



# MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET DAY 2 – JANUARY 31, 2025

## 2024/25 WOMEN'S ASHES TEST AUSTRALIA V ENGLAND

### The cancelled 1939/40 England tour of Australia.

An English tour of Australia and New Zealand was planned for the summer of 1939/40, extending over 10 weeks, two weeks longer than the previous English tour in 1934/35. Starting in Western Australia it would also have included matches in Tasmania, and South Australia for the first time, including a Test match in Adelaide, as well as two others in Sydney and Melbourne. After the Australian leg of the tour there would have been three matches in New Zealand, four matches in Auckland and Christchurch, with the only Test played at the Basin Reserve in Wellington.

The English team, captained again by Betty Archdale, were booked to leave England on the P&O's SS Narkunda on October 27. However, after the declaration of war with Germany the tour was officially cancelled by the Women's Cricket Association on September 11, 1939. The MCC Library is currently displaying hand written and typed version of the proposed itinerary from the collection of Mrs V Cutter, former President of both the AWCC and VWCA.



### 1948/49 England tour of Australia & New Zealand.

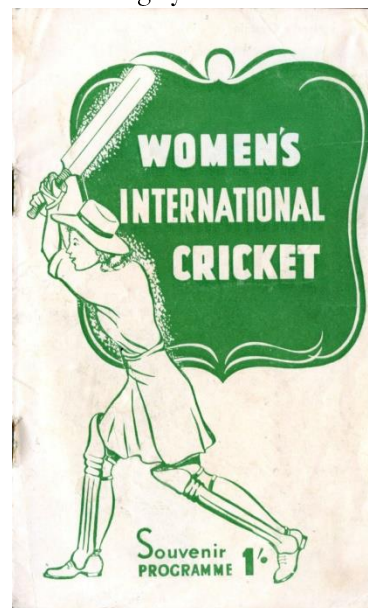
After the Second World War, international women's cricket recommenced, and the Australian women's team undertook a tour of New Zealand in February and March 1948. This included three tour matches, four first-class matches and one Test, at the Basin Reserve which Australia won by an innings and 102 runs.

The following season included the postponed tour of an English team to Australia and New Zealand, led by Mollie Hide. The Australian leg contained 19 matches: commencing with two in Western Australia against the state side and an Australian XI, the tour then travelled around the country playing five matches in New South Wales, three in Queensland, five in Victoria, three in South Australian and one in Canberra. Unfortunately the Tasmanian leg of proposed 1939/40 tour was dropped for the revived tour in 1948/49. The Tests were held in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Australia won the Ashes 1-0 due to their victory in the 1<sup>st</sup> Test at the Adelaide Oval, mainly due to the spectacular effort from all-rounder Betty Wilson.

Playing in her first Test match on Australian soil, on the opening day in front of 9159 spectators Wilson strode to the wicket joining Una Paisley with the home side 3/19. Together the Victorian pair put on a century partnership in 111 minutes. Wilson reached 111 just before the tea break, when she was unluckily run out. She then wrecked the English batting lineup taking 6/23 with her off-spinners, helping reduce England to 72 all out. Australia declared their second innings at 5/173 with Amy Hudson 81 not out, before England were all out for 128 with Wilson taking 3/39 and Australia winning by 186 runs.

**1st Test, Adelaide Oval, January 15, 17, 18 1949 (three-day match): AUSTRALIA 213** (81.3 overs) (ER Wilson 111, UL Paisley 46; ME Hide 3/24, DE McEvoy 2/43) **and 5/173 dec** (AN Hudson 81\*, UL Paisley 29, ER Wilson 22; ME Maclagan 2/42) **defeated ENGLAND 72** (84.5 overs) (MC Robinson 34; ER Wilson 6/23) **and 128** (62.3 overs) (ME Hide 30, MB Duggan 24; BN Whiteman 4/33, ER Wilson 3/39, MM Craddock 2/22) **by 186 runs.**

The second England touring team played Australia at the MCG between January 28 and 31, 1949, in the second of the three-Test series. Australia won the toss, batted and totalled 265, Joyce Christ top-scoring with 42. England, after an opening stand of 50, lost all 10 wickets for the addition of only 68 runs, Betty Wilson taking 4/25 off 21 overs. Australia declared its second innings closed with a lead of 305, Wilson and Molly Dive making 74 and 51 respectively, but the visitors held on to draw the match. Opener Myrtle Maclagan and Molly Hide contributed 77 and 51 respectively to their side's 7/171. The evergreen Maclagan had also performed splendidly against the Australians in 1935. Australian all-rounder Wilson had an outstanding match, with scores of 33 and 74, in addition to match figures of 6/62 from 46 overs. In the second innings she was also associated in a new Australian third-wicket record partnership of 123 with Dive. Progressive attendances over the three days were 2514, 4986 and 5897.



**2nd Test**, Melbourne Cricket Ground, January 28, 29 & 31 1949 (Three-day match) **AUSTRALIA 265** (112.1 overs) (JI Christ, 42, AN Hudson 39, ER Wilson 33, L Schmidt 31, BN Whiteman 30, UL Paisley 23, F McClintock 20; DM Lowe 3/34, ME Hide 2/30, WM Johnson 2/50) **and 4/158 dec** (42 overs) (ER Wilson 74, MC Dive 51; ME Maclagan 3/69) **drew with ENGLAND 118** (81.1 overs) (MC Robinson 41, ME Maclagan 36; ER Wilson 4/25, AN Hudson 3/9, UL Paisley 3/10) **and 7/171** (112 overs) (ME Maclagan 77, ME Hide 51; ER Wilson 2/37, AN Hudson 2/37).

The third Test was held at the Sydney Cricket Ground. With strong batting by the English in their two innings and the Australians in their only innings, the limit of achieving a result in three-day Test matches resulted in another draw. Therefore with their 1-0 lead in the series the Australian captain Mollie Dive had the distinction of winning the Ashes from the English team for the first time.

**3rd Test**, Sydney Cricket Ground, February 19, 21 & 22 1949 (Three-day match) **ENGLAND 172** (97.1 overs) (ME Hide 63, J Wilkinson 27, HM Sanders 20; AN Hudson 3/11, BN Whiteman 2/31, MM Craddock 2/33) **and 4/205** (115 overs) (ME Hide 124\*, MC Robinson 30, EA Snowball 22) **drew with AUSTRALIA 272** (133 overs) (AN Hudson 55, ID Laughton 47, UL Paisley 45, ER Wilson 28, L Schmidt 21, JI Christ 21, BN Whiteman 21\*; ME Maclagan 4/67, MB Duggan 2/20).

Date	Test	Match	Venue	Result	M#
01 Nov 1948		Ceylon v England	Colombo Cricket Club Ground	England won by 117 runs	wmisc500
12 Nov 1948		Western Australia v England	WACA Ground, Perth	Draw	wf95
19 Nov 1948		Australian Combined XI v England	WACA Ground, Perth	Draw	wf96
04 Dec 1948		New South Wales v England	Sydney	England won by 5 wickets	wf97
10 Dec 1948		Queensland v England	*Gabba Ground, Brisbane	England won by innings & 105 runs	wf98
14 Dec 1948		Queensland Country v England	Salter Oval, Bundaberg	Draw	wmisc1503
17 Dec 1948		Australia NZ Touring Team v England	*Gabba Ground, Brisbane	Draw	wf99
22 Dec 1948		Western New South Wales v England	Sports Ground, Bathurst	England won by 75 runs	wmisc1505
27 Dec 1948		Deniliquin v England	Memorial Park, Deniliquin	England won by 9 wickets	wmisc1506
04 Jan 1949		Victoria v England	South Melbourne Cricket Ground	Draw	wf102
08 Jan 1949		South Australia v England	Adelaide Oval	England won by innings & 125 runs	wf103
12 Jan 1949		Port Pirie Combined XI v England	Memorial Park, Port Pirie	Draw	wmisc1509
15 Jan 1949	1st	Australia v England	Adelaide Oval	Australia won by 186 runs	wt9
21 Jan 1949		Australian Junior v England	Como Park, Melbourne	England won by innings & 213 runs	wmisc1510
25 Jan 1949		MEM Peden's XI v England	South Melbourne Cricket Ground	England won by 9 wickets	wmisc1511
28 Jan 1949	2nd	Australia v England	Melbourne Cricket Ground	Draw	wt10
05 Feb 1949		Victoria Country v England	Eastern Oval, Ballarat	England won by 170 runs	wmisc1512
12 Feb 1949		Southern New South Wales v England	Manuka Oval, Canberra	Draw	wmisc1513
15 Feb 1949		Australian XI v England	Manly Oval, Sydney	Draw	wf107
19 Feb 1949	3rd	Australia v England	Sydney Cricket Ground	Draw	wt11
02 Mar 1949		Nelson v England	Trafalgar Park, Nelson	England won by 7 wickets	wmisc1515
05 Mar 1949		West Coast v England	Recreation Ground, Greymouth	England won by an innings and 64 runs	wmisc1516
08 Mar 1949		Canterbury v England	Christchurch	England won by an innings and 9 runs	wf111
09 Mar 1949		Canterbury v England - Fill-up	Christchurch	England won by 9 wickets	wmisc1518
12 Mar 1949		Otago v England	North Ground, Dunedin	England won by an innings and 316 runs	wf114
14 Mar 1949		Otago v England - Fill-up	North Ground, Dunedin	England won by 7 wickets	wmisc1520
19 Mar 1949		Wellington v England	Basin Reserve, Wellington	Drawn	wf115
22 Mar 1949		Auckland v England	Eden Park No 2, Auckland	Drawn	wf116
26 Mar 1949	Only	New Zealand v England	Eden Park, Auckland	England won by 185 runs	wt12
02 Apr 1949		Matamata v England	Matamata Domain, Matamata	England won by 8 wickets	wmisc1523

## The 1957/58 England tour of Australia and New Zealand.

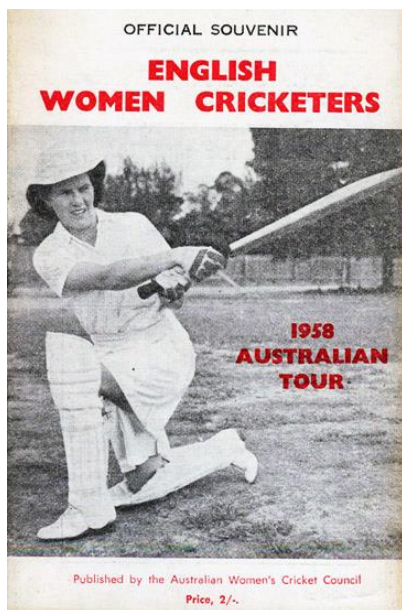
After success in the 1948/49 series, the Australian women's side returned to tour England in 1951 under the captaincy of Molly Dive. The 1st Test was drawn, however with the Australian's winning the 2nd at the Worcester County Ground by 2 wickets to go one up with one to play, they retained the Ashes. England took some pride in winning the final Test at The Oval to level the series.

The next England tour of Australia and New Zealand did not take place until the summer of 1957/58. It reversed the previous order of Australasian tours by starting in New Zealand, where two Tests were played along-side seven first-class and four tour matches. Both Tests, at Christchurch and Auckland, were drawn.

The Australian section of the tour, comprising four Tests, five first-class matches and seven tour matches started in Bathurst, NSW on January 11. After four matches in Queensland, including an Australian XI match at the Gabba, the tour returned to New South Wales for matches at Gosford, Sydney University and Goulburn before the 1st Test at North Sydney Oval. Due to torrential rain across all three days, this match was abandoned without a toss being made.

The 2nd Test at St Kilda Cricket Ground - which has become known as "The Betty Wilson Test" -, was also affected by rain, with no play on the opening day, but a sticky, treacherous wicket set up a very intriguing second day. England

sent Australia in to bat and they could only compile 38 runs, with Betty Wilson's 12 the top score. Leg spinner Mary Duggan took 7/6 off 14.5 overs. In reply England was bundled out for 35, primarily due to the bowling of Wilson who took 7/7, including the first hat-trick in women's Tests, off 10.3 overs. With the wicket improving, the Australians were able to declare at 9/202, again thanks to Wilson who scored 100 to become the first player – male or female - in the history of Test cricket to score a century and take 10+ wickets in a Test (11 wickets for 16 runs, including that hat-trick). The Australians had England 8/76 when stumps were called at the end of day 3, with the visitors holding on for a draw.



**2nd Test**, St Kilda Cricket Ground, February 21 (no play), 22 & 24 1958 (Three-day match) **AUSTRALIA 38** (43.5 overs) (ER Wilson 12; MB Duggan 7/6) **and 9/202 dec** (109.5 overs) (ER Wilson 100, J Dalton 26; JL Hawes 3/32, ER Barker 3/58, MB Duggan 2/52) **drew with ENGLAND 35** (81.1 overs) (MB Duggan 12; ER Wilson 7/7, JI Christ 2/11) **and 8/76** (64 overs) (S Driscoll 24, MC Robinson 22; ER Wilson 4/9, LR Dow 4/21).

Due to the washed out 1<sup>st</sup> Test, the Australia XI v England fixture at the Adelaide Oval was converted into a Test match, becoming the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the WACA Test became the 4<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tests (the latter the first Test to ever be held at the WACA Ground) were also drawn, and the series remained 0-0, with Australia retaining the Ashes once again.

**3rd Test**, Adelaide Oval, March 8, 10 & 11, 1958 (Three-day match) **AUSTRALIA 292** (159.3 overs) (ER Wilson 127, VL Batty 63, LR Dow 26, UL Paisley 25, JI Christ 23; H Hegarty 4/70, DI Macfarlane 4/82) **and 2/78** (59 overs) (LR Dow 30\*; I Allitt 25) **drew with ENGLAND 325** (192.4 overs) (MC Robinson 102, RE Westbrook 66, ER Barker 50\*, H Hegarty 34, S Driscoll 29; ER Wilson 6/71).

**4th Test**, WACA Ground, Perth, March 21, 22 & 24 1958 (Three-day match) **ENGLAND 6/253 dec** (121 overs) (S Driscoll 72, BD Birch 72\*, MC Robinson 35, RE Westbrook 23, OM Marshall 20\*; J Bath 2/41, ER Wilson 2/83) **and 188** (102.5 overs) (MC Robinson 96\*, ER Barker 26; J Bath 3/11, ER Wilson 2/34, JI Christ 2/55) **drew with AUSTRALIA 7/280 dec** (137 overs) (VL Batty 70, J Dalton 59\*, ER Wilson 43, NC Massey 36., UL Paisley 29; JL Hawes 2/54, H Hegarty 2/57) and 1/59 (21 overs) (NC Massey 40\*).

## England Women in Australia and New Zealand 1957/58

Date	Test	Match	Venue	Result	M#
5 Nov 1957		North Island v England	Basin Reserve, Wellington	Draw	wf271
9 Nov 1957		Canterbury v England	Hagley Oval, Christchurch	Draw	wf272
15 Nov 1957		Otago v England	North Ground, Dunedin	Draw	wf273
20 Nov 1957		Southland v England	Waverley Park, Invercargill	Draw	wmisc1578
23 Nov 1957		South Island v England	Carisbrook, Dunedin	Draw	wf274
29 Nov 1957	1st	New Zealand v England	Lancaster Park, Christchurch	Draw	wt20
4 Dec 1957		Nelson v England	Trafalgar Park, Nelson	England won by 120 runs	wmisc1576
6 Dec 1957		Wellington v England	Basin Reserve, Wellington	England won by 5 wickets	wf276
9 Dec 1957		Wanganui and Wellington v England	Cook's Gardens, Wanganui	England won by 79 runs	wmisc1574
14 Dec 1957		Auckland v England	Melville Park, Auckland	England won by 9 wickets	wf277
21 Dec 1957		Matamata v England	Bedford Park, Matamata	England won by 7 wickets	wmisc1572
27 Dec 1957	2nd	New Zealand v England	Eden Park, Auckland	Draw	wt21
1 Jan 1958		New Zealand England Touring Team v England	Cornwall Park, Auckland	Draw	wf279
11 Jan 1958		Bathurst v England	Sports Ground, Bathurst	Draw	wmisc1571
17 Jan 1958		Queensland v England	Athletic Oval, Toowoomba	England won by innings & 113 runs	wf298
18 Jan 1958		Queensland v England - Fill-up	Athletic Oval, Toowoomba	Draw	wmisc1570
22 Jan 1958		Brisbane v England	'Gabba Ground, Brisbane	England won by 85 runs	wmisc1568
24 Jan 1958		Australian XI v England	'Gabba Ground, Brisbane	England won by 10 wickets	wf299
27 Jan 1958		Metropolitan XI v England	Grahame Park, Gosford	Draw	wmisc1566
31 Jan 1958		New South Wales v England	University Oval, Sydney	England won by 9 wickets	wf300
3 Feb 1958		New South Wales XI v England	Goulburn Sportsground	England won by 43 runs	wmisc1564
7 Feb 1958	1st	Australia v England	North Sydney Oval	Match abandoned – no toss	wt21a
18 Feb 1958		Victoria v England	St Kilda Cricket Ground	Draw	wf301
21 Feb 1958	2nd	Australia v England	St Kilda Cricket Ground	Draw	wt22
28 Feb 1958		South Australia v England	Vansittart Park, Mount Gambier	England won by innings & 47 runs	wf303
1 Mar 1958		South Australia v England - Fill-up	Vansittart Park, Mount Gambier	Draw	wmisc1562
8 Mar 1958	3rd	Australia v England	Adelaide Oval	Draw	wt23
17 Mar 1958		Western Australia v England	WACA Ground, Perth	England won by 105 runs	wmisc1560
21 Mar 1958	4th	Australia v England	WACA Ground, Perth	Draw	wt24
05 Apr 1958		Ceylon v England	Colombo Oval	England won by 100 runs	wmisc504

# Betty Wilson

(Australian Women's Test Player #25)

**Elizabeth Rebecca "Betty" Wilson**

Born: 21 November 1921

Died: 22 January, 2010

Batting: Right hand bat,

Bowling: Right arm off-spin

First Test: New Zealand Women v Australia Women at Wellington, March 20-23, 1948

Last Test: Australia Women v England Women at Perth, March 21-24, 1958

Test matches: 11

## Batting & Fielding

M	I	NO	Runs	Ave	50	100	Ct	St
11	16	1	862	57.46	3	3	10	0

HS: 127 v England, 3rd Test 1957/8

## Bowling

B	M	W	Runs	Ave	SR	ER	5wi	10wm
2885	172	68	803	11.80	42.41	1.67	4	2

BBI: 7/7 v England, 2nd Test 1957/8 at Adelaide Oval

BBM: 11/16 v England, 2nd Test 1957/8 at St Kilda CG, Melbourne

**Elizabeth Rebecca "Betty" Wilson** is considered as the greatest woman cricketer of all-time and one of the game's great all-rounders regardless of gender.

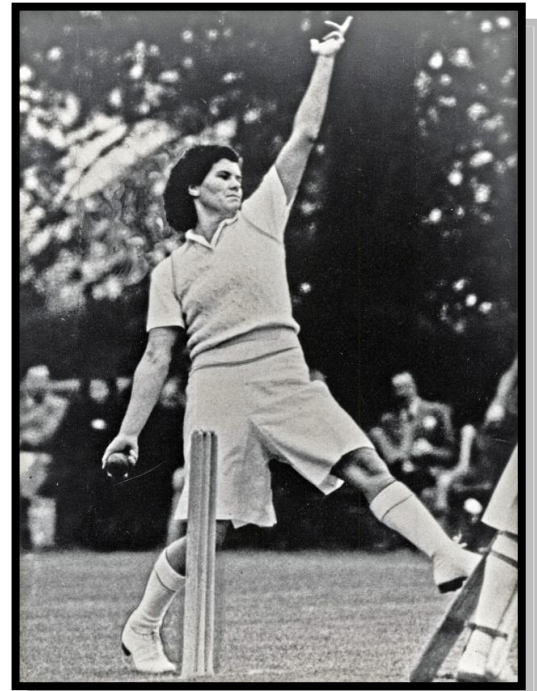
Wilson grew up in Collingwood, Victoria and learned the game by playing against a lamp post in her street. The Second World War delayed her debut Test appearance until March 1948 in New Zealand. Wilson scored 90 and took 4/37 and 6/28.

In her second Test, at the Adelaide Oval in January 1949 she scored 111, becoming the first Australian woman to score a Test century against England, and took 6/23 and 3/39.

However, it was in February 1958 during the second Test against England at St Kilda that Wilson produced her greatest all-round performance and became the first cricketer, male or female, to score a century and take 10 wickets in a Test. This included the first hat-trick in women's Tests.

Australia only played 11 Tests throughout Betty's career and in them she scored 862 runs at 57.46 and took 68 wickets at 11.80. Both of these were records when she retired. The latter remains so, with the career batting finally broken in 2003.

In 1985, she became the first woman cricketer to be inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame. In 2006 Betty was the first Australian woman to be elected as an Honorary Cricket Member of the Melbourne Cricket Club.



## Betty Wilson memorabilia at the MCG



In March 2007 Betty Wilson donated 48 items to the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum, including uniform, equipment, and ephemera relating to her international cricket career.

Her retrospective "Baggy Green Cap" awarded in 2004 is on display in the Back Yard to Baggy Green section of the Australian Sports Museum, on level B1 of the Olympic Stand.

Betty's batting pads, one of her bats, and a signed stump from the 1948/49

Women's Ashes series are all on display in the Melbourne Cricket Club Long Room, on Level 2 of the Members Stand.

The Cricketers View Rooms, on level 1 of the Members Stand has been dressed with items from across Betty's career.



Fact Sheet research by MCC Library Volunteers Rosie Bushnell, Quentin Miller, Ross Perry, Ann Rusden OAM, Ray Webster OAM, and Ian Wilkinson, assisted and edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.

Sources consulted: Wicket Women, the Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket, Wisden Cricketers' Almanac – various issues.

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