



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Bradman returns for the Ashes

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More than 80 years after he last rescued Australia in an Ashes series, the magic of Sir Donald Bradman is again returning to English soil this summer.

A selection of Sir Donald's personal memorabilia, worth over \$4.2million, from the State Library's Bradman Collection has been delivered to England in recent days by a senior Library conservator for display at Lord's Cricket Museum.

These include five items from the Collection - significant bats, a Bradman Australian blazer and unique gifts presented to the legendary batsman - plus a Bradman family scrapbook.

The arrangement is part of a partnership between the South Australian Cricket Association, the MCC and the State Library of South Australia. This year's Ashes series mirrors Sir Donald's Ashes tour in 1930 – when he was part of the team aiming to reclaim the urn after losing two series in 1926 and 1928/9. His incredible batting feats in that 1930s series were critical in Australia's triumph – and two of the bats used on that tour are highlights of the display at Lords.

The Bradman Collection has been housed at Adelaide Oval since 2008. While the oval is undergoing a \$535 million development, SACA, the State Library and the MCC, along with Sir Donald's family, have agreed to have the items on display during the Lords' Test match through to September. The collection will feature at a special function organised between SACA and the Britain-Australia Society on 12 July featuring singing by Greta Bradman, with her father John also speaking at the dinner.

The Bradman Collection spans an era of cricket unequalled in the world from the 1920s to the 1980s, reflecting all aspects of his life and achievements. It notes his rise to hero status in the 1930s and explores his major role in cricket administration and provides glimpses of the family man and all-round sportsman.

SACA chief executive Keith Bradshaw said he hoped the display would be a popular destination for passionate Australian and English cricket fans.

"We know that many Australians travel to the UK for the Ashes, and I would expect many of them would love the opportunity to get an insight into Sir Donald," Mr Bradshaw said.



The items now on display at Lords include the Sykes Test World Record bat used by Sir Donald to score 1,000 runs before the end of May 1930, making him the first Australian to do so in English tour matches before the commencement of the Tests. This feat had only been achieved four times before, all by Englishmen, with the first being W G Grace in 1895. Sir Donald dramatically passed the 1,000 runs just before rain stopped play at the end of the match against Hampshire on the last day of May.

The second bat on loan to the Museum, known as 'the Leeds bat', was described by Bradman as the "best bat I ever had...It had for me that indefinable something about it which made up the perfect balance and apparently unlimited power." The bat was used when he scored the then world record score in Test cricket in the match Australia v England (Third Test) at Headingley in July of that year. Batting on the first day, Sir Donald made 105 before lunch, 115 between lunch and tea, and 89 between tea and stumps, 309 for the day, finishing next morning with the highest score in Test cricket to that time of 334.

Also on loan to the Museum are:

- Bradman's 1946/47 Australian XI green team blazer;
- The Royal Worcester Vase presented to Bradman in 1938 to commemorate his three consecutive double centuries at the Worcester Ground (1930, 1934, 1938);
- The Warwick Silver Vase which was presented to Bradman by the People newspaper and funded by donations from the English public to mark his retirement from cricket.

The items are of national significance to Australia and could only leave the country for temporary loan under a special licence from the Federal Minister of Environment and the Arts, Hon. Tony Burke.

Mr Bradshaw said the valuable memorabilia was temporarily in storage during the re-development of Adelaide Oval, however will return to a new location in the southern grandstand in time for the Adelaide Ashes Test match in December 2013.

"This important collection will be at the entrance to the ground and admission is free to members of the public, so I would love to see as many England visitors come to Adelaide and see the display in its entirety," he said.

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