

= Ray Harvey =

Raymond Harvey ( born 3 January 1926 ) is a former Australian first @-@ class cricketer who played for Victoria in the 1940s and 1950s . He was the brother of Australian Test batsmen Merv and Neil and first @-@ class cricketer and umpire Mick Harvey . Ray Harvey was an attacking and talented batsman but failed to reach international standards and only managed to hold down a regular position in the Victorian team in two seasons in the 1950s . This failure to match the standards set by his Test @-@ capped brothers was often attributed to a lack of single @-@ mindedness and hunger .

Harvey was born into a working @-@ class , devoutly Methodist family . His father was a keen amateur cricketer and an instilled a love of the game in his six sons , all of whom played for Fitzroy in Victorian Premier Cricket . Harvey made his first class debut in the middle of the 1947 ? 48 season , and played his first two matches for Victoria alongside his more decorated brothers Merv and Neil . However , he performed poorly and did not play a match in the following summer and for the two subsequent seasons , he played in only three games but contributed little to his team 's cause . In 1951 ? 52 he made five appearances , gaining selection only when Victoria 's Test players were busy representing Australia . The following season , he gained selection for the last three matches and broke through for his maiden first @-@ class century , having never previously passed 50 .

Having broken through at the end of the preceding summer , Harvey played his first full season for Victoria in 1953 ? 54 , despite the availability of the Test players for the whole campaign . He scored two centuries and five half centuries against full strength teams from other states and was rewarded with selection in Lindsay Hassett 's testimonial match , which was effectively a Test trial match . Harvey ended the season with 699 runs at a batting average of 49 @.@ 92 . At the start of the following season , Harvey was included in an Australian XI for a match against the touring England cricket team for a Test trial match . However , rain curtailed the match and turned the playing surface into a sticky wicket hostile to batting . Harvey made only seven in his only innings . He played in all of Victoria 's matches for the season , despite a form slump ? he scored only 206 runs at 18 @.@ 72 . He was then overlooked for state selection until 1958 ? 59 , when he regained his position late in the season and made 97 and 86 in consecutive innings . However , the following season , he made only sporadic appearances despite the absence of the Test players overseas and aggregated only 133 runs at 16 @.@ 62 in four matches and he was never selected for Victoria again . He shone mainly for Fitzroy in Victorian Premier Cricket , scoring 19 centuries and 9 @,@ 146 runs in first @-@ grade competition , both of which are still club records .

= = Early years = =

Ray Harvey 's father , Horace " Horry " Harvey moved to Broken Hill , New South Wales where he worked for BHP driving horse @-@ drawn trailers . In 1914 , he married Elsie May Bitmead and their first two children , daughter Rita and son Mervyn , were born in the mining town . The family relocated to Newcastle , a mining town and harbour in New South Wales and had two more sons , " Mick " and Harold there . In 1926 , the Harveys shifted to the inner @-@ Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy , a staunchly working @-@ class , industrial area . During their relocation , Ray was born in Sydney . Horace secured a job at the confectionery company Life Savers ( Australasia ) Ltd. located next door to their house at 198 Argyle Street . The 19th century two @-@ storey house was owned by the firm and was used as lodgings for the workers ' families . It no longer exists , having been demolished to make way for a textile factory . The two youngest sons Neil and Brian were born in Fitzroy .

The Cornish @-@ descended Horry raised his family as strict Methodists , disallowing gambling , alcohol , tobacco and profanity in his household . An ardent cricketer during his years in New South Wales , he was good enough to hit 196 runs during a match in Newcastle , and he encouraged his children to play sport . He himself played for the Rita Social Club after moving to Fitzroy , while his wife kept score .

As recreational facilities and grass ovals were sparse in densely populated Fitzroy , the boys took to playing cricket in a cobblestone laneway between their terraced house . Here they played cricket with a tennis ball , homemade cricket bat and a kerosene tin for a wicket . They were usually joined by other local children , two of whom became elite sportsmen : Allan Ruthven ( an Australian rules footballer ) and Harold Shillinglaw ( both an Australian rules footballer and first @-@ class cricketer ) ? the group also played Australian rules football , kicking around rolled up cardboard and newspaper . Much of the batting skill displayed by the Harvey brothers has been attributed to these games played on the unpredictable bounce of the bumpy laneway . The surface also had a V @-@ shaped slope inwards towards the centre of the lane , causing balls to deviate sideways after bouncing . As the laneway meant that the playing area was long and narrow , the young boys also had to learn to play the ball straight in accordance with orthodox cricket technique . The Harveys played another form of cricket in their concreted backyard using a marble instead of a ball that sharpened their reflexes , and a miniature bat . All were right @-@ handed batsmen with the exception of Neil .

All of the children attended the nearby George Street State School and one by one the brothers joined the Fitzroy Cricket Club as they reached their early teens . The club had a program whereby they gave a medal for every local school to award to the best cricketer in their ranks in that year . The successful student would then be given access to all of the club 's facilities . All of the Harvey brothers were recipients of this medal . At Fitzroy , they came under the influence of former Victorian all @-@ rounder Arthur Liddicut and the club 's veteran captain Joe Plant . The Harveys had no formal coaching , and their father , although a regular presence at the club , chose to stay in the background as their respective careers developed . Horace did not advise his sons on how to bat , allowing them to formulate their own style and technique . According to the Harvey brothers , it was their mother who was vocal and extroverted , in contrast to their reserved father . The boys who failed to score runs were given kitchen duty and according to them , their parents never showed favouritism .

During the winter , they played baseball for the Fitzroy Baseball Club , often competing in matches played as curtain raisers to the elite Australian rules football competition , the Victorian Football League . In 1948 , Harvey was selected at short stop in the 1948 All @-@ Australian baseball team . Saturday night entertainment for the family typically consisted of dinner after the day ? s cricket matches for Fitzroy and Plant , Liddicut and other club personnel were often invited . Under the influence of cricketing mentors Plant and Liddicut , the boys were taught to adopt an aggressive approach , using fast feet movement to attack spin bowling in particular . Harvey made his First XI debut for Fitzroy in 1941 ? 42 . In 1943 ? 44 , he scored a club record of 817 First XI runs in a season . In 1942 ? 43 , Neil was promoted to Fitzroy 's First XI , joining Merv , Mick and Ray . During that season , the family held down the first four batting positions for Fitzroy ; Merv and Mick opened the batting and Ray and Neil came in after them . Ray continued to play for Fitzroy over the next two decades when he was not required by Victoria . Outside cricket , Harvey was an electrical fitter and he worked for the Metropolitan Tramways Board . He and his wife Lorna and settled in the inner @-@ northern suburb of Reservoir .

= = First @-@ class beginnings = =

Mid way through the 1947 ? 48 season , Harvey was called into the Victorian team for the Sheffield Shield match against New South Wales and made his debut alongside Merv and Neil , who were already established players . Merv opened , while Neil and Ray batted at Nos. 4 and 7 respectively . Victoria batted first and the brothers again did not form any partnerships as they were always out before the next sibling came in to bat . Ray came in at 5 / 208 to make 43 . Victoria ended with 331 and the Harvey brothers had scored almost half the runs . New South Wales were forced to follow on and Victoria were set 51 for victory . After the fall of Fred Freer at 1 / 24 , captain Lindsay Hassett elevated Ray to No. 3 , allowing two Harveys to bat together for the first time at first @-@ class level . Ray and Merv put on an unbeaten partnership of 27 to take Victoria to a nine @-@ wicket win . Merv and Ray ended unbeaten on 12 and 22 respectively .

The three brothers played together in the next match against Western Australia . Merv captained

the team as Hassett was away on Test duty . Victoria batted first and Ray made only 1 . In the second innings , Ray 15 , not batting with his brothers in a drawn match .

The brotherly trio was broken up for the match against Queensland , as Neil was selected for the Australian team . In his only innings , Ray scored 48 and appeared set for his maiden first @-@ class half @-@ century before being run out in a drawn match . He bowled eight overs for the season , conceding 32 runs without taking a wicket . Merv dropped after this match , and Ray made 9 and 15 alongside Neil in the next fixture against New South Wales , a six @-@ wicket win . Ray played in the next match against Tasmania with none of his brothers alongside him , as Neil was again busy with the national team . Ray made two in his only innings in a ten @-@ wicket win . Despite his run of low scores , he was retained as Neil and the other Test players returned ; he made 25 and 10 as Victoria lost by four wickets in their final match of the season against South Australia . Ray ended his debut first @-@ class season with 190 runs at a batting average of 21 @. @ 11 with a best score of 48 .

= = Fringe Victorian player = =

After a poor debut season for Victoria , Harvey did not gain first @-@ class selection in 1948 ? 49 and vacancies were hard to come by as the season was purely domestic with no touring Test team , so all of Australia 's international representatives were available for the whole season . Harvey was selected for a Second XI match against New South Wales but failed to make an impact , scoring two runs in each innings as the Victorians completed a 195 @-@ run win . Harvey took the wicket of H Hinman in the first innings , ending with 1 / 24 from four overs .

The following season , 1949 ? 50 , with the Australian Test team in South Africa for the whole of the southern hemisphere summer , Victoria lost batsmen Lindsay Hassett , Sam Loxton and Neil Harvey . Despite the extra vacancies , Ray was only selected for one match , against Tasmania , making 9 and 45 in a four @-@ wicket win . This was effectively a second @-@ choice Victorian team as the leading players were involved in a Shield match against New South Wales at the same time .

Harvey 's 1950 ? 51 season was similarly unproductive , with the Test players back in Australia for a home series against England . He was only selected for the two first class matches against Tasmania , was even less successful . In the first match , he made a duck in the first innings , before coming to the crease at the end of the run @-@ chase and being yet to score as a nine wicket win was completed . In the next match he made 0 and 9 , as Victoria scraped home for a nine run win , despite Harvey conceding 20 runs from four wicketless overs . He ended the first class season with 9 runs at 3 @. @ 00 . In a Second XI fixture against New South Wales , he made 61 before being bowled by Alan Davidson . In the first innings he delivered one over and was attacked heavily , conceding 23 runs . In the second innings , he bowled 13 overs and took 1 / 49 as New South Wales ended 24 runs short of making Victoria bat again with three wickets in hand when the match ended in a draw .

In 1951 ? 52 , Harvey was in and out of the team on a regular basis as the Test players were periodically available for Victorian duty between the international matches . With the Test players away for the first two Sheffield Shield matches , Harvey played in both fixtures . He made only 28 in the first match , an innings win over Western Australia . He also took two catches . In the next match against South Australia , he made 47 out of Victoria 's 281 and took his first wickets at first @-@ class level , dismissing century @-@ maker Ernest England and tail @-@ ender Geff Noblet and ending with 2 / 29 and two catches as Victoria conceded a 240 @-@ run first innings lead . He then made 18 as his team collapsed for 101 to lose by an innings . Harvey was then dropped for the next three matches , as the Test players , including his younger brother Neil , returned . With a Test match in progress at the same time , he was recalled for the home match against Queensland but made only 35 and 14 as Victoria collapsed in the second innings to be 9 / 147 , holding on for a draw with one wicket in hand . Harvey bowled seven overs in the match and conceded 0 / 51 . He was immediately dropped again when the Test players returned , before being recalled for the away match against Queensland when the national representatives were again unavailable . Harvey then made 31 and 1 in a narrow 18 @-@ run loss . Having made only 21 of Victoria 's 647 in the next

match against Tasmania , he was dropped for the final Shield match when the Test players returned . Harvey ended the season with 195 runs at 24 @. @ 37 ; he reached 14 in all but one of his eight innings but was unable to convert his starts into large scores , with a highest innings of 47 .

Harvey was unable to gain selection during the 1952 ? 53 season until late in the season , at the end of January . In his first match of the summer against New South Wales , he made 42 and 36 , but was unable to convert his starts into large scores in a drawn match . The next match against the touring South Africans proceeded similarly . In a drawn encounter , Harvey made 47 in the first innings and was unbeaten on 5 in the run @-@ chase when time ran out . In the final match of the season , against Western Australia , Harvey broke through for his maiden first @-@ class century , scoring 121 in an innings victory over Western Australia . It was also his first score of 50 or more at first @-@ class level . He took seven catches in his three matches and ended the season with 251 runs at 62 @. @ 75 , and took a total of 0 / 43 from 15 overs .

= = Peak years and pushing for national selection = =

Having broken through for his first century at the end of the previous season , Harvey played consistently in 1953 ? 54 , and was selected for each of Victoria 's matches for the season for the first time . He did so despite the fact that there were no Tests scheduled for the Australian season , meaning that the international representatives would be available for all of Victoria 's matches . Ray and Neil played together in every match of the summer . In the opening match of the season against Queensland , Ray Harvey made 82 and 8 in a 254 @-@ run win . He followed this with 2 and 91 in the next match against New South Wales over the Christmas holiday period . Harvey was one of the few batsmen to make an impact in the second innings , as the New South Wales bowlers , including the likes of Keith Miller , Ray Lindwall , Richie Benaud and Davidson , all members of Australia 's Test bowling attack , dismissed Victoria for only 222 to set up a nine @-@ wicket win . A week later , he started the new year by scoring 110 as Victoria batted first and took a 117 @-@ run first innings lead against South Australia . He made only 10 in the second innings but his state completed a 290 @-@ run win nonetheless .

Harvey was then rewarded with selection in a testimonial match for retiring Australian captain Lindsay Hassett . Typically , such matches involved the best players in Australia divided into two teams , and Harvey played for Arthur Morris 's XI against Hassett 's outfit . Harvey scored 69 and 17 as his team completed a 121 @-@ run win . He also bowled three overs in total , but was unsuccessful , conceding 27 runs as the opposition batsmen attacked him . Harvey then made 50 and 19 in a drawn match again Queensland .

Harvey played a key part in Victoria 's win over New South Wales away at the SCG . Having taken two catches as the hosts batted first , he made 61 as the visitors made 234 to take a 52 @-@ run first innings lead . After taking another catch in the second innings , he then made an unbeaten 106 to guide the Victorians to their target of 268 with five wickets in hand . Harvey 's run @-@ scoring tapered away in the last two matches of the season ; he made 74 runs in three innings in the match . Nevertheless , he ended the season with 699 runs at 49 @. @ 92 ; he had made the same amount of runs in his first six first @-@ class seasons since his debut in 1947 ? 48 . As a result of his performances in this season , he was hailed as the best batsman outside the Australian Test team .

Harvey 's performances were rewarded with selection for an Australian XI in a tour match against the England cricket team at the start of the 1954 ? 55 season . However , the match was curtailed by rain and Harvey was not able to exhibit his talents on a sticky wicket highly difficult for batting . Listed at No. 4 , Harvey came in after the dismissal of his brother and made seven in his only innings . As a result Ray was not chosen for the Test team alongside his brother during the season .

This was the start of a poor season for Harvey as he managed a top @-@ score of only 44 in 11 innings for the summer , passing 20 on only four occasions and ending with 206 runs at 18 @. @ 72 . Despite this , the Victorian selectors persisted with him for every match of the season .

= = Final seasons = =

Harvey was overlooked for selection for entirety of the 1955 ? 56 season . After four years out of first @-@ class cricket , Harvey earned a recall in the latter half of the 1958 ? 59 season for a match against Queensland . He made only 21 in the first innings and was unbeaten on 17 when time ran out in the second innings . He was retained for the match against South Australia the following week and scored 97 in an innings win . In the subsequent fixture against New South Wales , who were in the process of completing a sixth consecutive Shield title , Harvey faced a full @-@ strength team with Australia 's two leading Test bowlers Benaud and Davidson . He made 86 in the first innings but managed only 6 in the second before being removed by Benaud , as the Victorians ended 37 runs short of victory with five wickets in hand when time ran out . Harvey made six in his only innings in the last match of the season against Queensland . He ended the season with 233 runs at 46 @.@ 60 .

In 1959 ? 60 , the Test team toured the Indian subcontinent during the Australian summer , opening up more vacancies in the Sheffield Shield . Harvey was given a recall in December 1959 . However , he was not successful and failed to convert his starts into substantial scores , making 8 , 36 , 12 , 25 , 22 and 20 in three matches . In the last of these matches , he took his career @-@ best bowling figures of 3 / 26 , in the first innings against South Australia . He dismissed the top @-@ scorer John Lill for 176 and his other victims were Michael Clingly and Peter Trethewey . This allowed Victoria to take first innings points and eventually complete a six @-@ wicket win . This meant that all of Harvey 's five wickets as first @-@ class level came against South Australia . Harvey 's first @-@ class career ended with the following match against New South Wales . He made 1 and 9 , and conceded 26 runs from three wicketless overs , and was dropped , having made only 133 runs at 16 @.@ 62 for the season .

In 1960 ? 61 , Harvey played a final First XI season for Fitzroy . His Fitzroy first @-@ grade records for the most career runs and centuries , and the most runs in a season , still stand , and he managed a double @-@ century for the club against University . He ended his first @-@ grade career with 19 centuries and 9 @,@ 146 runs at an average of 36 @.@ 15 from 247 matches .

= = Style = =

Harvey was an attacking and free @-@ flowing batsman but he was not a prolific scorer , which was attributed by observers to a lack of single @-@ mindedness required to succeed at the top level . Neil said that Ray 's footwork was suspect and that the stronger bowlers in domestic cricket were able to exploit this . Neil said that if Ray had been able to rectify his weakness , then he could have become a Test player for Australia . Australian captain Bill Lawry said that Harvey was one of the two best district cricketers he had faced . Aside from his batting , Harvey was an occasional leg spinner , and was known for his fielding ability .