



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

PRIME MINISTER'S XI

This year's Prime Minister's XI team, to play England at Manuka Oval on Wednesday 9 November, has been chosen. The team is:

Allan Border (Captain)	Queensland
Mark Atkinson	Tasmania
Greg Blewett	South Australia
Michael Di Venuto	Tasmania
Shane George	South Australia
Brad Hodge	Victoria
Brendon Julian	Western Australia
Shane Lee	New South Wales
Darren Lehmann	South Australia
Martin Love	New South Wales
Greg Rowell	Queensland
Mark Higgs (12th man)	ACT

This year, the Prime Minister's XI match provides us all with three great opportunities.

First, to honour one of the game's all-time great players - Allan Border.

I am truly delighted that Allan has agreed to captain the side. This will be the tenth time he has done so, and I am sure his special return to the international cricket scene will prove to be a momentous occasion. I heartily agree with the comment by PM's XI co-selector Laurie Sawle that "there will never be another Allan Border".

Second, the game will give us a chance to see no less than ten PM's XI players who have been associated with the AIS Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy, six of them graduates of this very successful institution.

It will also be an important opportunity for the young PM's XI players to gain match practice against the English side, and to press for selection in either of the two Australian one-day sides and the Test team.

Third, it will provide a chance to witness yet another great clash in the long-running rivalry between Australia and England.

I am sure the match will be entertaining, and, with Allan Border captaining a fine Australian side against the English, an historic occasion.

The day before the game, I will be launching, for the Australian Cricket Board, the International Cricket Season, featuring four teams: Australia, England, Zimbabwe and Australia A.

CANBERRA
30 October 1994