In 1951 a group of enthusiastic mates, old boys of Scots College, got together to start the tradition of Scots Old Boys cricket. These mates included John Gilder, Alan Mortlock, Ross Scribner, Terry McBride and Geof Eastment. All were young men setting out on the path of life with enthusiasm aplenty. Their working lives were to take them down many avenues but their love of cricket was to remain with them forever.

One of that founding group was John Gilder, or “Humphrey” as he was affectionately known. He was a born leader, a knowledgeable man, with charm and wit, a great speaker prone to be demonstrative when holding strong views, such performances later to be known as “doing a Humphrey”.

Our mate Humph was born on 13 October 1925 and passed away after a long battle with kidney problems on 25 April 2008.

He was raised in Sydney where his family life was typical of the times, with a hard working dad and a loving mother. These were traits that John was to demonstrate in his own life.

At Scots John was a member of the 1st XI in 1941, 1942 and the premiership winning “Invincibles” 1943 team which he captained. When he left the college in 1944 after successfully completing the Leaving Certificate, he began his lifelong career with the Fairfax newspaper group, rising to be Group Advertising Manager, a position he held when he retired.

With his wife Pat, he had 2 sons, John and Robert, both of whom benefited from his guidance and wisdom, and who were both active members of our cricket club.

John was an active player for 14 years:

- **Captain** - first 4 year of the club
- **President** - 5 years
- **Batting** - 1315 runs, average 12.18
- **Bowling** - 294 wickets, average 11.24
- **In the field** - 60 Catches

These statistics, impressive though they may be, do not tell the extraordinary impact John had on the Scots Old Boys Cricket Club. Not only was he a key part of its foundation, but his guiding hand was to be seen for many years as it grew to take a pre-eminent place in the City and Suburban competition.

John was actively involved in the beginning of the traditional Easter competition with the Old Scotch Collegians in Melbourne. The relationship with Scotch was to forge many long-term friendships.

Humph, was to many, the type of “Mate” you wanted ….loyal, demanding, keen, enthusiastic, one who loved to share a drink and a laugh after the game…..he may have gone to the big oval, but his memory and legacies will live on in the hearts and minds of many

**Vale John Gilder**

*Ross Leabeater and Darel Hughes*