



## SEASON LAUNCH 2017-18



### Our Guest of Honour and Speaker: Legendary Melbourne Sports Journalist, Rod Nicholson

**R**OD NICHOLSON is one of Australia's best-known sports journalists and authors. He reported cricket, football, racing and other sports for 47 years for The Herald and The Herald Sun and was the voice of cricket for years on everyone's favourite 3DB.

He will talk about the cricket pay strike — and promises to have some tips for us for the big time springtime carnival... bring it on!

**Don't miss what is sure to be one of the great luncheons.**

**Date:** Friday, 22 September, 2017

**Time:** 12 noon for a 12.30 start

**Venue:** Our renowned city base, the Kelvin Club, (Melbourne Place, just up from the corner of Bourke St and Russell St)

**Cost:** \$75 members, \$85 non-members

Pre-payment essential. Contact Wayne Ross on 0416 983 888

Or email him: [info@australiancricketsociety.com.au](mailto:info@australiancricketsociety.com.au)

### OUR 50th AGM

MONDAY, 21 AUGUST

### OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



# Future Activities & Events

**BRYCE MCGAIN LUNCHEON**  
at Mt Eliza, Friday, October 13, 2017

## Drive for 25

Building new nets at Mt Eliza CC



**SEASON  
LAUNCH  
2017-18  
LUNCHEON,  
CB's,  
Friday,  
13 October,  
2017**

**Guest of honour BRYCE McGAIN**  
with TIANA MARTEL & GEOFF POULTER

**W**e are proud to be a support sponsor and back our ACS Ambassador Bryce McGain who is guest of honour at a fundraising function for the Mt Eliza Cricket Club at the Canadian Bay Hotel, Mt Eliza from 12 noon until 3 p.m., on Friday, October 13.

Bryce is hoping we will provide at least two tables of ACS members and friends for the luncheon, aimed at helping provide new cricket nets for the Mornington Peninsula club (*Bryce is a former local*).

The renowned Australian blues and soul singer Tiana Martel will also appear at the 'Drive for 25' event. So will our favourite Geoff Poulter whose ever-evolving *Voices of Sport* routine continues to delight.

Tickets for a two-course meal and all the entertainment are \$75 each and are available from our president Ken Piesse, who is helping Mt Eliza CC make this event a success. Pre-payment appreciated please.

Sporting memorabilia will be available for sale.

**TO BOOK:** Please contact Ken on 0419 549 458 or email him: kenpiesse@ozemail.com.au

**OUR 50TH AGM, MONDAY, AUGUST 21**  
**Forum: Do Cricket Books have a future?**

**Date:** Monday, 21 August, 2017

**Time:** 6.45 pm for a 7 pm start

**Venue:** The Casey Media Centre at the MCG - Level 3, Members Stand

**Parking:** Through Gate A off Brunton Avenue. Then Lifts 7 & 8 to Level 3

**N.B.:** Let Wayne Ross know of your intention to attend

**P:** 0416 983 888

**E:** info@australiancricketsociety.com.au

**Cost:** No charge

### Featuring

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2016 AGM.
2. Receiving of Reports.
3. Election of Office Bearers.
4. Other business.
5. The future of cricket books, with a special panel of experts

## BOXING DAY TEST MATCH DINNER

Featuring the iconic Geoff Boycott

**O**ur Guest of Honour: Since retiring from the first-class game in 1986 he has carved for himself a most distinguished, if sometimes controversial career as a cricket commentator on radio, television and the print media. Members and friends of the Society should make every effort to attend this function. Make sure you book in early because for sure this ACS occasion during the middle of yet another Boxing Day Ashes Test match will be a sell out.



*Our very special Christmas Dinner Guest, Geoffrey Boycott*

### The important details of this gala Society function are as follows:

**DATE:** Wednesday, 27 December, 2017

**TIME:** 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start

**VENUE:** The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, 489 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong.

**OUR GUEST:** Geoff Boycott, the famous England opening batsman.

**COST:** Members & Partners: \$125; Non-Members: \$135.

**BOOKINGS:** Bookings are essential and pre-payment appreciated. Please book with ACS secretary Wayne Ross at P.O. Box 4528, Langwarrin, Victoria 3910 by no later than Wednesday, 20 December, 2017. Cheques should be made payable to the ACS. Payment by electronic transfer is acceptable. The Society's General Account Number is BSB 633-000. The specific Account Number is 143226314. Please follow this information with your Surname. Wayne's contact number is 0416 983 888. His email address is info@australiancricketsociety.com.au

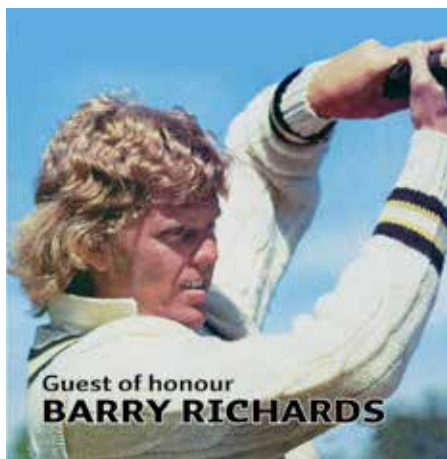
# The President's Piesse

## CRICKET, RHINOS & THE FALLS

ACS President Ken Piesse and his wife Susan are leading an Australian Cricket Society Supporters' Tour next autumn to South Africa. Just two places remain on a 'first-in; basis for the three week holiday from March 20 which takes in two Tests, world famous Kruger Game Park and the majestic Victoria Falls.

Once you start a season, you finish a season. It's one of those non-negotiable cricket mantras, which occasionally can be complicated.

In 1989, in a bid to end its isolation from the world game, the South African Cricket Union celebrated its 1889 Test Centenary by inviting dozens of past players and members of the media to Johannesburg. The Melbourne contingent was flying in on the Saturday, the final day of the home-and-away season, but I'd wanted to play the match with my club Port Melbourne.



Guest of honour  
**BARRY RICHARDS**

My wife Susan was amazed that I'd allow one Saturday of club cricket to jeopardize a holiday to a faraway wondrous land, but Ali Bacher, the central organizer, said 'no problems'. He changed our flight to the Sunday, met us on arrival at Jan Smuts Airport in Johannesburg, rushed us past customs and back to our city hotel, beginning a fabulous ten days of cricket and travel.

Nelson Mandela may still have been in jail, but cricket, like no other sport, was being proactive in triggering radical reform. Bacher's dream was to make South African sport truly multi-racial, and while the whites-only beaches and segregated trains still existed at the time of our visit, cricket's positive affect was undeniable. Sweeping change was imminent.

At Soweto, one of South Africa's grizzliest ghettos, a political hotspot and home for black activists like Winnie Mandela, all the guests were amazed to see hundreds of black boys, all beautifully attired, on a huge field playing mini games of cricket.



**WONDRIOUS CAPE TOWN:** Barry Richards is guest of honour at dinner on Night 1 of the Cape Town Test match next March. Newlands is one of the great Test match venues with plenty of attractions — and lots of beer tents to quench one's thirst! It's going to be so much fun... Terry Swingler

We all became involved, Ray Lindwall passing on some bowling tips and Tony Greig laughing and smiling and enjoying meeting so many young kids. They couldn't believe how tall he was.

The success of Soweto's Bacher-inspired SACU coaching grant - completely at odds with the laws of the land - was an embarrassment to every conservative Apartheid-supporting white politician in the country. Thanks to Bacher's brave vision, cricket in South Africa was no longer a game just for whites. It was a game for everyone. Old Test players from Bodyline's Bob Wyatt, 87, and Lindsay Hassett, 75, through to all of the invited journalists, marvelled at the progress cricket was triggering.

John Warr, the former Marylebone Cricket Club President and Test fast bowler spoke for all of us when he said, 'The SACU has done in just one week more than a thousand politicians will accomplish in one lifetime. And if it was left to the administrators and the players, South Africa would be back in international cricket tomorrow.'

We attended dinners alongside legends including Neil Adcock, Graeme Pollock, and Barry Richards, witnessed the Currie Cup Final at 'PE' - Port Elizabeth - played golf at the millionaires' playground Sun City, went on dawn safaris to see the 'big four' South African animals and marvelled at Dr. Bacher's energy and passion in his crusade to unify all South Africa through the game of cricket. He believed nurturing the black population's love of sport and encouraging

them to play alongside South Africa's whites was the key to the country's future. He wasn't forcing the game upon the blacks. 'They genuinely love the game and have taken to it in leaps and bounds. There is a tremendous hunger for the game throughout all South Africa,' he said.

Sweeping change was evident everywhere we went. Some of Australia's leading administrators had been unable to accept invitations for political reasons, but it was undeniable the difference cricket was making in encouraging a new and enlightened South Africa.

As hosts for our 2018 visit, we look forward to enjoying the same feeling of fraternity which was so evident years ago. There will be some intimate dinners and a surprise or two in store for everyone. Sixteen have committed to tour with us so far. Just a few places remain... so if you would like to come, please act now. It will be an unforgettable holiday taking in the deciding Tests and the best of South Africa's mightiest sights and natural attractions including fabulous Cape Town and Johannesburg. The 'Big Four' animals are a must-see. Don't miss this opportunity for the holiday of a lifetime. You will be travelling with a friendly group of cricket lovers and enjoy the benefit of our years of hosting expertise and experience.

• Contact Ken Piesse at [kenpiesse@ozemail.com.au](mailto:kenpiesse@ozemail.com.au) or (03) 9787 8023 or 0419 549 458.

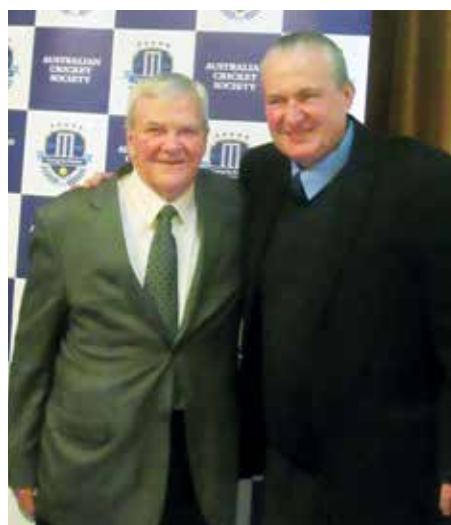
**Ken Piesse - ACS President.**

# Recent Activities & Events

## The ACS's Winter Nostalgia Luncheon featuring Merv Hughes – Friday, 30 June, 2017

There was a splendid gathering of more than 80 members and friends of the Society present at our popular city base the Kelvin Club in the heart of the CBD on Friday, 30 June to hear Merv Hughes, one of Australia's 'go-to' fast bowlers of the '80's and '90s and one of the most colourful Australian cricket characters of recent years.

Geoff Poulter, our highly-entertaining warm-up man, set the scene with his acclaimed Voices of Sport routine. From John Arlott to Jack Dyer, Geoff was truly hilarious and worth the price of admission alone, as our president loves to say.



**WARM-UP MAN: Geoff Poulter at Merv Hughes Day with well known ex-footballer and administrator Barry 'Cappy' Capuano**

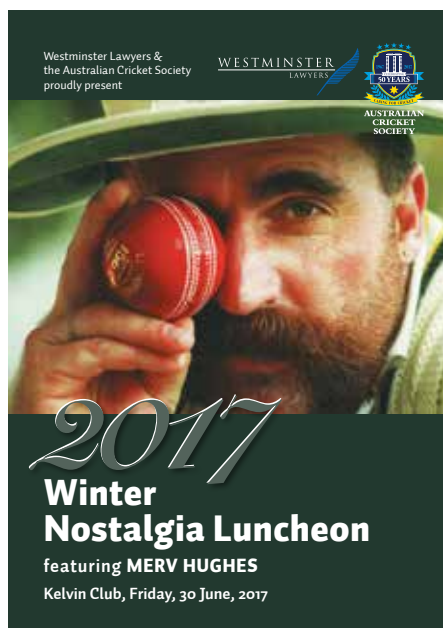
Our guest of honour and one of our long-time ACS ambassadors Merv Hughes was then welcomed. Our president reminded us that big Merv was a member of an elite group of Australian cricketers who have made over 1000 Test runs and captured more than 200 Test wickets, emulating the feats of such famed post-war cricketers as Ray Lindwall, Richie Benaud and Shane Warne.

Merv began his talk by telling us that having been born in Werribee he dearly wanted to play VFL football with Geelong. Unfortunately after two training sessions at the Cattery he was told by Geelong's coach Billy Goggin that his football prowess didn't match his cricket skills. Seeya.

After a couple of seasons with Footscray in the District cricket (now Premier) competition he was selected in the Victorian Sheffield Shield squad where he was immediately struck by the differences in background and culture between those players like himself who came from the unsung west and those who hailed from the more affluent eastern suburbs. He cited the case of opening batsman Michael Quinn who was educated at Carey Grammar School, spoke beautifully and drove a



**ACS President and Luncheon Host, Ken Piesse with the great Merv Hughes**



Porsche motor car. 'Me?' said Merv. 'I went to Werribee High and drove a good ol' 'Olden.'

He recalled his first Test match which was against the India in which he took one for 123 after which he was dropped. However, by dint of hard work and consistent results in Shield cricket he soon was re-selected in the Test team. On the way he consoled himself by observing that his efforts in his debut Test were better than Shane Warne's who was blasted to all corners of the SCG to the tune of one for 150.

Merv soon became the most important opening bowler in Allan Border's sides of the late '80s and early '90s when, under

AB's determined leadership and Bob Simpson's skilful coaching, the Australians steadily improved to the extent that the only international side they *couldn't* defeat was the mighty West Indian teams of that time. He paid a heartfelt tribute to his skipper Allan Border. His batting was solid and dependable and his leadership became the rock-solid core around which Australian cricket in his era was dragged from the doldrums of 'struggle-town' to the international triumph.

Turning his attention to the current Australian side under the sound and sensible leadership of Steve Smith, he felt that the squad had the basic skills and the correct balance between attacking and more defensive players around which a victorious team could be built.

The strength of a team could often be gauged by the calibre of the players who could not break into the squad as much as by the qualities of the team members who were selected. He was confident that the standoff between the players and the CA board which had been dragging on for far too long would be resolved.

After answering a few questions from the audience, our guest of honor was thanked most heartily for taking the time out from his busy schedule to address us by renowned sporting journalist and author Rod Nicholson, who had only just retired after 47 years at the Herald & Weekly Times.

Merv then won one of our key raffle prizes and immediately handed it over to our latest ACS scholar Jarred Smith, who was attending the event with his family.

## PAVILION COMES EARLY

By now all paid-up members will have received their copy of the jumbo-sized edition of *Pavilion*, produced deliberately early this winter to provide us all with some excellent reading in front of our night-time heaters and wood fires.

You will be fascinated by the length and breadth of the feature stories in the 2017-18 edition which is almost double its normal size as part of our 50th Year Golden Jubilee celebrations.



Shane Warne is featured on the cover. He has been rated Victoria's best cricketer of the past 100 years. Twelve experts rated the biggest names in Victorian cricket history from 1 to 10. 'Warnie' just shaded Warwick Armstrong, Keith Miller, and Neil Harvey as the finest of all.

Among our who's who of selectors were ex-Test captains Bill Lawry, Graham Yallop and Neil Harvey. Also included were 88 years young Colin McDonald, plus a range of leading writers such as Rod Nicholson, David Frith, Ken Piesse, Gideon Haigh and Mark Browning.

Not everyone named Warnie as their No.1, the expert's expert David Frith for example discounting the spin sultan's Victorian figures as 'modest at best', especially when compared with the record of 'the Big Ship' Warwick Armstrong and the charismatic sporting prowess of Keith Miller.

Our great prizes in the 2017-18 edition include a night for two at Crown Towers, plus breakfast and car parking.

The magazine also includes:

- Details of our latest overseas supporter tour to South Africa in autumn and later to England during 2019
- A celebrity column with ex-Melbourne boy Ashton Agar recalling his fairytale 98 at Trent Bridge in 2013



**BRADMAN INVINCIBLE:** *The great Neil Harvey joined our poll to decide the best Victorian cricketer of the last century.*

- Mike Hussey's riveting 50th annual dinner speech... word for word.
- An Australian Cricket Society 'timeline' from 1967 on
- Mark Browning on the greatest hat-trick ever
- The new season's international fixtures
- ACS members and friends from Dave McNamara, Colin Barnes, Barry Buxton, and Michael Delaney on their most memorable moments in cricket. Ken Woolfe also talks about some of the ACS's bastions, like Rad Grace



**FOUNDATION PRESIDENT: Rad Grace**

- Leading statistician Charles Davis on the 87 'hoodoo'
- Wayne Ross on the Backroom Boys
- Cricket blogger extraordinaire Dennis Freedman on our first 50 years
- And a special message of congratulations from our Patron Ricky Ponting AO

The production has been greeted most favorably, David Frith telling the editor Ken Piesse: *'Beautifully produced and fascinating content..... well done.'*

## 2017 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONORS

We are once again indebted to long-standing Society member Dr Greg McKie for the following Queen's Birthday awards information:

### OAM AWARDS:

**Ken Dixon** - Board member and Selector for the QCA; member - Brisbane City Council

**Harold French** - President of the SACA Umpires' Association

**JB 'Sam' Gannon** - ex Test player; member - WACA Board

**John Fowler** - Caulfield CC

**John Hammer** - Founder of the Victorian Over 60s competition

**Jim Higgs** - ex-Test player and Australian selector



**JIM HIGGS:** *Richmond, Victoria and Australian No.11, a darn fine leggie and now, an OAM.*

**Tom Lowry** - The SACA scorer for 44 years

**Geoff Reilley** - VSDA delegate and Caulfield CC President

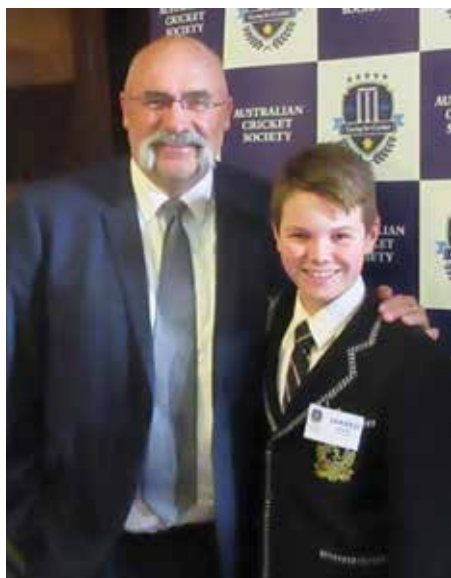
**John Smith** - Newcastle District Cricket Association umpire

**Joe Wooding** - played and umpired in the Albury-Border Cricket Association for 26 years

# General News

## JARRED SMITH - OUR LATEST ECA SCHOLAR

We are proud to announce a new scholar to the Elite Cricket Academy run by our ambassador Bryce McGain. Jarred Smith, 12, is from the East Malvern-Tooronga Club. He played representative cricket for the Inner South-East Region in the Josh Browne Plate competition. One of his mentors and early coaches has been James Sutherland, the CEO at Cricket Australia and a former Victorian state player.



**ECA Scholar Jarred Smith with Merv at the Merv Hughes Luncheon**

Young Jarred plays Friday nights and Sundays, last summer having 17 matches for East Malvern Tooronga, scoring 200 runs and taking 8 wickets. For Inner South East in the Under 12s he averaged 37.50 with a highest score of 41 and also took 5 wickets.

Jarred is our sixth ACS scholar at the Academy where he took part in their July school holiday three day camp. His scholarship is for three years and is totally funded by the ACS to the tune of nearly \$5000. We currently have four ACS scholars at the Academy: two boys - Jarred and Bailey Humphrey and two girls - Merinda Hale and Tess Flintoff.

## THE COWDREY ORATION - LORD'S - SEPTEMBER, 2017

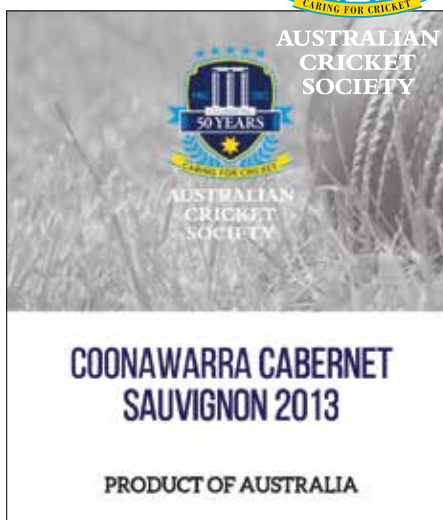
West Indian cricket legend Brian Lara will deliver the 2017 MCC Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture at Lord's on Monday, 4 September next. Lara is set to become the second West Indian to give the Lecture after Clive Lloyd delivered the Cowdrey Spirit of Cricket Oration in 2006. It should be fascinating. We will highlight the best of Brian's much anticipated talk in the Spring issue of *Scoresheet*.



**Bryce McGain with Tess Flintoff and Merinda Hale**

## ACS MERCHANDISE

We are in the process of negotiating the purchase of a bulk consignment of wines, both red and white, which have been



labelled with a Society logo as part of our 50th year celebrations.

They will soon be on-sale to members and friends of the Society at a nice price.

In addition, we now have a new CD of Mike Hussey's riveting 2017 address to an

enthralled audience at the Society's 50th annual dinner last March.

Members can purchase a copy of this CD for \$20 from our Society Administrator Wayne Ross at PO Box 4528, Langwarrin, Vic., 3910. Phone 0416 983 888. Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Cricket Society.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

The annual subscription for membership of the Australian Cricket Society is now due and payable. The subscription amount is \$75 for full membership or \$40 for interstate, overseas and junior membership. Cheques should be made payable to the ACS and should be mailed to the Society's Secretary Wayne Ross at the ACS's postal address PO Box 4528, Langwarrin, Vic., 3910. Electronic transfers of cash direct to the Society's bank account are acceptable. The ACS's BSB Number is 633-000 and our Account Number is 1432 26579. Make sure you attach your name to any transfer of funds into the Society's account.

# News from kindred Societies

**ACS Tasmania:** The guest speaker at the Tasmanian Society's annual dinner in April was Nick Cummins, the new CEO of Cricket Tasmania. Nick is a former general manager of the Sydney Thunder which plays in CA's BBL competition.

**ACS Queensland:** Sam Heazlett, a limited overs international from the Sunshine state, was a recent speaker at a Queensland Society function held at the 'Gabba.

**Cricket Lovers South Australia:** Enjoyed a talk from Jake Lehmann, the son of Darren Lehmann, Australia's senior coach at their headquarters in North Adelaide recently.

**The Cricket Society (England):** The Cricket Society's Spring Dinner in London was addressed by none other than the evergreen Henry Blofeld, a stalwart of the BBC's *Test Match Special* panel.

# News of Members

## David McNamara

Long-time committee man and ACS stalwart David McNamara and his wife Karun attended the wonderful Golden Oldies tournament in the Caribbean over the winter months.

They were at a game in Barbados and Dave walked in and introduced himself to a man cutting sandwiches in the bar area.

'High, I'm big Mac,' he said, holding out his hand.

'Hi, I'm Gordon.'

'You look familiar,' said Dave. 'Are you Gordon Greenidge?'

'Sure maan... yes.'

Karun Mac was on hand and immediately shared a photo with one of the alltime legends of West Indian cricket.

Later that day Dessie Haynes walked in to say hello.

Dave and Karun said it was one of the great days of their cricketing lives.

## Peter Grace

Peter Grace, the nephew of our founding president Rad Grace, has just joined the Society. He is our latest member who resides on the Gold Coast.

Peter was educated at St Kevin's College and, after playing cricket for his school in the Victorian Public Schools Association competition as a middle-order batsman, he joined the Camberwell CC, the club for which his father, uncle and brother also played. Like his uncle Radcliffe - president for our first four years - he has an accounting background. He is married and his two boys who also love their cricket, are currently at university.

Peter told your editor how his love of cricket as a boy was nurtured by regular visits to the MCG during halcyon summer days to watch Sheffield Shield and Test Match cricket. We welcome Peter into our ranks.



Peter Grace

## Ian 'Marto' Hammet

A former Vice President, Life Member of the ACS and outstanding cover fieldsman (*a la* one of his heroes Damien 'Marto' Martyn), Ian has been appointed a senior selector for the representative sides which play Over 70s cricket by Veterans Cricket Victoria.

We congratulate Ian on his appointment and hope that he has every reason to select a few of our ACS Over 70s veterans in some of the coming rep. teams for the forthcoming Australian championships carnival in Adelaide.



Karun McNamara with Gordon Greenidge

# New Members

Since the last issue of *Scoresheet* was published during May the following new members have joined the Society: **Elaine Barnett** (the daughter of ex-Testman Len Darling), **Warwick Dodd**, **Peter Grace**, **Seton Leggett**, **James Merchant**, **David Thorpe** and **Zane Whitehorn**.

The following Junior Members have recently joined the Society: **Jaxon Binns**, **Ikroop Singh Dhanoa**, **Zac Graham**, **Marcus Jackman**,

**Obi Olsen**, **Naman Sharma**, **Lachlan Strybosh** and **Vikrant Vinedhram**.

We welcome these new members into the Society. Any changes in address or email address should be conveyed to the ACS secretary Wayne Ross at P. O. Box 4528, Langwarrin, 3910. Phone: 0416 983 888 or email: [info@australiancricketsociety.com.au](mailto:info@australiancricketsociety.com.au).

The deadline for the inclusion of material in the Spring issue of *Scoresheet* is Friday, 20 October, 2017. The Editor's phone number is (03) 9876 3909. His email address is [dmanning8@bigpond.com](mailto:dmanning8@bigpond.com)

# A RARE ADVENTURE

## South Africa, March-April 2018

**C**ape Town, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg, Kruger Game Park, Victoria Falls... they are all featured on our itinerary for the fully-hosted Australian Cricket Society's Supporter's Test Tour in South Africa next autumn.

Join Ken and Susan Piesse on our fabulous three-week holiday taking in two Tests and some of the great sights of South Africa including Kruger

National Game Park and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe from March 20.

Our Gold Travel Partner, Events Worldwide have co-ordinated a magnificent itinerary.

Sixteen have so far committed, including four 'couples' and eight 'singles'.

We travel with a maximum of 20 so if you would like to join us, please do act now.



Terry and Sue Swingler on a previous Events Worldwide tour, in 2014. Kruger is truly spectacular



*'Nothing beats being there live,'*

— DAVID BEAMES, 2018 tourist to South Africa



Newlands in Cape Town, South Africa, one of the most picturesque of all international cricket grounds. Left: Hosts Ken and Susan Piesse at Lord's on their first ACS-Events tour in 2005

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ken Piesse  
P 0419 549 458

#### BOOKINGS HOTLINE:

Victoria Gebbing  
P 1300 788 666  
E [victoria@events.com.au](mailto:victoria@events.com.au)  
W [events.com.au](http://events.com.au)



AUSTRALIAN  
CRICKET  
SOCIETY

#### PREVIOUS ACS TOURS HOSTED BY KEN & SUSAN PIESSE

2009 England 2013 England  
2015 England 2016 New Zealand



EVENTS WORLDWIDE TRAVEL  
[events.com.au](http://events.com.au)