



# MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

BOXING DAY TEST  
DECEMBER 28, 2021

AUSTRALIA V. ENGLAND  
LIBRARY FACT SHEET - DAY 3

## Centenary of Arthur Mailey's record 9-121 by an Australian bowler in a Test match.

Perhaps best known today as the author and cartoonist of the extremely popular cricket book, *10 for 66 and all that*, first published in 1958, and judged as one of the "Fifty Best Australian Cricket Books of All Time", Arthur Alfred Mailey was an extremely talented leg-break and googly bowler for Australia.

2021 marks the centenary of Mailey's 9-121 taken at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in England's 2<sup>nd</sup> Innings of the 4<sup>th</sup> Test of the 1920/21 Ashes series. This remains the best bowling performance in a Test match by an Australian. It is remembered in the display of facsimile scoreboard banners of Test record holders in the Percy Beames Bar of the Members' Reserve at the MCG. The banners, by artist Mathew Greentree, recognise the best bowling and batting figures by an Australian and a visiting player in a Test match at the MCG, and are a favourite feature display in the reserve.

### Arthur Alfred Mailey, 3 January 1886 – 31 December 1967

#### Test Career Batting and Fielding (1920/21-1926)

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Ct	
Australia	21	29	9	222	46*	11.10	0	0	14

#### Test Career Bowling (1920/21-1926)

Balls	Mds	Runs	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl	10wM	SRate	Econ
6119	115	3358	99	9-121	33.91	6	2	61.80	3.29

#### First-Class Career Batting and Fielding (1912/13-1930/31)

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Ct	
Overall	158	186	62	1530	66	12.33	0	3	157

#### First-Class Career Bowling (1912/13-1930/31)

Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl	10wM	SRate	Econ
35541	591	18772	779	10-66	24.09	61	16	45.62	3.16

Arthur Mailey came from childhood of poverty. One of seven sons, his carpenter father was an alcoholic, and his mother strove to keep the family alive during the 1890s depression. In his cubbyhole section of the family's wooden shack, his only item of note was a prized photograph of Victor Trumper jumping out to drive. Mailey begin his working life at the age of 13 as a trouser presser, before trying his hand as a glass blower, and subsequently a Water Board labourer. Fortunately he became a talented writer and artist, and importantly developed a talent for bowling at cricket, having learnt the art of the googly. This took him around the world on many tours.

In *The Book of Cricket*, Denzil Batchelor reflected that;

*"You never saw a more Irish countenance in your life than Arthur Mailey's. Flat as a peat-field, with an upper lip long enough to toboggan down, and eyes that do all the laughing for a face as grave as a mask. He drifted into cricket, I suspect, because he found you stood about for a great deal of the time, doing nothing, and not being blamed for it. Then he discovered he could emit leg-breaks and googlies, and his afternoons of undisturbed peace were gone."*

Aged 34, Arthur Mailey made his Test debut in the opening match of the 1920/21 Ashes series at the SCG starting on 17 December 1920. He took three wickets in each innings, as Warwick Armstrong's Australians won by 377 runs. Mailey was selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Test at the MCG commencing on 31 December 1920, however he reported some soreness in his arm and was not required to bowl in Australia's win by an innings and 91 runs. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Test at the Adelaide Oval, Mailey took his first 5+ wicket haul in an innings and 10+ wickets in a Test, taking 5-160 in the first innings and 5-142. Next at the MCG came his career best figures in a Test match.



## Australia Vs England, 4<sup>th</sup> Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, 11<sup>th</sup>-12, 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> February 1921.

(Timeless Match) Six-ball overs. England won the toss and decided to bat.

**England, 284** (JWH Makepeace 117, JWHT Douglas 50; AA Mailey 4-115, C Kelleway 3-37) **and 315** (W Rhodes 73, JWH Makepeace 54, JWHT Douglas 60, PGH Fender 59; AA Mailey 9-121) **lost to Australia 389** (HL Collins 59, W Bardsley 56, JM Gregory 77, WW Armstrong 123; PGH Fender 5-122, FE Woolley 3-56) **and 2/211** (J Ryder 52\*, JM Gregory 76\*) **by eight wickets.**

In his nine-wicket haul, Mailey dismissed Jack Hobb LBW for 13, Harry Makepeace LBW for 54, Wilfred Rhodes caught by Jack Gregory for 73, Frank Woolley stumped by Hanson Carter for 0, Percy Fender caught by Collins for 59, English captain Johnny Douglas stumped Carter for 60, Arthur Dolphin caught by Gregory 0, Cecil Parkin caught by Warren Bardsley for 4 and Abe Waddington stumped by Carter for 6. Charles Kelleway had spoilt the perfect ten by bowling Patsy Hendren for 32 for the 5<sup>th</sup> wicket. Harry Howell was not out on 0, not having faced a ball.



For a number of years Mailey had been producing cartoons for publication in the Australian press. The day after his nine wicket haul in the 4<sup>th</sup> Test at the MCG, Mailey's cartooning expertise was mentioned in the Sydney *Referee*;

*"Arthur Mailey is producing a book of Cricket Cartoons. We may be sure it will be very entertaining - even to his victims - for he is most humorous in his pen-pictures, as readers of the Referee and Arrow know. In the midst of his Test match tasks in Melbourne he drops me a line thus: 'I am working on a set of caricatures of the Australian team that will probably represent Australia in England. I am bringing them out in book form early next week. The book contains a foreword by Warwick Armstrong, is well set up, with a colored cover, and will be sold at a modest "bob".' Evidently A.M. had some inside knowledge of the personnel of the team."* ('Not Out' in *The Referee* 16 February 1921).

Mailey took 4-27 and 2-29 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Test at the SCG to finish his first Test series with 36 wickets at an average of 26.28. This total was only beaten among Australia bowlers in five-match series at home by Mitchell Johnson's 37 (at 13.97) in the 2013/14 Ashes series. Warwick Armstrong's Australians completed the first 5-0 whitewash of England in The Ashes' history.

Mailey was selected to tour England with Armstrong's Australians for the 1921 Ashes series. He played in three of the five Tests – the second, third and fifth. Australia won the first three, then drew the final two. Mailey took 12 wickets for the series with a best innings haul of 4-55. In the first-class matches of the tour he took 134 wickets at an average of 19.36. He made seven 5+ wicket hauls and one 10+ wickets in a match. His best innings result was at Cheltenham where he took all ten Gloucestershire wickets for 66 runs in the second innings. His 1958 autobiography was accordingly titled **10 for 66 and All That** (an allusion to the humorous book of English history, **1066 and All That**).

Gloucestershire v Australia at College Ground, Cheltenham, August 20-23, 1921.

*"In Gloucester's second knock Mailey equalled Bill Howell's record of taking 10 wickets against an English county. He bowled unchanged throughout the innings, his figures being: 28.4 overs, 5 maidens, 66 runs, 10 wickets – a very fine performance indeed. He clean-bowled six of his victims, caught and bowled two others, while one was caught at long square leg and the other at point. Howell got his 10 wickets for 28 runs against Surrey in 1899 in his first match in England. In commemoration of the feat I had the ball mounted and presented to Mailey on behalf of the Board of Control."*

(Sydney Smith in *With the 15th Australian XI*).



At home he became a regular member of the New South Wales team. His talents, both on and off the field continued to develop, as can be seen from this write up by Not Out' in *The Referee* of March 15, 1922;

*"He looks the easiest of please-hit-me-bowlers, but when backed up by men who get to them and hold them, and a 'keeper who knows what he is up to, Mailey is not so simple as those guileless slows might imply. At his best he mixes in the googly very adroitly. It sails along between a number of leg breaks or maybe a few straight ones that gather a little impetus from the pitch. At his best, too, he pitches the bousey and the leg-break in practically the same spot and direction. And if there is a zephyr against him or across the wicket going to the off, he exploits it, and is the more deceitful in flight and pitch. For all his simple looking bowling, Mailey has studied the little red ball very closely. He knows something about the various kinds of spins, the spin that helps the pace off the wicket, the spin that pulls the ball back after it lands. He has cultivated a slower speed through the air, and other little devices calculated to trap the unwary...Arthur Mailey did not play for Manly last Saturday. He helped at a carnival at Turramurra in aid of the North Sydney Hospital, doing some lightning and humorous sketches, including caricatures of visitors, which were sold for the fund."*

Mailey played in all five Tests of the 1924/25 Ashes series in Australia. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Test at the MCG starting New Year's Day 1925 he took his second 5+ wickets haul at the ground, bagging 5-92 during the English second innings. He captured the wickets of Hobbs LBW 22, Sutcliffe caught Gregory 127, Douglas bowled 14, Tyldesley caught Ponsford 0, and Gilligan caught and bowled 0, to help Australia win by 81 runs.

He toured England again for the 1926 Ashes series, captained by Herbie Collins, and played in all five Tests. Partly as a result of a wet English summer, the first four Tests of the series - all three-day matches - ended in draws. The 5<sup>th</sup> Test was timeless, to ensure a result of the series. While Mailey took his final 5+ wicket tally with 6-138 in the English 1st innings, rain again affected the match and, on a traditional English sticky wicket, the Australians were dismissed cheaply in their final innings. Mailey's was the final wicket to fall, as England won the match and the Ashes 1-0.

While his Test career was over, Mailey continued to play first-class cricket for New South Wales until the end of the 1929/30 season. While he still holds the Australian Test inning bowling record, unfortunately Mailey also holds the record for the most expensive bowling analysis in first-class cricket. In the Victoria v New South Wales match at the MCG starting on Christmas Eve 1926, as Victoria scored the record first-class total of 1107, Mailey bowled 64 eight-ball overs, did not manage a maiden and took 4-362. Bill Frindall in *The Wisden Book of Cricket Records* noted Mailey said his figures would have been much better had not three sitters been dropped off his bowling – "two by a man in the pavilion wearing a bowler hat" and one by an unfortunate team-mate whom he consoled with the words, "I'm expecting to take a wicket any day now."

Mailey's final first-class game was the "Australian XI v The Rest" match at the MCG in November 1930. Playing for "the Rest" he took three wickets in the first innings and one in the second. Of those four wickets, two were DG Bradman - in the first innings Mailey bowled him for 73, then he caught and bowled Bradman for 29, to capture his final first-class wicket.

In an article about Mailey on *Cricket County*, sports writer and novelist Arunabha Sengupta described Arthur Mailey as; *"a remarkable leg-spinner and a fascinating man. He turned the ball – by huge degrees, much more than his contemporaries, more than most of his successors. He tossed it up as an experiment in the science of spin, with disdain for the probable hits for boundaries and beyond. 'It is for the medium pacers to keep the runs down, I am here to take wickets,' he used to say. He possessed a googly that troubled, among others, Victor Trumper, Jack Hobbs and Don Bradman – three of the greatest batsmen of all time. And yet, he approached his task with accuracy sacrificed in pursuit of turn and flight. His famed words echoed in his actions on the field: 'I'd rather spin and see a ball hit for four, than bowl a batsman with a straight one.' He added, 'If I bowl a maiden over, it's not my fault but the batsman's.'"*

## Best bowling figures in an innings in Test matches

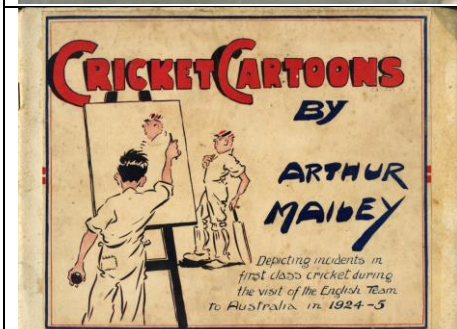
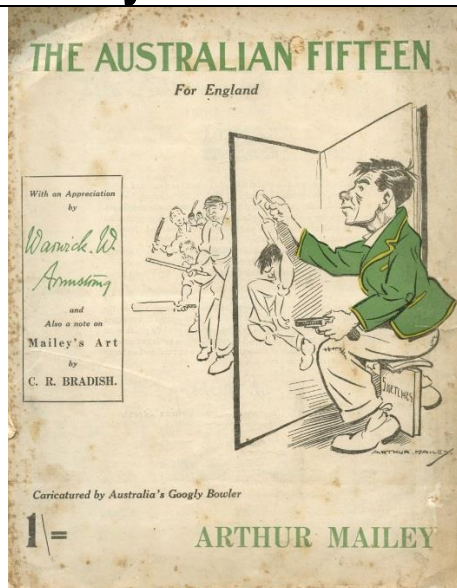
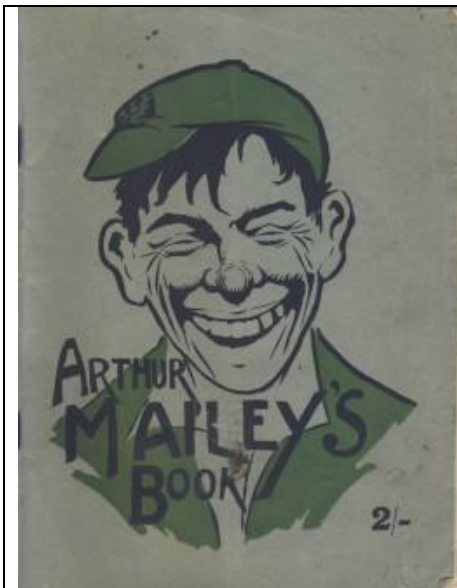
The following table shows the bowlers to have taken nine or ten wickets in an innings in Test matches. Laker remains the only player to have taken 19 wickets in a match. The latest entrant in the "all 10 wickets" club is New Zealand's Ajaz Patel who took 10-119 against India at Mumbai earlier this month.

Arthur Mailey remains the only Australian to have taken nine wickets in an innings. Sarfraz retains the record for most wickets in an innings at the MCG, set on March 1979.

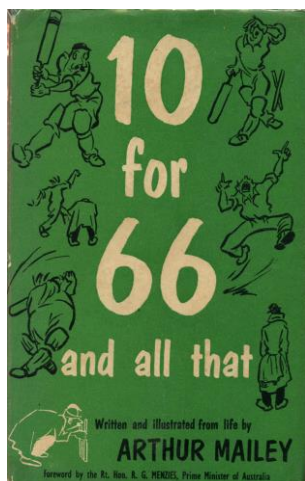
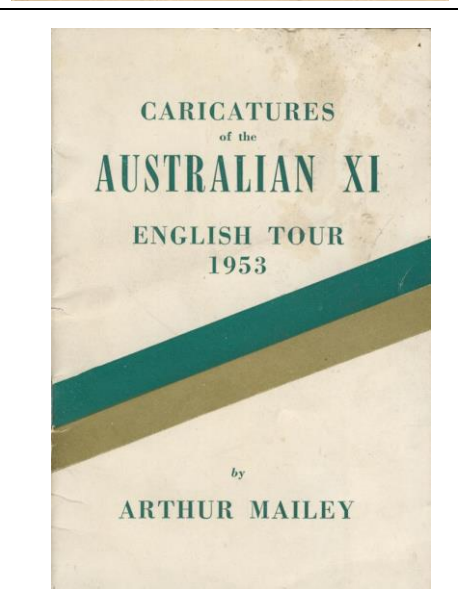
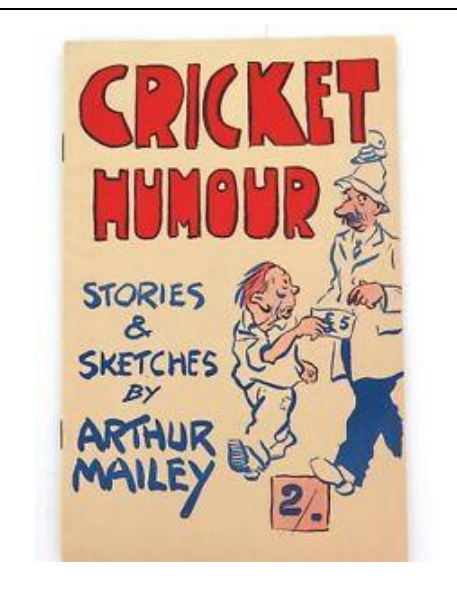
Best bowling figures in an innings

Player	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Econ	Team	Opposition	Ground	Match Date	Scorecard
<a href="#">JC Laker</a>	51.2	23	53	10	1.03	England	v Australia	<a href="#">Manchester</a>	26 Jul 1956	<a href="#">Test # 428</a>
<a href="#">A Kumble</a>	26.3	9	74	10	2.79	India	v Pakistan	<a href="#">Delhi</a>	4 Feb 1999	<a href="#">Test # 1443</a>
<a href="#">AY Patel</a>	47.5	12	119	10	2.48	New Zealand	v India	<a href="#">Mumbai</a>	3 Dec 2021	<a href="#">Test # 2438</a>
<a href="#">GA Lohmann</a>	14.2x5	6	28	9	2.33	England	v South Africa	<a href="#">Johannesburg</a>	2 Mar 1896	<a href="#">Test # 48</a>
<a href="#">JC Laker</a>	16.4	4	37	9	2.22	England	v Australia	<a href="#">Manchester</a>	26 Jul 1956	<a href="#">Test # 428</a>
<a href="#">M Muralitharan</a>	40.0	19	51	9	1.27	Sri Lanka	v Zimbabwe	<a href="#">Kandy</a>	4 Jan 2002	<a href="#">Test # 1583</a>
<a href="#">RJ Hadlee</a>	23.4	4	52	9	2.19	New Zealand	v Australia	<a href="#">Brisbane</a>	8 Nov 1985	<a href="#">Test # 1029</a>
<a href="#">Abdul Qadir</a>	37.0	13	56	9	1.51	Pakistan	v England	<a href="#">Lahore</a>	25 Nov 1987	<a href="#">Test # 1081</a>
<a href="#">DE Malcolm</a>	16.3	2	57	9	3.45	England	v South Africa	<a href="#">The Oval</a>	18 Aug 1994	<a href="#">Test # 1266</a>
<a href="#">M Muralitharan</a>	54.2	27	65	9	1.19	Sri Lanka	v England	<a href="#">The Oval</a>	27 Aug 1998	<a href="#">Test # 1423</a>
<a href="#">JM Patel</a>	35.5	16	69	9	1.92	India	v Australia	<a href="#">Kanpur</a>	19 Dec 1959	<a href="#">Test # 483</a>
<a href="#">N Kapil Dev</a>	30.3	6	83	9	2.72	India	v West Indies	<a href="#">Ahmedabad</a>	12 Nov 1983	<a href="#">Test # 967</a>
<a href="#">Sarfraz Nawaz</a>	35.4x8	7	86	9	1.81	Pakistan	v Australia	<a href="#">Melbourne</a>	10 Mar 1979	<a href="#">Test # 849</a>
<a href="#">JM Noreiga</a>	49.4	16	95	9	1.91	West Indies	v India	<a href="#">Port of Spain</a>	6 Mar 1971	<a href="#">Test # 683</a>
<a href="#">SP Gupte</a>	34.3	11	102	9	2.95	India	v West Indies	<a href="#">Kanpur</a>	12 Dec 1958	<a href="#">Test # 461</a>
<a href="#">SF Barnes</a>	38.4	7	103	9	2.66	England	v South Africa	<a href="#">Johannesburg</a>	26 Dec 1913	<a href="#">Test # 131</a>
<a href="#">HJ Tayfield</a>	37.0x8	11	113	9	2.29	South Africa	v England	<a href="#">Johannesburg</a>	15 Feb 1957	<a href="#">Test # 437</a>
<a href="#">AA Mailey</a>	47.0	8	121	9	2.57	Australia	v England	<a href="#">Melbourne</a>	11 Feb 1921	<a href="#">Test # 138</a>
<a href="#">HMRKB Herath</a>	33.1	3	127	9	3.82	Sri Lanka	v Pakistan	<a href="#">Colombo (SSC)</a>	14 Aug 2014	<a href="#">Test # 2136</a>
<a href="#">KA Maharaj</a>	41.1	10	129	9	3.13	South Africa	v Sri Lanka	<a href="#">Colombo (SSC)</a>	20 Jul 2018	<a href="#">Test # 2313</a>

# Mailey the Cartoonist



Starting in 1920, Mailey produced a range of cricket cartoon and caricature publications throughout his Test career and long after, with the final one published in 1953. A selection of those held in the MCC Library collection are reproduced for your enjoyment. Most are held in the lateral files, and can be booked to view through the library's online catalogue, or through the staff at the reference desk.



Mailey's most famous book, **10 for 66 and all that**, was first published in 1958. A best seller, it was updated in 2008 in a new edition with an extended foreword by cricket writer and historian Mike Coward.

Mailey's story of dismissing his childhood hero victor Trumper can be seen online at <https://www.espnccricinfo.com/story/the-boy-who-killed-the-dove-211734>

The MCC Library catalogue can be browsed online at <https://mcc.softlinkhosting.com.au>

Facts sheet research by Ken Williams and Ray Webster.

