



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET DAY 4 – FEBRUARY 2, 2025

2024/25 WOMEN'S ASHES TEST AUSTRALIA V ENGLAND

The Women's Ashes Trophy, Part 2 – the Flynn Silver stumps update 2013



In 2013 with the restructure of the Women's Ashes from Test match to multi-format points based series, the women's Ashes trophy was updated. The original wooden ball was incorporated into the centre of an enlarged trophy, surmounted by three sets of gold stumps, gathered at the crown. The new trophy was commissioned from Flynn Silver, master goldsmiths and silversmiths based in Kyneton, Victoria.

Kyneton Connect, Volume 8 Issue 4, August 2013, page 1 records that,

"The England Cricket Board and the Cricket Australia jointly commissioned Flynn Silver, the Flynn Brothers Dan and John, to create a trophy that will celebrate the past and future of the women's Ashes between Australia and England. The series was first played in 1934 and was the first Women's test series. It only became officially known as the Ashes in 1998 when an autographed bat was burnt before the first test at Lords.

Those ashes are within a fragile timber cricket ball, which is now housed within the safety of nine golden stumps crowned with the crests of English and Australian Cricket. Each disc, on the base, holds the outcome of the past 17 series played so far with space till 2030. Local Kyneton expertise used in the creation of this Trophy included: Contsoukas from Sharp Pixel graphics, Grahame Brown from Turner Brothers, Dan Vereker from Vereker Brothers and Kyneton Engineering & Hydraulics."

Above: Meg Lanning with the trophy after the 2021/22 series. Below: Tahlia McGrath, the 2021/22 Peden-Archdale medallist.

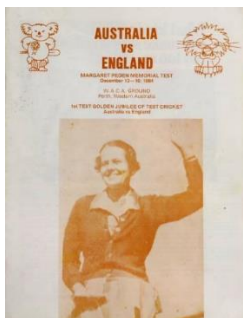


Peden-Archdale Medal – Player of the Series

The Peden-Archdale Medal is presented to the player-of-the-series for the women's Ashes. It honours the inaugural captains of Test series between the two nations, Australia's Margaret Peden and her English rival Betty Archdale. (The medal was actually inaugurated in the 1999-2000 summer for a four-match ODI series, which was not part of the Women's Ashes contests.) The following year it was presented to Australia allrounder Karen Rolton after her world-record score of 209 not out in the second Test at Headingley.

1984/85 Jubilee Women's Ashes series

The 1984/85 Series was the only five-Test series to be played for the Women's Ashes. The Tests, all four-day matches for the first time in Australia, were played at The WACA in Perth, the Adelaide Oval, the Gabba in Brisbane, Grahame Park, in Gosford NSW, and Queen Elizabeth II Oval, Bendigo Victoria. Australia won the series 2-1.



The 1st Test saw the severe injury to the Australian captain Sharon Tredrea, who could not participate in the rest of the series. After strong batting by the English in each innings the Australian's held on for a draw – they were eight wickets down in their second innings at the conclusion of match.

1st Test (Four-Day match) Western Australia Cricket Association Ground, Perth December 13-16, 1984 : **ENGLAND 290** (133.1 overs) (JM Court 90, CJ Watmough 46, JA Brittin 44, CA Hodges 34; LA Fullston 4/61, RH Thompson 2/50, DL Wilson 2/90) **and 296** (105 overs) (JA Brittin 112, J Southgate 38, JC Aspinall 30; RH Thompson, 4/47, DL Wilson 3/25) **drew with AUSTRALIA 251** (174.1 overs) (D Emerson 84, J Kennare 56, P Verco 36; AM Starling 3/40, HJ Stother 2/43, JC Aspinall 2/48) **and 8/208** (80 overs) (J Kennare 103; HJ Stother 2/44, AM Starling 2/47).

England won the thrilling 2nd Test by five runs, after being bowled out for 91 in the first innings. Denise Annett's scored 121 in Australia's first innings of 262, but England fought back with a second innings of 296 and then dismissed Australia for 120 – they were 5/6 before Karen Price stopped the collapse with a swift 51 off 74 balls, but the home team fell just short and went 1-0 down in the series.



1984/85 England Captain Jan Southgate, with 1934/35 England Captain Betty Archdale, in Perth at start of the Jubilee tour.

2nd Test (Four-Day match) Adelaide Oval, December 21-24, 1984 :

ENGLAND 91 (67.4 overs) (K Price 4/22, JM Jacobs 2/6, RH Thompson 2/16) **and 296** (174.1 overs) (CJ Watmough 70, JE Edney 50, CA Hodges 44, JM court 28, J Southgate 25, JC Aspinall 20; LA Fullston 4/96, DL Wilson 3/45, RH Thompson, 2/19) **defeated AUSTRALIA 262** (119 overs) (D Emerson 121, K Price 39; GE McConway 4/32, JA Brittin 2/15, JC Aspinall 2/48) **and 120** (65.5 overs) (K Price 51, LA Fullston 28; AM Starling 5/36, GE McConway 3/35) **by 5 runs.**

The 3rd Test at the Gabba was played on a wicket that proved very favourable to batting and it also was drawn, leaving England up 1-0 with two Tests to play.

3rd Test (Four-Day match) Brisbane Cricket Ground, Woolloongabba, January 1-4 1985 : **ENGLAND 275** (152 overs) (J Southgate 74, JE Edney 47, JA Brittin 36, CA Hodges 32; LA Larsen 4/33, LA Reeler 2/27 DL Wilson 2/55) **and 7/204** (120 overs) (CA Hodges 95, JA Brittin 39, J Southgate 39; RH Thompson, 2/25, P Verco 2/32, LA Larsen 2/40) **drew with AUSTRALIA 9/326 dec.** (166 overs) (D Emerson 84, LA Reeler 59, LA Larsen 52, P Verco 42; AM Starling 4/50, HJ Stother 3/58).

In the 4th Test at Gosford, the Australians batted well, declaring in both their innings, while their bowlers dismissed England for under 150 in both innings – Denise Martin taking 4/28 in the English first innings of 140, and Lyn Fullston taking 4/53 in their second innings of 128. The Australians evened the series with a victory by 117 runs.

4th Test (Four-Day match) Grahame Park, Gosford, January 12-15, 1985 : **AUSTRALIA 8/232 dec** (110 overs) (D Emerson 58, P Verco 58, LA Reeler 34; GE McConway 3/39, CA Hodges 2/20) **and 9/153 dec** (95 overs) (RH Thompson 24*; AM Starling 4/57, HJ Stother, 2/24) **defeated ENGLAND 140** (81.1 overs) (JA Brittin 45; D Martin 4/24, P Verco 2/23, LA Fullston 2/30, DL Wilson 2/32) **and 128** (106 overs) (JA Brittin 65; LA Fullston 4/53, D Martin 2/12, DL Wilson 2/29) **by 117 runs.**



Left: Australian captain Raelee Thompson bowling in the 5th Test of the 1984/85 Jubilee series, at Bendigo, January 1985.

The series came down to the final Test in Bendigo, on the ground where the first women's cricket match in Australia was played in 1874. England won the toss and batted (they won the toss in all five Tests), however the home side restricted them to 196, thanks to a career best 5 wicket haul by Australian captain Raelee Thompson.

Australia replied with 8 declared for 285, and then limited England to 204 in their second innings. On the final day, with half the home team suffering from gastro, the Australians made steady progress and scored 3/118 to claim victory by seven wickets, and take the series 2-1, reclaiming the Ashes. This was the last women's Ashes Test to be played in Victoria until the current match.

5th Test (Four-Day match) Queen Elizabeth II Oval, Bendigo, January 25-28, 1985 : **ENGLAND 196** (109.1 overs) (J Southgate 59, CA Hodges 39; RH Thompson 5/33, LA Fullston 2/31, D Martin 2/37) **and 9/242 dec** (105 overs) (JM Court 41, JA Brittin 35; P Verco 3/30, DL Wilson 3/40, LA Fullston, 2/57) **lost to AUSTRALIA 8/285 dec** (122.1 overs) (J Kennare 104, D Emerson 43, P Verco 40; GE McConway 2/52) **and 3/118 dec** (80 overs) (P Verco 40) **by 7 wickets.**

The Jubilee of Women's Test cricket dinner was held in the Melbourne Cricket Club Members Dining Room on January 30, 1985 with a gathering of past players as well as the current teams. Presentations were made, including medallions for the players.



Left: Australian & Victorian past players of 1930s at the Jubilee Dinner. Back, left to right: Winnie George O'Meara (Aus 1937), Ann Palmer (Aus 1934/35), Peggy Antonio Howard (Aus 1934/35 & 37). Front: Amy Hudson (Aus 1934/35-1951), Hilda Hill Spicer (Aus 1934/35), Nance Clements Pownall (Vic 1934/35-1946/47), & Nell McLarty (Aus 1934/35 & 37). Right: Player of the series Janette Brittin of England.



Peden - Archdale Shield: the previous trophy



Left: Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, Patron of the Australian Women's Cricket Council, presented the Peden-Archdale Shield to Australian captain Raelee Thompson at the Jubilee dinner.

The Peden - Archdale Shield, named after the captains in the original Australian and England women's cricket teams from 1934/35 was presented to the captain of the winning team of the Women's Ashes series from at least 1984/85 up to the start of the 1998 series when the current Women's Ashes trophy was created.

This is the only image of the Shield in our heritage collections. The trophy is described as a "Brown wooden shield, scroll-shaped, raised edges, with attached silver plaques, the

main one reading, "The Peden - Archdale Trophy, women's cricket between Australia and England, since 1934". The trophy was displayed in the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum while Australia held the Ashes from 1985 until 1998 when it was taken to England by representatives of Women's Cricket Australia for that year's tour. It did not return afterwards and its whereabouts are unknown. The MCC Heritage staff would be grateful for any information on its current location, and a clear photograph of the Shield.

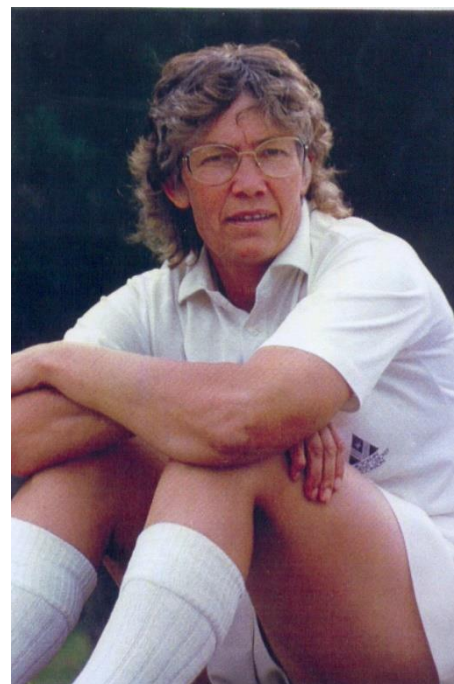
England Women in Australia 1984/85

Date	Match	Teams	Venue	Result	Match #
7 Dec 1984	50 over	Western Australia v England	Rosalie Park, Perth	Western Australia won by 5	wa460
9 Dec 1984	50 over	Western Australia v England	Rosalie Park, Perth	Western Australia won by 8	wa465
10 Dec 1984	50 over	Western Australia v England	Rosalie Park, Perth	England won by 1 wicket	wa468
13 Dec 1984	1st Test	Australia v England	WACA Ground, Perth	Draw	wt73
19 Dec 1984	60 over	South Australia v England	Thebarton Oval, Adelaide	England won by 7 runs	wa473
21 Dec 1984	2nd Test	Australia v England	Adelaide Oval	England won by 5 runs	wt74
29 Dec 1984	60 over	Queensland v England	St Joseph's College, Brisbane	No result	wa474
30 Dec 1984		Queensland v England	St Joseph's College, Brisbane	England won by 57 runs	wa475
1 Jan 1985	3rd Test	Australia v England	Gabba, Brisbane	Draw	wt75
7 Jan 1985	2-day	New South Wales v England	Pratten Park, Ashfield, Sydney	Draw	wf987
10 Jan 1985	50 over	NSW Country v England	Primary Club Field, Dooralong	England won by 4 wickets	wmisc2504
12 Jan 1985	4th Test	Australia v England	Grahame Park, Gosford	Australia won by 117 runs	wt76
17 Jan 1985	55 over	AWCC's President's XI v	Manuka Oval, Canberra	England won by 5 wickets	wmisc2505
20 Jan 1985	55 over	Victoria v England	Aberfeldie Park, Melbourne	England won by 8 wickets	wa476
21 Jan 1985	55 over	Victoria v England	Aberfeldie Park, Melbourne	Victoria won by 4 wickets	wa477
25 Jan 1985	5th Test	Australia v England	Queen Elizabeth II Oval,	Australia won by 7 wickets	wt77
31 Jan 1985	1st ODI	Australia v England	South Melbourne Cricket Ground	Australia won by 6 runs	wo71
2 Feb 1985	2nd ODI	Australia v England	Aberfeldie Park, Melbourne	Australia won by 138 runs	wo72
3 Feb 1985	3rd ODI	Australia v England	Aberfeldie Park, Melbourne	Australia won by 9 wickets	wo73

Raelee Thompson AM

(Australian Women's Test Player #75)

Full name: Raelee Helen Thompson
Born: 3rd August 1945, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia
Batting: Right-hand batter
Bowling: Right-arm fast-medium
First Test: Australia Women v New Zealand Women at St Kilda Cricket Ground, Melbourne, February 5-8 1972 (Four-Day Match)
Last Test: Australia Women v England Women at Queen Elizabeth II Oval, Bendigo, January 25-28, 1985 (Four-Day Match)
Test matches: Sixteen



Batting & Fielding

M	I	NO	Runs	Ave	50	100	Ct	St
16	22	8	162	11.57	0	0	12	0

HS: 25 v New Zealand, Only Test 1971/71, at St Kilda Cricket Ground

Bowling

B	M	W	Runs	Ave	SR	ER	5wi	10wm
4304	276	57	1040	18.24	75.50	1.44	1	0

BB1: 5/33 v England, 5th Test 1984/85 at Queen Elizabeth II Oval, Bendigo.

BBM: 8/31 v New Zealand, 2nd Test 1978/79 at Unley Oval, Adelaide

Raelee Thompson - played netball and softball at various primary schools, discovering cricket when she went to Shepparton High School. She moved to Melbourne in 1966 to play A-Grade softball. An opening bowler, who could bat when required, Thompson first played for Victoria in 1970. A dedicated cricketer, she worked hard at her game, stating that "I used to practise, practise, and then practise some more".

She made her Australian debut in the Test against New Zealand in 1972, getting a place in the team when Anne Gordon broke her arm. Thompson then toured England and the West Indies, playing in the first World Cup in 1973. By the 1975 tour of New Zealand, Thompson and Sharon Tredrea were the spearheads of the Australian attack. Thompson was the main wicket taker on the 1976 tour of the West Indies and England. Later in 1976, she starred in a promotional game at Oxenham Park, Brisbane, organised by the QWCA featuring "Thommo against Thommo" - Raelee Thompson and Jeff Thomson. While Jeff hit Raelee for six, she had the satisfaction of clean-bowling him in her second over.

Thompson played in the Test in Perth against India in 1977, and two years later took 4/14 and 4/17 in Australia's victory in the 2nd Test against New Zealand. A member of the team that won the second World Cup in India in 1978, she was made vice-captain for the third World Cup, held in New Zealand in 1982.

Thompson had an outstanding series during the Jubilee Test series against England in 1984/85. Vice-captain for the 1st Test at the WACA, she took over the captaincy for the four remaining Tests after Sharon Tredrea was injured. Australia won the Ashes and Thompson was the outstanding bowler with 18 wickets at an average of 15.72. In the final and deciding Test at Bendigo, Raelee secured her best figures of 5/33 in the first innings and announced her retirement at the end of the series.

At her retirement her 57 Test wickets was second best by an Australian, behind Betty Wilson's 68. Thompson served as a Victorian and Australian selector.

Raelee Thompson was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2022, and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2025 Australia Day honours list.

Profile by Amanda Weaver, for Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket

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: The Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket, Wisden Cricketers' Almanac - various issues.
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