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NEWS FROM THE NEW MCC LIBRARY

This year has been a major milestone in the 133-year history of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library. The volunteers and staff have worked tirelessly to relocate the Library's collection from its temporary storage facility at Jolimont Terrace to the new purpose-built library at the MCG. This has been an immense undertaking which required the relocation of the Library's collection of more than 100,000 items in two shifts. The move of the Library collection took place in May, while storage was moved in July.

However, it is one thing to transport items and it is quite another to order and process them. To this end the 15 Library volunteers have been instrumental to the project. When the new Library was officially opened on September 28 the volunteers could look back proudly on what they have achieved. In summary, for the installation of the collection in the new Library this year the MCC Library volunteers have:

- Unpacked 888 boxes and sorted and shelved approximately 8750 items in the main Library.
- Unpacked 7,655 lateral file items.
- Created approximately 2,150 lateral file folders and affixed approximately 10,750 classification stickers to them.
- Sorted around 960 permanent boxes into alphabetical order and shelved them in storage.
- Unpacked 90 boxes in storage.

Despite a number of unforeseen hurdles and teething problems the volunteers have maintained patience and a cheery demeanour that has been commensurate with their diligence. The relocation was a large undertaking but the Library staff and volunteers have also processed (accessioned, covered, spine labelled and shelved) approximately 600 books.

The reopening of the Library to the public also meant that staff and volunteers have assisted with member and public reference enquiries. This is something that we anticipate will increase as more MCC Members become aware of the Library. It must be noted that over 1,000 people (a new MCC Library record) attended the Library on Grand Final Day 2006.

The reestablishment of the MCC Library's publishing program complements the reopening of the Library. As well as this much anticipated edition of *The Yorker* (in recess since the last English tour of Australia in 2003), a book on the mythical Ashes called *In Affectionate Remembrance* may be purchased from the MCG Superstore from Boxing Day. The Library has also provided fact sheets for the AFL Finals and domestic cricket at the MCG since its official opening in September.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

My parents were married in Adelaide on 17 January, 1933.

When they made their wedding day plans they had no way of knowing about the impending drama of the Bodyline Series.

The officiating Presbyterian Minister loved cricket and was certain he could attend the first session of play at the Adelaide Oval and make it back to the church in good time for the service. However, with the excitement at the ground, he became so engrossed he forgot all about the young couple waiting to see him.

On a searingly hot January day (108°F - 42°C), my mother arrived at the church, my father arrived, but there was no trace of the Minister.

After contacting the Manse and finding out that he had headed off to the Adelaide Oval, my uncles set off in search of the Minister. They eventually found him and escorted him back to the church – what a chilly atmosphere that taxi ride must have been! As he robed, he found he had left his Geneva bands behind so my Uncle John made him a set from blotting paper.

And so they were married, and spent the next sixty-four years together.

**Margaret Johnstone,
MCC Library Volunteer.**

MARGARET JOHNSTONE PROFILE

In this issue we profile Melbourne Cricket Club member and Library volunteer Margaret Johnstone. Margaret became a member of the MCC when her father gave up his ladies ticket for her.

Margaret was born in Melbourne in 1936 and was educated at MLC. From there she went on train as a pharmacist. She worked as a pharmacist for 29 years while at the same time raising a family of four. She now has a total of nine grandchildren – two Restricted members and seven still on the waiting list! Three of her grandchildren are very active in cricket in Elwood.

In 1981 Margaret joined the Commonwealth Department of Health in Canberra as a pharmacist. In 1984 she changed career path and moved across to the National Archives working in Government Records, retiring as the Assistant Director of Reference Services.

Since retiring and returning to Melbourne Margaret has been active as a library volunteer in a number of libraries – Elwood Primary School, Holy Rosary Primary School in Kensington, Melbourne Boys High School and the Mac.Robertson Girls' High School – all schools attended by her grandchildren and of course here at the MCC Library.

Margaret's professional skills and experience as well as her calm and helpful personality are very welcome in the MCC Library.

PUBLISHING DETAILS

The Yorker is edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.

Graphic Design and publication by George Petrou Design.

Thanks to Alf Batchelder, Nathan Cadden, Dennis Carroll, Margaret Johnstone, Eric Panther, Ross Peacock, Ross Perry, Ann Rusden, Deborah Schrader, David Studham and Ken Wilson for their contributions.

The views expressed are those of the editors and authors, and not those of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

THE MYSTERY OF THE PAVILION CLOCK'S HIDDEN NUMERALS

In Grand Final week 2006 a clock was installed on the wood panelling of the atrium of the MCC Members Pavilion. The clock was given pride of place, located in a position where it was visible from every level of the atrium, as well as through the glass windows to those approaching the Pavilion (shown below).



At the same time a plaque (right) was placed on Level 2 at the back of the Long Room, detailing a short history of the clock. This revealed that the clock is the only item from the structure of the original Members Pavilion still in the club's collection. This article tells the story of the authentication of the clock and its history.



THE PAVILION CLOCK

In late November 2004, as part of preparing research for the MCC Museum and the National Sports Museum's MCG Exhibition, Library staff and volunteers were comparing documentation on the MCC collection holdings. One item that was listed for inclusion in either exhibition was a large clock, which was then displayed in a heritage module of the Great Southern Stand (GSS).

This was described as the clock originally displayed on the second MCC Pavilion, erected in 1881 and demolished in 1927. The clock had been moved to another stand for 25 years before being stored for more than 35 years, then cleaned and displayed as a static object in one of the MCG heritage modules.

A site inspection of the object was required, and after lunching with a group of the Library volunteers in the GSS the following Monday, we headed down to the modules on Level B1 in search of the clock. Once found, we noted that Roman numeral hour markings were faintly visible underneath the present simple markings on the face of the clock, showing through from where they had been painted over at some time.

Upon returning to the temporary library we started to look through old pictures of the clock on the 1881 Pavilion. In the possession of the MCC Museum are two photographs by W. Lindt of Melbourne. These were taken one morning around the time of the completion of the second Pavilion in December 1881, and show the first and second Pavilions side by side. (The first Pavilion would not be demolished until after April the following year, as both were required for the 1881/82 season tour by Alfred Shaw's English XI.)



The photographs revealed a vacant space on the front of the 1881 pavilion with a small casement housing awaiting the fitting of a clock, while the original pavilion still retained its clock, shown sitting flush against the face of the arched gable built to contain the clock and its mechanism in 1863. A magnification of this clock on the 1854 pavilion clearly showed Roman numerals around the face. Indeed they were so clear that they almost leapt off the photograph, the distinctive IIII for the 4 instantly reminding us of the faint numerals that had been seen less than a half-hour earlier on the clock in the heritage module.

It was then that the revelation hit. If the face is the same and the case looks similar could this clock not just be from the second Pavilion, but also from the first?!? A detailed examination of further photographs in the Museum and Library collections ranging from the 1870s to the 1920s revealed the same distinctive numerals on the clocks on both pavilions. Using scans of the 1881 photographs and similar views of the second Pavilion taken once its clock was installed, it was possible to work out a consistent scale that showed that the clocks not only looked the same, but were indeed the same size. However, the photos showed that the backing board of the original wooden casing was wider than the small casement on the front of the second Pavilion. It would have had to be removed from the clock to allow for easy installation onto the front of the second Pavilion.

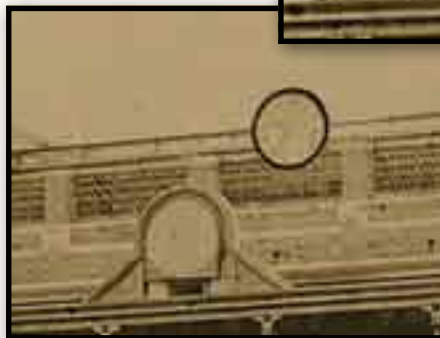
A check of the MCC Committee minutes for 1881 and 1882 for any mention of the clock revealed that the Club had originally planned to sell the 1863 clock and purchase a new one to install on the new Pavilion. However, the construction costs for the new pavilion were over the original allocation of £3000 and this had resulted in a reduction of decorative finishings from the original proposal. The minutes also noted that there was no buyer for the old clock, and neither they nor the financial reports reveal the purchase of another one. Therefore, it appeared likely that a cost saving was made and the clock was simply transferred across from the old pavilion to the new.

With this further evidence making it more likely that the clock may indeed have been from the first Pavilion, it was decided to seek some authentication from a clock expert, preferably one accredited with the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts and Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage programs.

Ronnie Bauer, of Klepner's Jewellers and Valuers, fitted the bill on all counts. Ronnie was able to verify that the dial and surround of the clock were indeed consistent with those made in the 1850s and 1860s. He noted that the hands and over-painting on the dial were actually from the 1920s – also consistent with the original ones remaining with the clock in all of our photographs of the second Pavilion up to its demolition in 1927.



The pictures that solved a puzzle. The old and new Members Pavilions photographed within minutes on the same day. Note the unfinished clock housing on the new Pavilion.



We knew after its removal from the 1881 Pavilion the clock was next installed onto the front of the 1880s Grandstand in 1928. With the electrification of this stand at the same time, the original clockwork movement was replaced with an electric slave movement, and the dial repainted to make the hour divisions stronger and easier to see from the clock's new position set further back from the boundary. Sadly the original clockwork movement was disposed of at this time.

Ronnie and his colleagues at Klepner's had also used scans of the original photos from 1881 and computer graphics software to ascertain the size of the 1863 clock and the one installed into the second Pavilion. They also found a match. (An extract from Ronnie's report is above.)

The pictures that helped solve the puzzle. The old and new Members Pavilions photographed within minutes on the same day in December 1881. Note the unfinished clock housing on the new Pavilion:

- 1) Showing the clock being cropped out of the photo of the first Pavilion
- 2) Being properly orientated
- 3) Placed onto the photo of the new Pavilion of 1881.

With the age and style of materials being consistent with the original clock, as well as the shape and size being the same, Ronnie had no doubt that this was indeed the clock from 1863, and took great pleasure in officially verifying this for us.



Spectators in the Members Reserve watch as players take the field during the 1911/12 Test series against England. The picture above shows the clock and its housing on the second Pavilion as well as a portion of the Grandstand, the clock's home from 1928 to 1954. (MCC Library Collection).

The replacement 1920s movement was in a dilapidated state when the clock was cosmetically restored in the early 1990s. With the decision to reinstall the clock into the atrium of the fourth Members Pavilion, it was decided to rejuvenate the clock with a state of the art computer-controlled movement which accounts for all stoppages and daylight saving time.

With Ronnie's assistance the restoration was undertaken from late-2005 to mid-2006 and the clock was ready for installation in the period between the two weekends of football finals at the start and end of September 2006. The clock was installed and wired up over the first two days of Grand Final week and re-commenced operating on Wednesday September 27, 2006.

David Studham

RESEARCHING HUGHIE

In researching *Pavilions In The Park*, I became particularly interested in some of the key figures associated with the Melbourne Cricket Club and its Ground. I was fascinated by the contribution of amateurs like Andrew Stoddart and Archie MacLaren, who led some of the English teams organised by our club. The MCC's records led me to appreciate the enormous impact of leaders like Frank Grey Smith and Vernon Ransford. I saw that they were men of great integrity, whose approach to life in general had been shaped by their love of cricket. A few individuals, though, left me quite cold – for example, I remain appalled by one English captain whose assault on the principles of sportsmanship was utterly out of keeping with anything that the game had previously seen. Some figures remained slightly veiled. Major Wardill, for instance, was an outstanding administrator, but there were times when he did not leave detailed accounts of his actions, and so a few mysteries remain. However, no one fascinated me more than Hugh Trumble.

The modern era has seen much discussion about the skills of Shane Warne. Many now regard him as the greatest bowler of all time. While he has indeed taken more wickets than anyone else, Warne has also enjoyed a remarkable number of opportunities. However, I find it hard to accept that his skills are significantly better than the great bowlers of the past. A century ago, it was Trumble who was regarded as the game's greatest bowler. Consequently, I am keen to trace the evolution of his cricket career, but Hughie, as I call him, is interesting for other reasons as well. Renowned for his humour and his approachability, Trumble was probably the most popular and widely recognised secretary that the MCC has ever had. Like Grey Smith, his views on life were profoundly shaped by his love of the game and its basic principles. Moreover, he led the club through difficult times, especially during World War I, and was involved with many personalities who are highly interesting in their own right – Monash and Sir Leo Cussen, to name but two.



Hugh Trumble was born 139 years ago, and died in 1938. Consequently, he belongs to an age that risks being forgotten in the flood of modern cricket and the marketing and promotion that accompany it. As L.P. Hartley wrote, "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." In 1890, the young Trumble made his first trip to England – he found it an interesting and very different experience.

Alf Batchelder



Deserved Recognition

Among the many personal achievements of the Library volunteers this year include the successful publication of Alf Batchelder's *Pavilions in the Park* – an authoritative and comprehensive history of the MCC and MCG. It was a labour of love at least eight years in the making.

Alf was honoured recently with the Jack Pollard Trophy [left] by the Australian Cricket Society as the author of the outstanding cricket book of 2006. The trophy is currently on display in the MCC Library foyer.

Extract from forthcoming biography on Hugh Trumble by Alf Batchelder.

From the outset, the Mother Country was a source of wonder to newcomers like Trumble. The *Leader's* correspondent noted that "Coming from a country where the grass gets so brown, the green fields of old England we had heard so much about seemed to Australian eyes very beautiful ... The pretty orchards, the well tilled fields and green pastures were showing to great effect". The sights and sounds of London immediately surpassed anything from the previous six weeks. Observing the new men during their rambles around the heart of the Empire, "buying apparel, &c.", the writer recalled Shakespeare's words: "Still they gaped and still their wonder grew ..."

Once in London, the players decided that their colours would be "Oxford blue faced with gold, with the Australian coat of arms on the cap and coat - colours very similar to those worn by the 1884 team." Although an executive had been formed aboard the *Liguria*, it had been decided that "the selection of the match committee [would] be settled in England by the full team." Not until the eve of the tour's first major fixture were Murdoch, Blackham and Turner "unanimously chosen" as the match committee.

Invitations "from all sides to dinners, theatres, &c." poured into the team headquarters at the Tavistock Hotel, but the executive group exercised "great care ..., as an honest endeavour is to be made to wrest the cricket championship from the old country." Even so, Hugh Trumble was undoubtedly among the "the new fellows" captivated by the music halls; for the rest of his life, he would delight in recalling the ditties he had first heard and sung in England. Possibly, he was in the group entertained at "a splendid Bohemian concert" by Ye Blarers, a social club considered "one of the best of the kind in London", with large numbers of professional and business men among its 150 members. Some of the songs contained special verses about the team and various players. When the cricketers entered the room, "there was a great shout, the applause being deafening, it being hard to think we were away from our friends in Australia." Earlier, Mr. John Deasy, member for West Mayo, and Mr. J. R. Cox, member for East Clare, had entertained the team in the House of Commons dining room "as a recognition of courtesies" received during their Australian trip. A fellow *Liguria* passenger, Welsh MP Sir Arthur Stepney, was also present. Even though the parliamentarians had arranged for the cricketers to watch the debate and division on the Government Irish Land Purchase Bill, the House was so crowded that they had "great difficulty" reaching the galleries. Another highlight was a Sunday visit to Epping Forest, where an old stable belonging to Queen Elizabeth I was "specially pointed out to us, whilst Sam Jones and Jack Blackham walked a mile and a half to hear a nightingale sing."

Amid these distractions that generated lifelong memories, the Australians were preparing for their first matches. At "the prettily-situated Chiswick-park ground", hearty cheers greeted Billy Murdoch and his men, while "every stroke was narrowly watched". It was probably on May 3 that Hugh Trumble played on English soil for the first time, bowling "fairly well" in a scratch match against Fifteen of Erith. However, his four wickets did not earn selection for the game against Lord Sheffield's Eleven. Apparently, he was omitted because the wicket at Sheffield Park was "somewhat affected by recent rains" and would not suit him. In retrospect, it seems a curious decision, since he later developed a fearsome reputation as a bowler in such conditions. Though rain disrupted the match against a team that was "almost representative of all England", the Australians won convincingly. Trumble's exclusion enabled him to enjoy more freely what was unquestionably the grandest extravaganza of the tour.

A special train took the team to Brighton, where they "were duly installed at the Grand Hotel, being the guests of Lord Sheffield". The *Leader* predicted that, while the new members of the Australian Eleven would return home with "memories of many a delightful English experience", nothing would bring "more satisfaction than their visit to Sheffield Park". The *Leader* previewed the occasion:

A typical fine old English gentleman is the Lord of Sheffield Park, at whose hospitable board during the interval in each day's play will be found assembled at luncheon (served at "the house" to the accompaniment of music from the lawn) a company thoroughly representative of the Senate, the church, the bar, the army and navy, the various learned professions, the arts and sciences and of commercial interests.

The spectacle intensified as the team neared Sheffield Park,

... the drive to Lord Sheffield's mansion from the station through his park will never be forgotten by the new members, and not many of the old. It was a beautiful spring afternoon, and the drive through the well kept grounds was lovely. ...vehicles of all descriptions were to be seen carrying numbers of people to the ground so hospitably thrown open by his lordship to the public, and during the day some 8000 people keenly watched the play, whilst all over the grounds parties were seen picnicking and wandering about the beautiful glades ...

The climax was reached, when after being met by the Earl and a party of gentlemen we were shown over his beautiful house, and also some charming views of his park, the fine old oak, elm and beech trees, with the nice green grass everywhere, the lovely pansy beds, all set off by the splendid waterfalls, combined to make a picture which our Australian eyes had never seen, and if the exclamation "What a beautiful place!" was uttered by everyone of us once it was said a thousand times ...

TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION

- RARE CRICKET TRADE CARDS

A.C. MacLaren's team 1901/02 by McCracken's City Brewery Ltd



The newly opened MCC Museum recently acquired a stunning "set" of early and extremely rare Australian cricket trade cards. The cards depict 12 of the 14 members of Archie MacLaren's English team which toured Australia in 1901/02 and were issued by the Melbourne company McCracken's City Brewery Ltd. The featured players are: A.C. MacLaren (Captain), S.F. Barnes, L.C. Braund, C. Blythe, H.G. Garnett, J. Gunn, T. Hayward, G.L. Jessop, A.O. Jones, A.A. Lilley, W.G. Quaife and J.T. Tyldesley. The two missing players from the collection are C.P. McGahey and C. Robson and to date neither of these cards has ever been seen. Neither Garnett, who was killed in action in France in 1917, nor Robson played a Test match during the tour.

Another snippet of interest is that the amateur members of the side, MacLaren, Garnett, Jones, Jessop, McGahey and Robson, were made Honorary Life Members of the Melbourne Cricket Club.¹ Indeed A.C. MacLaren's team was the last of the English teams that toured under the auspices of the Melbourne Cricket Club. From Pelham Warner's 1903/04 team until the 1977 Centenary Test side, the English played in Australia under the authority of the Marylebone Cricket Club.

The cards consist of black and white portraits of the players, surrounded by borders of dark blue enclosing bars of red and white checks. This design was clearly taken from the team's uniform. In the article entitled *Arrival of MacLaren's team in Adelaide*, published in the *Australasian* of November 9, 1901 (p.1047) it is noted that, "The English cricketers ... were easily distinguishable by small red and white checks on their blue hat bands." (*These bands can be seen in pictures of players in the Australasian, November 16, 1901, p.1118.*) While the red, white and blue could be considered their national colours, taken from the Union Flag, they could also be seen as the colours of the team's sponsoring club.

A similar set of cards featuring the same touring players was issued by Hordern Bros. a Pitt Street, Sydney department store.

After losing the First Test in Sydney by an innings, Australia went on to win the next four Tests, by 229 runs in Melbourne, by 4 wickets in Adelaide, by 7 wickets in Sydney and, finally, by 32 runs in Melbourne.

R. McCracken & Co's brewery was founded by Robert McCracken in Collins Street, Melbourne in 1851, the same year gold was discovered in Victoria. The thirst of the huge influx of miners flocking to the goldfields increased business manyfold and it grew steadily until the disastrous financial depression of the 1890s. The company managed to survive until 1907 when, with five other breweries, it merged into Carlton & United Breweries Ltd. Robert's son, Alexander, who had been the managing director of McCracken City Brewery Ltd, became a director with CUB upon the merger. The impressive group of buildings, which formed the massive brewery works, were located opposite where today's Rialto Tower stands. The brewery was demolished by Jim Whelan (of Whelan the Wrecker fame) not long after the merger.

Alexander McCracken was the man in charge at the time the cricket cards were produced. He must have been quite an amazing man for among his many interests he was the first secretary and later president of the Essendon Football Club and later, when the Victorian Football League broke away from the Victorian Football Association, he became the inaugural president of the new football body. His biography reveals he was either the founder, president or patron of some 17 sporting and civic bodies. Somehow, in 1894, he found time to unsuccessfully stand for the Legislative Assembly against Alfred Deakin who later became the second Prime Minister of Australia. He died, aged 59 in 1915, in his beloved Essendon, the suburb he had devoted so much of his time, energy and money to. His portrait hangs in the Essendon Football Club's rooms.

The twelve cards are now prominently displayed in the cricketana section of our magnificent new MCC Museum.

Eric Panther and Ken Wilson

Acknowledgements.

Melbourne Cricket Club Museum
Melbourne Cricket Club Library
La Trobe Library, Melbourne.

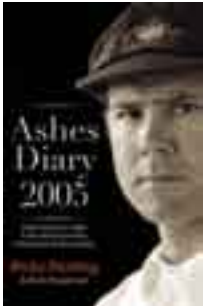
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The Australasian, 1901.
Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol.10.
Robyn Annear, *A City Lost and Found*.

¹ **Minutes of MCC Committee Meeting, February 21, 1902.**

"Members' badges to be presented to professionals in English team. Honorary Life Memberships to the 5 Amateurs of the Team."

BOOK REVIEWS



Ponting, Ricky with
Murgatroyd, Brian
***Ashes Diary 2005: From Victory in India
to the most dramatic Test series of the
century***
Harper Collins: Sydney, 2005
ISBN: 0732281520

For many Australian cricket fans, the 2005 Ashes Series left a perpetual heartbreak. Ricky Ponting provides a very personal account of this memorable period as captain of the Australian side. Beginning with the Sri Lankan Top End Tour in June 2004, the *Ashes Diary 2005* gives insights into Ponting's county cricket debut with Somerset in England, as well as the Videocon Cup and ICC Champions Trophy. Ponting expresses his disappointment at missing the majority of Australia's victorious Test tour of India as a result of a fractured thumb. Also well accounted for are the following tours of New Zealand and Pakistan in Australia, the Tsunami match, the VB series with the West Indies and Pakistan, and the Test and one-day tour of New Zealand that also included the first Twenty20 international.

The most significant piece from *The Ashes Diary 2005* is that which focuses on the dramatic Australian tour of England in the summer of 2005. The past year had been leading up to this point and Ponting portrays his anguish of the inevitable loss of the Ashes to England. Ponting gives a candid response to the failures of Australia which led to the loss of the Ashes. It is interesting to note the high praise he gives his fellow Australian teammates throughout Ponting's reflection. At the same time he gives emphasis to the dramatic tie in the NatWest Series and victory in the NatWest Challenge. Also included is an in-depth section of the 2004/05 statistics period, compiled by Ross Dundas.

The Ashes Diary 2005 is the third contribution by Ponting as captain of Australia and provides a valuable account of events which led to the Ashes clash and arguably the most dramatic Test Series of the century. It is a captain's story with notable highs, yet will be most known for its dramatic lows. It is a considerable read for any cricket lover, a delight for whichever side of the fence you happen to be on. It also provides a nice curtain-raiser to the much-anticipated 2006 Ashes Series.

Nathan Cadden



Ponting, Ricky
***Captain's Diary 2006: Australia's Road to
the Battle for the Ashes***
Harper Sports: Sydney, 2006
ISBN 10: 0 7322 8153 9
ISBN 13: 978 0 7322 8153 3

The fourth in Ricky Ponting's diary series, the 2006 version (co-authored by Geoff Armstrong) covers the period between October 2005, when a World XI visited Australia, and April 2006 when the short tour of Bangladesh concluded. During this 25-week period, the Australians played 25 One Day Internationals, 12 Tests and two Twenty/20 Internationals. Thirty players were used and the matches were played in four different countries. Only seven games were lost, none of them Tests, a formidable record for any captain.

In the first section of the book, Ponting looks back to the difficult period following the loss of the Ashes. He arrived home to the inevitable speculation about his role in the defeat, Dennis Lillee leading the charge and nominating Shane Warne as a better proposition if the Ashes were to be regained. Ponting admits that he was hurt by the criticism, but could not afford to overreact. Unfortunately he doesn't spend enough time on his personal responses to the criticism, instead shifting the discussion to the review of the team's performance carried out by Cricket Australia. It is all just a bit too bland, a characteristic which, unfortunately,

is typical of this genre. For example, statements such as: "I have always said that if we can focus on things we can do, rather than worrying about outside things that are beyond our control, we can compete with any team in the world", become rather tedious.

The main problem with the book as a whole is that the diary format is followed religiously. Every game is commented on in at least some detail. Even the most creative of observers would find it difficult to find something of real interest to say about each of the 25 one day games Australia played during the period covered. Ironically, although Ponting gives his personal thumbs down to the concept of Twenty/20 cricket at the international level, the short chapter spent on the game in Brisbane against South Africa is of comparative interest, if only because it is something a little different.

Perhaps the subtitle of the book gives the game away. After the Ashes were lost in one of the finest series ever played, everything that happened in the 18 months before the return clash in Australia was going to be seen as a prelude. The series against South Africa began with plenty of hype, but the reality was that the best they could do was force one draw in the six Tests played. The severely undermanned West Indians were never going to provide a real contest and Jason Gillespie scored a double century against Bangladesh. One hundred and thirty pages are allocated to coverage of the Test matches. The final 86 pages contain the score cards from every game played, as well as the averages for each series. The next diary should be more interesting.

Denis Carroll



Thompson, Harry
***Penguins Stopped Play:
Eleven Village Cricketers
take on the World.***
John Murray (Publishers):
London, 2006
ISBN 07195 6345 3

This is a delightfully entertaining book which I consumed while watching our Ashes heroes strut their stuff recently on the beautiful Adelaide Oval. It is the story of the life and times of the Captain Scott Invitation XI, a village green cricket team which began life among a group of students at Oxford University.

The team continued to play both at home and abroad over a 25-year period and at one stage did a whirlwind three-week round the world tour to enable it to play on all continents.

The author was a storyteller. His story highlights the eccentricity of the British and the bulldog-like tenacity which served them well during their round the world trip when everything that could go wrong generally did! It is at times Monty Pythonesque with

a tinge of the Goons. Some of the characters in and around the team are a delight. How could one come to be travelling in Uzbekistan with a full set of Wisdens and then lose them? Hugh Grant (alias Captain Peacock of BBC fame) was a team member as were the O'Herlihy brothers, lawyers of part Irish/part Malaysian extraction who played in shades and ponytails. The brothers did not excel at cricket but were invaluable in "tight corners on far-flung fields". One of the four however paid lip service to his responsibilities, preferring to spend the weekend in bed with his Swedish girlfriend rather than immersing himself in the raw pulsations of village green cricket. Then there were the stockbrokers in their Gucci pads.....!

Thompson was, from time to time during his working life, a travel journalist. His writings on the team's travels and his impressions of places visited are informative, witty and stylish.

This may not be one for the connoisseur or the cricket tragic or those who thirst after accounts of the exploits of the elite players and immerse themselves in voluminous servings of statistics. It is escapism, well presented and entertaining. Sadly, the author died soon after finishing the book. He may well have finished his final story under threat from the illness which took his life.

Ross Perry



Haigh, Gideon.
***The Summer game: Cricket and
Australia in the 50s and 60s.***
ABC Books & Audio, 2006.
ISBN : 9780733320033

ABC Books have just reissued an updated edition of Gideon Haigh's **The Summer Game** to coincide with the release of their **Cricket in the 50s** and **Cricket in the 60s** DVDs.

The editors did not think they could improve upon Ross Peacock's review of the original edition, published in *The Yorker* No.16, so we are reprinting that for your enjoyment.

This is clearly the best cricket book that I have reviewed in the four-year history of *The Yorker*.

It really amazes me that its author, Gideon Haigh, is only 31 years of age and continues to provide more graphic and colourful writing than many of the other more "mature" cricket scribes. What is more, Haigh is talking in this book about an era through which he did not, for the most part, live. To find Gordon Rorke (of the late '50s and early '60s) described as "husky" recalls my mental image of the NSW paceman in the most vivid manner. So too the image of Ken "Slasher" Mackay, "a man with an allegiance to Wrigley's gum so unstinting that he stockpiled enough to last the tour."

The author's use of evocative language is again demonstrated in a sentence discussing the Third Test, Australia v South Africa, at Durban in 1950 when Neil Harvey made 151 not out. Harvey had to graft for his runs: "So used to dictating terms to bowlers,

Harvey found the experience disorienting. It was taking so long. He was actually practising, and counselling, caution." Rather than just describing the "play" or giving "the scores", Haigh digs deeper and deeper into the psyche of Australian cricket at home and abroad and, largely through new material gained by oral interview, paints a picture of what it was really like to play Test cricket.

Who drank with whom and why, and who didn't. The trades or professions of the players, and how these impinged on many career directions; the state of the economy and the contribution of cricket to it; the pressures of raising a family and staying in cricket.

For this is definitely also a social, economic and political history, throwing new light, for instance, on the love of cricket held by Sir Robert Menzies and just how much he would do for anyone who "played the game" to his liking. Before the Test matches started on the 1953 tour of England, Menzies threw a huge dinner in the River Room of the Savoy Hotel, London. No expense was spared, including steaks shipped over from Australia for the occasion. The PM recited a 23-verse poem as an ode to the Aussies, the poem appearing in full in the appendix. Health and fitness is also an ongoing issue in the book, from the temporary vegetarianism of Frank Misson to the ill-health suffered by a large number of players such as Lindsay Kline and Alan Connolly when touring the subcontinent.

The Melbourne Cricket Club gets some attention too, and the alleged "watering of the wicket" incident in the 1955 Melbourne Test is aired, partly through the testament of Ian Johnson who a year later became MCC secretary.

Altogether a book which I could not put down, and would fully recommend to any Australian History class.

Ross Peacock

ALSO RECOMMENDED...



Hilton, Christopher
The Birth of the Ashes: The Amazing Story of the First Ashes Test
 Renniks Publications:
 Banksmeadow, 2006
 ISBN 10: 09752245 4 9
 ISBN 13: 9780 9752245 4 0

A extensively researched book recreating ball-by-ball the historic 1882 match at the Oval. Also covered in depth are the events of Ivo Bligh's tour to Australia with discussion on the events at Rupertswood that led to the creation of the Darnley Ashes urn. Of special note to historians of the mythical ashes are photographic reproductions of Lady Darnley's handwritten notes for her commentary on the origin of the little ashes urn.



Andrew Flintoff
Being Freddie: The Story so Far
 Hodder & Stoughton: London, 2005
 ISBN 0 340 89628 0

As the title says, Andrew Flintoff has written his personal account of his career in cricket to date. His cricket started with his signing with Lancashire when aged just 15 and the next year signing as a professional. His first tour overseas the following year was to the West Indies with the England Under-19s. His Test debut came when he was 20 and has been most successful since 2001, on the tour of India. He has played an outstanding role in England's recent successes in Tests culminating in the Ashes series of 2005. However, like some other fast bowlers he has had his share of injuries.

Ann Rusden



Panckridge, Michael with Lee, Brett
Toby Jones and the Mystery of the Time Travel Tour
 HarperCollins: Sydney, 2005
 ISBN: 0207199981

Toby Jones is not your average young cricket fanatic. On a visit to the MCC Library, he discovers he has a rare ability: by reading the Wisden account of a cricket match, he can travel back in time to that match. But there is danger as well as excitement in this talent: to stay in a previous time for more than two hours means risking death.

In Toby Jones and the Mystery of the Time Travel Tour, the third title in the series, Toby finds himself pursuing Phillip Smale, the manager of a rival cricket club, who has stolen a magic scorecard that allows him to time travel as well. Smale plans to set up a business taking well-heeled cricket fans back to watch classic matches, but he doesn't care if he leaves the odd customer behind, although that means their death. Can Toby rescue the stranded fan? And can he stop Smale?

With a couple of strong female characters as well, this lively mix of sport, adventure and fantasy is entertaining reading for cricket enthusiasts between nine and 12.

The four Toby Jones books, by Michael Panckridge with Brett Lee, all set around the MCC Library, can be found through <http://www.harpercollins.com.au/>.

Deborah Schrader

Readers who have followed England's recent improvement in the Test arena will find interest in reading this account as told by Flintoff himself, especially the highs and lows he has experienced and the insight he gives into the life of the modern professional cricketer with its routine practices and the worldwide travel involved.

The last chapters describe the thrilling 2005 Ashes series and the celebrations which followed England's success. The final section consists of statistics and records for Flintoff in Test cricket, one day internationals and first-class cricket up to the end of the 2005 Ashes Tests compiled by Vic Isaacs. It also lists the scorecards for the Ashes 2005. It can be commended as good holiday reading for Flintoff admirers.

Ann Rusden



Haigh, Gideon [Editor].
Peter the Lord's Cat: And Other Unexpected Obituaries from Wisden
 Aurum: London, 2006
 ISBN 1845131630

This small, yet enjoyable collections of obituaries for the esoteric and eccentric members of the cricketing fraternity has proven a regular candidate for selection of the daily reading during the Library staff and volunteers' morning tea. Entries read so far have included the title feline, Samuel Beckett, Anthony Ainley (The Master from the Doctor Who series), P.G. Wodehouse, Bob Crisp (the only man in first-class cricket to take four wickets in four balls twice), and the Rev. Reginald Heber Ross (whose two first-class cricket appearances were a record 32 years apart). A must for all cricket readers.

David Studham

VALE PAUL RIGBY



On November 15, 2006 cartoonist Paul Rigby passed away. With the English cricketers touring the country this summer the MCC Library thought it appropriate to present Rigby's insight into the 1974/75 Ashes series. An obituary for Paul Rigby may be found at www.theaustralian.news.com.au/printpage/0,5942,20785454,00.html.

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE

With the opening of the new MCC Library, our publishing program has also recommenced with *In Affectionate Remembrance*. The book expands upon themes in the 2002/03 Yorker Ashes supplement. In words and pictures it outlines the origins of the Ashes myth in 1882 and its subsequent representation throughout the ensuing years. The 96-page book retails for AUS\$20.00 inc. GST and may be purchased from the MCG Superstore.

