

NEW ZEALAND CRICKET MUSEUM



New Zealand Women's Cricket Team - Tour of England 1954
Members of the team take the field against a combined Essex & Kent XI, Chalkwell Park, Southend, England 14 July 1954
(l to r): Betty Butler, Rona McKenzie, Peg Batty, Ina Lamason, Verna Coultts, Eris Paton, Joyce Currie, Vi Farrell
(at rear), Joan Hatcher, Mary Rouse.
Photographer: Unknown
Private Collection

Summer/Autumn Newsletter 2006/07

EDUCATION

Sri Lankan Dance Academy Performance

In association with the museum and New Zealand Cricket, the Sri Lankan Dance Academy of Wellington performed a series of cultural dances during the second test match against Sri Lanka at the Basin Reserve in December.

The 12-minute performance took place during the Sunday tea break on the third day of the test to an appreciative audience of spectators. The Sri Lankan Dance Academy presented a medley of traditional and modern dance styles. The dance routines combined about six dance styles seen in Sri Lanka today. The colourful costumes, gracefulness of the dance, and the rhythm of the music brought together a unique dance performance created specially for the occasion.



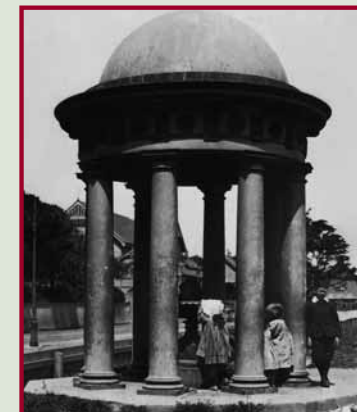
Four Sri Lankan Dancers performing a Snake (front) and Gypsy Dance 2005
Photographer: Narmalie Weerasekera
Private Collection

It is hoped that in future, the museum, in collaboration with New Zealand Cricket and cultural organisations within the Wellington region, will be able to organise annual cultural events and/or performances when visiting teams play test matches at the Basin Reserve. This concept and practice

could be adopted at other venues, as a way of celebrating cultural diversity, and paying respect to a touring teams historical, social and cultural traditions.

William Wakefield Memorial Display

A new display to celebrate the restoration and installation of the William Wakefield Memorial, to as near as possible to its original 1917 location inside the Basin Reserve, was opened in the John Oakley Gallery in the museum on the 7th of October, the same day the installation was officially celebrated by the Wellington City Council.



William Wakefield Memorial
c.1890
J.N. Taylor Collection
Alexander Turnbull Library
F1047771/2



Two Sri Lankan Dancers in traditional Kandyan Dance Costumes 2005
Photographer: Narmalie Weerasekera. Private Collection

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 Monday to Friday 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 \$1 per 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 and proceed to museum.

General

Smoking, food or drink are not permitted.

EXHIBITIONS / DISPLAYS

New Zealand Cricket – 1930's & 1940's Chronology

This showcase display opened on the 28th of November. The undoubted highlight is the unique film to DVD transfer of original moving, silent film material shot by the New Zealand vice-captain H. G. 'Giff' Vivian on the 1937 New Zealand cricket tour of England (not the 1931 tour as noted in the Winter/Spring 2006 NZCM Newsletter).

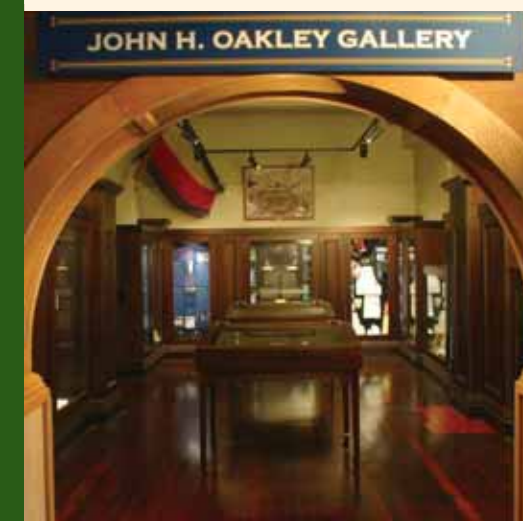
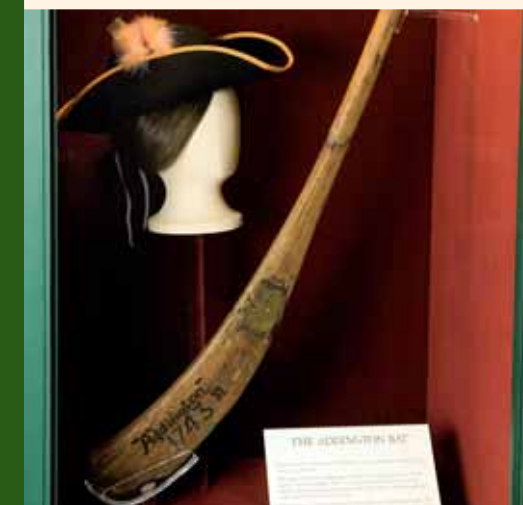
The original 180 minutes of 7 film reels has been edited to approximately 6 x 6 minute segments, totalling just over 40mins in all. The images include a practice at the Basin Reserve before the departure by ship to England, shipboard scenes of deck games and exercises, plus footage of New Zealand's first Labour Prime Minister, Michael Joseph Savage, who accompanied the cricketers en route to the coronation of King George VI.

The footage also includes the arrival in England, the first net practice at Lord's, images of the county and test matches, as well as social and formal occasions on tour. Finally, there are images of the Adelaide Oval, the MCG and SCG on the return to New Zealand via Australia and games against South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. This includes images of Don and Jessie Bradman, and New Zealand-born, Australian test cricketer, Clarrie Grimmett, bowling his leg-spinners and 'flippers' in front of the camera.

The film was shot on a Bell & Howell 8mm camera which has been kindly gifted to the museum and included in the display.



'Giff' Vivian filming the arrival in England of the 1937 NZ Cricket Team at Southampton on board the R.M.S. Arawa
Photographer: E.H. Buckley, Southampton, England
Private Collection



The 1930's & 1940's Showcase Display 2006
Photographer: Mark Coote. NZCM Archives

Also Showing

New Zealand Test Cricketers 2006

An updated display (commenced 28.11.2006).

William Wakefield Memorial Display

See Education page for details (commenced 07.10.2006).

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

Collection & Archives Upgrade

A major re-organisation of the collection and the upgrade of the collection and archives storeroom was undertaken over the winter months and early spring leading to the temporary relocation of the collection and archives to the museum theatre. This allowed the existing and untreated wooden shelving units to be removed and replaced with 'keylock' metal shelving units and moisture-cured sheets of customwood. Sheets of Eva60 foam were then placed on top of the customwood (in the collection area only) in readiness for the re-installation of the collection and archives.

The task of returning the collections and archives from the theatre to the storeroom was undertaken at the same time as appropriate collection and placement strategies were put in place. This work included a substantial amount of resorting, re-boxing and re-labelling of the collection into museum conservation boxes using mylar sleeves, acid-free tissues, acid-free envelopes etc. When this process of re-organisation, re-definition of collection and archives categories, and shelf placements was resolved and completed, the collections and archives were re-housed on the new storage shelves.

This project was Stage One of a longer-term strategy to upgrade the environmental conditions of the collection and archives store and prepare for the introduction of the Vernon Collections Management software system in 2007. Computer hardware has already been purchased and funding is available to acquire the Vernon software package and provide training. The next step is to secure funding for the appointment of a part-time Collections Manager to accession and document the collection.



Costume Boxes with Caps and NZC World Cup Blazer 1992 Equipment & Clothing Collection, NZCM
Photographer: Mark Coote
NZCM Archives



Conservation Boxes housing Photographs, Badges & Miniature Cricket Bats Photography, Ephemera, Equipment & Clothing Collections
Photographer: Mark Coote
NZCM Archives



The Museum Curator placing a silver trophy on a shelf Collection and Archives Storeroom, NZCM
Photographer: Mark Coote
NZCM Archives



The new 'Keylock' Shelving housing Collection Objects Collection and Archives Storeroom, NZCM
Photographer: Mark Coote
NZCM Archives

NEW ZEALAND CRICKET HISTORY

New Zealand Women's Cricket Team – Tour of England 1954

On 10 April 1954, sixteen players and a manager left Wellington on the adventure of a lifetime. Ahead of them lay a month-long sea voyage – the prelude to a strenuous nineteen-match tour of England that would include three tests.

Overall, expectations were not high. No New Zealand women's team had toured England before. Only two of the players had any experience of English conditions. There had been criticism over the number of older players picked and debate about the replacement of the incumbent test captain, Wellington's wily Ina Lamason, by Auckland's Rona McKenzie. Worse, to allow time for raising enough money to finance the trip, the selectors had been forced to choose the team a season early. Some of those selected were now out of form.

England's visits to New Zealand in 1935 and 1949 had exposed a gaping gulf between the two sides. No one could be sure that New Zealand had improved since then. 'We are breaking new ground,' said team manager, Hilda Coldham, at a parliamentary reception on the eve of departure. 'If we win we will take it modestly, and if we lose it will make us more determined next time.'



Mrs Coldham, NZ Manager, talking to the Mayor of Derby at one of the many Civic Receptions in England 1954
Photographer: Unknown
Photography Collection, NZCM. No Accession No.



New Zealand Women's Cricket Team Tour of England 1954
Standing (l. to r.): M. J. Currie, V. R. Coutts, J. V. Francis, E. A. Paton, V. H. M. Farrell, P. Blackler, J. M. Coulston, J. C. Hatcher, J. Clothier
Seated (l. to r.): M. T. Rouse, R. U. McKenzie (captain), Mrs. G. S. Coldham (manager), I. M. Lamason (vice-captain), J. G. Lamason
In Front: E. M. Butler, M. A. Mitchell. Inset: P. Batty
Photographer: Frank Thompson, Crown Studio, Wellington
Photography Collection, NZCM. Accession No. 99/16

First stop for the tourists was Lord's. It was only the second time women had been allowed to practice there. Some MCC members were outraged, but the players were warmly welcomed by C.B. Fry and other staunch supporters of women's cricket. In London, and during each of the tests, the team members stayed in hotels. The rest of the time they were billeted locally. They found themselves almost killed with kindness and lost count of the receptions attended, the sights seen and the friendships made. As ambassadors for their country, the 1954 team proved outstandingly successful.

They were also very competitive in the field, despite striking one of England's wettest, coldest summers. Three pullovers apiece were needed to combat

the chill during the opening match versus Warwickshire and South Midlands at Edgbaston on 22 April. New Zealand won off the last ball of the day – the first of several nail-biting finishes on tour.

Of the sixteen county matches played, nine were won, four drawn and two lost: a satisfying record. Even the two losses – to Yorkshire and to a strong South of England side – were hard fought encounters where the result was in doubt to the end. The loss to Yorkshire was tempered by the thrill of the team's first century, a spirited 103 not out to Canterbury's Phyllis Blackler. The South of England match in Hastings marked the retirement of England's captain, Molly Hide. A large Bank Holiday crowd saw 780 runs scored in two days as both teams chased victory.

'A British Cartoonist Comments on the NZ Women's Team' Daily Mail, London 1954
Cartoonist: Roy Ulyyett
NZCM Archives



England was expected to dominate the three tests, but there was surprisingly little between the teams in terms of bowling and fielding. Where England excelled was in cricketing know how and in batting. This was

apparent in the first test at Headingley, where England batted themselves out of a dangerous first-innings situation with breezy aggression while most of the New Zealanders adopted an ultra defensive mindset which led to their downfall. With New Zealand's most dangerous bowler, Wellington's Joan Francis, succumbing to injury early on day two, England won the match by six wickets.

The second and third tests, at Worcester and the Oval, were closer and more entertaining. At Worcester, fine bowling by Blackler and Francis put New Zealand in a position to win if they could score 338 in five and a half hours. Instead, team management opted for a draw. In the process Auckland's Joyce Clothier created an unwanted record by batting through the entire innings for 37 runs. The third test was interrupted by rain, which spoilt any chance of a result.

The tour proved that New Zealand could compete internationally. Several players, notably Blackler, Francis, Otago all-rounder Eris Paton, and team captain, Rona McKenzie, had acquitted themselves with particular distinction and the team, as a whole, could not be faulted for effort. But a first test victory still seemed a distant prospect. It awaited the day when a New Zealand team would have the confidence to play to win, rather than not to lose.

History supplied
Adrienne Simpson



Souvenir Programme
New Zealand Women's Cricket Tour of England 1954
Ephemera Collection,
NZCM. Accession No.
2006.37.1

BRIEFLY

'The Underarm' Play

A play entitled 'The Underarm', focusing on the controversial underarm incident in the ODI between New Zealand and Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1981 was performed at Centrepoint Theatre in Palmerston North and the Circa Theatre in Wellington during October and November. The museum distributed brochures to Circa Theatre during the play's season in Wellington to attract visitors to the museum and in return the museum allowed Circa Theatre to provide flyers at the museum to promote the play.

'The Underarm' Play Flyer



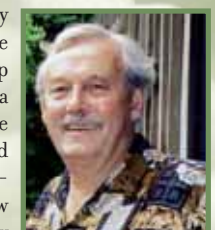
'French Artist's XI'

The Curator has been invited by the editor of the English Cricket Society Journal to contribute an article in a forthcoming issue of the Journal. He composed a 'French Artist's XI' after attending a test match between New Zealand and Australia in March 2005. It was inspired by being in the presence of his good friends J. Neville Turner and Monique Damitio.

Museum Volunteers

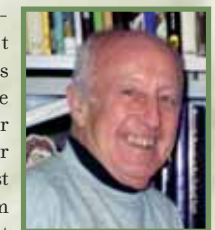
This newsletter continues the theme of an introduction to museum volunteers.

Alun Jones – Originally from Swansea, the highlight of my first trip to London in 1949 was a visit to the Oval for the England v New Zealand test. Little did a 11 year-old realise the part New Zealand would have in my future. I came to NZ in 1961 – for three years! – and am still here. I have played, coached and umpired cricket and am a collector of books, magazines and programmes. Being a volunteer means you get to meet many interesting enthusiasts.



Alun Jones

Dan Kelly – I am a long-time Basin Reservist since my days at St. Pat's College, Cambridge Terrace and as a member of Wellington Cricket for over 40 years. My interest in museums dates from my time as a lecturer at Teachers' College which involved visiting students on teaching practice at the Museum on Buckle Street. After retiring I spent some years in match management at the Basin and gradually involved myself in the history of the Basin, but also in the development of the cricket museum.



Dan Kelly

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