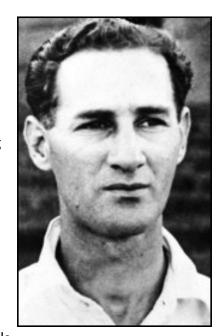# Ron Saggers
1917-1987

- Born in Sydenham and went to Marrickville Public school
- Outstanding wicket-keeper, and member of Bradman's Invincibles
- 6 Tests for Australia taking 16 catches and 8 stumpings
- 77 First class games (Australia, NSW) – 146 catches and 75 stumpings
- Would have played many more Tests, but no Tests were played during WW2

Ronald Arthur Saggers was born at Sydenham on 15 May 1917 and joined the Marrickville District Cricket Club in 1932-33 playing in 3rd Grade, "A" Shires and the premiership-winning Poidevin Gray U21 team. Two years later, aged just 17, the promising youngster progressed through 3rd to 2nd Grade before winning a place in the 1st Grade team where he was to remain for the rest of his playing career. A tall and lean individual, young Ron worked hard on his game and could be found standing behind the stumps in the Marrickville practice nets for hours on end perfecting his skills.

In 1936-37 he was appointed captain of the Poidevin-Gray team which went through undefeated to take the premiership. While his wicket-keeping was always of the highest standard he only began to make his mark as a batsman in 1937-38 when he hit his first century for the club, 104 not out against Cumberland in the Poidevin-Gray team which again won the competition. He was the competition's leading batsman with 456 runs at the outstanding average of 91.20.

In 1939-40 Saggers made his Sheffield Shield debut for NSW against South Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground as a specialist batsman making 45 and 57 of the 1,888 runs he went on to make in first-class cricket. Taking over the wicket-keeping duties in 1940-41 for the first time at the senior level, Ron tasted instant success by equalling the world record of seven dismissals in an innings (all caught) against a Combined Queensland team in Brisbane. His three dismissals in the first innings gave him 10 for the match.

In 1941-42 during World War II, Ron starred in Grade Cricket equalling the then highest run aggregate in a season of 1,150 which had been set by the Petersham Test batsman Tommy Andrews in 1929-30. In his mammoth total, the 24 year old Saggers hit scores of 154, 150, 118, 111, 88, 84, 78, 64 and 50. Behind the stumps he also caught 18 and stumped 11.

In the years which followed Ron led Marrickville to its first and only 1st Grade premiership in 1943-44, continued as a regular member of the NSW side and in 1947-48 had the distinction of being appointed NSW captain. To cap off an outstanding year, he was selected as reserve 'keeper behind Don Tallon in Don Bradman's 1948 "Invincibles" touring team to England. With Tallon suffering an injury prior to the 4th Test of that series, Ron made his Australian debut at Headingly, Leeds. He also 'kept in five Tests in South Africa in 1949-50 recording 21 dismissals including six stumpings off leg-spinner Colin McCool.

In 148 matches over a period of 16 seasons between 1934 and 1951 with Marrickville DCC, Ron Saggers scored 5,644 runs in 1st Grade including 10 centuries and 29 fifties. His score of 154 in 1941-42 remained his best. Unfortunately, wicket-keeping statistics were not kept each year and his record behind the stumps is therefore not able to be recorded.

Lyall Gardner, Randwick Petersham Cricket Historian