

Bernie Keenan (Blackburn, Box Hill ANA, Box Hill, St. Peters & BHRDCA) – 1927 to 1954

Written with the assistance of Judith Eadon – grand-daughter to Bernie

Bernie Keenan is one of the BHRDCA's greatest servants, having acted as Secretary from 1936-37 to 1946-47. After a short stint as Vice-President, Keenan was appointed BHRDCA President in 1949-50 and continued in that position until 1953-54.

He was awarded Life Membership in 1948-49 and is recorded with 3975 runs and 339 wickets during his career.

Keenan was originally from Woori Yallock and moved to Middleborough Rd Box Hill in 1927.

Commencing with Blackburn, Keenan moved to Box Hill ANA in 1929-30 and played with that club until they merged with Box Hill in 1933-34. During his four years with the ANA, Keenan made 1003 runs and took 94 wickets and was considered a leading player in the competition. After this season, Keenan almost severed his foot with an axe while chopping wood and missed the next 2 ½ years finally returning in January 1937.

By 1937, Keenan was the BHRDCA Secretary and when Box Hill folded, and then reformed as a turf club, Keenan decided to stay with the association and he joined St. Peter's where he played from 1937-38 until retiring after 1944-45.

Keenan was dominant at St. Peter's and made 2259 runs and took 208 wickets in eight seasons including his highest score of 106 against Vermont in 1942-43 and his best bowling of 7-15 in 1938-39. In 1940-41 Keenan made 413 runs and took 29 wickets while his last great season was in 1943-44 with 474 runs. Unfortunately, Keenan was part of four losing Grand Final teams with St. Peter's including successive 'A Grade' losses in 1941-42 and 1942-43.