

# Reconciliation Rounds

1 – 8 February 2020



WACA



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABORIGINAL PLAYERS

Cricket is not only a great game, it is one that has a rich history of Aboriginal engagement in Australia's favourite sport.

Historical records mention the involvement of Aboriginal people playing cricket over 220 years ago, in the early days of the European settlement at Sydney. Of note is the 1866 Boxing Day Match between an Aboriginal Team and the MCC, played at the MCG, the 150th anniversary of which was celebrated at the Test Match between Australia and Pakistan at the same venue in 2016.

The 1866 match was the precursor to the 1868 tour of England by an all-Aboriginal side, making it the first team of any sport to represent Australia internationally, 14 years before the first Ashes tour.

In the 1880s, the New Norcia Mission was home to an Aboriginal cricket team whose brilliant wins by huge margins earned them the nickname 'The Invincibles'.

In 1958 Faith Thomas became the first Aboriginal woman to represent Australia in any sport. In 2019 Ashleigh Gardiner became the second Aboriginal woman to gain test match honours with the Australian Women's Team.

The 1988 bicentennial celebrations included a second tour to England of an all-Aboriginal team. It was captained by Western Australia's John McGuire,

a well-respected batsman who scored over 10,000 first grade runs in WACA Premier Cricket.

It was not until 1996 for the first Indigenous Australian male, Jason Gillespie, to play cricket for Australia.

Since then, Cricket Australia and the WA Cricket Association have focussed on greater diversity in cricket and we now have increased numbers of Aboriginal people, women and girls, and people from diverse cultural and other backgrounds playing our great game.





## Australian Cricket Reconciliation Round

Across Australian Cricket clubs and associations are encouraged use their matches between the 1st and 8th of February as an opportunity to demonstrate crickets commitment to Reconciliation. This will be lead by the One Consistent Act and the Walkabout Wickets Match.

The WACA can offer support for additional opportunities to demonstrate Reconciliation.



## 1868 Aboriginal Cricket Team

In 1868 an Aboriginal cricket team made up of players predominantly from Western Victoria became Australia's first sporting team to tour Internationally when they embarked on a tour of the UK.

The Aboriginal XI played 47 matches against county and local teams, in the north and the south of England, between May and October 1868, including a match against the viscounts and the earls of Marylebone Cricket Club on the hallowed turf at Lord's. Impressively on tour the team won 14, drew 19 and lost 14 of their matches.

Most impressive was the team's resilience playing on 99 of a possible 126 days after three months at sea. Many view these cricketers as inspirational pioneers who paved the way for the first non-Indigenous Australian representative tour to England, some ten years later in 1878, as well as the first Test match against England in 1880





## Walkabout Wickets Match

The Australian Women's Cricket Team will wear an Aboriginal designed uniform when they take on England in a T20 international on 1 February 2020 on Ngunnawal Country, at Manuka Oval in Canberra. The match will both pay homage to the 1868 Aboriginal Cricket team and demonstrate Australian Cricket's ongoing commitment to reconciliation.

The T20 International fixture between Australian and England on 1 February 2020 in Canberra will also form part of an inaugural '*Reconciliation Round*' which will encourage the cricket community to celebrate and learn more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture.



## One Consistent Act

The one consistent act Cricket Australia and the WACA will encourage all clubs to do is the pre-match barefoot circle and commitment to reconciliation. Clubs will be encouraged to share this image on social media.

- Barefoot Circle - Together players and umpires will remove their shoes and form a barefoot circle with arms on each others backs as a sign of support.
- A prominent member of the Aboriginal community to be invited to speak on behalf of the local Traditional Owners
- This has already been performed at the WBBL match between the Perth Scorchers and the Adelaide Strikers and will also be done at the BBL match between the Perth Scorchers and Sydney Thunder





## Reconciliation Round

On the weekend during and after the **Walkabout Wickets Match** Women's fixture against England (1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February) WACA is encouraging clubs around WA to celebrate Aboriginal culture as part of a Reconciliation Round.

Clubs and Associations are encouraged to connect with their local Aboriginal mobs and the WACA to develop appropriate ways to incorporate Aboriginal culture into their fixture.





## Reconciliation Round *continued* >

The Reconciliation Rounds aim is to strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of Western Australian Cricket

Some activities the WACA may help support include:

- Pre-match Acknowledgement of Country or Welcome to Country
- Clubs to commission stumps painted by a local artist, to be placed where players enter and exit the ground. Pictured is an example with the WA Aboriginal Team and their stumps.
- Aboriginal Artwork Middle Stump Initiative (AAMSI)
- Social Media Templates
- Club to commission the uniforms designed by a local Aboriginal artist





## Who can help?

The WACA currently works with the several different people and organisations for WACA events, performances and designs. They may be able to help you with ideas or support your initiatives. Please note, as they are sharing their intellectual property, it is reasonable that they be remunerated. Please contact the WACA for more information or to learn how to connect with our local custodians.



## Get in contact

To get involved or for more information, please contact the WACA:

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