

Press Release

23/9/05

Women's Cricket World Cup and Jason Gillespie on their way to the Sommers Festival of Cricket in Bowral

Women's Cricket's coveted World Cup will be on display at the world's first Festival of Cricket, in Bowral NSW, October 1 and 2, 2005. The trophy, won in South Africa earlier this year, is testament to the strength of Women's Cricket in Australia.

The win was a fitting farewell for the team's long-standing Captain, Belinda Clarke who retired this year. Clarke has been described as "the Bradman of Women's Cricket". During the Festival of Cricket, the World Cup trophy can be viewed in the Bradman Museum, in Bowral. It will be in place for a photo opportunity as from Thursday September 29.

New career direction for Jason Gillespie?

Australian Test bowler Jason Gillespie will be at the Sommers Festival of Cricket on Sunday October 2. The feisty, mulletted Gillespie is soon to release his own fashion label and has new plans for his first class cricketing career.

In the midst of heavy game commitments with his home club Adelaide, Jason has generously given his time in support the Festival. "It's important to acknowledge the efforts of all those in the background who support our great game," said Gillespie. "They range from the professionals who prepare the wicket and organise first class games to the army of Mums and Dads who give so much of their time to junior cricket. This is the first time all the aspects of cricket have been brought together for one event. It's brilliant idea and great for the game! "

A feast-of-all that is cricket!

At the Festival, cricket-lovers of all ages can learn the game's secrets from leading umpires like Simon Taufel, curators like the SCG's Tom Parker, bat makers, ball makers, cricket writers, statisticians, the media, helmet makers, artists, poets, nets makers, synthetic wicket makers, coaches, managers, even a test team Chaplain, Dr Mark Tronson and cricket poet Michael Darby. They can ask Dean Jones about the recent Ashes Series or watch as a Sommers bat is made.

Some of the many forums causing great interest at the Festival are a "Morning Tea with Bill Brown OAM, one of Bradman's famous 1948 "Invincibles" and "Cocktails with cricket raconteur Max Walker or Kerry O'Keefe". Other events include The Selectors' Forum with Mark Waugh and John Benaud, the Curators' Forum run by SCG's Tom Parker, the Writers' Forum, the Umpires' Forum, The Artists' Forum and the Bradman Era. While these events do incur a fee, the rest of the Festival is free.

James Sutherland, CEO of Cricket Australia said the Festival of Cricket was a novel idea for all cricket fans. "Cricket Australia supports the Festival of Cricket concept – it's great to see various off-field aspects of the game come together under the one promotional event," Mr Sutherland said.

David Gilbert, ex-first class player for Australia and now CEO of Cricket NSW, commented at the launch of the Festival "You see a concept like this and you think to yourself how obvious yet it has never been done before", said David. "Cricket NSW is looking forward to supporting this fantastic concept and it will serve very nicely for us in terms of the launch of the 05/06 cricket season"

For photo and interview opportunities, please contact Elizabeth Nichols on (02)4861 7100 Further details can be found on the Festival website: www.festivalofcricket.com



Our Supporters



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