Bowral in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales was the place for the seventh National Pharmacy Cricket Carnival, played over four days in January. Six teams from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Pharmacy Industry played for the right to hold the famous 100 year old ‘Shield’ for the 2013 – 2014 season.

In cloudless days with glorious sunshine the teams played in hot conditions at the ‘Home of Cricket’ Bradman Oval and Chater Oval in Mittagong. Inspired by the five-nil Ashes victory by Australia, all teams played well with some outstanding performances. In almost every match, each 50 over game produced combined totals of 400 plus. The highest was the match New South Wales v Pharmacy Industry with a total of 490 runs.

During the four days several batsmen retired at the obligatory 50 in their particular match. Bowlers had less success with a few taking 4 wickets in a match, but no 5 wicket hauls.

The final played at Bradman Oval on Friday 14th, saw Victoria (last season’s winner) do battle against the Pharmacy Industry. The Industry team losing two players at the last moment, due to urgent calls from their companies, drew two players from the teams not in the final. One was Irfan Hashmi, from South Australia, who opened the bowling for Industry and took 4 for 24. Industry won a close match with 9 for 206 in their 50 overs to defeat Victoria 9 for 199 in their 50 overs.

The Trophy presentation dinner was a outstanding night, held in the world famous International Cricket Hall of Fame at Bradman Oval with 105 present that included several cricket and pharmacy luminaries. Not the least were three that have worn the famous ‘Baggy Green’ cap. Past cricket greats were represented by the sons of Bill ‘Tiger’ O’Reilly and Bill Ponsford, both pharmacists. Former Test Captains and pharmacy Cricket Patrons pharmacist Ian Craig and Brian Booth attended with their wives Roz and Judy. Tina MacPherson, an Australian Women’s Test representative also joined us for the dinner. The guest speaker and Bowral resident was Rodney Cavalier, who is the Chairman of the Sydney Cricket & Sports Ground Trust and he presented the trophies.

Mr Cavalier presented the ‘Shield’ to Pharmacy Industry captain Mark Thulborne, the ‘Player of the Carnival’ trophy to Irfan Hashmi from South Australia, ‘Batsman of the Carnival’ to South Australia pharmacy student Tim Broadbent and ‘Bowler of the Carnival’ to Victorian team Captain Jeff Gallagher.

An outstanding Carnival that included four days of great cricket, fun and wonderful fellowship that was enjoyed by players, guests and family groups. For the 2015 Carnival we return to Adelaide, where we played in 2009.