

The T M Crisp Memorial Sporting Library

Denise Jeffrey, State Library of Tasmania

The T M Crisp Memorial Sporting Library is a bequest that supports the purchase of sports titles for the State Library of Tasmania. The bequest honours Thomas Crisp, OBE who died in 1969. Mr Crisp was a life-long sportsman and administrator of various sporting activities. Mr Crisp's three surviving sons established this memorial sporting library in consultation with the Tasmanian Library Advisory Board.

The T M Crisp Memorial Sporting Library was established in 1970 by the donation of a collection of books from Mr Crisp's library. This mainly consisted of cricket annuals, a collection of writings by early cricketers and cricket writers, a collection of books on bridge and other sports titles with an emphasis on tennis. The library was permanently endowed with an initial cash bequest of \$500 that has been augmented and retained in perpetuity by the Library.

The endowment income funds fifty per cent of an annual subscription to *Wisden's Cricket Almanac* and fifty per cent towards the purchase of individual sporting books. The terms of the bequest

are flexible in regard to the housing of the collection with purchased items not required to be kept separately. Rather, volumes of the memorial library are located throughout the statewide library system in lending, reference and heritage collections. Each volume is identified by a commemorative bookplate. Lending copies purchased for the bequest are available through the statewide reservation service and may be requested at any library of the State Library of Tasmania network and delivered to another agency for collection by the client.

The expenditure of funds from the Crisp bequest is the responsibility of the Collection Development section of the State Library of Tasmania. Under the terms of the bequest preference is given to cricket, bridge and tennis titles, in addition to outstanding works in other sports, usually about Tasmanian sports persons and events. Books by and about David Boon, a retired Tasmanian test cricketer, and Ricky Ponting, a current test cricketer have been purchased together with works on the Sheffield Shield competition in which Tasmania fields a

team. Bridge is a popular social and competitive pastime, with clubs at Burnie, Devonport, Deloraine, Launceston and three within the greater Hobart area. The bridge collection contains titles for beginners and advanced players. Tennis titles include biographies of players and books that teach tennis basics and provide tips for improving play.

Other sporting events with a Tasmanian theme are the Sydney-Hobart yacht race, Targa Tasmania (an annual motor race) and trout fishing for which Tasmania has an international reputation. Where appropriate, the Crisp bequest funds purchases in these areas. Indeed, the most recent purchase from the fund has been multiple copies of the new David Scholes title *Break O'day*, a diary of the veteran fisherman's time spent on this northeast Tasmanian river.

Last year for the first time sporting videos were purchased from bequest funds. These focussed mainly on cricket and Australian Rules football. They have provided a much needed boost to the information available on football clubs such as Carlton and Collingwood. ■

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