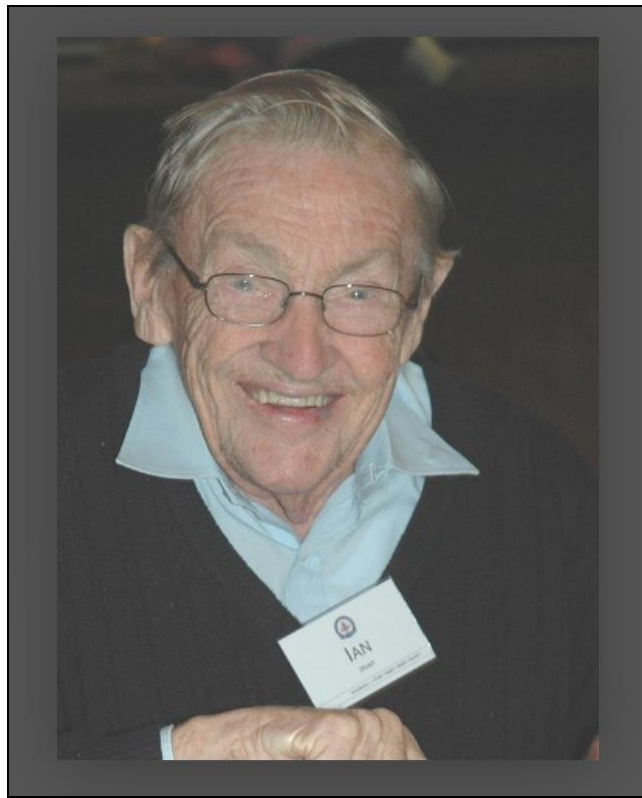


Stuey



Ian McGregor Stuart

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Stuey



Ian – a great cricket lover

Foreword **By Neil Stuart**

A number of years ago Dad began compiling recollections about his life. I can remember coming across what he had recorded and that I had shown particular interest in his very early recollections and of course his great cricket stories. While he had recorded a great deal of information he never quite got to finish the story.

After Dad's passing I thought that it would be great to complete his story and to make it available to those who would like to know more about him, and also to family and friends who shared in his journey along the way.

I have added more from Christmas letters he had written plus my own memories from over the last fifteen to twenty years. Fortunately, Ian was very meticulous in keeping records and information.

Ian McGregor Stuart was known to many of his friends simply as "Stuey".

Very Early Days

It was on the 27th September 1924, in a weatherboard house in Natimuk Road Horsham, that I first announced my presence to the outside world. I was given the Christian names of Ian McGregor by my parents George Fyfe and Frances Doris (nee Davey) Stuart. They were married on 26th April 1923 (the same date as King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) at Prahran shortly before moving to Horsham where my father had been transferred by his employer, the Colonial Bank (later to become the Union Bank, then the Bank of Australasia and finally the ANZ Bank). Father was about 5 feet 8 inches tall and of slight build. Mother was only 4 feet 9 inches tall but a bundle of energy and with a beautiful soprano voice.



On the 24th July 1926 the family was increased with the safe arrival of Alan Fyfe. At some stage of our residing in Horsham my father resigned from the bank and on obtaining a position with the firm of Wilson, Bolton and Co. (Stock and Station Agents and Auctioneers) we moved to Warracknabeal to a house on the bank of the Yarriambiack Creek.



Ian kept his teddy & it is still in our possession

I started school at the tender age of four years and as the youngest student I shared the honour (with the oldest living ex-student of the school – a lady in her nineties) of being the first to ring the new school bell which had been erected on a high tower. Although I do not remember much of my earliest years I must have been rather inquisitive as I believe I often tried the taste of soil from the garden and was once told that I wondered why my brother, Alan, kicked and splashed so much when I held his head under water in the bath.

After only about three years in Warracknabeal we moved another thirty miles north to the township of Rosebery where we lived in a residence which was both a shop and a house and was right on the Henty Highway which begins at Heywood just north of Portland and ends at Lascelles where it joins the Sunraysia Highway.

Our home had four rooms across the front plus a verandah running the full length (about 40 – 50 feet long and about 8 feet wide). There was an office (which at one stage had been a billiard room), a shop where we sold fruit and vegetables, confectionery, soft drinks and cigarettes. There were also two bedrooms, one of which had doors leading to the verandah, the shop and the kitchen. Next to the kitchen was a lounge room with a large open fireplace and off that was another bedroom.

There was also an area at the back of the kitchen with a concrete floor and walls made of wooden slats which was often used as a sleep-out, particularly during the summer months, as there was circulation of the cooler night air to make for more comfortable sleeping. This was often used by our parents. Also in this area were two large corrugated iron water tanks that kept us supplied with rain water. In addition we had a large underground tank of about 3,000 gallons from which we had to pump to a smaller tank on a high stand for the water to be gravity fed to the kitchen.

Adjoining the back verandah was a bathroom with a metal bath and what we called a wash house with a wood fired copper and two wash tubs. On Monday, washing day, the copper would be filled with water and the fire lit to boil the water. After the clothes had been in the boiling water for some time they would be transferred to the first tub for rinsing and later to the other tub for “bluing”. The copper was also used for boiling water for the weekly bath on Saturdays – no showers. First in the bath got the hottest water

even if only to a fairly shallow depth. Subsequent members of the family had more hot water added until the last one who had the most water but it was not the cleanest. Behind the house some 30 feet from the back door was the “dunny” – toilet was much too grand a name. We used to dig holes and bury the waste frequently.

Alan and I had to work the pump to transfer water from the underground tank whenever necessary so we used to do 100 pumps each and pass over to the other. Alan used to count forward and back one, forward and back two, etc until he reached 100 but his elder brother was more devious and counted forward one, back two, etc which didn't take as long to get to 100.

As previously intimated we sold fruit and vegetables from our shop. When selling cauliflowers it was usual to cut off some of the leaves and throw them out. One day Alan, probably with some help, dropped some of these leaves into the underground tank and it was a few days later that it was noticed that the drinking water tasted rather peculiar. Investigation revealed that the leaves had rotted and made the water undrinkable. The remedy was that my father had to hire a pump to pump all the water from the tank, then lower himself into same and scrub the sides and bottom clean. Having an empty tank in a place where there was a very small annual rainfall is not recommended as the alternative to rain was to have fresh water sent up by rail. However, on this occasion, Alan was relieved of punishment as on the night that Dad had finished his cleaning up a thunderstorm hit and the tank was very nearly filled to capacity.



L-R: Alan & Ian

Underneath our shop we had a cellar which was about 12 feet by 6 feet and about 7 feet deep where we used to store the bottles of soft drink. We had no refrigeration but the cellar was remarkably cool and worked quite satisfactorily.

Father was a Commission Agent and we used to stock or order many items required by the farmers of the district e.g. fencing wire, super phosphate, steel fence posts, kerosene, oils and even an agency for Oliver Hart Parr tractors etc. We were also agents for the Shell petrol company and had two bowsers (manually operated) one for standard and one for super.

My father George was also was an agent for the wheat buying firm of WC Thomas before the institution of the Wheat Board. Wheat used to be bagged and brought to the rail yards and stacked in large stacks until taken by rail to Geelong and other depots.

The bags, each weighing between 180 and 200 pounds had to be lumped into stacks which would go up to 15 to 20 feet high. To get up to that height would involve having a bag of wheat on the back of the operator and walking up a plank about 6 inches by 1 inch before dumping it on the ever growing stack. Later on the reverse happened as rail trucks arrived to take the wheat to its final destination. Although father was never more than about 8 stone he was very fit and was one of very few who could carry and balance a bag of wheat that weighed nearly twice his weight.

There were several firms that used to buy wheat and offers made by these companies would be sent by telegram to the agent. The advice was usually in code and it was interesting to decode into recognisable figures. When a telegram arrived Dad would want the information quickly and as he was at the wheat stacks which were in the railway yard some 80 to 100 yards from our house my mother, who had been an opera singer before her marriage, would go to the front door and yell "G-e-orge!" and everyone would hear her.

We also kept a number of roosters and hens and often had one or two cows. We were, therefore, fairly self sufficient as far as eggs, milk and cream were concerned. Milking the cows was not a job that I enjoyed. Also every now and then father would kill a rooster so poultry was occasionally on the menu. Dad used to kill the rooster by chopping off its head at our woodheap. He would always leave the axe firmly embedded in a log of wood. This did not stop me from trying to dislodge it but it was lucky that I was unsuccessful as on one occasion Dad came out to see me trying to get the axe and found Alan with his head on a block of wood patiently waiting for me to try to chop off his head.

Rosebery in the 1930's was a small town with our shop, a general store, hotel, railway station, primary school, Presbyterian church, public hall, and only about another eight or nine houses. *(In 2015 Rosebery consists of a CFA building, the church converted into an art gallery and coffee shop, and two houses).*

It was not very far for us to walk to school. For a number of my years at school we only had one teacher with the seventh and eighth grade students helping out with the grades one and two.

My grade consisted of three students – Don Keam, Ken Mitchell and myself and we went through to the eighth grade with no one else to challenge us for first, second or third in the class. Don lived just across the road from the school and the teacher often boarded with his family. Ken, however, lived on a farm about five miles west and used to come to school in a horse drawn gig. Don and I spent a good deal of time at each other's house and often played cricket in Keam's front yard with the result that more than one window was broken during some of these matches.



L-R: Ken Mitchell, Ian and Don Keam remained lifelong friends

One of our teachers was named Bert Bailey and we were all scared of him but it was great to go to the football and yell out “Get him, Basher!” Our school would play football against some other small schools in the district and there was the Goyura school who had a girl playing for them who had no concern for any of the opposition – she would just barge through and woe betide you if you were in her way.

Prior to finishing primary school two other brothers were added to the family. Ronald Charles was born at home on 30th June 1932 and George Norman at Hopetoun Hospital on 5th June 1935. The family was quite involved in many local activities. Father as well as his business was an elder of the Presbyterian Church and mother was involved in the church as occasional organist and in the Sunday school particularly with the training and organising of the Sunday school anniversaries and concerts. She also was the “Akela” of the wolf cub pack and often organised card parties to raise money for local charities. Father was also a freemason and was an early Master of the Beulah Lodge. (*Grandson Neil also became a Master of the Beulah Lodge 48 years later*).

Even though we lived in a very small country town there was always plenty of activity with a local cricket team and football team, opportunity for swimming in Keam’s dam (no swimming pool), going to the pictures at Hopetoun, spending time at Mitchell’s farm catching yabbies, or playing tennis. There were other tasks as well as pumping water such as milking the cow or cows we had at various times, feeding chooks, cutting wood and serving in the shop.

There were plenty of dust storms in the summer when mother used to have to wipe plates clean of dust before serving a meal and yet there was grit on the plate before we finished eating. Periodically we would have literally thousands of mice descend on the surrounding district doing unbelievable damage to wheat crops and even chewing through wiring, eating holes in clothes and almost wrecking the stacks of wheat by eating holes in the bags thereby allowing the wheat to leak out and make the stacks rather

lop-sided. Often one would lift up a bag and dozens of mice would scoot in all directions. One game that was played was to grab two mice by their tails, swing them around to make them giddy, then still holding them by the tails put them on the ground facing each other and watch them fight like crazy.



Ian in front of the shop at Rosebery

During the middle thirties the Grain Elevators Board was established and silos were built at railway stations throughout the wheat growing areas. They were used to store bulk wheat and thus enabled farmers to do away with the necessity of bagging their crops but of course required new trucks. I remember the construction of the Rosebery silo and climbing to the top and even jumping in the bins when they were full.

In my early days at Rosebery, I was always interested in sport, turning up to the local cricket matches hoping one of the team may not turn up and I could get a game. This rarely happened and when it did I was always last man in and fielded in the places where the ball was least likely to be hit.

As a family we also went to football matches at Hopetoun, Beulah, Brim, Galaquil East, Curyo, Kenmare or wherever Rosebery was playing. Rosebery colours were black with a red sash (as are Essendon's). *Hopetoun and Beulah in 2015 have merged to become the Southern Mallee Giants and Brim joined with Warracknabeal a number of years ago to become the Warrack Eagles. The other sides folded many years ago.* At Warracknabeal High School I enjoyed playing in the house teams, particularly cricket, although my ability did not match my enthusiasm.

I passed my eighth grade examinations and obtained my Merit Certificate in 1936 (Appendix 1) at age 12 and then for the next four years went by bus each day to Warracknabeal to the High School. The bus commenced at Hopetoun and would arrive at Rosebery at about 7.20 am and we would arrive home at about 5.20 pm so it was a fairly long day with homework to do after tea.

I was always fairly passionate about cricket and while we still lived in Rosebery my father promised to take me to a Test match. I rather hoped it would be in Brisbane so we could drive up through the outback of New South Wales and return via Sydney. This was not to be as it was the Test played at Melbourne from 26th February 1937. It was a wonderful match as Bradman and McCabe batted all day on the Friday, McCabe going out for 112 just before stumps leaving Bradman 165 not out. Over 77,000 turned up on the Saturday to see Bradman make only another four runs before going out, but Badcock (118) and Gregory (80) batted most of that day and on the Monday McCormick and Fleetwood-Smith added 28 for the last wicket to bring the total to 604. England was 4 for 184 at the end of the third days play.

Overnight it rained and as we thought play may not take place we went into the city for Dad to meet with someone from the Victorian Wheatgrowers Corporation. Whilst in his office we heard that the cricket had started so the interview was quickly terminated and we hurried down to the ground. We only missed one dismissal. At the end of the day England were 8 for 165 in the follow-on, having been dismissed for 239 in the first innings. We returned on the fifth day to see the last two Englishmen dismissed off the first two balls of the day to enable Australia to win by an innings and 200 runs.

That was the first time I had seen a Test match although when the Tests were played in England I used to be in bed and straining to hear the broadcasts from England that mother and father were listening to in the next room. They both used to stay up till all hours in front of a roaring fire in the fireplace in the lounge. It was usual for us to have a fire during winter and usually a big mallee root would be added before retiring and the embers would still be there the next morning so by adding more wood the house would be kept continually warm.

During 1939 I spent most of second term in Melbourne staying with an aunt and uncle at East Malvern and attending University High School with my cousin, Isobel. This was the year I was studying for my Leaving Certificate but unfortunately the syllabus was not identical with that being used at Warracknabeal and therefore I was studying the wrong period of history, a different novel for English etc. As a result, my end of year examinations was rather unsuccessful (Appendix 2).

Over the Christmas period I spent holidays with the Mitchell family at Cowes and did not open a book even though I had applied to sit supplementary exams. On arriving home a day or two after school had resumed I asked had there been any letter from the university about these extra exams. Dad believed there was but said I could stay home the next day as we had had an exhausting trip home.

Next morning I was wakened early and told I had an English exam that morning. With the rush of getting ready, catching the bus and discussing what we had all been doing over the holidays and eventually being dropped right outside the examination room without having had time to get nervous I sailed into the exam and wonder of wonders passed. I feel sure that I succeeded because I had not time to get nervous as I usually did at this time of the year. I repeated the course the next year and successfully obtained my Leaving Certificate (Appendix 3).

The Move to Melbourne

With four boys in the family and not many prospects of employment and the fact that the war had been declared our parents decided we should move to Melbourne. As it was necessary for me to find work I came to Melbourne first and lived for a time with an uncle and aunt in Surrey Hills and obtained a job in Brunswick with the firm of TN Chuck Wire Fence and Gate Company Pty. Ltd. as a clerk. This involved a good deal of travelling by train (each day from Surrey Hills to South Brunswick) so I applied for other jobs (Appendix 4) and obtained one in the city with the Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners where I started in September 1941.

The rest of the family moved to Melbourne early in 1940 and we rented a maisonette at 14A Kennealy Street, Surrey Hills. It had a lounge, dining room, kitchen, laundry etc and three bedrooms. Our parents naturally had the main bedroom and Alan and I had one room and Ron and George had one. The rooms were so small that with two single beds there was hardly room for a small wardrobe or much space between the beds.



Back row L-R: George, Doris, Alan & Ian. Front row L-R: George & Ron

We brought to Melbourne a walk-in size aviary where we had quite a number of canaries. This took up a reasonable area in the small back yard. On the first Sunday we were there we all walked to the Canterbury Presbyterian Church about a mile away in Canterbury Road. When we arrived home we found that the door of the aviary was open and most of the canaries had flown. We spent a good deal of the afternoon trying successfully to catch most of them at the same time getting to know some of the neighbours.

We all became regularly involved at the church where father became an elder and Alan and I joined the PFA. Church was at 11 am, home for lunch, back at 2.30 pm for bible class and often back at 7 pm for evening service – a busy day.

We lived very close to the Chatham railway station so it was no burden to get to the city for work or for Alan to get to school – he was still at Scotch College. (He has advised me that he rode his bicycle to school – a distance of about 6 kilometres). Brothers Ron and George went to Canterbury State School before also going to Scotch for their secondary education. I did not go on to university but commenced a course in civil engineering at Swinburne Technical College but gave it up after one term and started a course in accountancy which was much more to my liking (Appendix 5).

The Victorian Vocational Guidance Centre (Appendix 6) recommended Ian's suitability to the study and practice of accountancy.

As there was very little cricket being played during the war years I played tennis at the church courts but was never likely to be a contender at Wimbledon and I was glad when a cricket team was eventually formed. Our ground was at Myrtle Park in Balwyn, which involved a bicycle ride of several miles. We played on matting wickets and had to put the matting down prior to the start of the game and, of course, take it up afterwards and store it at a nearby house until next required.

Canterbury Church had two and sometimes three teams and I was usually in one of the lower teams but I was happy to be playing. With my left arm bowling and my right hand batting I was able to take a few wickets and make a few runs – my highest score being 69 and just missing a hat trick on one occasion when a fieldsman dropped a catch at deep fine leg. I also played a bit of football but again was not being hunted by VFL clubs. I did manage in one match to kick three goals in a losing score of three goals something.



Ian at Inverloch

PFA outings were always enjoyed as were Easter camps at Korumburra, Leongatha and Inverloch where we made many friends from other churches. Regular dances were organised by a committee of church families and were held each month at the Emulation Hall, Canterbury. A group of us would also go to regular dances at Hartwell Presbyterian Church and other venues always travelling by bus or train as none of us had cars – buses used to run till midnight on Saturday nights.

After my 18th birthday in September 1942 I tried to enlist in the RAAF (Appendix 7). When having my medical examination I remember one of the examiners saying “Struth, we better put him up to 100 pounds”. I was 6 stone 8 pounds (92 pounds). I was also only 5 feet 2 inches tall. I was unsuccessful in passing the medical and although eventually being sent to Camp Pell I only spent one day in the army (No. V504035). I don’t believe there was one person there who believed that I was eighteen. So my war service was very short lived.

On the night of the 31st December 1946 a number of us went to a New Years Eve dance at the Rechabite Hall in Surrey Hills and after leaving at about 2 am three other boys and I, having gone straight home after the dance, caught the first train at about 5 am to go to the Test match between Australia and England at the MCG. There were only two other persons in front of us so we had our choice of seats when the gates opened several hours later. We were enjoying the cricket but by about tea time the heads were drooping a bit and it were not easy to keep concentrating on the game. This Test was one of the few occasions when Bradman did not make a century in either innings, being dismissed by Norman Yardley for 79 and 49.

As well as cricket I also became interested in men’s basketball and Canterbury fielded a team in the PYMF competition where we played in some church halls but also in the Exhibition Building. I became involved in the committee of the PYMF Association and after getting married and moving to Preston became a referee with the Victorian Basketball Association and was often attending games at St. Lukes Church of England Fitzroy, for the Church of England Association and St. Brigids School for the Roman Catholic Association.

George & Doris Stuart

After living in Kennealy Street for several years Dad bought a house in Mont Albert at 19 Gordon Street. This was on a big block (about 80 ft frontage by about 120 ft deep). The house was weatherboard with three large bedrooms, large lounge and dining room, vestibule, large kitchen, indoor and outdoor toilets and a very large garden where we were able to have numerous fruit trees and a sizable vegetable garden.



*Back row L-R: George, Cathy, Ron, Nicholas, Ruth, Joan, Alan, Ian & Alan.
Middle row L-R: Wendy, Beverley, George, Doris, Rita & Graeme.
Front row L-R: Neil, Christopher & Donald*

When I left home in 1951 to get married Alan was pleased to have a room to himself for a few years. He eventually married Rita Munro in 1957 and they spent about 12 years in Korea as missionaries. George married Wendy Lawrence in January 1960 and Ron married Ruth Cantrell just 12 weeks later.

Shortly after our parents sold the house and purchased a unit on the corner of Mont Albert Road and Elgar Road still in Surrey Hills. A developer subsequently built four units on the block in Gordon Street. After Dad's retirement from the Victorian Inland Meat Authority he came and worked for me a few days each week from about 10 am to 4 pm and looked after the banking among other duties.

When George worked part time for Ian they were often fondly referred to as Steptoe and Son.

One day early in October 1972, mother rang me at the office and said "Dad won't be in today as he had a bit of a turn during the night". He was taken to Box Hill Hospital but was sent home next day. However he had another turn just a day or two later and was returned to the hospital with a coronary. I

went to see him on the Saturday as I was on my way to cricket. He asked me where I was umpiring and seemed quite bright. On the Sunday I went in again and felt that he had deteriorated somewhat and I didn't sleep well that night. After work on Monday I again called in and he seemed very bright asking me if we had got any money from certain clients and expressing concern about one particular client and exhorting me to keep on their wheel.

I went home much relieved but at six o'clock next morning Mum rang to say the hospital had wrung and that he had had another bad attack. I immediately got dressed and drove over to see her. When she opened the door she was in tears and said "What am I going to do without him". In spite of us requesting the hospital to phone either Alan or I they had rung her to tell her that Dad had died. It was the 17th October just three weeks before his 77th birthday.

Mum stayed on at the unit for some time but eventually went to live with Alan and Rita at East Ringwood for several years before moving to Strathdon where she died on 18th April, 1979 – aged 85 years and three months. She had lost a lot of interest in most things after Dad died and really did not want to live.

Customs Agent

After working at the Harbor Trust, in 1948 one of the customs agents who used to come in to pay wharfage dues asked the cashier I was assisting if he knew of anyone who he could recommend who may like to try his hand as a customs agent. I was approached and not long afterwards (actually on the 17th March 1948) I accepted a position with the firm of Agg & Duff as the junior in a firm of three partners and one girl who was the bookkeeper-telephonist. My job included visiting the various shipping companies, the Harbor Trust and the Customs Office with papers necessary to clear imported goods to be delivered to many and varied clients.

The elder of the two Mr. Aggs was a keen punter and would always have a portable radio in his office whenever a race meeting was on and it was often difficult to use the phone if he wanted to ring his SP bookmaker. There was only one telephone line with two extensions – one on his desk and the other in the outer office and they were of the standing type where one held the earpiece to the ear and spoke into the mouthpiece. If someone was on the outside phone and it was wanted inside there would be a continuous jiggling of the receiver until the line was clear. Mr. Duff was a smallish man who attended to any customs queries until I became more knowledgeable about the profession. He died in 1949 and the older Mr. Agg in 1953. After being employed for nine years handling all classes of customs work an application for a Head Agent's licence (Appendix 8) was lodged in February 1956. I was able to complete all the formalities required to clear goods.

In 1956 the surviving Mr. Agg decided to make the firm a private company and offered me a token number of shares which were gratefully accepted (Appendix 9). Some few years later he suggested a change in name of the company so the firm of Agg & Stuart Pty. Ltd. came into being. In 1967 Mr. Agg's son Rob joined the firm and also became a shareholder. Mr. Agg died in 1971 and the business was left to Rob and I to run. By this time we had a staff of about 10.



Rob Agg far left, Ian far right

When I first started work at Agg & Duff our office was at 15 Queen Street a few steps below street level. In the middle fifties we moved to the first floor where we had sufficient room for the increased staff. Subsequent moves were made to 379 Collins Street and eventually to the World Trade Centre in Flinders Street Extension. An offer to amalgamate with another agent was accepted and I continued working at much less pressure until August 1996 (Appendix 10).

In 1961 a number of individual agents decided to form a Customs Agents Institute of Australia to protect the interests of those employed in the industry. Each state was to have their own council with annual meetings of all states at a federal conference. I was invited to join the Victorian Divisional Council in October 1969 and served for several years before being made Victorian president and also was appointed to represent Victoria on the general council. I became the seventh federal president at the 1982 annual meeting held in March. At the conclusion of the meeting a post conference tour to Hawaii was enjoyed by 52 members, wives and friends.

The opportunity was taken to have a 21st anniversary dinner at the National Press Club Canberra on the 11th September 1982. It was a great thrill and honour to have been appointed a Life Member of the institute on 22nd November 1990.



As well as the Customs Agents Institute, there was also formed several years earlier a Customs Agents Federation consisting of customs agent companies. Each state had their own committee and was designated as the Customs Agents Association of their state. Each had regular meetings with an annual

conference rotated to the various states. The state meeting would deal with problems relating to all aspects of shipping and customs formalities.



I was nominated by Agg & Stuart to represent our company on the committee of the Victorian association and after several years was granted Life Membership on 29th July 1993. By this time there had been a name change as many members felt that customs agent sounded too much like the American conception of a member of an organisation checking for drug smugglers so the name was changed to the Customs Broker Council of Australia. A further name change was made when there was an amalgamation with freight forwarders so it is now Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia Inc. and my Life Membership was transferred to that body on 1st January 2001.

When large consignments of goods commenced coming to Melbourne by air it was necessary to travel to Essendon to arrange customs clearance. This often involved two or three visits before obtaining delivery of goods. As clients were paying large sums of freight to obtain their goods quickly it soon became necessary to have an office on the spot so in conjunction with another agent we formed another company, Air Sea Customs Services Pty. Ltd. to handle airfreight shipments and with the opening of Melbourne Airport at Tullamarine we leased premises in a complex built by the Civil Aviation Authority within the airport boundary. As one of original directors and secretary I retained my involvement until May 1999 when I sold my shares in the company and commenced full time retirement.

Ian's career firstly with Agg & Duff and then Agg & Stuart spanned fifty years.

Joan Clayton & Marriage

Many of our friends at the church had attended school at Scotch College or Presbyterian Ladies College and I was invited to some of the balls run by the Old Collegians – often held at the St. Kilda Town Hall. It was quite a change to be looking forward to a function there as the only other times I had been there was for accountancy examinations.



L-R: Ian, Joan, Betty Clayton (Joan's sister) & Jack Stuart (Ian's first cousin)

The first time I asked Joan Clayton out was to an Old Scotch Ball – she even asked her mother if she could go out with me even though she would have been twenty at the time – I didn't know I had such a bad reputation. We both survived the ordeal and the following year we announced our engagement – December 1949. Joan had a nickname of "Pud" and on the first occasion that she came to our place for a meal, my youngest brother, George, remarked afterwards "She's not that fat!"

We decided to get married on the 19th May 1951 at Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church with the reception afterwards at Wattle Park Chalet. The date we set was also the thirtieth anniversary of the wedding of Joan's mother and father. We eventually cancelled the reception at Wattle Park as Joan's brother-in-law, Reverend Stewart Hurse, had a tumour on the brain and was not expected to live so we considered it to be unwise to have a reception that may have had to be cancelled at the last minute. Stewart did live to see us happily married and we had a small reception at 28 Kent Road, Surrey Hills – the home of the Clayton family.

The day turned out to be absolutely delightful – not a cloud in the sky. Joan's sister Betty was the chief bridesmaid with good friends Alison Lane and Barbara Hoskin to assist. Unfortunately Barbara had to go to hospital a few days before so missed the festivities.



L-R: Ian, Joan, Alan, Betty, Bruce, Alison & Len



My brother Alan was best man and groomsmen were Len Cox and Bruce Lithgow two very good friends from the church. Both Len and Bruce were star footballers with the Canterbury Presbyterian Church football team and had played over ninety consecutive games for the club which was very strong that year so to keep their record intact they played till half time but were still able to be in attendance for the wedding at 5 pm.

We spent our wedding night at the Victoria Coffee Palace (now the Victoria Hotel) where we were shown to a room with twin beds. Our groomsmen who were helping with our luggage went into shrieks of laughter when we opened the door.

The next day we went by bus to Ballarat (there were no trains on Sundays) and spent a night at the George Hotel. On going down to breakfast the next morning we saw one of the guests who had been at our reception. Later that morning we were to catch the train to Stawell on the way to Hall's Gap for our honeymoon. We had to change carriages at Ararat as part of the train was going on to Hamilton. I went to find another compartment and found two friends who had also been married on the 19th and were also going to Hall's Gap for their honeymoon. Each of us had booked in at Grampians House. There were 36 residents there at that time and 24 were honeymooners. Alan and Beth Wilkinson were the friends of ours who were married at Hartwell Presbyterian Church. A further coincidence was that my mother had sung at the wedding of Alan's parents.

On returning from our honeymoon we rented half a house in Wentworth Avenue, Canterbury for several months before moving to 34 Grange Road, Preston where we rented a house owned by Jack Clayton a cousin of Joan. We joined the Preston Presbyterian Church and joined in the activities there. I was inducted as an elder on September 13th 1953.

I also joined the church cricket club after unsuccessfully trying out with the Preston sub-district team. (I actually made the third XI on one occasion). I was working in the city at this time and travelling each day by tram which was the best part on an hour's trip so I was never able to get home till about six o'clock. This did not allow much opportunity for cricket practice as by the time I arrived most of the other team members had been there for an hour or so and were ready to go home for their evening meal – many of the team were still at school or were working locally so did not have the same travel problems.

We played in the Northcote and Preston Churches Cricket Association and as in most games we either had one umpire or sometimes none it meant we had to provide at least one umpire and you guessed it, it was more often than not yours truly.

Early married life & family – Preston

Although Joan and I were unable to have children of our own we were very fortunate in being able to be accepted as adoptive parents and Neil Andrew was the first of three wonderful sons to be added to the family. Neil was born on the 18th October 1953 and arrived at our home in early December. Nearly eighteen months later Donald Clyde arrived. He was born on 5th August 1954 and was nearly twenty months old when he came to us having had some minor medical problem before he became available for adoption. Being less than ten months difference in their ages enabled them to share many interests. Our third son, Alan Clayton was born on 28th May 1961 after we had moved from Preston to 46 Larch Crescent, Syndal.



Whilst at Preston we made good friends at the church and I used often to go to work in a Ford Anglia owned by Ron Baird who lived in the next street and worked at Gordon & Gotch. Ron encouraged me to become involved with the Preston Amateur Football Club and I actually spent many Saturdays acting as a boundary umpire for them. We purchased a Morris 8/40 from our next door neighbours and so became a bit more mobile and able to visit our respective parents at Surrey Hills and Brighton without having to worry about train and tram journeys.

At the end of the 1954 football season the Preston Amateurs planned a weekend trip to Maryborough and I was asked to take my car and one of the players, Jack Weir, with me. I wasn't too keen as the car wasn't by any means a new one and I hadn't taken it on any long trips. However, I eventually agreed and Jack and I left the city at about five o'clock on a very rainy afternoon. Most of the other team members had left earlier in the afternoon but neither Jack nor I could get time off to leave earlier.

As we were going up a hill just before Gisborne the car suddenly slowed to a halt. With the help of a kindly truck driver who was prepared to give us a tow we proceeded on our way only to be overhauled by one of the other team members, Jack Rose, driving a relatively new Singer Sports car. He realised it was us and stopped the tow and using much more mechanical knowledge than I possessed was able to clear the fuel line and let us proceed without assistance. We stopped for a meal at a hotel in Gisborne

and Jack said he would stay behind us to make sure we weren't held up again. As he was driving a nifty sports car I didn't want to hold him up and was probably going a little faster than I would have otherwise – still only about 50 mph.

We went through Woodend but about two miles further on going round a bend to the right I kept well over to the left as my headlights were not functioning properly, skidded on the wet road and rolled the car. The two front doors came off, the windscreen and the back window were both shattered but the car finished right way up. Jack must have lost consciousness for a few seconds but I escaped with losing only a small bit of skin for my shin.

Jack Rose arrived almost immediately and soon an ambulance arrived and took us to the Kyneton Hospital where they admitted Jack for observation in case he had suffered concussion. As I had not any injuries I was not going to be admitted but as I had no way of going anywhere they let me stay the night. I telephoned Joan to tell her of our problem and she contacted Jack Weir's parents who said they would come up to Kyneton next morning and bring us home. Jack and I made sure we were waiting outside the hospital when they arrived as they had seen the car on the way up and were firmly convinced that we were much worse off than we had claimed.

On the way home we stopped where the car was and left it there and eventually sold what was left to the owner of the house at whose gate we had finished up. I managed to get the enormous sum of 35 pounds for the chassis and engine. It was just as well we hadn't had Neil in a basket in the back seat as it is quite likely he would not have survived - so ended my first and only end of season football trip.



Ian gardening, Donald & Neil keen observers

Another major event while still at Preston was to attend the Olympic Games in Melbourne in November 1956. We went to the opening and closing ceremonies and also some of the athletic, cycling, boxing and basketball contests. Brother Ron ran part of the torch relay along part of the Hume Highway. (*Ron was also in the torch relay for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney*).

Syndal

Whilst living at Preston we were looking to buy a house or land back in the eastern suburbs and actually bought a block of land in Grandview Road, Jordanville with the hope of building a house. However we did not proceed and in December we bought a house at Lot 16, Larch Street, Mount Waverley (£4,200) while it was still being built. It was the first house in a new estate and because of problems with the sealing of the plans we were unable to move in until February 1957.



Ian and Joan lived at 46 Larch Crescent, Syndal for 47 years

The road was not made and we had to have our letter box up at the corner of Larch and Maple Streets about 100 yards from the house. A lot of time was spent in preparing both a front and back garden. Previously there had been apple orchards where they were now building houses and the ground all looked corrugated where the apple trees had been irrigated. We soon settled in and gradually new neighbours arrived and it was not long before the postman would come to our new letter box at our front gate.

As there was no Presbyterian Church within walking distance and as we did not have a car at this stage we commenced attending the High Street Road Methodist Church where we were introduced by the previous owner of the orchard as “This is Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, they live on our estate”.

After a few months a number of Presbyterians living in the area got together and made plans to start a Presbyterian Church at Syndal. With the help of the parishes of Glen Waverley and Oakleigh and a canvassing of the area the first service of the Syndal Presbyterian Church was held in the Syndal Progress Hall on Sunday 9th February 1958 conducted by Rev. George Anderson, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. There were 61 adults and children in attendance.

When land in a new sub-division in Larch Street became available a meeting of the congregation was held and negotiations entered into to purchase two blocks. An application for a grant to build an all purpose hall was made and an amount of five thousand pounds was made available from the estate of the Connibere family with instructions that the money (without any additional sourcing) be used to erect a building for worship. An architect was contracted to draw plans and subsequently the hall with an adjoining kitchen was built.

The official opening was conducted by the new Moderator, Rev. Crichton Barr, assisted by Rev. Don McLean, Minister of Glen Waverley to which Syndal congregation was now joined to form one parish. Services were held each Sunday at 9.30 am. At a later stage a youth hall was erected at the rear of the church and catered for youth groups and indoor sports and other activities.



We eventually purchased a new car (actually a Holden Station Wagon) and this made it a lot easier to visit my parents at Mont Albert and Joan's at Brighton Beach. We were the first house built on the sub-division and as further houses were being built we were inclined to sticky-beak on all the different plans and of course as newcomers arrived we got to know most of the neighbours fairly quickly. It was about a ten minute walk to the Syndal railway station and with very few roads made it was a quite usual sight to see many pairs of shoes in the waiting room of the station where passengers would leave their muddy shoes and collect them on their way home. The train took approximately 35 minutes to reach the city.



Neil and Donald both attended the Syndal Primary School in High Street Road until the sixth grade and later went to Haileybury College in Keysborough. This necessitated catching a bus at Glen Waverley station so Joan had the task of getting them to the bus on time.

As they became involved in sport and as I was umpiring cricket each Saturday during the summer it became necessary to have a second car so we acquired a Mini Minor from Lane's Motors (incidentally a client of Agg & Duff).

By this time Alan had been added to the family and he eventually started school at what was then Syndal North Primary School. Whilst being several years younger than Neil and his mates he insisted on playing football or cricket with them and did not get any sympathy from them if he happened to get injured. Neil was always interested in sport with a bit more enthusiasm than ability whilst Donald was more than happy to take on less vigorous activities.

On completing school in 1972 Neil began a farm management course at Marcus Oldham College at Geelong. He returned from a brief experience in farming to work for a couple of years at Norman Brothers in Melbourne. The desire to have another go at farming led to him getting a job at Rosebery with my old school friend Ken Mitchell.

Donald meanwhile had decided he would like to become a chef and successfully completed his apprenticeship at the RACV. He afterwards became employed by the Freemasons Hospital and later still went to the RACV Country Club at Healesville where he was very popular.



In 1974 Ian became Moderator of the Maroondah Presbytery at a service carried out by his predecessor Rev. Alec Jamieson of the Glen Waverley Church Presbyterian Church in Larch Crescent Syndal. This was the last service of worship held in the Larch Crescent Church. Only a few days before the Syndal Presbyterian and the High Street Road Methodist congregations became one. Ian had been session clerk of the Syndal Presbyterian Church and then with amalgamation became a member of the executive of the Joint Parish Council. His brother Rev. Alan Stuart was present at the service and along with Ian is pictured with the Rt. Rev. Jack Taratonga Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides.



L-R: Ian, great friend Bob Davies & Bruce Mitchell – all great servants of Syndal Presbyterian Church & High Street Road Uniting Church over very many years



L-R: Alan, Donald & Neil – snowing in Tasmania. In our early years we enjoyed a number of great holidays with Dad & Mum - on the Gold Coast and touring around Victoria and Tasmania.

Alan also went to Haileybury College where in the sporting field he became a member of the cricket first XI and also played football. After finishing at Haileybury in 1978 he played for the Haileybury Old Boys football team also.

In March 1981 Neil married a Hopetoun girl, Pauline Berry. While working on the farm he completed a farm management course externally through VCAH Glenormiston. After working for Ken Mitchell for 10 years, he and the family went to Dookie Agriculture College where he completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture.

Apex

The Dale Carnegie Institute run classes in personal development of skills relating to public speaking, chairmanship, gaining self-confidence etc. In August 1956 I undertook a class where our text books were written by Carnegie and titled "How to win friends and influence people," "How to stop worrying and start living" and "A quick and easy way to effective speaking". It was a very interesting course and led me to many further experiences.

An early situation was when I was invited by one of my classmates to attend the inaugural meeting of the proposed Apex Club of Oakleigh. Apex is an organisation of young men's service clubs the ideals of which included "To make the ideal of service the basis of all enterprise" and "To promote international understanding and friendship". Membership was open to all young men but there was a requirement to retire at the annual dinner after their fortieth birthday. This first meeting took the form of a dinner and was held on the 24th September, 1958.

Each new club was sponsored by an existing club and was required to reach a certain standard of service before being granted a charter. Meetings took the form of a dinner and were held fortnightly. I was invited to be the guest speaker at the second dinner and subsequently joined the club. Our sponsor club was Morwell and even though over eighty miles away they used to have one of their members attend each of our dinners.

Some of our service jobs included provision of a children's playground in Warrawee Park Oakleigh, bagging sheep manure at the Oakleigh abattoirs and selling it to raise money for service projects, car washes, assisting widows with minor maintenance and even doing paint jobs at a kindergarten. At our meetings we also took turns in chairing the meeting and we also took part in public speaking and debates against other clubs. At our first annual (handover) dinner in September 1959 I was elected president but it was not till the following year that we gained our charter. The charter dinner was held on 25th February 1961.

Apex is an Australia wide organisation divided into zones and each zone into districts. Each zone has a zone vice-president and each district a district governor who has the oversight of the clubs in his district. I was elected as district governor in 1965 and had 10 clubs under my care. They were Oakleigh, Malvern, Springvale, Dandenong, Mordialloc, Frankston, Mornington, Rosebud, Chelsea and Moorabbin. I was required to go to occasional meetings of each of these clubs and even attend board meetings at Mornington, who were sponsoring Rosebud for their charter. The Oakleigh Club organised a district convention at Cowes when we advertised clubs to "Bring your Bull to Cowes". During the course of the convention there would be a public speaking contest between representatives of each club.

At the handover dinner in 1965 I was required to retire from Apex but it was a great thrill when the zone vice-president in attendance announced that "Ian Stuart had been elected the first Life Member of the Oakleigh Apex Club". Although no longer active, Apexian members of the now defunct Oakleigh club still meet for an annual get together and recall our times of fun and hard work.



Each year the association would hold a national convention. During my last year as a member the convention was held at Townsville and a few of our members went to it. A ferry trip to Magnetic Island was arranged and as they could not sell liquor on the island, members bought “beer tickets” before we left Townsville. The boys decided it would be safe for me to have control of them as they knew I was not going to redeem them myself. When we were about half way across to the island I suddenly told everyone that I had left the tickets in the hotel. The immediate response was “Well you had better swim back for them”. However, I did have them with me so I was not tossed overboard.

On arriving back in Melbourne Joan met me at the airport and she was obviously not well. After a visit to the doctor she was rushed off to hospital to have her appendix removed. However, this did not solve the problem and within a short time she was back in hospital for a gall bladder operation. Fortunately this was successful and it was not long before she was much better.

My time in Apex was very enjoyable and I made many friends many of whom I still see on a fairly regular basis.

Cricket Umpiring Beginning

Cricket is a great game and has given me many opportunities that I never would have had if I had restricted my involvement to playing. Having limited ability but loads of enthusiasm I first became interested in umpiring whilst playing firstly in the Eastern Suburban Churches Cricket Association and subsequently in the Northcote and Preston Churches Association where, occasionally we had one umpire but rarely two and therefore players had to take their turn in adjudicating on appeals against their own team mates. I went to great pains to ensure that if criticism was to be levied against me, it would be more likely to come from my colleagues than the opposition as I did not wish to be accused of bias.

As I was working in the city and travelled by tram to and from work, it was often after six when I arrived for practice and more often than not the rest of the team were ready to pack up and go home for tea. At the end of the 1954-55 season I decided to retire from playing cricket and have a shot at this umpiring caper and be paid for it. I was egotistical enough to think I was as good as some of the umpires we had, when playing.

Noticing an advertisement that the Victorian Cricket Association was running winter classes for umpires to be conducted by former "bodyline" Test umpire, George Hele, I attended these and at the conclusion was interviewed by the VCA Pennant Committee who asked questions to see if the candidates were suitable. I found this quite daunting as the pennant committee included former Australian Captain, Jack Ryder, VCA Secretary, Jack Ledward, and other distinguished members as Arthur Liddicutt and Bert Numa. I must have satisfied their questions as I was accepted on the panel of umpires for season 1955-56. So began my professional umpiring with the Victorian Cricket Association (Appendix 11).

1955-56, 1956-57

Reading the statistics in the October 1996 edition of Law 43 (the monthly newsletter of the VCA Umpires Association) brought memories flooding back to my introduction to umpiring. Saturday October 1st 1955 was a most unusual day for Melbourne. It was the first day of a new cricket season in Melbourne and it was not raining. As I rather nervously made my way to Merri Park (behind Northcote High School) to the rather dilapidated tin shed that served as a pavilion and dressing shed for the Fitzroy and Northcote 3rd XI's, I wondered whether my decision to try cricket umpiring was the correct one!

Having been a cricket fanatic since childhood, devouring statistics, taking every opportunity to watch or play the game but not having the ability to do much more than make up the numbers in junior cricket, I was now attempting to break into the field of umpiring in the top competition of the state. My first appointment was to a 3rd XI match between Northcote and Richmond and I met my colleague for the first time at the ground - a nerve racking experience in itself.

The toss was supervised, the captains advised of the correct time and the two umpires neatly dressed in new white hats, coats and boots and other prerequisites uniformly strode to the pitch, adjusted the bails (having previously set the stumps) and waited for the commencement of the game. It was not long before I realised the difference between playing and umpiring. When a bowler managed to bypass the defensive bat and thump the ball into the pads of the opening batsman there was a concerted appeal from

all around including one umpire – ME! Naturally, it would have been difficult in such circumstances for me to turn down the appeal so I raised my left index finger and gave the batsman out LBW. Many bowlers would venture the suggestion that that LBW decision was the first and only one given by me in twenty three years of active umpiring with the VCA.

At this time there were only 14 member clubs of the VCA and only 3 XI's in the competition. Therefore, there are only 42 umpires needed each playing day. The panel of umpires was approximately 50 so, as now, there were always some on reserve. This appeared to be my lot for round 2 but during the week both umpires appointed to the Collingwood v Richmond 2nd XI match at Victoria Park withdrew and I was called on to officiate at this match with a very experienced and long serving senior umpire in Ted Mantell. Naturally I was very pleased to be standing with such a senior umpire and particularly to be so soon on a senior ground.

Once again I learned a lesson in the art of umpiring. Standing at square leg I watched the ball sail over my head from a rather punishing pull shot only to be asked by the wicket-keeper, as he pointed to the bails on the ground, to answer an appeal for "hit wicket". As I had been keeping my eye on the ball and not watching the completion of the stroke the batsman had to get the benefit of the doubt. Certainly the captain's report would not have been too complimentary and may well have been one reason for my continued presence with the third elevens for the remainder of that season and the whole of the next.

The experience of so soon umpiring on an enclosed ground and with a seasoned partner reinforced my ambition that "Even though I may never play cricket on the MCG I may one day be able to umpire there" - at that time even district 2nds were played there. Although I had to wait some years to do so the time spent officiating at 3rd XI matches was most necessary. It is these games that umpires, and players, develop in their knowledge of the various duties required and become aware of the necessity of constant concentration. The enthusiasm and the ability to deal with tense situations calmly help to fit an umpire for promotion.

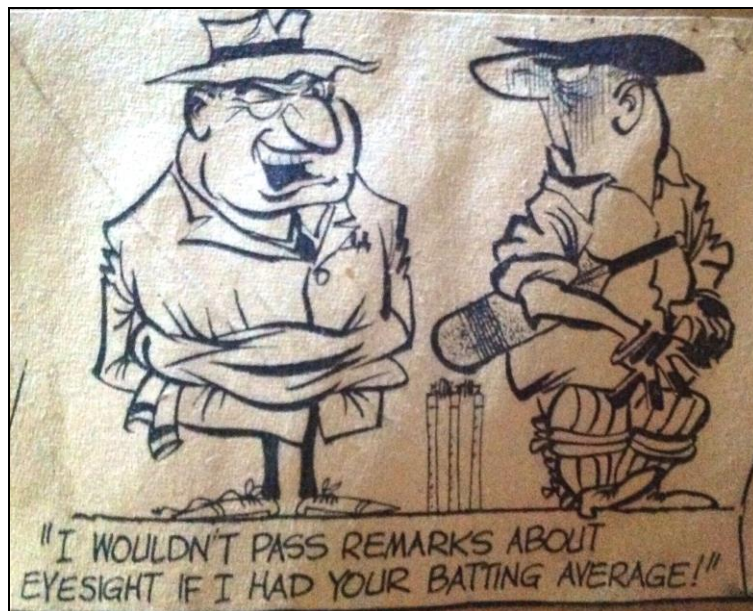
Many of the grounds on which 3rd and 4th XI matches are played are very picturesque and therefore require an umpire to keep his mind on the game rather than the scenery. Whilst umpiring in the lower elevens one can get to know players who will subsequently represent Victoria and possibly Australia. In the Melbourne 3rd XI, I met two players who later reached great heights in different spheres. I refer particularly to Bob Hawke who captained the side and became better known as President of the ACTU and the Australian Labor Party and also Prime Minister. The other was triple Brownlow Medallist Bob Skilton, whose name will always be held in high esteem wherever Australian Rules Football is the topic of conversation.

During the latter part of my second season many appointments involving teams fighting for the final four came my way. It was disappointing when the finals umpires were announced that my name was missing. This should not have been the case as only four umpires are required and they are chosen from approximately 20 who have umpired these matches throughout the season. In contrast to some states where umpires from first grade stand in semi-finals and finals for all grades, the VCA generally appoint umpires from the ranks of those who have officiated in each particular grade during the season.

1957-58

The disappointment at the end of my second season was quickly forgotten when for the first round of the 1957-58 season I was appointed to the Hawthorn-East Melbourne v Melbourne 2nd XI match at Glenferrie Oval. From that date regular attendance at seconds' matches followed. The difference between thirds and seconds was, and is, quite marked from an umpiring point of view. Firstly, the matches are played on enclosed grounds. Secondly, the stumps are usually set in position thus allowing more time to relax before calling for the toss and thirdly, the standard of play is higher with usually fewer frivolous appeals.

It was in a 2nd XI match that I first came into a match where an ex-international was playing. Dr. Ian McDonald, who, after retiring from the first class scene remained connected with the game to pass on his knowledge and experience to younger players by captaining the Melbourne 2nd XI. It was at St. Kevin's oval, temporarily being used by North Melbourne Club, that there was a particularly confident appeal for a catch close to the wicket. Fortunately I did not have to answer as the fieldsman had not taken the ball cleanly. During a break in play at the fall of a wicket several fieldsmen gathered around to ask me whether I would have given the batsman "out". I believe that my comment that as there was no clear catch I did not have to make a decision was noted (favourably) by Dr. McDonald.



After the final round of the 1958-59 season I was thrilled to receive an appointment to umpire my first semi-final between Fitzroy and St.Kilda seconds at the Brunswick Street Oval. It was a very tense match finally won by St. Kilda. The next week I was appointed to the final. This match was played at the University Oval - St. Kilda's opponents on this occasion being Prahran. During Prahran's innings one of their batsmen played the ball on to his pads and then backhanded the ball through cover and called for a run. The bowler, Bill O'Halloran spluttered "He can't do that - how is it". I raised my finger and said "Out - Hit the ball twice". On leaving the ground at the completion of the innings a spectator was noisily

critical and some of the players were querying the decision. I showed the batsman the law relating to the decision and his comment was "Fair enough".

1958-59 First XI

Season 1958-59 commenced with further appointments to the second XI's but as early as round 3 I received my first opportunity of umpiring first XI when I was advised to attend Essendon oval to stand in the match against Richmond. Four further first XI matches were to come my way during the season followed by appointments to the second XI semi-final between Footscray and Richmond and the final between Richmond and St. Kilda.

1959-60

The following season I received appointments to first XI matches from the beginning. On about the 16th November I received a letter informing me that I had been selected to officiate in a match between the VCA Colts and the NSW Colts at the MCG on November 23, 24 and 25. Hours of play were from 11 am to 6 pm with the last day to finish at 5.30 pm. I was directed to be at the ground no later than 10.30 am to supervise any rolling of the pitch. An allowance of two pounds per day was to be paid and a ticket for admission was enclosed. Although described as a Colts game it was really a second XI match as the Victorian team included six shield players - namely Ken Eastwood (Captain), Alan Connolly, Keith Stackpole, Ray Jordan, John Wildsmith and Colin Guest. Bob Cowper and Keith Kirby were two others in the team who subsequently played at international level.

Ken Eastwood won the toss and Victoria batted and finished the day at 7 for 283. Chief contributors were Bob Cowper 66 and Ken Eastwood 60. Next morning the innings continued with Victoria eventually all out for 346. New South Wales lasted only 14.7 overs (yes, they were eight ball overs) with Alan Connolly taking 7 for 23 and Colin Guest 3 for 23 for the innings total of 48. Put in to bat again New South Wales were 8 for 152 when the last over for the day was due. However, Ken Colliccoat and I agreed to another half hour playing time in the belief that a result could be obtained. Keith Kirby showed the decision was wise by taking the last two wickets with the first three balls of his 18th over to finish with 8 for 70 and a victory to the home side by an innings and 146 runs. As it turned out, while the decision to play on may have been correct it meant forfeiting one day's pay.

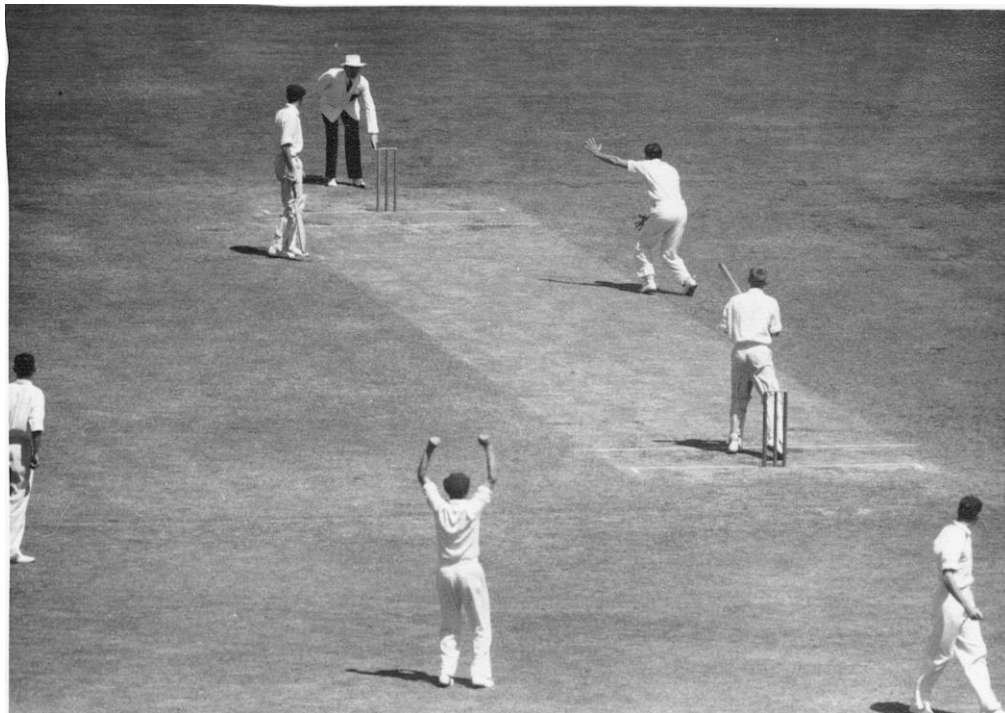
Sheffield Shield

My next big thrill was in the form of a slightly belated Christmas present when I was appointed to my first Sheffield Shield match - Victoria v South Australia at the MCG to commence on January 13th. My colleague was to be none other than Bill Smyth and we were to be paid two pounds ten shillings per day. Naturally I was very nervous at the start but it was great after having to answer an early appeal to look over to square leg and receive a very encouraging gesture from Bill indicating I had made the correct decision. By stumps on the first day I was very tired and wondered how I would feel after four days. However, on the second night I was not so tired and it even got better so that by the end of the match I felt as though I could have gone on for a few more days.

The respective captains were John Lill (South Australia) and Len Maddocks (Victoria). South Australia won the toss and batted. As well as John Lill other players well known included Bob Lloyd, Barry Jarman, Neil Dansie, Neil Hawke and Ian McLachlan for South Australia and Alan Connolly, Neil Crompton, Bob Cowper, Ron Furlong, Lindsay Kline, Bill Lawry, Jack Potter, Ian Quick, Ron Gaunt, Ken Eastwood and Keith Kirby (12th man) for Victoria.

South Australia made 203 and 235 and Victoria 345 and 1 for 195 in 108 minutes to win by nine wickets with still 50 minutes to spare. The main contributors to the game included centuries by Len Maddocks (102) and Neil Dansie (129). Bill Lawry made 83 in the first innings in 208 minutes and 85 in the second innings in 82 minutes. (This is not a typographical error - it really was 82 minutes). The other outstanding feature was that there were 8 run-outs during the match - we really earned our two pounds ten shillings per day.

To have had the privilege of standing with Bill Smyth in my first 1st class match was in itself a great advantage as he was inspirational in his encouragement. It was the first of several first class appointments with Bill and I could not have asked for a better colleague.



The left index finger is being raised – you're out!

Season 1960-61 ended with an appointment to a first XI semi-final between Fitzroy and North Melbourne and being made the reserve umpire for the final. Even though there was the four yearly visit to Adelaide by the VCA Umpires I was not prepared to be in Adelaide in case either Ron Wright or Bill Smyth took ill - which neither did.

1961-62

Season 1961-62 was only a few weeks old when I received an appointment to officiate in a state trial match to be held on Cup Day commencing at 10 am between teams captained by Jack Potter and Bill Lawry. Lunch was 1.40 pm to 2.20 pm, no afternoon tea and a match fee of three pounds. Potter's XI batted first and was dismissed for 125. Ray Jordan was the only batsman to score more than 25 - being LBW for 31. Keith Kirby was the best of the bowlers with 3/32. Bill Lawry and Neil Crompton opened the innings for the opposition and were not separated until they had reached 96 in better than even time. Lawry's team went on to score 9/279 with Crompton 57 and Keith Stackpole 73 not out. David Anderson returned the best bowling figures of 3/33.

My next important appointment was the Victoria v Queensland match from December 9-13. Queensland were captained by Ken (Slasher) Mackay and included in the team were Test players Peter Burge, Wally Grout and Tom Veivers as well as that great West Indian fast bowler Wesley Winfield Hall. Queensland won the toss and batted and was dismissed for 159, Ian Meckiff taking 5/43 off 18.6 (eight ball) overs. The attendance on that first day was 8,026 - more than often attend the four days of current shield matches.

The Victorian innings commenced with Wes Hall bowling from the Southern Stand end and guess which end I was at - yes the same end. Of course back in those days the no-ball was adjudged on the position of the back foot at the instant of delivery. The first ball that Wes bowled was being returned by Wally Grout by the time I had adjusted my vision to see what happened at the other end. Thinking that discretion was the better part of valour I decided to let Wes put his feet where he liked until I got used to his pace which Bill Lawry considered was faster than he had bowled the previous season - the famous 1960-61 tour.

At stumps Victoria was 1/33 off 16 overs, 8 bowled by Hall for 15 runs and 1 wicket. Ron Furlong was out for 9 LBW - I must have given it as he bowled all those overs from my end. Ron was in for 47 minutes and was unfortunate to be hit on the toe by a full toss. On the Saturday Victoria were dismissed for 240 with Hall's figures being 21.3 overs, 2 maidens, 5 wickets for 77 runs and all those overs from my end. Bob Cowper was another victim of the great fast bowler when he deflected a bumper on to his head and then to Ken Mackay fielding about 15 yards away at mid-wicket. Bob was taken to hospital for an x-ray but fortunately there was no other damage than bruising.

Trailing by 90 runs Queensland hit back in the second innings when a fine century (119) by Peter Burge enabled them to score 339. When Victoria batted again would you believe it but Wes Hall switched to bowling from the member's end. During this innings Bob Cowper on 47 ducked into what he must have thought was another bumper and was again hit on the head whereupon the bowler yelled "How's that, man" - an appeal for LBW. The appeal was declined but two balls later he was clean bowled. Ray Jordan contributed 68 and Lindsay Kline 37 not out, but the final total was 31 runs short. Hall took another 4 wickets to finish with 9 for the match.

An interesting aspect of Bob Cowper's second hit on the head was that as he reeled away from the wicket the other batsman Ray Jordan ran down the pitch to him, then looked back to see Queensland fieldsman Jack McLaughlin standing over the bowler's wicket with ball in hand ready to run him out. Jordan stood in mid-pitch until Ken Mackay came over to McLaughlin and told him not to take the bails

off. I was very relieved as although the dead ball law could be applied who knows what can happen on the spur of the moment when faced with an appeal in a fairly tense situation.



*Umpire Ian Stuart at the bowler's end.
Victorian batsman Bob Cowper struck by a bumper from Wes Hall.*

Without a doubt Wes Hall was the fastest bowler I ever encountered. He was also quite a character and I quote from an article written at the time of this match. "While many batsmen have their bats with hide or vellum around the meat of the bat Wes has his bound ALONG EACH EDGE! Wes explained later "Sometimes Ah don' stroke de ball right in de middle, sahn. Ah've broken six bats since I started in Brisbane a couple of months ago an' it wuz gettin' too expensive. So Ah've had mah bat bound on de edges 'cos that's where Ah seem to play lots of mah shots!"

The total attendance at this match was 20,287 - very vocal in booing Hall on and off throughout the match especially when he bowled a head high full toss to Bob Cowper first ball of Bob's second innings and later when he bowled bumpers to Neil Crompton, Ian Huntington and Ray Jordan. Bill Lawry also came in for some crowd displeasure in making 48 in 239 minutes in the first innings.

There hasn't been a drab, uninteresting game between NSW and Victoria in the history of Australian cricket, no matter how one-sided the prospects have looked before the start. So wrote Kevin Hogan in the Sun on 23rd December 1961; the morning that Bill Smyth and I were to officiate in what was then a traditional fixture at Christmas. (New Years Day was then the first day of the Melbourne Test match).

The New South Wales team consisted of Richie Benaud (Capt.), Neil Harvey (V-Capt.), Ian Craig, Bob Simpson, Norman O'Neill, Brian Booth, Graham Thomas, Alan Davidson, Johnny Martin, Frank

Misson - all Test players and Doug Ford their wicket-keeper. There were four in the Victorian team who had played Test cricket - Bill Lawry (Capt.), Lindsay Kline, Ron Gaunt and Ian Meckiff. The remaining players were Jack Potter, Ron Furlong, Neil Crompton, Bob Cowper, Ian Huntington, Ray Jordan, and Keith Kirby.

Richie Benaud won the toss and 13,369 in attendance witnessed six NSW wickets fall for 141 by about 2 pm. Benaud joined Thomas and proceeded to pulverise the Victorian attack in a partnership of 255 - Benaud made 140 whilst Thomas remained unconquered on 119. Cowper ended the slaughter when he had Benaud caught deep on the fence by Kirby. In his next over he removed Martin for 1. Thus, the first day ended with NSW 7 for 398 - Cowper finishing with 2 for 24 off 2.7 overs. Meckiff, Gaunt and Kirby each took two wickets. If the Victorian fieldsmen had accepted the chances that were given the score would have been much less. Thomas was dropped when on 2 and on 10 and a stumping was not affected when he was 35. Benaud was 69 when he edged Gaunt to first slip where Potter missed a straight forward catch.

NSW declared at the overnight total and after two rest days - Sunday and Christmas Day, play resumed to a Boxing Day crowd of 14,136 with Victoria losing their first four wickets for 124. Potter was out to a brilliant piece of fielding by Alan Davidson. Potter had played an off-drive that looked to be a certain boundary. He had started off for a run when seemingly from nowhere Davidson appeared, picked up and with a return right over the stumps to Ford found Potter stranded yards out of his crease. Huntington and Crompton then combined in a partnership that looked like enabling Victoria to realise a good score but at 196 Crompton was run out.

To quote from the following days Sun "The crowd hooted and counted-out umpire Ian Stuart, who gave Crompton out in what must have been a very close decision". Next batsman in was Ray Jordan and as Benaud brought several fieldsmen closer to the wicket the spectators appeared to forget me and turned their abuse on to Benaud - much to my relief!

The remaining Victorian batsmen did not last for long and the innings terminated at 236 runs. Although ahead by 162 runs Benaud did not enforce the follow-on and batting a second time lost Craig run out in the first over. Misson came in as night watchman and the following morning made 34 before being dismissed. Harvey made 21, O'Neill 43 and Booth 42 before Benaud declared at 5 for 254 with Simpson not out 110. Victoria could only manage 242 in their second innings to lose outright by 174 runs. The highlight of the Victorian innings was 113 by Captain Bill Lawry who was last out. Total attendance at the match was 36,470.

The season continued with an appointment to a first XI semi-final between St. Kilda and South Melbourne with Bill Smyth again as my colleague. St. Kilda won the match and was to play Fitzroy in the final at the Albert Ground over the next three Saturdays. Bill and I were appointed to the match, which was rather surprising as it was usual to appoint one umpire from each of the semi-finals to stand in the final. This was to turn out to be probably the hardest match I ever umpired.

St. Kilda Captain John (Darkie) Edwards won the toss and surprisingly sent Fitzroy in on a perfect batting wicket and fast outfield. Helped by three dropped catches, a missed run out and a stumping chance that was not accepted Fitzroy reached 219 for the loss of 4 wickets by stumps on the first day with Captain Jack Potter 94 not out. On the second Saturday Potter was dismissed without adding to his

score and with Peter Hosking taking 4/78 and Jack Hill 3/70 Fitzroy were restricted to all out for 314. Bruce Kline, brother of Lindsay and father of Reece and Jason - both playing district cricket for Prahran & Fitzroy-Doncaster respectively, with 22 not out helped reach that total in a last wicket stand of 50 with Ian Deany.

After St. Kilda lost their first two wickets for 68 runs, Doug McLean and Bill O'Halloran remained unconquered for the remainder of the day to bring the score to 162. Bill O'Halloran continued his innings with some stubborn help from Eric Seccombe, Peter Hosking and John Edwards and he hit the winning run with his sixteenth four when he was 127 not out and with eight wickets down. He was finally dismissed stumped by Kline off the bowling of Graeme Harvey. Although there was no chance of an outright victory at this stage the game continued till stumps with Fitzroy 5/127 in their second innings. St. Kilda only used five bowlers in the first innings but the other six members of the team bowled in the second innings but it was left to Hosking and Hill to take three of the five wickets with one run out. This was the first premiership won by St. Kilda for twenty eight years.

The tension was tremendous throughout the game with a few words spoken, a couple of minor physical clashes and when a batsman was hit by a bouncer the only person to go to his assistance was his batting colleague. However after the match all players (and umpires) got together for a friendly chat and a cool drink.

A great finish to the season yet even better was to come.

1962-63 England

The highlight of any Australian cricket season is the arrival of a team from England for a battle for the Ashes over a series of five Test matches. And so it was that Ted Dexter arrived in Australia in October 1962 as Captain of the MCC team comprising the following players:- David Allen, Ken Barrington, Len Coldwell, Colin Cowdrey, Tom Graveney, Barry Knight, David Larter, John Murray, Peter Parfitt, Geoff Pullar, Alan Smith, David Sheppard, Brian Statham, Fred Titmus and Fred Trueman.

There were to be five Tests played in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide with the last in Sydney. As Sydney was to stage two of these matches a contest between MCC and an Australian XI was scheduled to be played in Melbourne from November 9 to 13. I was fortunate to be appointed to this match (Appendix 12), again with Bill Smyth with the allowance still three pounds per day.

Before the match Bill & I were called into the office of the Secretary of the VCA Mr. Jack Ledward and advised that this was different to any match we had previously umpired in that, inter alia, we always referred to the captain as "Mr. Captain" and that under no circumstances were we to speak to any player unless spoken to first. However with the exception of the MCC Captain we found the other players to be quite friendly and would instigate conversations.

Len Coldwell, Tom Graveney, Peter Parfitt, Alan Smith and Brian Statham were rested from the MCC team. The Australian XI comprised Neil Harvey (Capt.), Bob Simpson, Grahame Thomas, Ian McLachlan, Barry Shepherd, Bob Cowper, Tom Veivers, Barry Jarman, Colin Guest, Frank Misson and Johnny Martin with Jack Potter 12th man.



L-R: Len King, Bill Smyth, Darrell Holt & Ian

Ian umpired with Bill Smyth in a number of First Class appointments – “He (Bill) was inspirational in his encouragement. I couldn’t have asked for a better colleague”.

Keith Miller writing in the press was rather critical of the selectors for giving Harvey an “uninspiring attack”. He, no doubt, could claim to be a good judge as Dexter on winning the toss and batting first finally declared the innings closed at 7 wickets for 633. Dexter himself made 102, Barrington 219 not out and Knight 102. Cowdrey also contributed with 88. Misson with 3 for 103 from 24 overs and Simpson 3 for 153 from 33 overs were the only bowlers to get more than one wicket. Veivers was particularly expensive conceding 101 runs from only 12 overs. The score at the end of the first days play was 5 for 458 after 360 minutes play before an attendance of 14,214.

Australia began their first innings at 3.22 pm on the second day but after only 3 overs and 4 balls a light appeal was upheld at 3.43 pm with the score at 0/18 and shortly after there was a heavy downpour of rain and play was abandoned for the day at 4.30 pm.

Once again Keith Miller had quite a bit to say in both Melbourne and Sydney papers. His quotes in the Melbourne Sun included “The name of the farce was midnight madness,” “You needed 20-20 vision to watch it,” “It was as dim as a dim sim,” and “Appeal! they should have just asked for the lights to be turned on” and in the Sydney Morning Herald “Ian Stuart and Bill Smyth, the umpires for the Australian XI - MCC game, must be good carrot-eaters” and “More cricket came and after a rousing appeal for LBW by Larter against Simpson, the midnight farce was ended”.

The match resumed the next morning and by stumps Australia had reached 4 for 355 with Simpson making 130, McLachlan 55 and Shepherd 81 not out. On the fourth day Shepherd continued on until run out on 114 and the Australians were eventually all out for 451. Dexter did not enforce the follow-on but declared MCC second innings closed at 5 for 68 setting the Australians a task of making 251 runs in 160

minutes. Even though Shepherd continued his good form of the first innings by making 91 not out and McLachlan contributing 68, they still fell short by 50 runs. The total attendance for the match was 52,710.



*Umpire Ian Stuart officiating at the bowler's end.
England Captain Ted Dexter hits a six over the sight screen off Tom Veivers.*

It was a tremendous thrill to “rub shoulders” with such greats as Barrington, Cowdrey, Sheppard and Trueman and to be accepted by them. In spite of the press criticism about light appeals I believe our decisions were correct and that the majority of spectators went away from the match well satisfied with the play.

More appointments were on the way as I received a letter to officiate in the Victoria v NSW traditional Christmas clash from December 22-27 again with Bill. During the course of this contest Jack Ledward asked me what I was doing over New Year. When I said I would be attending the Test he told me that I was being appointed as reserve umpire to Colin Egar & Bill Smyth. The only task I had to perform (besides making sure Bill's beer was cold) was when Norman O'Neill asked umpire Egar to have blaring transistor radios silenced and “Egar ran from square leg towards the players' dressing room where he passed the message on to the reserve umpire, Victorian Ian Stuart”. Year 1962 had finished with events that I will always remember.

There were still four more first class matches to be played on the MCG before the end of the season - Victoria v MCC and then Sheffield Shield matches against South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland. I was fortunate to have been appointed to all four making a total of six matches out of seven played. Bill Smyth was my colleague on five occasions and Ken Colliccoat on the other.

Prior to the match MCC v an Australian XI in November, the first of the Sheffield Shield matches on the MCG was between Victoria and South Australia on October 26, 27, 29 and 30. My colleague on this occasion was Ken Collicot. Notable selections in the SA team were Ian Chappell making his first appearance at Melbourne in first-class cricket and Gary (later Sir Garfield) Sobers. As Bill Lawry was in Perth for a combined XI match against MCC, Colin McDonald led Victoria in what was to be his last first-class appearance. Although winning the toss and batting first, Victoria were not allowed to settle in as Sobers, who took six wickets for 41 from 15 overs, had the home side all out for 176. Chappell took two wickets including that of top scorer Jack Potter who made 38.

South Australia fared even worse when Ian Meckiff clean bowled Les Favell with his second ball and repeated the dose to John Lill the very next ball. Neil Dansie became his third scalp in his second over. At stumps on the first day the visitors were struggling at five wickets for 61 with Sobers also dismissed for one. Ian McLachlan with 78 not out of a total score of 141 was the only batsman to prevent a complete rout.

Victoria fared much better in the second innings totaling 402 with Bob Cowper the star with 132 not out. Sobers was much less effective with only one wicket for 91 from 23 overs but Chappell bowled well to capture four wickets for 98.

The target of 438 for victory was too much although Lill with 83 and Dansie with 104 in a partnership of 124 tried valiantly to obtain the necessary runs. The Victorian team would have felt very satisfied in getting both Sobers and Chappell out for a total of 6 runs in two innings each. Meckiff with seven wickets for the match and Colin Guest with eight were the pick of the Victorian bowlers. The total attendance at this match was 13,100.

The next shield match was a visit by Western Australia and again the umpires were Smyth and Stuart. Bill Lawry returned as Captain but lost the toss to Barry Shepherd and the visitors batted into the second day in making 473 of which Shepherd made 219 and Kevin Gartrell 102. Colin Guest bowled well throughout to take seven wickets for 95. Victoria replied with 412 mainly due to a brilliant 195 not out by Bob Cowper with assistance from Lawry (57) and Ian Meckiff (36). Meckiff continued his good work, this time with the ball, in taking five wickets for 50 in Western Australia's second innings total of 132.

Needing 194 runs for victory Victoria were all out for 141 - no batsman being able to collar Tony Lock (ex England Test player) who took seven wickets for 53 from 11.5 overs. An interesting incident during the match was when Des Hoare (WA opening bowler) complained to Bill about the noise from the outer and asked him to have it cease before he would bowl. I will leave you to imagine the kind of response he got from Bill. Total attendance for this match was 14,458.

The third of the four shield matches that I was fortunate to be appointed too was to be played on December 22, 24, 26 and 27 against New South Wales but it was finished in three days with Victoria winning by eight wickets. Richie Benaud won the toss but, even though NSW had all their Test players available they could only manage 132 runs with Alan Davidson contributing 48. Colin Guest, Ian Meckiff and Alan Connolly took 4, 3 and 2 wickets respectively.

Bill Lawry managed to pass NSW score by himself finally being bowled by Norman O'Neill for 133 in a total of 267. The visitors fared little better in their second innings, only O'Neill (93) and Brian Booth (55) seemingly able to handle the Victorian pace attack with any conviction. Set 95 runs to win outright the home team accomplished this with the loss of two wickets but with a day and 24 minutes to spare. The attendance at the three days of the match was 33,078.

The MCC returned to Melbourne to play a return match against Victoria on February 1, 2, 4 and 5. Bill Lawry won the toss and invited MCC to bat. This appeared to be a good decision when England was five wickets for 96 with Ken Barrington and Ted Dexter both back in the pavilion. However, Tom Graveney (185) with assistance from Fred Titmus (28), Alan Smith (46) and David Allen (25) pushed the score along until the innings finally ended at 375.

In reply, Jack Potter with 106 led a strong reply by Victoria to reach a total of 307. David Allen was the best of the bowlers with five wickets for 43. MCC's second innings was closed at five down for 218 - Dexter (70) and Barrington (66). Chasing 286 runs to win Victoria's chances slumped with the first ball dismissal of Potter and at nine wickets for 182 things looked grim. Alan Connolly joined Keith Kirby and they held out valiantly to salvage a draw. Again there was a wonderful attendance of 39,172 spectators for the four days.

Wesley Hall returned for the last shield match at the MCG for the season when Queensland arrived for their battle with Victoria. Not bowling at the fearsome pace as the previous season and having trouble keeping his back foot behind the bowling crease he was savaged by Ian Redpath and Bill Lawry in an opening partnership of 177 followed by a fourth wicket partnership between Redpath and Bob Cowper of 205. Redpath finished with 261, Cowper 141 not out and Lawry 83 to enable a declaration at 4 wickets down for 633.

Despite a defiant 152 by opener Des Bull and a gutsy innings of 78 by Captain Ken Mackay, Queensland could only manage 384 and thus were forced to follow on. In the second innings Ian Meckiff and Alan Connolly with three wickets each restricted the visitors to 221 runs thus leaving the Victorians victors by an innings and 28 runs with only 12 minutes left for play and the light growing dimmer by the minute. This win gave Victoria the Sheffield Shield for the first time since 1950-51. The attendance was 27,804.

I was thrilled to have been appointed to all four Sheffield Shield matches, two international matches against MCC and being made the reserve umpire for the 2nd Test match. Of the six matches, five were with Bill Smyth and the other with Ken Collicot.

Although that was the end of the first class season there were still the district finals to come. A very youthful photo of Bill Smyth appeared in the Herald in March 1963 with an article by John Priestley who queried the VCA Pennant Committee's choice of umpires for the district first XI semi-finals "Not because of the four men they chose - they all have done a good job - but because of the two they didn't choose". Any disappointment generated by not being asked to stand was quickly resolved when a letter dated 1st April (thankfully not an April fool's day joke) advised that we had both been appointed to the district 1st XI final between Hawthorn-East Melbourne v South Melbourne to be played on April 6, 13 and 15 at an allowance of 45 shillings per day.

Hawthorn-East Melbourne batted first and with contributions from Don McLean (52), Bob Cowper (66), Ian Law (51) and Bruce Thomas (64) compiled 330. Wickets were shared by Ian Meckiff (2), Alan Connolly (3) and Lew Germaine (3). Ian Redpath was dismissed for 7 just before poor light stopped play on the second day. Len Eustice, the other opening batsman made 136 and was not dismissed but South Melbourne fell short by 42 runs when they were all out for 288. The fact that an "Ian Stewart" was playing for Hawthorn had no influence on my decisions whatsoever - so ended season 1962-63.

1963-64 South Africa

A team from South Africa arrived in Australia for the summer of 1963-64 for what turned out to be their last visit to this country for more than a quarter of a century. At that stage television had not arrived in their country and it was reported in the press that many would return home with "square eyes". The first match in Melbourne was against an Australian XI from November 16 to 19 and I was appointed with Bill Smyth with an allowance of three pounds a day and a ticket for admission (though not one for my wife).

The Australian team consisted of Bob Simpson (Captain), Barry Shepherd (Vice-Capt.), Ian Redpath, Ian McLachlan, Bob Cowper, Terry Lee, Neil Hawke, Tom Veivers, Barry Jarman, Hugh Bevan, Alan Connolly with Jack Potter 12th man. South Africa were represented by Trevor Goddard (Captain), Eddie Barlow, Tony Pithey, Peter Carlstein, William (Buster) Farrer, Graeme Pollock, Colin Bland, Denis Lindsay, David Pithey, Kelly Seymour and Peter Pollock. Peter Van der Merwe, the tour Vice-Captain acted as 12th man.

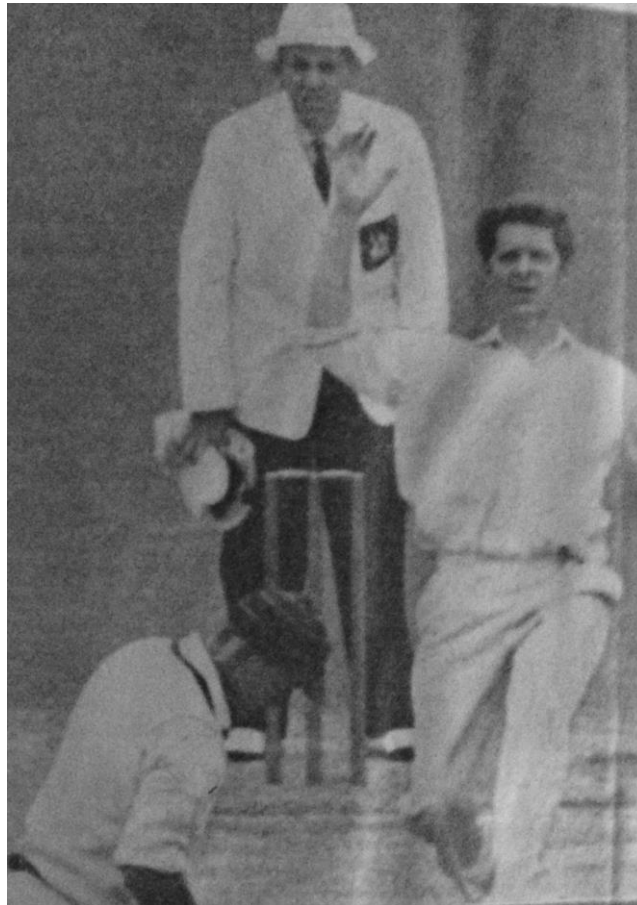
Simpson won the toss and batted. He had already scored 856 runs in four innings since the beginning of the season but was bowled by Peter Pollock for a "duck" from the sixth ball of the innings. He fared little better in the second innings making only 1 before being bowled by Barlow. Australia made 318 with significant contributions from Veivers 88, Redpath 58, Shepherd 54 and Cowper 51. David Pithey took 3 wickets for 89 and Peter Pollock and Goddard each captured 2 wickets. Pollock pulled a muscle in his back after bowling only 12 overs and took no further part in the match.

South Africa was dismissed for 210 chiefly through the performance of Connolly who took 5 wickets for 51 from 14 overs. No South African batsman reached 50 - Goddard top-scoring with 46. Australia failed in the second innings to be all out for 160 (Shepherd 62) with Seymour being the chief destroyer taking 4 wickets for 64. Connolly was involved in a collision with another fieldsman and suffered slight concussion which made him unavailable to bowl in the second innings. Requiring 269 to win Barlow 112, Goddard 53 and Bland 40 guided South Africa to a three wicket win in spite of a mini collapse where they went from 3 for 228 to 7 for 260. The attendance at this match was a disappointing 26,041 with more than half being there on the Saturday when only 226 runs were made whilst 11 wickets fell.

This match was regarded as a trial match for players to vie for a spot in the Test team following retirements of Alan Davidson, Neil Harvey and Ken Mackay. Neil Hawke was one other player who was regarded as a possible exclusion and with scores of 15 and 9 and bowling figures of 0 for 36 from 11 overs and 2 for 39 from 20 overs was omitted from the Test side for the first Test in which Connolly and Veivers made their debut.

Interesting personalities among the visitors included (a) Eddie Barlow, who repeatedly deliberately hit balls over the slip fielders heads to the boundary during his second innings century, (b) “Buster” Farrer, who earned his nickname from his grandmother for his eating habits as a two year old (“You’ll bust one day”) - he could never remember anyone calling him William or Bill and (c) Peter Carlstein, a joker of the team, who looked about 17 but was, in fact, 23, married and with four children. Unfortunately whilst Peter was in Australia his wife was killed in a car accident. Many years later he migrated to Australia and now lives in Perth. On at least two occasions he returned to Melbourne to play in matches between the Lord’s Taverners Old Australian XI and the Crusaders Rest of the World XI.

Graeme Pollock did not star in this game scoring 11 and 22 in his two innings but his brilliance came to the fore on many occasions as he scored 1,018 runs at an average of 53.57 for the season. Trevor Goddard was most friendly and asked to be called Trevor rather than “Mr. Captain” as we had been advised to call Ted Dexter the previous season. Peter van der Merwe was the most meticulous twelfth man I ever came across as in this match he asked each of us whether we would like squash, milk or water at the drinks break. There is no truth in the rumour that Bill asked for a beer.



Vic v QLD 1963-64 at the MCG Sam Trimble bowled by Ron Gaunt

Just over three weeks later I was back at the MCG again with Bill as we prepared to see Victoria take on Queensland. Lawry and Connolly of Victoria and Grout and Veivers of Queensland all played in this match even though they had played in the Test match that finished the previous day. One notable absentee was Ian Meckiff who announced his retirement from first class cricket following the “calling” of his bowling by Colin Egar in the Test. Peter Burge was also absent deciding to be home with his wife following the birth of their second child just a few days before.

Ken Mackay won the toss and asked Victoria to bat. They did this with confidence and at stumps were 4 for 269 - Lawry 73, Potter 51, Stackpole 62 and Cowper 72 not out. Next day Victoria were all out for 332 - Cowper 79. Queensland was dismissed in their first innings for 256 - Reynolds 62 and Bull 51 the only ones to score half-centuries. With Lawry making 130 and Redpath 66, Victoria were able to declare at 0 wickets for 203 after only 164 minutes at the crease - Lawry hitting 20 fours and 1 six. They subsequently bundled Queensland out for 160 to win the game comfortably by 119 runs. Cowper took 6 wickets for the match and Connolly 5. Mackay tried valiantly to win the game with a whirlwind (for Slasher) 44 in 49 minutes in what was to be his final batting appearance at the MCG.

South Africa returned to the MCG on 17th January 1964 to play Victoria in what was to be the last time for a quarter of a century that the Victorian public would be able to enjoy watching players from that country. Peter van der Merwe, Joe Partridge and Clive Halse replaced “Buster” Farrer, Colin Bland and Peter Pollock from the team that played against the Australian XI in November. John Smith made his debut for Victoria with Graham Brown as 12th man.

My colleague for this game was Ken Collicot. Goddard won the toss and elected to bat and at stumps were two wickets for 338 with Goddard 179 not out and Graeme Pollock 81 not out. The next morning they continued on their merry way until all out for 479. Goddard was dismissed for 194. Pollock made 110 in 166 minutes in a wonderful exhibition. Smith made an impressive debut in taking 4 wickets for 76 from 18.4 overs although he had dropped Goddard off his own bowling when the captain had only scored 19. Stackpole also took 4 wickets for 126 from 27 overs but Test players Gaunt and Connolly went wicketless with 92 runs from 18 overs and 109 from 26 overs respectively.

Victoria lost their first two wickets for 40 runs with Lawry (9) and Redpath (14) dismissed in just over one hours play. It was left to Potter (81) and Anderson (101 not out) to help Victoria to reach 305 runs still 25 runs short of the follow-on but Goddard decided to give his batsmen some valuable match practice. With Tony Pithey making 54, Lindsay 65 and Van der Merwe 54 not out, South Africa declared at 5 wickets for 227 leaving Victoria with a target of 402 runs for victory in 310 minutes. Lawry was undefeated on 187 and Cowper on 81 enabled Victoria to gain a creditable draw with a total of 1 wicket for 323.

Although Smith made an impressive debut in this match, it was the only time he appeared for Victoria as he was unable to obtain leave from his job as a pharmacist. However he was regarded as one of the best fast bowlers in district cricket over many years.

The South African team obviously had some practical joker in their team as some time after the conclusion of the match I came out of the dressing room and, about 20 metres on the ground from the players gate was a cricket boot and at similar distances almost to the centre wicket area were other various articles of cricket apparel. It seems they belonged to Joe Partridge, one of the quieter members

of the party who was also one of the first dressed after a match. On expressing some sympathy for this action, I was informed "Don't worry about Joe he will get his own back before the tour is over". Peter Carlstein was another victim of by-play when, whilst having a shower he had a jug of iced water thrown over him by one of the opposition players.

This being the last first class match for the season at Melbourne the emphasis returned to the district scene.

The final four in the first XI division was St. Kilda, Fitzroy, Melbourne and Essendon. I was fortunate to be appointed to the semi-final between Fitzroy and Melbourne at the Albert Ground. Potter (Fitzroy) won the toss and sent Melbourne in. Bitmead (3 for 42) and Anderson (3 for 40) were the principal wicket takers in dismissing Melbourne for 270. Graeme Watson (109) and Graham Brown (83) being the only two batsmen to exceed 30 runs. Fitzroy easily passed this score as four of their batsmen exceeded the half century. Lindsay Davidson and Bob Bitmead each made 82, David Anderson 55 and Jack Potter 55. Roger Rayson was the most successful bowler with 5 wickets for 111.

As Essendon defeated St. Kilda in the other semi-final the scene was set for the final against Fitzroy also at the Albert Ground. For the third successive year Bill Smyth and I were appointed as the umpires. Ian Monks won the toss and Essendon batted. After losing their first 5 wickets for 71 they recovered with partnerships between John Grant and Daryl Foster of 69 runs and then a further 105 runs from John Peters and keeper Tom O'Neill and finally reached 349, O'Neill making a very valuable century.

Fitzroy were in deep trouble at 7 wickets for 78 when play was abandoned for the day at 4.35 pm. It took Essendon less than an hour to have Fitzroy all out for 135. Even though Essendon were ahead by 214 runs this however was not the end of the game as there were still approximately 260 minutes left to play for a possible outright result.

Fitzroy followed on and in 195 minutes they scored 280 runs for the loss of eight wickets - Anderson 74, Heller 67, Davidson 38, Harvey 30 and Illingworth 32 not out. Needing 67 runs in 55 minutes to win outright, Essendon lost their first three wickets for 0 in Illingworth's first over. An appeal against shadows on the pitch was upheld at 5.19 pm. The match was resumed at 5.32 pm and although Monks became Illingworth's fourth victim, Swanson and Grant held out till stumps to give Essendon their first premiership since entering the VCA in 1906.

It was interesting to note that the press had St. Kilda and Melbourne as favourites to win the semi-finals and Fitzroy to win the final - so ended season 1963-64.

1964-65

The first shield match of the 1964-65 season to be played at the MCG was against Western Australia from November 27th. Although appointed to this match I had to decline as I had just returned from a week in hospital following an attack of asthma. It was a frightening experience at the time but fortunately I have never had a recurrence.

Victoria started the season with first innings losses against Western Australia in Perth and in Melbourne and a further loss to South Australia in Adelaide where they only just avoided an outright loss.

Queensland came to Melbourne to begin their match on December 11th when Ken Colliccoat was my colleague for this contest. Peter Burge won the toss and elected to bat. An opening stand of 103 by Sam Trimble (47) and Des Bull (89) was somewhat wasted with only Burge and Tom Veivers exceeding 25 and Queensland were all out for 270. For Victoria the wickets were shared by John Grant (4 for 50), Roger Rayson (3 for 75) and Alan Connolly (2 for 50).

Victoria lost wickets early but with Ian Redpath (45), Bob Cowper (47), Keith Stackpole (70), David Anderson (66) and John Grant (61) all contributing the home side totalled 341. Ross Duncan took 4 wickets for 86, John Mackay 3 for 71 and Peter Allen 2 for 107.

Queensland did much better in their second innings with Burge making 97 and Trimble 161 both being dismissed by the eighth bowler tried in the innings, Ian Redpath who finished with the figures of 3 for 24 of 2.2 overs. Burge declared with the score of 5 wickets down for 332 giving Victoria 160 minutes to score 262 runs to win outright.

At no stage did the Victorians play defensively. Redpath made 67 in 78 minutes, Cowper 39 in 53 minutes and Stackpole 37 in 35 minutes including 21 from one over by John Mackay. Neither of the Queensland opening bowlers, Duncan or Mackay were able to stop the Victorians from averaging 6 runs per over but 4 run-outs and even play through drizzling rain could not save the situation and victory came to Queensland when Victoria were all out for 220 in the excellent time of 138 minutes - a memorable days cricket played before a disappointing crowd of 1,455.

A press comment of the days play is appropriate - "Don't let anyone tell you that the Victorian team LOST to Queensland in the Sheffield Shield match at the MCG yesterday. There hasn't been a greater victory for the spirit of cricket - as it should be played - than the really gallant attempt to hit off 262 runs in 160 minutes".

For the third time in four years Smyth and Stuart were appointed to the traditional Christmas contest between Victoria and New South Wales. The rival captains were soon to become one of Australia's greatest opening batsmen - Lawry and Simpson. Lawry won the toss and elected to bat and proceeded to accumulate 140 runs in a second wicket partnership of 225 in 186 minutes with Cowper who went on to make 192. With Redpath making 23, Potter 42, Stackpole 73 and Anderson 55 not out, Victoria declared at 5 wickets for 549.

Not daunted by this mammoth total Simpson (121) and Philpott (71) put together an opening partnership of 147. They were followed by O'Neill (59), Thomas (162), Booth (37), and Martin (33). At this stage it looked as though at 6 wickets for 516 they would pass Victoria's total. However, Roger Rayson in only his 5th shield match took 3 wickets for 10 runs from 7.6 overs thus causing New South Wales to be dismissed 13 runs short of Victoria's score. With only 31 minutes left till close of play 9 overs were bowled with Redpath and Jordan as opening bats unconquered at 32.

A very short time after Bob Simpson's dismissal, an ABC commentator was seen entering the dressing rooms obviously querying the decision as Simpson had stood at the wicket awaiting the result of an appeal for a catch. Next morning's Sun was headlined "Bob accepts decision...no quarrel on catch". The article included the following comment "In spite of disappointment at not being able to carry on to a

bigger score when his team faced a long chase after Victoria's 5-549 declared, Simpson was ready to accept without a murmur what apparently was a good decision by umpire Stuart in a borderline case".

The next important match was the first XI semi-final between Footscray and Melbourne at Footscray. Footscray were the victors and went on to play, but lose, to St. Kilda in the final. This final was umpired by Bill Smyth and Ken Colliccoat with myself as reserve. At the time I thought this was quite fair as for the previous three years Bill and I had officiated at the final with Ken as reserve.

1965/66

In the Carlton v Fitzroy first XI game in January of 1966, Carlton was really struggling at 7 for 107. however, they ended up with 167 largely due to a good partnership between Peter Howell and a sixteen year old John Scholes. Alan Thomson with 4/36 and Eddie Illingworth 3/48. "Umpire Ian Stuart had his moment of glory when adjudged the fourth ball of Eddie Illingsworth's fifth over to be delivered with an unsatisfactory action".

The district first XI semi-final was between Carlton and Essendon at Carlton beginning on March 19th. The allowance paid by the home club was \$5.25 per day.

1970's



Toss of the coin: 1971-72 District cricket season old mates Bill Lawry & Keith Stackpole meet as rivals

In January of the 1975/76 season Ian Maddocks the North Melbourne cricket Captain was told by Umpire Ian Stuart to leave the field to change a pair of bright red batting gloves he was wearing. A formal complaint was laid by the former Test fast bowler and Fitzroy Captain Alan "Froggy" Thomson to which Ian acted. Thomson said the gloves were distracting to bowlers and fielders. Maddocks was told by Umpire Stuart that the VCA would rule on the eligibility of the gloves.

The article in the Age by Peter McFarlane wrote "The ACB is expected to give a ruling on what cricket gear is acceptable when it meets in Melbourne at the end of this month". Further, he went on to comment "At present there is no rule of cricket that says a player cannot wear red batting gloves".

Retirement

I experienced a long apprenticeship as an umpire. After two seasons in the thirds and another two in the seconds I finally became a recognised first eleven umpire part way through my fifth season. I continued until the end of season 1977-78 after 23 seasons, having umpired 227 first eleven matches including three finals (1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64), 10 Sheffield Shield matches and 4 international matches (England v an Australian XI, England v Victoria, South Africa v an Australian XI and South Africa v Victoria).

An article in the Sunday Press (March 1978) titled "Ian retires after 23 years" described Ian as "A smiling, pleasant non-drinker (a lemon squash will always do for Ian) he will be missed sadly from the Victorian umpire ranks". Ian was presented with the "Nicest Listener Award" from 3UZ on his retirement after 23 years. The announcement was broadcast on March 21, 1978.

My retirement from the VCA did not stop my involvement in cricket or in umpiring, in fact quite the reverse.

First Overseas trip

In 1972 Joan and I joined with 18 males of the Australian Cricket Society on our first overseas trip. We left Melbourne and spent two days in San Francisco, two days in New York, three weeks in England, two days in Athens and two days in Hong Kong before returning home – a great trip which whetted our appetite for more travel.

Then in 1977 we planned a three month round the world trip and with the consent of Haileybury we took Alan with us even though it meant him missing the whole of second term. He was one of the youngest in his class (his birthday being near the end of May) and although he was doing year 11 it was felt that he was young enough to repeat the following year. We had arranged tickets to first go to Japan then Hawaii, etc. We had made arrangements to meet a friend of Joan's father in Japan and spend a week with his family. On the night before our departure a strike was called by airline workers and we had to wait a full week until it was resolved.

Joan rang our Japanese friend who answered the phone and said "Hello, Joan. Are you in Tokyo?" Her reply was "No we are still in Melbourne". As we had tickets for train and bus travel and accommodation all over the place we had to get our travel agent to try and alter arrangements. His suggestion, which we agreed to, was to forget Japan at the start of our tour, go straight to Hawaii and put our Japanese stay on the end of the tour. We eventually got away the next Saturday and went to Honolulu, Los Angeles (including Disneyland and Universal Studios), Las Vegas (where we were requested to leave a casino as Alan was not eighteen years old), the Grand Canyon, San Francisco and on to Vancouver.

From there we went on the Canadian Pacific Railway to Lake Louise, a chauffeur driven tour of the local sights and on to Banff, bus to Calgary, flight to Toronto, bus to Niagara where we hired a car and drove from Buffalo to Boston via Kingston in Canada where we met up with friends from home (the Delbridges). We then went from Boston to New York by Amtrak then on to London.

We then spent several weeks in the UK where we hired a car and travelled as far north as Inverness and as far south as Land's End. We were joined for a couple of weeks by Neil. He and Alan both had a swim in Loch Lomond but it was a lot colder than they thought so didn't stay in very long. Neil returned home before we went to the Test match at Nottingham and Sherwood Forest. We also visited the Gunn & Moore cricket bat factory where Reg Simpson (a former English Test player) was Managing Director. I had met him some months previously at the Melbourne Centenary Test match and he very kindly picked out a bat that I bought for Alan. He also gave him a thigh pad and arranged to send me a small bat with the autographs of the English team of the 1962-63 touring side. We also met up with Max Walker, Richie Robinson, Ray Bright and Len Maddocks.

After our time in England we had a 21 day Eurail pass so went first to Paris, then to Marseilles, Nice, Genoa, Pisa, Florence, Rome, Venice, Geneva, Interlaken, Berne, Zurich, Hamburg, Copenhagen, Cologne, Brussels, Ostende and back to England. Leaving England we had a few days in Athens before heading home via Japan.



L-R: Ian, Mrs. Matsumoto, Joan & Alan – Kobe, Japan

We had three days in Tokyo before boarding the bullet train for Kobe. During this journey we were stopped for quite a considerable time and not being able to understand what was being broadcast on the PA system we just sat and waited. When we arrived at Kobe we were met by our friend Mr. Matsumoto who asked for our tickets and presently came back with a refund of half the fare because we had been held up for about an hour. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay with this family although they were very surprised that our sixteen year old was so tall and had difficulty in fitting into the bed made up for him.

When we reached the airport to come home Alan was carrying his beloved cricket bat with him but he was not allowed to take it on the plane “as it is a weapon”. So he had to watch as a hostess carried in on her knee to the plane and Alan had to recover it when we arrived in Melbourne. We arrived home and Alan returned to school but came home and said “I’m not repeating next year, I’m going to do year 12” which he did and completed it successfully.

Crusaders

Whilst still umpiring with the VCA I was approached by a Mr. Bob Richards (known all over the world in cricket circles as Swan) asking if I would be prepared to umpire some cricket matches between the Crusaders and some of the private schools. I was told I couldn't be paid which wasn't of any great importance and I agreed to do what I could. The Crusaders were founded by Swan and Ben Barnett (former Australian Test wicket-keeper) to encourage youth cricket.

The first match I umpired was at Wesley College and during lunch Swan asked me what I did. I said I was a customs agent and he asked if I was a good one to which I replied in the affirmative. He then said "Alright you can do my work". He, at that time, was the Australian Manager for Gray-Nicolls. He didn't want any fancy prices but he wanted service – which he got. Thus, began my involvement with the Crusaders.



In 1987 the first of regular tours to the United Kingdom was organised and Joan and I were two of the tourists. These tours have been arranged every two years since and we have been on them all except the last one in 2001. (*Ian did tour again with the Crusaders in 2003*). We have been to places all over England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. I have umpired many games in England. I have had the opportunity to umpire at cricket grounds at Arundel Castle, Windsor Castle, Eton College, Royal Ascot and many other picturesque grounds throughout England.

We have also had the privilege and pleasure of being introduced to the Queen (on five occasions), the Duke of Edinburgh (twice) and Prince Edward and we have photos to prove it.

One of the first games I umpired was at Uxbridge where Middlesex play some of their county games. The match started at 11.30 am and continued until at 6.30 pm when we started the last 20 overs. It was a long day and by stumps I was ready to lie down. At that time of the year (mid-June) in England is was still quite light until after 9 pm. The light is also not as harsh as it can get in Australia and this may be one of the reasons that umpires keep on going to a later age in the UK.

During another match at Ealing I asked my colleague about his umpiring and was surprised when he said “I played cricket till I was 64 then took on umpiring”. At Amersham the local team had a much younger Jan Brittin (who recently scored a century in a Test match against the Australian women’s team) playing for them. At the conclusion of the match (at about 8.30 pm) there was furious activity as two further matches between schoolboys commenced. Each boy was immaculate in white shirts, trousers, socks and shoes and they played until well after nine o’clock.



Changing of the Guard – Windsor Castle

The ground at Royal Ascot is interesting as within the running rails of the race course there is an 18 hole golf course surrounding a cricket oval with pavilion, bar, scoreboard etc. Many of the grounds have up to 15-20 pitches across the table and adjust the boundaries by having ropes define the playing area. Even the smallest towns have at their grounds sight screens, score boards, pavilions and bars that would shame many of our district clubs. The hospitality and the afternoon teas provided would satisfy our most hungry members. In each pavilion you will also find two white coats hanging up with six small pebbles in one of the pockets.

We also had the opportunity, on one of our trips, to spend some time in Austria where we went on a “Sound of Music” tour and in Switzerland where we went to the top of Jungfrau Mountain and to many of the other well known cities.



I acted as treasurer for a few years, am still on the committee and have umpired, managed and scored for well over a hundred games both in Australia and England. Three special games in Australia were at the Bradman Oval at Bowral between the Crusaders and the Prime Ministers XI, a similar match at Manuka Oval, Canberra and a match on the Adelaide Oval between the Crusaders and an old South Australian XI.

I have also been honoured by being one of the first four to be appointed to the Crusaders Roll of Honour - equivalent to an Honorary Life Membership (Appendix 13). Through my involvement with the Crusaders I have seen many of the current Test players develop from enthusiastic juniors to world class players such as Shane Warne, Paul Reiffel, Ian Harvey and many others.

Other Cricket Interests

I first became involved in the administration of the VCA Umpires Association as a committee member in 1966-67, vice president 1967-68, president 1968-69, committee 1969-70, vice president 1971-72 to 1975-76 and 1979-80, president 1975-76 to 1978-79 and again on the committee 1995-96. I was also honoured by being made a Life Member in 1973.

Ian continued to be a regular at meetings and social events including the biennial Easter exchange with the South Australian Umpires & Scorers Association. The last exchange he attended was Easter 2011 in Ballarat.



Biennial Easter exchange between the Victorian Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association & the South Australian Umpires & Scorers Association

L-R: Ian, Graeme Thies (Vic), Tony Crafter (SA) & great friend Peter Weddell (SA)

In addition to my being involved in this area I also participated in many lecture tours to both suburban and country associations and acted as umpires' advisor to the East Suburban Churches Cricket Association for a period in excess of twenty years for which I also received an Honorary Life Membership. A further honour from this association was made with the awarding of the Ian Stuart Medal to the best player in the association judged on the umpire's votes.

(Ian was made a Life Member of the ESCCUA (Umpires) in 1985, ESDCCA Association in 1986, and the Ian Stuart Medal inaugurated in 1992/93 season. He was an umpires' adviser for 35 seasons).

My cricket interests did not finish there as I was one of the foundation members of the Australian Cricket Society (Melbourne branch) in 1968 and after serving as auditor, committee member and vice chairman. I was elected as chairman in 1975 and retained the position until 1983. Quarterly meetings were held at which prominent cricket personalities would be guest speakers and annual dinners also attracted very important guest speakers.

The 1973 dinner was memorable in that Sir Donald Bradman was our guest of honour. He was accompanied by Lady Bradman and their daughter. During the course of the evening, as was the usual practice, a trophy for the junior cricketer of the year was to be awarded by the President of the Victorian Cricket Association, Mr. Bill Dowling. However during his speech Mr. Dowling collapsed. I was sitting right next to the rostrum where he was speaking and the recipient of the medal, Robert Lamb, was standing beside him. We both jumped up and eased him down to the floor. An ambulance was called and Mr. Bob Parish took Mrs. Dowling with him and followed the ambulance to the hospital but unfortunately Mr. Dowling did not regain consciousness. However the dinner went on and we were inspired by a wonderful speech from "The Don". An added bonus for me was that as Mr. Parish had left the dinner, I was seated next to Lady Bradman for the remainder of the evening - a memory I will never forget.

Whilst chairman we had guest speakers at our annual dinners such as Alan Davidson, Bob Hawke, Ian Redpath, Bob Cowper, Neil Harvey, Paul Sheahan, Derek Randall and Fred Bennett. The society has continued with additional dinners to commemorate visits by overseas teams and also make annual awards to both junior male and female cricketers. Again after being chairman and committeeman for so many years I was also made an Honorary Life Member of the society.



I am also a member of the Lord's Taverners – a body of cricket lovers who raise money to help under privileged boys and girls to play cricket. Fund raising includes annual trivia quiz nights, a Boxing Day breakfast held at the Hilton Hotel and a cricket match against the Liberal 500 Club played at Romsey each year and I have been allowed to umpire most of these games. They are played under modified rules that allow players to remain at the crease even though they are dismissed on even more than one occasion (each dismissal costing them five runs). The Lord's Taverners also make a presentation each year to the junior male and female cricketers of the year. This is made at the Boxing Day breakfast.

The XXIX Club is an offshoot of the Melbourne Cricket Club and is open to any member of the club particularly with an interest in playing or umpiring social games or even just going along to watch. I have umpired many games for them over the years including one on the Sydney Cricket Ground against the Cricketers Club of NSW. The club also runs an annual dinner on the Wednesday before the AFL Grand Final each year and is able to invite many very gifted speakers. One of the best speakers of recent times was Lord Colin Cowdrey very capably introduced by the former South Australian and Australian player and federal politician Mr. Ian McLachlan.

Through my involvement with the Crusaders, the MCC XXIXers and the Lord's Taverners I have had the pleasure of officiating at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Manuka Oval (Canberra) and various other grounds in the state.

Money could not buy the wonderful experiences I have enjoyed through my involvement with cricket - the places I have been to, the people I have met and the friendships I have made.

Latter family life

(Edited by Neil Stuart in part from Christmas letters)

While Ian was unsuccessful in joining the RAAF in 1942 his interest in flying obviously did not leave him as in 1979 he learnt to fly at Lilydale Flying School. Dad gained his private pilot licence (No. 162103) on 30th December 1980 and his flight radio telephone operator licence on 23rd September 1981. His pilot's log book recorded that he flew up until October 1981.

Significant events occurred during the eighties in Ian and Joan's lives. Their first of four grandchildren Matthew was born on November 17th 1982, followed by their first granddaughter Amanda on 9th November 1984, both at Hopetoun Hospital.



First grandchild Matthew pictured at the farm house at Rosebery



L-R: Neil & Donald

On 1st December 1985 at Fairfield Hospital, Donald after being ill for about a year, passed away. To lose a son and a brother, who was only thirty one years old, was a terrible shock to our family. Sadly Donald never got to spend quality time with his nephew and nieces. Donald had a warped sense of humour, a very kind nature and was greatly loved and admired by many people.

On 20th October 1989 at Fremantle Alan married Janine Stratton. Kate, their first child was born in Perth on 3rd December 1989 and Aimee 29th September 1991 in Melbourne. Ian and Joan were now the very proud grandparents of four.

Dad was a great collector of cricket memorabilia, including – books (some signed), photos, prints, bats, stumps, bails, ties from all over the cricket world, plates, tea towels and a very large number of signed dinner menus. The walls of the billiard room at 46 Larch Crescent Sydal were covered in memorabilia (pictured below). In May of 1994 Dad and Mum as a church fund raiser invited people to visit, see and hear about his large collection.



For over thirty years Ian donated blood at the Red Cross. He was presented with a pin recognising 100 blood donations.

Eighty two close friends and family members joined Ian to celebrate his 70th birthday held at home in September 1994. This was a wonderful evening shared with many friends some going back sixty plus years.

In 1994-95 cricket umpires were first admitted to Cricket Victoria 200 Club. Ian having umpired in 239 matches was duly admitted to this very prestigious club.



Ian loved ice-cream (Hokey Pokey a favourite), Pavlova, Tim Tams, lollies & Cadbury chocolate

In 1999 the Crusaders introduced a brand new Hall of Fame board to honour all recipients of Crusader awards and scholarships. Ian became one of the first persons to be inducted into the Hall of Honour (Appendix 13). Dad was rewarded for giving of his time and self and for his commitment to the Crusaders. Ian was presented with an inscribed pen case and later a special tie, exclusive to Hall of Honour recipients.

Ian was very active in supporting over a number of years the Crusader Colts where he would accompany them on cricket tours around regional Victoria. In 2000 for example, Ian went on a four day cricket tour with a team of Crusader Colts – playing at Castlemaine, Bendigo, Kyabram and Puckapunyal.

In February 2000, Ian and Joan journeyed to New Zealand and virtually had three holidays in one. Commencing at Christchurch they had an eight day coach tour of the South Island experiencing magnificent weather. A week was then spent at Rotorua where a “golden oldies” cricket match was held, followed by five days in Auckland where they saw the Test match between Australia and New Zealand. They returned in March in time for Joan to attend a PLC (Presbyterian Ladies College) reunion dinner.

A visit to Adelaide to spend time with Alan and family was followed in May by visiting Numurkah to help celebrate Pauline’s fortieth birthday (pictured overleaf).



*Pauline's 40th birthday May 2000
L-R: Ian (Popeye), Joan (Puss in Boots), Pauline (Purple Princess) & Neil (Priest)*

Ian and Joan attended the opening ceremony of the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney and a few other events. They stayed with Ian's brother Ron and were very proud to see Ron participate in the Olympic torch relay at Crow's Nest. While in Sydney Ian took the opportunity to do the "bridge climb" to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Ian & brother Ron – Ron was also a torch bearer at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne

Ian was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 (Appendix 14) – an Australian Honours award instituted by the Federal Government to “Recognise persons who have made a contribution to Australian sport as a current or former participant or through the provision of support services to sport”.



Awarded the Australian Sports Medal 2000

This award was very significant as it was only awarded for the year 2000. A certificate signed by the Governor General and the Prime Minister accompanied the medal. The medal presentation took place during the luncheon interval of the Victoria v New South Wales Pura Cup match on 26th October 2000.

The year 2001 began well and saw Ian assisting for four days at the Cranbourne Golf Club in the conducting of the Victorian Open Golf Tournament, attend the 50 year reunion of the Canterbury Presbyterian Football Club, a tour with the MCG guides to Rupertswood (the birthplace of the Ashes), cricket at Romsey and a number of cricket meetings, including the Crusader presentation night, VCA 200 Club dinner, VCA Ryder Medal presentation, etc.

In April, Ian and Joan travelled by train to Adelaide where they spent a few days with Alan, Janine, Kate and Aimee (pictured overleaf).

Joan and Ian also stayed with their great friends Peter and Margaret Weddell during the one in every four years Easter VCA Umpires & Scorers Association and South Australian counter-parts event held in Adelaide. Ian and Joan regularly attended this biennial event over many years. Brother Alan and I were fortunate to attend the Easter events on a number of occasions.



L-R: Alan, Kate, Aimee, Joan & Ian out on the town in Adelaide

On Sunday 20th May 2001, Ian and Joan together with forty very close friends and extended family celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary at Riversdale Golf Club. This was a magnificent day of celebration.

Later Ian and Joan were pictured in the local newspaper with their great friends Don and Betty Keam who also celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary around this time.



The Stuart family at Ian & Joan's 50th Wedding Anniversary



*Standing L-R: Alan, Ron & George.
Seated L-R: Rita, Joan, Ian & Wendy*

On Sunday 10th June, three weeks after the Golden Wedding celebration, Joan suffered a severe stroke which left her paralysed down the right side, and severely inhibited her ability to communicate. After a fortnight in the Knox Private Hospital and five weeks at the Waverley Valley Aged Care Centre, she was admitted to the Peter James Rehabilitation Centre where she received occupational, physiotherapy and speech therapy. Joan was allowed home after spending eight weeks at the Peter James Centre.

A planned trip by Ian and Joan to England which was to commence on June 28th had to be put on hold.

Ian became the primary carer and had to learn how to use the washing machine, microwave, oven, cooking, making the bed and doing the dishes – not his strongest skills as he was prepared to admit to.

This was obviously a very difficult time, but Ian was still able to continue to enjoy his round of golf and continue his tour guiding at the MCG largely due to the great support from church friends. Sadly around this time Ian and Joan lost a number of very close friends – friends who had played a great part in their and our lives.

Ian attended the biennial VCA Umpires and Scorers Association and SACA Umpires get-together and dinner dance in Easter of 2003 hosted by the Victorians.

In July of 2003, Ian went on the Crusaders tour of Austria, Holland and England for nearly five weeks. Joan spent this time in Adelaide with Alan, Janine, Kate and Aimee. The break was probably good for both Ian and Joan.

Ian was a very keen gardener. He loved his weekly visit to the local nursery to pick up something colourful to add to his garden. He was the first person in Larch Crescent to install a watering system. After gardening, Dad would always “religiously” wash up using “Solvol” soap and a scrubbing brush.



After 47 years at Larch Crescent, Ian in 2004 sold the family home and both he and Joan moved to Highvale Retirement Village at Glen Waverley. They both continued to regularly attend their church in High Street Road. Dad also was keen to play a round of golf at Cranbourne Golf Club (at one stage he got his handicap down to 18, however he never got to match Joan's hole-in-one feat) and to continue to enjoy his role as a volunteer at the MCG.



Ian pictured on the far left was recognised by the Melbourne Cricket Club for ten years of voluntary service to the Museum's department. In front the great Betty Cuthbert.

In July 2005 and 2007, Ian and Joan's first two great granddaughters Porsha and Bindi were born to Matt and Bow.

In 2007 Ian due to virtually having no cartilages found it difficult to do much gardening (a hobby he greatly loved) and walking up and down stairs. As a result he undertook physiotherapy and then he was admitted to hospital for necessary knee surgery.

The final years

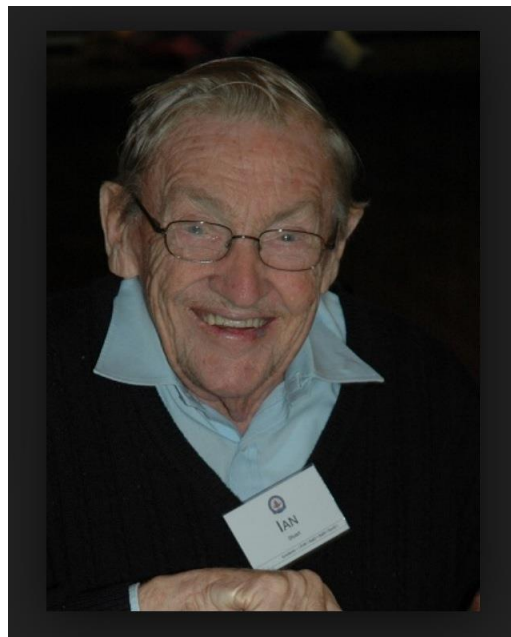
(by Neil Stuart)

While Ian was on a tour in Norfolk Island with other residents from Highvale Retirement Village, Joan suffered another major stroke. Mum was admitted to Box Hill Hospital, where on the 27th March 2008 at the age of 79 and ten months she passed away. Mum and Dad had been married for 56 years.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Joan Melbourne Stuart was held at High Street Road Uniting Church Mount Waverley on April 1st 2008. The service was conducted by Rev. Graeme Warne and Rev. Ojitha Goonetilleke.

Although Ian still had his interests he was never the same after losing Joan. After losing Mum, Ian continued to regularly attend High Street Road Uniting Church. He also served as a volunteer at the MCG, regularly attended cricket matches particularly district cricket on a Saturday afternoon, and many meetings. He was also an active and supportive member of the Monash Support Stroke Group. Unfortunately, later having his drivers licence revoked, brought with it a significant loss of independence.

In November of 2009, Ian was elected as a Life Member of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria in recognition of 50 years continuous membership as a club member.



Having spent 2009 Christmas day with the family in Numurkah, Ian early on Boxing Day morning caught the bus and train back to Melbourne with the intention of heading off to the cricket. Unfortunately, at Spencer Street Station he had a very bad fall which later that day saw him admitted to Knox Private Hospital. He was to spend six weeks at the Victorian Rehabilitation Centre in Glen Waverley.

Over the last few years of his life Ian was blessed with three additional great granddaughters – Myla Shae July 2010, Addi Skye January 2012 to Matt and Bow and Amelia Rose to Aimee in December 2012.

Living at Numurkah and with my brother Alan in Perth we were unable to see Ian as regularly as we would like. However, when we did call and see Dad we began to gradually see a change in him. Unfortunately, we believed that Dad was getting to the point where he could not adequately care for himself and this was a worry to our family, to his church friends and to the management at Highvale Retirement Village. (The management and staff at Highvale Retirement Village and members of Dad's congregation at High Street Road Uniting Church were very caring and supportive of Ian).

Therefore, in September of 2012 my wife Pauline and I moved Dad from Highvale Retirement Village to the Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre. While he was here he was visited by a number of old friends and received a lot of letters and cards particularly from his great friends at High Street Road Uniting Church.

After a fall he was admitted to the Northeast Health Wangaratta where, at the age of 88 years and five months, he passed away peacefully on Saturday 23rd February 2013.

Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving

Dad's funeral, conducted by Rev. Julie Ross on 4th March 2013 was held at High Street Road Uniting Church, Mount Waverley. This was Ian and Joan's place of worship for very many years. A very large number of Ian's friends and colleagues through church, cricket and business attended his funeral to remember and celebrate a very full life.

At Ian's funeral his younger brother Ron spoke about Ian's strong belief in hard work, honesty, and diligence. Ian operated under the highest ethical standards and had a great love of family. Ron commented on Ian being introduced to the Queen and how the roles could very well have been reversed if only the Stuart Kings hadn't stuffed up!

Rev. Julie Ross, described Ian as a man of faith. Ian's faith was rooted in the traditions of the Presbyterian Church. He believed and lived the Christian Gospel in everything he did.

Ian was active from the first beginnings of the church in Syndal - he was appointed as one of the four elders at that time having been an elder at the Preston Presbyterian Church. When the church was opened in Larch Crescent Ian and Joan became one of the founding families. They were at the forefront of life at Larch Crescent and their home became the meeting place for leaders in the parish and many other meetings. They were in the original choir and Ian taught at Sunday school for a time.

According to Rev. Julie Ross, Ian got things done, he chaired meetings skillfully and in the 1960's and 70's was manager of the church buildings, session clerk and member of the board of management. Ian was a member of the provisional parish council at its first meeting in 1973. In 1974 he was inducted as Moderator of the Presbytery of Maroondah. Tireless, he was at the forefront of the move towards what was termed "one-ness" at High Street Road Methodist Church leading to a joint parish in 1974 where he became a member and finally chairman – a prelude to the inception of the Uniting Church in 1977.

When the Uniting Church came into being, Presbyterian elders had the opportunity to become life time elders in the Uniting Church. Such was Ian's commitment to his ordination vows he took up that opportunity to become what is known as "elder emeritus".

Rev. Julie Ross spoke very glowingly about Ian. He was remembered for his hospitality and the way in which he welcomed newcomers to the church. He had a great sense of humour, one of nature's gentlemen. His pride, dignity and devotion to his role as an elder were exemplary. He was calm in debate, steadfast in his beliefs. Ian was described as a meticulous keeper of church written records and photos.

Right up until his last days at Highvale Retirement Village Ian faithfully attended church every Sunday, attended meetings of elders and church council. He was also remembered as determined and fearlessly independent.

Dad's ashes were laid to rest with Joan's in the garden of the High Street Road Uniting Church. Ian and Joan were great cricket lovers so it was very fitting that when their granddaughter Amanda travelled to England she took some of their ashes and placed them in the flower garden at Lords.

Conclusion

Ian McGregor Stuart was a great achiever and a leader among his peers. He was a good person – generous, well liked, admired and respected by people from all walks of life.

My brother Alan at Dad's funeral spoke about Ian's faith as the cornerstone of his life. A very modest man who always took what life presented and earned the respect of many for doing so. Together with Joan it was always about service to others.


Ian and Joan were always there for us – they gave us love, great opportunities, encouragement and support.

Ian received due recognition for his many achievements in commerce, sport and community service. He was proud of what he achieved but did so with modesty.


Ian and Joan were a great team and I know he would have been the first to acknowledge that he could not have achieved what he did without the love, encouragement and support of his wonderful wife Joan.



Appendix 1


No 284655

Education Department,
VICTORIA.



MERIT CERTIFICATE

This is to Certify

that San. M. Stuart

has completed satisfactorily the Course of Study

prescribed for Elementary Schools

Dated at Rosebery School

this 22nd day of Nov A.D. 1926

Head-teacher's name Frances C. Jeffers

Norman W. Hutchison
 Inspector of Schools.

9084.

Appendix 2

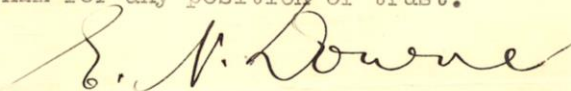
HIGH SCHOOL, WARRACKNABEAL,

7 / 3 / 40.

193
///TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

IAN STUART attended the Warracknabeal High School during the years 1937-38-39, and is still in attendance this year. During 1936 while aged only 14 years 2 months, he obtained the Intermediate Certificate - 6 subjects. Last year he prepared for Leaving Certificate but was too young to be very successful. This year he is again preparing for Leaving Certificate and, as his age is now 15 years and 3 months, he should be successful.

I have always found Ian courteous and willing and have much pleasure in recommending him for any position of trust.



(Head master).

Appendix 3



5637

The University of Melbourne

School Leaving Certificate—Class B

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that

Ian McGregor Stuart

having qualified for the School Intermediate Certificate, passed
at the School Leaving Examination held in the years indicated
in the following subjects:

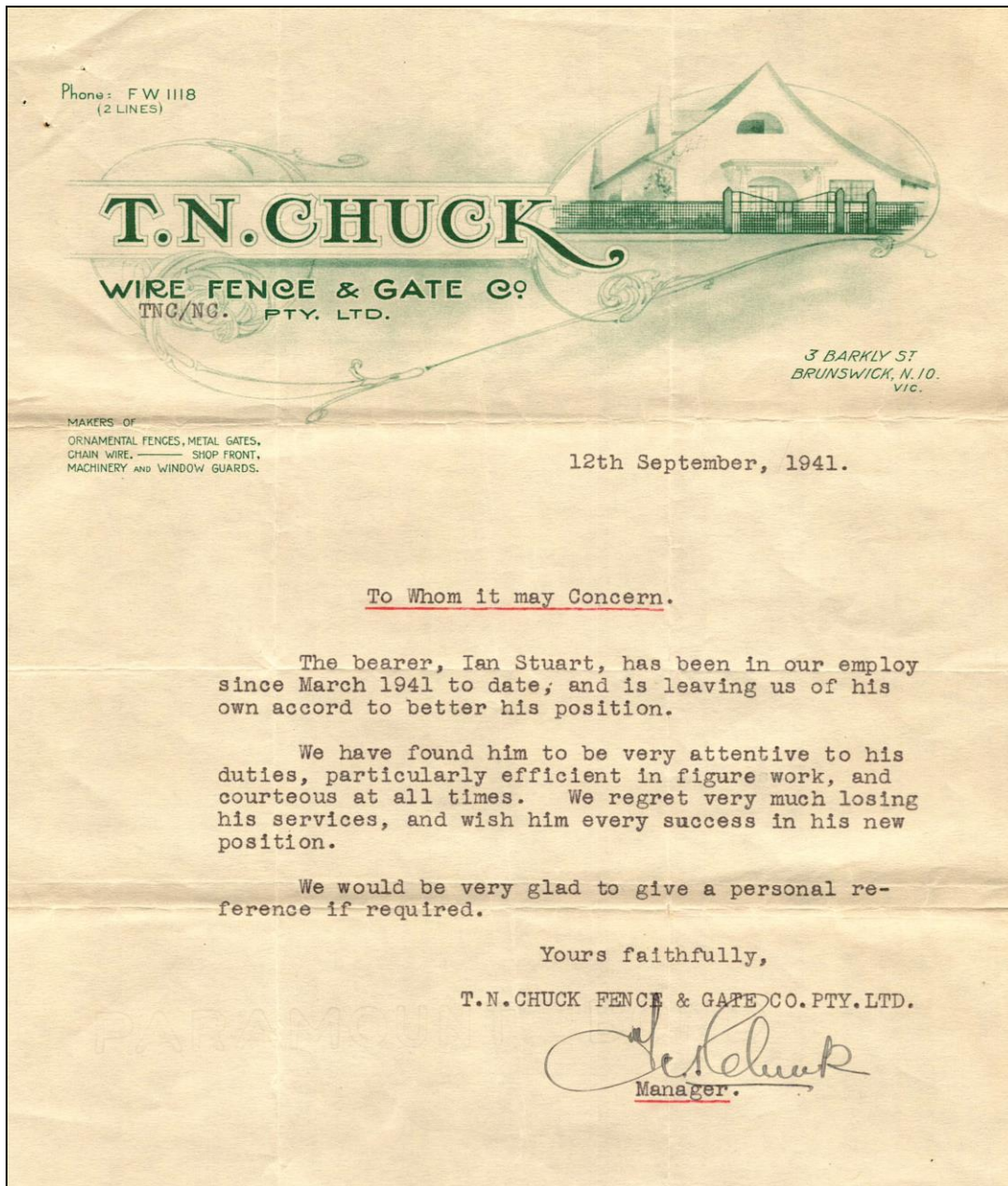
February 1940. 1. English
December 1940. 1. Mathematics II
2. Mathematics III
3. Physics
4. British History

thereby qualifying for this Certificate

John J. Carter

Registrar

Appendix 4



Phone: F W 1118
(2 LINES)

T.N. CHUCK
WIRE FENCE & GATE CO.
TNG/NG. PTY. LTD.

3 BARKLY ST
BRUNSWICK, N. 10.
Vic.

MAKERS OF
ORNAMENTAL FENCES, METAL GATES,
CHAIN WIRE, SHOP FRONT,
MACHINERY AND WINDOW GUARDS.

12th September, 1941.

To Whom it may Concern.

The bearer, Ian Stuart, has been in our employ since March 1941 to date, and is leaving us of his own accord to better his position.

We have found him to be very attentive to his duties, particularly efficient in figure work, and courteous at all times. We regret very much losing his services, and wish him every success in his new position.

We would be very glad to give a personal reference if required.

Yours faithfully,

T.N. CHUCK FENCE & GATE CO. PTY. LTD.


Manager.

Appendix 5

Federal Institute of Accountants

(INCORPORATED 1894)



This is to certify that

Jan McGregor Stuart

*has passed the Examinations of the Institute, and has been enrolled
as a Provisional Associate thereof.*



[Signature]
B. K. Harris
Emulwood

President.

Member of Council.

Secretary.

This Certificate remains the property of the Institute.

HEAD OFFICE:

MELBOURNE.

27th August 1951

No. 4361951

Appendix 6

TELEPHONE: MU 1375

Victorian Vocational Guidance Centre

DIRECTOR: R. K. WHATELY, M.A., DIP.ED.
ASSISTANT: MISS M. HUTTON JONES, M.A., DIP.ED.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:
E. F. RYALL, ESQ.
A. REINECKE, ESQ.
R. G. PARSONS, ESQ.
K. S. CUNNINGHAM, M.A., PH.D.
MISS E. L. HOLMES, M.A., LL.B., DIP.ED.
MISS E. C. ONIANS, O.B.E.
MRS. L. A. WHITFORD.
G. R. GILES, B.SC., DIP.ED.
C. M. GILRAY, M.C., M.A.
C. H. NEWBOLD, ESQ.


MANUFACTURERS' BUILDING,
312 FLINDERS STREET,
MELBOURNE, C.I

5th September, 1941.

Ian McG. Stuart has a highly logical mind,
and on this account as well as by virtue of other
special qualities, he is astonishingly quick in the
uptake. We would say that not one person in a
thousand is as well equipped as he for the study and
practice of accountancy. We have no doubt whatever
as to the integrity of his character, and strongly
recommend him to any employer likely to provide him
with opportunities for rapid advancement.

R. Whately
DIRECTOR.

Appendix 7

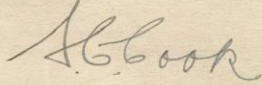
<p>A. D. MACKENZIE, CHAIRMAN. F. DUNCAN COMMISSIONER. D. YORK-SYME .. C. A. PHAYER .. J. P. WEBB ..</p>	<p>CABLE ADDRESS: "HARBOR," MELBOURNE.</p> <hr style="width: 20px; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p>CODES: A.B.C. (5TH EDITION). WESTERN UNION (UNIVERSAL EDITION). TELEPHONE: M 2281.</p>		<p>Melbourne, 16th November, 1942.</p>
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G O

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mr. I. M. Stuart has been employed as a Junior Clerk in the service of the Commissioners since 16th September 1941 during which time I have found him to be conscientious, gentlemanly and courteous.

He has informed me that he is desirous of enlisting in the R.A.A.F., and I have much pleasure in supporting his application.



SECRETARY.

Appendix 8

AGG & DUFF PTY. LTD.
CUSTOMS, SHIPPING INSURANCE AGENTS, ETC.

Telephone
MU 3120

LOMBARD BUILDINGS,
15 QUEEN STREET,
MELBOURNE, C.I.

28th February, 1956.

The Collector of Customs,
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

We enclose herewith application by Mr. I. McG. Stuart for a Head Agent's licence. Mr Stuart has been in our employ for the past 9 years and has handled all classes of Customs work in that period. Over the last 6 to 7 years he has compiled the majority of our entries and we consider him the most efficient customs clerk we have had in our employ. We think so highly of him that he now has an interest in this business and we have no doubt that your own officers are fully aware of his capabilities.

In anticipation of your granting him his Head Agent's licence, his Sub-Agent's licence is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,
AGG & DUFF PTY. LTD.

Appendix 9

No. of Certificate 13. Shares 50.
 Register Folio 6.

AGG & DUFF PTY. LTD.
(Incorporated under "The Companies Act 1938")


Registered Office 15 Queen St. Melbourne Vt.

Capital: £10,000 - , in 10,000 Shares of £1 — each

This is to Certify that Jan Mc. Gregor Stuart
 of 34 France St. Preston is the Registered Holder of
Fifty Shares numbered 3951 to 4000
 both inclusive, in **AGG & DUFF PTY. LTD.** upon which
 the sum of Fifty pounds (£50) has been paid up, subject to
 the Memorandum and articles of Association thereof.

Given under the Common Seal of the Company at Melbourne
 Dated the 12 day of January 1956

[Signature] } Directors
[Signature] }
[Signature] Secretary



No Transfer of any of the above Shares will be registered unless this Certificate is surrendered to the Company

Appendix 10

**Customs Brokers Council of Australia Inc.**

PO Box 303, Hamilton, QLD 4007 Australia • Tel: (07) 3252 1348 • Fax: (07) 3252 1159

28 August 1996

Mr I Stuart
46 Larch Crescent
SYNDAL VIC 3149

Dear Ian,

On behalf of the Executive and Members of the Customs Brokers Council of Australia Inc. ("CBCA") I wish to extend to you sincere congratulations on your retirement from the industry after 50 years.

The immense, selfless contribution you have made to the industry will not be forgotten by those who follow. You have set a very high standard for us to aspire to.

Ian, I am sure you must be justifiably proud of what you have achieved and, importantly, of the friendships you have made. I know that the Institute conferences and meetings will always rank amongst the best fun I have had!

I trust that you and Joan enjoy a long and healthy retirement and do not forget to call in and say hello when you are in Sydney.

Yours sincerely,

for KENT HEAZLETT
Chairman

Appendix 11




Appendix 12

VICTORIAN CRICKET ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

TELEPHONE:
63 5511

SECRETARY
J. LEDWARD

Telegrams and Cables:
"VEESEAY" Melbourne



V.C.A. BUILDING,
1 COLLINS PLACE, MELBOURNE, C.

1st. November, 1962.

Mr. I. Stuart,
46 Larch Cres.,
Syndal.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in advising that you have been appointed to stand in the match M.C.C. v. An Australian XI to be played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on November 9-13.

The enclosed "Playing Conditions" are for your information and from these you will note play commences each day at 11 a.m., therefore you are directed to be in attendance not later than 10 a.m. especially as the fitness of pitch and ground is entirely in the hands of the Umpires.

An allowance of £3 per day will be paid and your ticket for admission is enclosed.

With congratulations upon your selection and best wishes for an excellent game.

Yours faithfully,
J. Ledward
Secretary.

Appendix 13

Crusaders

Cricket Australia Inc.

25-31 Rokeby Street
Collingwood, Victoria, Australia 3066
Telephone: (03) 9415 6924
Fax: (03) 9417 6911
Email: crusaders@cricketshop.com.au



PATRONS

Sir Ron BRIERLEY

The Hon. R.J.L. HAWKE, A.C.

The Hon. J.W. HOWARD, MP

Sir Tim RICE

D.L. RICHARDS

Sir J.Paul GETTY

22 April, 1999

Mr Ian Stuart
46 Larch Crescent
Syndal Vic 3149

Dear Ian,

The Crusaders have recently introduced a brand new Hall of Fame board to honour all recipients of Crusader awards and scholarships. This board incorporates a new award namely, the Hall of Honour. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that you are one of the very first persons to be inducted into this Hall of Honour. Your commitment to the Crusaders over the past years will always be appreciated and held dearly.

The Hall of Honour will now be an annual award to be given to people like yourself, whom the Committee feel have given so much of their time and self to the Crusaders over the years.

It also gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Crusader Committee to present you with the enclosed, inscribed pen case as a memento of our appreciation. There is also a special tie to be sent to you, which is exclusive to Hall of Honour recipients. I will bring it back with me from England, after the tour.

You can view the Hall of Fame board at our office in Collingwood.

Kindest regards,

SWANRICHARDS
Director

Appendix 14



Government House
Canberra ACT 2600

17th October 2000

Telephone: (02) 6283-3533
Facsimile: (02) 6283-3620

Mr Ian Mcgregor STUART
C/- Victorian Cricket Association
86 Jolimont Street
JOLIMONT VIC 3002

Dear Mr Stuart,

I am writing to advise that you have been awarded the Australian Sports Medal in recognition for your services to cricket.

The Australian Sports Medal is being awarded during the year 2000 to commemorate Australian sporting achievement and has been established as a commemorative award within the Australian honours system. The medal has been created to recognise the contributions of both current and former sports participants and for those who have provided support services to sport. The medal is a unique way for Australia to recognise the wide-ranging efforts of those who have made Australia a great sporting nation.

The Governor-General authorises all awards within the Australian honours system and nominations for the Australian Sports Medal have been recommended by the Prime Minister; Federal, State and Territory sports ministers; Senators; Members of the House of Representatives; or peak sports bodies recognised by the Australian Sports Commission.

Further details on nominations may be obtained by contacting the Awards and National Symbols Branch of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 3-5 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600 (02) 6271-5609.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Bonsey".

Martin Bonsey
Official Secretary
to the Governor-General

Printed by



Email: natprint@bigpond.net.au

April, 2015