

NEW ZEALAND CRICKET MUSEUM



Sir Richard Hadlee Bone China Commemorative Plate
Collection: Porcelain & Ceramics
Accession No: 2005.9.1a-b

Winter/Spring Newsletter 2005

EDUCATION

Test Match Report

In late March the Museum Curator attended the 3rd New Zealand verses Australia test match at Eden Park, Auckland, with J. Neville Turner, President of the Australian Society for Sports History, and Monique Damitio, a computer scientist from Morocco who lives in France. He invited both of his guests to contribute an article for the newsletter. Neville has responded with the following edited report of the test match.

'Auckland is a majestic city, a small compact, narrow area bounded by both the Tasman and the Pacific seas. Eden Park is some distance from the centre of the city. It is a huge, multi-functional stadium with a weird geometrical shape. It is asymmetrical. Some parts of the boundary are short, others distant. Sixes are worth four more at one side than the other – and there were plenty in the Third Test. In fact this test provided great entertainment, by no means was all of it provided by the Australian's.



The four days were distinguished by two superb innings by Ponting, a sensational innings by Gilchrist, and two sparkling innings by Vettori, who clearly is worthy of being deemed an all-rounder. Eventually, Australia's talented attack proved too strong for the New Zealand batsmen, but at least New Zealand "made a game of it".

Ricky Ponting 3rd Test,
New Zealand v. Australia, Eden Park 2005
Photo: Photosport, March 2005
Collection: New Zealand Cricket



Daniel Vettori
3rd Test, New Zealand v. Australia,
Eden Park 2005
Photo: Photosport, March 2005
Collection: New Zealand Cricket

In the end, a nine-wicket victory to Australia was a somewhat flattering margin. If not a great test match, it was, in my judgement, a richly exhilarating one.

And my own exhilaration was greatly enhanced by the acquaintance that was

made with two delightful cricket-lovers. The one was not surprising, for he is the Curator of the New Zealand Cricket Museum, David Mealing. The other was frankly, a prodigious freak – I almost wrote, a unique phenomenon. Monique is a Moroccan woman, living in France, who came to the test match with a primer on the laws of cricket. David had met her in Wellington and invited her to watch the Auckland test.

To my amazement, she approved a dubious umpiring refusal to give an LBW, which the TV monitor replayed. "The decision was right", said Monique, "the ball pitched outside the leg stump". And so it did!

The Auckland test had at least given a taste of spirited Kiwi mettle. Indeed, the outstanding recovery from 23–4, to reach 254, which set Australia a not inconsequential target, was a wonderful comeback.

J Neville Turner
President, Australian Society for Sports History Inc.

VISITS TO THE MUSEUM

The Old Grandstand, Basin Reserve, Wellington

Public Hours

Summer Season: 10.30 – 3.30pm Monday to Sunday and all match days i.e. 01 November to 30 April.

Winter Season: 10.30 – 3.30pm Weekends only i.e. 01 May to 31 October or by special arrangement.

Closed Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday.

Schools & Group Hours

Summer Season: Open Mon. – Fri. 10.30 – 3.30pm by prior arrangement (not on match days).

Winter Season: As above but by special arrangement.

Admission Charge

\$5 adults; \$2 students/children. Children (12 years & under) free if accompanied by an adult.

School groups \$1per student and \$2 per adult.

Other group visits by arrangement.

Bookings

The museum welcomes school/group visits by prior arrangement. We appreciate at least two weeks notice to enable successful liaison time with the Host/Guide and to ensure that you are able to book the most suitable times.

Note: The museum can comfortably accommodate 25 students and accompanying teachers and adults, split into two groups, at one time.

Phone: 04 385 6602 • Fax: 04 384 3498

Email: national.cricket.museum@paradise.net.nz

Website: www.nzcricket.co.nz

Basin Reserve Tours

Tours can be organised to the New Zealand Cricket Museum, the R.A. Vance Stand, the Groundsmen's Shed and the perimeter of the ground to view famous historical cricket plaques.

Facilities

Museum toilet including disabled toilet.

Bus & car parking adjacent to the museum.

Museum shop stocks a variety of books, postcards, miniature cricket bats, balls etc.

Lending Library

The library is available for lending, research and study purposes. Hours by arrangement.

How To Find Us

By Car: Drive in/enter by the southern (J.R. Reid) Gate at the Basin Reserve.

By Bus: Stagecoach Wellington. Buses 1, 42, 43, 44 travel to/from Kent & Cambridge Terrace to the Central Railway Station.

By Rail: NZ Tranz Metro units depart from the Central Railway Station.

By Foot: Enter the Basin by the northern or southern Gates & proceed to museum.

General

Smoking, food or drink are not permitted.

EXHIBITIONS / DISPLAYS

'Start of Play:The Origins of Cricket'

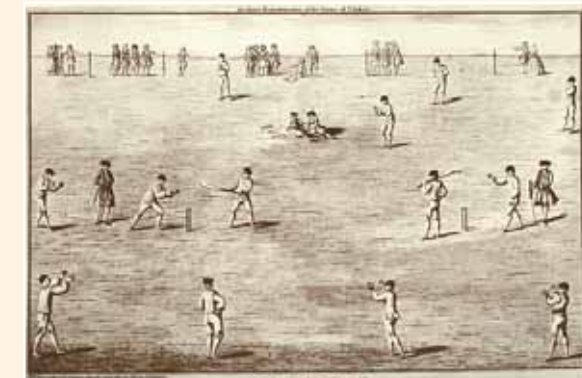
Commencing 12 September 2005

This display will feature texts on What is Cricket?; Origins of the Game; The Bat; The Ball; Stumps, Bails and Pitch; Bowling; Scoring and a panel highlighting significant dates in cricket history up to 1882. Also, pictorial images of early cricket and cricketers, re-enacted moving image material of a cricket match being played in England in the late 18th Century, plus film archive material transferred to DVD and sound archive material transferred to CD.

'Etymological scholarship has variously placed the game in the Celtic, Scandinavian, Anglo-Saxon, Dutch and Norman-French traditions; sociological historians have variously attributed its mediaeval development to high-born country landowners, *émigré* Flemish cloth-workers, shepherds on the close-cropped downland of south-east England and the close-knit communities of iron and glass-workers in the Kentish Weald. Most of these theories have a solid academic basis, but none is backed with enough evidence to establish a watertight case. The research goes on.

What is agreed is that by Tudor times cricket had evolved far enough from club-ball to be recognisable as the game played today; that it was well established in many parts of Kent, Sussex and Surrey; that within a few years it had become a feature of leisure time at a significant number of schools; and – a sure sign of the wide acceptance of any game – that it had become popular enough among young men to earn the disapproval of local magistrates.'

Source: Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2004, 141st Edition, John Wisden, p.1446



An Exact Representation of the Game of Cricket (Published 1743)
Copper Engraving by H. Roberts from a drawing after the Life by L.P. Boitard
Source: 'The Noblest Game: A Book of Fine Cricket Prints', George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd 1969



The Eleven of England Selected to Contend in the Great Cricket Matches of the North for the Year 1847 (Published 1847)
Coloured lithograph by N. Ploszcynski from a watercolour drawing by N. Felix
Source: 'The Noblest Game: A Book of Fine Cricket Prints', George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd 1969

Also Showing

(commenced 18 February 2005)

Highlights of New Zealand/Australia Test Matches

Forthcoming Display

New Zealand Cricket – 1970's & 1980's Chronology



'Silver Billy' Beldham c.1800
Sketch by George Shephard
William Beldham (1766-1862) was for years the premier batsman in England. This sketch shows him in his pomp.
Source: 'Pageant of Cricket' by David Frith, MacMillan 1987, p.44

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

New Acquisitions 2005

The museum continues to receive a range of diverse cricket treasures from cricket lovers and others throughout the country. These include books, magazines, posters, programmes, scorecards, tickets, presentation plates, caps, badges, pullovers, photographs, miniature bats, DVD's etc. Also, the museum has purchased a small number of treasures from a cricket dealer in England.

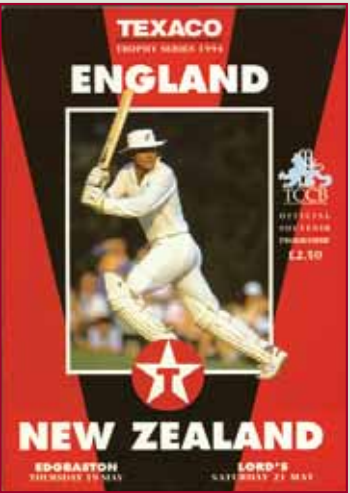


Marjorie Bishop's 'NZWC 1st XI 1935' Blazer Badge
Collection: Costumes & Textiles
Accession No: 2005.7.3

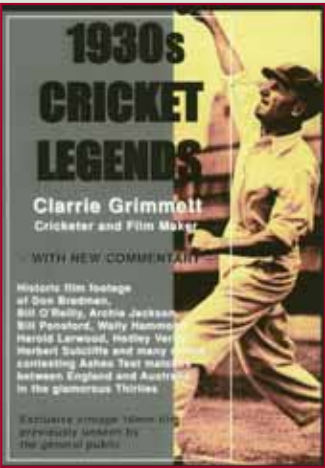
A significant number of books, cricket programmes (including one shown on this page), brochures, cricket magazines, scorecards and tickets were gifted by a private collector in Palmerston North. This significant and large gift of treasures covers a collection period extending over 50 years and required a carrier to deliver them to the museum.



Souvenir Cards: 'Cricket Tours' 1990
Collection: Ephemera
Accession No: 2005.9.6



Official ODI Souvenir Programme:
England v. N. Z. 1994
Collection: Ephemera
Accession No: 2005.11.67



DVD: '1930's Cricket Legends' –
Clarrie Grimmett
Collection: NZCM Archives



Souvenir Handkerchief: 'N.Z. v. England Cricket Tests 1958'
Collection: Costumes & Textiles
Accession No: 2005.12.1

Another recent gift is a cotton handkerchief issued to commemorate the 1958 New Zealand tour of England. Titled, with opposing corner portraits and signatures of the New Zealand captain J.R. Reid and the England captain P.B.H. May, the design is completed with opposing corner images of the New Zealand fern and the English rose. A photograph of the New Zealand Army Cricket XI, 1943, and a DVD showing historic film footage of New Zealand-born 1930's Australian cricket legend Clarrie Grimmett have also been gifted to the museum.



New Zealand Army Cricket XI, 1943
Collection: Photography
Accession No: 2005.15.1

The museums purchases included a Royal Grafton fine bone china plate produced to commemorate the then world record 431 wickets taken in test cricket by Sir Richard Hadlee between 1973 and 1990. This limited edition plate incorporates a central portrait of Hadlee and his signature, surrounded by a design including two action portraits of him and details of his feats.

Also included in this purchase were postcards of the 1931, 1937 and 1958 New Zealand cricket teams to tour England, and 'Master' cards of the 1958 team, plus souvenir cards featuring Hadlee, John Bracewell and Martin Crowe from the 1990 tour to England.

NEW ZEALAND CRICKET HISTORY

Formation of the First-Class Associations

This is the last in a series of histories of the formation of the first-class associations, following upon Wellington and Otago in the Winter/Spring 2004 Newsletter and Canterbury and Auckland in the Summer/Autumn 2004/05 Newsletter.

Central Districts Cricket Association

At the meeting of the NZCC on the 20th of July 1950, Central Districts was admitted as the fifth first-class team. But the entry was provisional – a two year probationary term – its fixtures were only three-day games while the other associations played over four days. Initially, results from these matches were not to count in the Plunket Shield, but the NZCC finally relented and Central Districts was able to play for points.



Central Districts Cricket Association Team 1953/54
Winners of the Plunket Shield for the 1st Time
Photo: Bruce Watt
Private Collection

Its origins had stretched back 46 years. In 1904 a North Island West Coast side comprising Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu and Wairarapa played Wellington, but it was not until 1923 that regular games between Wellington and 'Country' allowed cricketers from more remote areas a chance to win selection in the Wellington side.

By 1935 the Country associations had come to the realisation that the only way for its players to gain adequate representation at the first-class level was to have their own team. An attempt, described as "impertinent" by one major association, for Wellington Country to be granted first-class status nearly succeeded at the 1935 NZCC meeting, just failing to gain the necessary 60% vote.



Between 1935 and 1939 improved playing performances by Country sides gave added strength to their claims, so that when the Plunket Shield recommenced in 1945, there was growing acceptance of their case. 1947 saw the creation of an Association of Wellington Minor Associations and in 1949 Nelson and Marlborough cast their cricketing lot across Cook Strait.



A.M. Ongley (detail) 1948
Chairman, C.D. C.A., 1950-54
Photo: Unknown
Private Collection



Joseph Ongley (detail) c.1947
First Captain of Central Districts
Photo: Photo News Ltd, Wellington
Private Collection

The arguments against granting first-class status were that the widespread nature of the Country areas could prevent the consistent fielding of the best team, and the area might not have the financial resources to sustain a Plunket Shield team. However, the advocacy of A.M. Ongley and his son J.A. Ongley won the day in 1950. Following the granting of first-class status, the Central Districts Cricket Association came into being on the 15th of August 1950.

Sources: 'The Shell New Zealand Cricket Encyclopedia' by Lynn McConnell & Ian Smith, Moa Beckett Publishers Ltd 1993, pgs 197,198. Also, material supplied by Brian Bellringer, with an acknowledgement to HEB Newton's unpublished work "Central Districts Cricket – Its Shadowy Beginnings and First Twenty-Five Years – 1950-1975".

Northern Districts Cricket Association

The northern drift of New Zealand's population made the formation of the sixth first-class association an obvious requirement, even if administrators refused to accept this for many years. However, Northern Districts hopes of forming a new grouping, received a significant boost from the success of the Central Districts campaign.



Eric Petrie 1958
First Captain of Northern Districts
Collection: Ephemera/Cricket Cards
Accession No: 2005.9.5p



K.L. Sandford (detail) 1970
Chairman, N.D.C.A. 1956-61
Photo: Unknown
Private Collection

Auckland did not initially welcome the first approaches for a separate association, made by John Murray (who would become the first ND chairman), Mark Barnett and Jack Tiller. They met objections that a Northern team would not be good enough to compete in the Plunket Shield and that the formation of a new association would involve the others in costly transport arrangements.

By 1950, there had been a dramatic upsurge of interest and emergence of raw talent in the so-called minor association districts. Auckland couldn't guarantee victory when it travelled to Northland or Waikato and so several of their influential officials changed tack and decided to support the call for a new association.

It was not until April 1953, that the on-field break came when Northland beat Auckland outright for the first time and Waikato had the better of an Auckland XI. Those performances led to a meeting in Hamilton of country sub-associations on the 9th of May when it was decided to form Northern Districts.



Northern Districts Cricket Association Team 1958
The team that defeated Central Districts at Seddon Park, Hamilton January 16, 17, 18, 1958 for N.D.'s first win in the Plunket Shield
Photo: Unknown
Private Collection

Ken Sandford's elevation to the position of chairman of ND resulted in increased lobbying. A 60 per cent majority at a NZCC meeting was needed for Northern Districts to be admitted, and when its case was first put in July 1954 the vote was lost 11-25. In 1955 Auckland moved ND should be admitted, but the motion was lost 19-20. Sandford later recalled: 'When I was the next one to present the case (a year later)... we had already secretly got the numbers' – 25-16 – and the new association was admitted.

Sources: 'The Shell New Zealand Cricket Encyclopedia' by Lynn McConnell & Ian Smith, Moa Beckett Publishers Ltd 1993, pgs 218, 219. Also, primary and secondary source material from Waikato Times files and ND cricket minutes supplied by Waikato sporting historian Winston Hooper. The ND Association will celebrate its 50 years at first-class level in early 2007. Winston Hooper will produce a Jubilee book for this special occasion.

BRIEFLY

Annual Survey

The Annual Survey results conducted in April 2005 were extremely satisfying with a 100% overall visitor satisfaction rating (98% in 2003/04). Also, 100% of visitors stated that their experience of the museum was very good or good and 95% of visitors ranked the service to them as very good or excellent.



"Cricket" – Dr.W.G. Grace
Colour Lithograph by "Spy"
Published in "Vanity Fair" 9.6.1877
Source: 'The Noblest Game: A Book of Fine Cricket Prints',
George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd 1969

Sale of W.G. Grace's Wisden Collection

W.G. Grace's collection of the *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack* – running uninterrupted from *Wisden's* launch in 1864 to Grace's death in 1915 – were recently snapped up for £150,000 from a bookshop in Porlock, England. Complete with signatures, annotations and corrections (his own), some scores were crossed out and replaced by higher ones. Few presume to correct *Wisden*, but WG had a well-developed sense of his own worth. He once played in an exhibition match and was bowled early on. He reset the stumps and carried on batting, blithely telling the bowler, "These people haven't come to watch you bowl, they've come to watch me bat."

Museum Shop

A significant development in February/March was the establishment of a museum shop. This included the production and installation of shop shelving units, a shop/reception desk and the introduction of many new items for sale, including a range of Black Caps merchandise.

Museum Volunteers

This newsletter continues the theme of an introduction to museum volunteers.

Michael Childs – developed his love of cricket early when hanging around the Geraldine Domain. He often found himself filling in for teams who arrived with men short. Never going to be a star, Michael enjoyed fielding in the deep. He was introduced to the museum by fellow custodian, Denys Latham, and very much enjoys his association, along with his partner Gwen.

Gwen Kootznetzoff – In the pre and post-war years in north Queensland, Gwen remembers the family interest in cricket – father a left-arm spin bowler and grandfather an umpire. Gwen has lived in New Zealand since 1972 and her keen interest in cricket was re-kindled when she met Michael. Now in retirement they enjoy supporting the museum, particularly their chats with the many international visitors whose remarks are always so positive.