



# *The First Graders*

## **Matthew Parker**

### ***Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 12***

Full Name: **Matthew John Parker**

Date and Place of Birth: **20 June 1975, Sutherland, NSW**

Secondary School: **St Patrick's, Sutherland, NSW**

Occupation: **Technology Industry**

Playing role: **Left hand bat**

<b>BATTING</b>									
<b>Season</b>	<b>Mtch</b>	<b>Inns</b>	<b>N.O.</b>	<b>Best</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Ave.</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Ct.</b>
<b>2001-02</b>	7	9	1	74	150	18.75		1	5
<b>2002-03</b>	4	2	0	16	30	15.00			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>18.00</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>



Matt Parker was a solid left-hand opening batsman who was named in Randwick Petersham's first ever 2nd Grade team. Within a couple of matches however, he was wearing baggy green no. 12 in the 1st Grade line-up. And while he found the competition level challenging he performed with distinction on a number of occasions.

In round 11 against UTS Balmain, their 8-295 declared was the highest score against the 1st Grade side all season. And while the team collapsed spectacularly to lose all 10 wickets twice in the one day to be beaten outright, it was Matt Parker who stood out like a beacon. He was the only batsman in both innings to show any resolve playing superbly for 74 in the second innings of just 154. It was a classy display by a man who had won a premiership for Randwick in 4th Grade in 1995-96 with a score of 159 in the Grand Final. Matt ended up playing seven times in the 1st Grade team that season chipping in with some solid digs while snaring five catches to confirm his standing as one of the club's better fielders. A fine 101 against Manly in 2nd Grade was proof of the selector's confidence in bringing him into the top grade.

In 2002-03 Parker was appointed 2nd Grade captain, a position he revelled in, leading the side to a place in the semi-finals. His dedication to that role meant limited opportunities in 1st Grade. And while he managed four appearances in the top side that season he could not reproduce the form he displayed in 2nd Grade which saw him at the top of the batting list with 487 runs including a gem of an innings of 118 not out at Caringbah Oval against Sutherland.

The following season Matt again captained the Seconds but did not play 1st Grade. By season's end he felt the need for change after 13 seasons with Randwick / Randwick Petersham and switched to Sutherland where he captained that club's 2nd Grade side for a couple of years before retiring. In his 13 seasons he accumulated a total of 4,971 runs.

One of the benefits of Matthew Parker's membership with Randwick / Randwick Petersham was the added involvement of his father Tony. Like many proud parents Tony was regularly on hand to watch Matthew play and it was not too long before he became associated with the management of teams while performing various other roles. When Randwick Petersham came into being in 2001 Tony took over responsibility for the club's cricket clothing while in 2002-03 he had a season as Assistant CEO to Ray Stafford while managing the 2nd Grade team.