
FROM HARTWELL TO LORDS (PETER NEVILL)

Written by on Ian Scholefield 1 December 2019

Peter Nevill's talent was noticed by Tim Clubb at BDCC's Milo Cricket Clinics at Ashburton Primary School in 1992/93. He debuted for the Burras in 1993/94 at the age of 7 years (his birthday is 13 October) and was nurtured over six seasons in our junior section.

A fair-haired lad, Peter was small for his age but had a desire to be a wicketkeeper. In this development phase of his career our club philosophy was to share the keeping role with others and to bat, bowl and field in various positions. He was extremely keen and dragged his dad, Jeff, along to the Hartwell Sports Ground nets in the break between junior and senior games. In early days he lacked the ability to get his strokes to pierce the field but this was typical of junior players of that age, strength and experience.

His first three seasons comprising 37 games in the Under 12's showed promise with 216 runs at an average of 9.00, 14 wickets at an average of 17.00 together with 18 catches and 4 stumpings. The Victorian wicketkeeper Darren Berry sighted Peter at one of the club coaching sessions and judged that his wicket keeping technique was superb and that there was not much that he could teach him. A comment made by his team coach in the 1995/96 season "*.... when Peter stumps them he takes it literally – the stumps and bails go everywhere.*" In this season he won his first trophy, taking out the Under 12 seconds fielding award (after being runner-up in the previous season) and managed to participate in another losing semi-final.



The prior three seasons' experience came to fruition as his final year in the Under 12 ranks (1996/97) was outstanding. Making 186 runs at 46.50, snaring a couple of wickets with the ball and 11 dismissals with the big gloves was a great advancement. His highest score was an unbeaten 36 in his third consecutive losing semi-final.

Even though he was still eligible for the Under 12's in 1997/98 it was decided that four years' Under 12 experience together and the ability and growth in his game warranted a move to the Under 14 ranks. It was dominant year for Peter. He was chosen in the Victorian Primary School Boys team and was eighth BDC player selected at this level in nine seasons. Playing on Friday nights and Saturday mornings in Under 14's from 16 games he made 375 runs at 41.67, made his first two fifties and claimed 27 victims (including 10 stumpings) behind the stumps. He won the fielding trophy in the Under 14 BHRDCA team but was recognized as the most improved Under 12.

His sixth and last season in the Burras' ranks 1998/99 was superb. His overall statistics of 592 runs and 41 keeping dismissals from 35 games were only part of the story, as he also debuted in senior cricket and was a member of his first premiers team. The Under 14 Friday night team was unbeaten until losing the semi-final. In contrast the Under 14 BHRDCA team lost one game through the season but dominated the finals to snare the flag. (Patrick Sowersby was part of that team.) Peter won the batting trophy in both under 14 teams and was runner-up in the Junior Club Championship for the second season running. The Captain of the Sixth Eleven (Seniors) Steve Green reported in the Annual Report *"Peter, 13 years old, kept for the sixths all year and is technically the best keeper that I have seen at the club or probably played against"*.

With his performances on the upward scale and some doubts about numbers for a club Under 16 team Peter chose to move to Box Hill CC for the 1999/2000 season. He quickly moved to Melbourne CC in Premier League cricket where he debuted in the First Eleven in 2002/2003. He moved through under-age representative ranks of Victoria and reached Australian Under 19's. Nev was on the verge of a first class debut for Victoria until the State recruited Matthew Wade which put him in logjam for the keeping role.

New South Wales came calling and he was signed as back-up to Test keeper Brad Haddin. With Haddin constantly on International duties Peter was given his first-class debut for NSW in February 2009, interestingly enough against Victoria at the MCG.

His value as a batsman is such that even when Brad Haddin has returned from international duty, NSW selectors have often found room in the side for both players. Nevill's best season with the bat came in 2011-12, when he averaged over 50 in first-class cricket and earned a call-up for Australia's tour of West

Indies as back-up for Matthew Wade. In the 2016 ICC T20 World Cup in India he was Australia's wicketkeeper.

Peter Nevill received his Australian Cap Number 423 from Australian Test legend Steve Waugh at Lord's Cricket Ground in London in July 2015. In his Test debut he scored 45 and took seven catches. Nevill held the Test wicket keeping spot following Haddin's retirement but lost his place to Matthew Wade after the series against South Africa in 2016-17. Whilst he has not given up on wearing the baggy green again, he has hit a speed bump with Australian keeper Tim Paine being National Captain. In the NSW side he now captains David Warner, Steve Smith, Pat Cummins, Mitch Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon.

When he doesn't have the gloves on, Peter has a guitar in hand which he also takes on domestic and international trips. He has achieved a Bachelor of Management qualification and married Sammy Nelson in April 2017.

Nev is the one and only Burwood District player to reach Test level.

For the record his statistics at this date are:

- Test - Matches 17 Runs 468 HS 66 Av. 22.3 Fifties 3 Catches 61 Stumpings 2
- 1st Class - Matches 110 Runs 5,521 HS 235no Av. 37.6 Tons 10 Fifties 27 C's 340 Stp 23
- BDCC – Matches 92 Runs 1,409 HS 52no, Fifties 7, Catches 84 Stp 17