



Christmas with the Kiwis

Featuring the 1980-81 New Zealand Test XI

Friday, 27 December, 2019 - 6.45 pm for 7.15 pm

CitiPower Centre, Junction Oval, St Kilda



The 1980-81 Kiwis, back row, left to right: Paul McEwan, John Wright, John Bracewell, Ewan Chatfield, Gary Troup, Stephen Boock, Martin Snedden, Warren Lees, Bruce Edgar, Ian Smith. Front: Richard Hadlee, Mark Burgess, Ian Taylor (manager), Geoff Howarth (captain), John Parker, Lance Cairns, Jeremy Coney

This year's ACS Christmas dinner on Night 2 of the Melbourne Test features the 1980-81 touring New Zealanders who are gathering for a Trans-Tasman reunion in Melbourne.

We hope to host up to 10 players plus manager Ian Taylor. Those who are attending, so far, are John Wright, Bruce Edgar, Paul McEwan, Stephen Boock, Lance Cairns, Ewan Chatfield and Warren Lees.

We also hope Jeremy Coney and Ian Smith can attend, after fulfilling their Test media commitments that day.

The cost of the dinner for ACS & Taverners members is **\$115** and for Non-Members **\$130**. Pre-payment is essential.

Bookings and monies need to be with Wayne Ross at PO Box 4528, Langwarrin, Vic., 3910 by no later than Tuesday, 22 December. Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Cricket Society. Electronic transfer is preferred. The ACS's bank account details are: BSB 633-000 Acc. No. 143226314. Please record your surname and the number of any guests for whom you are paying... eg KIWISMITHx2.

Please indicate any special dietary requirements.

Wayne can be contacted on 0416 983 888 or email info@australiancricketsociety.com.au

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The President's Piesse

Go Tess Go

We were thrilled to see Tess Flintoff, 16, debut with the Melbourne Stars in this year's WBBL.

She is the first of our Elite Cricket Academy scholars to make 'rep' ranks.

She started brilliantly too with 32 and 18, both times not out.

Part of her fast tracking has come under the expert eye of our ACS ambassador Bryce McGain, who heads the Academy.

Tess, from Knox Gardens, is the Victorian under 18s cricket captain and for the first time part of the senior Victorian women's cricket squad: quite an achievement for one still at school.

Women's cricket took centre-stage in October and its increasing profile is assured into 2020 with the women's T20 World Cup in March.

Should Meg Lanning's Australian XI qualify for the final in autumn, a new world record crowd for a women's sporting event could well be reached.

That will be yet another huge step forward for the women's game which has advanced rapidly in the last 24-36 months.

The who's who of the world's finest women played in the WBBL and will be on show again in February and March.



2017: Tess Flintoff at Ringwood

Many of Australia's leading women players are Melbourne-based including Lanning, the world's No.1 allrounder Elysse Perry, Georgia Wareham, Sophie Molineux and Tayla Vlaeminck.



Should 90,000-plus pack the MCG come the World Cup final on International Women's Day in early March, it will be a magnificent achievement for the tournament organisers the ICC.

ACS members will be particularly chuffed if the likes of recent Young Cricketers of the Year including Lanning, Wareham, Molineux and Vlaeminck can play prominent roles in Australia's hunt for another title.

ELITE CRICKET ACADEMY/ACS SCHOLARS

2013	Adam Cosgrave
2014	Daniel Vela
2015	Merinda Hale & Tess Flintoff
2016	Bailey Humphrey
2017	Jarred Smith

Easy on the eye

Among the Christmas cricket books to catch my eye this festive season is this one: *Keeper of Style, John Murray: the King of Lord's* by Christopher Sandford.

'JT' was one of the great ones. Not a champion cricketer, in the ilk of a Edrich or Compton, his early Middlesex teammates, but a champion bloke, kind, modest, brave, loyal and always exceedingly generous.

This beautifully-crafted biography comes 12 months after his death, aged 83 at Lord's where he'd debuted in the early '50s.

In a tribute, Middlesex CC president and former Test off-spinner John Emburey said Murray had been the finest wicketkeeper in club history and would be one of the first names on any team sheet when selecting the all-time best Middlesex XI.

With 670 first-class dismissals and 21 Tests including six against Australia in the early '60s, Murray built an enviable record and did it with style, grace and humility.

He kept throughout the 1961 Ashes and would have played more in 1962-63 but for dislocating his shoulder mid-tour in Sydney 'diving at least 12 feet' to catch Bill Lawry down the leg-side from the bowling of Len Coldwell.

He loved every moment of the tour, even the up-country games and told his biographer, Christopher Sandford, that one



MCC 1965-66, back row, left to right: J Ikin (assist-manager), David Brown, Dave Larter, Ken Higgs, J. Jennings (physio). Middle: Peter Parfitt, Geoff Boycott, Eric Russell, Bob Barber, Jeff Jones, Barry Knight, John Edrich. Sitting: Jim Parks, Fred Titmus, Colin Cowdrey (vice-capt), Mike Smith (capt), Billy Griffith (manager), Ken Barrington, David Allen, John Murray. Ken Piesse Archives

of the off-field highlights came early in Perth when Tony Lock, representing Western Australia after controversially being left out of the original squad, was re-making acquaintances in the WACA nets.

'When (Ted) Dexter saw him,' said Murray, 'he flipped Lock the ball and gaily

invited him to come bowl at us in the nets and Lockie flung it straight back at Ted like a ruddy Exocet (missile). It nearly took his head off.'



The President's Piesse

Old wounds certainly had not healed.

Like the leading Australians at the time, even professionals in England were on modest monies, earning sums only a little ahead of the average unskilled worker. Basically he was paid a pittance, considering he was one of England's best-known international sportsmen.

Murray wasn't one to complain but he admitted to Sandford that even while he was playing in front of 30,000 and more, knowledge that he had to pay the latest gas bill was always in the back of his mind.

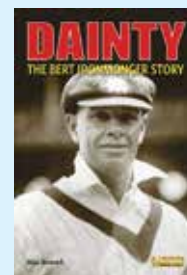
He toured Australia for a second time in 1965-66 as a permanent understudy to Jim Parks, who was a superior batsman but a far inferior 'keeper.

In the Melbourne Test, Parks missed a simple off-side stumping against Peter Burge from the leg-spin of Bob Barber. 'It almost certainly cost England the match and with it the Ashes,' said the often-acerbic EM Wellings who went onto say: 'The blame should rest with the selectors who would not appreciate that bowlers deserve the best possible wicket-keeper irrespective of any other consideration.'

Murray again proved to be the consummate touring ambassador. During

ALSO OUT THIS CHRISTMAS

- Ted Badcock, roving coach and rascal, Rob Franks, \$50
- The Magic of Spin, Australia's greatest spin bowlers, Ashley Mallett, \$30
- Dainty, the story of Bert Ironmonger, Max Bonnell, \$50
- Bob's Boys, How Victoria won the 1969-70 Sheffield Shield (signed by most of the team), \$35
- Cricket Digest annual, Vol 8, edited by Lawrie Colliver, \$35



an extended rain delay in an up-country game at Euroa, Murray stood beaming while signing dozens of autographs for the grateful kids. Few others bothered, but for Murray it was always a pleasure to encourage the next generations of cricket lovers.

He was one of nature's great gentlemen and Sandford, an award-winning author and researcher, has done him proud.

And pleasingly, his publishers Pitch have discarded previous production shortcuts and poor quality paper to produce a fine set of memories. – KP

- The John Murray biography (\$50 post-free) and all the other new Christmas cricket books as listed are available from cricketbooks.com.au

About the ACS

We care for cricket everywhere it is played. Our official charity is the Ponting Foundation.

Victorian Members pay \$75 annually while Overseas and Interstate Members pay \$40 a year.

We currently have 354 members – 295 in Victoria, 53 interstate and 6 overseas.



Recent Activities & Events



ACS AT HEADINGLEY: UK tourists, back row, left to right: Cliff Wright, Geoff Clough, Sue and Brian Haag, Pam Bishop, John and Kathy Clarkson. Front: Mary-Lou and David Beames, Wayne and Rhonda Ross, Debbie Keating, Bobby Hopkins and Mark Keating. In all 20 toured for four fun-filled weeks in August

The ACS's latest Adventure In Paradise, 2019

Story by Pam Bishop, ACS member & MCG volunteer tour guide

My latest Ashes tour with the Australian Cricket Society provided the chance to do a little tour guide 'homework' before we all indulged in two memorable Test matches and enjoyed other cricketing experiences.

Starting in Manchester, before the group's arrival, tours to the major football stadiums Manchester United (capacity 76,000) and City (capacity 55,097) were eye opening.

The 'Man U' tour lasted two hours and City's 90 minutes. Being 'one team' stadiums, the

focus was on the most celebrated local players, past and present – unlike the broader, multi-sport and team focus at the MCG.

Some impressive features included:

- Music and sound effects as the groups walk out onto the ground,

Recent Activities & Events

- a well-equipped gym with several screens showing videos of current players using each section,
- the change rooms with mood lights and named sections and numbered shirts available for photos,
- well-upholstered chairs in the media conference rooms;
- at City, an on-screen welcome from the coach and a camera set-up to have your photo taken with him,
- and a lanyard with player photographs to wear and keep.

Not so impressive were the fenced off sections at each ground which accommodates just 3000 opposition fans!



MEETING WITH A STAR: Pam Bishop with ex-Australian captain Mark Taylor

While in Manchester, I attended a T20 match between Lancashire and Nottingham at Old Trafford. The home team included Aussies, Glenn Maxwell and James Faulkner. Dan Christian was playing for Notts. It was great to see 'Maxi' starring.

Having linked up with our ACS group which came via Hong Kong (*before the internal troubles escalated*) we travelled to beautiful Durham and further north to Scotland as part of the group's starting week in the UK.

Amongst the beautiful sightseeing, we were invited to The Grange Club in Edinburgh which has a long and proud history. As part of their hospitality, we were shown some very old Scottish cricket volumes and memorabilia while being strongly encouraged to ensure Australia retained the Ashes.

We did our best. The rain in London meant that we could force only a draw. The epic Test in Leeds still left the result in the balance. However, it was a thrill to see our national Test team playing at both famous venues and a great opportunity to look through the museums at both grounds. Michael Holding came down and sat with us for some photos.

An extra highlight for me came on 'Day 6' at Lords when I attended the Marylebone v Melbourne CC one-day, a traditional event



CRUISING LOCH NESS: left to right: Kathy Clarkson, Pam Bishop and Rhonda Ross

held the day after the Test. And the Aussies won for the first time in 13 years. See this link: <https://www.mcc.org.au/whats-on/latest-news/2019/august/mcc-creates-history-with-win-over-marylebone-cc-at-lords>

During the Lord's Test, we were privileged to be hosted by the English Cricket Society at the Union Jack Club where the great David Frith provided the commentary for a film of the 1954-55 England tour to Australia as well as some very old footage (c. 1926) of local hero Jack Hobbs. It included a segment with the almost as iconic Bill Ponsford batting - a rare treat indeed!

In Leeds, I met Mark Taylor who hosted the Aussie supporter function at the wonderful Royal Armories. He interviewed Geoffrey Boycott, David Gower, Glenn McGrath and current players Mitchell Marsh, Michael Neser and James Pattinson.

Our ACS tour leader Ken Piesse wondered if James should be out the night before the Test, but Merv Hughes assured him everything would be ok and that there were no curfews on anything these days.

The celebrities entertained us with stories of the lighter side of their playing careers. It was all very interesting and enjoyable.

Another pleasant and entertaining encounter was with Chris Cowdrey (son of Lord Colin) who was, himself, captain of England, for four days in 1988. Chris was guest speaker at our Events Travel tour dinner, a Saturday night cruise on the River Thames.

Before returning home, we also chatted up boat cruises in Manchester, Paris and on Loch Ness, visited three palaces - Holyrood, Kensington and Buckingham - and two castles - Edinburgh and Urquhart, took a ride on the famous Jacobite west coast railway from Mallaig, attended the Edinburgh Tattoo,

spent 10 days in France, independently, walked 100s of kilometres, enjoyed a whisky ice cream in Pitlochry... and more!

It was an action packed five and a half weeks saturated (the rain is another story!) with many, many memorable cricketing and stadium experiences.

My thanks to ACS and the tour leaders Ken and Susan Piesse for heading such a wonderful, diverse tour. And Ken says they will do it all again in 2023!



The 2020 edition of Pavilion magazine will soon be available with Steve Smith on the cover. It includes feature interviews with the last of the Invincibles Neil Harvey, Alan 'Froggie' Thomson, rising women's star Georgia Wareham and collecting and new book features. The editor is once again your president Ken Piesse.

Recent Activities & Events

The reunion of the 1969-70 Victorian team & launch of Bob's Boys, Kelvin Club, Friday, October 25

Story by Keiran Croker

Cricket lovers of a certain vintage will have vivid memories of the first time a Test match triple century was scored in Australia.

Over the course of a few memorable Melbourne days in February 1966, Bob Cowper's score mounted to 307 against England. Included in his massive score were 27 threes as the outfield was so wet.

Just weeks earlier he'd been Australia's 12th man. Such is cricket's roller coaster, even for the elite.



1969-70 VICS CAPTAIN: Bob Cowper with the ACS's Ken Piesse

Cowper's achievement re-cemented his place in the team before he retired from international cricket somewhat prematurely at the age of 27. Before he left the first-class scene he would lead Victoria to the 1969-70 Sheffield Shield title.

Fifty years on this achievement was celebrated by the Australian Cricket Society at a springtime luncheon which attracted more than 140, including 12 of Bob's boys from 50 years back.

Each of the team members present spoke of their season under Cowper which saw the Shield clinched by February.

The achievement was made all the more outstanding as six of Victoria's finest players – Bill Lawry, Keith Stackpole, Paul Sheahan, Ian Redpath, Alan Connolly and Ray Jordon – were absent overseas on an extended Test tour of Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), India and South Africa.

Bob 'Wallaby' Cowper spoke of a number of pivotal moments within the season that saw the Vics achieve four outright wins and first innings points on another two occasions.

Special mention was made of the ninth wicket stand between Graeme 'Beetle' Watson and paceman Rob Rowan against NSW at the MCG which was pivotal in an epic victory.

Alan 'Froggie' Thomson delivered a fiery spell in Brisbane to smash the Queenslanders. Peter 'Wheels' Bedford spun out South Australia in Adelaide with five for 40 after Blair Campbell's dodgy knee blew up. And a teenage John 'Barrel' Scholes delivered a brilliant second innings unbeaten 73 to seal the victory and the Shield in Adelaide.



TOP: Among the speakers on the day were John Swanson (left), Alan Thomson and Rob Rowan
MIDDLE: Signing the book, Bob Cowper (left) and his vice captain Graeme Watson
ABOVE: Nigel Murch is stumped in the match against the touring New Zealanders

For some, such as Rowan and Campbell, it was their first season of 'rep' cricket. Rowan hadn't expected to play and had organised his wedding in January. Wicketkeeper Norm Carlyon stepped up for his only full season behind the stumps and figured among the best-performed keepers in the land, 15 of his catches being taken from the Frog.

It was a break out year for Thomson, then 24. He took 49 Shield wickets. And 33-year-old Ken Eastwood had one of his best seasons with the bat with 584 runs at 41.71. Both were to play Tests the following summer.



EASTY: Ken Eastwood was Victoria's leading runmaker in 1969-70



BOB'S BOYS

Eighty pages of nostalgia featuring Victoria's 1969-70 Sheffield Shield triumph, an electric season which saw the rise of a new fast bowling sensation in Alan 'Froggie' Thomson. Signed by more than a dozen of the winning squad. It costs \$38 posted from Wayne Ross (his address and phone number is on p1). Don't miss out.

Recent Activities & Events

Our Playing XIs

OVER 60s SCORES & FIXTURES

1. ACS 3-198 (Hammet 21, Stockdale 40, Long 40, Bovo 27 (all retired), Piesse 18) d. Ringwood 8-187 (Neil Smith 3-18, Sundberg 1-31, Long 2-19, McNamara 1-37, Piesse 1-33) by 11 runs, at Walter Galt Oval, Parkdale, home of the Kingston Hawthorn Hawks. Turf.
2. Vic Country 152 (Blyth 1-19, Leggett 1-18, Piesse 1-23, Gibson 1-23, Robertson 3-13, Cook 2-23) lost to ACS 3-160 (Stockdale 26, Piesse 29, O'Meara 25 (all retired), Robertson 23, Long 19 and Hammet 19 (both not out) by seven wickets at Heathcote Reserve. Turf.
3. Wodonga 4-205 (Neil Smith 2-34, Long 1-23, Robinson 1-27) d ACS 5-174 (Hammet 31 retired, Robinson 34, Long 35, Wilson 27), by 31 runs, Elsternwick Park No.2 Turf.



CAPTAIN PHIL: 'Fabulous' Phil O'Meara was named Victorian seconds captain for the Australian Over 60s championships in Adelaide in November

Matches to come:

- Nov 17 v Benalla - home, Elsternwick Park
- Nov 24 v Iona away
- Dec 1 v Sunbury away
- Jan 12 v Geelong B away

- Jan 26 v Endeavour Hills at AH Butler Oval, Frankston
- Feb 2 v Geelong W away
- Feb 16 v Mornington, Jubilee Park, Frankston

WANDERING XI SCORES & FIXTURES

1. Wandering XI 5-144 (O'Meara 37, Stumbles 24, Stockdale 16 (all retired), Piesse 16, Sullivan 16) lost to Powerhouse 8-146 (Piesse 3-30), by two wickets. Frankston's Adrian Butler Oval. Turf

Matches to come:

- Nov 3 v Vic Umpires & Scorers, Caulfield
- Nov 27 v MCC XXIXers, Strath Creek
- Dec 1 v Sri Lankan XI, Frankston
- Feb 9 v Caulfield OB, Caulfield subbies (tbc)
- Feb 16 v The Supreme Court, East Malvern
- Feb 23 v Taverners Victoria, TBC
- Mar 1 v Suma Park Bellarinas, Queenscliff
- Mar 22 v Kew Presidents XI TBC

General News

Editor of Scoresheet required

The Australian Cricket Society is seeking expressions of interest from those who would like to edit Scoresheet from the New Year. An honorarium would be considered. We issue four newsletters each year.

Please apply through ACS president Ken Piesse at kenpiesse@ozemail.com.au or phone Ken on 0419 549 458

Recognition medals

The ACS has struck a 30 and 50-year year membership badge for members who have been with us for three decades and more. The first four handed out on Bob's Boys day were to 50-year stalwarts David Brisset, Don Moyes, Ian Crawford and our one and only living legend Doug Manning

News from sister societies

Guest speaker at the **Hobart branch** of the Australian Cricket Society in late October was Tasmania's new High Performance General Manager Simon Insley from Auckland. The meeting was held at the revamped Century Room following the first day's play in the Shield match between Tasmania and Victoria.

News of Members

JIM EVANS

I'm a cricket watcher, pure and simple. I also like books and collectibles. The latest one I am reading right now is Max Bonnell's 'Dainty', the biography of the old Victorian and Australian spin bowler Bert Ironmonger.

It amazes me that a 50 year old could play alongside so many legends of the game and be a star himself!

My only direct experience playing the game was in the schoolyard. We had a concrete pitch with no matting and I entered the playing field somewhat unprepared, with no box, pads, gloves or mouth-guard.

With no prior coaching or playing experience and facing boys who I'm sure only wanted to knock my head off, batting was frightening. The bowlers weren't the most accurate luckily for me. I can't recall

how long I lasted, but it was fleeting and no memory of bat on ball lingers. Looking back I'm sure that the enduring outcome from this schoolyard exposure was that I never wanted to play the game again... but on the plus side I still have all my teeth!

(Prior to his move to Warragul, Jim was a committee member of the Society and provides the CDs of recorded ACS Dinners. - ed.)

New Members

Since the Winter Issue new members to join have been Dainty Ironmonger's grandson **Bob Ironmonger**, Red Hill's **Ken Sullivan**, Elsternwick legend **David Long**, **Keith Cowlshaw** and **Geoff Bishop**. **Frank Lawler** has also rejoined.

The deadline for the inclusion of material in the Summer 2019-20 edition of Scoresheet is Friday, 14 December, 2019. Please send material to Ken Piesse at kenpiesse@ozemail.com.au

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