

## **Australian Cricket Tour 2018**



### **SYDNEY LEG (NEW SOUTH WALES) 12th DECEMBER**

The tour party flew out of Heathrow on the evening of the 10th December and touched down in Sydney on the morning of the 12th December under warm, blue skies. The morning was spent acclimatising and seeing the sights of Sydney. This included the obligatory photograph of the squad and the bridge.



The tour party were being billeted by the Knox families and having got the train from Knox to centre of Sydney, we returned fighting the urge to have a little nap to meet the host families at the school. The hospitality from all our hosts was an amazing part of the tour and Knox were no exception, kicking us off in fine style. After some food and a sleep, the squad prepared for Game 1 of the tour.

### **13th DECEMBER**

Knox Grammar School 1st XI v Felsted Touring XI (T20)

Knox GS 154-8 (C McHale 2 - 7, J Hoile 2-14) Felsted 101-5 (J Burslem 24, H Gallian 33, D Karr 19* D Townsend 10)
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It was a great effort by the bowling and fielding unit to take 8 wickets and restrict Knox to 154 - 8 and all the bowlers benefited from the run out. The extras were certainly an issue and the total could and should have been a more manageable 110. This young side shaped up well with the bat, but the scoring rate proved a little hard to maintain throughout the 20 overs and scoring runs under pressure was tough. The team had 40 overs under the belt and it was great to get the tour started on the field.



That evening the team and travelling support were all invited and hosted by the Wines family who put on an amazing evening for all. The tour is much more than just what happens on the field and the skills and life lessons learnt from billeting and socialising at these events are hopefully experiences that will leave a positive impact on the team.

## 14th DECEMBER

Knox Grammar School 1st XI v Felsted Touring XI (50 Overs)

Knox GS 280-5 (50 Overs) K Morley-Jacob 2-33  
Felsted DNB

The storms that had been around Sydney eventually intervened and Felsted were denied the opportunity to chase this challenging total. Knox built the score around a good 100 from their Captain, H Wines and the bowlers having bowled some good deliveries lacked consistency. Kit Morley-Jacob was the pick of the bowlers and managed to challenge all the batsman outside off stump and the odd shock bouncer. The main event of the innings was Joe Burslem in diving for a catch, pulled his hamstring badly and his inclusion in the rest of the tour was very much in doubt. A rehabilitation programme was put in place with the hope to get Joe back on the field. As tour Captain and the most experienced player on tour this was a worry for Joe and the team. On a more positive note, we met a familiar friend who was now living overseas.



After two tough days in the humid heat the team moved onto the next billets and Mosman Cricket Club. Last year's Captain, William Buttleman was playing for the club for the summer and was starting to make his mark with some big scores.

## 15th DECEMBER

Refreshed the team met early to make their way to the Northern Beaches of Sydney and the old hunting ground of Mr Gallian who grew up in Avalon. The journey out of Sydney was around 40 minutes and the scenic trip down was not lost on the group. The day was to be spent at Palm Beach while learning to surf.



**16th DECEMBER**

Mosman Cricket Club Development XI v Felsted Touring XI (30 Overs)

Felsted 135-6 (D Townsend 33, D Karr 33, A Akbar 24\*)  
 Mosman 135-6 (J O'Connor 3-17, J Woodmore 1-33)

This was a game that captured the imagination on the travelling support who had found a base on the boundary, just off the beach. This is probably a good time to mention the families that packed their bags to travel and support the tour while taking in the Australian summer. I think it is fair to say they made the most of the amazing friendships the tour has developed over the last 15 years in particular and this combined with supporting the team made for a superb trip.

Felsted made a steady start with the bat through David Townsend, but they never really got away from the opposition. Overnight rain had left the outfield slow and so the later ariel hitting of Dan Karr and Abdullah Akbar helped give the team a competitive total. Abdullah will talk you through his 6 off the final ball of the innings if you ask.



The game was always in the balance and Felsted at one point had dragged the over rate back once William Buttleman had holed out in the deep to the quick learning Josh O'Connor who bowled his off spin with excellent control. However, with wickets in hand Mosman were always slight favourites and went into the last over needing 6 to win. Elliot Snooks who was captain on the day stepped up and bowled a magnificent over, but with one ball left Mosman had secured the tie and just needed one run to win. Elliot held his nerve and beat the outside edge and the tie was secured in this fantastic tour game.



Just in the two and a half games in Sydney it was already clear that all the boys were capable of adding value to the team and with the coaches aiming to see all the boys have a chance to shine, this was a good start to the tour.

## **ADELAIDE LEG (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)**

### **17th DECEMBER**

So we said goodbye to Sydney and made the 2 hour flight across to South Australia and Adelaide. Adelaide can traditionally be extremely warm and so we were fortunate that the temperature on landing was a cool 30 degrees. The short bus journey from the airport saw us arrive at St Peter's College and the boys met their billets for the next two nights.

### **18th DECEMBER**

St Peter's College 1st XI v Felsted Touring XI (50 Overs)

Felsted 72 all out St Peter's College 73 - 0
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If the touring party was under any illusions about the level required to compete in the Adelaide leg, this was extremely evident after a few hours play. The boys didn't turn up and against a strong outfit kept losing wickets on a regular basis, on what was a difficult wicket. This was not helped with some poor decisions, but ultimately the chase became a formality once the team had only posted 72. St Peter's were in no mood to take the foot off the pedal at any time having lost out to Felsted in the 2015 tour. They traditionally are always one of the toughest fixtures on tour and they played very well on the day.

Despite the disaster on the field the touring party and parents were yet again treated to a fantastic evening and great friends were yet again made and the talk of the re-match at Felsted in 6 months time was already being muted!



## DECEMBER 19th

Pembroke College 1st XI v Felsted Touring XI (50 Overs)

Pembroke 187 all out (K Morley-Jacob 3-34, J O'Connor 3-25, A Akbar 1-22, C McHale 2-22)

Felsted 85 all out (J O'Connor 16, H Gallian 10, D Townsend 10)

Felsted were showing signs of missing captain and opening batsman Joe Burslem and chasing a very achievable total they fell away far too easily and the dent in confidence from the day before was there to see. The Pembroke team were experienced and a lot older than the Felsted team and the pressure created in the field really made it difficult for the team to rotate the strike.

Earlier in the day the bowling and fielding unit put in a fine display and without a positive 6th wicket partnership the total would have been around 130 at best. Josh O'Connor bowled his 10 overs off-spin beautifully and was well supported by Abdullah Akbar who only went for 22 from his 10 overs of leg spin. The spinners were well supported by Tom Gallian, Elliot Snooks, who only went at two's and James Woodmore. Kit Morley-Jacob was again threatening as the leader of the attack and Charlie McHale picked up some good wickets at the death. However, with two poor batting displays the post match team debrief was important.



Pembroke who will be touring the UK in 2020 again treated us to a great BBQ at the close of play and after a few speeches, before we drove the half a mile to meet our billets from Prince Alfred's College.

## **DECEMBER 20th**

Prince Alfred College 1st XI v Felsted Touring XI (2 Day Game)

DAY 1: (45 Overs max 1st Innings)

1st Innings: PAC 224 all out (44.3) (K Morley-Jacob 3-39, E Snooks 3-47, J Woodmore 3-29) 2nd Innings PAC 20 - 1 (10) 1st Innings Felsted 159 - 9 (45) (A Akbar 43, J Bird 28, J Hoile 28*, D Townsend 14)
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Day 1 closed with PAC with a lead of 84 and looking to set the game up on Day 2 and give themselves enough time to bowl Felsted out to win the game. Felsted needed some early wickets and a chance to set the total they were chasing. This was the big game on tour and the Barker-Dawe Trophy was in the balance.

The day was full of intrigue and had plenty of fine performances from the boys. The bowlers again took some vital wickets and key times and despite a dip in intensity in the middle of the day that allowed PAC to recover from 50-4 to get to a strong position at 180-4, before a great late comeback from the team. Kit Morley-Jacob again picked up wickets and Elliot Snooks was also showing he was enjoying the extra pace in the wickets. James Woodmore had a super spell to keep the team in the game.



**DECEMBER 21st** (Declaration - 100 Overs max in the day)

2nd Innings: PAC 149 - 8 (J O'Connor 3-41, J Hoile 2-25, E Snooks 1-20)  
Felsted required 204 to win, PAC 10 wickets  
2nd Innings: Felsted 206-4 (J Burslem 41, H Gallian 57\*, D Karr 54, A Akbar 12\*)

This was a special day for the tour party after two batting collapses and the chase from the team was outstanding and was as much a sign of the teams character as it was talent. PAC bowled brilliantly and it took some amazing batting from Harry Gallian (165 balls) and Dan Karr (135 balls) to blunt the aggressive bowling attack. They were supported by Joe Burslem who despite not fully fit was back batting at the top of the order and his experience and ability was certainly key to the victory.



The victory only came about due to some superb bowling and fielding earlier on day 2 and as PAC looked for quick runs, they lost wickets and helped Felsted grab some momentum going into the 2nd Innings. Josh O'Connor bowled well again and Jonny Hoile and Elliot Snooks kept the pressure on when given the chance with the ball. The game ebbed and flowed and was a fantastic advert for 2 day cricket with all the players fully involved in retaining the Barker-Dawe Trophy.



## DECEMBER 22nd

This was a very well deserved rest day with the Westminster billets who had met the boys the evening before as we travelled across the city ready for the next game. Westminster were part of the 2018 Festival and so the boys knew each other well and had a great day. The staff spent the day discussing cricket.



## DECEMBER 23rd

Westminster School 1st XI v Felsted Touring XI (50 Overs)

Westminster 179 all out (E Snooks 3-45, T Gallan 1-26, W Forsey 2-22, J Hoile 2-8) Felsted 182 - 5 (J Burslem 87*, D Townsend 26)
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The confidence generated by the PAC match was evident and the bowling unit again did enough to pick up wickets steadily throughout the innings and bowling Westminster out with 6.5 overs to go was crucial. Elliot Snooks bowled well again, despite being a little wayward at times. Walter Forsey was rewarded with 2 wickets for his spell and Jonny Hoile came on and got his lengths right immediately. Tom Gallian opened up and his economy rate kept Felsted in control that they kept for the duration of the innings.

The chase highlighted how good it was to have Joe Burslem back on the park and having taken 3 slip catches on one leg, he scored a superb 87\* to control the run chase. He got a stuck a touch at times and the positive input of David Townsend really kept the impetus going. It was another solid team performance and a super comeback from the start of the week. Elliot Snooks was commended by the opposition coaches for his skills in running for Joe Burslem, through gritted teeth!



We were yet again treated to a great evening by our Westminster friends and the boys were given members tickets to the Adelaide Oval to watch the T20 Big Bash Strikers v Renegades match. The hospitality throughout the tour was stunning, but I know the boys and parents enjoyed the company of the Westminster players and parents.



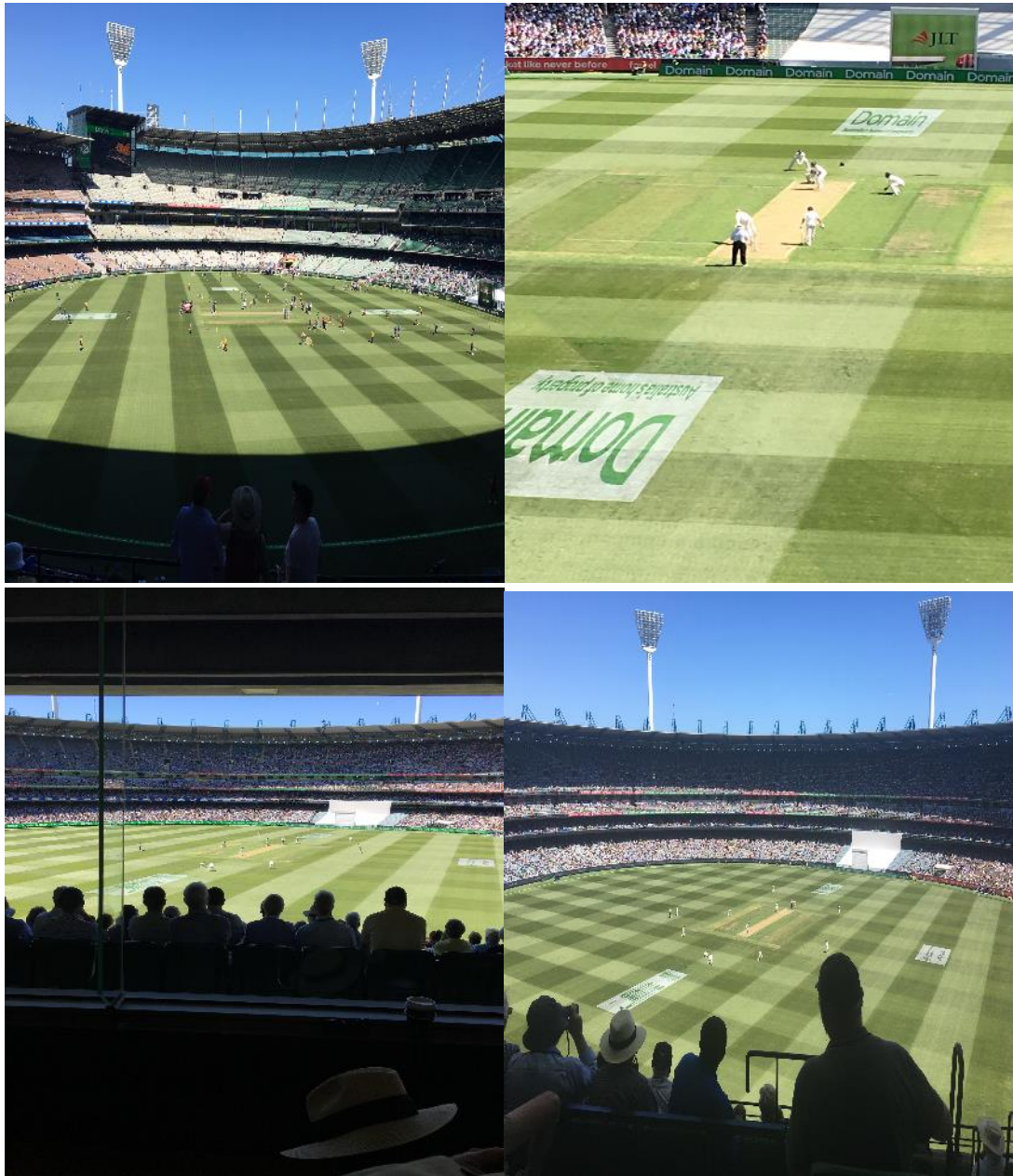
**MELBOURNE LEG (VICTORIA)**  
**DECEMBER 24th/25th/26th**

The team booked into the hotel on Christmas Eve and the parents and squad all met up to have a Christmas Eve meal together. It was Christmas, but Chestnuts were not roasting on an open fire, but they might have outside in the sun. Fortunately, St Nicholas had been given the nod the group were touring overseas and the group returned to the hotel ready for Christmas Day.

Christmas Day saw the small group of 60 congregate at The Brighton Savoy to celebrate the day. The boys were delighted with the Hawaiian shirts and they would be on show the next day. The food and service was outstanding and it was great to have all the tour party, parents and friends together.

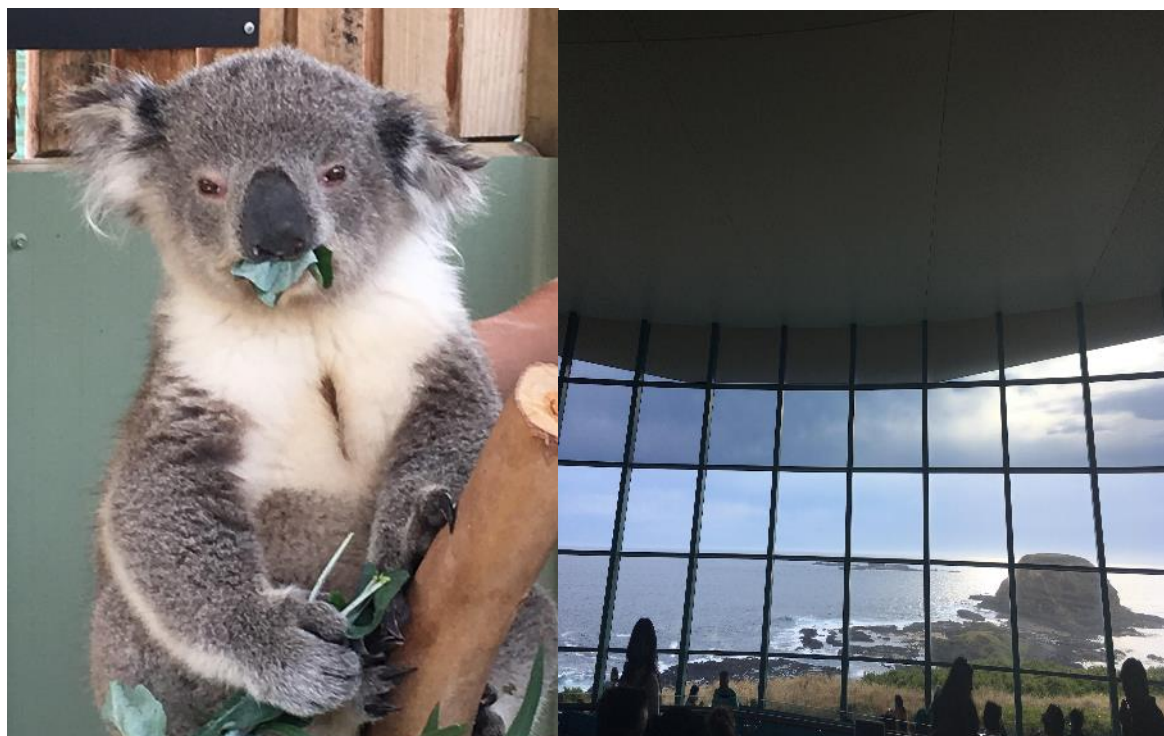


The boys managed to lose the No1's and hit the beach before returning to the hotel to prepare for the Boxing Day Test at the MCG. Australia v India attracted 75,000 and Felsted hit the 'G'. India won the toss and proceeded to blunt the Aussie pace attack and set the game up for the remaining 4 days. It was not a high scoring day, but to experience a Boxing Day Test should be on every cricket lovers bucket list.



## DECEMBER 27th

A trip down to Phillip Island was on the agenda for the 27th and principally to watch the march of the Little Penguins as they attempt to get back to the safety of home across the danger of the beach. Each night they roll in at dusk and sneak up the beach, hopefully out of view of the circling prey. It was indeed quite a sight as thousands of Little Penguins made the waddle to safety. Although, some of the viewing public ignored the no photography rules, we did not. We did see a few other animals on our travels in what was a long and excellent day of soaking up Australia.



## DECEMBER 28th

Xavier College v Felsted Touring XI (T20)

Xavier 177-5 (K Morley-Jacob 1-20, T Gallian 1-30, J O'Connor) Felsted 142-5 (J Burslem 34, H Gallian 25, A Akbar 35*, J Bird 35)
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Felsted in extremely warm conditions found the going tough in the field against Xavier and although the chase was a good one, the extras bowled ultimately meant the target was just out of reach. Getting back into the swing of cricket and in the intensity of a T20 game proved just too much on the day, but it was great to see Josh Bird bat so well and when he was at the crease we were in with a chance. He was well supported by Joe Burslem, Harry Gallian and Abdullah Akbar.

## St Kevin's v Felsted Touring XI (T20)

St Kevin's 181-3 (E Snooks 1-27, W Forsey 1-25, K Morley-Jacob 1-18)  
Felsted 101- 8 (J Burslem 27, Harry Gallian 31\*)

The team signed off against a strong St Kevin's XI and again despite some excellent spells from Kit Morley-Jacob and Elliot Snooks we lacked a little consistency across the 20 overs. The intense nature of the T20 game and the more experienced opposition made the chase very difficult, but the lessons learnt in this game will be extremely valuable moving forward. 3 runs outs will always make a run chase a tall order and even if it is a T20, you don't have to smash every ball for 4 or 6, or should I say 'try to'.

It was a great day and the lunch with Xavier and BBQ with St Kevin's on what was a busy Christmas period for our hosts was again very kind. The temperatures also were certainly an insight to how this can make the game a little harder for us POMS!



On the cricketing front the tour party showed real progress and it allowed all the players to have a chance to test themselves. The results are secondary to the process of giving everyone a go and enjoying the challenge, but it was great to see the comeback in Adelaide and to get a few good results always helps moral. The boys gelled well together and supported each other well throughout the tour. Joe Burslem proved to be a good leader of the group and was certainly missed when out injured. Elliot Snooks stepped in on the field as captain and again had a good rapport with the team while bowling well throughout the tour. The youngsters of Harry Gallian, Walter Forsey and Kit Morley-Jacob had many starring roles and will be key to the 2021 tour as well. A special mention to Harry for being the only keeper on tour and having to do this every game and Kit for leading the attack on several occasions as a Year 10. Jonny Hoile and Tom Gallian had some excellent spells with the ball and we even managed to see Jonny have a little cameo with the bat. Leslie Squibb will return having learnt a lot about the game at this level and will benefit this summer. Dan Karr and Abdullah Akbar showed plenty of promise with the bat throughout the tour and Abdullah proved he can do it with ball in hand. Dan's discipline at PAC was outstanding. Charlie McHale showed that he has potential with bat and ball and took some crucial wickets at times. Josh O'Connor was a revelation with the ball in hand putting together several fine spells of off-spin. Adapting to the UK wickets will now be the key where less bounce is on

offer for the spinner. He also shaped up nicely with the bat. James Woodmore showed his pace can be a threat on several occasions, but with pace comes scoring opportunities and so discipline will be key this summer. David Townsend and Josh Bird showed that they can score quickly when required and played some fine shots helping the team as a result. They will be looking to build more substantial innings in the future having not quite capitalised on some good starts. As a team and coaching staff we learnt some valuable lessons on tour and I look forward to seeing them continue this learning journey in April.

## **DECEMBER 29th**

The final day on tour allowed for a later wake up call. The games were normally 9.30am and 10am starts, so this was a rare treat. The tour party were in need of this as they were leaving at 3.00am on the 30th, so packing and shopping were done early, so the group were ready to take in the Sydney Sixers v Melbourne Renegades T20 match that evening. We got in early to watch some of the women's game that preceded the match and it was great to see Olivia Snooks' double, Danny Wyatt, playing in the game.

