



Cricket's Too Slow

*And beret-crowned, bright-shirted in his car,
The film-like youth spoke thus and sped afar,
And left me to September sunset glow,
To summer ghosts that tarried at their game,
A gently dying yet eternal flame.*

Cricket's too slow.

*Thank God for that. When fever drives the mind
Through burning miles to leave more miles behind,
To build new hells and let the beauty go,
Let's hold this picture though the seasons pass—
The sunlit field, the shadow on the grass—
And keep it slow.*

*With brief, swift moods — the catch, the stolen run,
The whole a tranquil pageant in the sun,
A gracious game, with fickle ebb and flow,
That breeds good fellows kind and quiet-faced,
Not bound upon the chariot wheels of haste.*

— Acknowledgments to Punch, London.



A Century of Cricket

*Published by the Committee of
THE HEIDELBERG CRICKET CLUB*



DR. JOHN S. MILLS, President

Foreword

CRICKET, to us all, has an entrancing history.

The Heidelberg Cricket Club takes great pride in having contributed to the game some of the earliest and most picturesque matches in Victoria.

Following the days when "the ground" was opposite "The Old England Hotel," the foresight of the Club's pioneers has preserved Heidelberg Park and its incomparable amphitheatre for the community and its sport.

Over these years, a long line of stalwarts has passed the game on to us, and at this, the Club's Centenary, we pay tribute to those who have "kept it Cricket."

JOHN MILLS, President.

HEIDELBERG CRICKET CLUB

Office Bearers

Season 1956/57



<i>President</i>	Dr. J. Sinnott Mills
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	W. J. Thompson
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	Dr. W. G. Godbehear, Dr. T. A. Stewart, J. I. Dawson, A. E. Dowling, A. Blackburn, J. M. King, R. O. Williams and W. Skewes.
<i>Patrons</i>	Messrs. G. Sheffield, U. S. Lucas, R. W. S. C. Bingham, C. J. Timmins, H. E. Grass, A. W. Walters, E. C. Culph and R. Veitch.
<i>Secretary</i>	B. Thomas.
<i>Treasurer</i>	J. McHugh.
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	L. C. W. Watts.
<i>Committee</i>	Messrs. W. Byrns, K. George, E. Tyers, A. Cox and W. A. Scott.
<i>Delegates</i>	Messrs. Tyers, Cox and Thomas.
<i>Hon. Auditor</i>	J. G. Brown.
<i>Team Captains</i>	1st Eleven: K. George. Vice-Captain: A. Carlyle. 2nd Eleven: A. G. Cox. Vice-Captain: K. Froebel.

CLUB COLORS: ROYAL BLUE AND GOLD

A Century of Cricket

BEGINNINGS are more often than not obscure and difficult to ascertain, so it is not surprising that in spite of much research nothing is known as to who first suggested the formation of a cricket club at Heidelberg, or where or when the inaugural meeting was held.

However, we played our first match against Collingwood on January 1, 1857. Heidelberg scored a very meritorious win by 116 runs. The club was then known as the Yarra Yarra Cricket Club, and played in a small hollow below the Old England Hotel. Among the players who took part in this historic match were Walter Charles Brackenbury, Goldfields Warden and Magistrate at Anderson Creek (now Warrandyte), and some well-known early pioneers of the district in Bill White, the Edney Brothers and William Cobden.

Our second match was against Richmond on March 21. The Tigers were a very strong cricket body at that time, and though the match was not played out, the Yarra Yarra team scored 196 runs, a very creditable effort considering Richmond were playing four of the best known colonial cricketers of the day in Marshall, Barter, Rennie and Lewis. It was well past sunset when the home side completed their innings and the visitors had no opportunity of taking the wicket.

The following year Heidelberg commenced play with a memorable game against Collingwood on the M.C.G., when a large gathering of spectators saw the latter team break the ground record with a then mammoth score of 290. J. M. Bryant, a distinguished professional, batted for more than three hours, with the temperature at 95 degrees, to score 104. This was only the second century ever made in the Colony. Other players who did well were Reverly 81, Marshall 52, and the Victorian Captain, T. W. Wills, with seven wickets. Exhausted by their long day in the field, the Heidelberg team were all out for 34 (W. Cobden 15 not out).

Cricket writers praised Heidelberg's courage in fighting an uphill game. One of Collingwood's members even wrote to the sporting paper "Bell's Life in Victoria": "For the sake of cricket in general and Victoria in particular, I feel constrained to offer a few remarks. If Collingwood had brought their legitimate strength against Heidelberg they would have won honourably, but when they procure such cracks as Bryant, Wills, Rees and Marshall to compete with so young a team as Heidelberg. I consider it would be a lasting shame to cricketers if one of their members did not come forward to advocate the cause of Heidelberg."

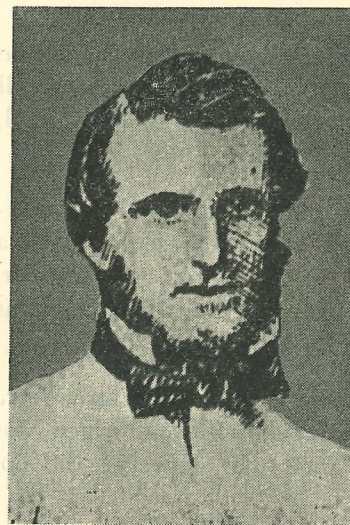
The following week the Secretary of the Collingwood Club suggested that Heidelberg should play the Collingwood Seconds in the return match, which had been set down for New Year's Day. This did not appear to have met with any favor at all with the local club, who were bent upon avenging their defeat.

An article in Boxing Day's issue of "Bell's Life" stated: "The merry little town of Heidelberg is coming out in great force for the occasion of the match to be played between the Yarra Yarra Club and their old antagonists 'Collingwood' on New Year's Day. Picnics are being formed in vast numbers. Mrs. Denton, mine hostess of the 'Old England,' is laying in vast quantities of things consumable; and it is even whispered that the 'Fair Sex' are calling a meeting in regards to ascertaining their rights for holding a 'Ball'."

Several leading Melbourne cricketers were numbered among the many spectators who assembled at the Heidelberg Ground to view the expected battle royal between the two clubs. Though they did not win, the local boys made a fine effort to recover their lost laurels. "Bell's Life" observed that the batting of E. Edney, Hendon, Cobden, Hamilton and White for the Locals was extremely good; indeed, added the journal: "The batting of White excited general admiration, and we are not surprised to hear that he has since been selected to the reserve of the team to play New South Wales." The scores were Collingwood 212 (Bryant 69, Warner 21); Heidelberg 157 (White 35, Cobden and Edney 12).

White did not get an opportunity to show his ability at the Third Grand Inter-Colonial Match between Victoria and N.S.W., which was played a fortnight later. More than 30,000 people thronged the M.C.G. to see this match, when Victoria won for the first time, by 171 runs.

Several other interesting matches were played that season, including a game against Emerald Hill (now South Melbourne), when the locals were beaten by two runs, 94 to 92. Samuel Hopkinson, who later played for Victoria, performed an unparalleled feat when he took nine wickets, all bowled, for the visitors. E. Edney bowled splendidly for Heidelberg to take seven wickets.



JAMES M. BRYANT

Heidelberg scored 183 against Hawthorn (Cobden 48, Walters 31, and White 23), compared to 4 for 23 by their opponents at the close of play. But in a return match on St. Patrick's Day they did not fare so well. Hawthorn scored 218 and the local boys conceded the match after losing 7 wickets for 38 owing to the inhospitable state of the weather.

The final game of the season was a return match against Emerald Hill, which was drawn. As was customary at the time, the visitors were entertained to a convivial evening at the Old England after the match, and a very successful Ball was held to wind up the year's activities on June 24, 1858.

At the Annual General Meeting held on the 23rd of September, the Heidelberg Club was fortunate to obtain the services of the Hon. Frederick Aram Powlett as President. Mr. Powlett was Victoria's first Commissioner of Crown Lands. He was the founder of the Melbourne Cricket Club in 1838 and a most distinguished supporter of the game.

Other office-bearers elected were Dr. G. S. C. Butler, M.D., Vice-President; A. Barnes, Treasurer; and W. Collins, Hon. Secretary.

"Bell's Life" commented that the club had made many improvements to their ground during the off season and was one of the finest in the colony, which, they said, reflected great credit upon a spirited little country club.

An intra-club match between teams captained by Hendon and E. Edney, gave the season a successful start. It was intended to be a match between the Married and Single Men of the Club, but at the last minute the Benedicts backed out of the challenge.

In those days few clubs averaged more than one game a month, and the Yarra Yarra appears to have had a very full programme with matches and returns against Emerald Hill, Richmond, Collingwood and Victoria Clubs.

On November 22 William Collins' resignation as Secretary was accepted with regret and he was presented with a handsome silver belt as a mark of the club's esteem. Mr. Collins shifted his residence to Warrandyte, where he was Secretary of the local Cricket Club for upwards of 30 years.

In December "Bell's Life" stated that the Yarra Yarra Club was anxious to play the Tasmanian Eleven, which was arranging a visit to Melbourne. Their tour, however, did not materialise.

During 1859 Heidelberg was fortunate in obtaining the services of the well-known professional, James M. Bryant, on three occasions. His services came in useful in the club's first match against the M.C.C. in March. The scores were: Melbourne 108 (Thompson 27); Heidelberg 56 (Marryatt 14, Bryant 12 not out). Marryatt was a brilliant English cricketer who had just arrived from England and was having his first match with the club.

Another good cricketer to join the club about this time was John Boake. His great pace aroused considerable interest

in Melbourne at the time. Heidelberg, however, was not able to take complete advantage of him, as they did not possess a wicket-keeper capable of handling his deliveries. In a match against Emerald Hill the local team gave away no fewer than 62 sundries in a score of 132, and Boake claimed but one wicket.

In October, 1859, Boake was selected to play for the Players, in the then traditional match "Players v. Gentlemen of Victoria," but he met with only moderate success, scoring 0 and 2. He played for them again the following year and his name was mentioned prominently for a place in the Victorian 22 which played the first All-England Eleven that toured Australia in 1862. However, he did not succeed in gaining a place in the final selection.

A new club at Brunswick provided easy meat for Yarra Yarra in March, 1859, the scores being Heidelberg 156 (Boake 79 not out); Brunswick 49 and 20. This was the first occasion Heidelberg had met a suburban club. It was then customary for weaker clubs to play 15, 18 and sometimes 22 men, but Heidelberg never played more than the eleven.

The much mooted Married v. Single match came off in May. Playing five a side the Single men scored 2 and 7 to the Married men 9 and 0 wickets for 1.

A strong eleven was formed among the diggers of the Caledonian Goldfields, Queenstown, during the year 1860. They thought no small beer of themselves either, defeating the diggers at Anderson's Creek and the Kingston Goldfields at Smyth Gully easily, it was not long before they sent a challenge to the Yarra Yarra Club.

In their first encounter on the Heidelberg ground the locals won by an innings and 7 runs. The diggers were not satisfied that Heidelberg had won fairly, however, and arrangements were made for a return match at Eltham. A good deal of interest was invested in the result, as the Caledonian boys had made quite a name for themselves with the Melbourne sporting public and an interesting comment was published in "Bell's Life."

"A match was played between the above clubs at Eltham on Wednesday last, which resulted in another addition to the laurels of the former in one innings, with 72 runs to spare. Although the Caledonians had Mr. W. Rundle, President of the Jockey Club, and the Hon. Member for the district, Mr. Gatty Jones, the bowling of Boake and E. Edney prevented their batsmen from putting more than 79 runs on the scoring paper for both innings. The Hon. Member played a lone hand for 10. Their bowling was also very loose and the Heidelberg men had little trouble to score 151, of which Boake made 61, Hendon 24, W. Edney 14."

It is noticeable that the club's Annual Ball, held at the Old England on June 28, was a great success. Mr. W. Cobden, a foundation member of the team, who was leaving the district, was presented with a handsome belt, suitably inscribed. The admission charge of 21/- for a double ticket (gents 15/-, ladies 10/6) seems almost phenomenal for that time.

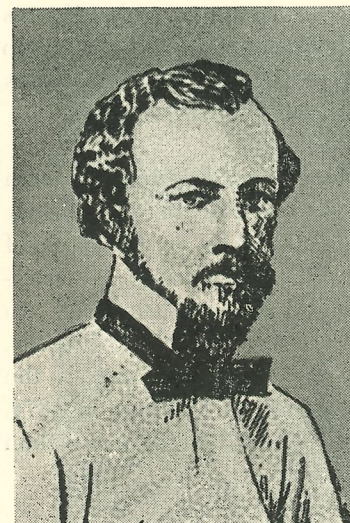
There was a distinct falling off of interest in the club's activities in the early sixties. This was probably due to the financial depression which struck Melbourne about this time. Heidelberg was largely kept going by market gardens, and the falling off in prices seems to have struck the town rather severely. Few games were played in 1861 and there is no record of any in 1862, though an interesting match was played between Eltham and Alphington on February 17 on the Heidelberg ground. The game was well contested, a feature of which was a nice knock by Charles S. Wingrove for 17. Mr. Wingrove was Secretary, Engineer and Surveyor to the Eltham Shire Council for 46 years. Joseph Bond, who joined Heidelberg a year or two later, and whose family was associated with the club for more than 80 years, top-scored for Alphington with 30.

An indication of the standing which the Heidelberg club had among the sportsmen of the Fifties is shown in an article in "Bell's Life" by the famous writer "Long Stop," in 1863.

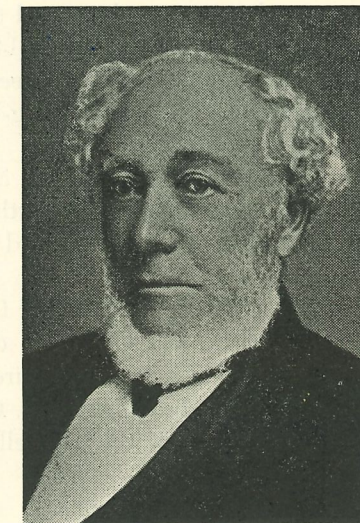
"Heidelberg, too, that prettiest of grounds, why is that left to be ploughed by bovine hoofs, and the merry shouts of cricketers so seldom heard? Has the Old England Hotel lost its attractions? Have many jolly feeds consumed there palled

the appetite? Or has the love of the game departed with Cobden and one or two travellers? We fear the last. Time was when with Cobden, Edney, Boake the catapult, and a few market gardeners, Heidelberg could hold its own against most teams; but now what a falling off is there."

The 1870's were probably the most stirring in cricket history. Crowds of up to 12,000 people thronged the grounds to see matches for the Challenge Cup, donated by Mr. A. E. Clarke in the year 1870. The Heidelberg club took up the role of a quite solid suburban club.



THOMAS W. WILLS



DAVID CHARTERIS MCARTHUR

Information on this period of our history is scarce, though it is known that the club had many worries, chiefly through the doubtful tenure of its ground, the old playing field being situated on private property. In 1877 the club successfully applied for a section of the old racecourse, our present ground. In the early days of the town it was one of the most popular race tracks around Melbourne. Racecourse Hill, now known as Park Hill, provided a good natural amphitheatre and was often crowded with spectators.

In 1879 the Collingwood Observer refers to the efforts of Thomas W. Wills as a fast bowler for the club. Wills was

captain of the Victorian Eleven for nearly twenty years. His tragic death at Heidelberg the following year was lamented throughout all Australia. Newspaper critics were loud in their praise of him as a sportsman, and some even compared his ability to that of the great English cricketer, Dr. W. G. Grace.

The 1880's were a period of considerable activity, under the able presidency of Mr. Booth, the manager of the Heidelberg branch of the Bank of Australasia. Boyle and Scott, Cricketers' Guide for the year 1880-81 shows that the club played 32 matches, won 11, lost 7, and drew 5. George Bond, son of the previously mentioned, topped the batting averages with 196 runs—highest score 40, average 14. Another early cricketer to do well that year was Tom Greenaway. He was for many years proprietor of the Heidelberg-Melbourne coaches.

In 1887 the club lost an able supporter with the death of Mr. David Charteris McArthur. He was a distinguished early colonist. In 1838 he opened the first branch of the Bank of Australasia in Collins Street. He built his residence, "Charterisville," at Heidelberg in the forties and it is still standing. In later years he was Chairman of Trustees of the Public Library. Always an enthusiastic admirer of cricket, he was one of the syndicate that brought W. G. Grace's team to Australia in 1874. He was patron of the Heidelberg Cricket Club for more than 20 years.

In the 1890's William Bond, younger brother of George, comes greatly into prominence as an all-round cricketer. He represented the club for at least fifty years and was unquestionably the finest cricketer Heidelberg has ever produced. He made at least a dozen centuries. Records show that he won his first trophy in 1890 for batting, and his last in 1924 for bowling. Probably his finest performance was against Richmond on October 24, 1903, when he scored 103 of Heidelberg's total of 194 and enabled the team to beat a strong district side by 94 runs.

Another cricketer who gave outstanding service to the club over many years is Harry Shearn. Harry is fortunately still with us at the ripe old age of 85. In his younger days he was

nick-named the Prince of Keepers. He was also a most consistent batsman.

The Heidelberg Cricket Association was formed a few years prior to the first world war. It was reorganised on a sound basis in 1923, when Mr. George Pitcher donated a handsome silver shield, which had to be won three times before it was held. Heidelberg, being the first club to perform this feat, it became their property in 1936. Mr. Pitcher has since passed on, but the shield is still donated by his family, and is a fitting memorial to a sterling pioneer of cricket in the district.



THREE GENERATIONS
THE SHEARN FAMILY — IAN, HARRY AND VAL

In 1936 the club laid down a turf wicket at Warringal Park and fielded a team in the first V.J.C.A. turf division, but owing to watering difficulties the venture did not prove a success, and after two seasons the members decided to return to the Heidelberg Association.

In more recent years Mr. Val. Shearn has been a worthy successor to the fine work performed by his father early in the century. As captain of the first eleven in the 1930's the club won no fewer than three premierships under his able guidance. Jack Sinclair, a dynamic personality who has since left for Queens-

land, succeeded him and rendered very fine service in the immediate post-war years.

Our present first eleven captain, Ken George, joined Heidelberg from the Kew Sub-District club in 1953. He has proved himself a most capable leader and last season piloted his team to the final.

Our second eleven has also played with merit. In 1953-54 they were premiers under the captaincy of the Secretary, Mr. Ben Thomas, and have since played well, under the leadership of Desmond Renehan and Allan Cox.

It would indeed be hard to close this short historical resume without some reference to Mr. Jim McHugh, who has held almost every office in the club over the past 25 years. At the last Annual General Meeting he was elected to join Val Shearn and Cliff Woolcock as the club's only living Life Members.



Scores in the Club's First Match

At Heidelberg, Jan. 1, 1857, Yarra Yarra Club, Heidelberg, v. Collingwood
YARRA YARRA CLUB

First Innings		Second Innings	
John Ross c. Gillot, b. Lowe	1	b. Lowe	1
Gomm c. Pavey, b. Lowe	5	b. Chandler	17
W. C. Brackenbury b. Pavey	13	b. Chandler	15
W. Edney c. Pavey b. Lowe	20	b. Chandler	5
A. Edney b. Lowe	2	b. Chandler	5
Brown not out	15	c. Lowe	5
White b. Lowe	0	c. Chandler	22
Cobden c. and b. Chandler	0	b. Chandler	13
Foster b. Chandler	8	b. Lowe	26
E. Edney b. Chandler	1	stumped by Wilson	1
A. Barnes b. Lowe	4	Not out	0
Wides 4, Byes 13, L.B. 1	18	Byes 14, Wides 1, L.B. 3	18
	<hr/> 87		<hr/> 128

COLLINGWOOD CLUB

Evans c. Foster	4	Run out	2
F. Armson b. Edney	6	b. Edney	2
Gillot b. Edney	0	b. Brown	1
Lowe b. Edney	8	b. Edney	13
Chandler c. E. Edney	0	b. Brown	8
Pavey not out	11	b. Brown	24
Stead c. Foster	2	Gillot, junior *	0
Moon b. Brown	0	b. Brown	0
Wilson b. Edney	1	b. Brown	2
Drew c. Brown	1	b. Edney	0
W. Armson c. A. Edney	2	b. Brown	0
Byes	4	Byes 7, L.B. 1	8
	<hr/> 39		<hr/> 60

* Stead being absent, Gillot, junior, played for him.

HEIDELBERG CRICKET CLUB OFFICE-BEARERS, 1858

President: FREDERICK A. POWLETT
Vice-President: G. S. C. BUTLER, J.P., M.D.
Treasurer: A. BARNES
Secretary: W. COLLINS *

MEMBERS:

A. Barnes, F. Baker, T. W. Bear, J. Boake, J. D. Brown, S. W. V. Browne, J. M. Bryant, G. S. C. Butler, W. Butler, W. Collins, W. Dunn, A. Edney, C. Edney, E. Edney, W. Edney, J. Eicke, H. Foster, J. Greenaway, T. Greenaway, H. Hendon, J. McEwan, C. J. Morgan, R. Mortimer, T. Munday, F. N. Powlett, A. W. Smith, W. Smith, H. Storckes, W. H. Worman, W. White.

* E. Edney replaced W. Collins as Secretary in November.

AVERAGES, 1858-59

	Innings	Runs	H.S.	Av.
J. Bryant	4	73	31	18.1
J. Boake	9	162	79	18
W. Collins	8	109	29	13.5
H. Hendon	12	93	21	7.9
A. Edney	14	96	25	6.1
C. J. Morgan	3	43	22	6.2
S. V. Browne	5	32	30	6.2
W. Edney	15	79	24	5.4
J. D. Brown	15	78	25	5.3
W. White	9	43	22	4.7
H. Foster	4	19	16	4.3
W. H. Worman	5	20	8	4
R. Mortimer	6	21	9	3.3
J. McEwan	7	24	11	3.3
A. Barnes	14	31	5	2.3

Charles Rouch

Pty. Ltd.

BURGUNDY STREET, HEIDELBERG



Timber Merchants - - - - Saw Millers

Joinery - - - - - Ironmongery

Paints - - - - - All the latest colors

Cement Distributors

ALL SUPPLIES FOR YOUR BUILDING

Oldest Timber Merchant in the District

Alf Boocock

124 BURGUNDY ST.
HEIDELBERG

First Class Fruit & Vegetable
Supplies

"DARRA-JON"

De-Luxe

Dry Cleaners and Dyers

Have your garments immaculately cleaned and
tailor-pressed by this prompt pick-up and
delivery service.

JL1901

D. C. Geddes

Florist & Nurseryman

155 BURGUNDY STREET
HEIDELBERG

PHONE JL3065

Heidelberg Plumbing Supplies

37 BURGUNDY STREET, HEIDELBERG

JL1696

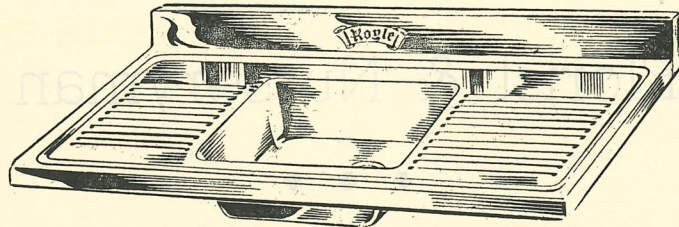
All classes of
PLUMBING FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

PAM1080

A Testimony to Good Taste ..



STAINLESS STEEL SINKS — LAUNDRY TROUGHS



We Call and Measure Your Requirements

A SINK THAT SAYS YOU'VE CHOSEN THE FINEST
Call or Telephone JL3027

VEITCH BROS. PTY. LTD.

49-51 BURGUNDY STREET, HEIDELBERG — JL3027

Congratulations ..

to Heidelberg Cricket Club on its
Centenary of Cricket in the Hei-
delberg District from

U. S. LUCAS, Ph.C. M.P.S.

AMCAL CHEMIST

70 MOUNT STREET, HEIDELBERG

PHONE JL1311

who has given a quarter of a century of Pharmaceutical Service
in the district.

*Century Greetings to the
Heidelberg Cricket Club*

HEIDELBERG AUTO SERVICE

Cr. HEIDELBERG RD. & DAREBIN ST.

★ Caltex Petrol

★ Caltex R.P.M.
The Premier Motor Oil

★ Caltex Motor Oil

★ Olympic Tyres

All requirements for the motorists catered for
promptly and courteously

PETER GILES

Suggests that you call and see him
at his New, Convenient, Drive-in

AMPOL SERVICE STATION

Corner Burgundy & Buckland Streets

Heidelberg

for all your

MOTORING REQUIREMENTS

Prompt, Courteous, Reliable Service at all times

Club Secretaries — Call and see him regarding your

AMPOL FILM NIGHT

S. Burley

156 BURGUNDY STREET

PHONE: JL 1231



MEN'S & BOYS'
WEAR
SPECIALISTS



For Value and Friendly Service



PAY AS YOU WEAR



Yes, certainly we have it



SUITS TO MEASURE OUR
SPECIALTY

SPORTS TROUSERS - SPORTS COATS
KNITWEAR - SHIRTS - UNDERWEAR

Have you any trouble with fitting?

All adjustment free of charge.

News Press Print. JX1281

VF-HEIDELBERG-PHM

ROYAL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

034440



Centenary Souvenir of the
Heidelberg Cricket Club

A Century of Cricket

By LOUIS CRANFIELD

1956-57