

YABBA

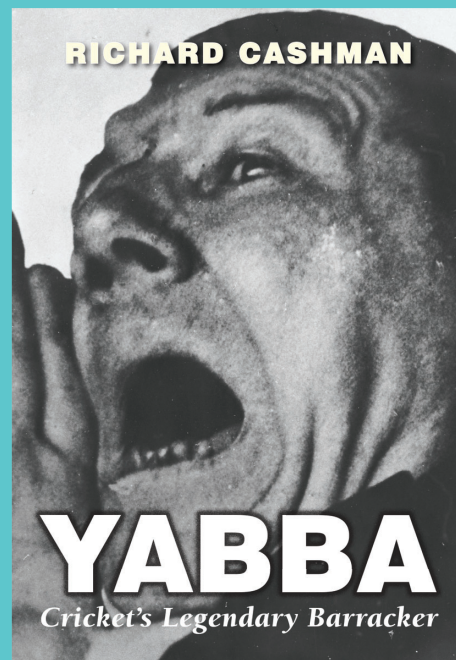
Cricket's Legendary Barracker

RICHARD CASHMAN

Yabba was a genuine talent, a wit, an actor and a crafter of words, who possessed a booming voice. He was the ultimate self-publicist, who promoted himself as the 'one and only Yabba'. Yabba lived to barrack.

Yabba was a serious student of cricket watching the game intently, his interjections being mostly informed and fair-minded though they were occasionally quirky. He was a simple man who enjoyed drinking beer, smoking, gambling, cracking jokes, family parties and watching and talking about sport. He had a vast appetite for life, fighting in the Boer War, branding cattle in the outback and sparring with star Indigenous boxer, Jerry Jerome. He was an adventurer and a knockabout individual who did not mind getting involved in a fight.

Unlike other barrackers and characters, his reputation has not diminished over time, Yabba being immortalised in bronze at the SCG in 2008. However, barracking is now a lost art which does not feature in the contemporary game.



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Yabba was the only one who stepped forward from the ranks of the chorus, so to say, and established himself as an identity. This colloquial wit had a true sense of timing. He had an old soldier's vocabulary, dating back to the South African War, for which he enlisted while on a visit to that country in his early twenties.

RAY ROBINSON



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RICHARD CASHMAN has written and edited 12 cricket publications, the most recent being *The Demon Fred Spofforth* (2014). As the manager of Walla Walla Press, he has edited and published a number of cricket works including biographies of Jack Marsh and Tibby Cotter. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Technology Sydney.