

# THE YORKER



MELBOURNE  
CRICKET CLUB

## In This Issue

The First Australians' XI

*The Cricketer* - Pakistan

Max Walker Remembered

Cricket in Port Phillip before 1851

Team Australia in Red China





MELBOURNE  
CRICKET CLUB

Level 3, Members Pavilion  
Melbourne Cricket Ground  
Yarra Park, Jolimont  
Telephone +61 3 9657 8876  
Facsimile +61 3 9654 6067  
Email [library@mcc.org.au](mailto:library@mcc.org.au)  
Mail PO Box 175 East Melbourne 8002

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*The Yorker* uses the Style Guide for MCC Library Publications. A copy of this can be viewed and downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/mccyorker>. We always welcome submissions of articles and reviews for *The Yorker*, but please adhere to the new style.

Submissions can be made to The Editor, *The Yorker*, MCC Library PO Box 175 East Melbourne 8002 or via email to [library@mcc.org.au](mailto:library@mcc.org.au)



### BACK COVER IMAGERY

The indigenous players photographed by J.F.C. Kruger, c. March 1866.

(MCC Library Collection)

Traditional names, if recorded, are bracketed.

1 - Billy Officer (Cungewarrimim). 2 - Peter (Arrahmunyarrimim or Arrahmunijarrimim). 3 - Bullocky (Bullchanach or Bullchanah). 4 - Johnny Mullagh (Unaarrimim or Muarrimim, Unarrimim). 5 - H. Jellico (Unamurrimim). 6 - Tarpot (Murrungunerrimim). 7 - Sugar. 8 - Sundown (Ballrinjarrimim). 9 - Johnny Cuzens (Yellanach or Zellanach, Zellemach). 10 - Thomas Gibson Hamilton. 11 - Neddy. 12 - Tom Wills.

(The traditional names are from John Mulvaney and Rex Harcourt, *Cricket Walkabout: The Australian Aborigines in England*, Macmillan, South Melbourne 1988, p.190).

This ball was, "Presented by the MCC to W.H. Handfield Esq. for his Excellent Bowling in the match MCC v. The Aborigines 26 Dec. 1866."

(Melbourne Cricket Club collection M12778)



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## In This Issue

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Aboriginal XI's first match at the MCG - Boxing Day 1866. To mark the occasion, this issue of *The Yorker* features articles relating to the team's formation and early matches. To recognise the current tour of Pakistan and the recent passing of Pakistan cricket great Hanif Mohammad, we look at the magazine he helped establish; *The Cricketer - Pakistan*. This issue also acknowledges the life of a great supporter of the MCC Library and prolific author, Max Walker, through a pictorial centrespread of his books. Research Officer Peta Phillips looks back at her time managing the 1984 Australian Fencing team's trailblazing tour of

## Library News

We would like to acknowledge a number of colleagues from MCC Library/MCC Archives collections who took redundancy as a result of the Collections Unit restructure in November. We farewelled the club's archivist Patricia Downs, the deputy librarian (collections) Deborah Schrader, library technician Cathy Poon and Marie Pernat who worked across both the archives and library collections.

We also acknowledge the contributions of our former administrative officer Helen Will who recently resigned. Many of the subscribers will have had contact with Helen through her management of subscriptions and mail-outs for *The Yorker* for many years.

### Access changes to items in MCC Library collection storage until Feb 2017

The MCC Archives are closed for research in preparation for moving out of MCC Library collection storage into their own collection space. During this time the opportunity is being taken for extra shelving to be installed in library storage. As such, there is restricted access to items in the Library collection storage until February 2017, with some extended periods of total closure around the install and move. However, in the meantime your library staff and volunteers in the main library will continue to provide their reference and research services for you as per normal.

For further information contact: [library@mcc.org.au](mailto:library@mcc.org.au) or call +61 3 9657 8876 and library staff will be able to discuss and confirm if there will be any impact upon

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# The First Australians' XI

## The MCG, Boxing Day, 1866

By James Brear and Lesley Smith

Melbourne has an enviable reputation for staging big events. This should not be a surprise. One hundred and fifty years ago, Melbourne was doing just that. Two noteworthy events were planned for 1866. The first, the Melbourne Exhibition, was a showcase of what Australia had to offer, new ideas in Science, Art, industrial and social progress. (Alcock's billiard tables made an appearance there). Included for the first time were other countries: New Zealand, New Caledonia, Mauritius and Netherlands India. The exhibition was held in the purpose built, magnificent Intercolonial Exhibition Building, demolished in 1910 to make way for the redevelopment of the State Library. The Exhibition began in October, 1866, and continued until the following February. It was a prelude to the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1867. In conjunction with the Melbourne Exhibition, the second big event for 1866 was the Boxing Day Cricket Match, between the Aborigines of western Victoria and the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC). Arguably, with the first international match in 1862, and the first Test match in 1877, this is one of the most important matches to be played on the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Alf Batchelder describes, in *Pavilions in the Park*, the 1860s as a time of lethargy and uncertainty at the club. No games had been played at the MCG for the three months after

Boxing Day 1865. Complaints were made over the use of "a new-fangled grass cutting machine" which produced bumpy wickets.<sup>1</sup> Worse followed when the MCC XI was humiliated by a Ballarat team, after which an advertisement appeared in *Bell's Life In Victoria* very much like the future famous Ashes obituary notice.<sup>2</sup> People were not coming to the cricket. They resented having to pay to see mediocre games, particularly after the thrill of the English teams' visits in 1862 and 1864. Hopes that an English team would be visiting, as suggested in the MCC secretary's annual report of September, 1866, were not realised.<sup>3</sup> The new football game had become a bigger attraction for the people. Furthermore, the MCC was in financial trouble, with a deficit of five hundred and ninety six pounds, nineteen shillings.<sup>4</sup> The idea of staging matches between the Aboriginal cricket team and the MCC team, at the MCG in 1866, may have been the opportunity needed to rectify a desperate situation.

As early as 1864, cricket had been introduced to the indigenous station hands in western Victoria. They played for their stations in what became a popular and competitive competition. Due to the performances of the indigenous players, a match was arranged between an indigenous side and those of European background, with victory going to the indigenous team.

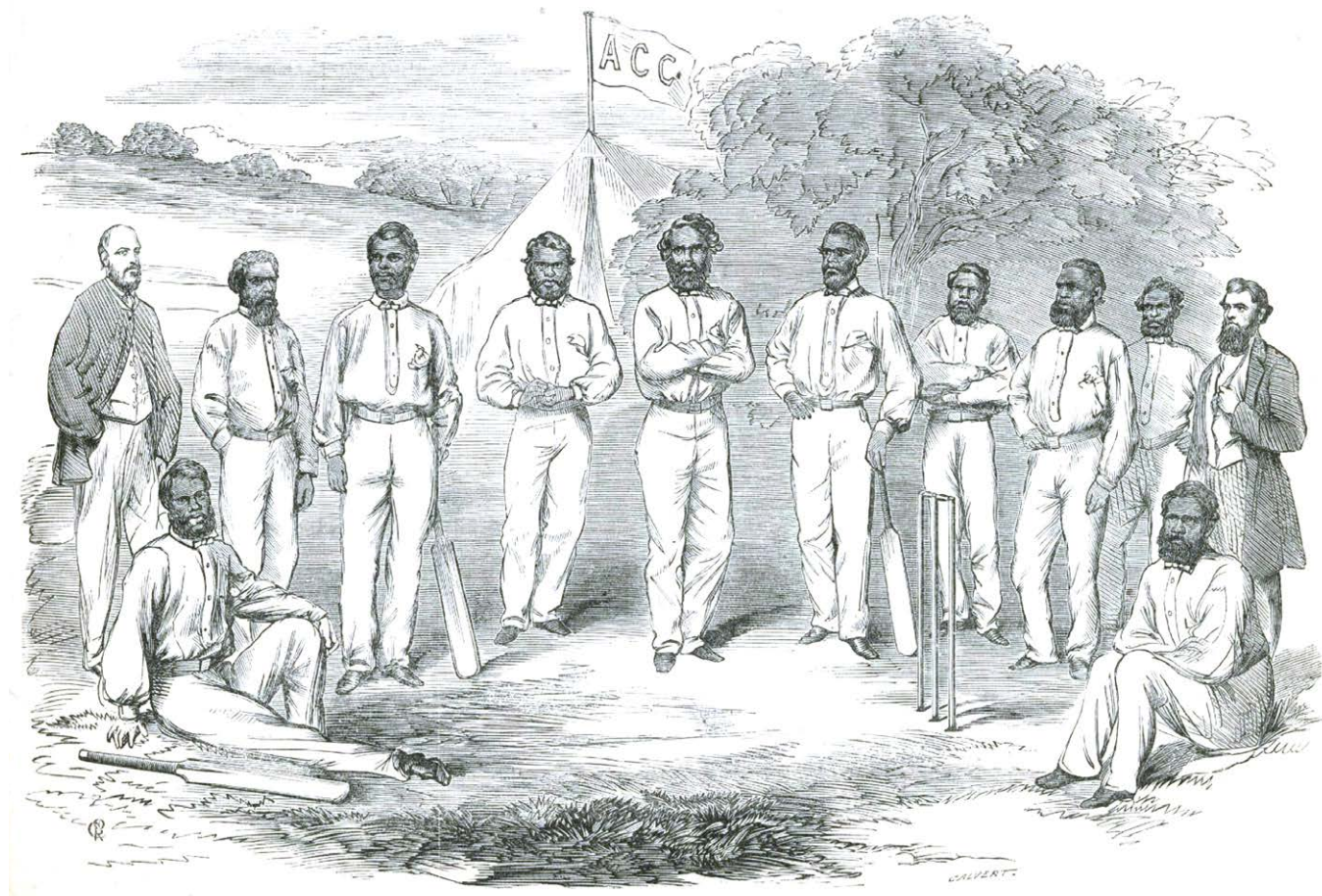
To improve their cricketing abilities further, station managers William Hayman and Tom Hamilton took the indigenous players to Edenhope each Saturday to practise with the local team. This resulted in two matches against the local club, with the indigenous team losing the first match, but winning the return battle.<sup>5</sup> This match caught the eye of the press and led to a match against the Hamilton Cricket Club in March, 1866. The indigenous side, captained by Tom Hamilton from Bringalbert



Tom Wills (far left), WEB Gurnet (top hat) and William Hayman (far right), with the team outside the MCC Pavilion in February 1867. (from [Collection of newscuttings, photographs, etc. on mainly Australian cricket and cricketers] / [compiled by Albert Gregory] volume 2 [Q797.5/3], p. 28. State Library of NSW Mitchell Library).

The authors wish to advise that no offence is intended in the use of names given to the indigenous cricketers by station managers. These names were used in the primary sources, the newspapers of the day, which we researched and quote. To avoid confusion





"Portraits of the Aborigine Cricketers" by Samuel Calvert. Left to Right: Tom Wills, Officer (seated), Sugar, Jellico, Johnny Cuzens, Neddy, Johnny Mullagh, Bullocky, Tarpot, Sundown, Peter (seated), Thomas Gibson Hamilton. *The Australian News for Home Readers*, December 20, 1866, p.1.

Station, won convincingly by 51 runs, with solid contributions from Jellico, Peter, and Johnny Cuzens.<sup>6</sup> Although they subsequently lost the match against Upper Glenelg at Balmoral on their way home to Edenhope, their performances led to speculation that they would play in Melbourne in the 1866/67 season. Portrait photographs commissioned by William Hayman and taken by Fred Kruger, while the team was in Hamilton, would be used in the coming months to promote the team.

In May, 1866, Roland Newbury had applied to the MCC for use of the ground on November 8 and 10 "for purpose of a cricket match with the native black eleven."<sup>7</sup> In the end this tentative date was not possible as the indigenous players were required by their stations for sheep shearing. Newbury was the club's "pavilion-keeper", but it is unclear whether he acted alone or in concert with other sponsors. Permission was not immediately forthcoming, with Newbury's letter held over until the committee meeting on August 7 when, "after some discussion, it was resolved to accede to his request."<sup>8</sup> Following the postponement for shearing, Newbury applied again, in November, "for the use of the ground on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> December for the purpose of a match between eleven Aborigines of the Colony and the Melbourne Cricket Club, the said R. Newbury offering 25 pounds for the three days named."<sup>9</sup>

To assist the indigenous players in their preparations and to captain the team, Tom Wills left for Lake Wallace on November 20. He caught the steamer to Portland and then travelled inland to Edenhope. Wills found the indigenous cricketers "shape well. I give them six hours a day, good hard work... This is a fact, not bad, eh? Mullagh is a fine

bat. The blacks field splendidly and by the 26<sup>th</sup> will be good average bats."<sup>10</sup> It appears likely that Wills was paid for his work (given his parlous financial situation) but it is unclear by whom. Wills saw the indigenous players in a different light to the aborigines of Cullin-la-Ringo in Queensland. They had massacred 19 on the family property, among them Tom's father, Horatio Wills. Greg de Moore, in his definitive work on Tom Wills, wrote that "Tom seemed to draw a distinction between the aborigines of Victoria and those of Queensland - none of his correspondence about the cricket team even hinted at the antipathy he still felt towards the Cullin-la-Ringo aborigines."<sup>11</sup> The Cullin-la-Ringo aborigines spoke a different language and were a different people to those of western Victoria, whom Tom had known and played with in his childhood days.

After two weeks of training, in early December Tom's team played against Lake Wallace. An odds match, the sixteen of Lake Wallace could only muster 34 runs against the indigenous side's 170. Mullagh was the star, taking 6 wickets and making 81 runs. On December 7 Wills' team played a return match against Lake Wallace, and again emerged victorious. Although Lake Wallace restricted their opponents to 85, Mullagh again starred with the ball taking 8 wickets and bowling out Lake Wallace for a meagre 47.<sup>12</sup> On Saturday December 15, the indigenous side played their third and final match against all-comers in the Edenhope area. They were without the star of the first two matches, Mullagh, who had hurt his hand, and they did not field well due to the heat, but still ran out comfortable victors having scored 164 in one innings, to the locals 95 in two innings.<sup>13</sup> At some point in time between these last two matches, the team lost one of





their original members, with the death of Sugar.<sup>14</sup> Ned also could not make the trip to Melbourne, resulting in new players joining the team, Lake Billy, Dick, Watty and Paddy.

News of the team's abilities quickly reached Melbourne. "As they have advanced so rapidly, and their prowess with the willow and leather has become so notorious, the match committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club have selected the strongest team at their command."<sup>15</sup> Roland Newbury prepared for the Boxing Day match by auctioning off the rights to the three refreshment booths at the ground. While this reduced his capacity to make a large profit, it also reduced his risk by covering his ground fee and advertising expenses. Should the public not turn up or the match be cancelled due to inclement weather, Newbury would not face a financial loss. He received a total of 51 pounds and 10 shillings for the rights to sell refreshments in the pavilion and two other refreshment booths.<sup>16</sup>

To introduce the Aboriginal team to the wider community *The Australian News for Home Readers* published their portraits on the front page of the December 18 edition. This paper considered that "the non-arrival of an English cricketing team... has been compensated for by the completion of arrangements which will afford to the Victorian lovers and admirers of the "good old English game" a genuine sensation, as it will supply a more striking novelty than the play of any English Eleven."<sup>17</sup> Large placards advertising the match were placed around the town, and "in a great many shop windows in town, there are frames containing the likenesses of the black eleven with their names underneath."<sup>18</sup>

Wills and the team left Dunkeld early on Thursday, December 20. They attempted to stay at the Ripon Hotel at Skipton on Thursday night but were refused accommodation. Wills told *The Ballarat Star* that they were refused because of the lateness of the hour, midnight, when they arrived at Skipton. The publican, James Tucker, had a different version of the story and immediately fired off a letter to the same paper. His letter, published on Christmas Day, claimed that Wills had not made a booking and that the hotel was booked out on the night in question. Furthermore coach passengers normally stayed at Streatham, and this is where Mr. Tucker believed Wills should have sought accommodation.<sup>19</sup> The team arrived in Ballarat on Friday morning, had a brief practice on Eastern Oval to generate some publicity and left for Melbourne on the evening train. *The Age* correspondent in Ballarat thought them

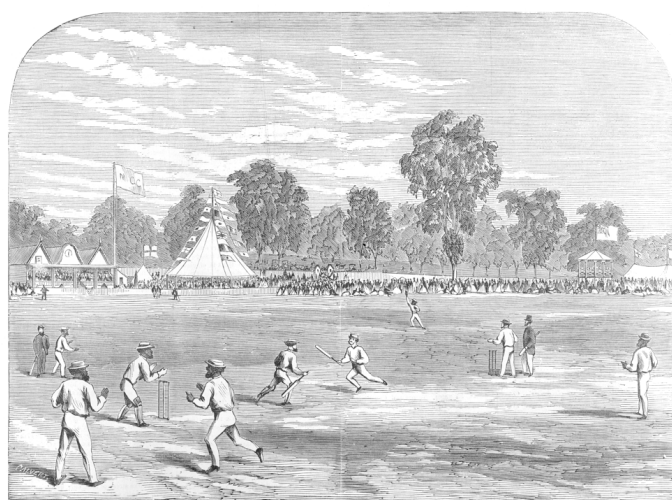
"a fine body of men... and, according to the way in which they handled bat and ball this afternoon, the eleven of Melbourne will meet with "foemen worthy of their steel".<sup>20</sup>

Upon arrival in Melbourne the team stayed at Higgs' Royal Hotel in Richmond. Due to a match between the MCC and the Prince of Wales Club being played on the MCG on Saturday, Wills' team practiced on the Richmond Cricket Ground morning and afternoon before a large number of interested spectators. *The Argus* reported they "gave good evidence of the progress they have made under the direction of Mr. T.W Wills."<sup>21</sup> In the evening they were entertained at the Haymarket Theatre. The Christmas pantomime, "Princess Primrose and the Four Pretty Princes", delighted the novice theatre-goers, especially the clown and pantaloone.<sup>22</sup>

On Boxing Day the match was the premier outdoor attraction, aided by warm but stormy weather. *The Age* estimated 10,000 attended, compared to between three and four thousand on Boxing Day, 1865, for the Grand Match between NSW and Victoria. The majority of the crowd supported the indigenous players. This was in no small way helped by the MCC electing "two of the best players in the colony honorary members of their association, in order to secure their assistance on the occasion."<sup>23</sup> *The Age* was scathing in its report. "There were 400 members of the Melbourne Club against 14 aborigines, and these were not enough to select from. At the eleventh hour it was thought necessary to elect James and Horan, one of the best bowlers and perhaps the best bat in the colony." *Bell's Life in Victoria* thought that the crowd's treatment of the MCC players "had the effect of spoiling in a great measure the pleasure of the match, and it produced a display of bad feeling that we hope never again to witness on a Victorian cricket field."<sup>24</sup> Roland Newbury issued cards at the ground listing the colour of the broad ribbons the indigenous players would wear on their hats so that they may be recognized. Captained by Wills, the team consisted of Bullocky, Cuzens, Dick, Jellico, Mullagh, Officer, Paddy, Peter, Sundown, and Tarpot.

Wills lost the toss and Richard Wardill had no hesitation in sending the indigenous side in to bat. Cuzens and Bullocky opened the batting. James, the centre of much ill-feeling before the match, opened the bowling. Cuzens was out, caught at third man by future club secretary Curtis Reid, off the very first ball. The occasion may have been too overwhelming as Wills' side was only able to make a total of 39, 30 of those runs coming from Bullocky and Mullagh. James took 3 wickets for 13 runs, but it was Handfield with 7 for 5 who did the damage. In reply the MCC could only manage 100, with Wardill contributing 45. Cuzens starred with the ball, taking six wickets for 24. On the second day, in their second innings the indigenous players fared much better. Mullagh again top scored with 33, and he was supported by captain Wills with 25 not out, the total 87. Handfield was again a problem taking 4 for 31. This left the MCC 27 runs for victory, which they achieved for the loss of just one wicket. The crowd was naturally less than the first day but was still in the vicinity of 3000 to 4000.

When the match ended there was time to spare, more than a day. To satiate the enthusiasts another match was hastily arranged between the Australian-born natives, both black and white, and other members of the MCC, grandly titled *The Natives v. The World*. The Natives were first to bat, but could only manage 65 runs, Bullocky and Wills both making 13. In reply *The World* scored 132, with Cuzens again the best performed bowler, 6 for 36.<sup>25</sup> The



THE ABORIGINAL CRICKET MATCH ON THE M.C.C. GROUND. — SEE PAGE 6.

Left: "The Aboriginal cricket match on the MCC ground", by Samuel Calvert. *The Illustrated Melbourne Post*, January 24, 1867, p.8.





Natives commenced a second innings, but time was the enemy of all and the match was declared a draw.

The three days had been a great cricketing success. *The Australasian* reported that "Of all the cricket matches hitherto played in this colony, none probably has excited more curiosity and interest than that between an aboriginal eleven and eleven of the Melbourne Club."<sup>26</sup> The indigenous players had attracted a large crowd, their play was universally admired, especially the batting of Mullagh and the bowling of Cuzens. Mullagh played with an injured hand that probably affected both his batting and bowling, and may explain why Wills bowled so many balls himself, 84 to Mullagh's 48, both men taking 2 for 35.<sup>27</sup> Still, members of the MCC were so impressed with Mullagh's performance that a subscription was raised to buy him a new bat.<sup>28</sup> Although Richard Wardill batted extremely well for his 45, the difference between the two sides was really the 11 wicket match performance of William Handfield. The indigenous players probably had little experience against his type of slow bowling, as their main practice had been against Wills, round arm medium fast. In addition, had they been able to bowl first instead of bat, the result may have been much closer.

Praise was also forthcoming for Wills' coaching. One cricket supporter, in a letter to *The Age*, wrote that "Mr. Wills has no doubt discovered their forte – cricket." Criticising missionaries' failed attempts to Christianise the indigenous population, he continued, "Would it not be quite as well to expend the funds...in teaching them to play cricket...it will be admitted on all sides that it is better to be a good cricketer than a bad Christian."<sup>29</sup> Wills was successful in enhancing the already considerable cricketing skills of the indigenous cricketers as he treated them with respect, speaking to them "in their own lingo."<sup>30</sup> This was also a source of amusement for the team. When Jellico asked a gentleman to teach him to read and write English, as he was soon to depart for England, he was referred to Mr. Wills as a good teacher. Jellico promptly replied, "What usy Wills. He too much along of us. He speak nothing now but blackfellow talk."<sup>31</sup> William Hayman and the other station managers in western Victoria were complimented as well, one such compliment coming from the indigenous players themselves. Referring to the poor manners displayed by many spectators in pushing and shoving to get close to the team, Cuzens remarked to Bullocky, "Dese Melbourne people got no manners!" to which Bullocky replied, "Manners! How they know about manners, they never on a

Tom Wills and team members in front of the MCC Pavilion. Standing Left to Right: King Cole (Bripumyarrimin, or Bripokki, Brippokeil), Tarpot (Murrungunerrimin), Tom Wills, Johnny Mullagh (Unaarrimin or Muarrinin, Unarrimin), Dick-a-Dick (Jungumjenanuke or Jungunjinanuke). Seated: H. Jellico (Unamurrimin), Peter (Arrahmunyarrimun or Arrahmunijarrimun), Redcap (Brimbunyah or Britabunyah), Harry Rose (Hingingairah), Bullocky (Bullchanach or Bullchanah), Johnny Cuzens (Yellanach or Zellanach, Zellemach). Often mislabelled, this photograph, as with that on page 3, was taken by Messrs. Paterson Bros. in February 1867. *The Argus*, February 9, 1867, p.5. (Melbourne Cricket Club Collection, M81).

## TO T. WILLS, ESQ. PER FAVOUR OF THE EMPIRE.

*The Empire*, Sydney, February 27, 1867, p.5.

Sir,- Although you may not be fully aware of the fact, allow me to tell you that you have rendered a greater service to the aboriginal races of this country and to humanity, than any man who has hitherto attempted to uphold the title of the blacks to rank amongst men. You have shown that the aborigines did not deserve the foul treatment they have received at the hands of the whites; that they were capable of improvement and that they could rise high when an opportunity of rising was afforded them. Your success is a standing reproof to the civilising system we have hitherto adopted; and if you take your intelligent aborigines to Britain, where men have learned from us to regard the ancient races of this country as no better than brutes, a cry of shame will ring from one end of civilised Europe to the other against our injustice and brutality. Your's are not picked men; for long ago the men you would have picked have been shot down like dogs by the usurpers of their hunting grounds, who, led on by the demon of greediness and gain, wantonly destroyed the old occupants of their runs, and bold humanity so cheap that they proved themselves, and not their victims, to be the very basest of God's creatures. Now, you will come in for no inconsiderable share of this well-merited odium, if you appear to our fellow countrymen at home to treat with ridicule your aboriginal team. And you will appear to deserve your share of this reproach no more effectually than by continuing the practice of nicknaming your men. Have not those blacks names of their own, that you call one Tarpot, another Bullocky, and a third Lake Billy, Cuzens, Peter, or Dick-a-Dick? At first the blacks will appear ridiculous; but the first impressions will soon wear off, and all the ridicule will, eventually, be levelled at yourself. Finish properly the work you have commenced, and cause our barbarian nicknames to give place to the more legitimate and euphonious names by which your men are all known to each other, and by which they were called when they received the spear at the age of manhood in the secret meetings of their nearly obliterated tribes. For your own sake I recommend this step as well as for the sake of the country which, like myself, you have the honor to be

A NATIVE.





station.”<sup>32</sup> The station managers, principally Tom Hamilton, and especially William Hayman, had instilled in their charges a calm demeanour and quiet confidence that the colonists had not seen before in the indigenous population. Hayman was forever at their side as manager, mentor, friend and umpire.

On Saturday, December 30, the indigenous team and reserves, Lake Billy and Watty, returned to the MCG. The Amateur Athletic Sports Committee, chaired by H.C.A. (Colden) Harrison, had organized a 10 event program for both cricket teams and the best amateur athletes in the colony. The events were quite diverse, ranging from a running backwards 100 yard race, to throwing the cricket ball, a 150 yard race for the elevens, and “vaulting with the pole”. Although the events were for “amateurs”, prize money was awarded for each event. Incredibly, Mullagh was entered for nine of the ten events, Tarpot and Cuzens, 8 apiece, such was their athletic abilities. By contrast, C.O. Barrass, one of the colony’s champion “pedestrians”, entered for only five of a possible nine events, not being eligible to run in the cricketers’ 150 yard handicap race.

In front of approximately 4000 spectators, Tarpot was the outstanding athlete on the day. He won three events, the 100 yards running backwards, the long jump, and 150 yards hurdles. In addition he tied for first place with Harrison in the running high jump, both men clearing 5 ft. 3 inches. Bullocky won the cricket ball throwing event with a throw of 91 yards, 2 ft. and 6 inches, and Cuzens the 150 yards flat race, while Mullagh tied with Selby in the standing high jump. With five outright victories and shared spoils in two other events, Wills’ team had clearly shown their athletic superiority.<sup>33</sup>

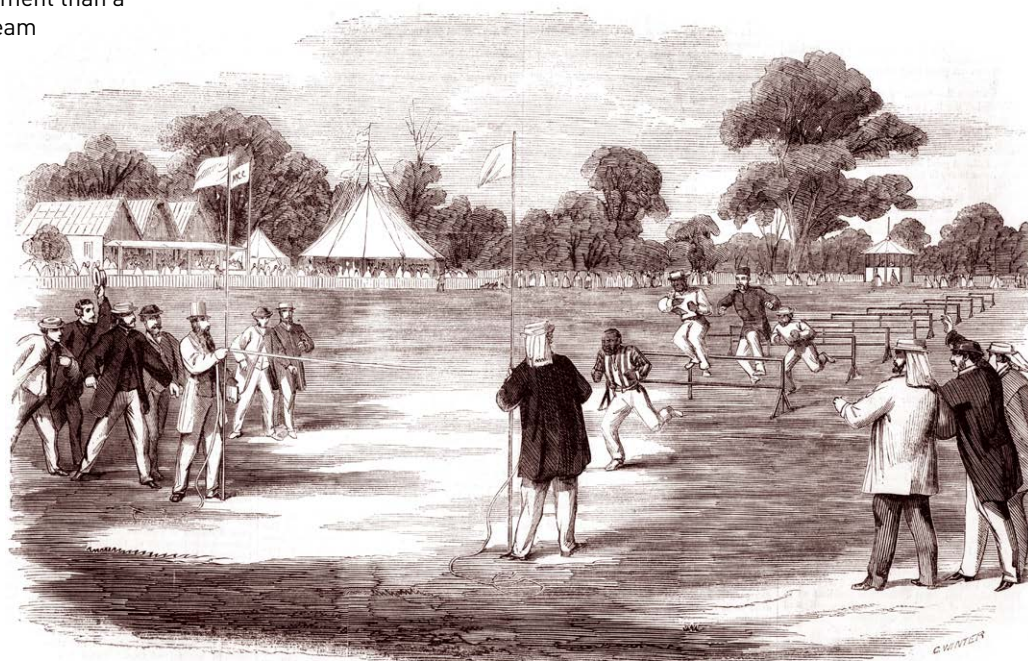
After cricket and athletics, on Monday December 31, it was time to try a new sport – lawn bowls! Wills and nine of the team accepted an invitation from the Fitzroy Bowling Club to play a number of friendly matches on its Victoria Parade green. A large number of spectators were present; such was the new found fame of the indigenous players. Great interest was shown in how the players would take to a sport they had never tried before, “with Tarpot, Dick and Jellicoe particularly successful.”<sup>34</sup> For the players’ part they “appeared interested and delighted” with the intricacies of the biased bowl, in what was “more of an entertainment than a competition.”<sup>35</sup> That night the team appeared on stage at the Princess Theatre, where not only Mullagh, but also Cuzens, “were presented with prize bats and balls, the contribution of a few members of the Melbourne Cricket Club, in recognition of the excellence of their play.”<sup>36</sup>

The First Australians’ XI then left Melbourne for an exhaustive tour commencing with a match against the Corio Cricket Club in Geelong, on Friday January 4, 1867. They returned to

the MCG for a return match on February 8. This was to be a farewell benefit with proceeds going to the indigenous players, as it had been announced that they would be departing for Sydney, en route to England on Monday, February 11.<sup>37</sup> The match was initially to be against the MCC, but owing to the unavailability of many players, the name of the team was changed to the County of Bourke. *The Australasian* reported that this was due to “the disgraceful conduct on the part of many of the spectators on Boxing Day towards several of our leading players.” “The secretary of the MCC was driven to his wit’s end by the number of refusals he met with – all the ‘cracks’ backing out of it.”<sup>38</sup> With this problem and a lack of publicity there were only a few hundred spectators present to witness an absorbing contest. Wills’ team was without Mullagh, Officer and Sundown who were replaced by Lake Billy, Harry Rose and Charley, the latter two having joined the team in late January. A competitive 154 was compiled, Wills 37, Paddy and Tarpot 22 each. In reply the County of Bourke made 151, Wills taking 8 wickets. On day two the crowd improved to around 1500. They witnessed Cuzens make a solid 49, the team total 134, setting the County of Bourke 138 for victory. Although A’Beckett made 35 not out, they were not in the hunt. Cuzens took three wickets, two catches, and for good measure made a stumping, while Wills completed a fine match with four wickets. The County of Bourke was all out for 70, losing by 68 runs.

On Thursday February 14, 1867, the team sailed on the *City of Melbourne* to Sydney. It would be, however, another 15 months before they reached England, in May, 1868. During this time there would be many adventures and mis-adventures, additions and changes of personnel, including the replacement of Tom Wills as coach with Charles Lawrence. Of the team that played against the MCC on Boxing Day, 1866, six players, Mullagh, Cuzens, Bullocky, Sundown, Dick and Peter were to grace the cricket grounds of England, as members of the first Australian cricket team to tour overseas. The First Australians’ XI had become the first Australian XI.

(Endnotes on page 12)



Right: “Athletic Sports at Melbourne”, by C.T. Winter, *The Australian News for Home Readers*, January 28, 1867, p.8.

ATHLETIC SPORTS AT MELBOURNE.—SEE PAGE 10.





# The Aboriginal Cricketers at the MCG on Boxing Day 1866

By Jim Blair



Of the 10 Aboriginal cricketers who took to the field at the MCG on Boxing Day, 1866, most originated from stations in the vicinity of Lake Wallace and Edenhope. This wide area in Victoria's Western District was encompassed by an imaginary line connecting Hamilton, with Casterton, Naracoorte, Kaniva, and Horsham, and back to Hamilton.<sup>39</sup> David Sampson, who relied on the research of Ian Clark, a noted scholar of western Victorian Aboriginal languages, described the Aborigines who comprised the team as being mostly born in the 1840s and from the Gunditjmarara (or Dhauwurd), Wotjbaluk (or Wergaia) and Jardwadjali peoples.<sup>40</sup> John Mulvaney and Rex Harcourt referred to these "tribes" as Madimadi and Wutjubalak, but they may be more correctly described as languages.<sup>41</sup> Sampson again drew on Clark to contend that Madimadi was a dialect of either Jardwadjali or perhaps Wergaia.<sup>42</sup>

Several white settlers at a variety of stations in this region, such as Benayeo (D. McLeod and W.G. Groom), Bringalbert (T. Hamilton), Brippick (A.A. Cowell), Hynam (T. Smith), Lake Wallace (W. R. Hayman), Mortat (W. Douglas), Pine Hill (David Edgar) and Mullagh (J.C. Fitzgerald)<sup>43</sup> taught Aborigines how to play cricket. However, it was William Hayman who consolidated the team and enticed Tom Wills to coach the players prior to sending them off on a tour. This included several matches at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) and a tour to New South Wales. Hayman also managed the tour in 1868 with Charles Lawrence, an English cricket professional, who came out with H.H. Stephenson's tour in 1861/62.

## **Bullocky Bullchanach or Bullchanah<sup>44</sup>**

It is unknown where Bullocky was born, but he was working in C.M. Officer's property at Mount Talbot in 1864. It was there he learned the rudiments of cricket, and soon after he was playing for the Balmoral Cricket Club.



He was regularly described as a burly large man, although he apparently stood only 163 centimetres tall. He played in the Boxing Day match in 1866 against the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) and then played an inter-colonial match at the MCG between Victoria and Tasmania. The next year, Bullocky was on the tour to England. He was an opening batsman and wicket-keeper, and on the tour he was fourth in the batting averages. Along with Mullah, Cuzens and Redcap,<sup>45</sup> Bullocky compared favourably with some of the noteworthy cricketers in England at the time. He was not a very good runner, however, being run out in 13 of his 60 innings.

Bullocky was regarded as a heavy drinker and his absence in the second innings of a game played at Lord's did nothing for his reputation. After the tour he appears to have been an itinerant worker. He spent some time at the Murray River and played cricket for Corowa, where "Bullocky, or a black professed to be Bullocky" would beg for beer money.<sup>46</sup> He moved to the Lake Condah reserve in 1873. He may have moved there to avoid the temptation of alcohol, for it was noted later that his health and complexion had been greatly restored.<sup>47</sup> He lived at the mission until his death in 1890 at the age of 53.



## **Johnny Cuzens (Cousins) Yellanach or Zellanach, Zellemach**

After Mullagh, Cuzens is regarded as the second best cricketer of the Aborigines who came from the Wimmera in the 1860s. He emanated from the Balmoral area and is said to have learned to bat with a hurdle bar. He was small at 155 cm tall and very lightly built. In the Boxing Day match against the MCC he was out first ball. However, he took six wickets for 24 runs. He later went on the tour to New South Wales. On return from the tour he scored 49 in a match witnessed by the Duke of Edinburgh. He also played in the inter-colonial game that summer for Victoria against Tasmania. Cuzens went on



the tour to England with Lawrence in 1868. There, he played in 46 of the 47 matches. He averaged 19.9 with the bat, second only to Mullagh. He took 114 wickets at an average of 11.3. W.G. Grace is quoted by Mulvaney and Harcourt as praising Mullagh and Cuzens for their "very good all-round form".<sup>48</sup>

On return from the tour, Cuzens was employed as a professional by the MCC during the 1869/70 season, for twenty weeks at one pound per week. He played in only six Second XI matches and after his contract was terminated in March, he was given nine pounds to return home.<sup>49</sup> Back in the Western District, board regulations now applied. These required that Aborigines should live on reserves in conjunction with missions. He resided at Framlingham where he died in 1871. A Warrnambool well-wisher notified his death to the MCC, and requested a financial contribution for a "decent burial". The MCC declined, pleading that the club's funds would not permit it, and he therefore was given a public funeral by the police.<sup>50</sup>

### "Newharper" Dick

Little is known of Dick. He has been confused with a far more famous member of the team Dick-a-Dick (see page 30 – often Dick-a-Dick has mistakenly been named as a member of the side that played on Boxing Day 1866). Dick was one of five members of the team that became ill and was unable to play on January 18-19, 1867 against Bendigo. One of the replacements recruited from the Western District was Dick-a-Dick (along with Harry Rose) – hence the confusion. Later on the tour, Dick and Dick-a-Dick played in the same XI against the Albert Cricket Club in Sydney on March 12. Tom Wills' scorecard for the Boxing Day 1866 match may shed light on Dick's origins. Wills referred to Dick as "Newharper Dick". Newharper, also known as Neuarpur, is in the Wimmera, near the South Australian border.

### H. Jellico Unamurrimin

There is little information about Jellico. We know that he was at Bringalbert station, taught cricket by Tom Hamilton, and was recruited for the match at the MCG on Boxing Day. He, at 175 centimetres was, along with Johny Mullagh, the tallest of the team. Jellico was the crowd favourite. Evidently a youthful humorist, he endeared himself to the crowd, and a newspaper thought him worth featuring under the heading "Black jokes". When a European addressed him in broken English, Jellico was reported as responding "What for you no talk to me good Inglis. I speak him as good Inglis belonging you." Having settled with the fan, Jellico turned to Tarpot, saying, "Big one fool that fellow. He not know him Inglis one damn." When someone suggested that Jellico ask Wills to teach him to read and write, Jellico said: "What usy Wills. He too much along of us. He speak nothing now but blackfellow talk." Newspaper reporters loved speaking with Jellico. Little wonder, when he came up with this gem in the wake of all the general conversation about Melbourne's scorching weather: "I spoil my complexion. When I go back, my mother won't know me."<sup>51</sup> He continued with the tour to New South Wales, but on returning to Bringalbert, he contracted pneumonia and died aged 21.



### Johnny Mullagh Unaarrimin, Unarrimin or Muarrinim

Johnny Mullagh is probably the best known of the 1860s Aboriginal cricketers. *The Hamilton Spectator* described him in his obituary as "the [W.G.] Grace of Aboriginal cricketers". There is now a cricket museum in Harrow named the Harrow Discovery Centre & Johnny Mullagh Interpretive Centre in his honour. Mullagh was born around 1843 and was a groom at Pine Hill station before moving to the Fitzgerald property at Mullagh. There he was taught cricket by David Edgar. He soon appeared with the Aboriginal side. He took five wickets against Hamilton and top scored against Balmoral en route to the Boxing Day match at the MCG, where he top scored in the second innings with 33 runs. Mullagh also toured England with the 1868 Aborigines, where he played with great distinction. He averaged 23.65 with the bat, and scored 94 against Reading. He took 245 wickets at an average of 10.00.

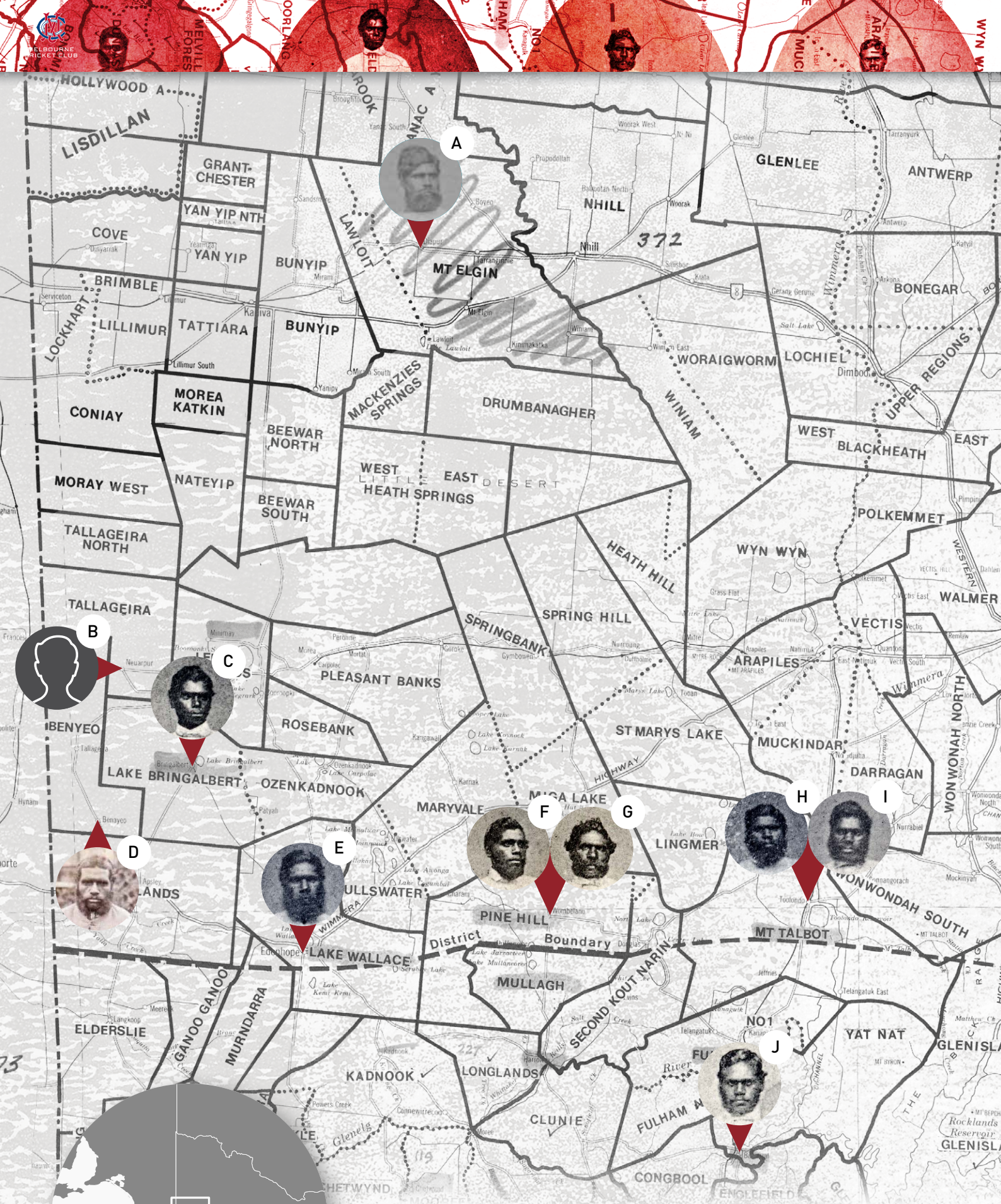
Soon after his return to Australia, Mullagh became a professional for the MCC. He only played eight matches, with a top score of 69 not out. He was second in the club's batting averages and was selected for an inter-colonial match against New South Wales. He took ill before the game, however, and returned to Harrow. There, he played club cricket until 1890. His form there was such that he was chosen to play for Victoria against Lord Harris' team in March, 1879. He top scored in the second innings with 36 runs. This was his only first class match.

Mullagh led a solitary life, apart from his cricket. He had a small hut just outside the Pine Hill station from where he made a living as a rabbitier. James Edgar found his body at his bush camp known as "Johnny's Dam" on August 14, 1891. He was buried with his bat and stumps, and each Harrovian cricketer threw a sprig of blackberries and yellow flowers into his grave, symbolising the club colours. In the cemetery, on a hill above the Harrow hamlet, his grave, with a neat headstone inscription and iron railings, stands apart from the other graves. There is a memorial, erected through a subscription fund, on the sports ground – "Mullagh's Oval". It is a pink granite obelisk, surmounted with an urn. On one side is his English tour average of 23.65 and on the other his Murray Cup average of 45.7.<sup>52</sup>



**Facing Page Top Left:** Johnny Mullagh.  
**Facing Page Top Right:** Johnny Cuzens, c.1869.  
**Right:** The Johnny Mullagh Memorial at Harrow





Map based on three pages from Robert Spreadborough and Hugh Anderson's *Victorian Squatters*, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale (Vic), 1983. MCC Library's copy annotated by Rex Harcourt. (Rex Harcourt Collection, MCC Library)

- A.** Dick-a-Dick - Jungumjenajuke, also Jungunjinanuke **B.** "Newharper" Dick  
**C.** H. Jellico - Unamurrimin **D.** Jimmy Tarpot - Murrungunerrimin **E.** Peter - Arrahmunyarrimun or Arrahmunijarrimun **F.** Johnny Mullagh - Unaarrimin, Unarrimin or Muarrimin **G.** Sundown - Ballrinjarrimin **H.** Bullocky - Bullchanach or Bullchanah **I.** Billy Officer - Cungewarrimim **J.** Johnny Cuzens - Yellanach or Zellanach, Zellemach



# The Aboriginal Cricketers

*The Leader*, February 16, 1867. p.21.

A correspondent of the Hamilton Spectator furnishes some interesting facts, with the view of showing who first inducted the aboriginal team into the mysteries of cricket. What he says is at all events new, and may be true:— "Mullah, the keen-eyed batsman and peculiar bowler, was first initiated into the rudiments of cricket when acting as groom to Mr Edgar, of Pine-hills station. Mr Edgar's tutor, Mr Burville, acting upon his Kentish instincts, would have, summer, or winter, his quantum of his county's amusement, and to increase his numbers enlisted Black Johnny (as he was then called) as fielder. By and by, Johnny got batting also, and so good did he become, that even scientific Kentish bowling couldn't get him out. Johnny's quarters now changed to Mr Fitzgerald's station, 'Mullah,' from whence he derives his name. Fortunately at this time Mr Edgar's oldest son returned from the Scotch College, Melbourne, and getting Black Johnny (now Johnny Mullah) over, he tried some of his Scotch College fast round-arm bowling at him. What Kent couldn't do, the terrible round-arm accomplished — poor Johnny's bails were, to his intense astonishment, sent flying everywhere. At last Mr Edgar, jun., taught him the mysteries of round-arm bowling and gradually Johnny Mullah, with a little aid, learned to bat and bowl in the orthodox style. For years his tuition continued thus, until at last even Scotch College tactics couldn't get him out; but black tactics somehow used to administer the *coup da grace* to the Melbourne player. Bullocky learnt under the able tuition of Mr Chas. Officer, a gentleman who thoroughly understands what cricket is. Cuzens was taught by Mr David Affleck, Rose Bank Station, in whose employment he was for years. He had a great deal of fielding there, and to this is owing his ability to cover a 'lot of ground.' Tarpot was initiated into the cricketing condition by Mr McLeod, Benyeo. Sundown was taught at Maryvale, and the remainder at different stations in the neighborhood. A number of them, Jellico, &c, &c, being taught by Mr Tom Hamilton, Bringalbert. I have thus rapidly sketched the origin of the blackfellows' knowledge of cricket. The only one Mr Hayman may have taught is Peter; but, to my certain knowledge, Peter was a fair cricketer before Mr Hayman came to the country, and I rather think Peter taught him. They are, upon the whole, perhaps the best team of cricketers in the colony; but had a few of them received the tuition that Johnny Mullah and Cuzens have had no team in Australia could have matched them."



**Billy Officer**  
**Cungewarrimim**

Billy Officer came from the Mount Talbot station, along with Bullocky. He must have had some connection with C.M. Officer, the owner of Mount Talbot. His cricket prowess was not as proficient as Bullocky's, but he was chosen for the Boxing Day match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Not much more is known about him. He went on the tour to Sydney in 1867. Billy Officer appeared in Edenhope court in relation to being served grog in 1868. Four years later he was living at Lake Condah with his wife. It must be inferred from the absence of his name in later records, that he died in 1874 or 1875.<sup>53</sup>

**Paddy**  
**Pappinjurumun**

Paddy "The Slogger" was a late inclusion for the Aboriginal team that played at Boxing Day in 1866. Little is known about him or his origins. He went on the tour to Sydney in 1867 and returned to play the second match at the MCG in February 1867 where he was described as "Paddy, the slogger, hit away hard and fast." On his return from New South Wales, he contracted pneumonia and died shortly after.



**Peter**  
**Arrahmunyarrimun or Arrahmunijarrimun**

Peter came from Lake Wallace, the Hayman property. William Reginald Hayman (1842-1899) was a prominent promoter of the Edenhope cricket club. Peter was included in the first game for the club. He went on to play in the Boxing Day match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, sponsored by Hayman. He subsequently went on the ill-fated tour to Sydney and then on the famous tour of England in 1868. His form was poor and he made 17 ducks in 59 innings. His main achievement on the tour seemed to be a dogged innings for 4 in 60 minutes in the first match of the tour against a strong Surrey side.

A.A. Cowell of Brippick station, Boorookpi, and later of Neuarcurr in the Apsley district, acted unofficially as a local guardian for many elderly Aboriginals, with great compassion. It is thought that Peter may have been accommodated there, but as Peter was a common Aboriginal name we cannot be certain it was him. Cowell described him in 1881 as an old man.



**Sundown**  
**Ballrinjarrimin**

Sundown came from Pine Hill station and played with the Edenhope Cricket Club. In the Boxing Day match at the MCG, he scored a duck in both innings. He then toured Sydney with Tom Wills and again failed to score in five innings. Next year, under Lawrence, he fared a little better, seven runs in seven innings. He then went on tour to England, where he managed two matches, scoring a single run. He was ailing and sent home.

The reason he was selected is probably because he was an expert thrower of a boomerang, and this was sufficient entertainment value to include him in the side.

On his landing in Melbourne, he was poorly treated. In December 1868 *The Hamilton Spectator* carried a news item "Sundown penniless and





broken in health was set down in the courtyard of the Victoria Hotel by a generous Cobb and Co. coachman, who had brought him to Hamilton 'gratis'. *The Australasian* reported that after landing in Sydney, a passage was found for Sundown to travel by steamship to Melbourne, thence by coach to Hamilton and then to Edenhope.<sup>54</sup> No more was heard of him and it is thought he died soon after.

### Jimmy Tarpot Murrumgunerrimin

In 1846, Hugh L McLeod settled in Benayeo near Apsley in the western Wimmera. There was a confrontation with local aborigines after which the indigenous people fled. A small Aboriginal boy was left behind. He was Jimmy Tarpot, Murrumgunerrimin. He was brought up at the station along with the other children.<sup>55</sup> In the neighbouring Bringalbert station owned by the Hamilton family, a son, Tom was keen on cricket and taught locals to play the game, Jimmy Tarpot was one of those.<sup>56</sup>

Tarpot was selected for the Aboriginal side that toured Victoria and New South Wales in 1866/67. He played at the MCG on Boxing Day 1866. Unfortunately for him, he scored two ducks. However, he was clearly athletic. He fielded at long stop, the most important position on the field in those times of poor quality wickets. When Officer caught Horan at long leg, he is reported as doing a double somersault in celebration, which endeared him to the crowd.<sup>57</sup> Remarkably, at an athletics meeting the following day, he ran 100 yards backwards in 14 seconds.

Tarpot was picked to go on the 1868 tour to England, but did not go. Tarpot reportedly left the ship prior to its departure, due to ill health, and returned home.<sup>58</sup> He returned to Apsley where he worked as a respected wool classer for the various stations around the district and the wool store owned by WT Hoare. Tarpot is reported to be playing cricket at Harrow in 1879. He died at Booropki on April 17, 1900. There is a monument to him at Apsley.

In 2016 at Edenhope Racecourse during the Apsley Cup Race meeting they held the Jimmy Tarpot Cup for 100 yards backwards race. The event was won by local footballer Dale Smith in a time of 15:01 seconds – 1:01 seconds outside the time set by Jimmy Tarpot at the MCG 150 years earlier. Each of the five finalists signed the Message Book as part of the celebrations of the achievement of Jimmy Tarpot 150 years earlier.<sup>59</sup>

### Postscript

The arrival of European settlers decimated the indigenous population. The dispossession, disease, deprivation of food sources and violence resulted in a shocking reduction of the Aboriginal population in the area (pre-contact estimates range from as high as 25,000 to as low as 3500) to just 645 individuals by 1863.<sup>60</sup> Harcourt and Mulvaney, who had narrowed the geographical area somewhat, estimated a minimum of 2000 Aborigines before colonisation, and 300 left at the 1863 census.<sup>61</sup> Of the 10 Aboriginal cricketers who played on Boxing Day 1866, half were dead within five years, and only Tarpot lived past 60.

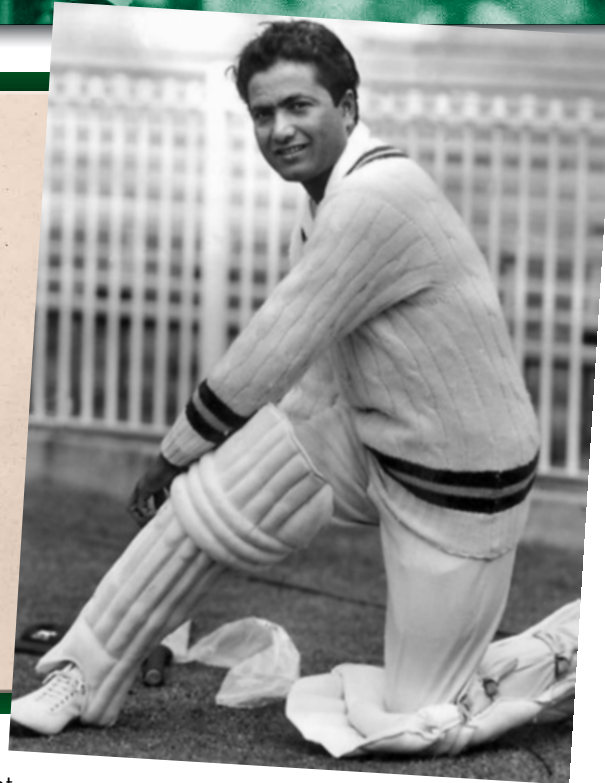
The heavily reduced population, combined with the restrictions of movement placed on the indigenous peoples by the Aborigine Protection Board, in conjunction with the missions, resulted in the end of the development of organised Aboriginal cricket in the Wimmera. However, cricket was played on missions throughout Australia in the nineteenth century.

In the twentieth century a few talented Aboriginal first-class cricketers emerged, but they were heavily discriminated against. The three fast bowlers, Jack Marsh, Albert Henry and Eddie Gilbert all played for their states, but never played for Australia. It was not until 1958 that an Aboriginal cricketer played in a Test match. She was Faith Thomas (nee Couthard). It was as late as 1996 that an Aboriginal man first played Test cricket when Jason Gillespie donned the baggy green.

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- Though the individuals are identified, their names are somewhat contentious. Therefore, the Aboriginal name (and variants of it) of each cricketer is presented with their sub-title, but, in alignment with the custom of most writers on this subject, they will be referred to by their assumed European names in the text.
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## From a Karachi Bus Stop to the World:

### The Story of **THE CRICKETER** – Pakistan

Hanif Mohammad, the “Little Master” of Pakistani cricket, passed away on August 11 this year. A very talented cricketer, he made 3915 Test runs for Pakistan at an average of 43.98, with a highest score of 337 (against the West Indies at Bridgetown, 1957/58). Hanif was also the inaugural “Chief Editor” of **The Cricketer – Pakistan**, a position he held for almost 14 years. The MCC Library has an extensive run of this publication and therefore, to recognise Hanif’s passing, **Ann Rusden** and **Trevor Ruddell** examine the history of the magazine that some have referred to as the Bible of Pakistani cricket.

*The Cricketer – Pakistan* was published over 36 years, from April 1972 to April 2008, and in that time the magazine became a cricket institution. Osman Samiuddin wrote that with its cessation, “goes a piece of every young, English reading, cricket-mad Pakistani.”<sup>1</sup> It had a global distribution and contributors to its 432 issues included many great cricket writers and players. However, its origins were humble and it owed its very existence to the belief and internal drive of its teenage founder Riaz Ahmed Mansuri. Omar Noman’s history of Pakistani cricket, *Pride and Passion*, described it as, “a testimony to enterprise”.<sup>2</sup>

The story began at a Karachi bus stop in 1971. There Mansuri noticed commuters were interested in an outdated copy of *The Cricketer*, a London monthly, that was being peddled by a hawker. Mansuri was working as a reporter for an Urdu language magazine, and while observing the travellers’ engagement with photographs of cricketers, he had an epiphany. He realised that there was a market for a Pakistani cricket magazine. In 2008 he recalled, “I knew students and friends of mine were devoted to keeping scrapbooks with pictures and articles, so I thought why not?”<sup>3</sup>

To attract advertisers, Mansuri decided to publish the magazine in English rather than the far more pervasive Urdu. English was a minority language spoken by just two percent of Pakistanis, but it was the language of commerce. However, Mansuri was an inexperienced teen that advertisers were unlikely to invest in. Therefore, he sought a prominent cricketer as a partner to lend his reputation to the magazine – just as the English Test cricketer Pelham Warner had done when he founded *The Cricketer* in 1921. Mansuri approached Asif Iqbal initially, who declined the offer as he was still playing with the national side. However, Iqbal introduced Mansuri to Hanif Mohammad who had recently retired from Test cricket. It took many meetings for Mansuri to convince him to become involved, for, as Hanif wrote, “I didn’t think too much about the idea, but Riaz was extremely persistent, and I finally gave in.”<sup>4</sup>

The enterprising Mansuri funded the first issue of April 1972 by selling “home-made subscriptions to his colleagues on the social circuit, eventually raising Rs 2500.”<sup>5</sup> Therefore, what began with little more than Mansuri’s vision, gumption, and an unrelenting and pragmatic attitude, resulted in the

establishment of a magazine that would become the standard bearer of Pakistani cricket literature for over three and a half decades.

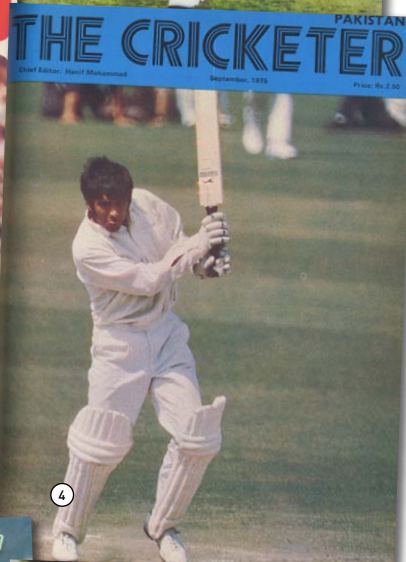
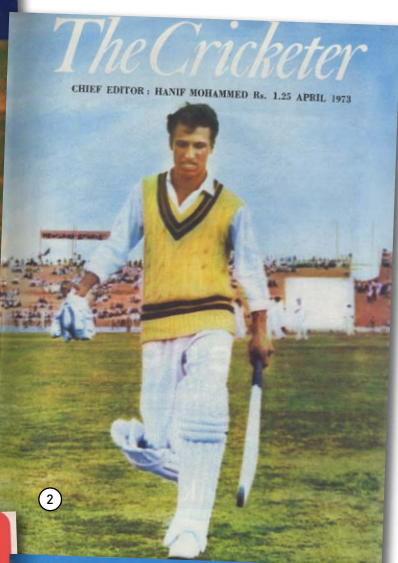
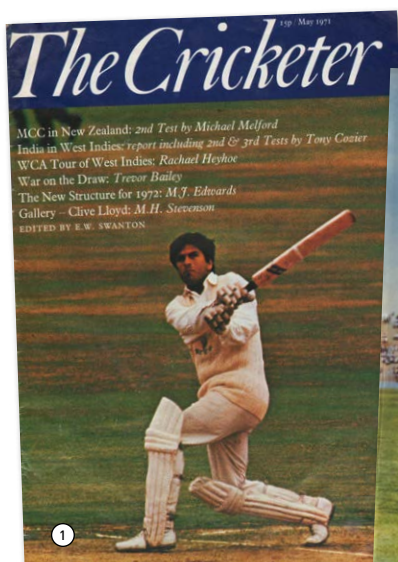
Mansuri and Hanif worked closely and their association ensured the financial success of the new monthly – it was hard to refuse a request to advertise in a magazine edited by Pakistan’s famous cricketer apparently. Hanif remembered, “I was treading uncharted territory, but while meeting different people to seek advertising support for the infant publication, I was once again gratified to come across the tremendous respect that people had for me.”<sup>6</sup> Hanif opened doors to the corporate and cricket worlds for the publication, but with Mansuri he also contributed editorials and articles. Hanif was the public face of the monthly and his imprimatur gave its cricketing content authority. For almost 14 years his name graced the cover of each and every issue as the “Chief Editor” until his association with the magazine ended following the December 1986 edition.

Undoubtedly, much of the magazine’s enduring reputation was due to Gul Hameed Bhatti as well. Bhatti joined the editorial team as the Lahore editor for the May 1974 issue. He soon moved to Karachi and was employed as the senior editor by 1975. Bhatti was the crucial figure who pulled each issue together. David Frith, the editor of *Wisden Cricket Monthly* lent an insight into the editorial work involved when he acknowledged *The Cricketer – Pakistan*’s 100<sup>th</sup> edition in August 1980. “The planning in itself can be an exhausting procedure: the creation of balance; the commissioning of articles, often from writers from far away and at the mercy of the postal services; the finding of good pictures, with the vital accompanying need for accuracy.”<sup>7</sup> These pressures required a calm and affable temperament, a virtue which Bhatti possessed. Afia Salam recalled that, “When we [Bhatti and I] were working together as editors of *The Cricketer* magazine, which was hard work in the pre-computer/UPS [uninterruptible power supply] /generator days, he made the work enjoyable not just because of his love for the game, but because of his easygoing demeanour.”<sup>8</sup>

The editorial staff under Mansuri produced the monthly with few resources. “This major national magazine,” Omar Noman wrote, “was brought out from one room in a building

Top: Hanif Mohammad at the MCG in December 1964.





From its first edition in April 1972, *The Cricketer - Pakistan* used the same masthead of its inspiration the long established English magazine *The Cricketer* (however, it was not related to or licensed by it). The typeface of the May 1971 edition of *The Cricketer* (England) 1, that featured Majid Khan on cover, is indistinguishable from the April 1973 issue of *The Cricketer - Pakistan* 2 that featured Asif Iqbal. The June 1974 edition 3 was the first to include "Pakistan" in a much smaller font in the masthead, but it was only from the September 1975 issue 4 that the distinctive *Cricketer - Pakistan* masthead was used. This would be carried on all subsequent editions until the final English edition was published in April 2008 5. However, its typeface was adapted to and used for the Urdu version 6.

owned by Singer, the British firm, on Macleod Road (now I.I. Chundrigar Road) in the heart of the financial district of the country [Karachi]. Singer had donated the one room free of charge. Mansuri on a light motorcycle, with his assistant Munawar, did all the running around."<sup>9</sup> Osman Samiuddin described Mansuri as, "a ridiculously hardworking man, one in whom resides the true shrewd, sharp, entrepreneurial spirit of Karachi."<sup>10</sup>

Mansuri was the business head and Bhatti became, as Noman wrote, "the driving editorial force."<sup>11</sup> Bhatti had two stints as the senior editor at *The Cricketer - Pakistan*, the first from January 1975 to July 1984, and then from June 1986 to November 1990. In 1999 Hanif wrote, "Gul took the magazine to the heights of popularity under his editorship, building a loyal following that has resulted in this magazine going from strength to strength."<sup>12</sup>

Bhatti was the *The Cricketer - Pakistan's* main contributor, and his regular statistical column titled "Figures are Fun with GHB" was particularly popular. More than anyone else, he is regarded by many of his peers as the man responsible for recording Pakistan cricket's statistical history. At Bhatti's memorial service in 2010, he was remembered by Abid Ali Kazi, a fellow statistician as, "more than a sports journalist - he was a 'historian' who 'single-handedly collected data,'... dedicatedly compiling and publishing it in *The Cricketer*. 'Statistics about Pakistan's first class cricket exist because of him.'"<sup>13</sup>

Bhatti was the foundation president of the Pakistan Association of Cricket Statisticians (PACS) which was started in the summer of 1983 with the same aims and objectives as those of England's Association of Cricket Statisticians (ACS).<sup>14</sup> In 1984 PACS was renamed the Pakistan Association of Cricket Statisticians and Scorers (PACSS) and it is the foremost source of cricket statistics in Pakistan. Its main achievement has been the organisation and participation in the national cricket scorers' workshop held annually in Lahore.

Each May the magazine published an annual that reviewed the past season and the 1976 annual introduced *The Cricketer - Pakistan's* "Five Cricketers of the Year". Conceived by Bhatti, it was inspired by the long running and prestigious "Wisden Cricketers of the Year", nominated for their influence on English cricket. *The Cricketer - Pakistan's* five cricketers were chosen, "not only on the basis of their performances on the cricket field during the past season, but also by judging them by their contribution for bringing the game alive. Usually we pick only those cricketers who have appeared in the [Pakistani] domestic season, also considering those foreign cricketers who visited Pakistan with their national sides during the season under review. In order to be fair to the lot of cricket players we select each cricketer only once!"<sup>15</sup> The selection soon became an annual talking point throughout Pakistan, and an unofficial honour for those chosen.

Although the paper stock was often coarse in early volumes and the quality of the printing and photographs were variable, *The Cricketer - Pakistan* was always content heavy. In the mid-1980s editions regularly exceeded 120 pages, some annuals were well in excess of 180, and it contained articles from some of cricket's most esteemed local and international journalists and players. Every issue was bulging with news, match and tournament previews and reviews, replete with statistical analysis and opinions on





the game. It also included meticulously researched historical and personality features, with interviews and profiles of both domestic and international players.

The magazine was credited with increasing the profile of domestic cricket in 1970s Pakistan and, along with television, was one factor attributed with “helping turn players into superstars.”<sup>16</sup> As well as coverage of international, local first-class and club cricket, it weighed in on the governance and development of cricket in Pakistan. In 1980 its editorial justifiably claimed that, “*The Cricketer* has not only played a major role in the promotion of the game within the country, but also introduced Pakistan to the rest of the cricket playing world.”<sup>17</sup>

Although created for the domestic Pakistani market, it also found keen audiences within Pakistani communities and cricket enthusiasts abroad. It gave a Pakistani voice in English on issues relating to incidents on the cricket pitch – such as Dennis Lillee’s run-in with Javed Miandad in 1981/82 and Mike Gatting’s dispute with Pakistani umpire Shakoor Rana in 1987 – as well as commercial and political events off it – such as World Series Cricket, the boycott of South Africa and the rebel tours, and the many international betting scandals that have plagued cricket from the mid-1990s.

In 1978 an Urdu version of *The Cricketer – Pakistan* was first released. *The Cricketer* in Urdu has survived its English language predecessor and Mansuri’s WO Publications is still publishing it monthly. By 1987 *The Cricketer – Pakistan* promoted itself as “the most widely read magazine on cricket” and at its peak it had about 20,000 regular readers. Subscriptions were sold throughout the Indian sub-continent, Iran, the Middle East, Turkey, South East Asia, Hong Kong, Europe, Africa, North America, the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand. Subscriptions were even available in the USSR. Early in the magazine’s life it had agents in the United Kingdom and Australia (the MCC Library’s long-time cricket book and magazine supplier Roger Page), and from March 1987 an agency was established in the United Arab Emirates.

*The Cricketer – Pakistan* connected many ex-patriot Pakistanis and their children with “home”. Therefore, the relationship was more than that between a reader and a magazine. Issues were laden with nostalgia for many, and this was particularly so after the 432<sup>nd</sup> and final English version was published in April 2008. On September 26 that year Saj Sadiq posted, “My

first memories of reading this magazine were dragging my father around Bradford [UK] just to find some copies after I had seen it at a friend’s house. Growing up in the North East of England, the magazine was not available in any of the local shops so we had to travel to Bradford or Manchester to obtain copies. We’d bulk buy past copies and I’d spend hours if not days scrolling through each and every article again and again... some happy memories indeed.”<sup>18</sup>

Not all of the ardent readers were passive consumers. *The Cricketer – Pakistan* gave a voice to people who, in an age before the internet, had few vehicles for their opinions. Letters to the editor, some of which were very critical of editorial decisions, were printed near the front of most issues. While it was without a formal editorial manifesto, the treatment of letter writers suggests that the editors were open to new and divergent opinions, while advocating on behalf of their columnists. Some unpublished critiques emanated from people in authority and Waheed Khan recalled that, “Bhatti had the capacity to absorb all the pressures and dissent that came from the top or from angry officials and players and his message to them was clear: ‘I will back my reporters all the way.’”<sup>19</sup>

Although ostensibly an apolitical sports magazine in what was at times a turbulent political landscape, many of its editorial decisions seem progressive. The magazine gave women a voice on cricket. Rehana Hakim, an editor of *Newsline* magazine, remembered Bhatti as a “true feminist” who actively supported women journalists.<sup>20</sup> In the 1976 annual Shamsi Sheik wrote of establishing a national women’s cricket program in Pakistan<sup>21</sup> and in the 1980s women were published in its columns regularly. Among them was Afia Salam, who would edit the *The Cricketer – Pakistan* in 1985 and 1986, and again from 1997 to 1999.

Despite the importance of Bhatti to the magazine’s editorial tradition and direction, and Hanif to its establishment and promotion, Riaz Ahmed Mansuri was the one constant from beginning to end. Mansuri alone conceived the idea, and he was the sole editor from January 2006 until its last issue in April 2008. Although the English language version of *The Cricketer – Pakistan* is no more, and Mansuri would create many other English and Urdu lifestyle magazines under his WO Publications banner, he told Osman Samiuddin in 2008, “Whatever I am today, I am because of *The Cricketer*.”<sup>22</sup>

## Endnotes

- 1 Osman Samiuddin, “Ode to a Magazine”, *espnrcricinfo*, September 22, 2008, <http://www.espnrcricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/369973.html> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 2 Omar Noman, *Pride and Passion: An Exhilarating Half Century of Cricket in Pakistan*, Oxford University Press, Karachi, 1998, p.175.
- 3 Osman Samiuddin, “Ode to a Magazine”, *espnrcricinfo*, September 22, 2008, <http://www.espnrcricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/369973.html> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 4 Osman Samiuddin, “Ode to a Magazine”, *espnrcricinfo*, September 22, 2008, <http://www.espnrcricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/369973.html> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 5 Hanif Mohammed, *Playing for Pakistan*, p.214.
- 6 Osman Samiuddin, “Ode to a Magazine”, *espnrcricinfo*, September 22, 2008, <http://www.espnrcricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/369973.html> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 7 Hanif Mohammed, *Hanif Mohammed: Playing for Pakistan an Autobiography*, Hamdard Press, Pakistan, 1999. p.216.
- 8 David Frith, “A Century on the Board”, *The Cricketer – Pakistan*, August 1980, p.19.
- 9 Afia Salam, “Remember me when I’m gone”, *Newsline*, March 2010, <http://newslinemagazine.com/magazine/remember-me-when-im-gone> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 10 Omar Noman, *Pride and Passion: An Exhilarating Half Century of Cricket in Pakistan*, Oxford University Press, Karachi, 1998, p.175.
- 11 Osman Samiuddin, “Ode to a Magazine”, *espnrcricinfo*, September 22, 2008, <http://www.espnrcricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/369973.html> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 12 Omar Noman, *Pride and Passion: An Exhilarating Half Century of Cricket in Pakistan*, Oxford University Press, Karachi, 1998, p.175.
- 13 Hanif Mohammed, *Hanif Mohammed: Playing for Pakistan an Autobiography*, Hamdard Press, Pakistan, 1999. p.216.
- 14 Beena Sarwar, “A standing ovation for an innings of the ages”, *The News*, February 12, 2010, <https://beenasarwar.com/2010/02/13/a-standing-ovation-for-an-innings-of-the-ages/#more-1754> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 15 The publications from both these associations are in the MCC Library collection.
- 16 “5 Cricketers of the year”, *The Cricketer – Pakistan*, May 1979, p.19. The first “five cricketers” were Arif-ud-Din, Imran Khan, Iqbal Quasim, Pervez Mir and Mohammad Shafiq. The first foreign cricketer was Warren Lees (New Zealand) in 1977.
- 17 Osman Samiuddin, *The Unquiet Ones*, HarperCollins, Noida, Uttar Pradesh (India), 2014, p.283.
- 18 “Editorial”, *The Cricketer (Pakistan)*, August 1980, p.15.
- 19 Saj Sadiq is currently the chief editor of the Pakistan cricket website PakPassion. <http://www.pakpassion.net/ppforum/showthread.php?61996-Ode-to-a-magazine> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 20 Waheed Khan, “Bhatti: Pakistan’s ‘Encyclopaedia of Cricket’”, *The News*, February 5, 2010. <http://www.espnrcricinfo.com/pakistan/content/story/447005.html> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 21 Beena Sarwar, “A standing ovation for an innings of the ages”, *The News*, February 12, 2010, <https://beenasarwar.com/2010/02/13/a-standing-ovation-for-an-innings-of-the-ages/#more-1754> (viewed November 14, 2016).
- 22 Shamsi Sheik, “Women’s Cricket”, *The Cricketer – Pakistan*, May 1976, p.83.
- 23 Osman Samiuddin, “Ode to a Magazine”, *espnrcricinfo*, September 22, 2008, <http://www.espnrcricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/369973.html> (viewed November 14, 2016).



# Vale: Max Walker

It was with great sadness that the staff and volunteers at the Melbourne Cricket Club Library heard the news of the illness and passing of Max Walker. Over many years Max was a great supporter and friend of the library. The MCG was obviously a place with many special memories for Max and many different parts of the ground were haunts for various aspects of his life; the change rooms, cricketers view rooms, the Long Room, the broadcast box, even the library. He would regularly visit the old library in the Third Pavilion for research as well as a place to relax for a few minutes on a match day. He also undertook a range of film shoots there having loved its wood-panelled and book-lined ambiance.

So it was natural that he was on the guest list for the opening of the new MCC Library in 2006. Late in the afternoon's proceedings I remember being buttonholed by Max in a quiet corner of the library where he told me how much he loved the look, layout and welcoming open feel of our new library. Max was soon back again for more filmshoots, and he would unexpectedly pop in when he was at the ground with a little bit of time to spare.

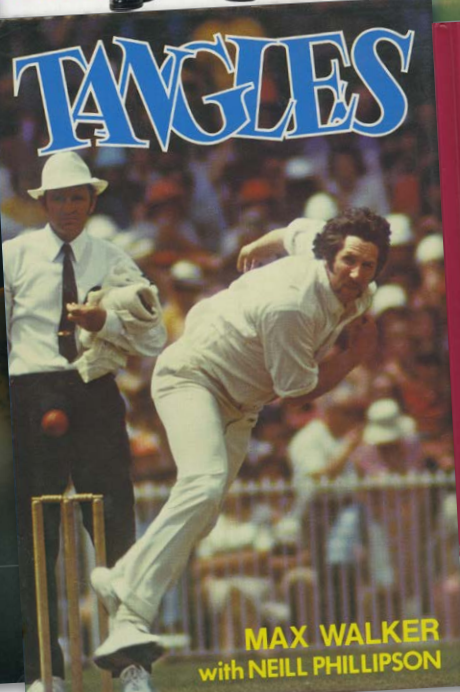
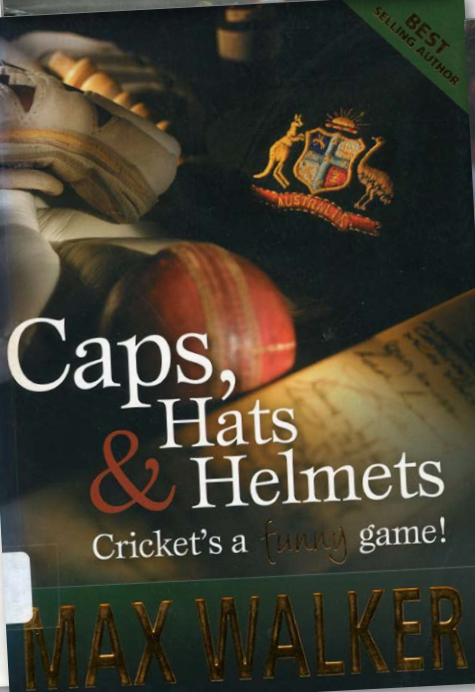
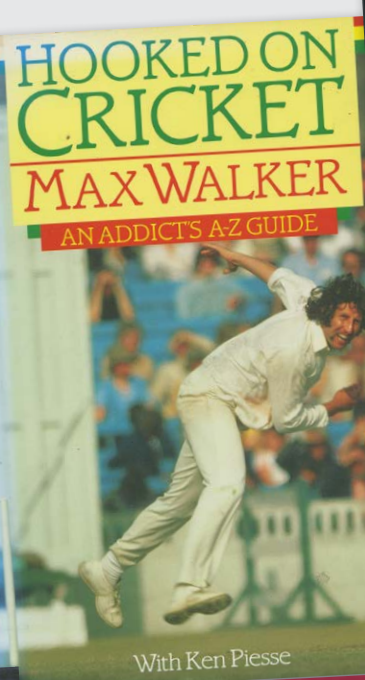
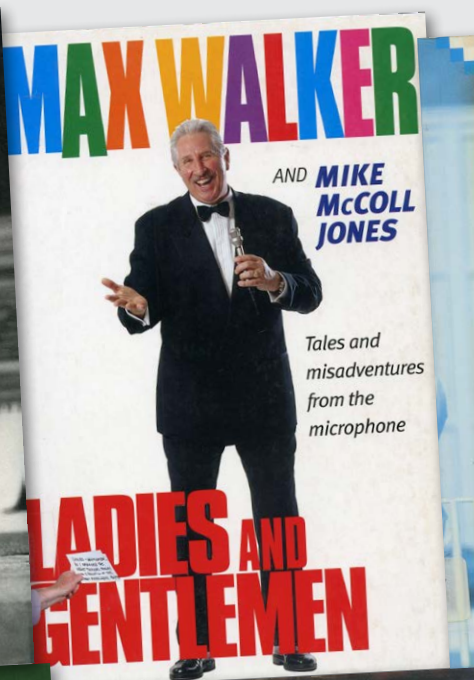
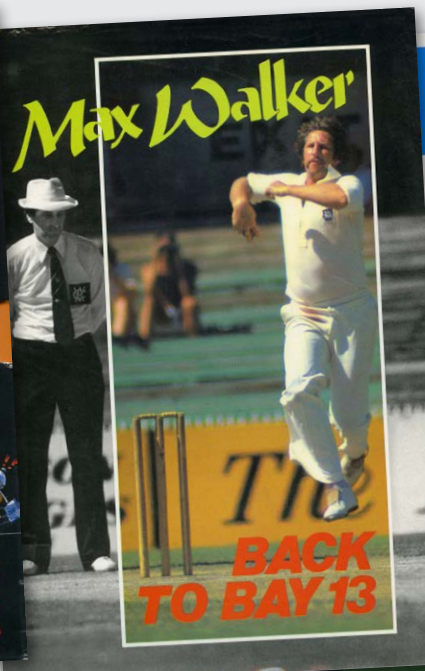
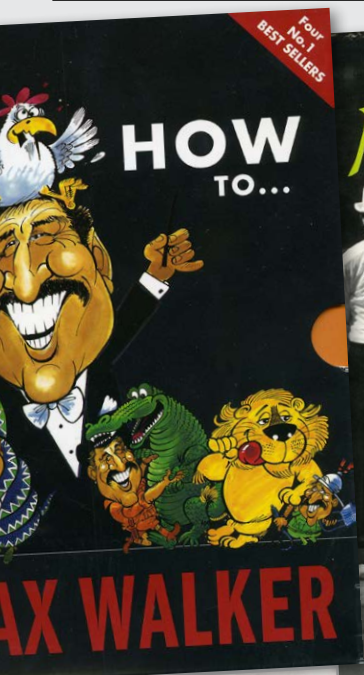
Max was a long term subscriber to *The Yorker* and he would drop us a note or give feedback and was always very supportive with his advice and suggestions. In more recent years he undertook a couple of author talks and public events for us and as always was a delight to deal with. Before he left he made sure that every member of staff received a signed boxed set of his books. Those in attendance went away captivated by his presentation. The enthusiasm, vitality and pure *joie de vivre* that he brought to these engagements was contagious. He will be missed, but not forgotten.

*As a tribute to his prolific output as an author, we present a few of Max's books from our collection.*

David Studham



Max Walker in the MCC Library with Library Research Officer Peta Phillips in 2014. Max provided the baggy green. (Photo by Cathy Poon).





# HOW TO Kiss a Crocodile

AND OTHER 'SNAPPY STORIES'



**MAX WALKER**

AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING AUTHOR

# How to TAME LIONS

and other great tales



**MAX WALKER**

Sequel to bestselling 'Hypnotising Chooks'

# How to hypnotise chooks

and other great yarns



**MAX WALKER**

# Cricketer at the CROSSROADS

Max Walker



*Maxwell Henry Norman Walker*

... commonly known as "Tangles" to friends, fans and opponents alike is one of those rarities in sport. A man who became a champion in two entirely different fields and a character in each.

Born in Hobart, Tasmania, Max's path to sporting success was paradoxical in a state that has produced many stars in Victorian League football most of whom were exported to the mainland.

Max Walker was a child prodigy in both cricket and football. It was football that brought him to Melbourne under the aegis of the prestigious Melbourne Football Club, but it was cricket in which he made his international reputation.

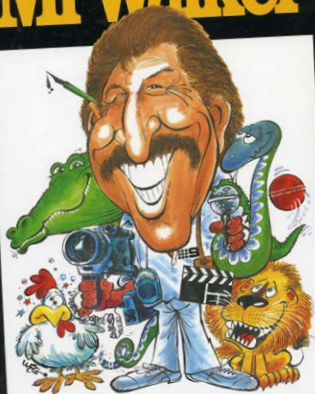
CHUCK KISSIE  
CROW!

*[Handwritten signature]*



WE USE IT 2  
MR. WALKER.

# THE BEST OF Mr Walker



A Collection of Max Walker's Favourite Stories

# Max Walker

Brian Doyle



Cricket Jokes

# MAX WALKER SPORTS JOKES



**BRIAN DOYLE**

# THE WIT OF WALKER



MAX WALKER with MIKE COWARD



# Cricket in Port Phillip before February 1851

By *Stephen Flemming*

Cricket historians and statisticians have long recorded the beginning of first-class cricket in Australia as the first challenge match played between the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC), representing the colony of Port Phillip (Victoria) and the Launceston Cricket Club, representing Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), in February 1851.

The match, first mooted for March 1850, took place after almost twelve months of arrangements, at the Launceston Racecourse (later known as the North Tasmanian Cricket Association Ground) and was played on February 11-12, 1851. The result went in favour of the Vandiemonians by three wickets and has been recorded since as the first Intercolonial match in Australian cricket history. But what came before?

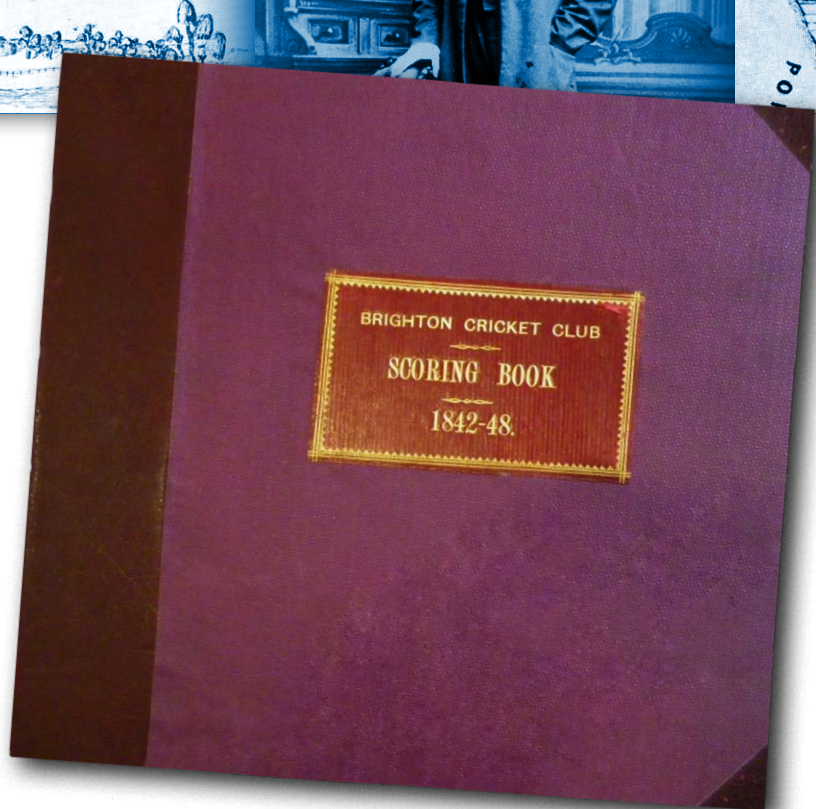
The colony of Port Phillip (Victoria – after the separation from New South Wales in 1851) had been playing cricket from about November 1838, when Robert Wrede first recorded his participation in a game of cricket with a “Party of Gents” on Wednesday November 14. It is probable that he didn't just land in Melbourne and commence playing cricket, but had prior experience in England and was asked to join in the earliest matches that began the recording of the sport and also saw the earliest days of the MCC.

No record exists of the full quantity of matches recorded in Victoria between 1838 and the designated first “Intercolonial match” in February 1851, so this article records a base from which we can further expand on the era and cricket in the earliest days in Victoria, when additional information comes to light. The matches feature opponents drawn from such diverse places as Port Fairy (then known as Belfast), Portland (then known as Normanby), Geelong (variously Geelong or Corio), Kilmore and other references to Melbourne-based cricket clubs including many of which are now defunct, and perhaps were only in existence for a season or two.

The table on pages 22-23 is built around the dates of play which traditionally fall into an Australian cricket season (i.e. the period beginning in September/October and concluding in April/May). It highlights, when recorded, the match dates, opposing teams, venue, first and second innings results and the victor plus other notes relevant to the match. For the purposes of continuity, it also includes dates when matches were designated and were either postponed or where no further outcome or recording subsequently occurred in the publications researched.

From the earliest record of a match result on November 17, 1838, when the Civilians met the Army Officers at a venue,

Top: Brighton Cricket Club scoring book 1842-48. Held at the State Library of Victoria's Manuscript Collection. According to its catalogue record, “The secretary of the Club was W. B. Andrew, who was most likely responsible for writing it up. The book was presented to the Library by Ernest J. Andrew, son of W. B. Andrew.”



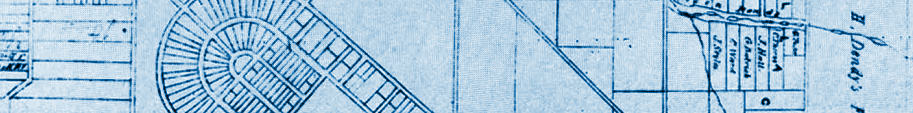
roughly where the current Hellenic Museum (Old Mint Building) now stands, until the recording of the first Intercolonial Match (February 11-12, 1851), there are records of just over one hundred matches played in the colony. Many of them in the first few seasons featured teams compiled from the membership of the Melbourne Cricket Club and the Melbourne Union Cricket Club. They effectively played intraclub matches until the establishment of a club occurred outside the immediate surrounds of Melbourne with the Brighton Cricket Club in 1842. It is thought that most of these early matches were then played in an area around the high ground of Batman's Hill (roughly where Southern Cross Railway Station sits today).

In the initial season, 1838/39, only two cricket clubs were recorded in the colony: the Melbourne Union Cricket Club (also variously known as the Melbourne Trade Union Cricket Club or the Melbourne Trades Cricket Club) and the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Intraclub play continued for much of 1839/40 with matches played between the Married & Single, the English bred and the Irish bred, and even a team whose surnames were derived from the first half of the alphabet playing against those whose surnames came from the second half of the alphabet! Scores exist for very few of these recorded matches though from those available the single men and the married men shared the spoils fairly evenly – the married men winning the encounters in 1838/39 while the bachelors took the laurels in 1839/40. In February 1840, a third cricket club came into existence, Pickwick, though its survival was short lived and by 1841 no further mention of this club was recorded.

At the commencement of the 1840/41 season, Sam Weller, the secretary of the Pickwick Cricket Club, put out a call to the members and he advocated playing on a new ground on Eastern Hill, but no record of matches was published and the same could be said for another club proposed for New Town – an early name for Fitzroy. However, cricket was played sporadically and there were few matches recorded. The other significant beginning for the sport this season was the foundation of cricket in Geelong with two clubs mooting their commencement – the Corio Cricket Club and the Geelong Cricket Club (who decided in December 1840 to name themselves the South Geelong Cricket Club).





Throughout the 1840/41 summer the MCC continued to be represented by its leading lights, Thomas Hamilton and Frederick Powlett. A new player and member of the club was George Cavenagh. He ensured much of the earliest history of cricket in the colony was recorded when he commenced the *Port Phillip Herald* (later *The Herald*) newspaper and also took on the presidency of the MCC.

Melbourne's population had grown to almost 5000 and the need for regular cricket matches and opponents was creating opportunities for others, with residents of both Melbourne and Geelong looking forward to intraclub tussles. At the end of the 1840/41 season Cavenagh published a copy of the Sydney Cricket Club rules and suggested that they might be of assistance to any gentlemen of Melbourne wishing to form their own cricket clubs.

As the 1841/42 season began, other newly formed clubs were seeking a toehold in the sport, but most came and went quickly. These included a club based at Seymour's Family Hotel in Lonsdale Street, a club formed (or reformed) from members of the Melbourne Club, a club formed from members of the Port Phillip Club as well as the ongoing seasonal formation of the MCC and the Melbourne Tradesmen's Cricket Club. In these early years, and with no winter sports scheduled, it is apparent that most clubs went into hibernation in the colder off-season months and went about reforming as the warmer months approached. Club secretaries often advertised in the Melbourne press, their meetings announcing "formation" (re-formation) in September each year.

Despite all the attempts at establishing clubs, the first match recorded in the 1841/42 season didn't take place until New Year's Day 1842. It featured the MCC members who divided themselves into Government Officers and Private Gentlemen (Civilians) for a game at which the stakes were £25. The officers triumphed and collected the prize money. Cricket was sporadic and the two oldest established clubs, the MCC and the Melbourne Tradesmen's Club, needed opponents to entertain regularly, and to improve their skills.

As the 1842/43 season commenced, another club formation was proposed at Stanway's Hotel in Flinders Street, but like its earlier entities didn't appear to have the support or success to remain viable. The other influence on the earliest days of this season was the significant flooding of the Yarra River, which overflowed its banks and was said to have been "50 feet" at Heidelberg, with not a "vestige of the farm of Captain Smyth (MCC Founder) to be seen..." In November 1842, a challenge to the MCC was put out by the newly formed Brighton Cricket Club. This set in chain a succession of matches, involving

regular visits to Brighton by the MCC for matches on Henry Dendy's estate, and then return matches as Brighton travelled to meet the MCC on the ground located at Batman's Hill. Four matches were proposed in the 1842/43 season, with Brighton winning the only two where a scoresheet was recorded, with the others likely to have been abandoned in what was a very wet summer.

Also in November 1842, W. Frost as Secretary oversaw the founding of the Normanby (Portland) Cricket Club. However, just as the early clubs in Melbourne had done, he found matches restricted to intraclub games, with no opponents to play against.

Perhaps reflecting the temporary nature of the sport and the stop/start nature of the clubs, very little cricket is recorded in the colony for the 1842/43 season, apart from the Melbourne versus Brighton matches, and none at all in the 1843/44 season. It wasn't until January 1845 that the game features once again. The *Port Phillip Herald* reported on January 14, 1845,

*We are glad to perceive that measures are about to be taken for the purpose of reviving the really healthful and truly English game of cricket, which species of amusement has fallen rather into disuse of late, which must no doubt be attributed to the close attention necessary for everyone to bestow on his more pressing avocations; but that success, which is the never failing result of industrious application, having been at last attained, and people generally becoming more thriving in their circumstances, slight relaxation from the close rules of business can be indulged in with safety. A meeting of gentlemen interested in resuscitating this sport, will shortly be held, when it is expected all the preliminaries for commencing active operations will be determined on and arranged.*

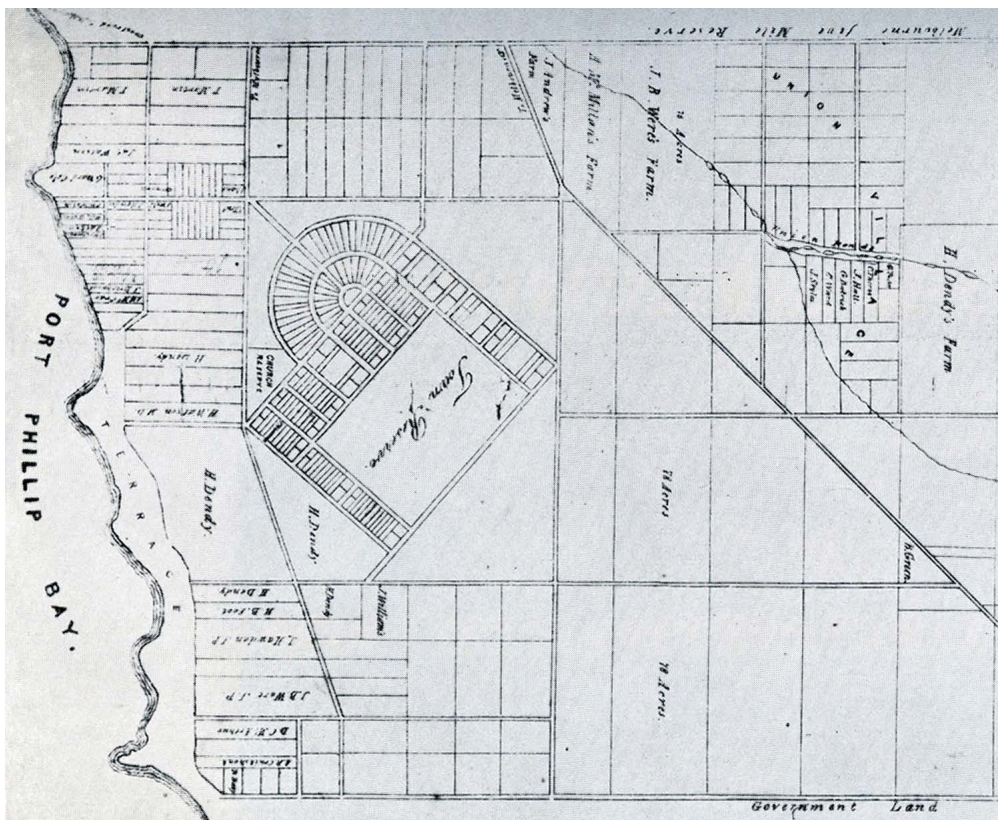
What caused the slump in the game is unknown (and largely unreported), with "Stumps" in the *Sydney Morning Herald* also "...bemoaning the lack of activity in cricket circles

in Hyde Park". Melbourne, Brighton, Geelong and a couple of other clubs, including the reformed Port Phillip Cricket Club made up for the lapse with new enthusiasm towards the end of the 1844/45 season. The Melbourne and Brighton clubs were to the fore when they engaged in another three match challenge as the summer drew to a close. Brighton won all three games and to date, in encounters between the two rivals, were undefeated. On Monday March 24, the two Clubs met, according to the *Port Phillip Herald*, in a match that "...will come off on the Melbourne Cricket Ground", and although this is still a reference to the Batman's Hill site, it was the first time the title describing the cricket ground had been used in the Melbourne press.



**Right:** George Cavenagh, MCC secretary from 1841-43 and president from 1845-49 and 1850-52, recorded much of Melbourne's early cricket history in his *Port Phillip/Melbourne Herald* newspaper.





This c.1842 "Plan of the Brighton Estate" was made by Henry Boorn Foot, the surveyor who laid out the township of Brighton. Foot was one of Melbourne's cricket pioneers and played for Victoria in Australia's first first-class match in February 1851. Henry Dendy's domain, an early locale of Brighton cricket, is west of the township.

The same late start occurred in the 1845/46 season as the *Port Phillip Patriot* asked in its edition of December 9, 1845, "What has become of the Melbourne Cricket Club?" A dearth of reporting and commentary follows for most of this season as well, with the only match recorded being an intraclub game between two elevens of the Brighton Cricket Club on December 26, 1845. Perhaps prodded into action by the temporary nature of its earlier existence, on September 22, 1845, George Cavenagh chaired a meeting that led to the year-round establishment of the MCC. The *MCC Minutes* recorded the requirements necessary to become a member, the expenditure approval process and the election of office bearers for the forthcoming season. The newly founded *Argus* newspaper reported that "...this being about the twentieth attempt of the same kind."

Not only did the 1846/47 season bring on a more permanent arrangement for the MCC, it also saw the efforts of establishing a permanent base for play established on the south side of the Yarra River, with an application to the government for permanent occupancy of the site. Matches were again resumed with regularity, the new venue recording a number of intraclub games and also battles with old foes, Brighton and the Melbourne Tradesmen. The latter also took up play on their new ground at the rear of the Melbourne Gaol. The resulting season was summarised by reports of at least eighteen matches.

By the season's end Brighton remained undefeated at the hands of the MCC who lowered their colours for a seventh successive time in January 1847, with some ground gained back when the MCC played the Geelong Cricket Club, after venturing to Geelong for their first match there in March 1847. The result was a draw, greatly in favour of the MCC. The return match in April, played on the ground south of the Yarra, was won by the MCC, but the decider, scheduled

to be played on May 10, didn't reach a conclusion as the Southbank venue had become too wet for play to be arranged. Perhaps the greatest success of the season belonged to the Melbourne Tradesmen's Club, who finally caused the previously undefeated Brighton Cricket Club its first ever loss. However, this success would have been tempered by the split in their ranks when a splinter club seceded from the Tradesmen to form the Batman's Hill Cricket Club. It took up residence on the playing venue vacated by the MCC, after its move to the ground south of the Yarra.

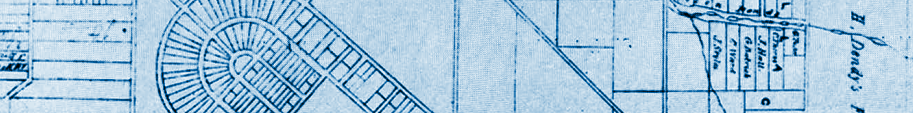
In April 1847, a preliminary meeting was held at the Shakespeare Hotel. The members voted to form the Albion Cricket Club, though like the Pickwick Club and the Port Phillip Cricket Club before them, their existence was a

short one and only survived the 1847/48 summer. Other clubs that formed were the Seymour Cricket Club and a third Geelong club, the Geelong Mechanics Cricket Club, which engaged opponents in battle as the 1847/48 season commenced.

As the new season began members of the MCC, Albion Cricket Club, Brighton Cricket Club, Corio Cricket Club, Geelong Cricket Club, Melbourne Tradesmen's Cricket Club, and the newly formed Gentlemen's Cricket Club, all engaged in matches among themselves for the summer. Melbourne and Brighton's only reported match resulted in a draw, while intraclub matches were still dotted among other games for the season. The highlight of these was undoubtedly the match between Brighton and Melbourne which, for the first time, after eight failed attempts, ended in favour of the MCC. Geelong and Corio both took on the Melbourne Tradesmen who caught the ship to Geelong for matches. They emerged victorious in these matches and in the return match at the ground at the rear of the Melbourne Gaol. Towards the end of the summer, another club, the Victoria Cricket Club, wrote to its members requesting practice sessions so they could "soon send a challenge to one of their older rivals."

In the final throes of the summer the MCC secretary, Alexander Broadfoot successfully wrote to Governor Charles Latrobe on the April 18, requesting ten or twelve acres on the south bank of the Yarra, for the permanent use of the MCC. Taking notice of the successful MCC application, the Geelong Cricket Club wrote to the Governor in July requesting the same, with the additional request of allowing a fence to be erected to stop vehicles from crossing it. The two applications were successful. At the commencement of the 1848/49 season both clubs boasted of their fine venues, with the MCC consisting of 127 members, free from debt (£120 in credit), and boasting of their new fence and playing surface.





In 1848/49 the matches commenced in November, with intra-club matches played by the Melbourne Tradesmen and the MCC. The Brighton club was still strong, as were at least two Geelong clubs, Corio and Corio Trades. This summer cricket was also occasionally reported in Portland (Portland vs the Teetotallers' Cricket Club). The local press also spoke of cricket commencing in Belfast (Port Fairy). At the end of the season the Governor granted a plot of land to the cricketers of Portland, in keeping with concessions already made the previous season, to the MCC and the Geelong Cricket Club.

In October 1849 George Cavenagh handed over the reins of the MCC to William Meek, who oversaw more intraclub matches as well as those against the Melbourne Tradesmen and the Corio Cricket Clubs. For the first time in the colony's history matches played between school students were also recorded.

In Melbourne, cricket south of the river was impossible until December, as floods rendered the Melbourne Cricket Ground at Southbank unfit for play. The club's building at one point was almost completely submerged. Where possible matches were shifted to the Melbourne Tradesmen's ground and only in the New Year was the ground returned to service.

In January 1850, William Meek announced his resignation from the presidency of the MCC and he was succeeded by Frederick Powlett, who had served in the same capacity between November 1841 and late 1843. Powlett's first task was to begin arrangements for dialogue between the MCC and the Launceston Cricket Club for a match between eleven Gentlemen of Port Phillip and eleven Gentlemen of Van Diemen's Land. Much of the early arrangements centred on the match being played in April 1850, but missed communication, late mail arrivals and other events conspired to defer this date to February 1851. Matches continued between old rivals, Corio, Geelong, Melbourne, Melbourne Trades, as well as new chums Corio Trades and South Geelong. Melbourne also played matches against another new club, the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows (MUIOOF). The Oddfellows won the first match but the return match in late April 1850 was postponed when the weather turned for the worse.

Prior to the 1850/51 season the club opened a subscription to raise funds for the thirteen players selected for the trip to Van Diemen's Land, covering the cost of a playing uniform (a white flannel shirt, trousers with a belt and cap – the latter two displaying the club colours red, white and blue was settled upon), travelling expenses on the steamer *Shamrock*, accommodation and entertainment while in Launceston. The club held four meetings sorting out the arrangements of the match throughout the 1850/51 season, while playing cricket was still on the agenda.

Another new club; the Australian Cricket Club arrived on the scene and they concluded matches alongside Brighton (who were defeated by the MCC again), Corio Tradesmen, Geelong, Melbourne Tradesmen and the MUIOOF. In the final weeks of January and in early February 1851, the MCC staged a series of practise matches on the ground south of the Yarra, to provide competition for the members of the Intercolonial team who had been selected to represent the colony in the Van Diemen's Land challenge.

In early 1851, the government was approached to reserve the eastern portion of the police paddock for recreational purposes, inclusive of a site for future cricket matches. Public rejoicings were also in train for October and November 1850, as the separation of the colony from New South Wales was proposed and agreed to, with some of the celebrations being carried out on the Melbourne Cricket Ground at Southbank.

On February 11-12, 1851, an eleven from the Port Phillip colony (mostly made up of MCC members) played an eleven from Van Diemen's Land (mostly made up of members of the Launceston Cricket Club) at Launceston on the Launceston Racecourse. The match was won by the home team by three wickets and concluded the first Intercolonial match. This match is now recognised as the inaugural first-class match in Australian cricket history and took place after just over one hundred other matches had been played in the colony of Port Phillip beforehand.

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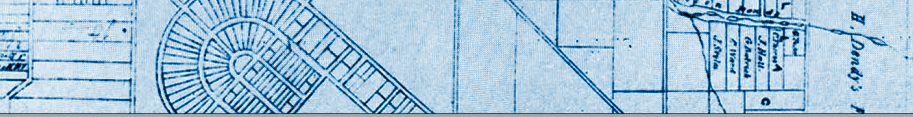


# Port Phillip Match Index - November 14, 1838 to February 5, 1851

	#	DATE	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	LOCATION	HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM		RESULT	
						1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>		
1838/39	1	Wed 14/11/1838	Party of Gents								
	2	Fri 16/11/1838									
	3	Sat 17/11/1838	Civilians	Army Officers	William Street	88		25	58	Civilians won	
	4	Thur 22/11/1838			Batman's Hill						
	5	Sat 1/12/1838	Town	Country							
	6	Fri 14/12/1838									
	7	Sat 22/12/1838	Married	Single							
	8	Sat 5/1/1839	Gentlemen	Shopkeepers							
	9	Wed 9/1/1839	Hughes	Meek						Single Wicket Match	
	10	Sat 12/1/1839	Gentlemen	Tradesmen						Gentlemen won	
	11	Sat 19/1/1839	Gentlemen	Tradesmen						Gentlemen won	
	12	Sat 30/3/1839	Married	Bachelors						Married's won	
	1839/40	13	Sat 4/5/1839	Married	Bachelors						Married's won
14		Sat 1/2/1840	Married	Bachelors		90	52	39	180	Bachelors won by 77 runs	
15		Tue 2/3/1840	Pickwick	Pickwick						Scratch match	
16		Sat 7/3/1840	Married	Bachelors		69	54	197		Bachelors won by 74 runs	
17		Mon 16/3/1840	Pickwick	Pickwick						Scratch match	
18		Sat 25/4/1840	1 <sup>st</sup> ½ Alphabet	2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ Alphabet							
19		Sat 9/5/1840	English	Irish							
1840/41			Thu 14/1/1841	Gentlemen							<i>Postponed until 16/1/1841</i>
		20	Sat 16/1/1841	Powlett's team	Hamilton's team		68	34	64	34	Powlett's won by 3 wkts
		21	Sat 16/1/1841	Town Team	Country Team		49		65		Country won by 16 runs
1841/42	22	Sat 27/2/1841	Geelong Carp.	Geelong Brick.	Corio						
	23	Mon 20/9/1841	Port Phillip CC								
	24	Sat 20/11/1841	Melbourne	Melbourne						Scratch match	
1842/43	25	Sat 1/1/1842	Govt Officials	MCC Members						Govt Officials	
	26	26/11/1842	Brighton	Melbourne	Brighton	106	76	78		Brighton by 28 runs	
	27	14/12/1842	Melbourne	Brighton	Batman's Hill	80	40	42	7/79	Brighton by 3 wkts	
		7/1/1843	Brighton	Melbourne	Brighton					<i>Postponed</i>	
		18/1/1843	Melbourne	Brighton	Batman's Hill					<i>Postponed</i>	
1843/44		1843/44							No record of matches		
1844/45	28	24/3/1845	Melbourne	Brighton	Batman's Hill	70	55	62	5/64	Brighton by 5 wkts	
	29	5/4/1845	Brighton	Melbourne	Brighton Beach	121	6/13	55	91	Brighton by 4 wkts	
		19/4/1845								Postponed	
1845/46	30	26/4/1845	Melbourne	Brighton	Batman's Hill	57	10	74		Brighton by Inn & 7 runs	
	31	26/12/1845	Brighton 'A'	Brighton 'B'	Brighton					'A' team Won by 12 runs	
1846/47	32	31/10/1846	Married	Single	South of Yarra					<i>Postponed</i>	
	33	7/11/1846	Married	Single	South of Yarra					Single	
	34	14/11/1846	"Muffs"	"Crack hands"	South of Yarra	106		36		"Muffs" (Novices)	
	35	28/11/1846	Melbourne	Military/Officers	South of Yarra	76	63	128	4/14	Military/Officers by 6 wkts	
	36	5/12/1846	Married	Single	South of Yarra					Single	
	37	12/12/1846	Melbourne	Brighton	South of Yarra	60	79	84		Rain - completed 19 Dec	
		19/12/1846	Melbourne	Brighton	South of Yarra				5/34	Brighton by 5 wkts	
	38	23/12/1846	Melbourne	Melbourne	South of Yarra					Intra-club Match	
	39	26/12/1846	Melbourne	Melb. Trades	South of Yarra					Melb. Trades by 7 wkts	
	40	1/1/1847	Brighton	Melbourne	Brighton	126	67	78	40	Brighton by 75 runs	
	41	10/2/1847	Melbourne	Melb. Trades	South of Yarra					Melb. Trades	
	42	13/3/1847	Geelong	Melbourne	Geelong	51	92	110		Drawn by consent	
	43	24/3/1847	Brighton	Melb. Trades	Brighton					Melb. Trades by 6 runs	
	44	5/4/1847	Melbourne	Geelong	South of Yarra	99	101	46	63	Melbourne by 92 runs	
	45	21/4/1847	Brighton	Melb. Trades	Brighton	58	47	50	50	Brighton by 5 runs	
	46	21/4/1847	Melb. Trades 1	Melb. Trades 2	Melb. Trades	68		32		Melb. Trades 1 by 36 runs	
	47	21/4/1847	Melb. Trades 1	Melb. Trades 2	Melb. Trades	48		50		Melb. Trades 2 by 2 runs	
48	21/4/1847	Melb. Trades 1	Melb. Trades 2	Melb. Trades	40		3/43		Melb. Trades 2 by 7 wkts		
	10/5/1847	Geelong	Melbourne	South of Yarra					<i>Postponed</i>		







	#	DATE	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	LOCATION	HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM		RESULT
						1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	
1847/48	49	13/11/1847	Married	Single	South of Yarra					
		27/11/1847	Melbourne Club	Melb. Trades						<i>Postponed</i>
	50	30/11/1847	Melbourne	Melb. Trades	Melbourne					St. Andrews Day
	51	8/1/1848	Albion Married	Albion Single						Married
	52	22/1/1848	Melbourne	Corio	Geelong	129		88	128	Melbourne by 41 runs
	53	1/2/1848	Albion Married	Albion Single	Batman's Hill	61	53	49	68	Single by 3 runs
	54	9/2/1848	Melbourne	Melb. Trades	Melb. Trades					Melbourne by 4 Wkts
	55	12/2/1848	Gentlemen's	Gentlemen's	Batman's Hill					Intra club
	56	19/2/1848	Melbourne	Albion	Batman's Hill					
	57	4/3/1848	Melbourne	Brighton	Melbourne C.G.	82	89	53	5/70	Drawn in favour of Melb.
	58	17/3/1848	Melbourne	Melb. Trades	Melbourne C.G.					Melb. Trades by 5 Wkts
59	24/3/1848	Melbourne	Melb. Trades	Melbourne C.G.						
60	1/4/1848	Melbourne	Corio	Melbourne C.G.					Corio	
61	3/4/1848	Melb. Trades	Corio	Melb Trades	227		72 in both Inns		Melb. Trades by Inn & 155	
1848/49		15/11/1848	Married	Single	Melbourne C.G.					<i>Postponed</i>
	62	20/11/1848	Melb Trades	Melb Trades	Melb Trades					Intra club
	63	25/11/1848	Married	Single	Melbourne C.G.					
	64	26/12/1848	Melb Trades	Brighton	Melb. Trades	79	60	164		Brighton by Inn & 25 runs
	65	8/1/1849	Corio	Corio Trades						Corio Trades by 23 runs
	66		Corio	Corio Trades						Return match
	67	20/1/1849	Melbourne	Brighton	Melbourne C.G.					Melbourne by 7 wkts
	68	27/1/1849	Melbourne	Brighton						
	69	26/2/1849	Brighton	Melb. Trades	Brighton					Melb. Trades by 2 wkts
	70	6/3/1849	Portland	Teetotal						
	71	9/4/1849	Melbourne	Melb. Trades	Melb. Trades					
72	9/4/1849	Portland Married	Portland Single		162		74		Married by 88 runs	
73	3/11/1849	Melb. Grammar	Butterfield's XI						Melb. Grammar by 4 runs	
74	30/11/1849	MCC English XI	MCC Scottish XI	Melb. Trades					English XI by 1 run	
75	8/12/1849	Miller's XI	Butterfield's XI		64	49	85	62	Miller's Pupils XI by 6 wkts	
76	19/12/1849	MCC English XI	MCC Scottish XI	Melb. Trades						
77	1/1/1850	Melbourne	XXII 'Muffs'	Melbourne C.G.	100		72		Melbourne by 28 runs	
78	29/1/1850	Portland Married	Portland Single	Portland						
79	4/2/1850	Melbourne	Melb. Trades	Melbourne C.G.	21	84	42	65	Melb. Trades by 1 run	
80	6/2/1850	Melbourne	Corio	Melbourne						
81		Corio	Geelong Trades	Corio						
82	27/2/1850	Corio	Geelong Trades		259		61	4/76	Drawn	
	<b>Mar 1850</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>Launceston</b>					<i>Postponed</i>	
83	4/3/1850	Melbourne	M.U.O.O.F.	Melbourne C.G.	79	73	122	2/31	Odd Fellows by 8 wkts	
84	16/3/1850	Melbourne	Corio	Melbourne C.G.	101	60	34	84	Melbourne by 34 runs	
85	19/3/1850	Melbourne	District Players	Melbourne C.G.	77	79	40	3/18	Drawn by consent	
	9/4/1850	Melbourne	M.U.O.O.F.	Melbourne C.G.					<i>Postponed</i>	
	<b>Nov 1850</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>Launceston</b>					<i>Postponed</i>	
86	9/11/1850	Married	Single						Single	
87	18/11/1850	Europeans	New Hollanders	Corio	25	75	59	42	New Hollanders by 1 run	
88	19/11/1850	English	Natives	Corio	37	28	59	50	Natives by 44 runs	
89	21/11/1850	English	White Natives	Geelong					White Natives	
90	30/11/1850	Married	Single							
91	14/12/1850	Melbourne	Brighton	Melbourne C.G.	78	166	132	108	Melbourne by 4 runs	
92	21/12/1850	Geelong	Melbourne	Corio						
93	21/12/1850	Town Members	Ctry & Govt. Off							
94	25/12/1850	Australian Club	Australian Club	Batman's Hill						
95	28/12/1850	Melbourne	Melbourne	Melbourne C.G.					Intra club	
96	1/1/1851	Melbourne	Australian Club	Melbourne C.G.					Melbourne	
97	1/1/1851	Kilmore Tee #1	Teetotallers #2	Kilmore	20		54		Teetotallers #2 by 34 runs	
98	1/1/1851	Kilmore Tee #1	Teetotallers #2	Kilmore	37		84		Teetotallers #2 by 47 runs	
99	1/1/1851	Kilmore Tee #1	Teetotallers #2	Kilmore	101		25		Teetotallers #1 by 76 runs	
100	18/1/1851	Melbourne	I.O.O.F. XI	Melbourne C.G.						
101	23/1/1851	Cavenagh's XI	Lister's XI	Melbourne C.G.						
102	1/2/1851	Melbourne	M.U.O.O.F. XI	Melbourne C.G.						
103	5/2/1851	Lister's XI	Day's XI	Melbourne C.G.						
	<b>11 &amp; 12/2/1851</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>Launceston</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>7/37</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Intercolonial match</b>	

Left: Brighton from the sea c.1842. Henry Dendy's home is the two storied house at the left of the sketch.





# Managing Team Australia in Red China

## Recollections of the 1984 Australian Fencing Team in China

*By Peta Phillips*

When Rio staged the Olympics earlier this year it faced some serious operational and

social problems. This reminded me of my experience in charge of a little known tour by the Australian fencing team. In 1984 the Australian Amateur Fencing Federation (now Australian Fencing Federation) received an invitation from their Chinese counterparts to compete in Communist China, and our president, Andre Szakall, readily accepted.

As secretary-general, I was the leader of the party together with Bill Ronald as Manager. We flew out for Hong Kong with a group of fencing specialists in the three weapons – foil, epee and sabre. Although it was March and supposedly winter, we enjoyed a couple of tourist days in sunny, warm Hong Kong, prior to China.

Came the big day, and we were to fly CAAC Airlines to Guanzhou (the old Canton) – great excitement, but we were a little worried about our plane as it was rather small – a Trident jet. Never mind, we sat back and hoped for the best. The stewardesses bought around small white boxes that contained our drink, sandwich and fruit. On arrival in Guanzhou we were surprised to see people in black uniforms “popping” up from behind bushes almost on the tarmac. You see, this was the first Trident Jet to fly into Guanzhou and we were celebrities even before landing! Our first vision of Guanzhou was Chinese soldiers in great khaki overcoats, traffic lights that went sideways and official cars with curtains. At least, a 40 year step back in time.

Our hotel was so big (and it had no lifts) that you needed a cut lunch to find the front door. To navigate the building I had a piece of paper with turn left, down stairs, turn right, down more stairs, etc. The Chinese Sports Federation paid for all our accommodation and travelling, so we were staying in hotels favoured by the locals. A tour of the city found us at the local zoo and naturally we all headed for the Panda enclosure. It was terrible – so tiny and the Pandas were dirty – we were so upset. Look what they are doing now for those beautiful animals. Our first breakfast in the dining room – what a shock. All the tablecloths, supposedly white, were actually grey and wet. All glasses were chipped and our “American” breakfast was one egg and six chips floating in grease. A few escaped to the Hilton (the first one in China) across the street and ordered cheesecake and coffee. When asked what our room number was we replied “I think we will pay cash tonight.”

The night before the tournament a banquet was held for us. Not your usual Chinese food – a few surprises awaited us, but plenty of Mai Tais. Tournament night and on arrival at the venue we found the wiring apparatus was from overhead – not hooked up to the pulley on the piste level. Very difficult for the Aussies to get accustomed to.

Back onto the plane for the flight to Wuhan on the Yangtze River. Those white boxes again and the fruit was even worse. One of the girls had a piece of rope for her seat belt. Our hotel was very tiny and, after being allocated our rooms, we all discovered that the baths were completely devoid of enamel and so were the basins. So we decided that simple washes were the norm. At least we were all in the same boat! The training venue was dark and so cold. Still we managed to “check out” a few of our competitors.



The Forbidden City photographed by Peta Phillips in 1984.  
All images for this article are courtesy of Peta Phillips.



I will never forget the great Yellow River and the people crowding around the landing areas. A large bridge had just been built over the river and the pylons contained reception rooms. A ceremony took place in one of these for us with exchanges of gifts, plenty of bowing and photographs. A coach ride around the city brought us back to that majestic bridge and we were allowed to walk around it. One proviso was strictly no photographs. Sadly, one of our fencers, who had purchased heaps and heaps of camera equipment in Hong Kong, thought he could get away with a quick photo. Alas, no. The guard raised the rifle and I ran screaming at the guard – “No, no” and officials came from everywhere. Confusion reigned and finally the film was handed over and everyone was happy - except me. The fencer, who was a sabre man, got the biggest lecture from me. His ears were ringing. Would I race in and be the heroine again – No!

I went to a department store (three floors) and saw a nice little sleeveless cardigan (very cold in Wuhan) and decided to buy it. After much hand waving and smiles, and being amongst at least 20 people watching my every move, I produced a 50 yunnan note and everyone let out great



sighs. The cardigan was 25 yunnan and they had to search the three floors to get the change for me. It was more than they would get for the whole day in sales.

Then we still had the official function and the tournament – I was worried. More Mai Tai drinks and lots of “ganbei’s” later, the fencers, who were by now almost seeing double, prepared for the match. This tournament was on TV, so we all put on our best smiles and the officials were sitting on a platform with steaming hot cups of tea (or should I say tree tea because when you took the cap off the cup you had half a tree of tea leaves in there and had to drink and smile through it all). Alas, our second defeat.

On to Beijing, the Forbidden City. Was it forbidden for us? The outside temperature was four degrees below zero and inside the hotel about 28°C. Some of the team braved the corridors and practiced there. We had a guide who travelled everywhere with us – his name was Mr Sung. There was a schedule that we had to keep to, no deviation. We would find a way around that.



**Facing page top left:** Prevented from using the Australian Coat of Arms, the 1984 tourists used their mascot, a Koala with foil and face mask on their uniform.

**Top center:** Tournament in Beijing. Officials Alvena Phillips, and Peta Phillips are on the left, and a Chinese official and the Australian Consul are on the right.

**Above:** Peta Phillips and Michael Hill at the petrified forest in Kunming, on the Tibet border.

**Above right:** Peta Phillips and Alvena Phillips at the bridge that crosses the Yangtze river at Wuhan.

**Right:** The ladies foil event at Wuhan. The Australian fencer is on the left. Peta Phillips and the Australian delegation watch from the front row.







We all know about the one child policy. The parents would be dressed in the grey Mao uniforms and the children until age five could wear coloured clothing. So you would see these beautiful children with the biggest bows in their hair (not the boys) and layer upon layer of different coloured jackets to keep them warm. Consequently they would walk like little robots. The parents would always smile at us and let us take photographs of the children. They were so proud.

Beijing was amazing – a trip to the Forbidden City left you in awe. It was here that we noticed that one of the ladies in our party had men staring at her and we could not work out why. You see, the men never saw ladies in skirts, only the grey uniform of trousers and jacket.

The jade factories, cloisonné, were so impressive. The history was incredible. The marble boat, the summer palace and then the Great Wall of China. It was a tough climb, but we all made it. We were, however, quite amused by the American ladies trying to climb in their high heeled shoes!

Off to the Beijing Duck (Peking Duck) restaurant. We were joined by the Australian Consul who was a tremendous help with the protocol. The duck was ceremoniously brought out and then cut into tiny pieces. The head was split open and given to one of the leading Chinese delegates, who proceeded to eat the whole thing and spit the bones out on the tablecloth. Oh my! – I almost lost a couple of fencers.

The tournament was another defeat despite our inspirational *Australia //* themed fanfare. The Chinese would play very serious music and be incredibly patriotic when they entered. Whereas, we would march into the arena with a ghetto blaster screeching Men at Work's *Down Under* – all the while our hosts politely sniggered alongside the Consul and I.

So three losses down and one tournament to go. We flew from very cold Beijing across China to Kunming on the Tibet border. Suddenly we were in warm 21°C heat. From the outside the hotel looked like the best we had

had so far. How wrong. Trying to make an international phone call took three days. Most bathrooms (i.e. toilets) were flooded. By now I was really tired and angry – so I marched down the corridor (you had a manager on each floor) and demanded they fix my toilet. As I walked back all the team doors opened with everyone saying “Can he fix mine too”? A couple of hours later the maintenance man arrived with a “cat o’ nine tails” to fix the loo. That night whilst enjoying, at long last, a proper shower I was surprised to hear gurgling and (supposedly) singing. Above my bathroom there was a gap in the tiles and I could hear the Japanese gentleman next door, enjoying his bath – at least that is what I think he was doing! What with the “cat o’ nine tails” and the singing guest – when I was most concerned, my shower stopped running.

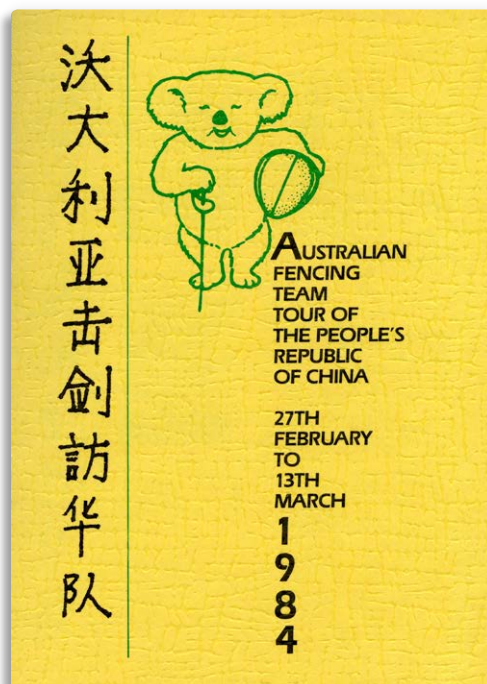
The scenery in the Kunming countryside is so different – lots of grey boulders and petrified forests and villages. You would think you were in Tibet. We demanded a visit to one of these and despite protests, we clambered down for a look at a local area. The people were very shy but friendly, and wanted us to share their food – but having had to step over dead rats we were a bit reluctant. Still, we thanked them for their hospitality and proceeded back to the bus. My last remembrance of that village was a little girl with shocking facial deformities, waving to me as we sped off.

Our fencers were in need of good food but we were entertained at another banquet - where some of the food was moving. We naturally lost the last tournament. It was now time that we turned the tables on Mr Sung. He was invited to sample some Australian food. A large amount of vegemite was slathered on a biscuit and he was asked to eat it. We said it was very Australian and he had to eat it as we would be insulted if he didn't. So Mr Sun obliged and was almost physically ill. I think he then realised that some of that Chinese food was very difficult for us. Revenge had happened, and after much hugging we said goodbye to a great guy.

So with very mixed feelings we left Kunming and China to fly back to Hong Kong. We had two days to recover. The team simply gathered together and went on a food spree. That certainly improved our spirits. But our problems were not

quite over as there was the matter of luggage. As we left Kunming they had forcibly broken the locks on our luggage, and I had all my lovely souvenirs checked – and they didn't even bother to close the little boxes. Added to this I was so taken by the teabags in China – they comprised nearly half a tree – that I nicked a couple of them from the hotel. I was oblivious to the notion that Chinese customs would slit the bags open and let all the tea empty into my suitcase.

Neither this nor many of the other stories quite made it into my official report to the national body. Sport opens up horizons, and it leads to all kinds of dramas, and as such the world will never change. Rio in 2016 brought back so many memories for me of China 1984 – most of them enjoyable. Long may sport rule.



**Top:** Peta Phillips on The Great Wall of China.  
**Right:** The program for the tour.





## Reviews



Lydia Lassila  
**The Will to Fly**  
Slatery Media Group: Richmond, 2016.  
ISBN: 9780980597332

This is a very personal account of Olympic Champion Lydia Lassila's life. It deals with Lydia's personal and sporting journey to a gold medal in aerial skiing at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Canada. It updates an earlier book on Lydia's life – *Jump: The Lydia Lassila Story* (by

Lydia Lassila and Andrew Clarke) by taking the story through to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, where Lydia won a bronze medal. The new book follows the release of a feature-film documentary on Lydia's life (also titled *The Will to Fly*). While the film concentrates mostly on Lydia's journey to her 2010 gold medal, and her bronze medal in Sochi, the book deals more fully with her life, particularly her early years.

Lydia was an elite-level gymnast during her secondary school years and initially dreamed of representing Australia in gymnastics. After leaving gymnastics, she transitioned to aerial skiing when she was amongst a group of ex-gymnasts targeted by Australia's Olympic Winter Institute (OWI). As Lydia, and others in this group, did not have skiing backgrounds they had to learn to ski before they could begin the aerobatic training that is required to become an elite aerial skier. The aerobatic training involves water ramping during summer as well as training on snow in the winter. This generally means spending a good deal of time training outside Australia.

Lydia was first approached by the OWI in 1999, and after developing her skiing and aerobatic skills, she competed in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. A serious knee injury in 2005 hampered her preparations for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, and she was forced to withdraw from the Torino competition after re-injuring her knee. It took Lydia more than a year to recover from a full knee reconstruction. She returned to World Cup competition in late 2007. She finished second in the World Cup standings at the end of the 2007/08 season and won her first World Cup title the following season. She was ranked number one in the world in the lead-up to the 2010 Winter Olympics, and held her nerve under pressure (she was second after the first round of jumps in the final) to win Australia's second gold medal at those Games, the country's second gold medal in women's aerial skiing, following Alisa Camplin's gold in 2002. Lydia, whose ambition has always been to take women's aerial skiing to new levels by completing jumps similar to those attempted by

men, just failed to land a quad-twisting triple somersault at the 2014 Sochi Olympics; if she had "landed" this jump she would have been the first woman to do so.

The book is written in an easy to read style with Lydia making her views on life and sport clearly and forthrightly. Lydia married Finnish mogul skier Lauri Lassila in 1999 and gave birth to their son, Kai, in 2011. Managing her sporting ambitions along with family responsibilities forms an important part of the story. In addition to the narrative the book includes many snippets of external commentary from coaches, family members and others associated with Lydia. These provide additional insights into her personality, thoughts and what motivates her. A number of entries from Lydia's personal diary also add interest. The book ends with Lydia setting out her "Six Steps to Goal-Setting".

Overall, a very interesting insight into the life of one of Australia's greatest winter Olympians.

Ian Wilkinson

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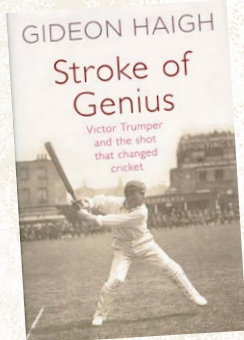
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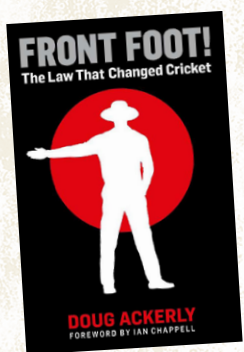
*Ask for Santo*





Gideon Haigh  
***Stroke of Genius: Victor Trumper and the shot that changed cricket***  
Penguin Random House, Melbourne, 2016  
ISBN: 9781926428734

Doug Ackerly  
***Front Foot!: The Law That Changed Cricket***  
Doug Ackerly, Melbourne, 2016  
ISBN: 9780646962375



This summer two books were released that revolve around two very separate events that "changed cricket". The scope of each book outwardly seems narrow. Gideon Haigh examines a famous 1902 photograph of Victor Trumper driving, while Doug Ackerly analyses the alteration of the no-ball rule in the 1960s. However, the authors, through meticulous research – much of it at your MCC Library – examined the cricket culture and personalities surrounding these events, their intersections with technology, and their ongoing impacts on the game and its myths.

Haigh's *Stroke of Genius* looks at the development of cricket imagery and photography, through the career and a particular photograph of one man, Victor Trumper. Trumper was regarded by many of his peers as the greatest batsman of his era and George Beldam seemed to have captured his renowned stroke-play at the Oval in 1905. Haigh looks at the cricket imagery that preceded Trumper and Beldam, and the artistic and mechanical restrictions placed on them. Beldham developed his sporting artistic eye since his earliest known cricket photo in 1890. But it was only having invested in the latest Adams Videx camera – with a shutter speed of one-1000<sup>th</sup> of a second – in 1902 that Beldham's artistry in capturing golfers and cricketers truly emerged. Beldham's "instantaneous" images were intended to be educational but, they were also aesthetic, evidenced by his photo of Trumper that was originally captioned, "Jumping out for a straight drive. Shoulders, arms and wrists all come into the stroke" in the 1905 book *Great Batsmen*, by Beldham and CB Fry. Fortunately Haigh refers to it as just, *Jumping Out*. The image is spectacular, with the

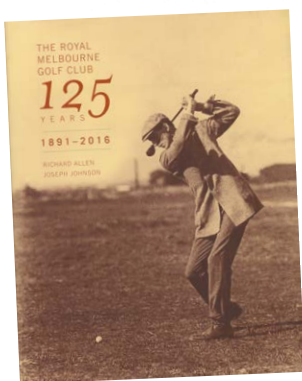
pregnant power of Trumper's raised bat and his "front foot is still to land, just as there is always, in cricket, something about to happen." (Haigh p.xi) Throughout the book Haigh eulogises the work with his highly reputable prose.

A photograph alone cannot promote itself, and Beldam's image found fame largely due to its connection to Australia's great federation-era batsman. Haigh discusses Trumper's career trajectory, as a sportsman and as a player in the often fractious world of sports politics. However, Trumper's legend certainly did not end with his passing in 1915. Haigh examines how Trumper has been mythologised in the popular (and particularly Australian) imagination – after time had divorced his legend from the sports politics of his era. Trumper was readily compared with Don Bradman "by contradiction. Trumper was the lyric, Bradman the epic." (Haigh p.233). It was just prior to the Bradman era that the wider Australian public became aware of *Jumping Out* through its reproduction in *The Sydney Mail* of October 5, 1927. It has since been used to promote publications and beverages, been adapted by cricket businesses and associations as brands, reproduced by artists in two and three dimensional media – including bronze, and inspired cricketers and writers alike.

Haigh observes that Trumper and his cavalier image has been continually reinvented. "In the 1930s," Haigh wrote, "he had been an amateur alternative to a professional game; in the 1950s, he had been a thrilling alternative to a moribund game; now he was a pure alternative to a corrupted game. Again he was made an ironic recruit to the fold of 'the establishment'." (Haigh p.267) Though Beldam's photograph was instructional and aesthetic, it has become a nostalgic symbol for a simpler time that never really existed.

Ackerly's myth busting regarding the front foot no-ball rule also drew on Beldam. A major rationale for its introduction was that under the back foot rule bowlers would take an unfair advantage by dragging their foot over the bowling crease before releasing the ball. While it has been assumed by many that this practice evolved in the 1940s, with Ray Lindwall its main executor, its pedigree is much older. Ackerly reproduces images from Beldham and Fry's 1906 *Great Bowlers* that show Scholfield Haigh's drag when bowling.

Lindwall was neither the first nor only bowler of his era to drag, but it was newsreel footage of him that placed the issue before the public. The footage is possibly as familiar to Australian cricket enthusiasts as the Trumper image – though



Richard Allen and Joseph Johnson  
***The Royal Melbourne Golf Club: 125 Years 1891-2016***  
Australian Book Connection:  
Melbourne, 2016  
ISBN: 9780646952284

This substantial volume (474 pages) provides the reader with a detailed history, not only of this iconic golf club, but also both of the developing social history of Melbourne society from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the advancement of golf throughout that time.

The book is based on three previous earlier written histories of the club. The main one of these was by Joseph Johnson, and as a result he is included as a co-author.

The Royal Melbourne Golf Club rates highly on the golf world stage and this is shown throughout this work. Overseas professionals have enjoyed playing at the club for many years and their exploits are described throughout. More recently the club has hosted the Presidents Cup on two occasions, 1998 and 2011. It is the only club outside the United States of America to hold this honour twice. Entertaining descriptions of these events as well as many other tournaments including the Eisenhower Trophy, the Heineken Classic, the Australian Open, the Johnnie Walker Classic, the World Cup (previously the Canada Cup) and many others are provided.

The development of the inclusion and status of women members, originally known as "Associates", makes fascinating reading, as do a number of anecdotes regarding members of the club. One member, Syd Dalrymple, was seen on many occasions to land his light plane on one of the club's fairways and invite any brave members to go on a joyride with





it is far less romantic and uncommercial. *British Movie Tone News*, accompanied two minutes of 1948 footage of Lindwall with the commentary, "Watch his foot carefully and you will see that his normal deliveries are really no-balls." (Ackerly p.16) As with Trumper, it was the image technology of the day that helped to establish an Australian cricket myth.

The practice of dragging was promoted as unfair and was regularly demonised. It was a still photograph of another Australian, Gordon Rorke on February 2, 1959, that seems to have brought matters to a head. It showed Rorke delivering the ball with both feet beyond the popping crease. A front foot rule, in which some portion of the front foot had to be behind the popping crease at the point of delivery, had been promoted by the Marylebone Cricket Club for some years before was incorporated into the laws of cricket by the International Cricket Council in July 1967. The law certainly ended dragging (though there were exceptions), however, according to Ackerly it may have spawned a more insidious problem.

The popular assumption is that since the 1970s the major cause of injuries and fatigue in elite bowlers is their workload. However, Ackerly harnesses player anecdotes, medical and bio-mechanist reports, and an extensive use of tables showing bowling workloads and stress fractures, to contend that it was not overwork so much as the bowling posture, encouraged by the front-foot law, that has led to bowler lumbar and foot stress injuries. In many ways it is a book for sports scientists and coaches as well as cricket history enthusiasts, however, it may be just as necessary a read for cricket's administrators and bowlers. Ackerly notes that, "If cricket persists with the front-foot protocol for determining no-ball, it could face scrutiny under workplace health and safety legislation." (Ackerly p.248)

Both books are very insightful and thorough. Their research is impeccable and they look well beyond their ostensibly narrow scope of interest. I doubt that Beldam could have predicted how his photograph of Trumper would be used and exploited. I also doubt that had some supporters of the front foot law in the 1960s known how it may injure bowlers, they would have pushed for it as hard.

**Trevor Ruddell**

him. On one flight Dalrymple destroyed his plane in a crash at Essendon Airport with a club member on board. Both walked from the wreckage unharmed, and he continued his flights undaunted in a new plane.

The move of the club from its original ground in East Malvern to Sandringham and subsequently to Black Rock, the work of Dr Alister MacKenzie and Alex Russell in the design and building of the two courses, the involvement of the club in the formation of the governing bodies of the sport in Victoria and Australia, and the array of historic photographs make this a thoroughly entertaining read and a valuable historic reference.

Do not be deterred by the size of this volume; it can clearly be regarded as a "must read" for all players and lovers of the sport of golf.

**Quentin Miller**

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# A Final Word: The Dick-a-Dick Story

by Jim Blair

Dick-a-Dick (Jungumjenajuke, also Jungunjinanuke) was a hero before he was an athlete of note. In 1864 he had saved the lives of the Duff children from Spring Hill station. He was riding the mail for the contractor Conoitine Docherty between Horsham and the South Australian border stations, when, on Friday August 14 the three Duff children, Isaac (9), Jane (7) and Frank (3) went into the bush to collect broom for their mother and became lost. For nine days and eight nights the children were alone in cold winter conditions. Search parties could not find them with torrential rain seemingly wiping out their tracks. Finally, Aboriginal trackers were brought in after all was believed lost. One account has Docherty sending Dick-a-Dick to the search, another has Dick-a-Dick at Mount Elgin station,<sup>1</sup> near Nhill and sent for by Jimmy Duff, of Spring Hill, and father of Frank. What is clear is that the trackers found the trail and the children were found weak, but alive. While Dick-a-Dick and the other trackers did receive some remuneration, they were largely written out of the story.<sup>2</sup> Instead, the praise went to Jane, who had selflessly kept her siblings warm by wrapping them in some of her clothes. There

is a monument to her near the spot where the children were found. The inscription reads:

In memory of the bush heroine, Jane Duff, who succoured her brothers, Isaac and Frank, for 9 days, when lost in the dense scrub near this spot in 1864. Erected by the school children and citizens of Victoria, March 1935.

The story was told over and over again, and was "The Australian 'Babes In The Wood'", which appeared in the School Papers and Reader. A little over two years later Dick-a-Dick was in Bendigo with the Aboriginal cricket side. Dick-a-Dick went on the tour to England in 1868. There, he played in 45 of the 47 matches. He had limited cricket ability, he rarely bowled and finished ninth in batting of the 14 Aboriginals who played on the tour. But Dick-a-Dick had another trick up his sleeve. He had great skill at dodging cricket balls. Mulvaney and Harcourt wrote that,

His crowd-pleasing act began when he stood in the arena grasping a narrow wooden parrying shield in his left hand. It averaged a metre in length, nine centimetres in width and was triangular in cross-section. with a hand-grip carved out of solid wood.

**Below:** "The Lost Children" by Nicholas Chevalier. *The Australian News for Home Readers*, September 24, 1864, p.1.

**Right:** Dick-a-Dick's langeel at the Marylebone Cricket Club Museum, Lord's.



THE LOST CHILDREN—[DRAWN BY N. CHEVALIER, ESQ.]—SEE PAGE 12.



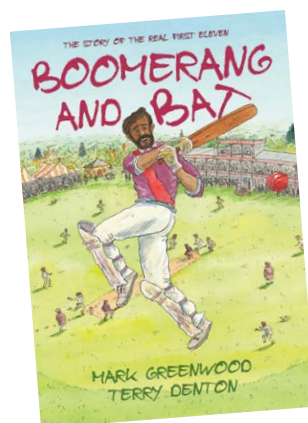
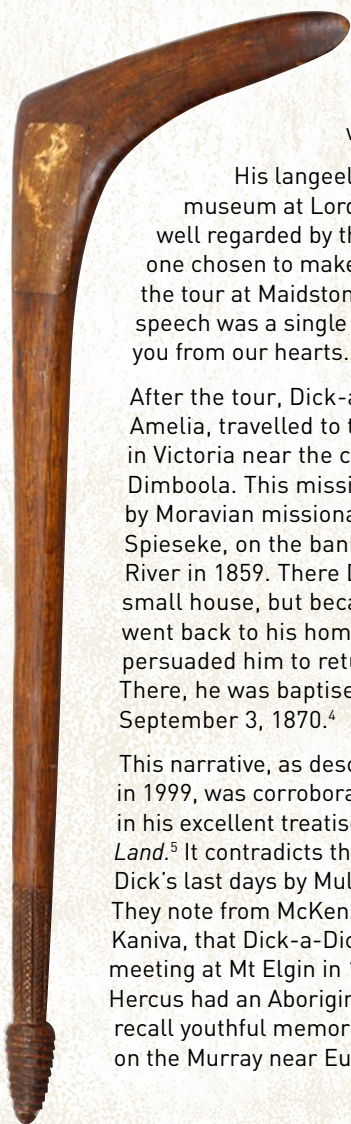
A parrying shield weighed about one and a half kilograms and was decorated with deeply incised lines and other geometric designs. Dick-a-Dick protected the region of the hand-grip with a pad of possum skin. He held a wooden club, a single-combat weapon termed a "leowell" or "langeel" in his right hand. Dick-a-Dick challenged all-comers to stand 15 to

20 metres distant and pelt him with cricket balls. He protected his body and head with the shield, and his legs with the club.

His langeel is in the cricket museum at Lord's. Dick-a-Dick was well regarded by the team and was the one chosen to make a speech at the end of the tour at Maidstone's Railway Hotel. The speech was a single sentence, "We thank you from our hearts."<sup>3</sup>

After the tour, Dick-a-Dick and his wife, Amelia, travelled to the Ebenezer mission in Victoria near the current town of Dimboola. This mission was established by Moravian missionaries, led by Friedrich Spieseke, on the banks of the Wimmera River in 1859. There Dick-a-Dick built a small house, but became sick. He briefly went back to his home country but Amelia persuaded him to return to the mission. There, he was baptised, and then died on September 3, 1870.<sup>4</sup>

This narrative, as described by Bill Edwards in 1999, was corroborated by David Sampson in his excellent treatise *Strangers in a Strange Land*.<sup>5</sup> It contradicts the version of Dick-a-Dick's last days by Mulvaney and Harcourt. They note from McKenzie, a historian from Kaniva, that Dick-a-Dick was seen at a race meeting at Mt Elgin in 1884, and that Dr Luise Hercus had an Aboriginal elder, Jack Long, recall youthful memories of Dick-a-Dick living on the Murray near Euston.<sup>6</sup>



Mark Greenwood and Terry Denton  
**Boomerang and Bat - the story of the real first eleven.**  
Allen & Unwin : Crow's Nest, NSW, 2016. ISBN: 9781743319246

Author Mark Greenwood and artist Terry Denton have undertaken their second collaboration to produce *Boomerang and Bat - the story of the real first eleven*. This 32 page hardcover

picture book provides a perfect introduction for children to the story of the formation of the aboriginal cricket team in Western Victoria in 1866 and their tour of England in 1868.

The story is mainly seen through the eyes of Johnny Mullagh, and in the opening pages this talented stockman starts being noticed for his cricketing prowess. He meets his team mates who form a squad of aboriginal cricketers that play matches against different pastoral stations and regional teams before heading to Melbourne to play the Melbourne Cricket Club at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Boxing Day 1866. The huge interest in this event inspired the famous tour to England, which is covered in detail by the majority of the book.

Greenwood and Denton look at a range of controversial issues from the tour, including having to smuggle the team out of the colony to undertake their journey, the carnival-like interest in the indigenous cultural displays that took place after the cricket matches, the illness and then death of King Cole during the tour, as well as the racism and refusal to serve the team by the caterer in York; all are covered in terms that children will understand, or want to ask more about.

Denton has provided two highly decorative, but informative endpapers. The front shows the map of the world outlining the route of the tour to and from England. The rear shows portraits of the different members of the tour squad in the distinctive shirts they wore in England, individualised with different coloured or patterned sashes. The latter is portrayed in the style of the famous cameo photographs of the team taken in the 1860s by Kruger and Dawson.

Overall, *Boomerang and Bat* will inspire young readers to learn more about the trailblazing group of aboriginal cricketers that undertook their tour across the Australian colonies and England from 1866 to 1869. Indeed Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright's teachers' notes provided on Mark Greenwood's website contain plenty of resources for any inquisitive reader to explore. They are located at [http://www.markgreenwood.com.au/images/notes/boomerang\\_and\\_bat\\_notes.pdf](http://www.markgreenwood.com.au/images/notes/boomerang_and_bat_notes.pdf)

**David Studham**

#### Endnotes

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