

## **Cricket in Literature**

### **Guests for The Book Shelf**

Michael Brissenden

Warwick Hadfield – Cricket expert

Marion Stell

Inga Simpson

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_cricket\\_terms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_cricket_terms)

### **Book Featured on the Show**

Willowman by Inga Simpson – so far mostly found links to buy the book more than reviews

**Testimonials found on Inga's website:** <https://www.ingasimpson.com.au/>

'What a wonderful book. What a read. A love story to cricket, to families, to craft and to music. Beautifully written' Michael Brissenden

'Not since Jasper Jones have I been so utterly spellbound by the next ball, the state of the pitch and the intricacies of scoring' KATE MILDENHALL

'Heartfelt . . . Uplifting . . . Simpson explores family, priorities, the pain of making difficult choices and the knowledge that it's never too late to start over. This is an uplifting book that will satisfy both cricket lovers and readers who enjoy loving stories about beginning again' BOOKS+PUBLISHING

'A fabulous novel. Inga Simpson brings all her craft and sensitivity to a story that has never been told, and now that she has done it, it feels like this was a story that was needing to be told. With her art, Inga joins the likes of Meg Lanning, Ellyse Perry and Alyssa Healy in the vanguard of cricket's exciting new revolution. Long may it last' MALCOLM KNOX

'Joyous storytelling at its best. I was enthralled' SARAH WINMAN, author of Still Life.

'I bloody loved this - a gorgeous, heartbreaking examination of so much more than cricket' ROBBIE ARNOTT, author of Limberlost.

'At times I read Willowman breathlessly, in its celebration of the highs and lows of cricket, the drama and daydream, the hope and despair, the catches and misses and final balls. Other times it was a balm for the nervous system, a reflection on the art of sport, the thrill of paying attention, the aliveness of the natural world.'

Moving, gripping, authentic, so tenderly-told; at once a page-turner and a life-giving meditation – Willowman is just magic'  
Brooke Davis

### **Reception of Willowman:**

Has been called wonderful, a love story to cricket, beautifully written – Michael Brissenden  
Heartfelt, uplifting, satisfy cricket lovers and readers who love stories about beginning again  
– Books and Publishing

Fabulous novel, a story that has never been told. Vanguard of cricket's new revolution –  
Malcolm Knox

Joyous storytelling – Sarah Winman

Heartbreaking examination of more than cricket – Robbie Arnott

### **Themes**

Bodyline cricket tour AUS v UK

Conflict with England

Role of cricket in the novels

How the novels approach cricket

Role of empire

The golden summer before the war

### **Questions**

How cricket appears in novels?

Does it uphold empire?

### **Authors**

Kamila Shamsie

William McInnes

Craig Silvey

Steven Carroll

Michael A Knox

Jock Serong

Michael Wagner

David Warner

Felice Arena

Neville Cardus

Alan Ross

CLR James

Mike Brearley

John Arlott

David Foot

Gideon Haigh

Stephen Chalke  
Ramachandra Guha  
Scyld Berry

### **Other Books About Cricket or featuring cricket**

- The Bodyline Fix: How Women Saved Cricket by Marion Stell (History of Women's Cricket in Australia) – I have seen this appear several times, and it also appeared as a promoted book in my NLA Bookshop Newsletter today – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- Chinaman by Shehan Karunatilaka (Sri Lankan author, 2022 Booker Prize winner)
- Best of Friends by Kamila Shamsie
- Cricket Kings by William McInnes
- Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey
- The Gift of Speed by Steven Carroll
- Private Man by Malcolm A Knox
- The Rules of Backyard Cricket by Jock Serong
- The Call by Martin Flanagan (a revised edition is available from Booktopia)
- The Goat, The Sofa and the Swami by R. Chandrasekar
- Clearing the Boundaries: The Rise of Australian Women's Cricket by Fiona Bollen and Matt Bosner
- The Taliban Cricket Club by Timeri N Murari

### **Cricket in Children's/Middle Grade/Young Adult Books**

- Nice Garry: Bowled Over by Nathan Lyon and Michael Wagner
- Nice Garry: In a Spin by Nathan Lyon and Michael Wagner
- Kaboom Kid series by David Warner
- Sporty Kids: Cricket! By Felice Arena, illustrated by Tom Jellett
- Maxx Rumble series by Michael Wagner
- Mighty Mitch series by Mitchell Starc
- Ellyse Perry series by Ellyse Perry and Sherryl Clark
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### **Cricket**

Cricket Australia 'Member Associations'

<https://www.cricketaustralia.com.au/about/member-associations> , Cricket Australia, accessed 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

- First central administrative body for cricket in Australia was established in March 1892
- Delegates from the state associations of NSW, South Australia and Victoria established the Australasian Cricket Council

- Six member associations: Cricket New South Wales, Queensland Cricket, South Australian Cricket Association, Cricket Tasmania, Cricket Victoria, Western Australian Cricket Association
- Two non-member associations -Cricket ACT and NT Cricket

### **Cricket Australia History**

Cricket Australia 'Our History' <https://www.cricketaustralia.com.au/about/our-history>, accessed 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

- March 1892 – first central administration established
- Disbanded 7 years later in 1899
- Australian Board for Control of International Cricket formed in 1905
- Constitution formally amended in 1906 to allow one QD representative, 3 EACH from NSW, South Australia, and Victoria
- Tasmania – one representative from 1907
- WA -1913
- 1914 – Two from Queensland
- 1974 – two from WA
- Became Australian Cricket Board in 1973
- Became Cricket Australia on 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2003

Moodie, Anthea and Iliffe, David 'Australian women cricketers brought back hope, rivalry, in Test against England during Great Depression' <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-30/australian-female-cricketers-1930s-saved-sporting-relationships/101578098> ABC Southern Queensland, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

- Australia in grip of Depression and controversy of bodyline in the men's Ashes series
- Low in sporting relations between Australia and England
- Women asked to in 1934 inaugural Test series against England
- 1930s a strong period for women's sport – national teams established
- First official women's cricket game played in Bendigo, Victoria in 1855 – booming for decades
- Less attention given to Sir Donald Bradman's mother Emily Whatman
- Late 1890s – Whatman played in an intercolonial cricket competition between main states
- She bowled to The Don every afternoon after school – left-arm seamers
- 1931 – Australian Women's Cricket Council formed
- Established an interstate competition
- Popular
- Test matches against England the priority
- 1934 Brisbane summer, six-week boat trip an advantage for England (the visitors)
- Australia didn't win a game
- 1937 – Australia toured England and won first five games
- Word War II halted the growth of the game, despite its success
- England 1939/1940 tour of Australia cancelled
- Post-World War II – women asked to go back to the home

- One generation's gains don't always carry on into the next

Wilson, Georgia 'Howzat: Showcasing 140 years of female cricketing history in Australia' <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-08/140-years-of-women-playing-cricket-in-australia/6283406> ABC Radio Sydney. 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015

- Invention of round-arm bowling
- Pioneering spirit of women's cricket began – 1874, Bendigo, Victoria
- 100 years after first game women participated in the first World Cup for cricket in England
- Establishing selves at home and abroad
- Created a style of play – change how men approached the game
- Coincided with an exhibition of the history of women's cricket at Bowral Bradman Museum
- History of the sport from a female perspective
- Many first associated with the women's game
- Round-arm bowling invented because they couldn't bowl underarm with their skirts
- Overtook the dominant under-arm bowling style
- Men copied women to use this style
- Men followed in the footsteps of women pioneers
- But cricket seen as a male dominated sport
- A game of Empire
- Sanctioned by British aristocracy
- Women played alongside men
- 1958 – Betty Wilson first ever player to make first Test century whilst taking 10 wickets in same test
- 1998 – Belinda Clark – first to score 200 runs in a one-day international event
- 1973 – first World Cup in England an all women affair – predated the one for men by two years
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Gaffney, Annie and Wykeham, Ollie 'Australia's Indigenous cricketing history explored in new documentary and exhibition We Are One' <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-30/we-are-one-first-nations-cricket-first-xi/101585356> ABC RN/ABC Sunshine Coast 30th October 2022

- 1868 – First ever international team sent to England to play cricket
- All Indigenous
- First XI celebrated in an exhibition and a documentary by film director and Malyangapa/Barkindji woman Sasha Parlett and photographer Claire Letitia Reynolds
- Article quotes Ms Reynolds as saying Cricket Australia was inclusive when they didn't name the Jan 26 Big Bash games the Australia Day Test
- Cricket for Indigenous Australians
- Project features elders from Queensland and Victoria, current First Nations cricketers, and two descendants from the 1868 side
- Aunty Fiona Clark – great-great granddaughter of Grongarrong (Mosquito)

- Uncle Richard Kennedy – great-great grandson of Yaggendyinadyuk (Dick-a-Dick)
- Portraits on art paper with hand-crafted dye from native leaves such as Swamp Bloodwood and Narrow-leaved Red Gum
- Participants interviewed about experience as a First Nations cricketer or their knowledge of the First XI
- Tell the story of the First XI and the experiences First Nations cricketers today
- Journeyed through NSW, Queensland, and Victoria
- Traced story back to Harrow, Victoria – story of First XI told by the local Discovery Centre
- Annual Mullagh Cup played between descendants of the original Indigenous side and non-Indigenous players
- Edenhope – the town where the team first gathered to practice
- Parlett – walk through their steps
- Almost all 1868 players were from Victoria – Queensland not a state at this stage
- Tom Wills – cricketer from wealthy NSW family descended from convicts formed the team
- Many players came from settlements where the game was played
- Jallacharamin/James Crowe – one player who came from the Sunshine Coast – A Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi man
- Wills saw the potential and athletic prowess of the players, began training them
- Thought they could make money, decided to tour England
- 2021 – John McPherson, descendant of Wills stated that Wills had participated in revenge killings of the Gayiri people at the 1861 Snake Ridge Massacre
- Other descendants claim McPherson has made an error about Wills’ involvement in the massacres
- First XI players had to be smuggled out of Victoria due to the Aboriginal Protection Act – gave government full control over the lives of Aboriginal people
- Team played to substantial crowds in counties all over England – Lords
- Played 47 matches between May and October 1868
- Won 14, Lost 14, and drew 19 – National Museum of Australia
- Gave demonstrations of culture between matches and during lunch breaks
- Took local Indigenous tools with them
- First XI garnered respect in England
- Some of them died there
- Encountered diseases that were not present in Australia
- Those in charge of exhibition told there are monuments in England dedicated to the players lost in travel

Darling, Alexander ‘First XI of 1868: The Story of the all-Aboriginal cricket side that was Australia’s first sports team to tour overseas’ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-04-03/first-xi-of-1868-all-aboriginal-cricket-team-black-cockatoo/100948874> ABC Wimmera 3rd April 2022

- Australia’s identity linked with our athletes – funeral of Shane Warne at the MCG
- Story of 1868 First XI told in a performance by an all-Indigenous cast
- Played called Black Cockatoo
- 13 cricketers who learned the game from Wimmera settlers

- Partly trained by British cricketer Charles Lawrence and Australian Rules founder Tom Wills
- Smuggled out of Victoria to play in England
- Won or drew 33 out of 47 games
- Mourned death of teammate King Cole from tuberculosis
- Play is a tale of triumph, racism, exploitation, culture clash and truth
- References intense discussions about what Indigenous Australians want to achieve through truth-telling
- Entirely Indigenous cast, even for the white characters – means Indigenous people own the story
- Phase of history where ideas of sovereignty and treaty, art and sport – play an important role in how stories are told
- Uncovering of truth of what happened to Johnny Mullagh – Unaarrimin and his cricket team
- Most of the plot reflects exactly what happened
- Players not treated like heroes when they returned – Uncle Richard Kennedy
- Dumped in Sydney to find their own way home
- Never paid – thought they could make money to help their families
- Tour not profitable
- Had to live out days on missions meant to Christianise them
- Johnny Mullagh's grave venerates him – cemetery overlooking Harrow
- Play Black Cockatoo is the latest in a series of initiatives to recognise the story of the First XI
- Horsham – silo to be painted to commemorate Yaggendyinadyuk (Dick-A-Dick)
- Dick-A-Dick and two other Indigenous trackers also saved three lost children in Victorian desert in 1864
- Best player in Melbourne Boxing Day Test gets the Johnny Mullagh medal
- 2021 recipient was Indigenous bowler Scott Boland
- Boland created history taking 6/7 off of four overs on the third day
- Visited Harrow in 2018 for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Oly 2<sup>nd</sup> Indigenous man to play cricket for Australia
- Justin Mohamed, co-chair of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cricket Advisory Council – confidence he won't be the last
- Cricket Australia – 2017-18 to 2020-21 – 23% growth in participation in sport amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Four male and five female in Big Bash seasons
- Less pleasant aspects shouldn't be omitted
- A way of giving everyone in Australia the history of Australia because it is part of our history and part of cricket
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## **Bodyline**

State Library of NSW 'Bodyline Cricket series, 1932-1933: The controversial series where England introduced an aggressive bowling style'

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/bodyline-cricket-series-1932-33>

- Ran from 1932-1933

- 'Bodyline' bowling style that targeted the batsman's body
- Aggressive fast bowling style – batsmen couldn't move out the way
- Caused severe injury – captain Bill Woodfull struck by a ball in the chest, and wicketkeeper Bert Oldfield – fractured skull.
- Split English side

National Museum of Australia 'Bodyline: 1932-33 English Cricket team on "bodyline" Ashes tour' <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/bodyline>

Digital Team, 'Bodyline – The Tactic that Changed the Game', <https://www.bradman.com.au/bodyline-the-tactic-that-changed-the-game/> , The Bradman Centre, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011

- 1932 – Bradman aged 25
- English not happy with his cricket skills
- Bodyline, Fast Leg Theory born
- Bodyline was 22 matches
- October 1932 to March 1933
- Changed the face of cricket

Watson, Grieg 'Bodyline: 80 Years of cricket's greatest controversy' <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-21013615> , BBC News, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013

- Bodyline tour controversial
- Said to be unsportsmanlike
- Australia dominated England during a 1930 tour
- Bradman averaged 139.14
- Tactic formed to exploit Bradman's weakness – said to be balls bouncing to his chest
- Bodyline brought victory to England
- Bradman didn't play in Bodyline tour
- Not seen as a part of cricket
- Wisden – most unpleasant Test ever played
- Rite of passage story we all learn about in Australia
- Legal but seen as outside the spirit of the game

## **Cricket and Empire**

Naha, Souvik 'Batting for the British Empire: How Victorian cricket was more than just a game' [historyextra.com/period/cricket-colonialism-role-british-empire/](http://historyextra.com/period/cricket-colonialism-role-british-empire/) History Extra, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

- Idea of cricket being central to British identity
- A marker of English identity



- Used to separate white soldiers from Native soldiers in India
- Seen as a potential to solidify the empire by British politicians
- Role of Christian missionaries in spreading empire to those they saw as 'non-believing natives'
- Australia, New Zealand and South Africa – white colonists distanced themselves from local cricket – influenced the way tournaments were named – Sheffield Shield, Plunkett Shield, Currie Cup
- In Australia – cricket – sense of exclusiveness, racialized nationalism so they could self-identify as citizens of the British world, yet not subjects of the empire
- Beating England – sense of national belonging between colonial guards, officials, convicts, and free settlers
- Also, those with English ancestry could celebrate this
- National identity of Australia expressed powerfully after emergence as a self-governing Dominion
- Bodyline – 1932-1933 – English bowlers used the tactic of directing short, sharp deliveries at the bodies of Australian batsmen – this strained the diplomatic relationship between Australia and England
- Power to shape diplomacy exploited by Indigenous groups
- Became a weapon to beat colonisers at their own game
- Changing relationship between colonisers and the colonised
- A tool to resist British criticism of Caribbean masculinity
- Empire is still woven into fabric of cricket
- Hasn't shed tag of game of the empire

Dzikus, Lars and Love, Adam 'How India Came to Love Cricket, Favored Sport of its colonial British rulers' <https://theconversation.com/how-india-came-to-love-cricket-favored-sport-of-its-colonial-british-rulers-132302> The Conversation, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020

- Came to India with the East India Company
- First cricket match said to be played by sailors in 1721 in Khambat
- Introduction of traditions and sports helped colonisers affirm cultural superiority and justify their rule
- Indians made the sport their own
- Parsis – enthusiastic about the sport
- Formed their own teams by the mid-1800s
- English sports surpassed traditional Indian sports
- 1947- cricket seen by some as blocking path to independence
- Cricket fans continued to attend local contests
- Bombay Pentangular – teams had Europeans, Parsis, Hindus, Muslims, and other minority faiths. An annual tournament
- 1971 triumph in England – stepping stone to rise as national sport in India
- English defeated at own game, on own turf by a country that they had colonised
- A multi-billion-dollar industry in India
- Indian Premier League inaugurated in 2008
- Features Twenty20 cricket
- Twenty20 – matches over in 3 hours, encourage aggressive, offensive play
- Helped locate India at centre of cricketing world

## History of Cricket

Cricket Lab 'The History of Cricket', <https://www.cricketlab.co/cricket-history>, accessed 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022

- Believed to have started in the late middle ages
- Derek Birley – suggests cricket arrived in England with the French during the Norman invasion – criquet – club ball – this was the game Edward III supposedly eradicated in 1369
- Creag – a derivative of creaget – 1299-1300 in the Royal Wardrobe accounts of Edward II to play creag and other games
- But no evidence that creag and criquet were the same
- Cricket as we understand it was first recorded as a game played by schoolboys in Guildford in the 16<sup>th</sup> century
- 1611 – being played by adults
- As it evolved in the working classes and the aristocracy, gambling became central
- 1696 – played in Sussex – 11 a side, played for 50 guineas a piece
- Growing in upper classes and recreational past time for rural workers
- Southern counties
- Composite teams crossed class divides – wat to employ the best players -early 1700s
- At this time – North London – cradle of game – matches at Islington at White Conduit Field – had a 'field keeper' for cricket, Angel Inn as amenities
- 1718 match – cricket taken to law courts
- Hambledon in Hampshire also claimed to be Cradle of Cricket
- Matches at Broad Down at Halfpenny – where cricket began to assume the character it now possesses
- Hambledon was written about by John Nyren – captured spirit of the club, and the class segregation, as well as the rich and varied club life.
- Spread through England – first recorded game played in Yorkshire in 1750s
- 1744 – Laws of Cricket codified
- 1788 – revised by Marylebone Cricket Club
- 1760 – evolution of overarm bowling, replaced underarm bowling
- Various techniques for bowling developed
- Craft of batting developed as well
- Straight Bat introduced to counter new bowling techniques
- Hockey stick style of bat out of fashion
- Spread of cricket began with colonialism
- 1800s – had reached the West Indies and India, 1788 – played in Australia at inception of colonisation
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century played in South Africa and New Zealand
- 1868 – Australian Aboriginal team toured England
- 1877 – start of oldest rivalry between Australia and England
- 1882 – England lost and a mock obituary written for English cricket. A bail was burnt and given to English Cricket captain in an urn
- This began the Ashes – played every 2 years between Australia and England for the urn

- 1889 – South Africa became third Test nation
- 1900 – appeared for first and only time at the Olympics
- Could be readmitted as 20-20 cricket
- 1909 – Imperial Cricket Conference formed – England, Australia and South Africa as members
- India, West Indies, and New Zealand – Test nations pre-WWII, Pakistan post-WWII
- Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh – towards end of 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- 1932-1933 – Bodyline controversy
- 1970-s 'D'Oliveira Affair – South Africa out of International cricket for 20 years
- Refused to receive English team with Cape Coloured Basil D'Oliveira
- Cast out until release of Nelson Mandela and institution of multi-racial cricket
- 1970s – game became professional and players given a living wage
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ICC 'History of Cricket' <https://www.icc-cricket.com/about/cricket/history-of-cricket/early-cricket>, accessed 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Reviews

Chakraborty, Abhrajyoti 'Best of Friends by Kamila Shamsie review – anatomy of a friendship', <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/sep/25/best-of-friends-by-kamila-shamsie-review-anatomy-of-a-friendship>, The Guardian, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022

- This reviewer felt Shamsie wrote about the self-consciousness of her 14-year-old characters Zahra and Maryam in a resourceful way.
- Felt it was evasive – sounds like the reviewer felt that some things were not as clear as they could have been. Query: Did the things Shamsie was supposedly vague about affect how people read the book?
- Evasive – we're told things happened, but it sounds like there are things like notes between friends we don't get to read/see. Adds to the evasiveness, and do we think this gives a sense of something being hidden from the reader, distrusting the reader? Potentially, the reader might not get to know the character as well as they would like?

Rashid, Tanjil 'Best of Friends by Kamila Shamsie review – Karachi to London' <https://www.booksandpublishing.com.au/articles/2022/08/23/218860/willowman-inga-simpson-hachette/> The Guardian, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

- Doesn't talk about the presence of cricket
- Focus on the post-colonial nature of the story
- Picks up on issues of class and race a lot more than the other review above
- Compares Kamila's book to the Neapolitan quartet
- Calls it a novel of maturing of an artistic consciousness – Künstlerroman
- Discusses the contrast between the familiar of English school dynamics versus the absurdity of the post-colonial situation

Bagnato, Danielle 'Willowman (Inga Simpson, Hachette), <https://www.booksandpublishing.com.au/articles/2022/08/23/218860/willowman-inga-simpson-hachette/> Books and Publishing, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

- Calls it heartfelt
- Thoughtful, gentle
- Bagnato says it has the 'detail of someone who lives and breathes cricket'
- Says this is what makes it a book for all readers
- Uplifting book
- Says it will satisfy cricket lovers and those who like stories about starting over

McClintock, Rosalind 'Best of Friends by Kamila Shamsie' <https://www.readings.com.au/reviews/best-of-friends-by-kamila-shamsie> Readings Online. 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022

- Richly drawn characters

- Says the first half was the strongest
- Contrast between London and Karachi sections – reflects process of ageing?
- Or could be a narrative device

Jackson, Julia 'The Bodyline Fix by Marion Stell' <https://www.readings.com.au/reviews/the-bodyline-fix-by-marion-stell> Readings Online 19th September 2022

## Articles

Kynaston, David 'Top Ten Books About Cricket' <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/may/23/top-10-books-about-cricket> – The Guardian, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

- Days in the Sun by Neville Cardus
- Australia 55 by Alan Ross
- Beyond a Boundary by CLR James
- Art of Captaincy by Mike Brearley
- Concerning Cricket by John Arlott
- Beyond Bat and Ball by David Foot
- The Cricket War by Gideon Haigh
- One More Run by Stephen Chalke
- A Corner of a Foreign Field by Ramachandra Guha
- Cricket: The Game of Life by Scyld Berry

UNI SQ 'How Women Saved Australian Cricket: Untold Story of Aussie sport detailed in new book launched at University of Southern Queensland'

<https://www.unisq.edu.au/news/2022/10/women-saved-australian-cricket> , October 2022

Castles, Simon 'Beyond the Boundary: Where Are the Australian Cricket Novels?' <https://www.killyourdarlings.com.au/article/beyond-the-boundary-where-are-the-australian-cricket-novels/> , Kill Your Darlings 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

- Asks where the novels about cricket in Australia are
- Cricket central to our history and culture absent in Australian novels
- Mentions novels that feature the game
- Focuses on the lack of books that (when the article was written in 2015) about cricket
- Compares this to all the American books about baseball
- Cites lack of interest and passion for the game as a reason
- Antipathy on the writer's part too because it would, so says the author, represent a sports-mad nation.
- Can't untangle it from colonialism and imperialism? Same in South Africa, India, New Zealand (according to the author)
- **Narrative of cricket – how Britain civilised people in the empire (I'm thinking this could be a thread to look for?)**
- Role of the English village green as 'the natural home of cricket'

- Points out that cricket has also played a role in decolonisation and change too
- Suggests that an Australian cricket novel needs to explore ideas of colonialism, imperialism, decolonisation, and the society, culture and politics of cricket in Australia.
- Really questions how a novelist can approach all of these things in the context of cricket in Australia

Pan Macmillan 'The Best books about Cricket' -

<https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/best-books-cricket-fiction-nonfiction> - Pan Macmillan Publishers, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

- Netherland by Joseph O'Neill
- England, their England
- The Go-Between by L.P Hartley
- Murder Must Advertise by Dorothy L Sayers
- Memoirs of a Foxhunting Man by Siegfried Sassoon
- Psmith in the City by P.G. Wodehouse
- Life, the Universe, and Everything

### **Non-Fiction**

- Beyond a Boundary by CLR James
- The Art of Captaincy by Mike Brearley
- Coming Back to Me by Marcus Trescothick
- Following On by Emma John
- AB de Villiers: The Autobiography by AB de Villiers
- The Picador Book of Cricket by Ramachandra Guha
- Selection Day by Aravind Adiga

### **Trends**

- Books about cricket for kids often by cricketers – a new trend in the children's book world where sports people are writing or collaborating with an author to write books about their sport often featuring them as the character.