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Wor. Bro. MAURICE LILLENTHAL  
CRICKETER  
(1917 - 2013)

The continuing success of mainstream sport in Australia can be attributed to grassroots administrators and volunteers such as Wor. Bro. Maurice Lillienthal, who was a tireless worker for cricket in every area from playing at club and representative levels to helping to start and run the Bankstown Cricket Club.

Wor. Bro. Maurice Lillienthal was born in Hastings, New Zealand on December 17, 1917, one of 10 children to Ruben Lillienthal, a tailor, and his wife, Yenta. The family moved to Australia after Ruben had visited to find work as a clothing designer and a house in Clovelly. Maurice loved the sea and living near the beach, and in those days the family never locked their doors.

Ruben eventually bought a weatherboard house in Punchbowl and Maurice went to East Bankstown Public School in Waterloo Road. He started playing cricket at school and was later picked in the combined intermediate technical high school team as a top order batsman.

In the early 1930s, he started going to the SCG to watch rugby league and the major cricket matches in the summer. He saw Alan Kippax, Don Bradman, Jack Fingleton, Bill Brown, Bill Ponsford, Bill Woodfull and Bill O'Reilly, and watched Lindsay Hassett score a century in each innings against NSW. He also saw Stan McCabe score 189 not out against Douglas Jardine's feared bodyline attack. It was important for him to watch them bat because as a young fellow he had no coaching in the game at all.

The AW Green Shield under 16s competition started in 1935.

Maurice was picked for Marrickville under 16s team, which won the competition, and Bradman presented him with his winning cap. The residential qualifications meant that Maurice had to play in the area where he lived, so he had to play for Cumberland, which was at Parramatta.

In a game against Mosman he caught Stan McCabe on the leg side. As McCabe passed him on his way to the pavilion he was full of smiles and he said to Maurice "well caught."

Lillienthal left school and became a shop assistant; at about 19 he owned his own grocery shop. He worked there for 50 or 60 hours a week and played cricket on Saturday afternoons, catching trains and trams to get to matches.

In 1941, he married Gladys Goldman and they moved to Concord West, so he played for Western Suburbs as a batsman and wicket keeper.

During this time, Lilienthal became friends with Jack Fitzpatrick and they became pivotal members of the force that saw the Bankstown Cricket Club enter the Sydney Grade competition in 1951 with Lilienthal as it's first chairman.

Over the years, the club produced a host of talented representative and international players, including Steve and Mark Waugh.

Lilienthal was associated with the Bankstown Club from 1951 to 2001. He played in the lower grades in the debut year and was on the selection committees as well as the management committee. He was a delegate to the NSW Cricket Association and in 1957 was appointed manager of the NSW Sheffield Shield Team, which included Grahame Thomas, the first Bankstown player to play for Australia. As Lilienthal became a successful retailer, he was also a generous benefactor to the Bankstown Club.



**Maurice Lilienthal: A successful retailer who helped found and run the Bankstown Cricket Club.**

Lilienthal was later appointed manager of the NSW Colts but his most important state role was as chairman of the country committee for the association. It was an onerous task because of the distances involved but he realised the depth of talent available in the bush and the importance of tapping into it.

Looking at the number of country boys who went on to become superstars for Australia, it is obvious that cricket promotion in the bush was important - from Doug Walters right through to Mark Taylor, Glen McGrath, Michael Bevan and Michael Slater.

For his dedicated service to NSW cricket, Lilienthal was made a life member of the NSW Cricket Association as well as the Bankstown Cricket Club. In 2001, he received the Order of Australia Medal.

Maurice Lilienthal is survived by his daughters Robyn and Wendy, son-in-law Graham and grandchildren Lyndon and Tristan. Gladys died in 1990.

Bro. Maurice Lilienthal was made a Mason on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1945 in Lodge Bellevue Hill No. 408. He was passed Fellowcraft on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1945 and raised a Master Mason on 3rd July 1945.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1959 he became a foundation steward of Lodge Cricket No. 931, where he was installed as Worshipful Master in May 1966.

He served as Senior Warden in 1974. He called off his mother lodge on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1985.

Meanwhile after a number of consolidations, he became a member of Lodge Ku-ring-gai No. 1033 where he remained until his death on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

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REFERENCE: Richard Bradley, The Sydney Morning Herald - 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.

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