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**ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER JACKSON (1909-1933)  
AUSTRALIAN CRICKETER**

The story of Archie Jackson is one of the most tragic in the annals of Australian sporting history.

Archie Jackson was born on 5 September 1909 at the Scottish town of Rutherglen in the County of Lanark, a few kilometres south-east of Glasgow.

He arrived in Sydney with his parents on 1 August 1913.

The Jacksons lived in a terrace-house at Balmain and Archie attended Birchgrove Public and Rozelle Junior Technical Schools.

Archie loved sport and he excelled at soccer and cricket and represented the Public Schools' Amateur Athletic Association at both.

Birchgrove Oval, bordering Snails Bay, was near the Jackson home and Archie and his mates, especially Bill Hunt, sometimes gate-crashed the oval but, more often played cricket on the streets, avoiding the horse-drawn traffic and the occasional motor vehicle. Drains were blocked to prevent the loss of precious balls and, when it rained, the streets were flooded much to the annoyance of neighbours and the Balmain Municipal Council.

Jackson and Bill Hunt, using a home-made roller, had prepared a non-too-professional half-length turf pitch, with a mulberry tree behind the stumps, in a local park.

Bill Hunt was a left-arm medium-paced off-spinner and he would tirelessly bowl to his mate for hours. Former Australian Captain, Bro. Monty Noble watched the lads and called out "if you keep practicing the way you are, one day, you may play for Australia."

Years later, he saw Archie Jackson open the innings for Australia against England and Bill Hunt bowl against South Africa.

The practices continued on the sometimes damp and sticky pitch until Bill said "better give it away, Archie, you're getting too knocked about." Jackson: "No Bill, I'll tell you when I've had enough!"

Jackson was one of the few players to practice on untrue sticky wickets.

In the 1923-24 season, Jackson, in short trousers and sandshoes, played in the lower-grade sides of the Balmain Cricket Club.

