



Meet Ashley Mallett, via Zoom

Meet legendary Australian Test off-spinner Ashley Mallett on Friday lunchtime, October 9 (from 12.30 pm sharp), via Zoom in the latest of our exclusive ACS springtime e-meetings.

First touring England in 1968, Ash became the finest finger spinner of his time.

A journalist by profession, he worked for many years for the Adelaide News before becoming a full-time author with more than 30 books in his CV.

He will share some of the tall stories and true from his latest book *Thwack!* – one of the likely best-selling new cricket books this coming festive season. (see inside for a sneak preview)

And, as an **ACS member's exclusive**, we have access to a limited number of signed copies of *Thwack!* They are \$35 posted anywhere in Australia. To reserve your copy, contact ACS secretary Wayne Ross on 0416 983 888 or email Wayne at info@australiancricketsociety.com.au

Ashley's chat is one of four by authors for October, which include football writers, comedians and biographers. Judging on your interest and involvement, we will look to run several more, too, closer to Christmas. All are at no charge to members – your friends are welcome, too, for a small donation.

ABOUT ZOOM

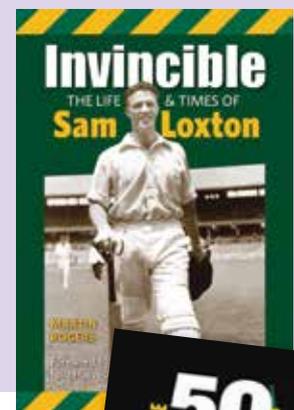
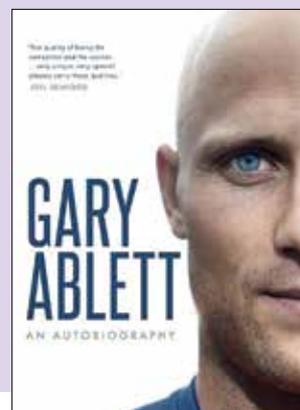
Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars

It is easy to download. Just go to 'Google' and type 'Downloading Zoom' and press 'enter'. The younger ones in the family will always help, if you need it!

Once installed, register your interest with Wayne Ross, and just click on the link provided closer to the event and you're in! It's simple.



AT THE BASIN RESERVE: Ash and Patsy Mallett with a familiar cap in NZ a few years back.



ACS SPRING CONVERSATIONS, VIA ZOOM

October 2: Martin Rogers, talking about *Invincible the life & times of Sam Loxton*.

October 16: Wes Cusworth, author of *Ablett the autobiography*, due to be published in early November.

October 30: Dan Liebke, comedian and author of *The 50 greatest cricketers of the last 50 years*.

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Excerpts from *Thwack!* Ashley Mallett's new book

Chappelli's softer side

Former Test batsman Ross Edwards has seen the softer side of Chappelli.

They were playing for Australia against England at The Oval in the final Test of the 1975 Ashes series. Midway through the game Edwards received a telegram informing him of the death of a close friend and Chappelli, who had seen the telegram, quietly went to his teammate and said: 'Rosco, if you prefer not to go back on to the field next session, it's okay by me.'

I once asked Chappelli's mum, Jeanne, what had happened to Ian since he retired from cricket.

'Has he mellowed? Is there a soft side to Ian Chappell?'

'Boy, is there ever a soft side to him,' she laughed. 'There always has been, really.'

I sacked Graham Kennedy for saying what you said on air...

Chappelli rationalises his mellowing: 'I think every human being has a softer side,' he says. 'Why do you have wives and children and animals?'

'You have them because you love them. I'm surprised that other people are surprised I have a softer side.'

In 2003, the noted Chappelli toughness on the tennis court was challenged. He had won the Bayview Tennis Club championship doubles and was in the final of the singles.

'When I heard my opponent in singles was an 11-year-old kid, I spoke to my doubles partner Ken Grey and said, 'I'm not comfortable about playing against an 11-year-old. If I serve hard everyone will say I'm a prick.'

Grey laughed: 'If you don't serve hard he'll run you all over the court. You'd better be on top of your game or the kid will demolish you.'

'So I served hard,' said Chappelli, 'and the kid (Michael Clisby) beat me in straight sets.'

Behind the microphone with the Nine commentary team, Chappelli is insightful in his comments and while he does not take a backward step, he mostly builds a balanced for-and-against argument. As a captain he was very much in the Mark Taylor mould: he created for his players an environment of trust, empowerment and enjoyment. He knew instinctively that if the workplace was a happy one his charges would give their all for the boss.

The players in his Test teams revelled in the success of their teammates, an essential

collective quality for successful sporting teams.

Much of Chappelli's early summer days were spent watching his father, Martin, play cricket. In winter he was the Glenelg Baseball Club bat-boy and this environment taught young Ian a few different words and phrases.

Some of the words resonated and from that time on Chappelli tended to swear... a lot.



CHAPPELLI: An inveterate swearer.
SOBIE: Fun with his old teammate.

One day, years later as he was presenting a segment on *Nine's Wide World of Sports*, there was a mix-up by the production crew and instead of the expected horse racing vision a US hot-rod spectacular appeared.

Chappelli momentarily lost his cool, even uttering the magic word in front of the camera. Kerry Packer was watching the program at the very time of Chappelli's outburst.

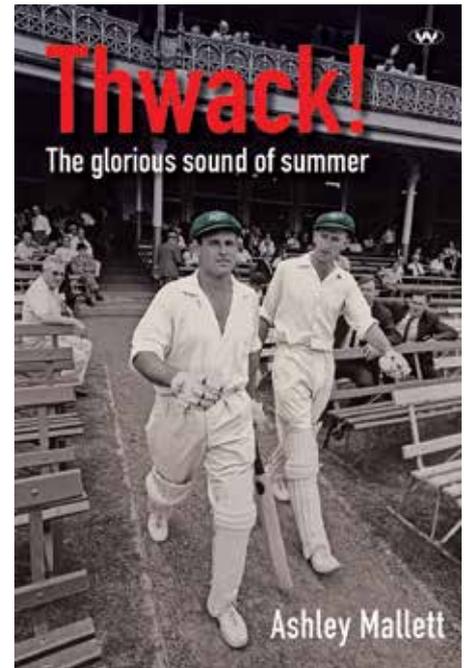
In the wake of an instant stand down, Packer summoned Chappelli to his office for a 'please explain'.

'Now, look here, son,' Packer said, 'I sacked Graham Kennedy for saying what you said on air, but he meant it. You didn't. You just couldn't help yourself. Don't do it again.'

Chappelli knew that he must heed Kerry Packer's thinly veiled warning.

Another transgression like that one and his TV broadcasting career was kaput. Chappelli's wife Barbara-Ann told her husband that if he did not swear anywhere, at home, at the office or the pub, he would effectively solve the problem. When Garry Sobers heard about Chappelli's iron-willed resolution to avoid saying anything untoward, anywhere and at any time, he rang his friend.

'Hey, Chappelli, I hear you are not swearing anymore. That's interesting. Next time we meet up for a beer the conversation is going to be very one-sided and I suspect fairly dull.... because I'll be doing all the talking...'



Available soon from Ken Piesse and cricketbooks.com.au, \$35 post-free.

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The Portfolio for our Social Media person is as yet unfilled.

The President's Piesse

A SUMMER LIKE NO OTHER



FARM BOY: Patrick Cummins did all his winter fitness work in the Sydney Hills. He is currently in the UAE playing in the Indian Premier League, prelude to the 2020-21 Australian season.

It's the last few days of September. The spring sunshine is warming us all. Yet cricket grounds and nets down south are deserted.

While others more fortunate than us in Melbourne and regional Victoria are practising and playing, we remain in lockdown hoping to play and see some cricket soon...

As I write, the international fixture is still to be released...

It's a season like no other we have ever experienced and one, internationally, with lots of questions:

- Can Australia qualify for the World Championship Test play-off?
- Will Marnus Labuschagne continue his extraordinary form?
- Is Pat Cummins truly captaincy material?

They are fascinating side issues as the inform Australians look to wrest the Border-Gavaskar Trophy from the No.1 ranked Indian team, brilliantly led by the combative and vibrant hero-to-a-billion fans Virat Kohli.

The complications triggered by the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic have had far-reaching consequences for all sports, particularly Australia's Test team specialists like wicketkeeper Paine who went six months and more without playing a meaningful match.

Administrators were forced to tinker with and update itineraries and for the first time in more than 140 years contemplate a summer without a Test in Melbourne.

We still don't know if our Premier-who-must-be-obeyed will allow our normal Boxing Day treat.

Isolation villages and hubs in Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney have been prime on the agenda.

Barring no further interruptions and health scares, Australia's planned itinerary into the new year was typically busy with white and red-ball matches against multi opponents including India, New Zealand and South Africa before the planned World Test Championship final scheduled at Lord's in June 2021.

The Aussies needed to at least draw the four-Test home series to maintain their hopes of making the final, the form and availability of its much-vaunted fast bowling arsenal a pivotal factor.

But for poor weather in Sydney, India could easily have won three of its four Tests downunder two summers back and it is just as strong, particularly with the return after injury of its No.1 strike bowler Jasprit Bumrah, who averages a wicket every 45 balls.

The appearance for the first time in Tests on Australian soil of the young recordbreaker Prithvi Shaw will create enormous interest, given his teen feats. He was injured at the tour start in 2018-19 and was unable to play any of the big matches.

Kohli, as always, will be India's batting cornerstone especially with Cheteshwar Pujara now in the twilight of a magnificent career. Pujara scored three centuries in the 2018-19 series and more than 500 runs in all.

Watching Kohli bat is one of life's great privileges. He is the most outstanding batsman from the sub-continent since

Sachin Tendulkar and for many, even more attractive.

Australia will be keen to limit his initial impact. Once he scores heavily, he becomes unstoppable and tends to dominate for weeks on end.

Bumrah, if fully fit, is likely to be as menacing as Pat Cummins, Australia's Test vice-captain and No.1 strike bowler.

Mohammed Shami always gives of his best and is also not to be underrated.

It's an important summer, especially for Aussies such as Travis Head, who will cement his place for years should he step up and play a lead role alongside Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne, the find of the 2019-20 summer.

Smith and opener David Warner didn't play against the Indians two summers ago and will provide immediate class and muscle to Australia's starts. Collectively they have amassed almost 80 centuries for Australia, a massive contribution.

Cummins, Australia's No. 1 contract player, had a restful winter on his farm west of Sydney. His early form and ability to suppress Kohli shaped as one of the key battles.

It will be refreshing to see some younger ones like Cameron Green in contention regularly. The legendary Greg Chappell believes him to be as promising a prospect as anyone he has seen in the last five years.

Let's hope he's right. Cricket needs an injection of new talent to help us all breathe again. - KP

Conversations

Zoom session 1: Featuring Rachael Haynes and Annabel Sutherland, Friday, September 18

We were delighted to be joined for our first springtime Zoom presentation by members of the Australian women's cricket team Rachael Haynes and Annabel Sutherland.

Both had been part of Australia's World Champion T20 squad which won the World Cup in spectacular fashion in Melbourne in front of more than 86,000 fans at the MCG... ironically the last major event held at the great ground this year.

Both girls had been previous winners of the ACS Young Female Cricketer of the Year Award; Rachael in 2007 and Annabel in 2017. They spoke with our president Ken Piesse about the upcoming T20s and ODIs against the New Zealand girls in Brisbane over late September and early October.

Rachael had captained Victoria Spirit before moving to Sydney 10 years ago. She has been spending much of her enforced time in isolation studying for her Bachelor of Business Administration. Annabel, who is soon to turn 19, has also been studying, in between fitness sessions with her big brother Will, who is also an allrounder for Victoria.

Both girls were most generous with their time.

On debut for Australia at Test level, Rachel scored 98 and shared in a huge stand with her captain Jodie Fields, the Queenslander. In 2017-18 she captained Australia in the absence of Meg Lanning who was injured.

One of her most memorable innings came in crucial circumstances during the World T20 Cup in Perth earlier this year. The Australians had been beaten by India in the opening match and were 3-10 chasing 123 in the second game against Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan left-arm swing bowler Prabodharm had two early wickets and was threatening to derail Australia's much-anticipated campaign.

Enter Rachel, who made 60 from 47 balls to swing the game. 'I don't mind it when they take the ball away from me,' she said. 'It allows me to free my arms.'

Having played several classic drives, Rachael's sparkling feet against the spinners was clearly evident as she took total control. 'Our spinners here in Australia tend to be quicker through the air and harder, at times to get at,' she said. 'Most other countries, especially the sub-continent, have slower through the air spinners and you can get to them.'

Last summer she made her first ODI 100, a breakthrough ton after her near miss on debut a decade earlier.

'From the time I was in the 60s I made sure to hit everything along the ground,' she said. 'I didn't want to give up another opportunity.'

Annabel was also in quarantine at the time of our chat. Known throughout the group as 'Bellsie' she is stronger and fitter this season



RACHAEL HAYNES (top): A magnificent career
BELLSIE: Annabel Sutherland, a star of the future.

and for many close to the team, will soon be a regular after playing half a dozen T20s earlier in 2020. She considered it a privilege to have so many champions of the game around her, mentoring and advising.

On debut against England she bowled first change and also made 23 net out from a dozen balls to help force a super over – an exciting match at Manuka Oval.

She said she had been developing two sorts of slower deliveries, an off-cutter and a back of the wrist slower one.

We asked Rachael which she found hardest to 'sight' and she refused to say. 'I have to play against her later on,' she said, grinning broadly.

'Ok,' we asked, 'where do you look to score against her?'

'I like to get on the back foot. Occasionally she'll put a shorter one in and I like to be ready,' she said.

Both spoke of their pride in being involved in a record crowd for a women's cricket match last March at the 'G. For Rachael, it was the culmination of all the hard work so many have put in to help women's cricket become recognised as the sport of choice among girls across the nation.

Around 25 'attended' remotely and also were able to ask the girls questions. The planned 40 minutes stretched out past 50 and we could easily have gone longer, so amiable were the girls. It was a sensational hour for all of us and thanks to Cricket Australia and Lucy Williams for allowing it to happen. – KEIRAN CROKER, with KP

Conversations II

Author Ken Davis at the ACS AGM, via Zoom, Monday, August 17

It's 60 years since a teenage Barry Davis rode his push-bike into Windy Hill and parked it outside Essendon's dressing rooms.

Alec Epis was walking past, introduced himself and told him to 'bring it in here... it'll be safer inside'.

Along with Ian 'Bluey' Shelton from Avenel, the trio was to form the greatest half-back line in Essendon's history, culminating in premierships in 1962 and 1965.

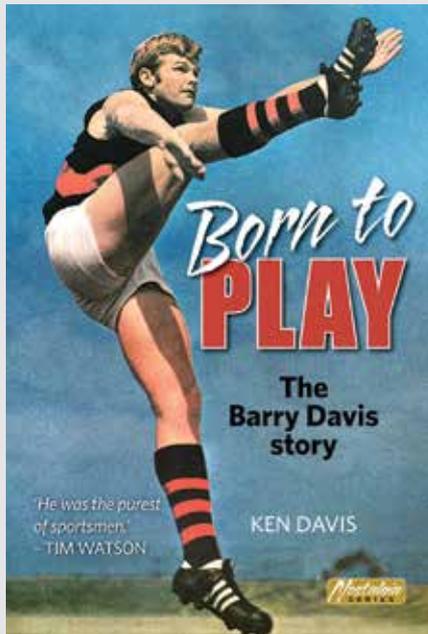
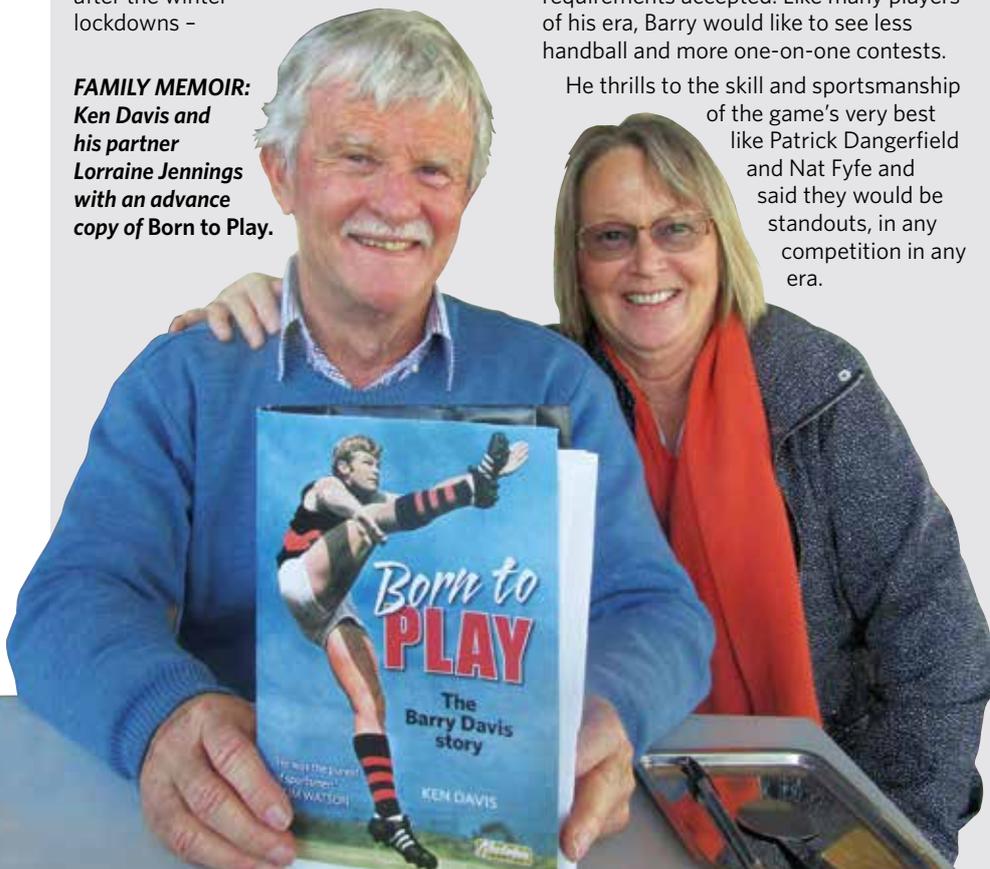


His first coach, the electrifying superstar John Coleman loved Davis' sheer skill and long drop kicks which cleared lines.

Twice runner-up in the Brownlow Medal, Davis had a stellar career, blossoming as a tall midfielder and captaining North Melbourne to its first ever premiership, under football's Messiah Ron Barassi in 1975.

Now in his mid-70s and still an avid spectator - albeit from his lounge room after the winter lockdowns -

FAMILY MEMOIR:
Ken Davis and his partner Lorraine Jennings with an advance copy of Born to Play.



Davis still loves football and in particular watching the Dons and the Roos... not that either were to be contenders in 2020.

Ken Davis has written *Born to Play*, a loving biography of his champion brother Barry and it was our privilege to listen to Ken talk about his brother and the makings of this book after the 2020 AGM, held remotely via Zoom.

Ken says the brothers still regularly watch games together, social distancing requirements accepted. Like many players of his era, Barry would like to see less handball and more one-on-one contests.

He thrills to the skill and sportsmanship of the game's very best like Patrick Dangerfield and Nat Fyfe and said they would be standouts, in any competition in any era.

Essendon was due to meet free-wheeling Geelong at Kardinia Park and Bomber coach Barry was worried about the potential influence of the Cat's in-form No.1 ruckman Rod Blake.

Going to his ruckman Peter Keenan on the Tuesday night, Davis asked Keenan if he could niggler him a bit and put him off his game.

'Can you do that Peter?'

'Hell yeahhhh.'

On the Thursday night, Barry spoke with Keenan again. 'Peter,' he said. 'I can't let you do it.'

Come match day Blake was downed early and had little influence.

Afterwards Davis approached Keenan again.

'How do you sleep at night Peter?' he asked.

'Sleeping pills, Barry, sleeping pills.'



A Hall of Famer at two clubs, Davis stunned North Melbourne officials when he refused sign-on monies of more than \$7000.

'It's not why I'm coming,' he said. 'Just give me what you are paying the others.'

Along with Doug Wade and John Rantall, Davis was one of the 'Big Three' to cross clubs when the 10-Year Rule was introduced in August 1972.

A physical education instructor, Davis ran North's pre-seasons and loved the responsibility of mentoring the younger ones.

Once a fired-up Barassi ordered him from the ground at Arden Street after what he perceived as Davis breaking team rules.

Davis refused and minutes later at half-time, an enraged Barassi was waiting for his captain, ready to launch the biggest 'pay' of all time.

Just as Barassi was about to explode, Davis raised his arm and said: 'Stop. Don't you dare say a word until you cool down. We'll talk inside.'

And for once Barassi, the biggest name in football, backed off.

Ken says the respect for his brother remains decades after his starring days finished.

'He was also a considerable cricketer and played in that famous 1965-66 District grand Final which Bill Lawry won,' he said.

- Born to Play, the Barry Davis Story, written by his brother Ken is a limited edition hardback available for \$60 posted from Ken on 0425 843 322

Member Profiles

Bruce Bennett

I'm a Launceston boy and proud of it. It was a great thrill to represent my original State in the Over 60s championships in Adelaide last November.

'As a boy, I'd trail along with my Dad for his "social" games on a Saturday afternoon and occasionally get to field.

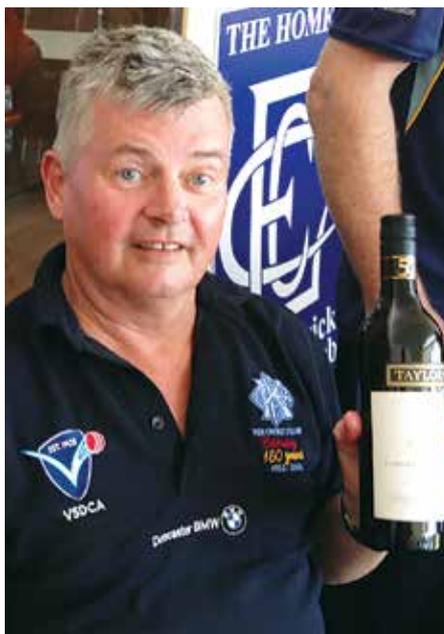
'One of Dad's teammates was Brendon Lyons who went on to become quite famous in the veteran's cricket arena.

'I attended Launceston Grammar which has always had a fine cricket tradition thanks to the likes of David Boon, Richard Bennett (no relation), John Bailey, his son George and Ian Fraser, well known among many of the current over 60s and 70s.

'It was at school where "Flat Jack" Simmons discovered the brilliance of a teenage David Boon. He also helped my bowling.

'My club was Dad's club: Old Launcestonians, dominated still by Brendon Lyons. I also had three years in Hobart where we won two premierships.

'In 1981 I moved to the north island (we Taswegians never call it the mainland) to begin a new career in air traffic services. Then it was off to Sydney for awhile, making cricket impossible.



MELLOW: Bruce Bennett after a man of the match performance last summer.

'Although I couldn't play, I never lost my love of the game and would attend Tests and ODIs at the Sydney Cricket Ground. I played a few games for the work team, they made me captain once and for some reason I was dubbed "Jardine" for weeks afterwards (Take note Ken).

'We played some hard wicket games in Moore Park which is the park in the same precinct as the main ground.

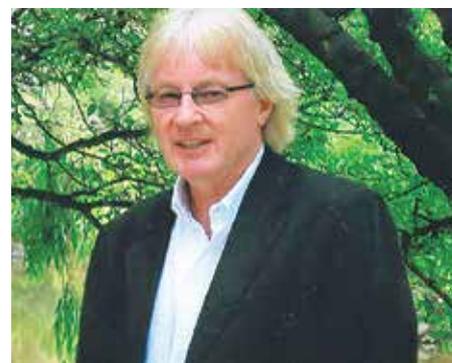
'My son began playing under age and school cricket and we even teamed up a few times for the ACS which was terrific. We also played the occasional game alongside each others in the fourths at Kew CC. I'm still at Kew, mainly umpiring now and also appearing more regularly with the ACS. We play on some good turf wickets and they give me the new cherry. Rarely does it retain its shiny gleam when I'm around...

'I have made fine friends there and look forward to struggling on for a few years yet - but when I listen to their stories of years of grade and senior club cricket I realise how meagre my own time in the game has been.

'Still, hope springs eternal and I look forward to being involved for a while yet.

John Evans

John is the Australian Cricket Society's new Delegate to the UK Cricket Societies' Association, having recently taken this role from Drew Payne who is now back in Melbourne and still serving the ACS, as vice president.



John is a great collector, especially of autographs.

Other than operating the scoreboard at Minor Counties games close to home, he hasn't had a lot of actual 'cricket' experience other than playing for his school's second XI in Liverpool in the mid-60s... a time when the Beatles were in their pomp (*hence his haircut - ed.*).

He graduated to a local village team in Bedfordshire where he surprised himself by becoming a reasonable medium pace bowler. He says his batting had slipped and athleticism in the field had long gone. But he still loved the game with a passion.

We thank him for his involvement with the ACS.

And Bruce's favourite story

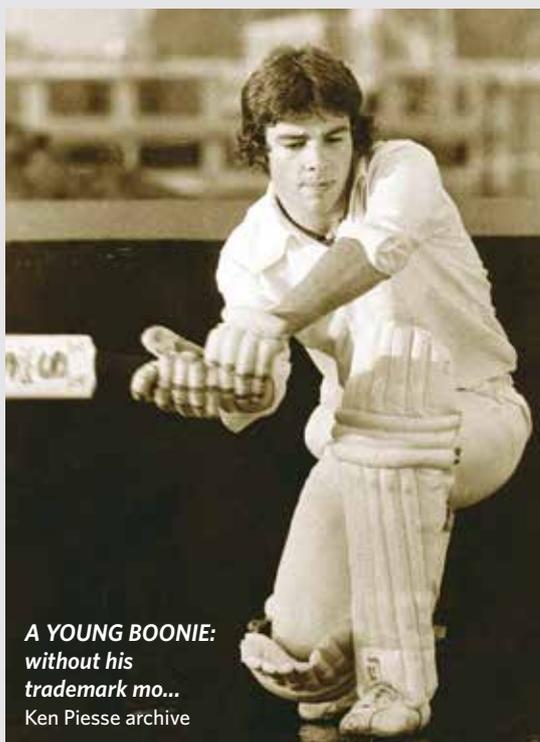
'We were playing house cricket at school in the mid-70s. Our team had five of the school's first XI so it was a pretty lopsided comp. This day I managed to catch the edge of some kid's bat and the ball went straight to second slip, at waist height, only to be dropped.

'The lad was a couple of years younger than me so wanting to set a good example I called out: "If you stand there you're supposed to catch the \$#@%ing thing."

'Next ball, it hit the seam again, caught the edge and the ball flew again to the same kid. And down it went again.

"You're \$#@%ing useless," I called, this time ignoring all protocols. "If you can't catch the \$#@%ing thing there go and hide in the field somewhere else."

'David Boon gave me a long look and trudged off to square leg.'

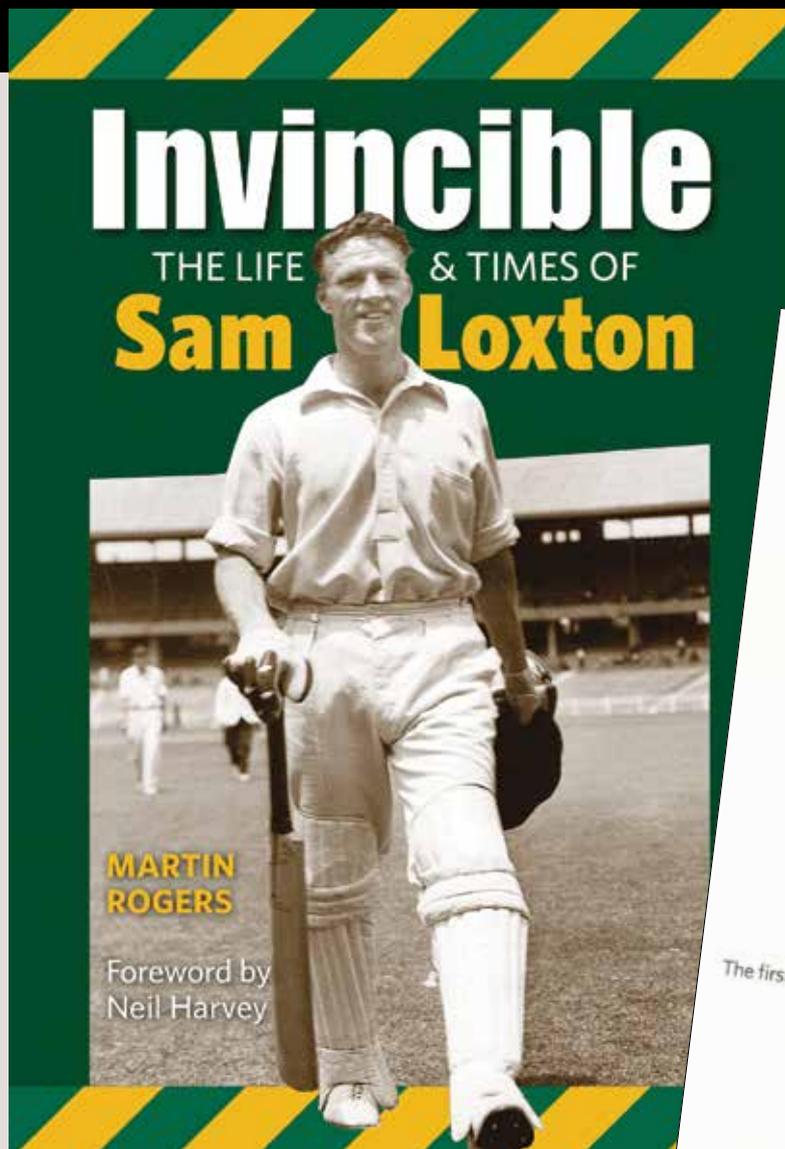


A YOUNG BOONIE: without his trademark mo...
Ken Piesse archive

The deadline for the inclusion of material in the Summer 2020-21 edition of Scoresheet is 15 November, 2020. Please send material to editor Ken Piesse at kenpiesse@ozemail.com.au

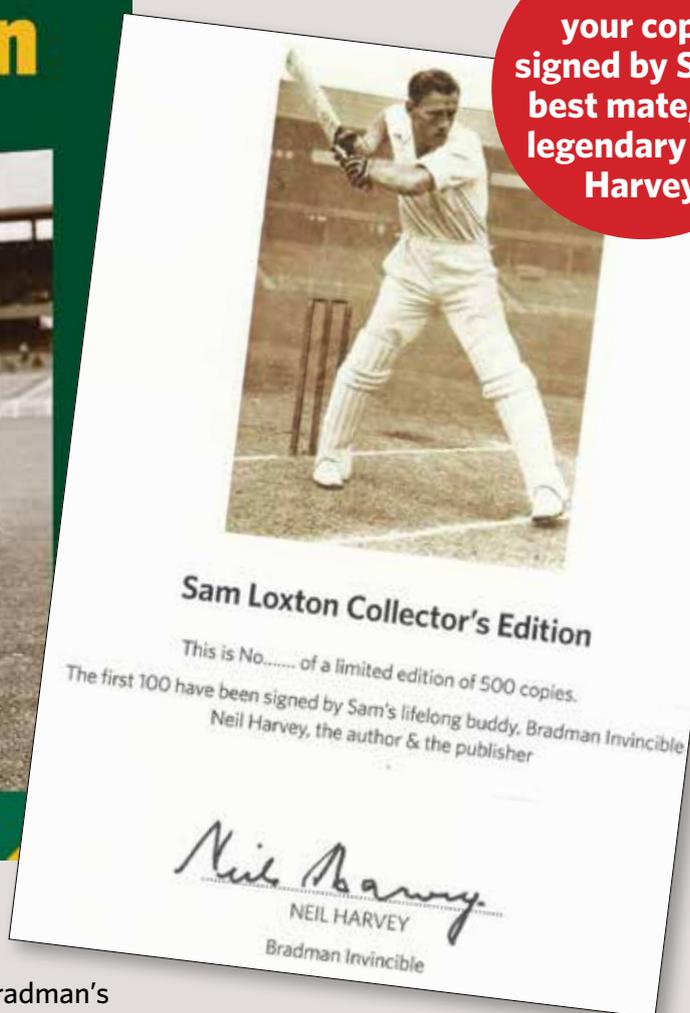
Invincible

SAM LOXTON'S STORY



A centenary biography,
by Martin Rogers, 288 pages,
limited edition of 500,
hardback, \$60 posted

Secure
your copy,
signed by Sam's
best mate, the
legendary Neil
Harvey



Few sportsmen have been more popular or loved in their own time and beyond as Sam Loxton.

Guaranteed lasting celebrity as a member of Don Bradman's 1948 Invincibles, Sam was talented, caring and larger than life.

He was a cricketer, footballer, mentor, Parliamentarian and storyteller supreme.

The Don was his hero and Sam considered himself the luckiest man alive to be able to play under the greatest cricketer of all.

When Sam died, aged 90, in 2011, he was buried with a photograph of Bradman and one of his letters to Sammy in his pocket.

This is Sam's story. Compelling. Illuminating. Entertaining.



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