

Bill Brown

1912-2008

- Went to Dulwich Hill Primary and Petersham High
- Outstanding opener and fieldsman, Marrickville CC's first Test cricketer and a member of Bradman's Invincibles
- 22 Tests for Australia scoring 1,592 runs at an average of 46.82, with 4 centuries and a top Test score of 206
- 189 First class games (Australia, NSW & Qld) – 13,838 runs, 39 centuries
- Would have played many more Tests, but no Tests were played during WW2



William Alfred Brown was born in Toowoomba, Queensland on 31 July 1912. He showed promise as a wicketkeeper from the time he joined Marrickville DCC in 1928-29 after completing his schooling at Dulwich Hill and Petersham High schools.

Unable to maintain a regular place in a team, Bill decided to concentrate on his batting and give away the gloves. After a summer in the Shires, the right-hander hit an even 100 not out in the first Shires game of his second season followed by a club record 172 not out in the U21 Poidevin-Gray competition against Randwick. Immediately promoted to 3rd Grade he was quickly moved up to 2nds where he scored 51 not out. A game or two later he was "given a try" in 1st Grade. At just 18 years of age he scored 80 in his first innings in the top grade opening the batting against Paddington. He had gone from Shires to 1st Grade in a season. Two years later he was playing for NSW.

The youngster made his first class debut in November 1932 when he played for NSW against his birth state Queensland at the 'Gabba. He opened the batting but was run out without facing a ball. Just 15 months later at the SCG against Victoria, Brown scored 205 batting most of his innings in a 294 runs partnership with the great Don Bradman who scored 128. With a score of 154 against Queensland Brown ended 1933-34 with a first class batting average of 75.

In 1934 Bill toured England with the Australians and made his debut in the first Ashes Test at Nottingham where he scored 22 and 73. He went on to play all five Test Matches in the series scoring 300 runs. The highlight was his 105 at Lord's in the second Test. He showed his liking for the ground when he scored 206 not out (Australia's 100th century against England) in the return Test Match four years later when he carried his bat throughout the innings. That followed 133 in the second innings of the first Ashes Test a fortnight earlier. The following game against Derbyshire he rattled up 265, his highest first class score.

In 1936 Brown returned to Queensland. In his seven seasons with Marrickville, Bill Brown scored 1,825 runs including 1,537 in 1st Grade where he scored two centuries with 165 his highest score. He also scored 547 in Poidevin-Gray and another 447 in Shires for an overall total of 2,819 runs.

Bill Brown was Marrickville's first Test cricketer and played 10 of his 22 Tests while a member of the club.