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**Media Release**For Immediate Release

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**Australian Blind Cricket Team show how they'll take it to the World at the World's only 2 day cricket event where no game is played!**

*Members of the Australian Blind Cricket Team will be padding up to demonstrate how their particular version of cricket is played.*

The Australian Festival of Cricket is proud to announce that demonstrations of Blind Cricket will be conducted at the event on 11 and 12 November at Bradman Oval Bowral.

"In a very full schedule of coaching clinics, displays and other demonstrations at the Festival, the highlight will be the Blind Cricketers from the Australian Team", said event director, Elizabeth Nichols.

A demonstration pitch is being made for the team to their specifications and they are looking forward to showing the variants that assist them with playing the great game of cricket.

Stephen Fagg, Australian Blind Cricket Council Director, Vision Impaired Cricket Director & Tournament Director for 29<sup>th</sup> National Blind Cricket Championships, is excited by the opportunity event organisers have provided to the Blind Cricket Council. "We are looking forward to demonstrating the rules of Blind Cricket and explain our version of the sport to such a large group of people", said Stephen. "The team is thrilled at the opportunity to be on Bradman Oval. It is a great opportunity to promote our sport to the wider community".

One of those demonstrating will be Nejat Naydardedeoglu, (or Nick Haydar for short), the number one ranked blind batsman in the world. Recently Nick was selected as the Vice Captain of the Australian team. The 2006 World Cup will be his 3<sup>rd</sup> and he believes the team has got what it takes to win.

Blind cricket is similar to traditional cricket with minor modifications. The ball must be bowled underarm with at least 2 bounces on the pitch either side of the halfway line. Over the last 30 years the ball used for blind cricket has changes significantly from a woven cane ball dunked in water, to a nylon ball and now to a hardened plastic ball. All balls make a rattling sound enabling people with little or no vision to play the sport. Where there is a batsman who cannot see at all or who has very little sight, a runner is provided for them to act on their behalf when running between the wickets.

In 1998 Australian Blind Cricket team played in the inaugural World Cup for blind cricket in Delhi India. They are currently preparing for upcoming world cup for blind cricket in Pakistan in late November 2006.

One of the more formal aspects of the Australian Festival of Cricket is the award of the Festival of Cricket Medal for "Service to Cricket". One of the finalists nominated is Michael Linke who has been instrumental in developing blind cricket in Australia. The medal is presented at the "Big Swing" Cricket Cocktail Party on the evening of 11 November.

The Australian Festival of Cricket is the only 2 day cricket event in the world where there is no game played ... but the oval is filled with coaching clinics, activities, the world's first NetsMatch, Speedball, demonstrations, informative forums and discussions... and it is all FREE!

As James Sutherland, CEO of Cricket Australia said recently, "There is something for everybody at the festival and one event we're looking forward to in particular is the great debate on the eve of the first 3 mobile Ashes Test: "Why England will retain the Ashes" versus "How Australia will win the Ashes". The excitement is definitely building."

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Details: Australian Festival of Cricket  
Bradman Oval and Museum, Bowral NSW  
11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
[www.festivalofcricket.com](http://www.festivalofcricket.com)

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