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Bro. THOMAS ROBERT McKIBBIN (1870-1939) TEST CRICKETER

Tom McKibbin was born at Raglan, some 5 km east of Bathurst on 10 December 1870. He was educated at All Saints College, Bathurst where he was a brilliant scholar and an outstanding athlete.

He studied for the law and was articled to Bro. Sydney Smith, a Bathurst solicitor.

He was a crack rifle shot and he represented Bathurst at tennis and rugby football.

At the beginning of the 1894-95 summer, a Country Week Cricket Carnival, arranged by the New South Wales Cricket Association, achieved its objective. Two of the country players were destined to become test cricketers. One of them was the bowler Tom McKibbin who found himself playing for Australia before the season was over.

The year before he had impressed a NSW Selector, Frank Iredale, in a match at Mudgee between Western District and the New South Wales Cricket Association.

The NSW Selectors were keen to see Iredales' discovery, however, when he bowled in the Country Week game in November 1894, he was no-balled for throwing by two of the umpires. His career may have ended before it started but the selectors were so impressed that they were prepared to overlook the problem and he was immediately chosen to play for New South Wales.

He was a right arm medium paced leg spinner and could turn the ball considerably but often lacked control.

Bill O'Reilly and Kerry O'Keefe bowled in similar fashion in later years.

Against South Australia, he took 14 wickets for 189 for the match and against Queensland he took 5 for 19 and 9 for 68 which were his best first-class figures. Tom McKibbin was selected to play for Australia in the fifth test in Melbourne.

In 1896, he was chosen to tour England where he played in the second and third tests.

He had a mixed tour. Against Lancashire he took 6 for 27 and 7 for 11. Against Yorkshire he had 7 for 23; against Hampshire 5 for 41, 7 for 80 against Surrey and against Gloucestershire, Hugh Trumble and Tom McKibbin dismissed the legendary Dr W.G. Grace and his team for just 17.

On the way home to Australia, the team played matches in Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand. McKibbin and fast bowler Ernie Jones, who

