Brightly fades

FROM PAGE 13

In this digital age, radios crackled all day with the ageing broadcasts of Bradman at the crease, thwacking willow on leather to score another of his centuries.

While Australia has changed dramatically from the monochrome nation when a sandy haired Bradman sliced the ball with a graceful sweeping stroke to today's multi-cultural melting pot, Bradman's appeal has never waned.

"His memorial is, in a sense, a personal and almost spiritual one, it's the special place he's had in the affections of our community." said cricketing fanatic Prime Minister John Howard.

"He was more than just a great cricketer and a great sportsman, he was a dominant Australian personality in a way that I don't think any other person has been in the last 100 years.'

Bradman received some 4,000 letters a week, from young and old alike, and until ill health prevented it answered all. Writers, poets and songwriters have for 50 years tried to explain why Bradman captured not only the hearts of Australians of his generation, but those who were born long after he retired.

"When Aunty Duckie danced with Donald Bradman she said it was the highlight of her life, that wizard of the willow swept her off her feet, along with all Australians. every man on the street, Sir Don you gave us pride in ourselves," sang country western singer John Williamson.

The world pays

FROM PAGE 13

hailed as 'the greatest', but Sir Donald's stature has never been doubted or queried," Pollock told website CricketLine.com on Mon-

"It's hardly surprising that he's been described as the greatest Australian ever," Pollock said.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) described Bradman as "the game's greatest player and ambassador".

India's most famous batsman Sunil Gavaskar lamented the death of Australian icon Sir Don-

Bradman on Monday and said he was a god to cricket fans in his

"The cricketing world assumed that like with his batting, he would score a century in life as well," Gavaskar said in a message of condolence "To Indians, for most of whom cricket is a religion, Sir Donald Bradman was god and there will be immense sadness all over the cricketing world at his passing away," he said from Bom-

Gavaskar offered his condolences to Bradman's family and Australia which, he said, had lost "one of the greatest men the world has ever known".

"He is probably the greatest cricketer who ever played the game. His loss is a big one, not cricket," he told reporters.

Sir Alec Bedser, one of the few fledgling country and he gave us a bowlers to earn Sir Donald Brad- huge lift. man's respect, led the English batsman in Test history.

"I played 10 tests against the ate country a ray of hope. Don," Bedser recalled. "I got him "He was the best. He played

cricket as it should be played. Bedser headed England's at-

cutters.

in England. hour every time he played. His famous Bodyline tour of 1932/33. record will never be passed. Bradman, in 50 tests, got more talked to the players. He underruns tham people who have stood the difficulties they were played in more than twice as Tacing and talked to them about Donald Bradman was a great Ausmany.



A photo taken in Adelaide on August 27, 1998 shows Sir Donald Bradman celebrating his 90th birthday with Shane Warne (L) and Sachin Tendulkar.

Steve, Sachin savours

Cricket

AFP, Bombay

A stunned Australian cricket team was plunged into mourning at the death of Sir Donald Bradman on Monday, but vowed to use the loss as an inspiration to win the upcoming series against India.

Captain Steve Waugh, preparing for the first Test at the Wankhede stadium here from Tuesday, described Bradman as a "once-ina-lifetime cricketer" and urged team-mates to be inspired by him.

"He united the country after the second world war and inspired so many people," Waugh said. "I don't think there will be someone else like him.

"We can take inspiration from the way he played the game. "He tried to be one step ahead of the others and set standards.

"That's what we want to do even today. We can use him as an inspiration," Waugh said.

Australia are looking to win their first Test series on Indian soil in 31 years after coming off a record streak of 15 consecutive Test

"I had a one-to-one meeting with him last year (before the tour of Sri Lanka) and it was fantastic," Waugh said. "He was very humble about his

achievements and wanted to see himself as a normal person. "That's humility. It is something we can all learn from."

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) made no moves to have the Test match postponed, but decided to wear black bands during play in Bradman's memory. "Sir Don would not have

wanted that (a postponement) to happen," ACB spokesman Brian Murgatroyd said. "He would not want to disturb anything."

Tendulkar, who Bradman said

resembled his own style, was stunned at the passing away of the legend.

"What can one say, it is a great loss for not only the fans but for all cricketers," a visibly shaken Tendulkar said.

"Whatever he has achieved is always a dream for other batsmen. They want to be like him, but it is probably impossible to get there."

Tendulkar, one of the few modern cricketers to have been granted an audience with the reclusive Bradman, said his words will remain etched in memory for

"Meeting him itself was a great dream that came true for me. I was very privileged to have spoken to

"I asked him about his batting, he also gave me tips which have held me in good stead. "When someone like Sir Don

speaks about batting, you listen India's star batsman Sachin very carefully. That was a very special moment for me.'

At a glance

REUTERS, Sydney

Following is a factfile on Australian cricketing great Sir Donald Bradman who died on Sunday aged 92:

1908: Born Donald George Bradman, August 27 in Cootamundra. New South Wales. Son of George and Emily.

1911: Family moved to Bowral, 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Syd-1920: Scored first century, for Bowral High School against Mit-

1926: Joined St George in the Sydney club competition after they agreed to pay his commuting costs from Bowral. Run out for 110 on debut.

1927: Made first-class debut for NSW against South Australia, scoring 118 and 33 batting at number seven.

1928: Made test debut against England in Brisbane, scoring 18 and 1. Dropped for second test but recalled for the third match, making 79 and 112.

1930: Set first-class world record of 452 not out for NSW v Queensland, which remains an Australian record.

1930: Made first of four Ashes tours to England, scoring 974 runs at 139.14. Made four centuries including then world record of 334 not out (including 309 in a single day) at Leeds. 1932: Married childhood sweetheart Jessie Menzies in Sydney on

1932-33: Scored 396 runs at 56.57, including one century, in the infamous "Bodyline" series. England captain Douglas Jardine instructed his bowlers to deliver short-pitched balls at the Australian

batsmen's bodies in an attempt to curb Bradman's scoring. England won the series but the practice soured relations between the two countries and the tactic was later outlawed. 1934: Scored 758 runs at 94.75, including a triple century at Leeds and a double century at the Oval, on tour in England. Almost died

when he was struck down by an appendicitis. 1936: Moved from Sydney to Adelaide, building a new home and a career as a stockbroker. Appointed Australian test captain later that

1938: Appointed national selector. Served until 1950.

1939: Son John born. 1940: Joined Australian airforce, then transferred to the army. Invalidated out the following year because of back problems and poor

1941: Daughter Shirley born. 1947: Scored his 100th first-class century, against India for an Australian XI, at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

1948: Played his last test series, leading the "Invincibles" in England. Made a second ball duck in his final innings, bowled by Eric Hollies, at the Oval when he needed just four runs for a career average of 100. He finished his 52-test career with 6,996 runs at an average of 99.94, including 29 centuries.

1949: Played his final first-class match, scoring 30 for South Australia against Victoria. During his career, scored 28,067 runs at an average of 95.14, including 117 centuries.

1949: Knighted for services to cricket.

1954: Reappointed national selector, served until 1971. 1960: Appointed chairman of Australian Cricket Board, serving on

and off until 1972. 1989: Howral opened a museum commemorating his achieve-

1997: Jessie died, aged 88, from cancer.

1998: Mark Taylor equals Bradman's Australian test record 334 against Pakistan but decides not to pass him, declaring his innings closed out of respect to Bradman.

2000: Son John reclaimed the family name after decades of living under the alias Bradsen, to avoid public attention. 2001: Died in his sleep on February 25, aged 92.

Images of Bradman said.

his earlier cricketing days.

cibles tour of England.

wrote.

"Anyone who has suffered the

exeruciating pain of muscular

ailments will understand how

utterly immobilising it is," he later

of lifting an arm to comb his hair.

At one stage, he was incapable

'Against medical advice. Sir

Aussie skippers mourn

Cricket

lost, not only by cricket but by all captain Allan Border said on Monday.

Australia's latest resurgence, turned to Bradman for advice during his captainey and was close to tears as he paid his own tribute. "We have lost someone very

special," said Border. "When he came onto the scene only to Australia but to world in the 1930s, the world was going into depression, Australia was a

"He was a freakish young tributes on Monday to the greatest batsman who started breaking all sorts of record and gave a desper-

"If you mention his name, it out six times in seven Test innings. stirs pride in every Australian."

Border said. "I'm happy I can call him an Australian." "The man himself was a tireless tack against Bradman's Australia worker, as a selector and as side in the 1946-7 and 1948 series chairman of the ACB |Australian

with his fast-medium inswing Cricket Board). He was a tremenbowling and devastating leg- dous man to work with." Border recounted that, as he

"He will never be surpassed," took on the Australian captaincy Bedser said. "He was just extraor- in 1984, Bradman was guest of dinary. I am proud that he consid- honour at a team dinner before ered me one of his greatest friends the Test against the all-conquering West Indies at Adelaide, Bradman "His objective was to get runs, faced short-pitched bowling of the not stay there. He scored 50 an same type during England's im-

"It was fantastic the way he

lift to have the greatest under- without a blemish on his charac-

Waugh would ensure a fitting Australia, former Baggy Green tribute to their country's greatest sportsman would be paid ahead of the first day of the Test series with Border, the man who inspired India which starts in Mumbai tomorrow morning.

> "It almost a national day of mourning in Australia," said Border. "It wouldn't surprise me to see this day remembered for years to come.

"Statistically, Bradman can lay claim to being the greatest sportsman ever. It is hard to imagine anyone equalling what he did in cricket, "added Border.

"Steve Waugh is particularly fond of cricket history. I am very sure they will do something spe-

"He was a fair old age and it wasn't totally surprising but it has hit us hard.

Mark Taylor who stepped into Border's shoes when he retired, said Bradman's influence on the

game was never-ending. "Fifty three years after playing his final Test match, he was still revered around the world, held in

incredible esteem," he said. "As a cricketer, the world has known no equal. He was the true symbol of fine sportsmanship, the benchmark that all young cricketers aspired to.

"His innings may have closed but his legacy will forever live on in the hearts of millions of Austra-

Ex-skipper Bill Brown said Sir Bodyline. It gave the guys a huge tralian who finished his career

Border said he anticipated that The 88-year-old former Test AFP, Sydney A true national treasure has been current Australian captain Steve captain during the 1930s and 1940s told ABC radio he played many games with Sir Donald.

"You could sum it up saying he was a great Australian. He was sincere, honest and certainly cricketers ... respected him very highly both from a cricket point of view and from a personal point of view," he said.

His best memory of Sir Donald was "running up and down the other end while he hit bowlers all over the place"

Not only was he an inspiration for up and coming cricketers, "he was the pinnacle of Australian cricket" "I think he'd like to be remem-

bered as someone who certainly did his best for Australia and as far as I can recollect, I'm sure I'm right, there was not a blemish l can remember on his character,"

"I think all you can say about Don is that he was a very fine Australian," he said.

Bradman epitomised the Austra- me. lian dream.

ing country cricketer, who could jes then go on to play for Australia and captain Australia."

portant Australian of all time", first Test. added Benaud.

an Australian.

Some of Sir Donald Bradman's best cricket was played despite being plagued by debilitating ill-

He needed an emergency appendectomy and almost died from peritonitis in 1934 and later had to battle the muscular ailment fibrositis that had cricket's greatest batsman unable to raise an arm to comb his hair.

initially surfaced in 1931 when he complained of feeling "off colour",

He put his ill health down partly to the stress of too much cricket and later complained that a public wrangle with the Australian Cricket Board had affected

The board ruled he could not write for newspapers and play Test cricket at the same time unless solely employed as a journalist.

Sir Donald later revealed in his book, Farewell to Cricket: "You Famous commentator and can imagine my mental state when former captain Richie Benaud said this decision was conveyed to

someone who was a very promis- eries aimed at the batsmen's bod-

The series started without Sir Donald who was consigned by "He is probably the most im- illness to being a spectator at the

Another ex-skipper Bill Lawry was restricted to a modest 56.57 said,"We're just lucky he was born from four Tests with just one century. Sir Donald confessed to still feeling the strain of "playing, thinking and talking" cricket. He started the 1934 tour of

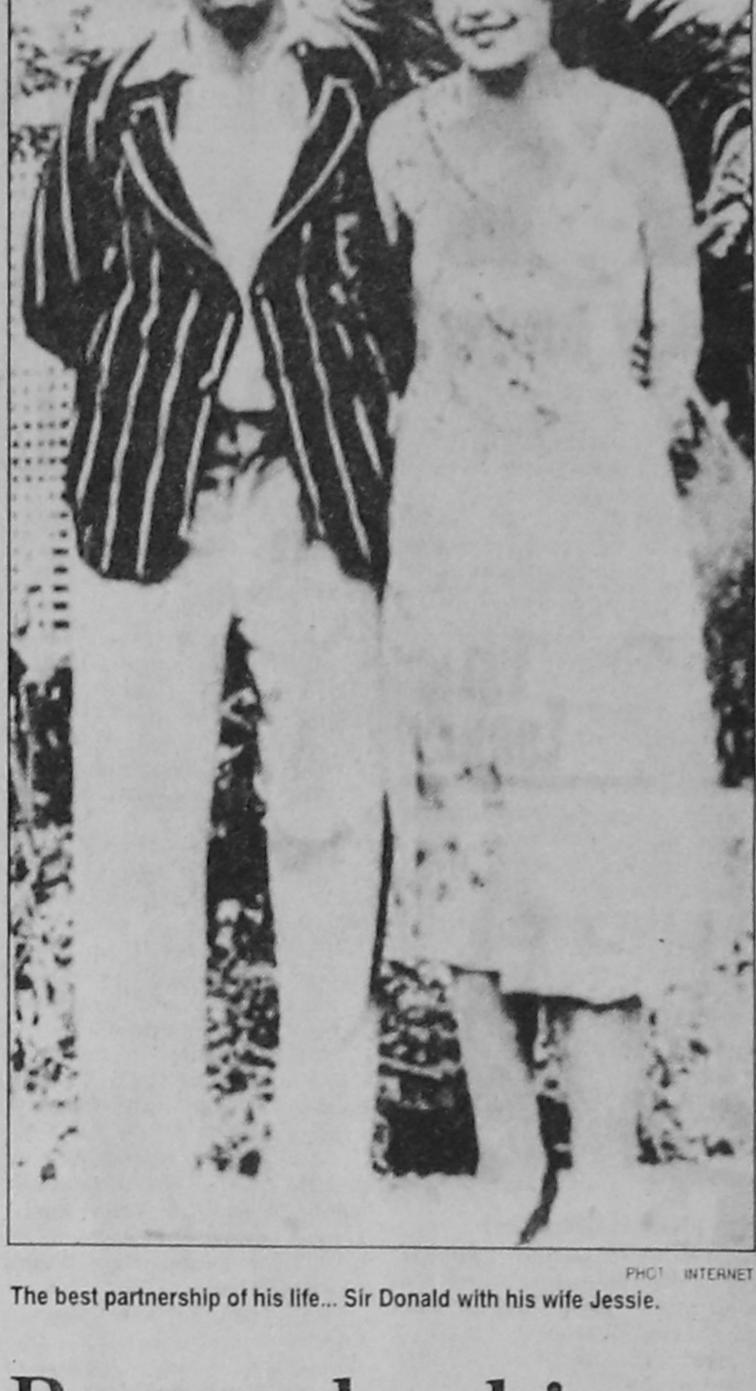
> Worcestershire by captain Bill Woodfull. "I played and under considerable strain, steeled myself to see through an innings of 206," Sir

> "It was made in quick time and obtained a cordial press but I was the only one aware of the drain on my resources.

publicly apologised to the Test denly fell ill.

appendectomy and hovered close to death for several days with peritonitis," Images of Bradman says. "Bradman was considered lucky to have survived the ordeal."

His wife Jessie rushed to be at her husband's side and Sir Donald was operated on by Sir Douglas Shields, a London-based Austraproducts is estimated to run into lian surgeon.



Remember him for integrity

Cricket

Australia's greatest sporting champion, Sir Donald Bradman, said in his last interview, in 1996. the thing he would most like to be century.

Sir Donald did not play cricket but said then he had seen "many cricketers who had more ability in 1934-35 because of the illness and was not fit enough to tour than I had"

"Why they didn't make more In 1938-39, Sir Donald said he runs than I did, I don't know," he had noticed a "definite slowing in told The Channel Nine television muscle reaction and privately was network in an exclusive two-hour contemplating retirement from interview.

He nominated West Indian During World War II, Sir Don- Brian Lara and India's Sachin ald enlisted with the RAAF but was Tendulkar as the two best batsmen in the world today, the West transferred to the army in 1940. Indies' Gary Sobers as "undoubt-After suffering increasingly severe muscle spasms, he was in- edly the best all-round cricketer down. valided from the army in June I've ever set eyes on" and Austra-

1941 in "constant, searing pain", lian leg-spinner Shayne Warne as

"The thought of ever playing the game for many years". The late Harold Larwood, cricket again was far from his England's Bodyline Bowler of the 1930s, was "very good and very 60 years. fast", the late Australian leg-For the next four years, Sir Donald battled fibrositis, a musspinner Bill O'Reilly was the best Bradman ever faced and England's cular ailment, which he was cer-Frank "Typhoon" Tyson was the tain resulted from overexertion in

fastest he saw. Bradman regarded the record 334 he scored at Leeds in 1930 as "technically flawed" and said the 254 he scored at Lord's was much

"Every ball went exactly where I wanted it to go until the ball that

got me out," he said. He also recalled the last time Donald returned to first class he strode to the crease at The Oval cricket in 1946-47 and the next in 1948 with the England team and year led Australia's famous Invin- fans singing "For he's a jolly good fellow" he had tears in his eyes as

His dismissal without score became the most famous duck in cricket history because not only was it so uncharacteristic, but it meant Bradman would retire with an average of just under the magic

"I'm very sorry I made a duck," Bradman, then 87, holds by far he said. "I'd have been glad if I'd the greatest batting record of all made those four extra runs to have an average of 100.

"I didn't know it at the time and I don't think the Englishmen knew it either. I think if they had known it they may have been generous enough to let me get four." But he denied that he got out

because of tears in his eyes.

Of course that's rubbish. I was certainly emotional, but I wasn't that bad. But I was very sad walking out. I felt I'd let the people

The man whose achievements are still the stuff of legend and "the best thing that's happened to who brightened Australian lives through the dark days of the Great Depression enjoyed a marriage to Jessie stretching back more than

Asked when he fell in love with her, he said: "I think that would be the day she came to live with us

when I was about 12 years of age. "I remember the day very well because I'd been sent by my mother on a mission to buy some groceries and I'd run into the doctor's car and had an accident, had my bike smashed up.

"When I got home she was there, having just been delivered by her father because she was going to stay with us. That was the day I fell in love with her."

What would he like best to be remembered for? "Integrity", said Bradman.

Everyone wanted a piece of him

Sir Donald Bradman was idolised by generations of Australians as the greatest sportsman in the country's history but his latter

trying to cash in on his name. Last year Prime Minister John Howard personally intervened to protect him from companies trying to use the Bradman name for commercial purposes.

Bowral, on behalf of Sir Donald, had spent months fighting companies from cafes to sex shops trying to use the Bradman name.

Cricket AFP, Sydney

years were plagued by people to the Australian Federal Court to changing its plans. prevent six New South Wales

The Bradman Museum in on the road intending to use his trusive and a betrayal.

man's name to suggest a connection that did not exist. Howard, a friend and fan of the name Bradman Drive Cafe

The Don", said it was the right Restaurant thing to do in view of the "special place" he occupies in Australian Shop on the same road registered The Bradman Museum applied Erotica on Bradman before finally

name Burbridge Road as Sir Donald Bradman Drive sparked a furore with a number of businesses

The Bradman Foundation, the charitable organisation that holds the rights to the Bradman name, Last October the government had demanded a cafe owner on made changes to the Corporations Burbridge Road drop plans to Law regulations specifically to rename the business Bradman's prevent anyone from using Brad- Cafe Restaurant.

The restauranteur eventually agreed to compromise by using

plans to re-name its business Even more distressing for the them. based companies from using the intensely private Bradman was the

decision by a Sydney bookstore And in Adelaide, plans to re- owner to auction off personal letters that included a moving account of his wife Jessie's death. He described the move as in-

> 1994 and 1998, reveal a frustrated, angry and lonely man after the death of his beloved wife from cancer in 1997 after 65 years of He lashed out at those trying to cash in on his good name.

"At 89 years of age, I am not prepared to exist just to satisfy the autograph hunters' requests. People just seem to want my signature Earlier, the Ultimate Risk Sex before I die," he wrote. The letters were sold by his

> publisher to a Sydney bookstore owner who expected to fetch 20,000 dollars (10,600 US) for However, the store owner later withdrew the letters from sale after a negative public backlash and

marred by the knowledge that fake The letters, written between memorabilia with his forged signature was being peddled. And 70 years after his name became famous and 50 years after he retired from the crease, the potential market for Bradman

millions of dollars.

Bradman's final year was also

Down but never out Cricket Sir Donald spent weeks after the surgery and subsequent com- remembered for was integrity. plications resting at Sir Douglas's

South Africa at season's end.

Sir Donald's health problems

the book Images of Bradman says.

Then came the Beat line series "He showed that it was possi- in which the England fast bowlers ble in Australia to be a young broke with cricketing convention country boy, with no pretensions, and bowled short-pitched deliv-

After the series, in which he

England again in indifferent health and was persuaded to play the tour opening match against

Donald later wrote.

On the eve of the team's departure for home, Bradman sud-

"He underwent an emergency



PHOTO INTERNET