

MURRAY HEDGCOCK

Murray Hedgcock (*pronounced Hedge-coe*) is a day older than Brian Close - whatever that proves – and was born in South Melbourne, whose cricket club has fielded a string of famous players, from Jack Blackham, Warwick Armstrong, Bill Woodfull and Clarrie Grimmett, to Ian Johnson, Lindsay Hassett and Ian Redpath.



He grew up in Victorian country towns, worked briefly in a bank on leaving school, and then became a journalist. He came to London in 1953 in hope of seeing Hassett's team in action, but the cash ran out: he had just twenty-five shillings left when he got a job on the *Crystal Palace Advertiser*. A bonus was a Press pass to The Oval, which he used as often as possible.

Back in Australia, he joined Rupert Murdoch's News Limited in Adelaide in 1960, was posted to the group's London bureau in 1966, and was bureau chief from 1976 to early retirement in 1991. He wrote periodically on cricket for the national daily, *The Australian*, and contributed to cricket publications, including *Wisden* and *The Cricketer*.

Settling in London on retirement in 1991, he continues to work as a consultant for the Murdoch group. In 1997 he edited a study of P.G.Wodehouse's love of cricket - *Wodehouse at the Wicket* – long out of print, but published again this year in paperback.

An MCC member for forty years, despite long residence in London, and holding UK as well as Australian nationality, he remains a loyal Australian, and barracks for his native land in every Ashes series.

Some websites worth reading before the Society meets on Thursday 17th November

<http://www.pgwodehousesociety.org.uk/lords.htm>

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/cricket/article3001168.ece>

<http://blog.thecricketer.com/?p=23694>

<http://cheltcs.councilcricketsocieties.com/MurrayHedgcock.html>

<http://www.cricketworld.com/wodehouse-at-the-wicket-murray-hedgcock-ed-/28038.htm>