

1950

The first ever Test involving Boxing Day was against England and 60,486 cricket fans flocked to see Australia win a thriller by just 28 runs. Lindsay Hassett (52), Jack Iverson (4/37 & 2/36) and Bill Johnston (2/28 & 4/26) were instrumental in Australia's narrow victory.

1952

The second-ever Boxing Day during a Test, against South Africa. Colin McDonald made a great 82, but Hugh Tayfield took 6/84 (13/165 for the match) to win the game for the Springboks. Remarkably, there wasn't another until 1968.

1968

Big "Garth" McKenzie set up Australia's innings victory by taking 8/71 on Boxing Day. Skipper Bill Lawry helped with 205 and even hit a six!

1974

77,167 fans went on Boxing Day to see Lillee and Thomson do their stuff against the Poms. Thommo took 4/72 and 4/71, but the match ended in a draw. The match is still known as "The Mystery Test" - it ended with Australia just eight runs short of victory, but with eight wickets down.

1975

The record Boxing Day crowd of 85,661 saw Lillee (4/56) and Thomson (5/62) destroy Clive Lloyd's West Indians. Ian Redpath and Gary Cosier (on debut) both made centuries as Australia won easily by eight wickets.

1980

Great crowd favourite Doug Walters made the last of his 15 Test centuries. He and Jim Higgs put on 60 for the 10th wicket after Umpire Bailhache deemed a Cairns bouncer as intimidatory bowling and called a "no ball" when Higgs fended a catch. The match was drawn, but Richard Hadlee (3/89 & 6/57) bowled superbly, and was named Man of the Match.

1981

39,982 attended on Boxing Day and saw an enthralling day's cricket. A magnificent Kim Hughes century was followed by a West Indian collapse - they were 4/10 at stumps. Dennis Lillee's 10 wickets for the match were decisive in Australia's 58 run victory.

1982

One of the greatest Tests ever played saw England win by just 3 runs. 63,900 attended on Boxing Day and the fortunes of the match ebbed and flowed as first Australia and then England gained the ascendancy. Allan Border and Jeff Thomson, Australia's last batting pair, almost snatched victory, adding 70 for the 10th wicket. 18,000 attended the last morning, with Australia 9/255 needing another 37 to win. They just failed.

1983

40,240 fans on Boxing Day saw Pakistani Mohsin Khan score a fine 152, but his effort was overshadowed by Graham Yallop's magnificent 268. He hit 29 fours, mostly with majestic drives and flicks off his toes, and it was his third double-century of the season. The match ended in a high-scoring draw.

1984

Due to the season's hectic programming, Boxing Day was the fourth day of the West Indies Test match. Vic Richards scored a wonderful 208, but it was Andrew Hilditch, playing his first Test Match for five years, whose 70 and 113 enabled Australia to draw. 18 year old Craig McDermott took six wickets on debut.

1985

29,108 on Boxing Day saw the Indian spinners on top. Greg Matthews and Allan Border each scored memorable centuries in the match, but when the rains came at tea on the last day to wash out the match, India was in sight of a victory. This was Steve Waugh's debut Test, Merv Hughes was 12th Man.

1986

58,203 on Boxing Day saw Australia crash against England. Gladstone Small and Ian Botham each took five wickets and Chris Broad's century sealed Australia's fate inside three inglorious days.

1987

51,807 fans saw the start to a memorable match against New Zealand. Despite Tony Dodemaide's

brilliant Test debut (50 & 6/58), Richard Hadlee's 10 wickets for the match almost snatched victory. Mike Whitney and Craig McDermott played out the final 20 tension-packed minutes for a draw, giving Australia its first series win for four years.

1988

The West Indies crushed Australia by 258 runs, due to a brilliant century by Richie Richardson and some lethal bowling from Marshall, Ambrose, Patterson and Walsh. Marshall took his 300th Test wicket on the final day.

1989

45,102 attended the only-ever Boxing Day One-Day International against Sri Lanka. Appropriately, Victorians Dean Jones (85*) and Simon O'Donnell (57* and 4/26) were the stars as the Australians won comfortably.

1990

49,763 fans saw Bruce Reid (6/97 & 7/51) set up Australia's nine-wicket win over England. Boon, Marsh, Taylor and Border all scored half-centuries in a match also memorable for the absence of a Southern Stand - the old one was demolished in readiness for the Great Southern Stand.

1991

For the second season in succession, Bruce Reid (6/66 & 6/60) made the match his own by decimating India inside four days. 42,494 attended on Boxing Day.

1992

49,414 on Boxing Day saw Mark Waugh and Allan Border each score excellent centuries against the West Indies. Shane Warne (7/52) then weaved his magic on the fifth day for a great Australian victory.

1993

The eagerly-anticipated return of the South Africans to the MCG was unfortunately a damp one. Despite constant rain, 15,604 hardy fans still turned up, but only saw one session. The match was a soggy draw.

1994

The Ashes Test drew 51,620 on Boxing Day. The match was a triumph for David Boon (131), Craig McDermott (3/72 & 5/42) and Shane Warne (6/64 and a second innings hat-trick) as Australia crushed England by 295 runs.

1995

55,239 fans were astonished when Umpire Darrell Hair no-balled Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran seven times in three overs for throwing. Australia won easily by 10 wickets, thanks to centuries from David Boon and Steve Waugh and some fine fast bowling by Glenn McGrath. Gurusinha scored a brave, defiant second innings century for the Sri Lankans.

1996

With Australia leading the series 2-nil against the West Indies, 72,891 fans came on Boxing Day. Curtly Ambrose (5/55 and 4/17) however, decimated the Australian batting, and the Windies won inside three days.

1997

73,812 fans on Boxing Day watched Ricky Ponting (105) and Steve Waugh (96) give Australia the advantage against South Africa. Although this was maintained throughout the five days, the Australians were unable to deliver the killer blow, due mainly to an heroic maiden Test century by Jacques Kallis.

1998

61,580 people turned up on Boxing Day for the Test against England, and there was no play! But the match turned out to be one of the best, with England snatching an improbable victory by just 12 runs after the longest single day's play in Test history, the match concluding at 7.33pm. Steve Waugh (122* and 30*) almost guided Australia home, but Darren Gough (5/96), Dean Headley (6/60) and Alec Stewart (107 & 52) were the stars for England.

1999

Boxing Day was again seriously affected by rain, but there were still 49,082 in attendance. The match against India was comfortably won by Australia by 180 runs. Melbourne's fans were treated to the exciting Test debut of NSW speedster Brett Lee, who took 5/47 and 2/31, as well as some sparkling batting from the brilliant Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar (166 & 52).

2000

73,233 fans watched on Boxing Day as Steve Waugh hit a fine unbeaten 121 to give Australia the advantage. Only Marlon Samuels (60* and 46) provided much resistance as Andy Bichel (5/60) and Jason Gillespie (6/40) ripped through the West Indian batting twice to give Australia a massive 352-run victory and make it 4-0 on the way to a 5-0 series clean sweep.

2001

Although Boxing Day was again showery, 61,796 people attended and saw Australia go to a 2-0 lead in the three-Test series against South Africa. Jacques Kallis (38 & 99) batted bravely for the visitors, but Hayden (138) and Langer (85) continued their fantastic sequence of opening stands, this time with a 202-run 1st wicket partnership. Warne, McGrath, Lee and Bichel shared the wickets as Australia won comprehensively by 9 wickets.

2002

The Ashes Test attracted 64,189 on Boxing Day as Australia piled up 3/356. Justin Langer (250), Matthew Hayden (102), Steve Waugh (77) and Martin Love (62*) continued on to 6/551 declared. England followed on with 270 & 387 (Michael Vaughan 145), leaving Australia just 107 to win. This was achieved, not without some anxious moments, for the loss of five wickets to go to a 4-0 lead in the series.

2003

62,613 – Boxing Day, 179,662 for the match. Australia defeated India by nine wickets, Ricky Ponting scoring an imperious 257 in Australia's first innings after Indian opener Veranda Sehwag smashed a scintillating 195 on the opening day. Taking advantage of free entry on the last day, a crowd of 29,262 bid farewell to Australian captain Steve Waugh in his 17th and final MCG Test match.

2004

61,552 – Boxing Day, 129,079 for the match. Australia defeated Pakistan by nine wickets, Damien Martyn named man-of-the-match for his 142 in Australia's first innings after stand-in Pakistan captain Yousuf Youhana scored a century on the opening day. Chasing a target of 126, half centuries to Ricky Ponting and Matthew Hayden saw the home side to victory.

2005

71,910 – More than 192,000 people attended the match, the highest MCG Test match attendance since 1982-83. Australia took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series after defeating South Africa by 184 runs. The story may have had an entirely different ending but for the 10th-wicket heroics of Michael Hussey and McGrath in the Australian first innings. The pair confounded the South Africans with a 107-run partnership with Hussey (122) reaching his third Test ton and later named man-of-the-match.

2006

89,155 – The MCG's 100th Test match produced a near-record Test crowd for a single day, and 244,351 across the three days Australia required to defeat England take a 4-0 lead in the five-match series. The highlight: spin wizard Shane Warne farewells his adoring Melbourne crowd by bowling opener Andrew Strauss on Boxing Day and claiming a world record 700th Test wicket.

2007

68,465 – India arrived for the series opener with limited preparation and it showed: the 337-run victory was set up by yet another Matthew Hayden century on Boxing Day (his sixth from his last seven MCG Tests) and a disciplined effort from Australia's bowling attack, minus the retired McGrath and Warne.

2008

63,263 – South Africa's nine-wicket victory over Australia was one of the most gripping Tests seen at the ground in recent years. A crowd of 174,246 saw five days of enthralling cricket, including a man-of-the-match performance by South African Dale Steyn, who took 10 wickets and scored an important half century, a century from rising star JP Duminy and a century and 99 not out from Ricky Ponting.