By the close of the 2011/12 New Zealand cricket season there have been 583 players who

have played first class cricket for the Canterbury Cricket Association. New Zealand’s initial

first class cricket match was played on the South Dunedin Recreation Ground between

Canterbury and Otago on 27 January1864. The three day match was won by Otago by

76 runs on a wicket described by TW Reese “as a quagmire”.

Volume one is a record of the first one hundred cricketers who have played

cricket for Canterbury. It begins with Walter Cracroft Wilson who opened the batting

in the first game and who tragically died crossing a swollen Rakaia river in June 1865.

It concludes with Samuel McMurray, who was born in Ireland and who made his

debut in the February 1885 match against Otago, a match won by Otago by two wickets.

Brian Adams, a life member and a former Chairman of the Canterbury Cricket Association,

has written this history of cricket in Canterbury highlighting the players and the contribution

they made to the success of the sport in the province. With individual photos of many of the

players and their teams, the book provides a valuable insight into cricket and life in the period

from 1864 to 1885. It contains not only the player’s match by match performances but also a

close analysis of their career and their life outside of cricket.