



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET DAY 1 – JANUARY 30, 2025

2024/25 WOMEN'S ASHES TEST AUSTRALIA V ENGLAND

Test Cricket at the MCG

Beginning with the inaugural Test match in March 1877, 119 Tests have been staged at the MCG - 117 men's and two women's. One men's Test, scheduled against England in 1970/71, was abandoned without a ball bowled and is not counted in the records.

Women's International cricket at the MCG

International women's cricket matches on the MCG commenced with the Victoria v England tour match in December 1934. It remains the only non-Test first-class women's match played on the ground.

The two women's Tests played at the MCG were between Australia and England in 1935 and 1949. Both were three-day Tests and were drawn.

Six women's Limited Overs International matches have been played on the MCG, commencing with the 1988 Bicentennial World Cup final which was won by Australia over England. The next was against New Zealand in February 2002 as part of the Rose Bowl series. In February 2008 Australia played two ODIs against England. In the second Alex Blackwell anchored the Australian innings of 4/240 with a most impressive 101, the first women's international century to be scored on the MCG. The two most recent ODIs on the MCG were played during the first multi-format Women's Ashes series held in Australia in 2013/14. England won the first by seven wickets. In the second Australia won by 26 runs and Nicole Bolton's 124 was only the second women's ODI century on the MCG.

The MCG has hosted eight Women's T20 Internationals; three against England, two against New Zealand and India, and one against the West Indies. The Australia v England T20I match played on February 1, 2008 was a curtain-raiser to the men's match between Australia and India, and therefore was the inaugural T20I match played on the MCG. England have played Australia in two more women's T20Is at the MCG in 2011 and 2014.

The most recent women's international cricket match at the MCG was held on March 8, 2020. The 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup final was played before an Australian women's sporting record attendance of 86,174. The Australian women claimed their fifth T20 World Cup by defeating India by 85 runs.

The 1934/35 England tour of Australia and New Zealand.

The inaugural international women's cricket series was played between Australian and the touring English team across the summer of 1934/35. The tourists played 14 matches in Australia: three Test, four first-class, and seven minor matches. The tour commenced with a first-class match against Western Australia at the WACA before the tourists travelled to Victoria. Upon arrival in Melbourne the team was feted by the Melbourne Cricket Club with a luncheon in the Members Dining Room, hosted by the club committee. A few days later they played the state side in a first-class match on the MCG.



The first women's cricket match on the Melbourne Cricket Ground was held on Friday & Saturday, December 7th & 8th, 1934 between Victoria and England. It gave the touring English women, and some of the Victorian women that would be selected for Australia, the chance to familiarise themselves with the conditions of the MCG prior to the Test match scheduled for January 1935.

England Women won the toss and decided to bat. Peggy Antonio took 10/48, as well as top-scoring for the match. She took 5/24 in both innings, the first 5 and 10 wicket hauls in matches on the MCG. The crowd attendance was 4780 for the first day & 4994 for the second day.

Melbourne Cricket Ground, December 7-8, 1934 (two-day match): ENGLAND 119 (63.3 overs) (ME Maclagan 21; P Antonio 5/24) and 6/73 (35 overs) (ME Maclagan 20, EA Snowball 20; P Antonio 5/24) drew with VICTORIA 151 (80.4 overs) (P Antonio 43, A Palmer 32, NM Clements 21*; ME Maclagan 4/34, MF Spear, 2/23, DM Turner 2/34).*

The tourists then travelled to New South Wales, playing the state team at the SCG, then north to Queensland, where they played the state side and then the 1st Test, both at the Exhibition Ground, Brisbane.

1st Test, Exhibition Ground, Brisbane December 28, 29 & 31 1934 (Three-day match): **AUSTRALIA 47** (49.3 overs) (KM Smith 25; ME Maclagan 7/10, MI Taylor 2/9) **and 138** (125.3 overs) (EM Shevill 63*, HD Pritchard 20; MF Spear 5/15) **lost to ENGLAND 154** (73.2 overs) (ME Maclagan 72, HE Archdale 32*; A Palmer 7/18) **and 1/34** (12.5 overs) (EA Snowball 18*) **by 9 wickets**.

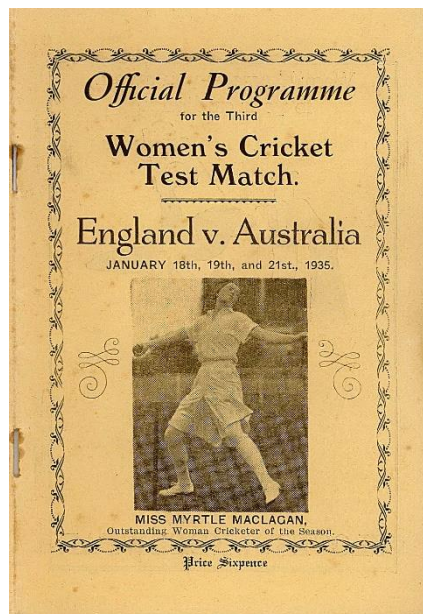
The 2nd Test was played at the SCG, it was the only four-day match of the tour. The second day was washed out, but days 2 & 3 were “rescheduled” to include play on a fourth day. But England once again proved too strong for the home team, due to a century by Myrtle Maclagan..

2nd Test, Sydney Cricket Ground, January 4, 5, 7 & 8 1935 (Four-day match): **AUSTRALIA 162** (121.2 overs) (KM Smith 47, PJ Brewer 34; ME Maclagan 4/33, MF Spear 2/19) **and 148** (80.4 overs) (EM Shevill 36, KM Smith 27, A Palmer 23; JE Partridge 6/96) **lost to ENGLAND 5/301 dec** (87 overs) (ME Maclagan 119, EA Snowball 71, ME Hide 34, EM Child 30*, JE Partridge 26*; KM Smith 3/42, P Antonio 2/53) **and 2/10** (6 overs) **by 8 wickets**.

The final match in Australia was the 3rd Test at the MCG. The English team then departed Melbourne for New Zealand where they played eight matches culminating in the only Test at Lancaster Park Christchurch. Betty Archdale’s England team went through the tour undefeated. – winning three of the four Test matches.

The 3rd Test, at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, January 1935.

Australia met England in the third and final match of the Test series. Batting first after winning the toss, England compiled 162 with opener Myrtle Maclagan top scoring with 50, while diminutive leg-spinner Peggy Antonio bowled impressively in taking 6/49 off 21.5 overs, to back up her match haul of 10/48 in the earlier Victoria-England fixture.



In reply, the Australians slumped to 8/91 before a late rally led by Anne Palmer (39) produced a final tally of 150. An aggressive 83 not out by opening batter/keeper Betty Snowball enabled England to declare at 7/153 and set the home side 166 in around two and a half hours.

The early Australian batting failed for a second time, the first six wickets falling for 51, but stubborn resistance from Barbara Peden (24 not out) and Joyce Brewer (31) enabled their side to reach 8/104 at stumps and draw the match. Maclagan (50 not out, 3/32 and 4/28) was the outstanding performer in the match.

The first day’s attendance of 4172 was exceeded on the second by a then world-record for a women’s match of 7092, while 2641 attended the final day.

3rd Test Melbourne Cricket Ground, January 18-20, 1935 (Three-day match): **ENGLAND 162** (71.5 overs) (ME Maclagan 50, HE Archdale 32, ME Richards 31; P Antonio 6/49) **and 7/153 dec** (57 overs) (EA Snowball 83*, ME Hide 26; A Palmer 3/17, P Antonio 2/55) **drew with AUSTRALIA 150** (129.1 overs) (A Palmer 39, PJ Brewer 26; MF Spear 3/21 ME Maclagan 3/32, ME Hide 2/24) and 8/104 (PJ Brewer 31, BCW Peden 24; ME Maclagan 4/28, MI Taylor 2/13).

(See <https://youtu.be/mtULf5aGIBA> for footage from the 3rd Test at MCG in 1935.)

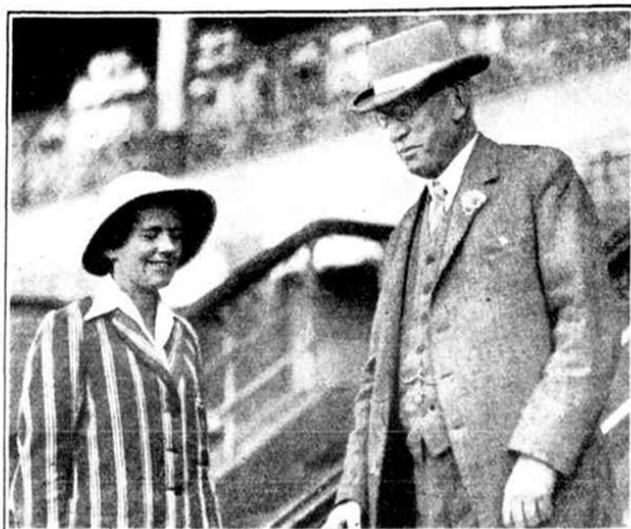
England Women in Australia and New Zealand 1934/35

Date	Test	Match	Ground	Result	Match #
24 Nov 1934		Western Australia v England	WACA Ground, Perth	Draw	wf4
07 Dec 1934		Victoria v England	Melbourne Cricket Ground	Draw	wf5
10 Dec 1934		Deniliquin v England	Memorial Park, Deniliquin	England won by innings & 59 runs	wmisc1467
14 Dec 1934		New South Wales v England	Sydney Cricket Ground	England won by 7 wickets	wf6
18 Dec 1934		Wollongong v England	Lysaght Oval, Wollongong	Draw	wmisc1469
19 Dec 1934		Newcastle v England	No 1 Sports Ground, Newcastle	Draw	wmisc1470
22 Dec 1934		Queensland v England	Exhibition Ground, Brisbane	England won by innings & 41 runs	wf7
28 Dec 1934	1st	Australia v England	Exhibition Ground, Brisbane	England won by 9 wickets	wt1
04 Jan 1935	2nd	Australia v England	Sydney Cricket Ground	England won by 8 wickets	wt2
09 Jan 1935		Canberra v England	Manuka Oval, Canberra	Draw	wmisc1472
11 Jan 1935		Goulburn Revellers v England	Goulburn Sportsground	England won by 199 runs	wmisc1473
12 Jan 1935		Leeton v England	Leeton	Draw	wmisc1474
15 Jan 1935		Junee and District v England	Junee	England won by 9 wickets	wmisc1475
18 Jan 1935	3rd	Australia v England	Melbourne Cricket Ground	Draw	wt3
29 Jan 1935		Auckland v England	Eden Park, Auckland	Draw	wmisc1476
02 Feb 1935		Wanganui v England	Cook's Gardens, Wanganui	Draw	wmisc1477
05 Feb 1935		Wellington v England	Basin Reserve, Wellington	England won by innings & 75 runs	wmisc1478
07 Feb 1935		Canterbury v England	Lancaster Park, Christchurch	Draw	wmisc1479
09 Feb 1935		Otago v England	Carisbrook, Dunedin	Draw	wmisc1480
12 Feb 1935		Invercargill v England	Queen's Park, Invercargill	Draw	wmisc1481
16 Feb 1935	Only	New Zealand v England	Lancaster Park, Christchurch	England by innings & 337 runs	wt4

WOMEN CRICKETERS AT THE M.C.G.



Miss P. Antonio, the popular Australian bowler.



Mr Hugh Trumble chatting with the Australian captain, Miss Margaret Peden.



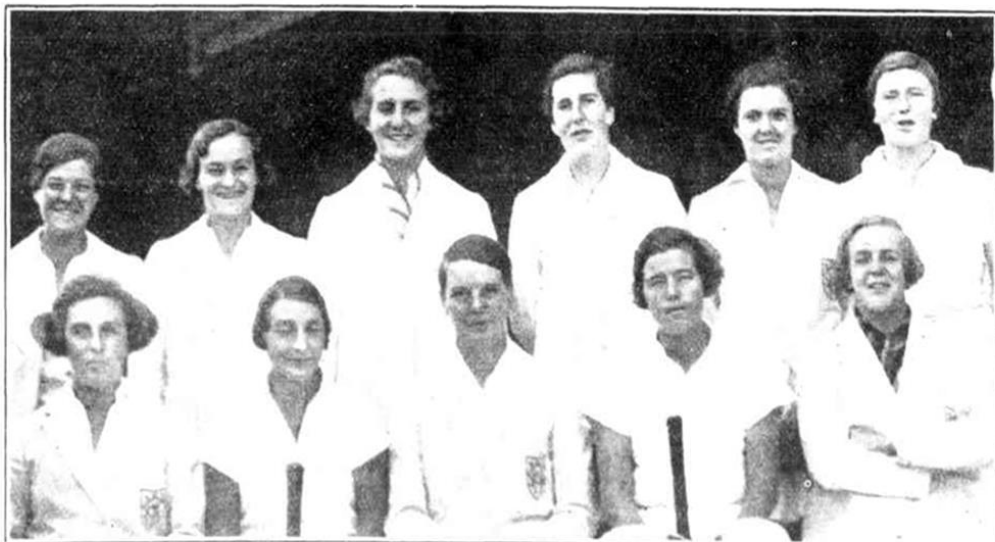
Back in Melbourne after her illness in Brisbane, Miss Hilda Hills, the Australian wicketkeeper.



Watching England bat.—A snap of Misses D. and P. Dunbar.



The Australian Test Team for the Third Test, taken before play began on Friday.



The English Team who won the Rubber:—Misses D. Turner, M. Spear, M. Hide, J. Liebert, M. Taylor, M. Child, M. Richards, B. Snowball (V.C.), B. Archdale (Capt.), M. MacLagan, T. Partridge.



Miss Nell McLarty, 12th in line for the Australian side, who took out ducks for the game.

Peggy Antonio

(Australian Women's Test Player #10)

Born: 2nd June 1917, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Died: 11th January 2002, Bundoora, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Batting: Right-hand batter
Bowling: Leg-break and googly
Biography: married name Howard
First Test: Australia Women v England Women at Exhibition Ground, Brisbane, December 28, 29 & 31, 1934 (Three-Day Match)
Last Test: England Women v Australia Women v England Women at The Oval, London, July 10, 12 & 13 1937 (Three-Day Match)

Test matches: Six

Batting & Fielding

M	I	NO	Runs	Ave	50	100	Ct	St
6	12	1	128	11.63	0	0	0	0

HS: 37 v England, 3rd Test 1937

Bowling

B	M	W	Runs	Ave	SR	ER	5wi	10wm
990	39	31	431	13.90	31.93	2.61	3	0

BBI: 6/49 v England, 3rd Test 1934/35 at Melbourne Cricket Ground

BBM: 9/91 v England, 1st Test 1937/38 at County Ground, Northampton

Peggy Antonio was the first Australian to take a wicket in women's Test cricket and is the first (and so far, only) woman to appear on the Test cricket honour boards at the MCG – Taking 6/49 in the 3rd Test of the 1934/35 series.

Her unassuming personality, her enthusiasm and her skill as a bowler – she was known as the “Girl Grimmett” – made her a popular figure with cricket crowds.

Peggy Antonio was the youngest of six children. Her father was a south American-born wharf labourer who died when she was an infant. Antonio joined the Collingwood Club and also played for a team from Raymond's Box Factory, where she worked.

Antonio, who represented Victoria when she was 15, was selected to play in the 1934/35 series against England aged 17. Although she was only 153cm tall, she had a fluent bowling action and was one of the finest spinners produced by Australia; she could turn the ball both ways. In the third Test of the series she took 6/49, helping to dismiss England for 162.

On the 1937 tour of England Antonio proved a useful batter, scoring 103 not out against Lancashire and 53 against Kent. She also played an important part in Australia's victory in the First Test at Northampton, when she took 6/51 in the first innings and 3/40 in the second; she followed this up with a return of 3/34 and 5/31 in the Second Test at Blackpool.

After marrying in 1943 and having a family she played cricket only occasionally, including a match of former players against the 1948/49 English team.

Profile by Amanda Weaver, for Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket

In 2024 Peggy's family donated to the Australian Sports Museum collection a range of items from her playing career, including Australian and Victoria Blazer pockets, trophies, photographs, scrapbooks and a range of ephemera relating to the 1937 Australian tour of England. They can be found online at <https://collection.australiansportsmuseum.org.au/persons/25216/peggy-antonio>
The blazer pocket from Peggy's 1934/35 and 1937 Test series is currently on display in the MCC Long Room during this Test match - towards the Anniversary Gallery and Members Dining Room end.



Fact Sheet research by MCC Library Volunteers Rosie Bushnell, Quentin Miller, Ross Perry, Ann Rusden OAM, Ray Webster OAM, and Ian Wilkinson, assisted and edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.

Sources consulted: Wicket Women, the Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket, Wisden Cricketers' Almanac – various issues.

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