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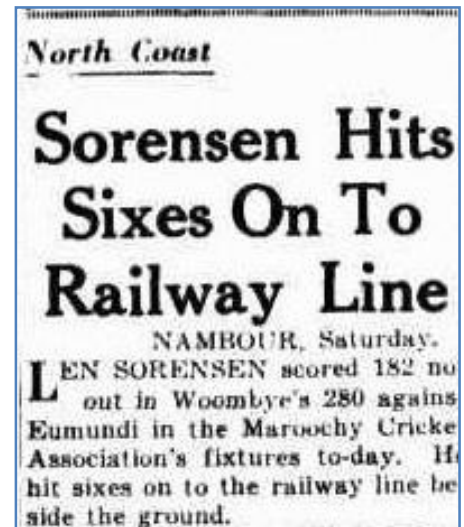
Historical accounts from the Buderim – Mooloolaba area

Number 3 October 2021

Len Sorensen Buderim cricket legend

Preface

The following paper records the career of cricket legend Leonard Ashburner Sorensen (1912 to 2000) of Buderim, Queensland. He played cricket for Buderim and other Sunshine Coast teams from his schoolboy days in the 1920s to 1969. I have attempted to record each season, but unfortunately a fire destroyed records from the mid 1950s and the local newspaper the *Buderim Chronicle* is not available in digitised format after 1954, so I can trace few relevant records from 1955 to 1961 with the exception of some old record books from the period after the fire. Also the records from the War years are rather scanty. This story relies heavily on local cricket statistics and I apologise to those with no interests in this direction. However, it does tell the story of one of Buderim's true sporting heroes – one with no parallels locally.

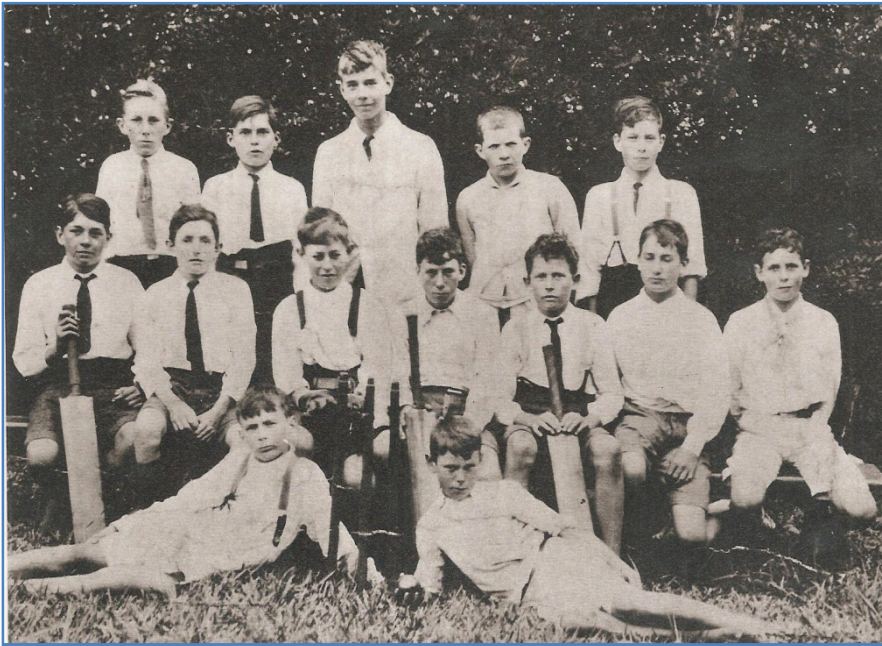


Newspaper cutting from the
Sunday Mail 23 January 1938.

Before the War – 1925 to 1941

Leonard Ashburner Sorensen was born at Talwood, Brisbane on 14 April 1912. To put the date in context, this was the day on which the *Titanic* hit an iceberg. He was the second of seven children to Sarah and Charles Sorensen. Charles Sorensen is listed in the Buderim Mountain School register as a labourer. When Len was two years old the family moved to Buderim. Len attended Buderim Mountain State School where he was awarded a medal for perfect attendance. While at school Len developed his love of sport excelling at cricket and tennis. For most of his life Len Sorensen was a Buderim farmer.

Len is pictured in photographs of the 1924 Buderim boys' cricket team and in the Buderim cricket team in 'about 1928' and again in 'about 1930'. The first record of Len as a cricketer is on 21 February 1925 when he scored 101 not out for Buderim schoolboys against Eudlo.



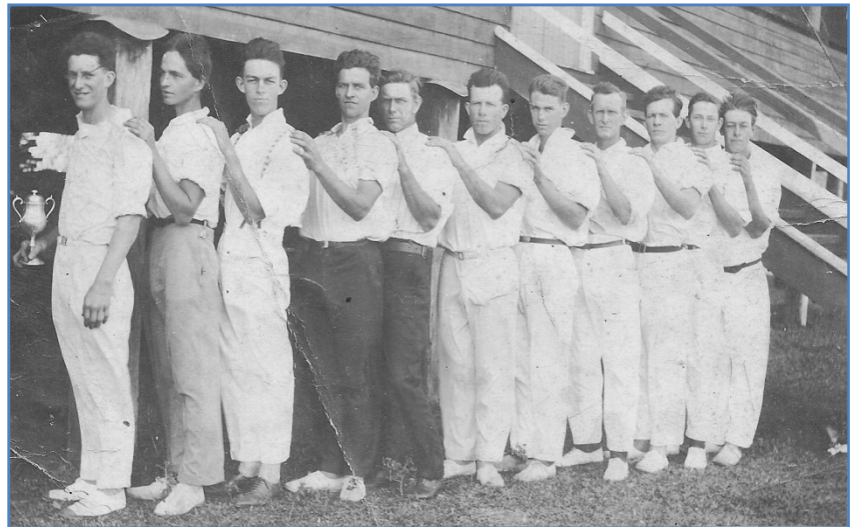
In December 1927 the 15 year old Len, playing for Buderim B grade, scored 116 with seven sixes. Again it was an unfortunate Eudlo team that suffered (B Grade in this case).

Buderim boys' cricket team 1924. Len Sorensen is third from the left, middle row.
Photo BHS

In 1928/29 Buderim fielded a B grade team in the Maroochy fixtures, and Len scored 497 runs, averaging 55.22. As a result In 1929/30 Buderim was

promoted to A grade, but this proved a bridge too far for Len at this stage, as he averaged only a mediocre 19.45. Buderim remained in A grade in the next season (1930/31) and Len had a creditable average of 28. The following season (1931/32) Len turned 20 and Buderim was back to B grade. Len scored 646 runs at an average of 71.77 with two large centuries 176 and 142. The score of 142 included ten 4s and four sixes. He had come of age as a batsman at the age of 21.

Buderim cricket team about 1928. Charlie Sorensen third from left, Len Sorensen on extreme right. *Photo BHS.*



This success prompted the authorities of the Maroochy Cricket Association to require Len to play in A grade in future. In 1932, as Buderim was not fielding an A grade team, the Association requested that Buderim players Frank Fielding and Jack Neil should play with Woombye in A grade and Len Sorensen should play with Palmwoods.

However Sorensen applied to Palmwoods to be transferred to Woombye on the grounds that he wanted to play with his team mates from the previous years and for reasons of transport. There was much debate and eventually this request was approved and Len played for Woombye A grade for the next four seasons. The Association ruled that Buderim is closer to Woombye by road and Buderim players are therefore in Woombye's A grade catchment area. However he was required to pay his subscription to Palmwoods.



Len Sorensen 1935. *Photo BHS*

For the next eight seasons up to the War, Len Sorensen was the dominant batsman in the Maroochy Shire. When Buderim did not field an A grade team he played for Woombye for seven years and for Palmwoods for one season. Not owning a car, Len would walk to Woombye if he could not organise a lift. His averages for the eight A grade seasons leading up to the War were: 40; 33.33; 38.22; 53.50; 111.7; 80.12; 61.83 and 53.85. He topped the Association averages six times in a row from 1934/35 to 1939/40 which was the last season before War. After the War the records are available only in part, but we do know that he topped the Maroochy batting averages in 1948/49 (138.0) and 1951/52 (91.62) showing he was still at least as good as any in the competition.

One of Len's centuries scored on 25 March 1936, was 129 at Country Week in Brisbane where he scored 129 in 121 minutes with 11 fours and four sixes. He was playing on a turf wicket for Maroochy/Gympie team against a combined eleven. The innings was notable because he was opening the batting against the lightning fast Aboriginal cricketer Eddie Gilbert who was famous as he dismissed Bradman for a duck in a Sheffield Shield match in 1931. Bradman said that Gilbert was the fastest bowler he ever faced, faster than Larwood.

One century he missed was on 1 October 1938. On 25 September and 1 October, Buderim played Woombye and the second day scorecard read 'L. Sorensen run out 96'. There is an interesting story behind this entry. The previous Saturday, Buderim batted and the day ended with Buderim leading and Len Sorensen not out on 96. The following Saturday when play resumed, a fieldsman threw a ball at the wicket as Len was out of his ground and Len played the ball with his bat, preventing it from probably hitting the stumps. He was correctly given 'out obstructing the field.' For unknown reasons the *Nambour Chronicle* report recorded this as 'run out.'

During the eight seasons before the War Len Sorensen scored 27 centuries. His best season was 1936/7 when he scored 1117 runs for Palmwoods at an amazing average of 111.7 including six centuries (and another two centuries in representative matches). The following season playing for

Woombye he continued his great form averaging 80.12. Unfortunately the War intervened and Len Sorensen's career, along with those of countless others, was interrupted.



Buderim locals gather at the 'top shop' 1935, Len is seated third from the left. Buderim cricket identity Henry Iscak is on the right. Len's cronies knew him by his nickname of 'Blub'.

Photo: Bev Lavarack collection.

Cricket during the Second World War

In January 1941 Maroochy Shire fixtures for the 1941/42 season were suspended. By December 1941 the closing of schools and the new call-up of Militia made it clear that most clubs would have trouble finding enough players for the local competition and cricket was suspended after 1941 to the end of the War. Some informal local competitions were organised particularly by Nambour Club, but there is no record of Len Sorensen playing in any local Maroochy competition during the War years after the 1939/40 season.

Leonard Ashburner Sorensen was enlisted as a private in the Australian Army on 26 May 1941 and discharged on 27 November 1945. He was in 113 General Transport Company based in Brisbane. His placement in a General Transport Company suggests that he might have spent significant time on the road, making participation in regular cricket fixtures difficult for much of the time.

The records show he played some club cricket for Toombul A Grade in 1942 and 1943. He had some limited success with scores of 60, 42, 78, 53, 27 not out and 47 as well as several lower scores, but certainly did not 'top the averages' as one writer suggested. In December 1942 he was reported in the *Nambour Chronicle* as being home with an injured arm and unlikely to play in services representative cricket. I can find no record of Len Sorensen playing in services representative cricket during the War years, but this cannot be ruled out. In December 1945 the newly formed Nambour and District Cricket Association drew up a fixture list which included Nambour, Woombye, Palmwoods, Yandina and Maroochydore in A Grade. In 1945/46 Buderim had an A Grade team, but there is no record of Len playing for Buderim or Toombul, or anywhere else for that matter, in that year.



Len Sorensen
Photo Family Search

After the War

In 1946/47 Len played for Woombye A grade and had several good scores including an 85 not out, suggesting he was back near his best form. In 1947/48 Len had two centuries, but in 1948/49 his average is recorded as a phenomenal 138. Complete figures for the season are not available, but he had at least one century of 142 not out. Earlier in the season, the *Nambour Chronicle* reported that: *At the end of first round of A grade cricket in Maroochy Association L.A. Sorensen has a batting average of 295.* The story went on to report that he had a score of 60 not out for Buderim against Nambour in the next match, so clearly while he had several not outs, it still was a great season.

Below: Len's 'Indian summer' was undoubtedly in 1951/52 when he turned 40, and scored 733 runs with three centuries and an average of 91.62, playing for his home town Buderim.

| PLAYERS' AVERAGES | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Batting — A Grade | | | | | |
| 1951/52 | Inn. | N.O. | Runs | H.S. | Av. |
| L. Sorensen | 11 | 3 | 733 | 158* | 91.62 |
| R. McClintock | 13 | 2 | 196 | 138* | 72.36 |
| R. Thorogood | 12 | 5 | 419 | 72* | 59.8 |
| A. Thorogood | 5 | 1 | 185 | 86* | 46.2 |
| J. Miles | 7 | - | 296 | 138 | 42.2 |
| E. Thorogood | 14 | 3 | 378 | 104 | 34.36 |
| Bowling — A Grade | | | | | |
| | O. | R. | W. | Av. | |
| S. Paulger | .. | 25 | 87 | 10 | 8.7 |
| C. Downes | .. | 148 | 424 | 44 | 9.44 |
| I. Lindsay | .. | 25 | 58 | 6 | 9.46 |
| K. Kuskopf | .. | 141 | 436 | 46 | 9.47 |
| E. Chille | .. | 33 | 68 | 7 | 9.5 |
| H. Steinhardt | .. | 82 | 257 | 26 | 9.8 |

Perhaps after the War he was not quite as consistent as he had been before the War, but the 1951/52 season showed he was still the major batting force in the Maroochy Association. In the following years his name does not appear in the list of top A grade runmakers and he tended to play for Buderim in whatever grade they fielded.

There was one more highlight. In October 1957 playing reserve grade for Buderim, he made 217 not out against the unfortunate Coolum bowlers – his highest recorded score. In 1958/9 after his double century the previous season, he again played for Woombye A grade and showed he was still up to the standard with a score of 85 not out against Nambour. More than likely the Association considered that he was still too good for reserve grade. He performed creditably for

a 47 year old with knee problems, averaging 32.6 from 261 runs. In 1962/63 he played A grade for Maroochydore and averaged 23.6.

His final full season was in 1963/64, a season in which I played for Buderim under Len who was captain. As a 51 year old, almost crippled with damaged knees, he made 182 runs with an average of 14, top score 68. He played a couple of other matches over the next few years, probably because his sons were playing, but with only moderate results.

Len Sorensen as a batsman

Len was tall, strongly built and scored a large proportion of his runs in fours and sixes. He was not a 'pretty' batsman with flowing shots, rather he had a short backlift, short follow through, but hit the ball with brutal force. A large percentage of his runs came in boundaries usually with a good proportion of sixes. Len would undoubtedly have agreed with the legendary Dr W.G. Grace who said: *I hate defensive strokes – you can only get three for them.*

This cutting illustrates Len Sorensen's best year. It is clear that he is head and shoulders above other batsmen in the competition

An example of the absolute dominance of Len Sorensen over local bowlers occurred on 7 November 1936 when Palmwoods played Nambour. On the first day Nambour was dismissed for a moderate score of 151 and Palmwoods batted. At stumps they were 2 for 135 with Sorensen not out 111 with 4 sixes and 11 fours. So Len scored 111 while 24 were scored at the other end. The following Saturday Len went on to a total score of 157 from 115 deliveries with another three sixes. At one stage seven fieldsmen were placed on the leg side to try to stop him. The report of the match stated that Sorensen's previous innings had included scores of 109, 128, 148 and the current 157.

Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser

Friday 13 August 1937, page 6

CRICKET.

Maroochy Players' Averages

The following information in respect to the players' performances in the Maroochy Cricket Association has been supplied by Mr. G. Wienonen (assistant secretary):

"A" GRADE.

BATTING.

| | In. | Runs | Av. |
|-------------------------|-----|------|-------|
| L. Sorensen | 10 | 1117 | 111.7 |
| G. Thorogood | 11 | 737 | 67 |
| A. Thorogood | 11 | 572 | 52 |
| Edgar Thorogood | 13 | 651 | 50 |
| Eric. Thorogood | 12 | 456 | 38 |
| G. Halvorsen | 5 | 167 | 33.2 |
| C. Colley | 12 | 362 | 30 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|-----|-------|
| R. Pringle | 9 | 269 | 29.88 |
| G. Thom | 8 | 223 | 27.87 |
| T. Cranny | 6 | 166 | 27.66 |
| M. McMullin | 13 | 283 | 21.76 |
| R. McDonald | 14 | 298 | 21 |
| J. Bowden | 15 | 309 | 20.60 |
| J. Ring | 13 | 266 | 20.46 |
| S. Bickford | 6 | 178 | 29.66 |

Len Sorensen as a wicketkeeper

Len was tall for a wicket keeper and strongly built with large hands. He kept wickets standing over the stumps to all except for the very fastest bowlers and was critical of the tendency for modern keepers to stand back to medium pacers. Local Buderim player Charlie Chilli of Islander/Aboriginal heritage was one who had the pace to force him back from the stumps.

In 1963/64 the author was an opening bowler for Buderim with Len behind the stumps. I was by no means express in pace – perhaps 'medium fast' would describe my efforts. Len and I worked out a signal to let him know if I intended to bowl a bouncer and he usually took it over the stumps above his head. Len's knees would probably have precluded standing back at this stage of his career, but there was no doubting his hand-eye co-ordination.

Len Sorensen as a bowler

In the *Telegraph* of December 8 1935 it was reported that, playing for Woombye against Yandina: *Len Sorensen was again in good form scoring 56 and then by way of a change he forsook the gloves and took three wickets for 11. Len is a really good bowler as he mixes his stuff well and keeps a good length but as his keeping is classy, he gets very little opportunity of developing his flair with the ball.*

This skill with the ball was in evidence again in October 1946 when Len took 5 - 24 for Woombye against Nambour and in 1948 when he took 4 - 16 for Buderim against Eumundi. I have vague memories of a report that, in 1957/58, Len took all ten wickets in an innings and scored 45 runs in the same match. I cannot verify this and would love to hear from any elderly local cricketers who have any memories or records of this alleged feat by Len Sorensen.

Len Sorensen - his place in cricket

As a wicket keeper/batsman in the 1930s and 40s Len Sorensen was unfortunate in that he was a contemporary of the legendary Don Tallon from Bundaberg. Tallon was four years younger and played with Bradman's 1948 'Invincibles', retiring from test cricket in 1953. Tallon was almost certainly the better keeper, but it is likely that, at his peak, Len matched or possibly exceeded, Tallon as a batsman.

Letter to the editor, *Nambour Chronicle*, 29 November 1936. There was something of a public outcry when Len Sorensen was overlooked for higher selection.

Having such a long and productive career, there are several legends which grew up around him. According to legend, Len was outspoken and somewhat of a rebel and did not suffer fools gladly, which possibly resulted in him being overlooked for the higher representation. It has been alleged that, when invited to try out for a country week team in Brisbane, his attire was not what was expected, upsetting the purists at the time. In addition it has been said he regularly played barefoot. However Len strongly denied all this. According to Henry Iscak, he rarely wore batting gloves because his hands were too large. Perhaps today Len Sorensen, batting on matting covered concrete pitches, might be labelled as a 'flat track bully' but the fact remains that over many years his batting average was a long way in advance of those of other local batsmen.

Is There a Sound Reason?
OMISSION OF SORENSEN IN COUNTRY TEAM.
Performances Merited Inclusion.

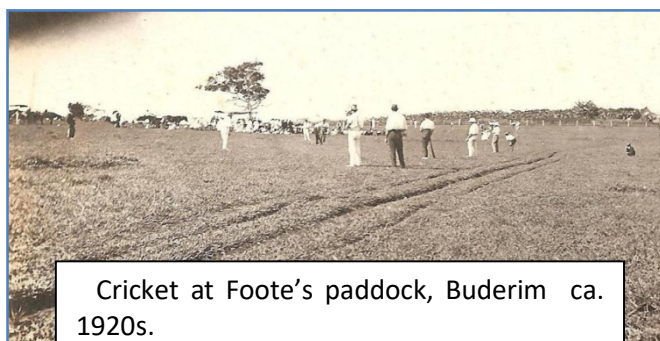
The exclusion of Len Sorensen, brilliant North Coast batsman, from the Queensland Country team to meet the English Eleven at Ipswich on December 12-14 undoubtedly calls for some explanation on the part of the selectors. His omission makes one ask what must a country player do to warrant recognition and inclusion. Surely Sorensen, in all his greatness this season, must be recognised in better cricket circles!

In four completed innings this season he has an aggregate of 540 runs, and the outstanding honour of scoring a century in each innings, bringing his average to 135.

The Appendices at the end of this paper summarise Len Sorensen's career, but they unfortunately leave much to the imagination. The record is good leading up to the War, but poor after that. One wonders just how many runs he would have scored if the War had not intervened. And then there are the years in the late 1940s and 1950s where information on his performances is patchy at best, or unavailable. In the 1951/52 season when he was 40, he averaged 91.62 with three centuries. How many runs could he have scored in the previous 11 years when he would have been at his peak? The legend that he scored 100 centuries over his career seems improbable, as does the claim that he topped the batting averages for Toombul during the War.

Local conditions

By the time Len Sorensen started playing cricket the universal pitch surface was concrete with a cover which was put in place before play commenced on each day. Prior to this in the early days before the First World War, a pitch was rolled out on a likely looking section of turf or on bare earth, but from about



Cricket at Foote's paddock, Buderim ca. 1920s.

1918 onwards concrete pitches became the accepted norm. The concrete was covered with a coir or canvas mat at each end, sometimes with a bare strip of concrete or even grass in the middle. From about the 1930s on, canvas mats were used at either end usually meeting in the middle. There is little doubt that the covered concrete pitches suited Len Sorensen with his great hand-eye co-ordination, but he played equally well on turf later.

As an example of the conditions encountered the pitch on Foote's paddock, Buderim came in for some serious criticism in the *Nambour Chronicle* of 13 December 1929 concerning an A grade match between Buderim and Nambour:

Much can be said of the handicap to bowlers due to the rough state of the approach to the wicket. At the northern end there was a hole alongside the pitch. Two lengths of concrete with about six feet of turf from the wicket which in width is not up to the regulation. A short pitched ball either flies over the batsman's head or pulls up in pace to bounce to enable a long pull to leg to be made. It has advantages and disadvantages, but the executives of the association should stress the necessity of better approaches.

Despite the conditions described above, the Buderim team compiled 297 runs in this match. One wonders how many balls, pitched on the turf section, were dispatched to the boundary! Of course playing on farm paddocks, things were often rough and ready in the early days, with players having to contend with cow pats and long grass, but most A grade matches in the 1930s and 40s were played on a field of reasonable standard. There was much discussion about the provision of a turf wicket at Nambour in the late 1930s, but the War intervened and it was not until 1948 that a turf wicket was established at Palmwoods with Woombye, Nambour and Maroochydore following soon after in the early 1950s.

In retirement

Len retired after the 1963/64 season more due to his physical condition, than because he was tiring of the game, although he did play a couple of matches a year or two later.

The author, Bill Lavarack, with Len Sorensen's bat on display at Pioneer Cottage, Buderim. It shows the evidence of many well hit balls. *Photo Bev Lavarack*

An article in the *Nambour Chronicle* (3 September 1963) written by a fellow player on the occasion of his retirement went as follows:

Sorensen was a great all rounder, but excelled as an aggressive batsman. Of powerful build many of his defensive shots pushed to mid off or the covers were scoring shots worth a couple of runs. After settling down for a few overs he would launch his attack of cutting driving and hooking. Unmerciful to slow bowlers he would almost belt the cover off the ball in a sensational hitting spree over the boundary ... He was never worried by a knock from a cricket ball. On one occasion he was struck on the forehead by a bumper, the ball bouncing off his head to the boundary...



Len's other passions in which he indulged after retirement, were for classical music and gardening. These interests seem a little at odds with his hard 'take no prisoners', aggressive approach on the cricket field. His house on Gloucester Road Buderim was noted for its beautiful garden. Len was particularly keen on day lilies and had a magnificent collection. He died at Buderim on 25 October 2000 aged 88.

Sources

Most of the information above comes from newspapers via Trove, in most cases from the digitised version of the *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, which has been digitised up to 1954. However careful research for the years after 1954 in the *Nambour Chronicle* revealed no significant references to Sorensen in these volumes.

Anon, Buderim, Cricket, *Nambour Chronicle*, 27 February, p. 8, 1925. [This article recounts the story of Len Sorensen as a schoolboy cricketer.]

Fay Gibson (editor), *The Second Century of Nambour Cricket, History and Development of Cricket Around Nambour, 1994 – 2009*, Nambour Cricket Club Writers Group, 97 pages, 2009.

Henry Iscak, Cricket at Buderim, *Nambour Chronicle*, 24 February, 1977.

Peter ('Bill') Lavarack, *History of Sport on Buderim, the First Hundred Years*, Revised Edition, publ. by Bill Lavarack, Buderim, October 2020.

The Sorensen family, Eulogy read at his funeral - *Len Sorensen 14.04.1912 – 25.10.2000, the Bradman of the North Coast*. From a copy held by the author, 2000.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Pat Drew of Maroochydoore who provided Maroochy Cricket Association record books for the 1950s and 1960s.

The Buderim Historical Society provided most of the photographs used in this paper.

I am extremely grateful to Carol Hawley of the Heritage Library, Sunshine Coast Council, who spent much effort in checking copies of the *Nambour Chronicle* after 1954.

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Cricket on the Buderim School oval 2013. The camphor laurels and pine trees are larger, but little else has changed since Len Sorensen scored 217 here against Coolum in 1957. Photo: Bill Lavarack

APPENDIX 1 LEN SORESENSEN CENTURIES

[Thirty seven centuries are listed below. It is conceded that it is certain there were several other centuries that have not been discovered in the preparation of this story and are not listed below. The total number of his centuries would possibly have been about 45 or maybe 50.]

| Len Sorensen centuries by season | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Season | Opponents | Total | Boundaries |
| 21 Feb., 1925 25/26 | Buderim Vs Eudlo (School boys) | 101no | |
| ? Dec 1927 27/28 | Buderim vs Eudlo (B grade) | 116 | 7x6 |
| 14 March 1929 28/29 | Buderim vs North Arm (B grade) | 111 | |
| ? Nov. 1931 31/32 | Buderim vs Woombye Colts (B grade) | 176 | |
| 13 Nov. 1931 31/32 | Buderim vs Woombye Colts (B grade) | 149 | 7x6; 10x4 |
| 20 Feb. 1932 31/32 | Buderim vs Eudlo (B grade) | 102 | |
| 24 Sept. 1932 32/33 | Palmwoods vs Woombye | 101 | |
| 27 March 1933 32/33 | Woombye vs Maleny Witta | 119 | 4x6; 4x4 |
| 18 Nov. 1933 33/34 | Woombye vs Yandina | 151 | |
| 17 Nov. 1934 34/35 | Woombye vs Yandina | 101 | 1x6; 11x4 |
| 7 Sept. 1935 35/36 | Buderim vs Witta (picnic match) | 105 | 6x6; 11x4 |
| 12 Oct. 1935 35/36 | Woombye vs Eudlo | 103no | |
| 10 Nov. 1935 35/36 | Maroochy vs Woodford | 102 ret | |
| 30 Nov. 1935 35/36 | Woombye vs Landsborough | 129 | |
| 25 Mar. 1936 35/36 | Maroochy vs Combined (Country week.) | 129no | 4x6; 11x 4 |
| ? Sept./Oct. 1936 36/37 | ? start of season | 118 | |
| 14 Oct. 1936 36/37 | Palmwoods vs Yandina | 101 | 4x6; 10x4 |
| 17 Oct. 1936 36/37 | Palmwoods vs Petrie Creek | 125 | 6x6; 13x4 |
| 14 Nov. 1936 36/37 | Palmwoods vs Nambour | 157 | |
| 12 Dec. 1936 36/37 | Palmwoods vs Yandina | 157 | 8x6; 11x4 |
| 9 Jan. 1937 36/37 | Palmwoods v s Petrie Ck | 134 | |
| 7 March 1937 36/37 | Nambour Druids vs Pomona | 171 | 6x6; 22x4 |
| 16 Jan. 1938 37/38 | Woombye vs Eumundi | 182 no | |
| 22 Jan. 1938 37/38 | Woombye vs Eumundi | 190 no | 11x6; 13x4 |
| 7 March 1938 37/38 | Nambour Druids vs Ipswich | 113 | 6x6 |
| 15 Oct. 1938 38/39 | Buderim vs Palmwoods | 127 | 4x6; 11x4 |
| 13 Nov. 1938 38/39 | Maroochy vs Caboolture | 100no | 1x6 |
| 29 March 1939 38/39 | Buderim vs Witta (picnic match) | 130 | |
| 7 Oct. 1939 39/40 | Woombye vs Yandina /Maroochy River | 106 | |
| 21 Oct. 1939 39/40 | Palmwoods vs Woombye | 119 | |
| War years | | | |
| 18 Oct. 1947 47/48 | Buderim vs Yandina | 118no | |
| 1947 14 Nov 47/48 | Nambour vs Buderim | 113 | |
| 9 Oct. 1948 48/49 | Buderim A Grade vs Eumundi | 142no | |
| 17 Nov. 1951 51/52 | Buderim vs Woombye | 130 | |
| 12 Jan. 1952 51/52 | Buderim vs Palmwoods | 108no | |
| 9 Feb. 1952 51/52 | Buderim vs Woombye | 158no | |
| ? Oct. 1957 57/58 | Buderim vs Coolum (Res. grade) | 217no | |

APPENDIX 2 LEN SORENSEN SEASON BY SEASON

| Season | Team | Runs | Average | Centuries |
|---------|----------------------------------|------|---------|-----------|
| 1925/26 | Buderim schoolboys | | | 1 |
| 1927/28 | Buderim B grade | | | 1 |
| 1928/29 | Buderim B grade | 497 | 55.23 | 1 |
| 1929/30 | Buderim A grade | 233 | 19.45 | |
| 1930/31 | Buderim A grade | | 28 | |
| 1931/32 | Buderim B grade | 646 | 71.77 | 3 |
| 1932/33 | Woombye A grade | 479 | 40 | 2 |
| 1933/34 | Woombye A grade | 471 | 30.33 | 1 |
| 1934/35 | Woombye A grade | 384 | 38.22 | 1 |
| 1935/36 | Woombye A grade | 535 | 53.5 | 5 |
| 1936/37 | Palmwoods A grade | 1117 | 111.7 | 7 |
| 1937/38 | Woombye A grade | 721 | 80.12 | 3 |
| 1938/39 | Woombye A grade | 371 | 61.83 | 3 |
| 1939/40 | Woombye A grade | 377 | 53.85 | 2 |
| 1940/41 | War years did not play? | ? | | |
| 1941/42 | War years played for Toombul | ? | | |
| 1942/43 | War years played for Toombul | ? | | |
| 1943/44 | War Years did not play? | ? | | |
| 1944/45 | War years did not play? | ? | | |
| 1945/46 | War years did not play? | ? | | |
| 1946/47 | Woombye A grade | | | |
| 1947/48 | Buderim A grade | | | 2 |
| 1948/49 | Buderim A grade | | 138 | 1 |
| 1949/50 | Buderim A grade | | | |
| 1950/51 | Buderim A grade | | | |
| 1951/52 | Buderim A grade | 733 | 91.62 | 3 |
| 1952/53 | Nambour A grade | | | |
| 1953/54 | Nambour A grade | | | |
| 1954/55 | Maroochydore A grade | | | |
| 1955/56 | No record possibly Maroochydore? | | | |
| 1956/57 | Maroochydore A grade | | | |
| 1957/58 | Buderim Reserve. grade | 618 | 66.6 | 1 |
| 1958/59 | Woombye A grade | 261 | 32.6 | |
| 1959/60 | No record did Len play? | ? | | |
| 1960/61 | No record did Len play? | ? | | |
| 1961/62 | No record did Len play? | ? | | |
| 1962/63 | Maroochydore A grade | | 23.6 | |
| 1963/64 | Buderim A grade | 182 | 13.7 | |
| 1966/67 | Maroochydore A (1 match) | 18 | 9 | |
| 1968/69 | Palmwoods A (2 matches) | 32 | 10.6 | |

Unfortunately there are a few gaps in the record presented above in the Appendices. The *Nambour Chronicle* is not available in digitised form after 1954. In addition some records now held by Pat Drew at Maroochydore were destroyed by a fire in the mid 1950s. In particular I can find no record of where Len played in the seasons 1955/56, 1959/60, 1960/61 and 1961/62. Carol Hawley of the Heritage Library, Sunshine Coast Council made extensive searches of the relevant issues of the *Nambour Chronicle* for those four seasons mentioned above and found no mention of Len Sorensen. However the records show that Len played for Maroochydore in 1954/55 and also at least one match in 1956/57, so it is possible, even likely, he also played for that team in the intervening 1955/56 season, although neither Carol nor myself could find any record. It seems possible, even probable, that he did not play for any club in the seasons 1959/60 to 1961/62.

In addition very few records of Len's actual run scoring for the seasons from 1952/53 to 1957/58 could be found. As his A grade average in 1951/52 was 91.62 and 32.6 in 1958/59, it is certain he had some good scores in the intervening five seasons.

CRICKET

Innings Win— Nambour Druids.

IPSWICH TEAM IN RETURN MATCH.

Sorensen Gains Further Distinction.

Len. Sorensen, the run-making machine of North Coast cricket, added further laurels to his career and created favourable impressions by defying the attack of reputed Ipswich representative bowlers at Nambour on Sunday, when the Nambour Druids convincingly turned the tables on the Ipswich team. Len. was in brilliant form and scored to all parts of the oval. Even many local cricket fans, witnessing Sorensen for the first time, severely criticised the powers that be for allowing such an outstanding all-rounder to remain in North Coast cricket when he should be playing for Queensland.

Sorensen gained a score of 70 odd at Ipswich on the turf wicket, his display pleasing the enthusiasts of that city. Those enthusiasts were further impressed with his display on Sunday last and classed him as a champion. In addition to his score of 113, which included six sixers, Sorensen was in fine form with the gloves, and his agility behind the wickets was a warning to batsmen that any risks would mean dismissal.

Nambour Chronicle 18 March
1938 page 16.

Sorensen Scores First Century in A Grade.

This Season's Highest Score.

Len. Sorensen, batting for Woombye, scored his first century in A-grade cricket this season when he compiled 101 not out in an innings of 161 for five wickets. The representative batsman scored 14 fours and one six. Associated with G. S. Rogers, who registered 43, the partnership was valued at 92. Yandina's first innings score was carried to 133, the not out batsman being F. Johnson (20). P. Pringle with five for 34 took the bowling honours. Woombye declared with five for 161, and at stumps Bantlers had lost two for 80, Johnson being again unconquered with 36. Scores:

| | |
|--|----|
| Woombye, First Innings, 88. | |
| Yandina, First Innings (Continued) | |
| F. Johnston, not out | 20 |
| W. Thorogood, c. McClintock, b. Haines | 7 |
| B. Britten, c. Pringle, b. Haines | 0 |
| L. Ablin, c. Browne, b. Pringle | 6 |
| G. Dyne, c. Maxbey, b. Pringle | 6 |
| Sundries | 10 |

Total 133
Bowling: P. Pringle five for 34, G. S. Rogers one for 18, R. Pringle one for 7, A. Haines three for 43.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Woombye, second Innings: | |
| G. S. Rogers, c. Thorogood, b. Ross | 43 |
| L. Sorensen, not out | 101 |
| P. Pringle, c. and b. Colley | 4 |
| A. Haines, b. Colley | 2 |
| J. Pringle, b. Turner | 3 |
| W. Browne, run out | 6 |
| J. Bailey, not out | 0 |
| Sundries | 8 |
| Five wickets (declared) for | 161 |
| Bowling: R. Ross one for 38, G. Colley two for 72, A. Turner one for 16. | |

Nambour Chronicle 23 November
1934 page 2.

CRICKET

L. SORENSEN'S SPECTACULAR 80 N.O.

Woombye-Yandina A Grade

Displaying some of his old pre-war form, L. Sorensen, for Woombye on Saturday at Yandina, against the latter team, compiled 80 not out in an innings total of 124. His fifth scoring stroke was a sixer, and he also found the boundary on seven occasions. Yandina at the close of the afternoon's play, had compiled 40 for the loss of 2 wickets, G. Thorogood (17) and E. Thorogood (4) being the not out batsmen. Scores:

| | |
|---|----|
| Woombye, 1st Innings: | |
| J. Logan, c. A. Thorogood, b. Scales | 4 |
| G. Clayton, c. Soanes, b. Baxter | 0 |
| R. McClintock, run out | 0 |
| L. Sorensen, not out | 80 |
| H. Kuskopf, c. Davison, b. E. Thorogood | 12 |
| R. Kuskopf, c. Soanes, b. Colley | 0 |
| E. Reeves, b. C. Colley | 1 |
| G. Reeves, stpd. Newton, b. C. Colley | 1 |
| K. Gibson, h.o.w., b. C. Colley | 19 |
| N. Hooper, l.b.w., b. F. Colley | 4 |
| R. Pringle, c. C. Colley, b. F. Colley | 0 |
| Sundries | 3 |

Total 124
Bowling: R. Baxter 1/20, C. Scales 1/17, C. Colley 4/70, E. Thorogood 1/5, F. Colley 2/9.

| | |
|--|----|
| Yandina, 1st Innings: | |
| G. Thorogood, not out | 17 |
| C. Soanes, b. N. Hooper | 7 |
| F. Davison, c. Sorensen, b. K. Kuskopf | 3 |
| E. Thorogood, not out | 4 |
| Sundries | 9 |
| Two wickets | 40 |

Nambour Chronicle 11 October
1946 page 2.

DISTRICT CRICKET

EARLY COLLAPSE IN NAMBOUR 'A'

Sorensen Takes Bowling Honours

Nambour A-grade at Woombye on Saturday last staged a "collapse and recovery," something usually associated with the "glorious uncertainties" of the game. It was left with Joe Sutcliffe (52), W. Thorogood (23), and G. Burgess (16) to retrieve the position, the innings closing for 131. Len Sorensen, Maroochy's prolific rungetter, figured in a new role, when as the eighth bowler employed for the home team, he captured five wickets at a cost of 24 runs.

| | |
|---|----|
| Scores: | |
| Nambour, 1st Innings: | |
| C. D. Hudspeth, b. N. Hooper | 1 |
| A. Wallace, b. N. Hooper | 3 |
| D. Walker, c. L. Sorensen, b. K. Kuskopf | 7 |
| I. Cooper, b. Hooper | 4 |
| H. Bendixen, b. G. Reaves | 1 |
| J. Sutcliffe, c. K. Kuskopf, b. L. Sorensen | 52 |
| W. Thorogood, b. L. Sorensen | 23 |
| G. Fink, c. N. Hooper, b. Sorensen | 0 |
| G. Burgess, c. R. McClintock, b. Sorensen | 16 |
| G. Arthur, not out | 1 |
| Sundries | 8 |

Total 131
Bowling: N. Hooper 3 21, R. Kuskopf 0/5, K. Kuskopf 1 40, G. Reaves 1 12, G. Clayton 0/1, R. McClintock 0 6, K. Gibson 0 7, L. Sorensen 5 24.

Nambour Chronicle 25 October
1946 page 10.